

Worksheet 5: Phrasal verbs

1 Replace eight verbs in the text with the correct form of a phrasal verb from the list below, as in the example. What effect do these changes have on the text?

*keep back look for cut back on go ahead back up
look on bring up make up for bring down*

The government is still ^{looking for} ~~seeking~~ ways to reduce numbers in the armed forces as a way of lowering the defence budget, although they have promised to increase spending on equipment. Many in the forces just consider this as a token gesture, and several high-ranking officers are already claiming that an increase in spending on equipment will in no way compensate for the loss of manpower. Their position is sure to be supported by opposition politicians, who also believe that the government has withheld details of the cuts, making it extremely difficult for a worthwhile debate to take place. The Shadow Defence Minister announced yesterday that he would raise the issue in Parliament at the earliest opportunity, though it is yet to be decided whether the government will try to proceed with its plans before the autumn.

2 Many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning. Complete each pair of sentences in 1–6 using the same phrasal verb.

- 1 a It's an environmental issue; that's what we in the Green Party _____.
- b The boss is quite strict; she won't _____ careless mistakes.
- 2 a Sarah tried but she just couldn't _____ a size 10.
- b If those boys _____ a fight again, I'll be furious.
- 3 a They've tried to hide it, but the truth will _____ eventually.
- b I'm not expecting the new book to _____ before the summer.
- 4 a The climbers had to _____ quite an ordeal during the expedition.
- b The security guard started to _____ my pockets and found my mobile.
- 5 a I couldn't see you; I didn't _____ my glasses _____.
- b Do you _____ anything _____ this evening?
- 6 a The new website will _____ a completely different appearance.
- b We think that Freddie is ready to _____ more responsibility.

3 Write six more sentences showing each of the verbs in Exercise 2 being used with a third meaning. Use a dictionary to help you.

4 Match a verb from list A to a noun from list B to form common collocations.

A: *flick through resort to catch up on sail through
bottle up stir up get at build up break off brush up*

B: *your English work your feelings hatred negotiations
a reputation a magazine an exam violence the truth*

5 Rewrite sentences 1–10 using a suitable phrasal verb, without changing the meaning. Try to do this without looking back at previous exercises.

- 1 The boy wasn't wearing anything.

- 2 The men suffered a lot during the war.

- 3 Charles got involved in an argument.

- 4 I just looked at the book quickly.

- 5 Lucy passed the exam easily.

- 6 Mrs Forbes won't tolerate laziness.

- 7 They just want to discover the facts.

- 8 He doesn't show his emotions.

- 9 They finally decided to use tanks and artillery.

- 10 I need to get some sleep; I haven't slept well for days.

