

## Vocabulary

**E** Choose the best word to complete each of the sentences below. The words labelled A are all in the reading text. Find out what the other words mean, using a dictionary if necessary.

- The collapse of the silver market left him financially \_\_\_\_\_.  
A desolate      B dejected      C destitute
- To the \_\_\_\_\_ eye, the flaws in the painting are obvious.  
A discerning      B observant      C distinguishing
- In times of \_\_\_\_\_, unemployment figures are often very high.  
A austerity      B sobriety      C gravity
- The committee is happy to report that it has no \_\_\_\_\_ to the construction of the new senate building.  
A criticism      B objection      C censure
- At his \_\_\_\_\_, the silver mine was left to his wife.  
A heritage      B inheritance      C bequest
- They turned down the offer in favour of something more \_\_\_\_\_.  
A lucrative      B acquisitive      C affluent
- The President was eventually \_\_\_\_\_ by a military coup.  
A disposed      B deposed      C dispersed
- The pianist's excellent performance \_\_\_\_\_ the audience.  
A captivated      B captured      C enslaved
- \_\_\_\_\_ reports of the number of casualties in the disaster have caused widespread panic.  
A Extravagant      B Exaggerated      C Exceptional
- How can you possibly want to buy that property – it's in a state of complete \_\_\_\_\_.  
A dilapidation      B disintegration      C devastation
- She didn't win, but as a \_\_\_\_\_ prize they gave her a rosette.  
A consolation      B compensation      C conciliation

## Expressions with *gold* and *silver*

**F** Complete the sentences with the correct expression.

- as good as gold
- heart of gold
- golden age
- golden oldie
- golden rule
- golden handshake
- born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
- silver-tongued
- every cloud has a silver lining



- The Chief Executive was asked to leave the company before the end of his contract and was given a \_\_\_\_\_ to ease his departure.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the railways was in the mid-twentieth century.
- I know it's awful for you now, but wait and see: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ever since the episode with the postman, the dog's been \_\_\_\_\_.
- 'And when you get to this point, the \_\_\_\_\_ is to add the beaten egg very slowly otherwise it will go lumpy.'
- She's always had everything provided for her in life by her rich family – she was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jean's really got a \_\_\_\_\_; ever since my accident she's been round every day to see if she can help.
- It was a great party. We danced all evening – they played one \_\_\_\_\_ after another.
- Don't be taken in by his sales patter, he's \_\_\_\_\_ and will have you signing away your salary in no time.