

1. The convenience store on the corner is open **24/7**.
2. It was **a tough break** for us when Caroline quit. She was one of our top performers.
3. We're investing a lot of money in research and development so we can stay **ahead of the curve**.
4. If we want to stay **ahead of the pack**, we're going to have to work hard and continue to innovate.
5. I need to finish these reports. My boss needs them **ASAP**.
6. I'm a little nervous about giving this presentation. There's **a lot at stake**.
7. Our programmers identified what they thought the problem was with the software. After working for several hours, it turns out that the problem is something different. We're **back to square one**, unfortunately.
8. I think they got the government contract because of **a backroom deal**.
9. I'm not sure what a Super Bowl commercial costs, but to give you **a ballpark figure** I'd say about three million dollars.
10. They make it look so effortless, but they do a lot of hard work and planning **behind the scenes**.

- A. As soon as possible
- B. Not visible
- C. Ahead of the competition
- D. A bad piece of luck
- E. A lot invested
- F. To the beginning
- G. A general figure
- H. All day all week
- I. Ahead of general knowledge or progress
- J. An illegal government deal