

# 5 Under control

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## ▶ Reading

### Vocabulary: *People with power*

#### 1 Which jobs are these people talking about?

1 He's the political leader of the country, but he's not Head of State – that's the Queen.

2 My cousin is in court every day. He makes decisions about whether to send people to prison or not. I wouldn't like his job!

3 My dad works in a government department and deals with people's taxes! He says it's pretty boring but it pays quite well.

4 My friend's mum works for a big charity and she represents them and speaks on their behalf to other organisations or at fund raising events.

5 Our neighbour Jack Grant was elected by people in our local area to become part of the government and go to Parliament. He's helped make some good decisions.

6 I work for local government and it's my job to check that people aren't breaking the law – in particular parking their cars in the wrong place!

7 My uncle used to be the most important person on our town council. He was elected by the people three years running. I love the pictures of him wearing this enormous chain round his neck!

Now describe the work done by the following:

8 A bureaucrat: .....

9 A councillor: .....

10 Leader of the opposition: .....

### Vocabulary: *Minor offences and punishments*

#### 2 Complete the email with the correct words. The first letters have been given.

Hi Brian,

You know we moved to Sanderstone Street last year? Well, I think we'll be moving again soon! There's always so much rubbish in the road and on the pavements. I don't know why people can't throw their cans and crisp packets in the bins. There's a sign up too – saying that anyone found (1) I ..... will be (2) i ..... with a (3) f ..... OK, it's not a (4) h ..... one – but you'd still think it would make a difference, but it doesn't. Dad is also getting really angry about parking outside our house. Other people will park in places specially (5) d ..... for home owners and it's a nightmare to try and find a space anywhere near your house now. Dad's (6) l ..... several (7) f ..... complaints about this one neighbour who is always parking in our spot, but there's no real action the authorities can take and all it's done is make Dad unpopular! To top it all, another one of our neighbours was recently in (8) c ..... where he was being (9) p ..... for stealing cars and vandalising them! I think most of the people I've met in this street have a (10) c ..... record of one sort or another! So I don't think we'll be here for long! If you want to come for a visit – I'd say come within the next month because after that we'll be gone!

Best,  
Eva

#### \* 3 Complete the sentences in your own words to give an example of the words in *italics*.

- I was *accosted* by a street vendor yesterday.  
He .....
- I've *done my good deed* for the day.  
I .....
- Henry was *in a temper* this morning and he .....
- Jack hasn't got a *good track record* when it comes to passing exams, has he? Last year he .....
- I think our new boss is a bit *high-handed*. As soon as he arrived he .....
- I saw a lot of *waterfowl* down by the lake today. They were .....

#### 4 Complete the sentences with the correct alternatives.

- 1 If Benny wants to watch a horror film this evening that's just/fair enough. It's his turn to choose.
- 2 After that terrible meal we had at the restaurant I vowed/complained never to go back and I haven't.
- 3 Rose and Sue are both such strong characters that neither will back along/down if they have an argument.
- 4 I tried to get your parking fine refused/revoked, but I had no luck I'm afraid.

### Reading

- 5 Read the title of a newspaper article. What do you think the article may be about? Read the article quickly to check whether you were right.

## From petty crime to small business in one smart move



### JUSTICE WILLIAMS SAYS

her life has changed beyond recognition. Ten years ago, she was 17 and on the cusp of a life in and out of the criminal justice system. She went on to set up her own social enterprise focused on disadvantaged youngsters in Birmingham who are caught up in gang culture or at risk of going to prison.

'I really believe people deserve a second chance,' she says. 'What matters is that young people have the right kind of help. It's all about what you do with the kids before they offend or if they are at risk of reoffending. (1) ..... Young people, wherever they come from, are innovative and they are enterprising, but need to know they can be successful.'

Williams is managing director of Inner City Creative Media Group (ICCMG), a social enterprise she founded in 2006, training young people

between 17 and 26 in media and business skills. (2) .....

She has been able to do it, she says, because of her own experience. Williams, who came from 'a very good background, a nice middle-class family in a nice area', found herself at 17 falling in with 'a bad crowd' and living for the first time in the inner city – 'seeing first-hand what deprivation was'. She says that even though she had once been a model pupil, she began to feel 'totally disengaged from society' and drifted into petty crime.

(3) ..... It was a visit from her siblings, she says, that convinced her 'to rethink what I was doing. I knew then that this wasn't the path I wanted to go down.'

Williams's 'big chance' came when she got involved with a youth group based in Lozells, Birmingham, an area that became notorious in 2005

- 6 Read the article again and choose which sentences (a–g) can fill the gaps (1–6). There is one sentence you do not need to use.

- a After a difficult early start looking for funding, she feels she has established a space 'where youngsters feel safe and valued'.
- b She did a business and communications diploma and used it as a springboard to her current venture.
- c There, Williams says, her business and administration skills, as well as her connection with young people, blossomed.
- d She spiralled downwards, dropping out of school and eventually serving a 28-day custodial sentence.
- e However, some of the kids we worked with were in big trouble.
- f It's about helping them to find a way to live their lives and feel legitimate.
- g Some had never even been out of Birmingham

- 7 Match the underlined words and phrases with these definitions.

- 1 financial investment in a project .....
- 2 experiencing personally .....
- 3 not serious .....
- 4 continued inescapably in one direction .....
- 5 time in prison .....
- 6 brothers and sisters .....
- 7 famous for something negative .....
- 8 grew and developed well .....
- 9 rebellious, discontented .....
- 10 a way of getting somewhere quickly .....
- 11 a business project .....

- \* 8 What do you think about the article? Can you answer Williams's question stated at the end of the article?

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when riots thrust it into the media spotlight. Marc Edwards, director of Young Disciples, which works with young people who are particularly hard to reach, gave her a chance to work. (4) ..... 'I realised I was quite entrepreneurial while I was at Young Disciples,' she says. 'I wanted to put it to good use.'

It was during her two-and-a-half years as a youth worker that she began to understand how she could make a difference to the troubled youngsters she saw every day. 'Some of these kids had real problems. Watching Marc, I learned that by having almost taken the wrong route myself, I could say to these kids: "Look, it doesn't have to be

this way." They seemed to like what I had to say and what we did. We took them to places they had never seen before. (5) .....

Williams says she was deeply affected by the Lozells riots and decided then that, as a young person herself, she might have even more to offer the disaffected youngsters around her. (6) .....

If it works as she plans, Williams intends to steer another generation of children away from the prison system. 'It costs £50,000 to send a child to a good school and £50,000 to send one to prison,' she says. 'Why are we so reluctant to spend that kind of money keeping them out of jail in the first place?'

## Cleft sentences; Other ways of adding emphasis

**1** Rewrite each sentence in three different ways to create emphasis.

1 I'm worried about the intrusion into our private lives.  
What .....  
It's .....  
The thing .....

2 I'm interested in how the government plans to implement this policy.  
What .....  
It's .....  
The thing .....

3 I'm concerned about the amount of litter that people throw in the park.  
What .....  
It's .....  
The thing .....

**2** Write the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

1 I'm phoning you to report the theft of my car.

**REASON**

2 The school governors are annoyed by the recent articles written about the school.

**WHAT**

3 The increase in petty crime in the area has surprised the police.

**THAT**

4 I don't agree with the plans to put speed cameras on the road into town.

**IT'S**

5 The police refused to take action because they had no evidence.

**WHY**

6 I'm trying to say that we need more police in the town centre.

**POINT**

7 I warned my local MP that the new policy would annoy many people. It's true!

**WARN**

8 It takes a long time to get a law passed and that's a fact.

**THE**

9 I can't tell you how much I enjoy the politics programme.

**DO**

## Vague language

**3** Complete the dialogue with the words in the box. You may need to use some words more than once.

exactly guess know like sort/kind  
mean more might things wonder

**A:** Hi! Have you told your dad about the speeding fine yet?

**B:** Well, I (1) ..... of started to tell him last night but ...

**A:** But?

**B:** Well I could tell he was (2) ..... of tired.

I (3) ..... – it's not as if it's a huge fine, is it?

**A:** Well, it's not (4) ..... small either. You've got to ask him to lend you the money.

**B:** I (5) ..... if maybe you (6) ..... .

**A:** No. I'm broke. Your dad won't mind lending it to you, will he?

**B:** No, it's (7) ..... like he gets pretty angry about (8) ..... like that.

**A:** Like what?

**B:** You (9) ..... , breaking the law. It's (10) ..... – he makes you feel you've (11) ..... of let him down.

**A:** I (12) ..... he's got high standards. But I'm sure he'll, you (13) ..... , not get too cross. I (14) ..... I bet he did some fast driving when he was a teenager.

**B:** Yeah. But I bet he never got caught speeding three times in one week!

## Grammar extension

**\*4** Find and correct any mistakes in the sentences.

1 The thing what I enjoy doing most on Sunday mornings is reading the sports pages of the newspaper. ....

2 I did sent the email – I'm positive. ....

3 It's the lack of interest in politics today what bothers me. ....

4 The reason for I'm contacting you is to ask for a donation to our charity. ....

5 What I do hate is when people insist that they're right when they've been proved wrong! ....

6 What does confuses me is that the councillor gave me an assurance on this matter only yesterday. ....

**\*5** Complete the sentences in your own words.

1 What bothers me .....

2 The thing that interested me .....

3 The reason why .....

4 It was the ..... that .....

5 The problem is .....

6 I did get angry about .....

## Prepositional phrases

### 1 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

- Leonard was elected as mayor mainly ..... *account* ..... the successful policies he introduced as a councillor.
- The police are unable to prosecute the man ..... *the strength* ..... one person's statement.
- We are organising a summer festival ..... *aid* ..... the victims of famine in East Africa.
- We are ..... *the process* ..... counting the votes cast in yesterday's election.
- ..... *a result* ..... numerous complaints, the product has been withdrawn from our shops.
- ..... *behalf* ..... the committee the chairman thanked all those who had helped organise the charity event.
- It's easy for some politicians to be ..... *of touch* ..... what those in the poorer section of society need.
- The government is hoping to raise more money for investment ..... *means* ..... increased taxation.
- The Prime Minister is making a speech later on today ..... *response* ..... claims that members of his party have failed to pay enough tax in the last year.
- ..... *addition* ..... reducing the number of subjects offered at university, the government will also be raising the fees for students from next September, in an attempt to save money.

### 2 Use the prepositional phrases from 1 to complete the text.

“I am not only speaking for myself but also (1) ..... everyone involved in a very successful campaign when I say thank you for electing me as your local mayor. Obviously we – that is the council – are still (2) ..... developing our policies for the coming year but I can tell you that (3) ..... calls for more police presence in certain areas of the city, we have already put in motion plans to implement this as soon as possible. (4) ..... increased numbers of police, we shall also be investing in more CCTV cameras in the city centre. (5) ..... this, we hope people will feel safer when using the city centre on Friday and Saturday evenings. In our opinion, past councils have been (6) ..... how the public feels about many issues and we are planning to rectify this (7) ..... a series of surveys. (8) ..... the survey results we shall hope to develop our plans for the future of this city in ways that reflect the concerns of its citizens. I would like to lose by saying that we have something very good to look forward to at the end of August. Our local schools will be joining forces to organise a series of entertainment events (9) ..... the *Save the Children* charity. The final concert will be held in the town hall – please book your tickets early (10) ..... limited seating availability. Once again, thank you all for voting and I look forward to meeting many of you at the gala event in the town hall.”



## Vocabulary extension: additional prepositional phrases

### 3 Put the prepositional phrases in the correct columns according to the first preposition, as in the examples. Some may fit in more than one column.

a view to    the direction of    exchange for  
fear of    line for    need of    odds with  
place of    risk of    the purpose of

with	in	at	for
<i>with reference to</i>	<i>in danger of</i>	<i>at the sight of</i>	<i>for the attention of</i>

### 4 Complete the sentences with the correct phrases.

- Many people around the world are living ..... intolerant political regimes.
- I could never become a doctor because I feel sick ..... blood.
- ..... your letter dated 12 May, I should like to thank you for your help in this matter.
- The committee is interviewing Jarvis today ..... giving him a promotion.
- This report is ..... the manager. Please make sure it reaches him today.
- Do you think that Tom Davies is ..... the position of mayor when Jackson steps down?
- His voice is definitely ..... his appearance! He looks quite hard but his voice is so gentle.
- The judge gave the burglar a reduced sentence ..... information leading to some other arrests.



## Roleplays 1

**\*1** Read the conversation and correct the mistakes.

- A:** Hi Chrissie, **(1)** *I'm hoping I'm not interrupting.* .....
- B:** Not at all. **(2)** *What's the problem?* .....
- A:** **(3)** *I was just wanting to ask you something.* .....
- B:** **(4)** *That's fine, get ahead.* .....
- A:** **(5)** *I'm thinking to buy a newspaper from your country every week to help me improve my language.* .....
- B:** **(6)** *That's a great idea.* .....
- A:** **(7)** *I was wondering could you recommend one.* .....

**2** Which of these phrases could you use to replace 1–7 in 1?

- a Are you busy at the moment? .....
- b There was something I wanted to run past you. ....
- c I'm planning to ... ..
- d Are you worried about something? .....
- e Is there something I can help you with? .....
- f Can I pick your brains? .....
- g That sounds good .....
- h What's bothering you? .....
- i No problem. What's up? .....
- j Good thinking. ....
- k If you've got a spare moment, could you ...? .....

**3** Complete the phrases in the columns with the correct words in the box. You may use one word more than once.

about better don't ideal mean might reckon saying should thought were with would

Asking for advice	Giving advice	Responding to advice/ Asking for clarification
Do you think I ..... If you ..... me, would you ...? What do you ..... I should ...? What .....?	If I were you, I ..... Have you ..... about ...? Why ..... you ...? You ..... want to ... You ought to/had ..... ..	That's a good idea. That sounds sensible/helpful/..... But what about ...? The only problem ..... that is ... Don't you think it ..... be better to ...? Do you .....? Are you ..... that ...?

**4** Use phrases from 3 to complete the dialogue.

- A:** OK. let's see. There's a good daily paper called *The Echo*.  
**(1)** ..... try that and see how much you understand?
- B:** Right. **(2)** ..... read it all the way through?
- A:** **(3)** ....., I'd find the sections that interest me and read those. I know you like sport, so look at those pages first.
- B:** **(4)** ..... **(5)** ..... the headlines and news stories?
- A:** **(6)** ..... avoid those until your language is better. Or **(7)** ..... getting a magazine? That might be easier. There are lots of interviews in those – with celebrities and sports stars.
- B:** **(8)** ..... **(9)** ..... is finding where to buy them in my country.
- A:** Good point. I could send you some of my old ones or **(10)** ..... download some from websites.
- B:** Brilliant – and that won't cost me anything. Which websites **(11)** ..... go on?
- A:** I'll email you a few names. Good luck!

**\*5** Read the exam task and make notes about the advice you would give.

*A British friend wants to visit a tourist destination in Poland and needs your advice. Discuss the following issues:*

- which place to go and why .....
- accommodation .....
- safety in the area .....
- what to take with you .....

**\*6** Write the dialogue using your notes.

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**Vocabulary: Formal register**

- 1 Read this newspaper article and use the words and phrases a-j to replace those in brackets to make it more formal.

**Cuts and more cuts!**

To reduce their budget this year, our local council has just announced certain (1) ..... (things that will happen) in the next few months. One will be to discontinue street lighting in a number of areas. According to the council (2) ..... (most of the) people in our town do not make use of the street lighting as they are usually at home and in bed. They say it is a waste of money and electricity and that to cut this would be (3) a ..... (large) saving for the council. (4) ..... (As well as this), they have announced that they will be cutting the physical presence of the police in the town. This means fewer policemen on the streets. The council (5) ..... (thinks) that this will not affect the crime rate because the police will still be on call (6) ..... (if) problems arise. Another cutback will be in the timing of rubbish bin collections. (7) ..... (At the moment this happens) weekly but it is (8) ..... (very) expensive and (9) ..... (more and more) of councils throughout the country have changed to fortnightly collections. Apparently, we shall soon see this here in our town. These are (10) ..... (just) a couple of the changes the council are planning but according to our sources there are many more in the pipeline. Watch this space!

- a in addition to this
- b merely
- c significant
- d measures that will come into force
- e this currently happens
- f a growing number
- g should
- h the vast majority of
- i extremely
- j believes

**A letter of complaint**

- 2 Complete the sentences with the correct words. Some letters have been given. Then add your own ideas.

- 1 I am writing to **p** ..... about .....
- 2 I am writing on **b** ..... of .....
- 3 I would like to **d** ..... your attention to .....
- 4 My second complaint **c** ..... .....
- 5 To make **m** ..... worse .....
- 6 I **w** ..... ask you to .....
- 7 **M** ..... I suggest you .....
- 8 Yours **f** .....

- 3 Read the letter of complaint and check if your points from 2 were included.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the residents' association in Belmore Heights to protest about your proposed cuts to our local services as outlined in the article in the Belmore Chronicle, October 15th.

Firstly, concerning the street lighting, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that by no means do all the residents spend their evenings at home or in bed! The vast majority of us have active social lives which often entail us driving or walking through the streets at night time. The street lighting is essential for us to feel confident and safe.

My second complaint concerns the proposed cuts to the number of police on the streets in Belmore. This is, quite simply, a ridiculous idea. I thought it was the aim of the council to reduce street crime, not encourage it.

Your plan for fortnightly rubbish collection is equally derisory. While it may be the practice elsewhere in the country, we in Belmore are proud of the cleanliness of our streets. We certainly do not wish to see bags and bins of rubbish littering the pavements. There have been reports from other towns which have had to change to this system of the sickening smells of decaying food outside people's homes. To make matters worse, the increased bags of rubbish attract rats and this is becoming a definite health concern.

As you can imagine, I have received numerous letters and emails from local residents expressing their concerns and I would ask you to reconsider your proposals. Might I suggest that, should cuts need to be made, they could be made in the amount spent on council administration and more specifically on the salaries of council members?

Yours faithfully,

*Maggie Ashdown*

Maggie Ashdown

- 4 Read the letter again and find the following:

- 1 a more formal equivalent of
  - a mean .....
  - b very important .....
  - c silly .....
  - d although .....
  - e what happens .....
  - f want .....
  - g stating .....
  - h think again about .....

- 2 examples of the passive form: .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

5 Read the article in a school magazine and match the notes A–F to the correct points (1–6) in the article.

## Save our school!

It has come to our attention that due to the economic climate and the cutbacks that the government is being forced to make, several schools in the area will be closed from September. (1) ..... To our dismay, one of those schools will be Newtown Secondary. According to the education authorities, Newtown is in the firing line for several reasons. Firstly, student numbers have been decreasing recently. (2) ..... Secondly, the school buildings have been allowed to deteriorate (3) ..... and the cost of repairs and modernisation to bring it in line with other schools in the area would be too costly. Thirdly, the authorities maintain that recent inspections have shown that standards at Newtown have dropped in recent years. (4) ..... As a result, it has been decided that Newtown must close and current students will be allocated new schools to attend. (5) ..... We need the support of every student in the school to stop this happening. Please write to the council and tell them why this would be a very bad decision. (6) .....

- A** lower numbers good now – before was overcrowded
- B** changing schools very bad – for education/increased travelling, etc
- C** standards excellent – look at exam results
- D** know things are bad/that cutbacks have to be made
- E** Newtown Secondary – wonderful school because eg teachers/sports/spirit
- F** in bad condition because authorities refused to give money to help



- \*7 Write your letter to the councillor using your notes. Check that you have used formal language wherever possible and that you have not used contractions.

- \*6 Plan your letter to a local councillor. Group your points into paragraphs and add your own ideas.

Paragraph 1: Introduction: .....

Paragraph 2: Main points: .....

Paragraph 3: Additional points: .....

Paragraph 4: Conclusion: .....