



1. Like most married couples, we've had our ups and _____ over the years.

- a) slumps
- b) falls
- c) dips
- d) downs

2. The main _____ block in the negotiations has been the lack of trust on both sides.

- a) grumbling
- b) stumbling
- c) fumbling
- d) mumbling

3. We had some teething _____ with the new server but it seems to be fine now.

- a) problems
- b) distress
- c) difficulties
- d) dilemmas

4. I realised too late that my question about the plans for their wedding was likely to open a _____ of worms – I'd already been told they couldn't agree on anything.

- a) tin
- b) box
- c) jar
- d) can

5. A technical _____ has delayed the launch of the space shuttle.

- a) catch
- b) snag
- c) hitch
- d) hassle

6. The _____ circle of drugs and crime destroys families and ruins lives.

- a) malicious
- b) vicious
- c) ferocious
- d) everlasting

ANSWERS:

1. Like most married couples, we've had our ups and _____ over the years.

- a) slumps
- b) falls
- c) dips
- d) downs

a) This is not the correct expression. The noun slump means a sudden reduction in prices or a period of time when a country's economy is not doing well. It is not used to talk about relationships. Try again!

b) This is not the correct expression. The word fall has many different meanings but is not used to talk about relationships. Try again!

c) This is not the correct expression. The noun dip can be used to talk about a slight reduction in something, but is not used to talk about relationships. Try again!

d) Well done! This is the correct answer. If you say that something has had its ups and downs, you mean that it has been involved in positive experiences and negative experiences.

2. The main _____ block in the negotiations has been the lack of trust on both sides.

- a) grumbling
- b) stumbling
- c) fumbling
- d) mumbling

a) This is not the correct expression. The verb grumble means to complain. Try again!

b) Well done! This is the correct answer. A stumbling block is an obstacle that prevents progress from being made.

c) This is not the correct expression. To fumble with something means to move something about in your hands in an awkward or clumsy way. Try again!

d) This is not the correct expression. To mumble means to speak quietly and without pronouncing your words clearly.

3. We had some teething _____ with the new server but it seems to be fine now.

- a) problems
- b) distress
- c) difficulties
- d) dilemmas

a) Well done! This is the correct answer. Teething problems are the small problems something can have at the beginning.

b) This is not the correct expression. Distress is the feeling of being very unhappy or upset. Try again!

- c) This is not the correct expression. The word difficulty can be used in many different ways to talk about a problem, but not in this expression. Try again!
- d) This is not the correct expression. A dilemma is when someone cannot decide what the right thing to do is. Try again!

4. I realised too late that my question about the plans for their wedding was likely to open a _____ of worms – I'd already been told they couldn't agree on anything.

- a) tin
- b) box
- c) jar
- d) can

- a) This is not a correct collocation. Try again!
- b) This is not a correct collocation. Try again!
- c) This is not a correct collocation. Try again!
- d) This is the correct answer. A can of worms is an informal expression that means a very problematic situation. Well done.

5. A technical _____ has delayed the launch of the space shuttle.

- a) catch
- b) snag
- c) hitch
- d) hassle

- a) This is not correct. A catch is an unseen problem with something that seems very good. Try again!
- b) This is not correct. A snag is a small problem with something. Try again!
- c) This is the correct answer. Well done.
- d) This is not correct. The noun hassle is an informal word meaning problems that are annoying because they are inconvenient or unpleasant to deal with. Try again!

6. The _____ circle of drugs and crime destroys families and ruins lives.

- a) malicious
- b) vicious
- c) ferocious
- d) everlasting

- a) This is not correct. The adjective malicious describes an action that is unkind and spiteful. Try again!
- b) Well done! This is the correct answer.
- c) This is not correct. The adjective ferocious means extremely violent. Try again!
- d) This is not correct. The adjective everlasting means continuing for a long time. Try again!

