

1. The convenience store on the corner is open **24/7**.
  2. It was a **tough break** for us when Caroline quit. She was one of our top performers.
  3. We're investing a lot of money in research and development so we can stay **ahead of the curve**.
  4. If we want to stay **ahead of the pack**, we're going to have to work hard and continue to innovate.
  5. I need to finish these reports. My boss needs them **ASAP**.
  6. I'm a little nervous about giving this presentation. There's **a lot at stake**.
  7. Our programmers identified what they thought the problem was with the software. After working for several hours, it turns out that the problem is something different. We're **back to square one**, unfortunately.
  8. I think they got the government contract because of a **backroom deal**.
  9. I'm not sure what a Super Bowl commercial costs, but to give you a **ballpark figure** I'd say about three million dollars.
  10. They make it look so effortless, but they do a lot of hard work and planning **behind the scenes**.
- A. **As soon as possible**
  - B. **Not visible**
  - C. **Ahead of the competition**
  - D. **A bad piece of luck**
  - E. **A lot invested**
  - F. **To the beginning**
  - G. **A general figure**
  - H. **All day all week**
  - I. **Ahead of general knowledge or progress**