

Topic vocabulary: Power

A Circle the correct word.

- 1 The operation can only go ahead if the child's parents **consent** / **submit** to it.
- 2 In Britain, prisoners are not **entitled** / **exempt** to vote in elections, but I think they should be allowed to.
- 3 Colonel Wilson **commands** / **intimidates** over 5,000 men.
- 4 We need to plan carefully to **eliminate** / **prohibit** all risk of failure.
- 5 Queen Victoria saw many changes during her time as **dictator** / **monarch**.
- 6 It's one thing having this law, but unless the police **enforce** / **reinforce** it, it's useless.
- 7 I don't think I'll ever **master** / **reign** surfing.
- 8 Our manager at work just tries to **bully** / **conquer** us all into doing what she wants.
- 9 But surely the council don't have the **aggression** / **authority** to change the law, do they?
- 10 Didn't the government foresee that there would be a lot of **controversy** / **unrest** in the papers about this latest proposal?

B Complete using the words in the box.

benign • former • inferior • mainstream • minister • reluctant
• society • subjective • superior • vulnerable

- 1 Bill Clinton, President of the United States, arrived in Beijing today.
- 2 After years in small political parties, I gradually became more interested in politics.
- 3 My boss doesn't know what he's doing, but I can't tell him that because he's to me.
- 4 I was to help her, but I had no choice.
- 5 You might think people want this law, but that's just your opinion and you don't have any facts to back it up.
- 6 A dictator might appear, but you never know when they might start to abuse their power.
- 7 We must do all we can to help those who are in a position.
- 8 Each department is controlled by a, who is part of the government.
- 9 Don't think I'm to you. I'm just as good as you are.
- 10 I'm sick of worrying about what thinks and I'm just going to do what I want.

C Complete using the correct form of the words in the box.

dominate • impose • label • liberate • resist • restrict • subject • summon • undermine • victimise

Power

We are (1) to many different forms of power. There are those forms of power that exist by law: the right of the government to (2) laws on a country and to (3) what we are allowed to do. There is also the right of courts to (4) people to appear to stand trial or to give evidence. There is also, of course, power on a more personal level. People are constantly struggling for power and social status. This might take the form of attempting to (5) a conversation, something that is relatively easy to (6) since it is so obvious. It is more difficult to (7) ourselves from other forms of social power. When we are (8) as 'this' or 'that' by other people and put into a category, that too is a form of power. Bosses at work might (9) their employees by making them work long hours. A parent might (10) their child's self-confidence with constant criticism. Power is everywhere and the more you understand it, the more you may be able to control it.