

9 Read the text : Complete the text with words from the box.

in demand

profitable

triumphant

disappointing

struggling

in decline

hanging on

thriving

My business began as a hobby. I did a course at college and then practised my new skills on friends' furniture. They were thrilled with the results, so word spread and I found that my services were suddenly 1 . At first, the materials, time and labour cost a lot and so it wasn't very 2 , but after a year I was able to stop working at home and open a workshop. Orders came flooding in and the business was really 3 . I even won a small business award and felt so 4 and proud of myself.

When the recession hit, the orders stopped coming in. I couldn't afford to employ an assistant any more, so my productivity was 5 . The rent on my workshop went up, so I was 6 to maintain the business, but was 7 until the economy picked up again. Sadly, I had to close the business early this year. It was hugely 8 for me, but I hope to start again in the future.