

Whimper

To *whimper* is to make a low, pitiful whining sound. If you've ever heard a sick puppy cry, you know what it means to *whimper*.

Out with a *whimper*

Colossus

The original *colossus* was an enormous statue that was supposed to have guarded the ancient Greek island and city of Rhodes. Now, though, we use the noun *colossus* for someone of huge importance, reputation, or influence.

China's government takes control of its would-be financial *colossus*.

Vertiginous

To be *vertiginous* is to be dizzy and woozy. It's a disorienting feeling.

But then, even more *vertiginous* than its ascent, came its fall.

Defuse

Remove the triggering device from.

It is the clearest demonstration that regulators are serious about *defusing* debt risks that have built up in recent years.

这很清楚地表明调节者对于去除这几年积累的欠债风险是很认真的。

Murky

Something that's *murky* is dim, gloomy or hard to see through clearly. Think of the dark fog around a haunted house or the cloudy, muddy water in a swamp.

And it reveals the *murky* political waters running through the financial system.

Consolidate

Consolidate means to bring together. If you *consolidate* student loans, you put them all together into one big loan. If you *consolidate* your childhood toys, you grab them all up and put them in one place. Preferably a toy box.

As Xi Jinping, China's president, *consolidates* his grip on power, these seem to be getting rougher.

Solvency

The ability to meet maturing obligations as they come due.

The insurance watchdog said it intervened because illegal operations had "seriously endangered" Anbang's *solvency*.

Rein

Rein is both a noun and a verb for guiding and restraining. You can use the long strap, or *rein*, on a horse to control its speed and direction, and you can *rein* in your own tongue by closing your mouth.

The regulator blocked its overseas deals, *reined* in its insurance business and detained Mr Wu.

Conglomerate

A *conglomerate* is a group of things, especially companies, put together to form one. If you are rich enough to buy a TV network, a record company, several newspapers, and a radio station, you too can own a media *conglomerate*.

The overseas investments of other high-flyers, notably HNA and Wanda, two of China's biggest private *conglomerates*, have also faced close scrutiny.

Foray

Foray means brief excursion. If you're in the army, that's a literal excursion into enemy territory. For the rest of us, it means trying something out. "My *foray* into rugby ended with my spending a week in the hospital."

Although Anbang might have overpaid on its international *forays*, it bought into domestic banks and property developers when they were priced more cheaply.