At first it looked like an awful mistake. It was mid-2008 and the global economy___1___ when Singapore Airlines converted two of its hugely popular U.S.-to-Singapore routes to all-business class. For $8,000 passengers would ___2___ salmon and sip champagne in spaciously arranged flatbed seats. A few months later, as world markets ___3___ and corporate travel ___4___ evaporated, some planes flew half empty. “We were asked every day why we weren’t ripping out business-class seats…” But now, as the global economy recovers, those routes are as ___5___ as they were on the inaugural flight. The ___6___ to Singapore Air’s success: In the ___7___, while its competitors focused on cutting prices, it slashed flights. The ___8___: If businesses were keeping their ___9___ grounded, cutting prices would do little to fill planes, the airline would just end up with more losses, and it would face huge resistance to a price hike when things bounced back. The airline waited out the slump by parking planes and cut cost by reducing salaries, including its CED’s, ___10___ 20%.

1. (A. was sinking B. sunk C. had been sunken)
2. (A. serve to B. take over C. dine on)
3. (A. tumbled B. dumped C. trashed)
4. (A. options B. budgets C. reserve)
5. (A. spacious B. filled C. converted)
6. (A. point B. key C. view)
7. (A. downturn B. ups and downs C. boom)
8. (A. logistics B. logic C. logicality)
9. (A. executions B. executors C. executives)
10. (A. to B. by C. for)

Over the past month, key foreign firms have agreed to heft pay ___11___ for their Chinese employees. Workers at a ___12___ in Foshan, Guangdong province, that makes transmissions for Honda won pay increases of 24% to 34% after going on ___13___ for two weeks. That was followed with a ___14___ at an exhaust-parts factory partly owned by a Honda subsidiary. Foxconn, which produces ___15___ for Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Sony and others, announced pay increases totaling more than 100% of base pay after ___16___ worker ___17___ this year put the Taiwanese company under intense scrutiny. China’s current wave of ___18___ disputes marks the dawn of a new social and economic era, the beginning of the end of China’s ___19___ as the ___20___ of the world.

11. (A. promote B. hikes C. shrink)
12. (A. plant B. camp C. slam)
13. (A. strike B. bribe C. sick leaves)
14. (A. layoff B. walkout C. strikeout)
15. (A. spare tires B. graphic designs C. electronics)
16. (A. a series of B. a group of C. a lack of)
17. (A. genocides B. homicides C. suicides)
18. (A. sanction B. labor C. border)
19. (A. toll B. role C. partner)
20. (A. sweatshop B. concentration camp C. industrial pioneer)

A blown oil well in the Gulf of Mexico creates an environmental ___21___. An ___22___ rocked the rig, igniting a massive fire. Thousands of ___23___ of petroleum were ___24___ into the Gulf. An oil slick formed on the surface and grew by the day, ___25___ inexorably toward coast of Louisiana, threatens to kill wildlife and wreck the fishing industry. Scientists worry that ocean ___26___ could carry the oil around the tip of Florida to the beaches of the East Coast. President Obama called the scene unfolding in the Gulf a
'massive environmental _27_ ', which will kill any plan to _28_ offshore drilling for the next decade. BP (British Petroleum, Beyond Petroleum) and the U.S. government have more pressing concerns. Until they _29_ a way to seal the blown well, the oil will keep gushing. The leak will most likely _30_ BP billions.

21. (A. prospective B. catastrophe C. phenomenon)
22. (A. exploration B. explosion C. expedition)
23. (A. buckets B. barrels C. containers)
24. (A. spilling B. spitting C. spinning)
25. (A. surfing B. drifting C. diving)
26. (A. breeze B. low pressure C. current)
27. (A. disaster B. dispute C. disorder)
28. (A. vote B. expand C. debate)
29. (A. agree on B. figure out C. break up)
30. (A. cost B. spend C. take)

This year the World Cup is in South Africa, the first time it has been held on the African _31_. _32_ of audience will be watching the quadrennial _33_ on 400 TV channels in 208 countries. How did the World Cup become the human species' favorite _34_? Why do more people spend more time watching or playing soccer than they do _35_ in any other social activity, with the possible exception of eating and drinking? Here is one reason: the game is just so _36_. Anyone can play, anywhere, anytime. It does not require elaborate equipment: no pads, no helmets... You don't have to be 6 ft. 8 in. _37_. You can play on grass, on cement, on dusty, stony ground, or even inside the house. Greatness is egalitarian, the World Cup is a celebration of soccer as the great equalizer, the finest players come from every income bracket, every religion and _38_ group, every nation on the _39_. World Cup brings the world together, the ball unites the globe. Countries that won't _40_ will play each other on the field and shake hands afterwards.

31. (A. colonies B. continent C. community)
32. (A. Hundred B. Thousand C. Billions)
33. (A. tournament B. open C. exhibition)
34. (A. nightmare B. pastime C. career)
35. (A. to engage B. engaging C. to have been engaged)
36. (A. accessible B. accelerate C. accredited)
37. (A. height B. tall C. high) 38. (A. ethnic B. ethical C. eternal)
39. (A. orbit B. planet C. space) 40. (A. interfere B. surrender C. negotiate)

The maximum _41_ level of vuvuzelas used by _42_ at World Cup matches is 144 decibels, equivalent to _43_ of a jet plane taking _44_.

41. (A. heat B. sound C. weight) 42. (A. fans B. referees C. goal keepers)
43. (A. that B. those C. which) 44. (A. up B. off C. over)

Nearly 50 million people worldwide live their lives on the online _45_ network -- Facebook. More than 1 in 4 people who _46_ the Internet have a Facebook account. Microsoft made computers _47_ for everyone to use; Google helps us _48_ out data; YouTube keeps us _49_; but Facebook has a huge _50_ over those other sites: the emotional investment of its users.

45. (A. shopping B. dating C. social) 46. (A. browse B. blog C. log)
47. (A. complicated B. easy C. impossible) 48. (A. insert B. search C. delete)
49. (A. entertained B. confused C. loaded) 50. (A. advertising B. advantage C. adversary)