



● business (businesses)

① N-COUNT

A **business** is an organization which produces and sells goods or which provides a service.

The company was a family business.

He was short of cash after the collapse of his business.

The cost of eating out is likely to rise if Granada succeeds in its £3.4 billion takeover bid for Forte, the international hotel and catering business.

② N-UNCOUNT

Business is work relating to the production, buying and selling of goods or services. **Business** is also used when talking about how many products or services a company is able to sell. If **business** is good, a lot of products or services are being sold, and if **business** is bad, few of them are being sold. **Business** is also work or some other activity that you do as part of your job and not for pleasure.

...young people seeking a career in business.

Jennifer has an impressive academic and business background.

They worried that German companies would lose business.

Business is booming.

I'm here on business.

...business trips.

Common Collocations

a business fails

a business goes under

to downsize a business

a business goes bust

the business community

● concern (concerns) N-COUNT

You can refer to a company or business as a **concern**, usually when you are describing what type of company or business it is.

If not a large concern, Queensbury Nursery was at least a successful one.

There used to be a football club at Old Trafford, but now there is a monolithic business concern called Manchester United plc.

● big business N-UNCOUNT

Big business is business which involves very large companies and very large sums of money.

Big business will never let petty nationalism get in the way of a good deal.

Ministers from 24 nations including Australia meet in Antarctica this week to discuss threats to the region's natural resources, primarily from big business interests.

● small business (small businesses) N-COUNT

A **small business** is a business that does not employ many people and earns relatively little money.

...information on issues that affect small businesses.

...banks interested in attracting small business customers.

● company (companies) N-COUNT

firm (firms) N-COUNT

A **company** or **firm** is a business or organization that makes money by selling goods or services.

Sheila found some work as a secretary in an insurance company.

...the Ford Motor Company.

The firm's employees were expecting large bonuses.

● venture (ventures) N-COUNT

A business **venture** is a commercial undertaking, such as the launch of a new company, in which there is a risk of loss as well as an opportunity for profit.

His first business venture was a clothes shop in Rose Street.

...people interested in starting a commercial venture.

● enterprise (enterprises) N-COUNT

An **enterprise** is a company or business, often a small one.

There are plenty of small industrial enterprises.

Pressure from the workers is likely to grow and may eventually force the government to give its oil enterprises freedom to act like private companies.

● corporation (corporations) N-COUNT

corporate ADJ

A **corporation** is a large business or company. **Corporate** means relating to business corporations or to a particular business corporation.

...multi-national corporations.

Lotus Development Corporation co-developed the compact computer with H-P.

This established a strong corporate image.

● commerce N-UNCOUNT

Commerce is the activities and procedures involved in buying and selling things.

They have made their fortunes from industry and commerce.

Shifts in agriculture promoted and reflected changes in commerce.

● commercial ADJ

① **Commercial** means involving or relating to the buying and selling of goods.

Docklands in its heyday was a major centre of industrial and commercial activity.

Attacks were reported on vehicles and commercial premises.

② **Commercial** organizations and activities are concerned with making money and profits, rather than, for example, with scientific research or providing a public service.

Conservationists in Chile are concerned over the effects of commercial exploitation of forests.

Whether the project will be a commercial success is still uncertain.

➔ **multinational:** Topic 1.4; **turnover:** Topic 6.1

PRACTISE YOUR VOCABULARY

1 Use the terms in the box to complete the sentences.

big business commerce small businesses corporations firm

- a A business, company or _____ is an organization that sells goods or services.
- b Business is also referred to as _____.
- c The term _____ can refer to large business organizations or to any business activity that makes a lot of money.
- d Large companies are referred to as _____.
- e Small companies are referred to as _____ or small firms.

2 Find five words in the list that are synonyms for a business (list A), and one word that is a synonym for business (list B) and add them to the table.

- a company
- c enterprise
- e commerce
- b firm
- d business concern
- f business venture

List A	List B
a business	business

3 Complete each sentence with the correct form of one of the words from list A or list B.

- a Most governments try to create an economic environment that will help _____ and trade.
- b Some _____ such as Coca-Cola and Nike are internationally famous.
- c Many students study _____ at college.
- d In recent years some _____ involved in new technology have become very wealthy.

4 Circle the correct answer to each question. Use the information in the table to help you.

- a Seaton Industries has a turnover of around £55m. In other words it is a small firm/corporation
- b Robbins Inc. employs around 300,000 people. In other words it is a small/medium/large firm.
- c In the UK, firms employing less than 20 staff make up 97% of all businesses. They are small businesses/corporations.

	Number of employees	Turnover
a small business	50 or fewer	£2.8m or below
a medium firm	between 50 and 250	£11.2m or below
a large firm/corporation	usually over 250	usually more than £11.2m