

## Facts and figures

### Let me give you some facts

Let me explain  
To give you an example  
For instance  
More specifically  
Let's look at the figures

#### ROLE PLAY

Your lucky teacher has received a windfall gift of a few thousand pounds.

Ask how much it is, and explain these three investment choices.

### Down to business

So, down to business  
Let me get straight to the point  
The thing is ...  
The point is ...  
The issue is ...  
This is the situation  
The root of the problem is ...  
To put it in a nutshell  
To put it briefly  
Let's cut to the song

Boyd's Bank ... 3% interest p.a.  
Cash ISA ... 2% interest p.a. tax free  
Eurobonds ... 4% fixed interest \*  
\* 2-year min. investment, 3 months withdrawal notice

Your teacher is now your boss. S/he asks you to work from home over the next six months to reduce costs in the office.

Explain that this is impossible because you have a young family, your partner is a musician and always playing loud music, and there is very little space in your flat.

Read the dialogue and then replace the expressions in red with those in the white box:

Peter: The cricket - did you see it? An violent thunderstorm stopped the game.

Clare: Really, gosh, no I didn't see it. Okay, **now let me get straight to the point**. In my view, **to put it briefly**, a new restaurant will not be successful here, Peter. **The thing is** people just don't like having long lunches in the UK.

Peter: There are a lot of French and other nationals working in the area. They like long lunches. **To give you an example**, Pierre Vermot in Accounts has said he would visit a restaurant if there was one close to the office.

for instance  
let's look at the figures  
so, down to business  
the point is ...  
to put it in a nutshell

Clare: Yes, but does he want to eat what they are going to offer? It is a burger chain.

Peter: There are burger restaurants in France. Nothing wrong with a burger.

Clare: In the feedback how many people actually supported the idea?

Peter: **I have the numbers here**.

# More or less ... To be precise

## Roughly speaking

Roughly speaking ...  
 More or less ...  
 Along the lines of ...  
 There or thereabouts  
 In broad terms  
 In the region of ...  
 Give or take ...  
 Broad brush figures

The figures below describe how employees travel to the office each day. Explain this to your teacher, giving approximate figures (e.g. 'just over half').

### MEANS of TRAVEL

51% by car  
 10% on foot  
 11% by bicycle  
 19% on a bus  
 9% by train

Ask the time in the UK and you're more likely to hear "just after two" than "14.03". Give the times here in an approximate way:

**10.58**

e.g. "It's coming up to 11 o'clock"

**08.31**

**06.43**

**04.16**

## To be precise

What are the precise figures?  
 Give me chapter and verse  
 To be precise  
 To give you the exact figures  
 More specifically  
 For instance  
 Let's look at the figures

*Good Times Ltd*

Turnover £3m  
 Salaries/wages £1.8m  
 Fixed costs (rental, etc) £0.8m  
 Other expenses £0.6m

The company *Good Times Ltd* has been struggling. Present last year's figures (above) to your teacher. Start with a brief summary of the situation in just a sentence or two. Then give more detailed figures.

You are in a meeting. Your teacher (a colleague) gives the information in the speech bubbles. You add the details as listed on the right of each bubble.

Explain the words in red (or think of other expressions).

The builders expect to finish the new building by March, **something along those lines**.

**More or less** half the employees have their holidays in the month of August .

**Roughly speaking**, about a third of the workforce is female.

### Projected completion dates

Building ... 8 March  
 Driveway and park area ... 3 April  
 Garden design and tree-planting ... 14 April

### Staff Holidays

June 12%  
 July 22%  
 August 48%  
 September 12%  
 Other 6%

### Employees

Male 64%  
 Female 36%  
 18-30 age 59%  
 31-60 age 41%