1. **The Future of Properity**

**contentious** /kEn'tenSEs/  
[adj.] likely to cause disgreement between people.  
a contentious issue.  
**contest**

[n.] a competition in which people try to win sth

a singing contest.

[vt.] to take part in a competition, election, etc. and try to win it.

Three candidates contested the leadership.

**flex**[vt.] to bend, move or stretch an arm or a leg, especially in order to prepare for a physical activity.  
flex your muscles

**assess**[vt.] to make a judgement about the nature or quality of sb/sth

It is difficult to assess the effects of these changes.

**polarise /**'pEuleraIz**/**[vt] to separate or make people separate into two groups with completely opposite opinions.  
**polarisation** [n.]

**immense**   
[adj.] extremely large or great  
There is still an immense amount of work to be done.  
The benefits are immenese.

**cockroach:** 蟑螂

**gleam** [vi.] to shine with a pale clear light

**gleaming** [adj.]

**outlandish**[adj] (usually disapproving) strange or extremely unusual  
outlandish costumes / ideas.

**embark**   
[vt.vi.] to get onto a ship; to put sth onto a ship  
They embarked the troops by night.

**prairie** /'preEri/  
[C.] a flat wide area of land in N America, without many trees and covered with grass.

the endless fields of praires.

**splendour**   
[U.] grand and impressive beauty

**squalor /**'skwOlE/[U.] dirty and unpleasant conditions  
He had lost his job and was living in squalor.

**precipice /**'precEpIs**/**[n.] a very steep side of a cliff, mountain or rock  


**dotcom** [n.]  
a company that sells goods and service on the Internet, normally their web address ends with “.com”

**haul /**hO:l**/**[vt.] to make sb appear in court in order to be judged.

**sugar**-**rush**

[n.] the sudden short period of energy

**condo** (NamE *informal* ) = **condominium**

[C.] an apartment building or group of houses in which each flat/apartment/house is owned by the person living in it but the shared areas are owned by everyone together; a flat/apartment/house in it.

**prevalent** = common

**creep** : to move slowly   
Tempretures crept up inexorably.

**inexorable** /In'eksEbl/

[adj.] (of a process) that cannot be changed or stopped.

the inexorable rise of crime.

**inexorably** [adv.]

**bring in**: to earn or make a particular amount of money

**national pot :** (metaphor) the whole income of a country.

**disparity**[n.C.U.] a difference, especially one connected with unfair treatment.  
the wide disparity between rich and poor.

**exploitation**1) [n.U.] the use of land, oil, minerals, etc.  
commercial exploitation of the mineral resources in Antarctica.  
2) 剥削。

**malign** /mE'laIn/  
1) [vt.] (formal) to say bad things about sb/sth publicly.

She feels she has been much maligned by the press.  
2) [adj.] causing harm  
The CEO has warned about a malign AI.

**eradicate** /I'rQdIkeIt/  
[vt.] to destroy or get rid of sth completely, especially something bad.

**emancipate** /I'mQncIpeIt/   
[vt.] to free sb, especially form legal, political or social restrictions.

Slaves were not emancipated unil 1863 in the US.

**accentuate** /EK'sentSueIt/

[vt.] to emphasise sth or make it more noticable.

**over-hyped:**

**hype** (*informal, diaspproving*)   
[vt.] to advertise or discuss something a lot and exaggerate its good qualities, in order to get a lot of public attentiton for it.

The extential threat of AI is over-hyped.

**exponential** /;ekspE'nenSl/

1, [adj.] (*mathematics*) of or shown by exponent(指数).  
 2^3 is exponential expression.  
2, [adj.] (of a rate of increase) becoming faster and faster.

exponential growth / increase.

**dystopia** /dIs'tEupiE/  
[n. C] an imaginary place or state in which everything is extremely bad or unpleasant.

**paraphrase**

1, [vt.vi.] to express what somebody has said or written using different words, especially to make it easier to understand.  
Try to paraphrase the question before you answer it.

2, [n.]

**doom**

[n.U.] death or destruction; any terrible event that you cannot avoid.

**dissension** /dI'senSn/  
[C.] (*formal*) disagreement between people or within a group.  
dissension within the government.

**radical**[adj.] concerning the most basic and important parts of something;   
 through and complete.  
the need for radical change in education.  
**redically** [adv.] (compare) **drastically / dramatically**

**get in the way :**to make something difficult to happen, continue, or be appreciated prperly.

**squester** /sI'kwestE/  
[vt.] to take control of sb’s property or assets until a debt has been paid.