

- trigger (triggers, triggering, triggered)  
VERB

When one thing **triggers** an activity or development, it causes the activity to happen suddenly.

*But the new round of tariffs risks triggering a more alarming response by investors.*

*The president's decision triggers a declassification review by various agencies.*

Common collocations

trigger debate	trigger growth
trigger uncertainty	trigger recession
trigger relapse	trigger sales

- spark (sparks, sparking, sparked) VERB  
When one thing sparks an activity or development, it causes the activity to happen suddenly.

*Its release more than a year after the shooting sparked large protests, the ouster of the city's police superintendent and demands for police reform.*

Common collocations

spark a discussion	spark debate
spark a backlash	spark interest in

- drive (drives, driving, drove, driven)  
VERB

When one thing **drives** an activity or development, it encourages it to happen or to go faster.

*We need to allow market forces to drive growth in the telecommunications sector.*

Common collocations

drive sales	driven by speculation
drive fears	driven by growth
drive revenue	driven by high(er)/low(er)

- drive up (drives up, driving up, drove up, driven up) VERB  
drive something up VERB

When one thing **drives up** a price or value, it forces it to go up.

*Cool and wet weather drove up corn and soybean future prices.*

*Britain's ability to meet its emissions targets is being challenged by a comeback for coal power stations that threatens to drive up the energy sector's carbon emissions for the first time in six years.*

- fuel (fuels, fuelling (UK) fueling (US), fuelled (UK) fuelled (US))

When one thing fuels an activity or development, it encourages or causes it to happen or to go faster

*These trends fuel widespread discontent and destabilise mainstream politics.*

*Back then investors who financed their speculative bets with mortgages were primarily responsible for the surge in defaults that fueled the crisis...*

- spur (spurs, spurring, spurred) VERB  
When one thing **spurs** an activity or development, it encourages or causes it to happen or to go faster

*Soaring fuel prices have spurred US demand for hybrid petrol-electric vehicles.*

- lift (lifts, lifting, lifted) VERB  
When one thing **lifts** a price, value or activity, it causes it to increase.  
*Treasury prices fell, lifting the yield on the benchmark 10-year note back above 3 percent.*

*Americans spent a bit more at restaurants and bars, lifting sales 0.2 percent.*

*Middle-class income rose to the highest recorded levels in 2017 and the national poverty rate declined as the benefits of the strong economy lifted the fortunes of more Americans, the U.S.*

- curb (curbs, curbing, curbed) VERB  
curb (curbs) N-COUNT

When one thing **curbs** an activity or development, it restricts it and causes it to slow down or to happen less. A **curb on** an activity is something that restricts or restrains it.

*And uncertainty around Brazil's presidential elections was expected to curb stock gains there this year.*

*Meeting with workers at the factory, Ross said curbs on imports would remain in place long term.*

- stifle (stifles, stifling, stifled) VERB  
When one thing **stifles** an activity, it prevents it from developing and causes it to happen less.

*McAney said the merger would mean higher prices, less choice and stifled innovation in PBM services, health insurance and pharmacy services.*

- check (checks, checking, checked)  
VERB

When one thing checks an activity, it prevents it from developing or causes it to happen less.

*Tesco's expansion in the UK and beyond has been checked.*

*Inflation needs to be checked with a rate increase, says an MPC member.*

- rein in (reins in, reining in, reined in)  
VERB

When you rein in an activity, you do not allocate as many resources to it.

*The government showed little progress in reining in deficits.*

*It was axed from the new facility when the VA tried to rein in soaring costs.*

Common collocations

rein in spending	rein in debt
rein in costs	rein in risk

1. Read the newspaper headlines and leads, and answer the questions
  - a. Oil prices lift demand for hybrids
  - b. Toyota's new Prius faces uphill challenge
  - c. BMW finds winning formula as 'X' factor helps drive Q3 revenue
  - d. BMW engine fires spark proposal to increase fines, impose higher punitive damages
  - e. BMW says record sales can fuel innovation
  - f. BMW's sales lifted by China
  - i. Which story is likely to tell you that hybrid car sales have slowed?
  - ii. Which story is likely to tell you that hybrid car sales have risen?
  - iii. Which story is likely to tell you that BMW's main market is not Europe or the US?
  - iv. Which story is likely to tell you that BMW has increased their turnover?
  - v. Which story is likely to tell you that BMW has money to invest in R&D?
  - vi. Which story is likely to tell you that consumers are unhappy with their cars?
2. Complete each sentence with a word from the box.

triggered	sparking	driven	stifling	curbed
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- a. France's manufacturing output rose above expectations in July, \_\_\_\_\_ by rising production of transport equipment and fuel, according to data released on Friday by Insee.
  - b. Germany recorded a record budget surplus in the first half of this year, an achievement that immediately \_\_\_\_\_ calls for tax cuts and higher public investment.
  - c. But a sense of political instability surrounding cooling US relations with North Korea had also \_\_\_\_\_ some spending.
  - d. Cuba is to end its freeze on issuing licences for private businesses, but the government has also issued new regulations aimed at limiting profits and increasing tax revenues that will have the effect of \_\_\_\_\_ entrepreneurship.
  - e. Hiring at recruiter Hays has been hit by Brexit-related jitter, \_\_\_\_\_ a tumble in the company's share price on Thursday.
3. Match each beginning (i. – v.) with an appropriate end (a. – e.) to create a running news story.

#### **Mortgage rates' steep rise viewed as "new normal"**

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Mortgage rates have now risen half a point</li> <li>ii. So far, the increase has not curbed demand for homes,</li> <li>iii. ... Terrazas expects rates to climb to close to 5 percent by the end of the year,</li> <li>iv. ... Rising rates could also dampen housing's already limited supply by discouraging homeowners from selling</li> <li>v. "If rates continue to rise,</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. driven by fears of inflation and a rising federal deficits.</li> <li>b. it could stifle a recovering housing market," Hitchcock cautioned.</li> <li>c. because they don't want to move and pay a higher rate.</li> <li>d. but the higher the rates, the greater the risk.</li> <li>e. since the end of November.</li> </ol> |
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- Jim Weiker, *The Columbus Dispatch*, 12 February 2018

4. Rewrite each sentence using the prompt given. The prompt must not be changed in any way.
- e.g. The markets became uncertain when the government announced budget cuts. (triggered)  
*The government's announcement of budget cuts triggered uncertainty in the markets.*
- a. ABC's shares dropped suddenly yesterday when the company announced that it had made a 10 million euro loss. (triggered)
  - b. ABC's revenues improved because the raw materials fell in cost. (driven)
  - c. Investment in ABC has slowed because of the high value of the US\$. (curbed)
  - d. ABC's costs must be reduced to remain competitive. (rein in)