1, Phrasal verbs used in speaking English

clam up:

catch up:

groof off:

figure out:

bone up

2, a ten-year-old boy

a boy is ten years old.

The boy is a ten-year-old(n.)

A ten-year-old boy is sitting on the couch.

The boy sitting on the couch is ten years old.

The boy sitting on the couch is a ten-year-old.

3, take over :

4, creep up on sb  
 1. to move slowly nearer to sb, usually from behind, without being seen or heard  
 Don’t creep up on be like that!

2. to begin to effect sb, especially before they realise it.   
5. in spite of = despite

6. be of   
 be of use = be useful

7. **in store**  
 [] coming in the future; about to happen.  
 What is in store for us at this year’s Summer Festival?

8. **better off**  
 1. to have more money.  
 Families will be better off under the new law.  
 2. (be better off doing…) used to say that somebody is happier or more satisfied if they were in a particular position or did a particular thing.  
 She is better off without him.  
9. **not least**: especially

10. **coin a term**

The term “cardboard city” was coined to describe communities of homeless people living in cardboard boxes.

11. **in preference to sb/sth** rather than sb/sth  
 She was chosen in preference to her sister.