

# 4 POLITICS

## PAGES 32–33

**charisma** /kə'rizmə/ Noun uncount

*charisma* is the quality some people have which makes other people notice them and admire them

Collocates: natural/personal charisma | lack charisma  
*he relied on his personal charisma more than his policies during the election | she is friendly and talented, and has a natural charisma | he's a good actor, but lacks charisma | Kennedy was known for his charisma and charm*

Adjective: *charismatic* | Adverb: *charismatically*  
*a natural and charismatic leader | I had never had such a charismatic teacher | the charismatically handsome Clint Eastwood*

**compassion** /kəm'pæʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

*compassion* is a feeling of sympathy and understanding for someone who is suffering

Collocates: feel/have/show compassion (for someone)  
*he views any display of kindness or compassion as weakness | they deserve compassion and help, not punishment | she felt great compassion for her grandchildren | it's difficult for anyone to show compassion for such ruthless killers*

Adjective: *compassionate* | Adverb: *compassionately*  
*a caring and compassionate teacher | unfortunately, they did not conduct themselves in a professional or compassionate way | doctors said he had six months left to live, and he was released from prison on compassionate grounds (because it would be cruel to continue his punishment)*

**ruthlessness** /'ru:θləsnəs/ Noun uncount

*ruthlessness* is the quality of not caring if other people are hurt as you make sure you achieve what you want

*he was known for his ruthlessness and cruelty | both leaders showed ruthlessness in the way they treated their enemies | he achieved his aims thanks to a combination of ruthlessness and skill*

Adjective: *ruthless* | Adverb: *ruthlessly*  
*the newspaper described him as a ruthless killer | Stalin was a ruthless dictator | we were ruthlessly punished for the smallest offences | the ruthlessly ambitious daughter of King Uther*

## PAGES 34–35

**bid** /bɪd/ Verb

a *bid* is an attempt to do something. If an organisation *bids* for something such as a contract, they say why they think they should be allowed to have that thing

Collocates: bid for something | bid to do/have something  
*Paris bid unsuccessfully for the 2012 Olympics | they're going to bid to have the next world championships in Newcastle | we spent months preparing to bid for the new bridge building contract*

Noun: *bid* | Noun: *bidder*

Collocates: make a bid (for something/to do something)  
*they'll only waste money on the bid | London's bid for the 2012 Olympics was successful | a takeover bid (when one company tries to buy another company) | Qatar also made a bid to host the Olympics in 2020*

**compound** /kəm'paʊnd/ Verb

if something *compounds* a bad situation, it makes it worse

*if anything, it will compound the existing social problems | the financial crisis has compounded the misery of many struggling companies | don't compound your mistake by pretending it wasn't you | losing his wallet simply compounded his problems that day*

**devil's advocate** /,dev(ə)l z 'ædvəkət/ Noun

if someone plays *devil's advocate*, they pretend to support an idea which they don't actually believe in, in order to make a discussion about the subject more thorough

Collocates: play devil's advocate  
*let me play devil's advocate here and say that nuclear power might be the answer to our energy crisis | to ensure that our ideas don't go unchallenged, I've asked Henry to be devil's advocate this afternoon | I'm only asking the question as a devil's advocate*

**distort** /dɪ'stɔ:(r)t/ Verb

to *distort* something means to change it from what it is or what it is meant to be into something that is not as natural or good

*the human ear starts to distort sounds at very high levels | the profit figures were distorted by the purchase of a new factory site | some journalists distort reality by making scientific errors | the government's response seriously distorts the committee's recommendations*

**division** /dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ Noun

if there is *division* between people, they do not agree and they fight or argue with each other

*it will create division and lead to tension | there was often division within the leadership group | deep divisions within the government meant that several policies had to be abandoned*

**outweigh** /,aʊt'weɪ/ Verb

if one consideration *outweighs* another, it is considered to be more important or useful than the other thing

Collocates: far outweigh something | outweigh the benefits/advantages/disadvantages  
*I think the negatives far outweigh the positives | it seems these fears are outweighed by real concern about rising food costs | but the possible gains outweigh any risks that might be made | the needs of the group outweigh the needs of the individual | the benefits of quitting smoking outweigh the disadvantage of weight gain*

**privatise** /'praɪvətəɪz/ Verb

if a government *privatises* a company or industry that it controls, it sells it or gives it to a private company

*I read somewhere that they're going to start privatising more of the health service | there are proposals to privatise the prison service | the railways were privatised in the 1990s*

Adjective: *privatised* | Noun: *privatisation*

*the newly privatised company has plans to develop new markets in Asia | privatised industries, such as gas, electricity, and phone networks | the government planned further privatisation after the election | the opposition called for an end to the privatisation programme*

**reservation** /,rezə(r)'veɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

if you have *reservations* about something, you have doubts about it and are not sure that it is a good thing

Collocates: *reservations about something | serious reservations | minor reservations*

*I am in favour, but I just have a few reservations about it | I think most people will support the government in this, whatever their reservations | my only reservation is that the colour is too bright | the foreign ministry expressed serious reservations about military action | I have a few minor reservations about her proposal*

**strengthen** /'streŋθ(ə)n/ Verb

to *strengthen* something means to make it stronger

Collocates: *strengthen someone's resolve*

*we hope to strengthen relations between our two countries | the defeat only served to strengthen my resolve (my determination) | this exercise will strengthen your leg muscles | security measures at the stadium have been considerably strengthened*

**trigger** /'trɪgə(r)/ Verb

if something *triggers* an event, it causes it to start happening

*it might trigger an election earlier than they wanted | if they get 50,000 signatures, it will trigger an automatic referendum | the announcement triggered protests outside the presidential palace | the change in interest rates could trigger an increase in house-buying*

Noun: *trigger*

*common triggers for this illness include tobacco and coffee | these changes can be caused by an environmental trigger*

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**PAGES 36–37**

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**chatter** /'tʃætə(r)/ Verb

if people *chatter*, they talk quickly and in a friendly and excited way to each other

*they were sitting by the pool chattering to each other | the girls chattered happily to each other while they waited for the bus to arrive | we were too excited to sleep and chattered away until it was nearly light | we could hear the children laughing and chattering in the next room*

Noun: *chatter* | Noun: *chatterbox* | Noun: *chattering classes*

Collocates: *constant chatter | lively chatter*

*Pete's constant chatter was beginning to annoy her | he could hear the nervous chatter of the guests | John was very quiet, but his brother was a real chatterbox (someone who is always talking, especially about unimportant things) | I left Hampstead to get away from the chattering classes (educated, middle-class people who talk a lot about politics and the arts but who don't know much about manual work or "real life")*

**clutch** /klʌtʃ/ Verb

if you *clutch* someone or something, you hold them with a very firm grip

*he arrived at the door clutching a bunch of flowers | he twisted his knee and clutched his leg in pain | she clutched tightly to the handle of the suitcase | he closed his eyes and clutched her hand*

Noun: *clutch*

*he kept me close with a tight clutch on my wrist*

**creep** /kri:p/ Verb

if you *creep* somewhere, you move slowly and quietly there so that people cannot hear you or see you

*he crept slowly out of the kitchen | I thought I saw someone creeping into the garden | she crept quietly out of bed, trying not to wake her sister | staying on the grass, he crept silently to the back of the garage | someone crept up behind me*

**emergence** /ɪ'mɜ:(r)dʒ(ə)ns/ Noun uncount

the *emergence* of something is when it first comes into existence

Collocates: *the emergence of something*

*they believe that humour can prevent the emergence of dictators | the 1960s saw the emergence of new political organisations | the emergence of digital learning has transformed higher education | the sudden emergence of new technologies in the music industry*

Verb: *emerge* | Adjective: *emerging*

*more details about the bombing have emerged | new political parties emerged after the country gained independence | the gallery shows work by young and emerging artists (artists who are just beginning to be recognised) | the gap between rich nations and emerging economies (countries that are still developing)*

**engagement** /ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/ Noun uncount

if you *engage* in something, you take part in it in a serious way. *Engagement* is the act of *engaging* in something

*as a result, political engagement is discouraged | teachers try to encourage student engagement in social clubs and societies | democracy requires active engagement and participation | her direct engagement in party politics led to her becoming an MP in 2005*

Verb: *engage* | Adjective: *engaged*

Collocates: *engage (someone) in something*

*we need to engage people in politics before it's too late | at university I began to engage in environmental campaigning | elsewhere, it seems, humour can engage voters | many British companies are engaged in the arms trade | it will keep your employees actively engaged | I never felt so engaged as I did during the last election*

**gasp** /gɑːsp/ Verb

if you *gasp*, you take air into your mouth quickly and loudly, for example because you are surprised, excited, or in pain. You also say that someone *gasps* when they say something in a surprised or excited way

*the politician gasps "But what are you doing?" | "it sounds incredible," gasped Tom | what she saw made her gasp in surprise | people gasped when they heard the announcement*

Noun: *gasp*

Collocates: an audible gasp | give a gasp

*there was an audible gasp from everyone in the room (a gasp that you could hear easily) | she gave a gasp of delight*

**giggle** /ˈɡɪɡ(ə)/ Verb

if you *giggle*, you laugh in a quiet way because something is funny or because you are nervous or embarrassed

*they waited outside the stage door, giggling nervously | we giggled and whispered secrets to each other long into the night | he giggled and pretended he hadn't heard | Vince tried to look serious but the rest of us were giggling uncontrollably | Jo's latest tweet made me giggle*

Noun: *giggle*

Collocates: a nervous giggle | get the giggles | a fit of the giggles

*I had a giggle when I read his email | there were a few nervous giggles from the audience | when I saw his new haircut I got the giggles (was not able to stop laughing)*

**glare** /gleə(r)/ Verb

if you *glare* at someone, you look at them in a very angry and unfriendly way

Collocates: glare at someone

*the other driver glared at him and shouted something rude | the stranger turned and glared at him | why are you glaring at me like that? | he glared angrily into my face | Betty shook her head and just glared*

Noun: *glare*

*I looked away to avoid his glare | she gave him an angry glare*

**grow out of** /grəʊ ˈaʊt əv/ Phrasal verb

if something *grows out of* an earlier thing, it develops because of that thing

*the Black Power movement grew out of the civil rights struggle in America | French opera grew out of the ballet | the idea for the book grew out of a painting I saw in an art gallery*

**identity** /aɪˈdentɪti/ Noun

someone's *identity* is all the qualities and beliefs that they have, which makes them different from everyone else

Collocates: a sense of identity | an identity crisis

*the only time I feel conflicted about my identity is when Pakistan play England at cricket | everyone in society contributes equally to a nation's identity | an identity crisis (a time when you start to have doubts about things that you have always believed about yourself) | I grew up with a strong sense of identity*

**mere** /mɪə(r)/ Adjective

you use *mere* to emphasise how unimportant something or someone is

*this is just politics being turned into mere entertainment | at the time, he was a mere van driver for the company; now he's the managing director | these were mere words, but what was needed was action | they were soldiers, but looked like mere boys*

Adverb: *merely*

*I'm merely saying that we can't afford another holiday this year | we're merely friends (we aren't having a romantic relationship)*

**mumble** /ˈmʌmb(ə)/ Verb

if you *mumble*, you say something in a way that is difficult for people to hear clearly

*she mumbled something without raising her head | stop mumbling! | he doesn't say much to other people, but he's often mumbling to himself | he didn't answer directly, just mumbled something we couldn't understand*

Noun: *mumble*

*there was a low mumble of voices*

**murmur** /ˈmɜː(r)mə(r)/ Noun

a *murmur* is a low, quiet sound, usually made by the voices of people speaking quietly or a long way away

*soft music and the murmur of gentle conversation | there was a confused murmur of voices | from nearby came the gentle murmur of a stream | there was a little murmur of approval*

Verb: *murmur*

*Arthur murmured something softly in her ear | Corbett murmured his thanks and left the room*

**mutter** /ˈmʌtə(r)/ Verb

if you *mutter*, you say something very quietly in a way that is difficult for people to hear clearly

*he walked out of the room muttering to himself | she muttered an apology | he heard several voices muttering angrily | still muttering, he got out of the car and opened the gate*

Noun: *mutter* | Noun: *muttering*

*we could hear the mutter of his voice in the next room | there were angry mutterings from the boys, but they calmed down when they saw the food arriving*

**opposition** /ˌɒpəˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

if there is *opposition* to something, people do not agree with it and want to stop it or change it. In British politics, the *opposition* is the political parties that are not part of the government. The *leader of the opposition* is the leader of the largest of these parties

*the leader of the main opposition party, Mr Corbyn | the leader of the opposition hopes to become prime minister after the election | when the economy is in trouble, the opposition gain more supporters | after 18 years in opposition, Labour finally formed a government in 1997*

**representation** /ˌreprɪzənˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

if a group has *representation* on a committee, in a parliament, or in other positions of responsibility, there are people there who represent them or who are the same as them

*there's still insufficient representation of women in parliament (there are not enough women in parliament) | political parties must work together to promote women's involvement and representation in all levels of government | there needs to be increased representation of parents on the school governing board*

Verb: represent | Noun: representative

*a total of 38 countries were represented at the conference | your member of parliament is elected to represent your interests | there are two student representatives on the campus catering committee | each town can send three representatives to the national meeting*

**satirical** /sə'tɪrɪk(ə)/ Adjective

*satirical writing, films, opinions, etc. use humour to make fun of people in authority, especially politicians*

*until the 1960s there were no satirical shows on British TV | the satirical magazine Private Eye has had only two editors in its 54 years of existence | Catch-22 is a satirical novel about US soldiers during the war in Korea | the film was a satirical version of Shakespeare's Macbeth*

Adverb: satirically | Noun: satire | Noun: satirist

*I'm still not sure if the article was intended satirically | the play satirically explores the influence of social media in modern politics | political satire can be very dangerous in some countries | she uses wit and gentle satire in her poems | Peter Cook, the satirist and comedian, died in 1995 | a political satirist*

**settle** /'set(ə)/ Verb

*if you settle or settle down somewhere, you make yourself as comfortable as you can because you are likely to be there for a few hours*

*he settled into bed and fell asleep | she settled down in front of the television and waited for the programme to begin | settle yourselves down by the fire and I'll bring you a nice cup of tea*

**skip** /skɪp/ Verb

*if you skip, you move forward in little jumps, first on one foot then on the other. If you say that someone skips somewhere, you mean that they go there quickly and cheerfully*

*he waved goodbye and skipped happily into the lift | she skipped downstairs to say hello to her aunt | school had finished, and the children were running and skipping in the street*

Noun: skip

*it does not walk like other animals but takes funny little skips*

**spot** /spɒt/ Verb

*if you spot someone or something, you notice them*  
*he peered into the distance and spotted some people on the horizon | I spotted an empty table at the far end of the restaurant | we spotted the England football manager when we were at the airport | Madonna was spotted going into a theatre in Hammersmith*

**stagger** /'stæɡə(r)/ Verb

*if you stagger, you walk in a slightly uncontrolled way, almost falling over, because you are hurt or unwell*

*he staggered home and rang the police | she got up and staggered into the bathroom | the boxer staggered back after the punch, but soon came back on the attack | he stumbled, staggered forward a few feet, then fell over*

**stroll** /strɒl/ Verb

*if you stroll somewhere, you walk there slowly and in a relaxed way for pleasure*

*he strolled happily along the beach | you could stroll round the lake before dinner | we strolled around the old town | I strolled down to the station to meet them off the train | after an early breakfast, we strolled up the hill to watch the sun rise | there was my father, strolling casually towards us*

Noun: stroll

Collocates: take a stroll | a leisurely stroll | a(n) morning/afternoon/evening stroll

*I took a leisurely stroll around the park | the beach is only a short stroll from the hotel | an afternoon stroll*

**struggle** /'strʌɡ(ə)/ Noun

*a struggle is a long period of time when people are trying hard to achieve something which is very difficult to achieve*

Collocates: an armed struggle | an uphill struggle  
*the Black Power movement grew out of the civil rights struggle in America | the story of their struggle for freedom | the victory of the liberation struggle | his uncles were involved in the armed struggle against apartheid | after he lost his job, daily life became a bitter struggle | she faced an uphill struggle (an especially difficult struggle) to get staff to agree to a pay freeze*

**trudge** /trʌdʒ/ Verb

*if you trudge somewhere, you walk there slowly and sadly because you are tired or unhappy*

Collocates: trudge along/off/back, etc.

*he saw his friends trudging along in front of him | he left the house and trudged off towards the bus stop | we trudged back to the house through the rain | Peter trudged miserably through the city streets looking for a hotel*

Noun: trudge

*it was a long trudge back to the campsite round the lake*

**yell** /jel/ Verb

*if you yell, you shout in a very loud and angry or excited voice*

Collocates: yell (something) at someone

*they trudged along while the devil yelled, "Work harder!" | the crowd started yelling at the referee | what are they yelling about? | they yelled insults at us as they drove away*

Noun: yell

*I heard yells of warning from outside*

## PAGES 38–39

**abolish** /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ Verb

to *abolish* a law, system, or tradition means to officially end it

*thanks to the student council we were able to abolish school uniform | many people want to abolish the House of Lords | slavery was abolished in Britain in 1833 | the death penalty was abolished in the 1960s*

Noun: *abolition*

*the abolition of slavery | the EU opposes capital punishment and has proposed its worldwide abolition | campaigning for the abolition of the monarchy*

**allege** /ə'ledʒ/ Verb

if you *allege* something bad, or *allege* that someone has done something wrong, you say that you think it is true but you do not have proof yet

*he is alleged to have faked the experiments | the paper alleged that he had deliberately avoided paying tax on the income | the prosecutors alleged that witnesses had been bribed | he alleged that his son died as a result of police actions*

Noun: *allegation* | Adjective: *alleged* | Adverb: *allegedly*  
*he defended himself against allegations of dishonesty | he was arrested on false allegations | none of these allegations were ever proven | the alleged incident took place in the early hours of the morning | he allegedly came up with the idea after he nearly crashed into a wall | the video allegedly shows the mayor taking banned drugs*

**allocate** /'æləkeɪt/ Verb

to *allocate* things means to decide which person or organisation should receive them and what they should use them for

*each area is allocated a number of seats according to its population | the government has allocated another £3m to flood prevention in the region | we need to allocate more resources to primary education | supermarkets allocate large budgets to advertising | in total, the agency allocated £16m to the project*

Noun: *allocation*

Collocates: an allocation of something

*fair allocation of resources is a difficult thing to achieve | each club will receive an allocation of 4,000 tickets for the cup final*

**ballot** /'bælət/ Noun

a *ballot* is a vote in which people choose a representative, or vote for or against a particular proposal

Collocates: cast a ballot | a secret ballot

*the union held a strike ballot at the factory | votes were cast by secret ballot and counted in public view | counting of ballot papers (the pieces of paper where voters marked their choice) went on all night | the election was conducted by postal ballot (where people send their votes in through the post) | the leadership ballot was held on 29th November*

Verb: *ballot*

*they now have to ballot their members before calling an official strike*

**bribery** /'braɪb(ə)ri/ Noun uncount

*bribery* is illegally paying money to someone in authority so that they will do something useful for you

*Sanders was found not guilty of bribery charges | the bribery scandal made headlines in the newspapers the next day | bribery is illegal in most countries | steps were taken to prevent bribery | political corruption and police bribery were common*

Noun: *bribe* | Verb: *bribe*

Collocates: accept/take a bribe | offer a bribe

*a minister was sent to jail for taking bribes | he refused to change his mind, even when he was offered a substantial bribe | city officials and police officers were bribed | he bribed the prison guard who helped him escape*

**broad** /brɔ:d/ Adjective

if there is *broad* agreement about something, most people agree about it

*a broad consensus | the proposal won broad support from all political parties*

Adverb: *broadly*

*his arrival as manager was broadly welcomed by the fans*

**call** /kɔ:l/ Verb

to *call* an election, a meeting, etc. means to officially announce that it must happen and say when it will be

Collocates: call a meeting | call an election

*the government called an election for the 10th of May | the chairman called an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis | President Wilson called a special session of Congress in 1919*

**cast** /kɑ:st/ Verb

if you *cast* a vote, you officially vote

*you can cast your votes by phone or online | the majority of votes are cast by post | they received over 60% of all the votes cast | only 30% of voters actually cast a ballot*

**consensus** /kən'sensəs/ Noun

if there is *consensus*, everybody agrees about something

Collocates: achieve/reach consensus | build a consensus | a consensus emerges | general/broad consensus

*a tradition of consensus has been established in Switzerland | no consensus has emerged among scientists on the topic | there needs to be a willingness to achieve political consensus | there is no broad consensus on what a typical student could be expected to know | building public consensus will be essential*

**cover up** /,kʌvə(r) 'ʌp/ Phrasal verb

to *cover something up* means to stop people from knowing about it, especially when it is something that is illegal or embarrassing

*attempts were made to cover up the scandal | some believe the police covered up the facts, but we'll never know | he was lying to cover up his mistakes | he was covering up for his son's activities | news of the crash leaked out to the press and it was too late to cover it up*

Noun: *cover-up*

*the papers were convinced there had been a police cover-up | the Watergate cover-up finally led to the resignation of Nixon*

**federal** /'fed(ə)rəl/ Adjective

a *federal* system of government involves states which have a lot of control over their own affairs, but which all belong to the same country with a central government that makes decisions for everyone on important matters such as foreign policy

*the Swiss have a federal parliament with two bodies – the National Council and the Senate | total US federal debt now exceeds \$16 trillion | there are state taxes collected locally, and there are federal taxes | such a move requires approval from the federal government | the school system became dependent on federal funding*

Noun: *federation*

*the Russian Federation came into being in 1991*

**hollow** /'hɒləʊ/ Adjective

a statement, event, or person that is *hollow* does not have any real value, effectiveness, or sincerity

*a hollow victory | he finally discovered the solution, but it was a hollow success as his rival had got there before him | she answered in a hollow voice*

**inclusivity** /,ɪnklʊ:'sɪvəti/ Noun uncount

*inclusivity* is a policy of accepting the widest possible range of people within a culture or organisation

*we are committed to increasing inclusivity | her job was to promote inclusivity within the organisation | inclusivity should be the goal of any group working towards equality | the colours of the Olympic rings carry a message of inclusivity*

Adjective: *inclusive*

*the main aim is to make our society more inclusive | an inclusive approach to politics*

**landslide** /'lænd(ɪ)slaɪd/ Noun

a *landslide* or a *landslide* victory is when someone wins an election with a very big majority

Collocates: a *landslide* victory | by a *landslide*

*they won the election by a landslide | Labour won a landslide victory in the 1997 election | in 1945, there was a Labour landslide | voters re-elected him in an electoral landslide in 1972*

**leak** /li:k/ Verb

if secret or private information *leaks*, or if someone *leaks* it, it is made public

*the story leaked out before they could stop it | the letter was leaked to the press by someone inside the department | several of the documents were leaked to the BBC | he leaked secrets to at least two other newspapers*

Noun: *leak* | Adjective: *leaked*

*the leaked documents were published by several national newspapers | the team spent six months investigating the leak of sensitive information to the press | the leak obviously came from inside the ministry*

**line** /laɪn/ Noun

a party *line*, government *line*, etc., is a set of beliefs and attitudes that a political party or a government holds, and that its members are expected to follow

Collocates: the official/party/government line | toe the line

*MPs are expected to follow the party line | he went on radio to explain the government line | the official line was that no serious error had been made | most schools take a hard line against drugs (are very strict) | if you don't toe the party line (agree with the party's views) you risk being thrown out*

**lobby** /'lɒbi/ Verb

to *lobby* politicians or governments means to talk to them in an organised way to try and get them to change a law or introduce a new law

Collocates: lobby hard | lobby the government/MPs/ Congress/parliament | lobby for/against something

*hundreds of rail workers lobbied MPs at Westminster about the changes to their pensions | they're lobbying the government to build more houses | publishers have been lobbying hard to prevent open access to research papers | environmentalists unsuccessfully lobbied parliament for a ban on the practice*

Noun: *lobby* | Noun: *lobbying* | Noun: *lobbyist*

*after pressure from an industry lobby group, the government scrapped the idea | the powerful agricultural lobby in France | a professional lobbying organisation | heavy lobbying finally succeeded in getting the law changed | tobacco lobbyists fought the ban on advertising | a former MP who became an industry lobbyist*

**loose end** /lu:z 'end/ Phrase

if you are *at a loose end*, you do not have anything you need to do and can't decide what to do

Collocates: be *at a loose end*

*I was at a bit of a loose end when the researcher called | for the first time in weeks I was at a loose end | take a book in case you find yourself at a loose end*

**outspoken** /,aʊt'spəʊkən/ Adjective

someone who is *outspoken* is not afraid to say what they think, even when they know people will not agree with them

*an outspoken MP | an outspoken critic of the president | my father was always outspoken about his political views | an outspoken opponent of gun control | he became even more outspoken about the political situation*

Phrasal verb: *speak out*

*they spoke out against the war | several staff members who spoke out lost their jobs*

**persist** /pə(r)'sɪst/ Verb

if you *persist* in doing something, you continue to do it, even if it is difficult or unpopular

Collocates: persist in doing something | persist with something

*the management is persisting with a ridiculous offer that will see wages fall | he persisted in calling me Mrs Savage | she persisted in her belief that her husband was innocent*

Adjective: *persistent* | Adverb: *persistently* |  
Noun: *persistence*

*she was very persistent in her attempts to get into university | he refused to answer my persistent questions | the practice continued despite persistent complaints from customers | he called persistently for a change in the law | the man persistently refused to give any information about himself | her hard work and persistence paid off when she won a scholarship to Cambridge*

**petition** /pə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

a *petition* is a document signed by a lot of people demanding that a government or other authority take action about something

Collocates: sign a petition | hand in/submit a petition  
*individuals can challenge the decision by collecting 50,000 signatures on a petition | will you sign our petition to stop them closing the hospital? | campaigners submitted a petition to the president when he visited the university | the petition was signed by 20,000 people | an e-petition (one that is done online, not on paper) | to sign the petition, click here*

Verb: *petition*

*campaigners petitioned the local authority to keep the hospital open*

**prominent** /'prɒmɪnənt/ Adjective

someone who is *prominent* is one of the most important people in their field of work, and is well-known and successful

*a prominent figure in the anti-war movement | the group was composed of prominent local business people | a group of nationally prominent researchers | she became a prominent member of the Liberal Party*

Noun: *prominence*

Collocates: rise to prominence

*Blair rose to prominence in the early 1990s | she came to international prominence after she won the Nobel Prize*

**ratings** /'reɪtɪŋz/ Noun plural

the TV or radio *ratings* is a list which shows how many people watch or listen to each individual programme

Collocates: a ratings war

*the programme's ratings were falling | the BBC's evening news programme was winning the ratings war with ITV (the competition to get the largest number of viewers) | it helped their ratings to have a kind of hate figure | the series was taken off air after three weeks because of poor ratings | ratings for the show have never been higher*

**referendum** /ˌrefə'rendəm/ Noun

a *referendum* is an occasion when every adult is asked to vote about one particular issue, and the government has to accept what the majority of voters say

Collocates: hold/conduct a referendum

*the UK will hold another referendum on membership of the EU | in the 1975 referendum, they voted to stay in | the Scottish referendum had a very close result | Georgia conducted a NATO membership referendum in 2008 | in the referendum, voters rejected the proposal to expand the airport*

**rep** /rep/ Noun

a *rep* is a representative - someone who represents a company or a group of people

*pupil reps can decide on policy | I was elected student rep on the university council last year | ask your union rep for details about membership | he was a sales rep for a furniture company*

**rig** /rɪg/ Verb

to *rig* an election or competition means to cheat in order to get a result that would not be the case if everything was run fairly

*FIFA were accused of rigging the election | the opposition claimed the vote was rigged | ballot-rigging was common in the 19th century*

Adjective: *rigged*

*the country has a history of rigged elections*

**stand** /stænd/ Verb

to *stand* in an election means to be a candidate in the election

Collocates: stand for something

*she stood for parliament three times before she was finally elected | she decided to stand for President | a total of seven candidates are standing in this local election*

**take aback** /ˌteɪk ə'bæk/ Phrasal verb

if something *takes* you *aback*, it surprises you

*when the results were published, I was a bit taken aback | it just took me aback when I first saw you | she was clearly taken aback by my question | it was his rudeness that took her aback*

**turnout** /'tɜ:(r)nəʊt/ Noun

at an election, the *turnout* is the number of people who actually go and vote

*this may explain why voter turnout was down this time | turnout at elections has been steadily falling | a 64% turnout for a general election was very disappointing | in the 1950 election, the turnout was 84% | an unexpectedly high turnout at the council elections*

Phrasal verb: *turn out*

*fewer than 400 voters turned out for the council referendum | supporters turned out in force in Thursday's election*

**unanimous** /ju:'nænɪməs/ Adjective

a *unanimous* decision is one that is agreed to by everyone who is involved in making it

Collocates: a unanimous decision

*a unanimous vote | the committee reached a unanimous decision | the proposal won unanimous approval | this was not a unanimous view among party members*

Adverb: *unanimously* | Noun: *unanimity*

*the request was approved unanimously | union members voted unanimously to go on strike | after hours of discussion we were no nearer unanimity | there was almost complete unanimity when it came to the vote*

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**PAGES 40–41**

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**civilise** /ˈsɪvəlaɪz/

to *civilise* people means to teach them how to live well and sensibly and have a good life. Be careful if you use this word. It was often used by people in the West to suggest that people in Africa or Asia are not as well developed culturally or politically

*European attempts to ‘civilise’ the Aborigines had tragic consequences | the British mistakenly thought they were civilising the people in their Empire*

Adjective: *civilised* | Adjective: *civilising*

*a highly civilised country | let’s talk about this in a civilised way | without these rules, civilised life would be impossible | she had a civilising influence on her brothers*

## EXERCISES

### PREPOSITIONS

**A Complete the sentences with the correct preposition. Look up the word in bold if you need help.**

- 1 Paris **bid** unsuccessfully ..... the 2012 Olympics.
- 2 I have a few minor **reservations** ..... her suggestion.
- 3 The 1960s saw the **emergence** ..... new political organisations.
- 4 She **glared** ..... me before getting up and leaving the room.
- 5 They **yelled** insults ..... us as they drove away.
- 6 All my friends had gone on holiday, so I was ..... a bit of a **loose end**.
- 7 He **persisted** ..... trying to mend the gate, but I could see it was impossible.

### WORD FAMILIES

**B Complete the expressions on the right with the correct form of the word in bold.**

- 1 a **unanimous** agreement    they agreed  
.....
- 2 **rig** an election    a .....  
election
- 3 a **prominent** figure    rise to .....
- 4 a **charismatic** leader    a leader with great  
.....
- 5 feel no **compassion**    a ..... nurse
- 6 a **satirical** article    a clever use of  
.....

**C Tick the words in the unit that are both a verb and a noun.**

- 1 bid .....
- 2 trigger .....
- 3 clutch .....
- 4 abolish .....
- 5 allocate .....
- 6 bribery .....
- 7 leak .....
- 8 engagement .....

### COLLOCATIONS

**D Match the adjectives (1–6) with the nouns (a–f). Look up the nouns if you need help.**

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1 a nervous  | a) consensus |
| 2 a high     | b) giggle    |
| 3 a secret   | c) struggle  |
| 4 an armed   | d) ballot    |
| 5 a broad    | e) gasp      |
| 6 an audible | f) turnout   |

**E Complete the missing adjectives.**

- 1 a h \_ \_ \_ \_ w victory
- 2 a s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ l magazine
- 3 an o \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n critic
- 4 a p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t figure
- 5 a r \_ \_ \_ \_ d election
- 6 a u \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ s decision

**F Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box. Look up the nouns if you need help.**

hold	play	call	lack	show	sign
------	------	------	------	------	------

- 1 She's a good politician, but she ..... charisma.
- 2 They will always ..... great compassion for people in need.
- 3 When he said he thought Tom was right, he was only ..... devil's advocate.
- 4 The government has ..... an election for next month.
- 5 The petition had been ..... by 20,000 people.
- 6 The country will ..... a referendum on membership of the EU.

### 'WAYS OF' VERB GROUPS

**G Complete the definitions with the correct descriptive verb from the box.**

trudge	gasp	giggle	stroll	glare	clutch
--------	------	--------	--------	-------	--------

- 1 If you ..... at someone, you look at them in a very angry and unfriendly way.
- 2 If you ....., you laugh in a quiet way because something is funny.
- 3 If you ....., you say something in a surprised or excited way.
- 4 If you ..... someone or something, you hold them with a very firm grip.
- 5 If you ..... somewhere, you walk there slowly and in a relaxed way for pleasure.
- 6 If you ..... somewhere, you walk there slowly and sadly because you are tired or unhappy.