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What do the words or phrases in *italic* mean? Choose the correct meaning (a or b) according to the context in the article.

- 1 '... both these problems *at a stroke*.' (lines 7–8)
 - a) at a certain exact time
 - b) with a single, sudden action
- 2 'She *came up with* a clever design ...' (lines 8–9)
 - a) thought of an idea or answer
 - b) produced an amount of money
- 3 'She *hawked* a prototype cup around ...' (lines 12–13)
 - a) tried to sell goods by going from place to place and persuading people to buy them
 - b) offered goods for sale in the street, especially in an aggressive way
- 4 '... with the intention of just *gauging* interest ...' (lines 24–25)
 - a) measuring or calculating something using a particular instrument or method
 - b) judging how people feel about something or what they are likely to do
- 5 '... the error *proved to be the making of* her business ...' (lines 37–38)
 - a) led to the success of someone or something
 - b) had the necessary qualities or skills to do a particular job well
- 6 '... *netting* her up to about £1m a year.' (line 49)
 - a) earning a particular amount of money as a profit after tax (*informal*)
 - b) succeeding in getting something, especially by using your skills

