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.

e.g. 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.

**gravy** /geIvi/   
[n.] a brown sauce make by adding flour to the juices that come out fo meat when it is cooking.  **abate**   
[vt.] to become less strong; to make something less sthrong.   
The storm showed no signs of abating.

**abatement** [n. C.] (formal)  
The city spend $9 million a year on air pollution abatement.

**hassle** /hQsl/   
[n.C.U.] (*informal*)a situation that is annoying because it involves doing something difficult or complicated that needs a lot of effort.  
It’s a hassle having to travel with so many bags.

[vt.] (SYNONYM) bother (*informal*) hassle somebody

**accrue** /E'kru:/   
[vi.] (*formal*) to increase for a period of time.

Interest will accrue if you keep your money in a saving account.  
[vt.] to allow a sum of money or debts to grow over a period of time.

(SYNONYM) accumulate.  
The firm had accrued debts of over $10m.

**balk**(NAmE) = **baulk**/bO:k/(BrE)  
[vi.] to be unwilling to do something or become involoved something because it dangerous, difficult, etc.  
Many parent may baulk at the idea of paying 100 dollars for a pair of shoes.

**turn up**  
to be found, especially by chance, after being lost.  
We think that something will just turn up.

**Nasreddin** : 阿凡提

**reprieve** /rI'pri:v/  
[vt.] to officially cancle or delay a punishment for a prisoner who is condemned to death.  
a repieved murder.  
[n.] an official order stopping punishment, especially for a prisoner who is condemend to death.  
Nasreddin was given a year’s repireve when he told the Sultan he can taught his horse to sing.

**overthrow**   
[vt.] to remove a leader or a government from the position of power by force.

The prsident was overthrown in the military coup.

[n.] the act of it.

**vagaries** /'veIgEri/ (*plural*)  
[n.] changes in somebody or something that are difficult to predict or control  
All farmers are exposed to the vagaries of the weather.

**solicit**

[vt.] (*fromal*)to ask somebody for something, such as support, money or information; to try to get something or persuade somebody to do something.  
They are planing to solicit funds from a number of organisations.

**techo-libertarian**

技术自由，最大程度减少政府监管

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| Technolibertarian principles are defined as:   * The policy should always be considerate of [civil liberties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_liberties) * The policy should oppose [government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government) over-[regulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regulation) * The policy that provides [rational, free market](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homo_economicus) incentives is the best choice |

**complementary**

[adj.] two people or things that are complementary are different but together form a useful or attractive combination of skills, qualities or physical features.

The school’s approach must be complementary to that of the parents.

**tiil** : cash register

**windfall**

[C.U.] an amount of money that sb/sth wins or receives unexpectedly.

The hospital got a sudden winfall of 300 euros.

**polity**/'pOlEti/

[n.C.] a society as a political unit

a democratic polity

[U.] the form or process of government