

# Business English Collocations for Risks and Challenges

REAL  
Business  
English

## I. Match the nouns to their definitions.

1



OBSTACLE

a) a hidden problem that causes trouble later

PITFALL

b) something that blocks progress

CONSEQUENCE

c) the result of an action, often negative

2

SETBACK

d) something that causes financial or legal trouble

LIABILITY

e) the negative part of a situation

DOWNSIDE

f) a problem that delays progress

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## II. For each sentence, choose the word that fits best.

1. Outdated equipment has become a **consequence/ liability** for the company's operations.
2. The biggest **obstacle/ downside** to finishing this project on time is the lack of trained staff.
3. Missing the deadline will have serious **consequences/ pitfalls** for our client relationship.
4. The main **liability/ downside** of remote work is the lack of face-to-face collaboration; it often makes teamwork less personal.
5. The software bug was a major **setback/ consequence**; the project stopped for a week, but the team fixed the issue and moved forward again.

## III. Listen to the text and fill in the blanks. Use the audio [here](#).

When companies launch a new product, they must plan carefully. Even a small error in pricing or contracts can turn into a \_\_\_\_\_ mistake that damages both finances and reputation.

Before moving forward, managers usually discuss the \_\_\_\_\_ pitfalls of the project, such as poor communication, unclear goals, or limited resources. Despite careful planning, there are often \_\_\_\_\_ challenges — for example, sudden market changes or new regulations.

One \_\_\_\_\_ obstacle many businesses face is the shortage of skilled staff, which slows down progress. If these problems are ignored, they can lead to \_\_\_\_\_ consequences, including missed deadlines or lost clients.

That's why good leaders also look for \_\_\_\_\_ risks — problems that are not obvious at first but can cause big trouble later, such as cybersecurity threats or weak supply chains.



I.  
obstacle b)  
pitfall a)  
consequence c)

setback f)  
liability d)  
downside e)

II.  
1. liability  
2. obstacle  
3. consequences  
4. downside  
5. setback

III.

When companies launch a new product, they must plan carefully. Even a small error in pricing or contracts can turn into a **costly** mistake that damages both finances and reputation.

Before moving forward, managers usually discuss the **potential** pitfalls of the project, such as poor communication, unclear goals, or limited resources. Despite careful planning, there are often **unexpected** challenges — for example, sudden market changes or new regulations.

One **major** obstacle many businesses face is the shortage of skilled staff, which slows down progress. If these problems are ignored, they can lead to **serious** consequences, including missed deadlines or lost clients.

That's why good leaders also look for **hidden** risks — problems that are not obvious at first but can cause big trouble later, such as cybersecurity threats or weak supply chains.

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**For more practice, check out the links below:**

[Raise vs. Rise in Business English: Meaning, Examples, and Quiz](#)

[20 Must-Know Business English Phrases for Work \(With Examples and Practice Exercises\)](#)

[Gave In or Held Firm? Business English Phrasal Verbs for Pressure and Persuasion \(With Quiz & Examples\)](#)

*Thank you for learning with us!*

