

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

<sup>1</sup> learn by chance

<sup>2</sup> becomes known (of something secret)

<sup>3</sup> tells something private or secret to someone

<sup>4</sup> get an opinion from

<sup>5</sup> search for and find something that is difficult to find

<sup>6</sup> getting information from someone who does not want to give it

<sup>7</sup> watch continuously

<sup>8</sup> find out something after searching for it

## B

## Political news

## Pensions protest

A major protest took place yesterday after news **leaked out**<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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 <b>call</b> people <b>up</b> .	order people to join the armed forces
The new general <b>joined up</b> when he was 21.	joined the army
The enemy continues to <b>hold out</b> in the south.	defend itself against attack
The army is to be <b>sent in</b> to help earthquake victims.	(of people with special skills) sent to an area
Troops are expected to <b>pull out</b> before May.	move out of an area
Two planes were <b>shot down</b> last night.	destroyed by enemy fire
The kidnapper <b>gave</b> himself <b>up</b> last night.	allowed the police to catch him
The police will <b>move in</b> 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.

## A

## News headlines

INVESTIGATION **BEARS OUT**<sup>1</sup> FRAUD CLAIM

<sup>1</sup> proves that something that someone has said or written is true, or say that someone is telling the truth

COMPANY **HUSHED UP**<sup>2</sup> FINANCIAL SCANDAL

<sup>2</sup> stopped the public from finding out about something bad that had happened

GOVERNMENT URGED TO **LEVEL WITH**<sup>3</sup> PUBLIC OVER HEALTH RISKS

<sup>3</sup> (informal) tell the truth about something

PRIME MINISTER ACCUSED OF **PAPERING OVER**<sup>4</sup> CABINET DISAGREEMENT

<sup>4</sup> hiding a difficulty to try to make people believe that there is no problem

MINISTERS TRIED TO **COVER UP**<sup>5</sup> ARMS SCANDAL, SAYS OFFICIAL REPORT

<sup>5</sup> stop people from discovering the truth about something bad

AGENTS **SPIED ON**<sup>6</sup> UN DIPLOMATS: FORMER SPY BREAKS SILENCE

<sup>6</sup> watched secretly in order to discover information about them

## B

## Email gossip


[Reply](#)
[Forward](#)

Hi Nicole,

I wasn't at all surprised to hear that Dylan and Maria are getting engaged, were you? The way they've been looking at each other was a real **give-away**<sup>1</sup>, wasn't it? And Maria almost **let** the secret **out** a couple of weeks ago anyway, even though they continued to **make out**<sup>2</sup> that they were just good friends. They seem to be crazy about each other!

Esther

<sup>1</sup> (informal) something that makes you aware of a fact that someone else was trying to keep secret

<sup>2</sup> claim falsely that something is true


[Reply](#)
[Forward](#)

Dear Aidan,

I need to **confide in**<sup>3</sup> you. I've been suspecting for a long time that one of my employees, George, has been stealing from the till at work, so I actually hired a private detective. He **dug up**<sup>4</sup> a few unpleasant facts, I'm afraid. George has had a number of convictions for theft already. But the detective hasn't managed to prove that he is stealing from us. So I've decided to just **play along**<sup>5</sup> and pretend I don't know, to see if I can **catch** him **out**<sup>6</sup> – you know, just see if he **gives** anything **away**<sup>7</sup> without realising it. Am I doing the right thing, do you think, or should I confront him?

Oscar

<sup>3</sup> tell someone things that you keep secret from other people

<sup>4</sup> discovered new facts about a person or situation after a lot of searching

<sup>5</sup> (informal) pretend to agree with someone, or to do what someone wants for a short time, in order to get something from them or to avoid making them angry

<sup>6</sup> discover that someone is lying or doing something wrong

<sup>7</sup> lets someone know something that should be kept secret, often by mistake

## Exercises

### 52.1 Answer these questions about the headlines in A opposite.

- 1 What was the aim of the investigation and what did it discover?
- 2 Why might the company have wanted to hush up the scandal?
- 3 What is the third headline implying about the government?
- 4 Why might the Prime Minister want to paper over what was happening in the Cabinet?
- 5 Does it sound as if the report supports or condemns the ministers' behaviour?
- 6 What has the former spy just admitted?

### 52.2 Match the beginning of each sentence with its ending.

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Fortunately, my research bore   | a) in someone.                       |
| 2 Please just play                | b) up a good scandal.                |
| 3 I wish I could confide          | c) out your secret.                  |
| 4 Journalists love to dig         | d) on her.                           |
| 5 I'm so sorry I let              | e) with her.                         |
| 6 We did all we could to hush     | f) out my original hypothesis.       |
| 7 My friend begged me to level    | g) along with the story I tell Mary. |
| 8 Libby accused Charles of spying | h) up the scandal in the company.    |

### 52.3 Correct the ten mistakes with particles in this paragraph.

As journalists, it is our job to try to dig off stories that dishonest people are trying to cover over. Sometimes we are accused of spying at innocent people, but surely it is our duty not to allow people to paper up their scandals. Often it is not at all difficult to learn secrets. People are often eager to confide with someone who is willing to lend a sympathetic ear. Or they let off a secret without realising it. Little things like a blush or a quick glance at someone else can be a real give-out to an experienced reporter. Of course, sometimes people try to make over that they have nothing to hide, and then it can be a good idea to play on with them up to a certain point. Then you suddenly take them by surprise with an unexpected question and in this way you can often catch them across.



### 52.4 Which word could fit into all the sentences in each set? Look in your dictionary for any new meanings.

- 1 The lawyer tried to ..... the accused out in a lie.  
Be aware of exam questions designed to ..... you out.  
Every year unexpected snowstorms ..... people out.
- 2 Isabella likes to ..... out that she has a very important job.  
Can you ..... out that small yacht on the horizon?  
Who should I ..... this cheque out to?
- 3 Please take care not to ..... my secret out.  
This skirt is too tight – I'll have to ..... it out.  
Don't forget to ..... the cat out before you go to bed.
- 4 The way his hands were shaking ..... away his nervousness.  
The company ..... away six new cars as part of their advertising campaign.  
It was meant as a surprise but Kate ..... the game away.