

NEWS EVENTS

Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Reports that the government is about to (1) C the go ahead to plans for the building of a new runway at London's Gatwick airport have angered local (2) _____ and raised fears of increased noise and exhaust pollution. The (3) _____ plans also include permission for additional night flights and will (4) _____ the compulsory purchase of farmland, (5) _____ the demolition of a number of private homes. According to sources close to the Ministry of Transport, the government is known to be concerned by the increasing (6) _____ of traffic at London Heathrow, where there are no plans for further runways in the foreseeable (7) _____ Gatwick is widely (8) _____ as a better (9) _____ for expansion than London's third airport, Stansted, which still (10) _____ from poor transport links. A spokesperson for the Keep Gatwick Quiet association, (11) _____ up of local people, accused the government of (12) _____ back on promises made before the General Election. 'We were told then that the airport authority had no (13) _____ of building another runway, and we believe that the government has a duty to (14) _____ its pledges.'

Prominent figures in the government are also believed to be concerned at the news, although the Prime Minister, interviewed last night, is (15) _____ as saying that reports were 'misleading'. However, he would not give an assurance that plans for building a runway had definitely been rejected.

1) A sign	B make	C give	D approve
2) A inhabitants	B dwellers	C occupants	D residents
3) A controversial	B debatable	C notorious	D doubtful
4) A involve	B concern	C assume	D need
5) A further to	B as well as	C moreover	D what's more
6) A sum	B size	C volume	D length
7) A years	B period	C time	D future
8) A regarded	B believed	C felt	D held
9) A potential	B outlook	C prospect	D likelihood
10) A affects	B undergoes	C experiences	D suffers
11) A made	B set	C brought	D taken
12) A getting	B falling	C going	D turning
13) A desire	B intention	C wish	D objective
14) A bear out	B count on	C pull off	D stand by
15) A quoted	B known	C thought	D written

EXERCISE TWO **Both options make sense. Underline the one which forms a common collocation.**

- a) The two men, disguised/transformed as security guards, overpowered staff at the bank and escaped with £150,000.
- b) The pilot was the one/sole survivor of the crash.
- c) The fire extensively/widely damaged the 500-year-old building.

- d) Mr Johnson was taken to Maidstone General Hospital where his condition was described as 'critical/perilous'.
- e) The government spokesperson declined to speak about/comment on the matter.
- f) A woman and a man were later detained/arrested for questioning.
- g) The findings/results of the committee are due for publication this week.
- h) The government agreed that the problem must be removed/tackled at once.
- i) We must be very careful with sensitive/difficult issues such as this, to avoid giving offence,
- j) A police spokesperson admitted that detectives were baffled/upset by Mr Day's disappearance, but were hoping to come up with an explanation.

EXERCISE THREE Complete each sentence with one of the words from the box.

conditions	evidence	knowledge	place	responsibility	confidence	incident
		opinion	prospect	verge		

- a) With Smith out injured, there is little prospect of City reaching the next round.
- b) After heavy rain, _____ during the race were hazardous.
- c) It is common _____ that Douglas intends to retire at the end of the season.
- d) Two French and two English forwards were involved in an ugly _____ just before half-time.
- e) Miss Schmidt easily secured her _____ in the next round with a confident display of power tennis.
- f) The final day begins with the Australian team on the _____ of victory.
- g) Whether Alberto was offside is a matter of _____, in my view.
- h) I have every _____ that Jack Wood is the man to lead our team to victory.
- i) There is no concrete _____ that anyone in the team has taken drugs.
- j) The club has disclaimed _____ for the damage, blaming it on supporters from London.

EXERCISE FOUR Complete the collocation or fixed phrase in sentences (a-j) using endings (1-10).

- a) The union is drawing up **(SENTENCE 6)**: new proposals to put to the employers.
- b) The managing director said that recent events had put _____

- c) No one holds out _____
- d) He went on to say that the company prided _____
- e) Both sides have agreed to meet on a regular _____
- f) The union has since challenged _____
- g) Others believe that both sides would jump at the _____
- h) It is unlikely that the union will moderate _____
- i) The management stated that the problem had been exaggerated out of _____
- j) The minister said that he put himself at the _____

- 1 ... basis from now on, he added.
- 2 ... all proportion, and that an agreement was close.
- 3 ... a strain upon everyone employed by the company.
- 4 ... its demand for a shorter working week.
- 5 ... the figures given to the press by the financial director.
- 6 ... new proposals to put to the employers.
- 7 ... disposal of both sides in the dispute.
- 8 ... itself on its good relations with all its employees.
- 9 ... chance to resume negotiations without delay.
- 10 ... much hope for the success of the discussions.

EXERCISE FIVE **Replace the words underlined in each sentence with one of the collocations or fixed phrases from the box.**

1) argue that there should be	2) have no intention	3) raised fears	4) it is common knowledge
5) explained the cause as	6) little prospect of success	7) brought about	
8) say for certain			

- a) I am not thinking of resigning at the moment. have no intention

- b) Everybody is aware that Smith has a criminal record. _____
- c) We all know what caused the closure of the factory. _____
- d) The report has made people afraid that others may be at risk from the disease.

- e) We shall try hard, although there is not much chance of winning.

- f) A hospital spokesperson refused to confirm that the injured man had been shot.

- g) Some conservationists advocate an immediate ban on hunting.

- h) Commenting on the weekend travel chaos, the rail company attributed this to a combination of snow and high winds. _____

EXERCISE SIX In each headline, replace the word or words underlined with one of the 'headline' words from the box.

bid	clash	held	death toll	boost	cleared	looms	set	vows
-----	-------	------	------------	-------	---------	-------	-----	-----------------

- a) Miners' union promises to fight over local pay deals VOWS
- b) Change to school funding aims to increase teacher numbers _____
- c) Newspapers and union going to clash over pay claim _____
- d) Man found innocent in bank robbery case _____
- e) British attempt to aid refugees turned down _____
- f) Woman arrested by police after pub shooting _____
- g) Number of people killed rises to six _____
- h) Rail strike approaches _____
- i) Ministers in disagreement over pay rises _____

EXERCISE SEVEN Complete each space in the text with a word formed from the words in capitals.

Press (1) SPECULATION SPECULATE continues over whether the Prime Minister is on the point of calling a General Election. An (2) _____ ANNOUNCE is expected shortly from government headquarters. Political

- (3) _____ ANALYSE believe that the timing of an election is crucial to the
- (4) _____ SURVIVE of the government. Michael Lee of the 'Independent'

commented: 'We've had repeated (5) _____ ASSURE from the Prime Minister that no election would be called this year, but present circumstances may just cause him to change his mind.' Six months ago, this would have been (6) _____ THINK. An election would have been (7) _____ POLITICS suicide, and would certainly have led to the (8) _____ DOWN of the government. The government was coming in for severe (9) _____ CRITICISE because of its education policy. It was also widely attacked for its (10) _____ DISASTER involvement in the arms export scandal, and for its (11) _____ FAIL to address the problem of (12) _____ EMPLOY; but according to recent opinion polls, the electorate is impressed at the way the PM has restored party (13) _____ UNITE and overcome the internal (14) _____ DIVIDE which were threatening to rip the party apart. Michael Lee comments: 'There would be some (15) _____ JUSTIFY in calling an election pretty soon. In fact, I wouldn't be at all surprised if it happens within the next day or two.'