

Review-Explain these sentences: I'm not playing **mind games** with you. I want you to learn this vocabulary. If you **put your mind to it**, I'm sure you'll succeed. After all it's **mind over matter**.

**Numbers and Statistics**

**Read and explain these sentences, then do the matching exercise in the table below.**

1. The chancellor said the rise in the **inflation rate** was only a **blip**.
2. The spectrum is a **continuum** of color from red to violet.
3. There seems to be a **correlation** between mathematical and musical ability.
4. For some reason the July figures have **deviated from the norm**.
5. There is a **discrepancy** between our figures and yours.
6. Stock share prices have been **erratic** this month.
7. The company's **figures** were found to be **flawed**, so the accountant was fired.
8. There's been a **five-fold increase** in exam enrollments.
9. The teacher said the **quality** of her students' work was **in inverse proportion** to its **quantity**. In other words, the shorter the essay the better.
10. Sales **fluctuate** from day to day, so daily sales figures are not reliable **indicators** of how the company is doing.
11. If I total all our expenses for the coming year, it will **run into six-figures**.

**Match the words on the left with the definition on the right.**

blip	be a number over 100,000
continuum	connection between things that affect one another
correlation	something that changes in slight stages with no distinct divisions
deviated from the norm	change suddenly
discrepancy	difference
in inverse proportion	different from the normal pattern
fluctuate	unexpected temporary change
run into six figures	in opposite proportion to

**Discuss these surprising numbers with your group.**

1. There have been 3000 **recorded sightings** of UFO's by military and civilian pilots. Do you believe UFO's are real? Have you ever seen something that could have been a UFO?

2. 200,000 people could be **sustained** by the food eaten by the world's rodents each year. Food waste is a big problem for our country. What solutions are there for food waste? How do you avoid food waste at home?
3. There are 450,000 plastic containers **flung** into the world's seas every day. Flung is the past tense of fling. If you fling something, you throw it. Synonyms are throw, hurl, pitch or toss. **A fling** is a noun which refers to having a sexual encounter with someone to whom you are not married. A fling is usually of short duration, while an affair tends to be longer.
4. The **hourly** world **expenditure** on military activity is \$97,000,000. Does your country have a large military? Is it a large part of your country's budget? Is military service compulsory?
5. Nitrogen fertilizer use increased by a **factor** of 4 between 1960 and 1981. Much of the nitrogen fertilizer that is put on crops runs off into the rivers and oceans. Nitrogen in the water can cause "dead zones" where nothing can live. In the past, farmers used animal manure to fertilize their farm or they rotated crops to help the fertility of the soil.
6. The average IQ of 7-8 year olds who were breast-fed is 102, while the **average** IQ of those who weren't breast fed is 92. Why do you think this would be? Should breast feeding be mandatory for all mothers? If your child's teacher described your child as "average" would you be insulted?
7. The world population increases by 140 people **per** minute. But some countries, like Japan and Russia are having a rapid **decline** in population. The population increase has slowed in the U.S. Some scientists say in the next century the total population will actually fall. Is population in your country rising or falling in your country? Does your country encourage immigration as an **antidote** to falling population?

**Read this conversation with a partner and explain what is happening.**

**James:** Can you give me a **ballpark figure** for what this cabin will cost?

**Mike:** When you **total everything up**, I'd guess this cabin will be **in six figures**?

**James:** Wow, that seems like a lot for a little cabin in the woods.

**Mike:** I might be **padding the figures** slightly. There are lots of **variables** when building a cabin this far away from the road. I'm not sure we'll be able to get a truck back in here. We might have to use a small tractor to bring in our supplies. And digging a well in a forest is not an easy task. The electrical lines will have to be **extended** several hundred feet to reach the cabin. And we'll have to clear a large area for a **septic** field. None of that is cheap or easy.

**James:** Still, that seems like a high price.

**Mike:** I've **erred** on the **side of caution** and **rounded** things up in order to give you a **realistic** estimate. Hopefully, it won't cost that much, but you should be prepared for any **contingencies**. And **dollar for dollar**, this cabin will be a better investment than your beach house was, if for no other reason then it won't blow away in the next hurricane.