

(B) Match a - k from Column A with their strongest collocates in Column B.

Column A	Answer	Column B
(a) credit		(i) industry
(b) credit		(ii) recession
(c) double-dip		(iii) check
(d) cottage		(iv) crunch
(e) corporate		(v) floor
(f) cash		(vi) bottom
(g) junk		(vii) ladder
(h) false		(viii) flow
(i) factory		(ix) bond
(j) cut-throat		(x) business
(k) exit		(xi) strategy

(C) Now use your answers from (B) above to complete the sentences below.

1. This is a(n) _____ so don't act like you are surprised that I double-crossed you. I believe you would have done exactly the same thing to me given the opportunity.
2. Investors have paid a heavy price for not recognising last week's share-price low as a _____; although the stock briefly rallied earlier this week, it has plummeted to new lows as the week has progressed.
3. The company went into the market blindly without having thoroughly thought through the connotations for their core business, nor did they bother to develop a(n) _____ in case things should go wrong.
4. It has had its rating lowered again and is now only one level above being regarded as a(n) _____ - it's hard to believe now that just three months ago it had an AA rating.
5. The company was quick to reassure shareholders that its _____ is in a very healthy state and that there is no liquidity issue - and will be none for the foreseeable future.
6. They ran a _____ on her and rejected the loan application based on its poor results.
7. Word on the _____ is that staff on the production line are preparing to go on strike to protest against what they perceive to be unfair conditions of employment.
8. The much-feared _____ has become a reality after it was confirmed that the country has been in negative growth now for three consecutive months.
9. You will never reach the top of the _____ unless you change your attitude towards your superiors; it is not only about how good you are at your job, but also how well liked you might be.
10. The _____ is having an effect on the number of houses being bought. Figures for January were at an all-time low and there was a notable lack of interest in the housing market from prospective first-time buyers.
11. She has grown her business from being a(n) _____ to become an international power house in the catering world with remarkable speed.

(D) Use i - v below to fill the gaps in the text. You will need to change the word-forms so that they are correct to fill the gaps.

(i) consort (ii) conglomeration (iii) delegate (iv) solicit (v) ascertain

It is a huge 1. _____ with activities in diverse industries ranging from extraction and mining to call centre support services, but that hasn't stopped a(n) 2. _____ of ambitious investors from launching a takeover bid. Unperturbed by a valuation of \$18 billion, Matriarch Investors, as the group call themselves, have sent a(n) 3. _____ of high-powered lawyers to meet with the present owners to discuss possible terms of sale, although before discussions can begin it will first have to be 4. _____ whether or not the owners are even willing to tolerate such talk as this takeover offer is entirely 5. _____.