

GENERAL

One-off (boost) : unique, that happens only once

To acknowledge : to admit, to accept, to recognize, to yield, to greet, to hail /to answer to, to reply to / ANTONYMS : to reject, to deny, to disdain, to disavow, to disregard, to snub, to spurn, **to scorn** / scornfully (adv), to flout, to make fun of, to look down on, to hold in contempt, to sneer at, to turn up one's nose at

To reckon : to estimate, to consider, to think, to calculate / to reckon on : to rely on, to expect to (compter sur, s'attendre à) Ex : they had not reckon on such a fight /to reckon with : to take into account (Ex : a force to be reckoned with) ≠ to reckon without : without taking into account/ reckoning

To upbraid : to reproach, to blame, to lecture / ANTONYM : to praise

To befit : to become, to suit, to be convenient (seoir)

America's greatness : strength, power, importance, weight, renown, significance, high-mindedness / reliability / the great powers are powerful countries, at top level, high-ranking countries / ANTONYMS : smallness, narrow-mindedness, modestness (wages), meanness (mesquinerie)

To pledge : to promise, to grant

To play **by** the rules : to follow rules, to reckon with rules, to take into account, to respect rules, to abide by the law

Broadly : generally / broadly-based (support) : large support

To bolster : to support, to reinforce, to strengthen, to prop up, to uphold, to back

To counteract : to counterbalance, to neutralize, to offset, to oppose, to thwart, to hinder

Pilfering : a theft, a stealing, a robbery (du chapardage)

Know-how : ability, capability, experience, knowledge, proficiency, skill, talent

The heading : the title

To keep up with : to maintain, to hold, to control

To come up with : to provide, to offer, to create, to propose

To put up with : to bear, to endure, to hack, to abide, to brook

To be braced : strengthen, tighten, reinforce, bolster, hold up, shove up

To be flattered by : to be praised by

To raise question marks over : to put into question

Growing (military) clout : influence, weight (to give a clout, a slap, a lash : flanquer une taloche, une claque) / to lash, to scourge, to whip : fouetter

To handle the challenges : to deal with, to cope with, to take care of , to carry

To face **XX** the challenges = to face **up with** the challenges

The effectiveness : the reliability, the efficiency of the Government's austerity measures

To stand up **to** : to oppose, to endure, to resist, to tackle, to confront, to withstand, to defy, to brave

To be run over **by** : to be knocked down, knocked over, run over, stricken or struck,

To run over sth : to examine, to check, to go over, to go through, to rehearse, to review

To shrug off : to shrug one's shoulders , to get rid of, without reckoning, to disregard (faire fi de),

To care for : (s'occuper de) to care about, to mind, to look after, to attend, to watch over / Caring (les soucis), care-laden (rongé par les soucis), care worker (travailleur social), acute care (soins intensifs) / I- couldn't -care- less : j'm'en foutiste

To care for : to want Ex : to care for sth to drink, to watch / to foster : to encourage, to welcome, to provide for, to take to

To rage **about** sth or sb : to be mad with rage

a showdown : confrontation, breaking point. Ex : to prepare for a showdown with ministers

Assumption (runs ...) : expectation, supposition

A pin-striped = pinstriped : with stripes (à rayures) / a checked fabric : with checks (carreaux)

Ways out of the hole ≠ to be in the hole : to be in a difficult situation / to pick holes : chercher des poux ou des failles

To dig for oneself

To bear : to carry, to support

To make great strides : step, progress

No longer : not anymore

Warranted : justified, granted, guaranteed

To brand it : to call it

Any actual retribution

To expect **to** / to be expected **to** : to wish sth **to** happen, to await **for** sth **to** happen / sth eagerly-awaiteded, sth long-awaited / awaiting **for** / awaiting trial / awaiting **XX** an answer, waiting **for** an answer

Ties **between** : links, relations

Surging ahead : intensifying , (hausse soudaine, en forte augmentation)

To set **up** : to bring **about**, to cause, to spark **off**, to trigger **off**, to set **off**, to give rise to

To outdo : to beat, to outdistance, to outclass , to overcome, to score points off, to top, to surpass, to transcend, to excel, to exceed, to outshine, to outjockey (damer le pion, surpasser, primer)

To unveil a complaint **about** : to bring to light, to expose, to lay bare, to lay open, to make known, to make public, to reveal, to uncover / ANTONYMS : to keep secret or discreet, to put or let under cover, to conceal, to cover, to hide, to cloak, to disguise, to obscure

A tepid performance : lukewarm, cool / ANTONYMS : eager, enthusiastic, keen, passionate, zealous

Tidal : linked to a tide, a big wave

To oversee : to watch out, to look upon at

Dropped : abandonned

Drafting : writting

To foster : to promote, to develop

Compliance : conformity / to comply with (the demands) : to respect, to abide by

Phased : progressively

Whereby : from which

To be up by : to increase of / to be up to : to be capable of

A demeanour : appearance, way of behaving

To hold out : to keep away from

To pull out : to quit, to withdraw from, to resign, to give up

To compel : to oblige, to be mandatory, to be binding, to be forced to

To act in a statemanlike way : a way like a stateman

A coded attempt : indirect attempt, veiled, under cover, discreet, made in a hidden-way

To be in the dock : to be accused (sur le banc des accusés)

To bring into the spotlight : to highlight, to put to light, to reveal, to show

Fraud busting agency : that fights againt fraud

Rate-rigging scandal : scandal due to/caused by rate fraud, or rate fiddle

To be slashed : to be heavily reduced (ex : sacrificed prices, ...)

Watchdogs : organizations of control

Wrongdoers : people who acted badly, responsible for a misdeed, an ill deed, a misdemeanour

Worse off : the bad-off are the poor ≠ the well-off being the rich

Stand idle : to stand jobless, inactive, out of action, out of work, redundant, unemployed, slothful, shiftless / ANTONYMS : active, busy, employed, occupied, industrious, operating, working / industrious and industrial refer mainly to the noun "labor" rather than "Industry".

To argue that : to say, to state, to assert, to declare ≠ to argue **with** : to disagree, to oppose, to protest

To undermine confidence : to weaken reliability, to remove or withdraw reliability, to take out, to compromise, to weaken, to threaten / ANTONYMS : to promote, to sustain, to reinforce, to strengthen

To hamper : to restrain , to restrict, to hold up, to impede, to interfere with, to thwart, to hinder, to entangle / ANTONYMS : to promote, to encourage, to foster, to boost, to aid, to forward, to further

Laid-off (to lay off) : to fire, to sack (colloquial), to be put to unemployment, to be put on the dole

To ease the pain : means what hurts will be or can be relieved.

Hotly disputed : firmly opposed, staunchly, strongly, toughly criticized

To shoulder : to accept, to assume

Debt burdens : to be overburdened with debt / it is a large amount of money that a country or organization owes to another and which they find very difficult to pay back, to refund, to reimburse L to be overburdened = overwhelmed, crushed with, overloaded with debt

To fall short of : not to answer

To stop short of : to stop suddenly, abruptly

To write off : to write to ask sth / a laissez-faire policy (faire une croix sur qch) (non-intervention policy) / to write off loses : to write them as liabilities (les passer en perte)

To withstand the losses (to make up for the losses = to compensate)

To take place in the open : openly, publicly, be made outwardly, externally, seemingly, to the eye / ANTONYMS : under cover, discreetly, privately, inwardly / inside, at heart

Subsidies : finance, fund

Western counterparts : western fellows (members), mates (colloquial or slang) les acolytes (les homologues)

To raise (transitive used with an object whether direct or indirect), to rise (generally intransitive = used without object, no direct nor indirect one) = to increase

EXPRESSIONS

One-stop shopping = guichet unique / magasin tout en un

One-stop = universal / one on one : tête à tête / one to one : seul à seul

Its allure : attraction, enticing

A killing on fees : earnings (here), or charges/ registration fees : frais d'inscription

To trail / trailing : parcours, protocole, ...

A sticky investor base / to be on a sticky wicket : être dans le pétrin, dans une situation délicate

To redeem : to save, to buy out (racheter)

A few negative quarters : des trimestres

DEROGATORY

To crank up : to start up / to put sound louder = to turn volume up / to make oneself hear

A patsy (us): a mug (un pigeon) meaning sb is rather stupid and is easily tricked by other people or can be made to take the blame for other people's actions. Ex : to be sb's patsy, to be nobody's patsy. He is a mug, a fool (une poire) as far as women are concerned.

A supplicant **to** : to be a bootlicker / bootlicking : sb who prays to God or respectfully asks an important person to help them or to give them sth that they want very much.

COMMENTS

To be conspicuous : noticeable, obvious

Scathing : aggressive, acrimonious, critical, harsh, scornful, trenchant, withering, vitriolic

Bashing : accusation, charge, blame, denunciation, impeachment, indictment (acte d'accusation) / to bash : réprimander

A clow, a crank, a puppet : hurluberlu, guignol

To be in tatters : in ruins, ruined, destroyed

Pilfering : a theft, a stealing, a robbery (du chapardage)

To retort : to reply, to answer / a retort : an answer

A late convert **to** a cause

A supposed belief **in**

An easy shot **at** : a blow

To be **among** the milder ones : the moderate wing or position / the die-hard wing : la branche jusqu'au boutiste

to flirt **with** : to appreciate an idea (**caresser l'idée**) / **to flirt with sb** : **draguer** / **a flirt** : **a Casanova**

A run **for** : an application (une candidature) / **to be candidate for**

To rape : to violate

To argue : to discuss , to assert, to claim, to convince, to point to / to quarrel

The pain level **for** : the level where it brings or causes pain, where it aches, where it is painful, where it hurts

To thwart : (here) : to limit, to prevent , to impede, to hamper, to hinder

A peaceful rise : a rise which is not a threat

To portray it as a bogeyman : a person, real or imaginary who is used as a threat especially to children (un père fouettard, un croque-mitaine)

To undermine : to weaken gradually or insidiously, to sabotage, to threaten (saper)

Unduly : particularly, really / immoderately, excessively / in contradiction **of** moral or legal standards / ANTONYMS : accordingly (comme convenu) reasonably, duly, moderately, ordinally, properly (comme il convient, comme prévu)

To disenfranchise : to deprive a person of the right to vote or other rights of citizenship , to deprive a place of the right to send representatives to an elected body, to deprive a business concern (a firm, a company) of some privilege or right, to deprive a person, a place, ... of any franchise or right. (priver des droits civils)

To take up the cudgels for sb/sth : to support (prendre fait et cause pour) / the cudgel : a thick short stick (gourdin)

Upsetting : annoying, disturbing

To be wary of : to care that, to worry about

Wooliness : If you say that someone is pulling the wool over your eyes, you mean that they are trying to deceive you, in order to have an advantage over you. To deceive (embobiner qn)

Prominent : of prime importance

Contentious ideas : difficult to share all the ideas some being disagreed

To be peppered : to be full of (être truffé de)

To wobble : to shake (trembler), to vacillate, to be unsteady (être bancal) / to falter (a political power)

A striking record

A risk aversion : a fear of, an aversion to + ing, a repulsion, to be reluctant in

La "mêlée" : a scrum (Rugby) / (here) a battle, a conflict = a scuffle, a tussle

Shindigs : a chill out (bamboula, fiesta)

To stay out of the spotlight : to remain or get under cover / to be sheltered from / out of sight/ away from eavesdroppers (des oreilles indiscrètes)

A devotee of : a defender of, a supporter of, a burning partisan of, an advocate of

Miscalculations : misjudgement

Risk averse : to be averse to = to be reluctant to risk / averse (adj) : cautious

Leverage : using lever , with lever effect / to have leverage = influence / to leverage : démultiplier/
LBO leveraged buy out : rachat d'entreprise par effet de levier

Stunningly profitable / stunning = staggering = outstanding , amazing ex : a stunning victory

To prop up markets : to uphold, to support

To surface : to show, to be obvious or noticeable

A troubled backdrop : toile de fond (peu rassurante : worrying, questionable, not reassuring)

Unassuming : sans prétention

On turmoil = in shambles = messy, agitated, troubled

To be plagued by (technical faults) : to be overburdened = overwhelmed, hindered, bothered by ...
(des dysfonctionnements)

To rein : to regain control, to curb , to slow down : maîtriser, freiner. Ex :
Governments are desperately trying to rein in their escalating spending.

To keep a tight rein on sth : to control sth strictly

Manageable levels = affordable levels

A battle ground for : an issue for

Ground rules : principes de base

To prop up : to support, to uphold

To roll over : (here) to change its position ???

A scathing report : a very critical report (acerbe, cinglant)

Blatant : obvious

Wilful : deliberate (intentionnel) / a wilful crime : prémédité

To mislead : to get lost / to be mistaken

Misleading : to be erroneous

Contempt : scorn (=le mépris) / scornful. To despise / despising

To table a motion : (mainly british) : to put forward a proposal (présenter) / (in the US) = to leave till later : ajourner)

To endorse : to support, to uphold, to be backed, to agree (appuyer, soutenir, approuver)

To be hauled back to : to be dragged to (être trainé devant le Parlement ???)

A two-tier justice system : à 2 vitesses

A miscarriage of justice : une erreur judiciaire / a refusal of justice : un déni .../ Obstruction of justice

To be (well) underway : to have started already (être bien entamé, en cours)

Scaremongering : alarmisme

Basic problem (problème de fond), a thorny question (épineuse) = key issue, hot issue

The rate-rigging scandal = rate fraud or rate fiddle

Bribery : corruption

Alleged rigging : so called fraud or fiddle

Rigged : manipulated

ballot rigging / ballot-rigging = electoral fraud / fraudulently / fare dodging : fraude dans les transports en commun / to smuggle sth in or out

To be fined =to pay a fine : wrongdoers get it as a punishment

To fiddle / a fiddle : a cheating (escroquerie)

To fiddle the books : to cheat accounts (falsifier)

Dodging tax = tax fiddle = tax fraud = tax avoidance

To dodge = to hedge : esquiver, to evade : éluder

To fend off = To fiddle : to cheat, to swindle, , to interfere with, to mess about or around (falsifier, truquer) / (combine , escroquerie) ex : tax fraud = tax fiddle

to conceal (dissimuler), to hide or escape from, to keep away from

To fend off : to keep off, to repel, to repulse, (éluder, parer, repousser), to evade : to dodge (esquiver)
to dodge a question : to refuse to answer, to hedge (se dérober)

To be subdued : (here) not speaking loud, unusually quiet , discreet/ from the past (dépassé)

To mutter : to speak not loud to oneself / to people (mutterers of approval / of protest...)

To scorn sth on sb: to disdain, to reject /

Scornfully (avec mépris): with contempt, with disdain, scathingly, disdainfully, contemptuously, despising, despal / to look scornfully : regarder de haut

to spur on : to give incentive to (= enticement, encouragement, impulse, motivation, motive, spur, stimulant, stimulus) ≠ to be deterrent : disincentive, discouragement

To reignite : To trigger, to launch, to set off, to spark off, to start, to bring about, to generate, to cause, / (common sense of “to ignite” : to set fire, to burn, to burst into flames) / ANTONYMS : to prevent, to stop, to block, to impede, to hinder, to impede, to inhibit, to obstruct, to repress

Clash : disagreement, conflict, confrontation, fight, showdown (épreuve de force), collision, dissent, dissenting voice (discordant) rumbling discontent (grogne)

To clash over := to strike together, to engage (together) in conflict or contest, to look inharmonious together, to act clashingly

A fall by ... = A fall of x % = a x % fall in ... / a fall in = a decrease, a drop in ...

The credit crunch : crisis

To trim (borrowing) = to cut, to curtail

Across -the board tariff increases : tariff increases beyond borders or frontiers ??? / (fig) frontier, boundary / borderless : with no borders

The board of directors) : to put the suggestion to the board : the committee of a firm (Le Conseil d'Administration) / the board of trade = chamber of commerce

Unfair subsidies : unfair aid provided by the State

State-owned firms : State-run firms

! A deficit busting plan : busting deficit = fighting against deficit (la lutte contre le déficit)

Government spending only dipped by : to dip = to decline, to sink, to slope, to slump

Weak figures : low figures

Rolling out : extending, spreading

Billions of Pounds : Uk's money

Spending cuts : to cut spendings

Public sector job losses : job losses within the public sector

In a bid to slash the budget deficit : in an attempt to cut ...

To fall back into recession : to go down into

In the 1st quarter of the year : the 1st three months

To increase the burden on a state : the weight, the load of ... on a state

A xx% drop in ≠ rise in ...

To draw a conclusion about : to reach a statement

The year as a whole : the entire year, all this year long

To be prone to : to be subject to, liable to, inclined to

Debt now stands at : amounts to ..., is worth ...

To hit % up from ... %

April's borrowing figures : figures about borrowings

To ease fiscal tightening : to allow loosened fiscal measures, to loosen its grip making it less stricter

Recovery continues to stall / a stalling recovery : a sluggish recovery (qui stagne)

UK growth forecast

To lower UK growth forecast

Uk's slide into a double-dip recession : with 2 steps : a drop, a little rise, another drop

To launch a lending scheme : to provide loans

To stimulate economic growth : to boost growth

Further tax reforms : future tax reforms, tax reforms made later on, tax reforms to be made

Another poor set of figures

To balance the books : the accounts, budget

A trade surplus shrinking : a reducing or lowering gap in the difference in value between total exports and total imports of goods / ANTONYM : a widening trade surplus

endowment : (here) a subsidy : une dotation / une fondation / un patrimoine génétique (≠ inheritance, holdings, «heritage» is culturally speaking)

Endowment fund : fonds de dotation / elite edowments : subsidies for the elite ???

Assets : avoirs, biens, liquidités / assets and liabilities : l'actif et le passif

To buy up assets ≠ to sell off

Distressed sellers : in difficulty / painstaking : pénible / a predicament : a difficult situation, a plight : a critical situation / a distress signal, in distress

Distressed assets : depreciated, to lose value , to become devaluated, to write down

Benchmarks : points de reference / benchmark bonds : emprunts d'Etat

The extra yield : profitable result

A two notch downgrade : a notch is a level on a scale : (here) : 2 levels

To shift holdings : to shift shares , assets

To write down : to depreciate, to lose value / distressed

Ratings downgrade : going downward ≠upgrade (going upward)

Debt burden = debt weigh

Government indebtedness : government being indebted, suffering or undergoing (subir ...) from debt*

Bankrolled : financed

A sin : (current meaning) a bad act = misdeed, ill deed as regards religion / (figurative meaning) or sb taking offense according to an unrespected shared belief. (un pêché).

To embrace : to adopt, to espouse, to take up

Government's books : accounts

To spur **on** : to give incentive to, to urge, to stimulate / on the spur of the moment : impetuously, on the spot

Peculiar : particular, special

Crushing : overwhelming, overloading, overburdening

Slowdown : economy going slower, dropping, sluggish (adj)

To threaten : to worry ≠ to strengthen : to become stronger

Stagnation : sluggishness ≠ **stalling** : put off (paralysed), hold up (caler) / **even** (adj) = to remain constant : to stay at the same level / to keep steady, calm.

To take over : (common sense) : to buy out / (here) to succeed (transitif direct : no preposition) = to take the place of / ≠ to succeed **in** : to be able to, to manage

To be unlikely to : not to be supposed to, not to be awaited or expected to do sth

Wholeheartedly : completely, fully, (here) as fully as, so fully as

The scribblings : sb who scribbles (down) all over a wall makes scribblings, a doodle is when you draw sth aimlessly (a page covered in doodles), (here) an imitation or representation

The foe : the enemy, the contestant

Gainfully (here) being paid / a paid or remunerated or indemnified job. If you are in gainful employment, you have a job for which you are paid. / in a lucrative way, profitable, fruitful, advantageous, remunerative, money-making

To embark on : to set out or over, to take up, to launch, to start, to begin, to undertake, to engage

Fruition : profitability : if sth comes to fruition it starts to succeed and provides you with the results that were intended or hoped for.

Insupportable : unbearable, that can't be borne (to bear-bore-borne).

A claim : a demand for sth that you think you have a right to.

A thrifty economy : careful, economical, saving, sparing / ANTONYMS : free-spending, spend lavishly, spendthrift, wasteful ≠ to thrive : to bloom, to be prosperous

Formidable pace

Prodigious rate

Low interest rate(s)

High investment

Malinvestment

Bad investment

Overambitious projects : exaggerated, too high, too big to handle, immoderate, disproportionate

Squandered capital : wasted, spoilt, misused, misspent, spent lavishly, thrown away, scattered, blown (to blow)(colloquial or slang : familiar use) ≠ to spoil (spoil),

Misguided ventures : ill-advised , misled, unwise, uncalled for, injudicious, deluded, foolish, mistaken, unwarranted

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Procurement = acquisition / to be provided with, to get its supplies **of/from** : the act of obtaining sth such as supplies for an organization. Ex : to cut procurement of weapons by about XXX % (un approvisionnement)

Reciprocal access **to**

To be allowed **to**

An uppity China : pretentious, bigheaded, conceited, full of oneself, on one's high horse, self-important, uppish (Brit) / to be uppity : ne pas se prendre pour n'importe qui

To mock **xx** a suggestion (no article)

To gun **for** a trade war : to search for in order to bash, to reprimand / to try earnestly for sth : seriously, pour de bon

To retaliate **against** : to answer back, to retort, to counterattack / Retaliation : a counterblow, a counterstroke, a reprisal, a repayment, a revenge, a tit for tat, a vengeance, an eye for an eye

POLITICS

(A presidential) runoff (election) : finale election or vote

Wanned : s'est ternie, s'est affaiblie

First round election : du 1er tour

The polling booth : the small isolated place where you put your ballot in the envelop

shift voters : undecided voters

To switch one's vote to : to change

To lean a candidate's way : to be in favor of his candidacy

The outcome of the race : the result

To herald : annoncer / to be the herald of : être le précurseur de / Heralding sign : signe annonciateur

The iconic plaza : la place emblématique ...

Widespread anger : anger spread widely

One's handling of the economy : managing or conducting of the economy

To renew the tie to the Left : renouer avec la gauche
To flex one's muscle or strength : to show or demonstrate one's power

To face off sb in elections = to face up with (se mesurer)

To trim : to cut : to lower

To face off : affronter (un tête à tête lors d'un débat)

Polling agencies : institute de sondages

To champion : defender

To cast one's vote : exprimer un vote, une voix

(The election) outcome : result

The far right : an extremist right party, a tougher right

Turnout : attendance, participation, the level of participation (= le tx de participation)

Mini cranes : des petites grues ???

Distasteful : disagreeable, loathsome

Ensuing (battle) : to follow (=découler, s'en suivre)

To back : to support

(A party) stalwart : sb who is trustful, reliable, persevering, purposeful, persistent

The cornerstone

Hectic (diary) : busy

Odds-on (favorite) : un grand favori / it's odds-on that : very likely that

An assertive policy : a confident policy, a can-do policy, forceful, pushy, a self-assured policy, a strong-willed policy (Ex : N. Sarkozy's said-to-be policy) / ANTONYMS : a backward policy, hesitant, insecure, meek, shrinking (to become limited), timorous, unassertive, self-effacing (as Mr Hollande has been said to be), self-conscious = insecure, ill at ease, uncomfortable, like a fish out of water, awkward, bashful,(= easily embarrassed and nervous because sb feel that everyone is looking at them and judging them).

Coddling (dictator) : a potential dictator, growing as or getting a dictator (to coddle : couvrir), showing promise of a future dictator, the dictator-to-be, sb roughening (devenir rude), harshening (devenir brutal)

The campaign trail = The electoral campaign / a hate campaign : de dénigrement /an ad campaign : de publicité

Its remit : its function, its competency

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Vocabulary “rate-rigging scandal”= rate fraud

ballot rigging / ballot-rigging = electoral fraud / fraudulently / fare dodging : fraude dans les transports en commun / to smuggle sth in or out

Bashing : campagne de dénigrement, raclée (see below : a banker- bashing inquiry)

To clash over : to disagree strongly, to strike together, to oppose each other/ to face up with a political discontent (malaise), dissatisfaction

A judge-led inquiry : an inquiry being led by a judge (as opposed to parliamentarians)

Barristers : lawyers who plead on/to Court / a trial attorney for citizens

Public concern : national issue

An inquiry : a case, a record (un dossier)

To implement : to apply, to set out

To be burdensome (adj) : onerous / a burden / to be overburdened : to have excessive burden or load

Dodgy products : uncertain, shabby (louche), unsafe / to dodge = to hedge, to conceal, to hide from, to evade

To stand up for : to support

To prevaricate : to tergiversate, to equivocate, to hedge, to dodge, to shift, to shuffle, to evade, to beat about the bush / ANTONYMS : to be blunt, to be direct, to be frank, to be straightforward, to come straight to the point

To have double standards : 2 poids et 2 mesures, a two-tier ... : 2 levels (society, ...) / a 2nd tier : a 2nd rate : de 2^{ème} zone / a double dip recession : with 2 stages

The spivvy (not found in dictionary but obvious inference) few not the suffering many : the privileged persons, favoured, elite, entitled, powerful, indulged, ruling, empowered, vested / all the top people, the upper crust (le gratin)

Savvy : jugeote, calé dans un domaine

Banking misdemeanours = misdeeds, ill doings

Appalling : awful, astounding, alarming, daunting, dire, dreadful, fearful, frightening, frightful, grim, gasty, hideous, horrifying, horrible, disheartening / ANTONYMS heartening, reassuring, encouraging

Outrageous : horrible, scandalous, shocking, unspeakable, villainous, wicked

To blame : to accuse of, to put the blame on, to charge sb with sth

A largely dull exercise : boring, sluggish / daft (idiot) : as daft as bushes : bête comme la lune ou pieds

The occasional swatch of interesting evidence : a swatch (a sample) : un échantillon. Evidence = proof

Naughty bankers : nasty ones, bad ones, wayward, wicked, worthless ANTONYMS : good, proper, polite, seemly, well-behaved, well-mannered

Hefty : forceful, vigorous, significant

severance payment : unemployment payment / severance : breakdown (of negotiations), break-up or split, separation

A banker bashing inquiry

Mercifully : fortunately, with mercy : avec bienveillance

Rolling coverage : protection that drifts (= that moves with the current ????)

Muddy puddles : puddles with mud : flaques de boues = (here) en eaux troubles (= in turmoil : livré aux troubles / to be in a complete shambles : dans la pagaille, un vrai désastre, dans ts les sens)

To raise the stakes : betting, risks / to be at stake : être en jeu

A levy : when you are withdrawn money (=un prélèvement)

To levy **on** taxes on people : to make people pay, to get money from people

To take a swipe at the British gov : to criticize, to hit out (= porter un coup)

To face a run- off on 6 may : a runoff vote (= dernier tour), a runoff election (= élection finale)

To be more skewed : distorted, biased (faussé)