**ride, helm, weight, board, brunt, ball,**

He decided to step down after 20 years at the …………….of the company he'd founded."

The tax loophole is all above ……………..

Can you give me a ……………. park figure for the amount of tax we'll have to pay this

year?"

Consumers will bear the ………………of the increase in sales tax

The manufacturing sector experienced a bumpy…………….. in the first quarter."

His opinion that the economy will pick up carries some ………………. with company

investors."

**stir, cushion, pace, pressed, dragging, claw,**

"The news of his appointment has caused a ……………….."

"Shareholder pay and bonuses will have …………….-back provisions."

The company is bringing in generous severance packages to …………………. the impact of involuntary redundancy."

The government has been ………………….. its feet over the bailout conditions

Calls for his resignation are gathering …………………."

Hard-……………………… retailers have felt the pinch of the recession most acutely."

**aces, heyday, lid, cold, ball, holding,**

"The customer is holding all the ……………... We don't have any other choice but to give

them the terms they want."

"They're ……………….. out for a 10% pay rise."

"The company was worth more than £1bn in its …………………."

"Don't get sidetracked by office politics. Keep your eye on the ………………… and work towards your promotion."

"We were left out in the ……………… while the management meeting went ahead."

"The Ministry of Finance is expected to lift the ………………on tax loopholes exploited by multinationals and rich individuals."

**woods, rein, write, sweeten, circles, game,**

"It's too soon to celebrate our rise in turnover. We're not out of the …………………. yet."

"Play the interviewer at their own ………………., and refuse to name a salary."

"The CEO told us we'd need to ……………… in spending."

"Ever since the government introduced new pension regulations, employers have been running round in ………………… trying to sort out the paperwork."

"The company offered to backdate the pay increases to ………………….the deal for the

union."

"Our creditors agreed to ………………….. off the debts."