

**rationale** [ræʃə'nɑ:l]  
**reckless** ['rekləs]  
**whim** [wɪm]  
**restrain** [rɪ'streɪn]

When an investor is reckless while trading on the stock exchange, can their profit be rapidly wiped out on the whim of the market?

Yes, when an investor is reckless while trading on the stock exchange, their profit can be rapidly wiped out on the whim of the market.

What should traders do, therefore, if there is a rationale demonstrating a likelihood of losing profit?

If there is a rationale demonstrating a likelihood of losing profit, traders should restrain from purchasing stocks.

Why is it illegal to trade stocks on the basis of information which hasn't been publicly revealed to all shareholders?

It's illegal to trade stocks on the basis of information which hasn't been publicly revealed to all shareholders because it would give someone an unfair advantage and would force others to act on their whim.

How does reckless driving lead to serious accidents?

Reckless driving leads to serious accidents because it often involves drug use and not paying sufficient attention to the traffic.

Would you say people are mostly conscious of how to exploit resources in a mature way or a rather reckless way?

I'd say that people are mostly conscious of how to exploit resources in a mature way, although, I admit, there are some who are a bit reckless.

**aloof** [ə'lu:f]  
**condemn** [kən'dem]  
**insult** [1.ɪn'sʌlt 2. 'ɪnsʌlt]

Do you think that some political systems, such as the North Korean communism, should be explicitly condemned? Why?

Yes, I think that some political systems, such as the North Korean communism, should be explicitly condemned. Because they are an insult to human dignity and freedom.

Do you notice if citizens of rich and developed countries appear somehow aloof towards people from poorer states? Are they a little prejudiced? Should such an attitude be condemned?

Yes, I sometimes notice that citizens of rich and developed countries appear somehow aloof towards people from poorer states. Yes, I think they might be a little prejudiced. Definitely, such an attitude should be condemned.

Would you consider being dependent on someone else's whim insulting?

Yes, I'd consider being dependent on someone else's whim insulting.

Have you ever condemned your friend's behaviour just to realize, with the benefit of hindsight, that you shouldn't have? If you had, would you owe them an apology?

Fortunately, I've never condemned my friend's behaviour just to realize, with the benefit of hindsight, that I shouldn't have. Yes, if I had, I would owe them an apology.

Is infringing other people's copyright or patents sufficiently condemned in the Internet era?

Yes, I suppose infringing other people's copyright and patents is sufficiently condemned in the Internet era.

## devastating scenario

**hang by a thread**  
**bear fruit**

Do you think the day before WWII broke out people might have been aware that global peace was hanging by a thread?

Yes, I think the day before WWII broke out some people might have been aware that global peace was hanging by a thread.

Would you yield to despair if you realized your employment was hanging by a thread? What would you do?

No, I wouldn't yield to despair even if I realized my employment was hanging by a thread. I'd probably try to find out what the problem was or would begin searching for a new job.

Do you suppose such an attitude would bear fruit?

Yes, I suppose such an attitude would bear fruit. It's always better to be active when you quickly need to find a new employer.

Why do we attend various trainings and seek to acquire new skills?

We attend various trainings and seek to acquire new skills hoping it will bear fruit in the future.

How can the fact that parents are involved bear fruit for their children?

The fact that parents are involved can bear fruit for their children because such parents do care about their kids' education and development.

**devastate** ['devəsteɪt]  
**deteriorate** [dɪ'tɪəriəreɪt]  
**deterioration** [dɪ'tɪəriə'reɪʃn]  
**laser** ['leɪzə]

Can being constantly reproached have a devastating effect on a child's mental health?

Yes, being constantly reproached can have a devastating effect on a child's mental health.

What psychological disorders may it lead to?

It can lead to such psychological disorders as deterioration of self-confidence and depression.

What do we call a medical condition by which our sight deteriorates and we become unable to see distant objects clearly? What does an ophthalmologist prescribe for this disorder?

A medical condition by which our sight deteriorates and we become unable to see distant objects clearly is short-sightedness. An ophthalmologist prescribes contact lenses or glasses for this disorder.

Can you undergo laser surgery, too?

Yes, you can undergo laser surgery, too.

Will the quality of life probably deteriorate in seriously contaminated areas? What problems will people possibly face due to contamination?

Yes, the quality of life will probably deteriorate in seriously contaminated areas. Due to contamination, people will possibly face problems with a deterioration of their immunity.

**equivalent** [ɪ'kwɪvələnt]  
**scenario** [sə'nɑ:riəʊ]  
**shortage** ['ʃɔ:tɪdʒ]

The difference between a **scenario** and a **screenplay** is that the former is an attempt to predict future events. For example, sales departments in companies prepare worst-case scenarios trying to forecast their worst possible sales results. The latter, on the other hand, is a description, scene by scene, of what happens in a film.

In a worst-case scenario, did anyone forecast correctly the impact of the 2020 pandemic on the global GDP?

I don't know if, in a worst-case scenario, anyone forecast correctly the impact of the 2020 pandemic on the global GDP.

Among other things, what did the pandemic lead to in the market?

Among other things, the pandemic led to many shortages in various industries in the market.

How much did the GDP drop in some large economies?

In some large economies, the GDP dropped as much as 30%.

How many years of annual growth was this decline equivalent to?

This decline was equivalent to 4 or 5 years of annual growth.

According to the rules of personal identification in your country, is your passport an equivalent of your identity card?

Yes, according to the rules of personal identification in my country, my passport is an equivalent of my identity card.

Do you think a salary sacrifice agreement may have anything to do with cash shortages or poor cash flow?

No, I don't think a salary sacrifice agreement may have anything to do with cash shortages or poor cash flow.

In the metric system of measurement, what is one tonne equivalent to?

In the metric system of measurement, one tonne is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms.

By the way, what units do we estimate capacity in?

We estimate capacity in litres.

**slump** [slʌmp]  
**soar** [sɔ:]

**roller coaster of emotions**

As a consequence of shortages caused by a crisis, will the prices of goods and materials soar or, quite the contrary, slump?

As a consequence of shortages caused by a crisis, the prices of goods and materials will soar, not slump.

Should a government interfere when the prices of certain supplies soar?

No, the government shouldn't interfere when the prices of certain supplies soar.

Would you expect them to interfere if they slumped?

No, I wouldn't expect them to interfere if they slumped.

Do you agree that sudden moves of prices on the stock exchange can provide a real roller coaster of emotions?

Yes, I agree that sudden moves of prices on the stock exchange can provide a real roller coaster of emotions.

What do you suppose investors feel when the prices rapidly slump and then soar back equally fast?

I suppose investors panic when the prices rapidly slump and feel relieved when they soar back equally fast.

Would you say that experiencing such a roller coaster of emotions may often be the result of a reckless investment?

Definitely, I'd say that experiencing such a roller coaster of emotions may often be the result of a reckless investment.

Is this why there are some explicit warnings about possible losses in trading apps?

Yes, this is why there are some explicit warnings about possible losses in trading apps.

**spontaneous** [spɒn'teɪniəs]  
**discretion** [drɪ'skreʃn]  
**at your own discretion**  
**downsize** ['daʊnsaɪz]

If you are free to act at your discretion, does it necessarily mean to be spontaneous?

No, if you are free to act at your discretion, it doesn't necessarily mean to be spontaneous. Because acting at your discretion doesn't exclude careful consideration.

Why?

Provide some synonyms of 'downsize'.

Some synonyms of 'downsize' are 'shrink', 'decrease', 'diminish' or 'trim'.

Imagine your company's sales deteriorate and they have no substantial financial savings, do they downsize the employment or reduce the salaries?

If my company's sales deteriorated and they had no substantial financial savings, I imagine they would first downsize the employment and subsequently reduce the salaries.

Would such a decision be made spontaneously?

I don't think such a decision would be made spontaneously.

How old were you when your parents decided that a curfew wasn't required and what time you could return home was left to your discretion?

I think I was 20 years old when my parents decided that a curfew wasn't required and what time I could return home was left to my discretion.

Generally, are low-rank soldiers supposed to follow orders and can higher ranks, for example majors, act more at their own discretion?

Yes, generally, low-rank soldiers are supposed to follow orders and higher ranks, for example majors, can act more at their own discretion.

What type of news do we usually trust at our own discretion?

We usually trust embarrassing or completely silly news at our discretion.

**lag** [læɡ]  
**time lag**  
**hibernate** ['haɪbəneɪt]  
**devise** [drɪ'vaɪz]

Why do some countries lag behind others in mobile payments?

I suppose some countries lag behind others in mobile payments because their citizens are more used to paying in cash.

Do you expect banks to soon devise a new method of payment which would severely limit the likelihood of fraud?

Yes, I expect banks to soon devise a new method of payment which would severely limit the likelihood of fraud.

How can a time lag between creating a new tax and its introduction onto the market be relevant to business?

A time lag between creating a new tax and its introduction onto the market can be relevant to business because companies definitely require time to adjust to the new tax.

Do governments, however, limit that time lag on the assumption that some companies will use it to devise ways to avoid the new tax?

Yes, governments, however, limit that time lag on the assumption that some companies will use it to devise ways to avoid the new tax.

If the businesses in your country opposed, would the government hibernate the introduction of a new tax?

I doubt if the government would hibernate the introduction of a new tax even if the businesses in my country opposed.

Is there any legal solution available in your country to temporarily hibernate your debts if you have many overdue invoices to pay?

No, there's no legal solution available in my country to temporarily hibernate your debts if you have many overdue invoices to pay.

We can say that something lags behind.

We also say:  
jet lag,  
decision lag,  
cultural lag,  
data lag.



<b>rigid</b> ['rɪdʒɪd] <b>frank</b> [fræŋk] <b>frankly speaking</b> <b>well-grounded</b>	
Provide some synonyms of 'rigid'.	Some synonyms of 'rigid' are 'strict', 'hard', 'severe', 'harsh' and 'firm'.
Tell me some opposites of 'rigid'.	Some opposites of 'rigid' are 'flexible' and 'tolerant'.
In the army, do they frankly believe that rigid rules and discipline make good soldiers? What can happen if they change their attitude to a more flexible one?	Yes, in the army, they frankly believe that rigid rules and discipline make good soldiers. If they change their attitude to a more flexible one, soldiers can disobey.
If a patient is terminally ill, should they be frankly told so?	Yes, if a patient is terminally ill, they should be frankly told so.
And if an elderly patient is not quite conscious of their lethal disease, do you think whether they should be frankly informed can be left to their family's discretion?	Yes, if an elderly patient is not quite conscious of their lethal disease, I think whether they should be frankly informed can be left to their family's discretion.
If the rules are not rigidly followed while creating statistics, should they be discarded as flawed?	Yes, if the rules aren't rigidly followed while creating statistics, they should be discarded as flawed.
Does it necessarily mean that the person creating those stats wasn't frank and honest?	No, it doesn't necessarily mean that the person creating those stats wasn't frank and honest.
What kind of people don't rigidly believe in science?	Superstitious people don't rigidly believe in science.
On the other hand, have all scientific theories been rigidly examined and confirmed?	Yes, most scientific theories have been rigidly examined and confirmed.
But frankly speaking, is science better-grounded than superstitions?	Yes, frankly speaking, science is better-grounded than superstitions.
Do you hope to be well-grounded in English once you have finished this course?	Yes, definitely, I hope to be well-grounded in English once I have finished this course.
<b>make a point of</b> <b>take someone's point</b> <b>deaf to reason</b>	
During a heated dispute, is it sometimes hardly possible to take someone else's point? Why?	Yes, during a heated dispute, it's sometimes hardly possible to take someone else's point. Because when we are annoyed or disturbed, we are often deaf to reason.
Does it imply that sometimes our disputes are roller coasters of emotions?	Yes, it implies that sometimes our disputes are roller coasters of emotions.
Why do politicians often make a point of their competitors making errors rather than focusing on essential matters?	Politicians often make a point of their competitors making errors rather than focusing on essential matters because it's easier to criticise than provide ready-made solutions.
What is a drawback of being deaf to reason?	One drawback of being deaf to reason is yielding to emotions, which, in consequence, leads to making decisions based on wrong data.

## reporting questions: revision

As you will remember, when we change a question from direct speech into reported speech, apart from changing the tenses, we must also remember to put the subject before the verb.

Susan: 'Where are<sup>1</sup> you<sup>2</sup> from?' becomes: Susan asked me where I<sup>1</sup> was<sup>2</sup> from.

When a question can be answered with *yes* or *no*, we add *if* in reported speech.

Peter: 'Do you like me?' (yes/no question) becomes: Peter asked me *if* I liked him.

We can use verbs like *ask*, *want to know*, *wonder* or *ponder* when reporting questions.

## Change the questions below from direct into reported speech.

- Are you obliged to carry a fire extinguisher in a vehicle in your country? – She asked .....
- Does your car model come with a spare wheel or with a tyre repair kit? – The driver wanted to know .....
- How long will the current president have been governing for by the end of the year? – The teacher asked .....
- Have you ever been swept up by the crowd during the sales? – They wondered .....
- How can local governments turn it into an incentive? – My boss asked .....
- What people required at least three substantial meals a day? – She wanted to know .....

'Did you have enough money to purchase it?' He asked ...	He asked if I had had enough money to purchase it.
'When were you interested in sports?' She wanted to know ...	She wanted to know when I had been interested in sports.
'Have you ever been abroad?' He asked ...	He asked if I had ever been abroad.
'What will you do tomorrow?' She asked ...	She asked what I would do the next day.
'Does he get drunk quickly?' He asked ...	He asked if he got drunk quickly.
'What are you going to do if they dismiss you?' She wanted to know ...	She wanted to know what I was going to do if they dismissed me.
'Can you help them?' You asked ...	You asked if I could help them.
'Is he your sibling?' She wondered ...	She wondered if he was my sibling.
'Why have people feared being buried alive?' He wanted to know ...	He wanted to know why people had feared being buried alive.

reported speech - things we report using infinitives: revision

When we want to report orders, some advice or promises, we use **the infinitive**.  
Frequently, we use the following verbs for reporting: *tell, advise, order, forbid, invite*  
and *ask*.  
For example:  
*‘Come back at once!’ – He ordered me to come back at once.*  
*‘Don’t throw it away, Tim’. – She told Tim not to throw it away.*

Look at the sentences below. Decide which of the verbs in the box will be best to report each of them. Change them into reported speech.

order   advise   promise   forbid   invite   ask

1. Richard: ‘You don’t have to do it. I’ll do it asap.’ - .....  
Richard .....

2. Boris: ‘I wouldn’t do it if I were you. You don’t mess with them.’ - .....  
Boris .....

3. My uncle: ‘You mustn’t slide down the slope in these conditions.’ - .....  
My uncle .....

4. The boss: ‘You must provide the details by tomorrow at the latest.’ - .....  
The boss .....

5. The nurse: ‘Will you please take off your shirt?’ - .....  
The nurse .....

6. My friend: ‘You should come again next week. I’m throwing a birthday party.’ - .....  
My friend .....

<b>eternity</b> [ɪˈtɜːnəti] <b>magnitude</b> [ˈmæɡnɪtjuːd] <b>exposure</b> [ɪkˈspəʊʒə]	
Were many people overwhelmed with the pace and magnitude of the slump on the stock exchange in the 1929 crash in the USA?	Yes, many people were overwhelmed with the pace and magnitude of the slump on the stock exchange in the 1929 crash in the USA.
What did they do?	Unfortunately, some of the investors weren’t able to bear the fact that their wealth had been wiped off on the whim of the market and they committed suicide.
Is this why investors should carefully examine their overall exposure to risk?	Yes, this is why investors should carefully examine their overall exposure to risk.
Do some people begin to sincerely consider the eternity of their soul when they grow old and the exposure to terminal diseases is the highest?	Yes, some people begin to sincerely consider the eternity of their soul when they grow old and the exposure to terminal diseases is the highest.

<b>infinite</b> [ˈɪnfɪnət] <b>infinity</b> [ɪnˈfɪnəti]	
Is it characteristic of eternity that it lasts an infinite time? On the contrary, is our life shorter in comparison with eternity?	Yes, it’s characteristic of eternity that it lasts an infinite time. Yes, on the contrary, our life is shorter in comparison with eternity.
What is the largest number in mathematics?	The largest number in mathematics is infinity.
Do you know if currently space physics agrees whether the universe is infinite?	No, I don’t know if currently space physics agrees whether the universe is infinite.
Did the oceans appear to stretch into infinity for our ancestors a few thousand years ago?	Definitely, the oceans must have appeared to stretch into infinity for our ancestors a few thousand years ago.

<b>fall flat</b> <b>nerd</b> [nɜːd] <b>nerdy</b> [nɜːdi]	
Would you burn with shame if you tried to tell a joke to amuse people but it fell flat instead?	No, I wouldn’t burn with shame if I tried to tell a joke to amuse people but it fell flat instead.
Do people usually consider nerds to be able to tell funny jokes and to be outgoing?	No, people don’t usually consider nerds to be able to tell funny jokes and to be outgoing.
What kind of appearance is regarded as a bit nerdy?	An embarrassing, humiliating or unattractive appearance is regarded as a bit nerdy.
According to some religions, where would someone land if they hoped to spend eternity in heaven but their plan fell flat?	According to some religions, someone would land in hell if they hoped to spend eternity in heaven but their plan fell flat.
Why do you think some adult men can be real comic book nerds?	I suppose some adult men can be real comic book nerds because comic books are collectables or, if they are old enough, rare memorabilia which can be priceless.

Perhaps the best known largest numbers are: googol [guːgəl], which is 10<sup>100</sup> and googolplex, which is 10<sup>googol</sup>.

**bundle of nerves**  
**heart of stone**  
**all of a sudden**  
**tranquil** ['træŋkwɪl]  
**tranquillity** BrE/**tranquility** AmE  
 [træŋ'kwɪləti]

We can say that some people who are extremely cruel have a **heart of stone**. We can also say they are **stone-hearted** (stony-hearted).

Why do you suppose a comedian might be a bundle of nerves at the beginning of their career?

I suppose a comedian might be a bundle of nerves at the beginning of their career because they require experience to increase their self-confidence and to make sure their jokes don't fall flat.

Can self-confidence and experience indicate tranquillity of mind?  
 Does this apply to a person's work environment, too?

Yes, I think self-confidence and experience can indicate tranquillity of mind.  
 Yes, this applies to a person's work environment, too.

Do stone-hearted people usually exaggerate their problems to gain people's sympathy?

No, stone-hearted people don't usually exaggerate their problems to gain people's sympathy.

Do they demonstrate any sympathy at all?

No, people who have a heart of stone don't usually demonstrate any sympathy at all.

In what political systems would a leader be more likely to develop a heart of stone: in an ancient empire, in communism or in a modern democracy?

A leader would be more likely to develop a heart of stone in an ancient empire or in communism rather than in a modern democracy.

Do you suppose the average citizen was able to remain tranquil when they were all of a sudden called before the king?

No, I don't suppose the average citizen was able to remain tranquil when they were all of a sudden called before the king. They must have been a bundle of nerves.

**walk on eggshells** ['egʃəl]  
**wary** ['weəri]  
**nosy** ['nəʊzi]

Why should parents warn their children to be wary of strangers?

Parents should warn children to be wary of strangers because they can be kidnapped and hurt.

What about nosy neighbours?

I think nosy neighbours can sometimes be a great advantage.

How?

A nosy neighbour makes strangers wary.

Why should doctors be wary of gunshot wounds?

Doctors should be wary of gunshot wounds because they can be life-threatening and can cause extensive internal damage in the body.  
 Yes, bullets cause extensive bleeding.

What must you be wary of when you know that your boss is sensitive about sales figures and you should walk on eggshells?

For example, you must be wary of how to display sales figures in charts to imply better results if you know that your boss is sensitive about sales figures and you should walk on eggshells.

Do you agree that with mobile payments becoming more and more common, we should be wary of our smartphone security?

Yes, I agree that with mobile payments becoming more and more common, we should be wary of our smartphone security.

**stimulant** ['stɪmjələnt]  
**tertiary education** ['tɜːʃəri]  
**wind up / wound / wound** [waɪnd, waʊnd]

Provide some synonyms of the word 'stimulant'.

Some synonyms of the word 'stimulant' are 'incentive' or 'drug'.

How likely is it in your country to wind up being unemployed if you have no degree confirming tertiary education?

It's quite likely in my country to wind up being unemployed if you have no degree confirming tertiary education.

By the way, what degree can you graduate with from a tertiary college?

You can graduate with a technical degree, a bachelor's degree or master's degree from a tertiary college.

Are some students addicted to stimulants because they can't handle boredom and are too fed up to follow lectures?

Yes, some students may be addicted to stimulants because they can't handle boredom and are too fed up to follow lectures.

Is this a widespread problem at tertiary universities in your country?  
 Do you think taking stimulants occurs mainly at dormitories?

I don't know if this is a widespread problem at tertiary universities in my country.  
 Yes, I suppose taking stimulants may occur mainly at dormitories.

What kind of watches don't require winding up?

Smartwatches don't require winding up.

What would you think and do if you wound your mechanical watch but it didn't work anyway?

If I wound my mechanical watch but it didn't work anyway, I'd think it was broken and I would have it repaired.

**peculiar** [pɪ'kjuːliə]  
**dormant** ['dɔːmənt]  
**hibernation** [haɪbə'neɪʃn]

What does 'to go dormant' mean?

'To go dormant' means 'to hibernate'.

Which species of mammals go dormant in winter?

The species of mammals which go dormant in winter are, particularly, various species of bears and rodents.

Isn't it peculiar that some mammals can completely hibernate?

Yes, I think it's peculiar that some mammals can completely hibernate.

By the way, what are some synonyms of 'peculiar'.

Some synonyms of 'peculiar' are 'odd', 'strange', 'particular', 'specific' and 'unique'.

While dormant, does a rodent's body burn fewer or more calories?

While dormant, a rodent's body burns fewer calories.

How can studying the peculiar behaviour of a dormant body of certain species which hibernate help develop space exploration?

Studying the peculiar behaviour of a dormant body of certain species which hibernate can help develop space exploration because if people wish to travel long distances in space, they need to be able to hibernate. Otherwise, they won't be able to survive the long trip.

Currently, can science make it possible for humans to go into hibernation, or is this possibility excluded?

Currently, science can't make it possible for humans to go into hibernation. This possibility is excluded.

Would it be extraordinarily peculiar to go dormant today and wake up in 100 years?

Definitely, it would be extraordinarily peculiar to go dormant today and wake up in 100 years.

**University or academic degrees:**

Bachelor of Arts - BA,  
 of Science - B.Sc.,  
 of technology - B.Tech.

Master of Arts - MA,  
 of Science - M.Sc.,  
 of Business Administration - MBA.

Doctorate Degree - PhD

Professor - Assistant,  
 Associate,  
 Distinguished

**Many animals are dormant,** that is, they hibernate, in cold weather. The category includes: bears, squirrels, wasps, bees, hornets, some snakes, hamsters, mice, bats, turtles, and even bacteria.