

## Answers

### A) Match the phrases to the definitions

Based on the context of the article, can you match the words in the box to the definitions listed below? Then add the word into the example sentence. You may need to change the form of the word to fit the meaning of the sentence.

to persevere with	to stay afloat	in choppy waters/in turmoil	a setback
detrimental	adverse consequences	resilient	to bail out
the plight of	mounting	to resort to	to dry up

1. Something which takes you back in your progress: **a setback**

*"I have suffered many **setbacks** in my career, but I have overcome them to reach where I am today."*

2. To have just enough money to pay your debts and continue operating: **to stay afloat**

*"Many companies in the hospitality industry struggled to **stay afloat** during the Covid 19 pandemic."*

3. To be in a period of real uncertainty: **in turmoil / in choppy waters**

*"Markets are **in turmoil / in choppy waters** after a major bank collapsed yesterday."*

4. To rescue someone or something from difficulty, especially financial difficulty: **to bail out**

*"The government have refused to **bail out** the major construction company."*

5. The difficult, desperate situation of someone or something: **the plight of**

*"Governments are failing to recognise the **plight** of many homeless people in the country."*

6. Causing damage or harm: **detrimental**

*"The current school system is proving to be **detrimental** for children's development."*

7. To grow larger or become more intense (especially something negative): **To mount up**

*"As the addiction grew, her debts started **to mount up / mounting up**."*  
*"Fear is **mounting up** for the economy after another bank collapsed yesterday."*

8. Being able to stand and come back from difficult situations: **resilient**

*"The whole team needs to be **resilient** during these difficult times."*

9. To continue on despite real difficulties and little chance of success: **to persevere**

*"The plan hasn't gone well so far, but we need to **persevere** with it."*

10. To decrease and eventually stop: **to dry up**

*"Our resources are slowly **drying up**, so we need to be very careful."*

11. To do something undesirable in order to solve a very difficult situation: **to resort to**

*"During the Covid 19 crisis, many bars **resorted to** delivering drinks to people's homes."*

12. Really negative consequences: **adverse consequences**

*"We are suffering the **adverse consequences** of the government's terrible new policy."*

## B) Key Words in a New Context

### The Plight of a Popular Café

The charming "Seafront Café" was a cosy, family-owned café much loved by the residents of Brighton, one of Britain's favourite seaside towns. Tourists and locals alike regularly stopped at the café for a relaxing coffee and cake with a view over Brighton's famous pier and sandy beach. However, that all changed when the Covid 19 pandemic suddenly hit.

Of course, we all remember very vividly how the Covid-19 pandemic had extremely **adverse consequences** for many businesses, but small businesses were hit particularly hard. At the beginning of the pandemic, the café's revenues began to **dry up** immediately when the first lockdown hit. People had to stay at home, and there was simply nothing that the café could do about the situation.

At first, the café's owners John and Mary did nothing in the belief that the lockdown would be over in a few weeks. However, fears soon started to **mount up** across the country that this was actually going to be a long-term situation. It was around 2 weeks into the lockdown that the owners knew that they had to **resort to** drastic measures if the café was going to have any chance of **staying afloat**. After exploring various options, John and Mary decided to start delivering their delicious cakes to customers' homes.

They started taking orders online for all of their classic cakes which visitors used to love so much. At first, there was only a steady trickle of orders, and the pressure was starting to take its toll on Mary. She recalls that she spent many nights crying during that period, but the pair had no option other than to **persevere** with the idea.

Thankfully, the British government, as with many other governments around the world, were sympathetic to the **plight** of small business owners, and decided to **bail out** small businesses with monthly instalments to keep them afloat. John and Mary decided to utilize these instalments to their advantage, by investing in an online advertising campaign to promote their cakes to people in the local area.

Thankfully, things soon turned around for John and Mary. Their **resilient** attitude in the face of adversity soon paid off, as they soon became bombarded with orders for take-away cakes. Evidently the residents of Brighton were starting to miss their mid-afternoon sweet treats!

Of course, the revenue from deliveries wasn't enough to compensate for the thousands of monthly visitors that they were missing out on, and the café remained **in choppy waters** throughout the pandemic. However, the café emerged from the pandemic stronger and more resilient than ever before. The brave decision to adapt to the changing circumstances allowed John and Mary to weather the storm caused by the pandemic. The café now is more popular than ever, and you should make sure to check it out whenever you are in Brighton, if you can find a free seat, that is!

### C) Comprehension Questions

1. According to the author, how clear is our collective memory of the Covid 19 period?  
**Our memory is very clear. The author states that we all remember this period 'vividly'. If a memory of something is vivid then it means that it brings powerful, clear images and feelings to our mind.**
2. How successful was John and Mary's plan to deliver cakes at the beginning?  
**It was not so successful at the beginning. There was a "steady trickle" of orders. When water 'trickles', it flows slowly in a small stream. If we have "a trickle" of sales it means a small, slow number of sales.**
3. According to the context, what do you think the phrase 'take its toll' means in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph?  
**To "take its toll" means to cause suffering. We get a clue about the meaning from the text here because Mary says that she "spent many nights crying" during this period.**
4. What happened when John and Mary started to advertise their cakes online, and what conclusion does the author draw about the residents of Brighton?  
**Sales suddenly started to increase and they were "bombarded" with orders. The author suggests that the people of Brighton were starting to miss their favourite cakes.**
5. What do you think the phrase 'weather the storm' means in the final paragraph?  
**To deal with a difficult situation without being harmed too much.**
6. What problem might you encounter if you visit the café today?  
**You might not be able to get a seat in the café because it is so popular.**