

Common Workplace Collocations with Adjectives



REAL
Business
English

I. Fill in the blanks with a collocation from the box.

B2

significant shift consistent results modest increase clear distinction
poor performance steep price full capacity minor issue major delay
growing demand

1. Our packaging team **had a** _____, nothing serious — some barcodes wouldn't scan due to low contrast. The next batch will use darker print. No orders were delayed.
2. We **saw a** _____ in sales after the campaign — just a 4% rise week over week. It wasn't a big jump, just a small lift. Most of it came from returning customers who used the email promo code.
3. **There's been a** _____ in demand — more people are choosing the basic plan instead of the premium one. That's because after the price went up, about 65% of our customers switched to the cheaper option.
4. The new plan includes priority support, but **it comes at a** _____ — \$49 per user per month — so let's stick with standard support.
5. **There's a** _____ for AI skills across almost every department now. Companies want employees who can use AI tools to save time and make better, data-driven decisions.
6. We've had some complaints lately **because of** _____ — deliveries have been slower than usual, and about 30% of orders arrived later than promised.
7. We've been using the new system for three months now, and **it's delivering** _____. The reports are accurate every week, and the error rate has dropped noticeably.
8. We're already **operating at** _____ this month — if any new orders come in, we'll need to push delivery to next quarter.
9. The project **hit a** _____ after the supplier changed their delivery schedule. We're now two weeks behind the original timeline.
10. **There's a** _____ **between** managing people and leading them — one focuses on tasks, the other on motivation and vision.



Click the link to hear the correct answers.

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I.

1. minor issue
2. modest increase
3. significant shift
4. steep price
5. growing demand
6. poor performance
7. consistent results
8. full capacity
9. major delay
10. clear distinction

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