Objects & actions

1 The verbs in the box describe the actions of the things in 1 – 18. Match each verb with the thing it describes.

congeal	crack	erode	evaporate	expand
explode	fade	~~freeze~~	leak	rise	rotate	slide
smoulder	spill	spin	stretch	vibrate	wobble

1. Water changing from a liquid to a solid state because of the cold.*differ*
2. The drum in a washing machine moving very quickly in its final stage of a wash. .....
3. The disc tray opening and closing on a computer. .....
4. Water slowly turning into vapour. .....
5. Cooking fat or oil becoming solid on an unwashed plate. .....
6. The planet Earth moving around on its axis. .....
7. A loose wheel on a car. .....
8. Gas coming out of a faulty valve. .....
9. A pane of glass in a window frame when a large vehicle passes nearby. .....
10. A T-shirt which has been washed so often it is losing its colour. .....
11. The sun coming up in the morning. .....
12. Cliffs being slowly destroyed by the sea. .....
13. Slightly damp wood on a fire giving off smoke but no flames. .....
14. Cold metal as it gets hotter. .....
15. A piece of elastic being pulled so that it becomes longer. .....
16. A window being hit by a stone so that a long, thin break forms in the glass. .....

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17. Coffee falling out of a cup by mistake. .....
18. A bomb suddenly blowing up. .....

2 Now do the same with these.

bounce burn condense contract crumble erupt float flow grow meander melt revolve ring set sink spread subside trickle

1. The Earth moving around the Sun. .....
2. A house slowly sinking into soft ground. .....
3. Traffic moving smoothly along a motorway. .....
4. Glass changing from a solid to a liquid in very high heat. .....
5. A rubber ball hitting the ground and going back into the air. .....
6. The population of a town becoming bigger. .....

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7. The sun going down in the evening. .....
8. Gas or steam changing into a liquid. .....
9. A wide river going through the countryside in big curves. .....
10. Documents being laid out on a table. .....
11. Water coming very slowly out of a tap. .....
12. A slice of bread in a toaster turning black and beginning to give off smoke. .....
13. A lump of dry earth being rubbed between somebody's fingers. .....
14. Hot metal as it gets cooler. .....
15. An old-fashioned alarm clock suddenly going off. .....
16. A boat going to the bottom of a river. .....
17. Dead fish lying on the surface of a polluted lake. .....
18. A volcano throwing out lava and ash. .....

3 Some of the words in Exercise 1 and 2 can be used in more than one way, often with a different meaning. Complete these sentences with an appropriate word (the definition of the word you need in *italics* after each sentence will help you). You will need to change the form of some of the words.

1. The company *froze* its employees wages until the end of the year. (*to say officially that the rate or level of something must stay the same and not increase*)
2. Some people ..... through life without really knowing what they want to do. (*to behave in a way that shows you do not have a clear plan for what you want to do*)
3. Food prices have been ..... steadily all year. (*to increase in amount*)
4. As the light ..... in the evening, people start coming out onto the

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street. (*to become less bright*)

5. He managed to ..... a two-hour presentation into 30 minutes. (*to make something shorter or smaller*)
6. As the storms slowly died out, the floodwaters gradually ..... (*to become lower*)
7. The discussion we had last night ..... around the problem of finding affordable accommodation. (*to have something as the main or most important part of a subject*)
8. You can ..... the machine to turn itself on or off at a particular time. (*to make a piece of equipment ready to operate*)
9. As soon the company's website went on-line, orders began to ..... in. (*to arrive or leave in small amounts or numbers*)
10. The queue for tickets was so long it ..... all the way down the street. (*to continue for a long distance*)
11. Once a week we get together and ..... ideas off each other. *(to discuss ideas with other people in order to get their opinion and make a decision)*
12. They wanted to keep the story secret, but someone ..... it to the press. *(to give private or secret information to journalists or to the public)*

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