

Phrasal Verbs and Their One-Word Alternatives

Practice Exercise 1: Choose the Best Formal Alternative

Replace the phrasal verb in bold with the most suitable one-word alternative.

1. The government intends to look into the causes of the accident.
2. The organisers have called off tomorrow's event.
3. The report leaves out several important facts.
4. The research team carried out a series of experiments.
5. The committee put forward a new proposal.
6. The conference has been put off until November.
7. Children make up approximately 30 per cent of the population.
8. Several technical problems came up during the trial.
9. The new policy brought about substantial improvements.
10. The document sets out the conditions of the agreement.

Practice Exercise 2: Choose the Most Natural Expression

1. Choose the more appropriate expression for the context.
2. The police have promised to look into / catch up with the allegations.
3. Please fill in / blow up this form using capital letters.
4. The researchers conducted / turned up an extensive study.
5. We had to put up with / put forward considerable disruption.
6. The agreement fell through / got across at the last minute.
7. The organisation was established / interrupted in 1987.
8. The report outlines / catches up with the main recommendations.
9. The company must reduce / arise unnecessary expenditure.
10. The evidence supports / fills in the original claim.
11. The meeting was postponed / constituted until the following week.

Practice Exercise 3: Rewrite the Sentences

Rewrite each sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given.

1. The council decided to continue with the original proposal.

AHEAD

The council decided to _____ the original proposal.

2. The investigators are examining the cause of the fire.

LOOKING

The investigators are _____ the cause of the fire.

3. The report did not include several important statistics.

LEFT

The report _____ several important statistics.

4. The company created a new training programme last year.

SET

The company _____ a new training programme last year.

5. The match was cancelled because of the weather.

CALLED

The match _____ because of the weather.

6. Local residents should not have to tolerate this level of noise.

PUT

Local residents should not have to _____ this level of noise.

7. The new regulations caused several unexpected difficulties.

BROUGHT

The new regulations _____ several unexpected difficulties.

8. The committee proposed three possible solutions.

FORWARD

The committee _____ three possible solutions.

Answer Key

Exercise 1: 1. investigate, 2. cancelled, 3. omits, 4. conducted, 5. proposed, 6. postponed, 7. constitute, 8. arose, 9. caused, 10. outlines

Exercise 2: 1. look into, 2. fill in, 3. conducted, 4. put up with, 5. fell through, 6. established, 7. outlines, 8. reduce, 9. supports, 10. postponed

Exercise 3: 1. go ahead with, 2. looking into, 3. left out, 4. set up, 5. was called off, 6. put up with, 7. brought about, 8. put forward