

1 Complete the text by writing *a/an* or *the* in each space, or leave the space blank.

It has been announced that for (1) the third consecutive month there has been (2) ..... rise in (3) ..... number of (4) ..... people unemployed, rather than (5) ..... fall that had been predicted. (6) ..... rise was blamed on (7) ..... continuing uncertainty over (8) ..... government economic policy, and couldn't come at (9) ..... worse time for (10) ..... Prime Minister, who is facing (11) ..... growing criticism over (12) ..... way (13) ..... present crisis is being handled. (14) ..... MPs are increasingly voicing (15) ..... fears that despite (16) ..... recent reduction of (17) ..... business taxes and cuts in (18) ..... interest rates, (19) ..... government still expects (20) ..... recovery of the economy to take three or even four years. To make (21) ..... matters worse, (22) ..... number of small businesses going into (23) ..... liquidation is still at (24) ..... record level, and (25) ..... housing market is showing no signs of recovery. Some backbenchers expect (26) ..... general election before (27) ..... end of (28) ..... winter unless there is (29) ..... rapid change of (30) ..... fortune.

2 Underline the most suitable option. A dash (–) means that no article is included.

- 1 Helen doesn't like the–cream cakes sold in a/the local bakery.
- 2 The–handball is fast becoming a/the popular sport worldwide.
- 3 We could see that the–Alps were covered in the–snow.
- 4 It's a–long time since I met a–lovely person like you!
- 5 Carol has a–degree in the–engineering from the–University of London.
- 6 At the–present moment, the–man seems to have the/an uncertain future.
- 7 The–problem for the–today's students is how to survive financially.
- 8 The–French enjoy spending holidays in the–countryside.
- 9 Please do not turn on a/the water-heater in a/the bathroom.
- 10 Sue bought a/the Picasso I was telling you about the–last week.