Fill in the blanks : choose the appropriate verb tense!!

Business

Global stock markets ..... **1** (slide) again on fears over the spread of Coronavirus. Markets in Europe ..... **2** (take) a big hit on Thursday and were followed down by Wall Street with financial stocks, travel and airlines and consumer products all falling heavily. As well as fears about the spread of the virus, there ..... **3** (be) increasing concerns about the effect on the global economy with supply chains drying up and consumers not spending. Leading economists ..... **4** (warn) that many countries including big industrialized nations could face recession unless the virus is contained quickly which ..... **5** (seem) unlikely given the current projections. Shares in Cineworld ..... **6** (plunge) by 17 percent with the virus threatening to keep people away from movie theatres as the release of the new James Bond film was put back until November. Estimates ..... **7** (suggest) that Coronavirus could impact the global box office by as much as 5 billion dollars.

Opec says that the threat of a global recession could halve expected oil demand in the first half of this year. The producers cartel and its allies ..... **8** (agree) the deepest production cuts since the financial crisis of 2008. At a meeting in Vienna, Opec ..... **9** (say) it was planning to deepen production cuts of 2.1 million barrels a day by a further 1.5 million barrels or 3.6 percent of global supplies from next month.

The UK retailer John Lewis ..... **10** (warn) that some stores may have to close as it announced its lowest employee bonus for 67 years. Staff at John Lewis and supermarket chain Waitrose ..... **11** (receive) an annual bonus of only 2 percent this year after the firm reported a 23 percent drop in profits. The John Lewis Partnership said that it will be considering further store closures and reducing the size of some sites as part of a strategic review which is expected to be completed in the autumn. The firm said that annual profits ..... **12** (fall) to 123 million pounds in the year to the 25th of January.

Article published on Radio Riviera internet site.(March 2020)

Useful vocabulary: find the following words in the article. (they will appear as you read)

glisser= to _____
biens de consommation=_____
en augmentation= _____
les consommateurs= _____
faire face à = to _____ something(sth)
improbable= _____
plonger de = to _____ by
la sortie (film/livre)= the _____
réduire de moitié= to _____
un petit commerçant= a _____
l'entreprise= the _____
la propagation= the_____
lourdement= _____
chaînes logistiques= _____
dépenser (argent)= to _____
à moins que =_____
les parts/les actions= _____
menacer= to _____
reporter/repousser= to _____ sth
être d'accord= to _____ (with somebody)
une chute/baisse= a _____
les bénéfices= _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS