

A

How journalists get the news

Some news comes from press releases that are **put out** by companies or organisations. However, journalists also **pick up**¹ stories from their contacts. Occasionally a story **gets out**² when a politician or film star **confides in**³ someone who is not discreet. Sometimes a rumour starts and journalists **sound out**⁴ people in the know to check its truth. It may sometimes be difficult for them to **root out**⁵ the information they want, but journalists get very good at **worming stories out of**⁶ people who don't want to talk to them. Sometimes they may **stake out**⁷ their potential subject's house until they get the story they want. In fact, the ability to **ferret out**⁸ a story may be as important for a journalist as the ability to **write it up** well.

¹ learn by chance

² becomes known (of something secret)

³ tells something private or secret to someone

⁴ get an opinion from

⁵ search for and find something that is difficult to find

⁶ getting information from someone who does not want to give it

⁷ watch continuously

⁸ find out something after searching for it

B

Political news

Pensions protest

A major protest took place yesterday after news **leaked out**¹ about the government's plans to raise the retirement age further. Workers of all ages **walked out** from factories and offices to **join in** public demonstrations. Police attempts to **head off** the main protest march failed, but fortunately all the demonstrations **passed off** without any major incidents. The government has denied that it is planning to use force to **put down** any future protests.

¹ became known

Brookes joins influential committee

Tim Brookes has been voted on to the Environmental Committee. Brookes has been an MP since his party first **got in** in 1997, and he claims that his main ambition has always been to **get onto** this important committee. There were a number of powerful contenders for the place, but Brookes succeeded in **whipping up** considerable support and won the coveted place. Brookes' critics say that he has a tendency to **dumb down** complex issues, but he argues that anything that gets people talking about the environment is worthwhile.

C

The police and the army in the news

sentences from newspapers	meaning of phrasal verb
If there are not enough volunteer recruits, the government will have to call people up .	order people to join the armed forces
The new general joined up when he was 21.	joined the army
The enemy continues to hold out in the south.	defend itself against attack
The army is to be sent in to help earthquake victims.	(of people with special skills) sent to an area
Troops are expected to pull out before May.	move out of an area
Two planes were shot down last night.	destroyed by enemy fire
The kidnapper gave himself up last night.	allowed the police to catch him
The police will move in if the situation escalates.	go to a place to deal with a difficult situation

Exercises

51.1 An experienced journalist is talking to a new young reporter. Complete his advice below using phrasal verbs from A. You are given the first letter of each phrasal verb.

A lot of your time will be spent trying to r..... (1) information, and that can be boring – going to record offices, surfing the Internet, reading press releases p..... (2) by government departments, and that sort of thing. It's also important to hang out with other journalists and see what you can p..... (3) from them. You might discover a story that has l..... (4). The secret with celebrities is to get them to c..... (5) you. If they just think you're trying to w..... private information (6) them to create a scandal, they won't give you anything. And they hate it when journalists s..... (7) their homes. With politicians, it's best to s..... them (8) about various topics to find out what they want to talk about; don't be aggressive – that won't get you anywhere. Just like celebrities, if they think you're trying to f..... (9) a story that's going to g..... (10) and cause them embarrassment, they'll keep quiet and you'll get nothing. And take your time w..... your stories (11). Don't rush the process.

51.2 Match each headline 1–7 with an extract from the article a–g.

- 1 OIL PROTEST PASSES OFF PEACEFULLY
- 2 UN TROOPS TO PULL OUT OF PHRASALIA
- 3 ARMY MOVES IN TO QUELL DISTURBANCES IN NORTHERN PROVINCE
- 4 RESERVISTS CALLED UP AS SITUATION WORSENS
- 5 PAINTSHOP WORKERS WALK OUT AT AUTO PLANT
- 6 SPECIAL FORCES ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF REBELS IN QUESA REGION
- 7 UNIVERSITIES ACCUSED OF DUMBING DOWN ENTRANCE EXAMS

- a) 5,000 men have been ordered to report to local bases for immediate posting to the front.
- b) The aim is to push back the advance and to restore government control.
- c) 2,000 people assembled calmly outside the ministry and chanted slogans.
- d) The riots had reached a level which could no longer be tolerated, the defence minister said.
- e) Their work was now complete and had been a success, a spokesperson said.
- f) Pass rates have increased by a huge 50% this year.
- g) 250 downed tools and started an unofficial strike this morning.

51.3 Rewrite the underlined parts of these sentences, using a phrasal verb from the opposite page. Make any other necessary changes.

- 1 The conservatives won the election in 2015.
- 2 A helicopter was destroyed by enemy fire whilst in flight yesterday.
- 3 My great-great-grandfather became a soldier when he was only 16.
- 4 The kidnappers surrendered to the police just after midday.
- 5 The rebels successfully defended themselves for six weeks.
- 6 The government has ordered a group of experts to go to assess the flood damage.
- 7 The government crushed the rebellion using massive force.
- 8 Mr Fleet is trying to arouse some enthusiasm for the concert he is trying to organise.
- 9 Hundreds of people participated in the celebrations outside the palace.
- 10 Theodore got a place on the party's national committee.

Over to you

Phrasal verbs are very common in newspaper headlines – perhaps because they are often short and dramatic words. See how many you can find in any one copy of a newspaper. Make a note of any interesting ones.