

Chapter Six in Use

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INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEWER: Many of the voters who fell for your pre-election *hype* are now beginning to feel *disgruntled*, saying that you have been coming out with *blatant* lies. Have your objectives *shifted*?

PRIME MINISTER: No, not at all. Let me *take you through* what had been going on over the last ten years, before we took over. The previous government ran down all the public services, which *alienated* the entire British public. They were also guilty of *stringing* the people *along* on many other issues. Now the excitement of having a new government is *dying down*, so we have to sort out the mess we were left in. It has *emerged* that things are going to take longer than expected, and this is a *bitter pill to swallow* for some people, but we will be unveiling new strategies in the coming weeks.

INTERVIEWER: As far as education is concerned, you have been accused of *dumbing down* the syllabuses and *undermining* the teachers' authority.

PRIME MINISTER: Well, for many years schools have been under-achieving. You know, it's just not on. We expect all our children to have a good basic *grounding* in the main subjects, but many of our youngsters are *straying* from the right path when they leave school. I don't want to be *branded* as a teacher-hater but I would like it to be known that things have to change.

EMAIL FROM JOHN TO HIS FRIEND MARTIN

Hey Martin!

Where were you on Friday night? We all went for a drink at the Coach and Horses. Your friend Tim, who is not *endowed with* brains even when he's sober, and *grates on* me more and more each time I see him, got involved in a *skirmish* with another guy who he said was *pestering* his girlfriend. Tim thought this bloke was going to be a *pushover*, as he was half his size, but the little guy was not *unnerved* by the prospect of a fight, even though his chances of success were *slim*. Anyway, as they got stuck in, there was *uproar* in the pub, and I tried to *keep* the two of them *at bay*. In the end, they shook hands and bought each other drinks. It's funny how things turn out!

Hope we can get together next week and catch up.

All the best

John

Chapter Six: Exercise

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD FROM THOSE IN RED

Answers on page 134

1. We're going to have to lay off more staff than I thought. It is indeed a ^a(blatant lie/bitter pill to swallow/hype/uproar). So I've asked Jenny, our employment lawyer, to come to a meeting and ^b(make a comeback/unveil/brand/take us through) the correct procedure.
2. I do not believe all the ^a(hype/uproar/shifting/alienation) coming from the Government ministers that our public exams are going to become rigorous and more difficult to pass. Most children these days lack a good ^b(pushover/grounding/branding/hype) in mathematics and English, and have become unfortunate victims of our ^c(slim/amended/dumbed-down/undermined) education system.
3. I don't want to ^a(unveil/shift/brand/undermine) my husband's authority in front of the children, and I certainly wouldn't like to ^b(alienate him/string him along/amend him/disgruntle him) at these times when I know he needs my support, but I do often wonder whether he is ^c(unveiled with/endowed with/emerged with/amended with) a brain.
4. There's no point in trying to ^a(pester me/grate on me/string me/shift me) along with your ^b(disgruntled/blatant/unnerving/grounding) lies. I know exactly what you are up to and it's just ^c(not on/a pushover/an uproar/slapdash).
5. Daniel says that your presence at parents' meetings with teachers ^a(brands-shifts/unerves/pesters) him. He would much rather you express your thoughts in a letter to the school if you feel ^b(blatant/in uproar/pushed over/disgruntled) about something.
6. Jane is clearly a very bright girl, but she needs to spend much more time on preparing her written work; it's far too ^a(slapdash/dumbed-down/amended/slim). Also, she very often ^b(shifts-strays/undermines/pesters) from the subject.
7. What has ^a(emerged/shifted/amended/unveiled) from these discussions is that if we do sell the business, we cannot afford to let it ^b(be endowed/make a comeback/go for a song/die down). Remember, we have creditors to ^c(pester/amend/endow/keep at bay).
8. It wasn't so long ago when the music media ^a(endowed/branded/shifted/pestered) him as passé. But now he seems to be making something of a ^b(uproar/comeback/pushover/skirmish) and his chances of regaining his former popularity are not as ^c(slim/branded/disgruntled/shifted) as they once were.
9. Economists keep warning us that there will be a ^a(undermining/skirmish/shift/grounding) of financial power from west to east and that the U.S in particular needs to ^b(unveil/endow/hype/amend) new strategies to take account of this phenomenon.

10. She knows that her father is a complete ^a(uproar/stray/blatant/pushover) and that she doesn't need to ^b(shift/pester/string along/alienate) him for too long before she gets her own way. Men! They're all the same. Their behaviour and annoying habits ^c(grate/disgruntle/die down/unveil) on all of us suffering women
11. So that we avoid unpleasant ^a(dumbing-down/skirmishes/hypes/pushovers) in this fragile political coalition we have recently formed, and take account of this new situation, we will, unfortunately, need to ^b(unnerve/stray/amend/unveil) our policies.
12. At first there was ^a(hype/branding/skirmish/uproar) amongst public sector workers when the Government announced a cutback in local council jobs, but now that the anger has ^b(died down/gone for a song-shifted/amended), most people have reluctantly accepted reality.

Chapter Eight in Use

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TELEVISION DEBATE BETWEEN POLITICIANS

CHAIRMAN: *Good evening.*

Tonight in our London studio we have Janet Jones from the Government and Peter Smith from the Opposition. Could we have the first question from the audience please?

MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: *Concerning the **plight** of the asylum seekers currently requesting refuge in the UK, does the panel think that putting them in detention centres is a **viable** option, or should they be allowed to mingle with the local community?*

CHAIRMAN: *Peter Smith?*

PETER SMITH: *Well, I think the Government's recent policy on asylum leaves a lot to be desired. There are too many people **sponging off** the State as it is. I know the detention centre idea seems a bit grim and there are bound to be **teething problems**, but at present we are being **overwhelmed** by asylum seekers. Accepting more of them without restriction is quite unthinkable.*

CHAIRMAN: *I don't suppose you go along with that, Janet Jones?*

JANET JONES: *I most certainly do not; with right-wing ideology like that, I don't **hold out much hope** for Peter's party winning the next election. They have not come up with a **plausible** alternative to our liberal approach. However, **in hindsight**, I must admit we could have dealt with the problem differently. There was too much bureaucracy and too little action. But let's **put that behind us now**. We must stop the appalling **harassment** of these poor people by racist thugs and try to create a **bond** between the different communities which make up our country.*

PETER SMITH: *What ludicrous rubbish you are talking! Mind you, the British public are under no illusions about how things can only get much worse with Janet's party in power. Not long to go before the next general election when, ladies and gentlemen, you can put an end to your suffering.*