

1 Talking about the economy

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

booming	colossal	recession
bottoming out	mess	tiger
collapsed	miracle	turnaround

- At the start of the 90s, the economy completely There was rampant inflation and the country ended up being saddled with debts.
- The economy is at the moment. New businesses are springing up all over the place. It's the new economy in the region.
- After the economic of the 80s, the economy went into – and has remained there pretty much ever since!
- The economy's been on a downward spiral for a year, so signs that the recession's finally are welcome.
- When the government came to power, the economy was a complete, but there's been a bit of a over the last year or so, and things are starting to look up.

Now complete these sentences with the words in the box.

bust	picked up	rocketed
foundations	reforms	slowdown
peaked	rock	wall

- After the economy hit bottom in 2001, things a bit, with GDP increasing about 3 per cent per year since then.
- The economy seems to be stuck in a bit of a boom cycle.
- The last government pushed through a series of which laid the for economic growth.
- All the signs are that the economy has and that a gradual will follow.
- Loads of small businesses have gone to the over the last few years. Unemployment has

2 Word building

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word **economy**.

- I studied at Liverpool University.
- It's a tight budget, so we're going to have to if we're going to stay within it and not overspend.
- He's one of the world's leading
- I just don't think the project is viable.
- I didn't call you a liar! I just said I think you've been a bit with the truth!
- The factory was, so they closed it down.
- Their policies have made things worse.

3 Voicing your opinion

Complete the sentences with **ONE** word in each space.

- I'm a big of the idea of capping the number of hours you're allowed to work.
- To be honest, I don't really know where I on the whole issue of the Euro.
- I'm very much in of banning smoking.
- It's a great idea in, but I just can't see it working in practice.
- I'm fundamentally to the whole notion of marriage!
- I'm not really sure what I think about the new laws. I'm still in two about it all, really.
- I fully the idea of part-privatisation of the NHS. It'll bring in much needed finance.
- I've got grave about the economic viability of the plan. I just can't see it working.

Language note

If you're still in two minds about an issue and can't decide where you stand on it, people might get annoyed with you and tell you to *stop sitting on the fence*, or ask you to *get off the fence*. You need to decide which side of the fence you're on – if you're *pro* or *anti* an idea.

4 Adjective–noun collocations

Match the adjectives with the nouns they collocate with.

bright	draconian	grave
crippling	drastic	tight
dismal	dwindling	

- measures / action / cutbacks
- budget / deadline / schedule / squeeze
- disease / debt / injury / taxes
- results / weather / performance
- situation / error / reservations
- legislation / conditions / rules
- resources / sales / hopes / population
- future / clothes / weather / idea

5 The history of a business

Complete the story with **ONE** word in each space.

I (1) up an Internet-based travel company in the late 90s using my savings. I also took (2) a loan and raised another £50,000 (3) a venture capitalist in return (4) a 30 per cent stake in the business. The company struggled for a couple of years, recording big (5) , but as the Internet spread our company took off. Although we still weren't (6) even, we made big increases in sales. We decided to diversify and in order to raise more capital, we floated on the (7) exchange. The share (8) immediately rocketed. However, the bubble soon (9) and our share price slumped. In 2004, there was a (10) bid from one of our rival companies. Although I was personally (11) the bid, the board (12) the offer to the shareholders.

6 Best / better / worst

Complete the sentences by putting the words in brackets in order.

- Personally, I think running a business from home is actually (worlds / worst / all / the / of). No home life, longer hours and no security. (off / I / been / have / better / would) staying with my old company.

- Business is (best / times / of / the / difficult / at), but now it's impossible.
- Business was booming, but since January (turn / worse / taken / for / have / a / the / things).
- I know it's not good, but (make / just / bad / to / job / the / have / of / a / we'll / best).
- (best / part / I / the / of / spent / ten / years) in teaching before I decided to go into business.
- I know it's not a big pay rise, but (than / kick / the / better / a / it's / in / teeth).
- Since the companies merged, (changed / the / things / definitely / for / have / better).
- I am a bit short of money, but (worst / the / the / comes / to / if / worst) I could always sell my car.

7 Debt collocations

Complete the paragraphs with the words in the box.

burden	crippling	outstanding	settle
cleared	got into	ran up	stand
collector	incur	restructure	write off

- As many Third World countries are struggling under the of debt, there is pressure on western governments to simply the debts. In some cases, the interest the debts is actually greater than the country's entire budget for health and education.
- The football club has been brought to the brink of bankruptcy thanks to debts and poor results. Even after the sale of its star assets, the debts at over £70 million. The club is meeting creditors to its debts.
- I first debt when I lost my job. I didn't make the adjustments to my lifestyle that I needed to and a huge debt on my credit card. I the credit card debt by taking out a bank loan, but then I fell behind on my repayments. When I refused to the debt, the bank sent round a debt to seize furniture and assets to pay for what was