

## Phrasal Verbs about Politics

**LOOK!**

Phrasal verbs often include another preposition if they take an object.



**LOOK!**

Be aware that many of these phrasal verbs also have other meanings.

### Phrasal Verb Mix and Match

Connect each of the phrasal verbs below with the correct definition.

1) act for	a) to publicly demand some kind of action
2) aim at/to	b) to try and keep something secret
3) back down	c) to represent in a special capacity
4) break away (from)	d) to have as an objective
5) bring in	e) to abolish or eliminate
6) call for	f) for a group of people to leave some kind of organisation or country
7) come in for	g) to introduce legislation or laws
8) cover up	h) to move away from a confrontation or argument
9) crack down (on)	i) to establish
10) cut back (on)	j) to receive (disapproval or approval)
11) do away with	k) to take severe measures
12) look into	l) to incite negative emotions with an article or speech
13) play down	m) to reduce
14) push for	n) to investigate or research
15) set up	o) to persuade or influence positively
16) stand/step down	p) to actively campaign for something
17) stir up	q) to resign
18) win over	r) to claim something is less serious than it is believed to be

**LET'S PLAY BINGO!**



# Phrasal Verbs about Politics



act for aim at/to back down break away (from) bring in call for come in for cover up crack down (on)  
cut back (on) do away with look into play down push for set up stand/step down stir up win over

Insert the phrasal verbs that fit best into the gaps in the sentences below.

You will need to conjugate them appropriately.

- 1) Once the news of the scandal broke to the world's media, the minister \_\_\_\_\_ and his post was taken by somebody less controversial.
- 2) The government has \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of criticism for its handling of the crisis.
- 3) The UK \_\_\_\_\_ the death penalty in the 1960s.
- 4) The Prime Minister has decided to \_\_\_\_\_ a parliamentary committee to investigate complaints about press standards.
- 5) He failed to \_\_\_\_\_ the voters in his town and lost the election by a wide margin.
- 6) The opposition have promised to \_\_\_\_\_ new laws to combat against corruption if they win the next general election.
- 7) The opposition have promised to \_\_\_\_\_ on corruption if they win the next general election.
- 8) The Prime Minister has decided to establish a parliamentary committee to \_\_\_\_\_ complaints about press standards.
- 9) The government has been accused of trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the extent of the epidemic after saying it was confined to only two small areas in one region in the north of the country.
- 10) A new environmental pressure group has staged two benefit concerts, led a boycott of three supermarket chains and lobbied local politicians in an effort to \_\_\_\_\_ the abolition of plastic packaging in supermarkets.
- 11) A new environmental pressure group has \_\_\_\_\_ the abolition of plastic packaging in supermarkets.
- 12) The opposition has accused the government of trying to \_\_\_\_\_ a serious accident at the new nuclear power station in Wales. The government has insisted that it will allow a complete and open investigation once the area has been deemed safe.
- 13) Ireland officially \_\_\_\_\_ from the United Kingdom in 1922.
- 14) The Prince of Wales will \_\_\_\_\_ the Queen at official functions and ceremonies while she is away on a tour of Australia and New Zealand this week.
- 15) The main opposition party has vowed to \_\_\_\_\_ on public spending if it wins the next election.
- 16) The committee \_\_\_\_\_ improve public transport with a series of cost-efficient measures that should transform maintenance and infrastructure practices.
- 17) The board of directors and the union were on the verge of escalating the crisis, with both sides refusing to \_\_\_\_\_, when a compromise was reached at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.
- 18) The news populist leader has been accused of trying to \_\_\_\_\_ racial hatred by his controversial use of language and negative comments about immigrants.





# The Rise and Fall of Richard Ryder

Walton Advertiser 2020 by Dale Bates

Insert the phrasal verbs that fit best into the gaps in the story below.

You will need to conjugate the verbs appropriately.



act for aim at/to back down break away (from) bring in call for come in for cover up crack down (on) cut back (on) do away with look into play down push for set up stand/step down stir up win over

This month marks the 5th anniversary of the death of controversial local politician, Richard Ryder, the man that tried to persuade the inhabitants of West Walton to \_\_\_\_\_ from Norfolk and join the county of Cambridgeshire. And while there may be some who will \_\_\_\_\_ the events celebrating his life in the village to be cancelled, local authorities are expecting record numbers to turn up this weekend.

Before getting involved in politics, Richard Ryder was a defence lawyer and often \_\_\_\_\_ clients who were rumoured to be linked to organised crime. His work with prominent organised crime figures was frequently commented on by his political enemies but he would try and \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ by claiming that he was just doing his job. However, his connections to these people continued to haunt his political career. At one point, his professional record was \_\_\_\_\_ by a parliamentary group that was investigating organised crime and its links to the establishment. However, despite \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of criticism due to his friendship with several well-known criminals, nothing could ever be found to cause him any concern.

Ryder first got interested in politics when he joined a campaign group that was \_\_\_\_\_ restrictions on fishing rights in local rivers. This group claimed that over-fishing was becoming a problem in the area and that if something was not done, the fish stocks in the local rivers would suffer irreparable damage. Ryder, a keen fisherman, claimed that the problem was due to people coming from other areas to fish in the rivers next to West Walton and said that the answer was to \_\_\_\_\_ a new law to limit fishing rights only to local people. The county council did not agree although it did \_\_\_\_\_ a special unit to police the local rivers and check on peoples' fishing licences. Ryder claimed that this is all he wanted all along and many saw this as a victory for the group.

By now, Richard Ryder had developed a taste for politics and he found that he liked it. He ran for office as an independent candidate the following year and won by a thin margin. The focus of his argument was to \_\_\_\_\_ an unpopular bylaw relating to sheep farming. A law that was introduced in 1245 stated that the main road into West Walton was to be closed every Sunday from 7am until 7pm to allow local sheep farmers to safely drive their sheep to grazing grounds on the banks of the River Nene. The bylaw had not been used for centuries until the election of a councillor who happened to own a sheep farm. He acted to enforce the ancient bylaw which therefore saved him a lot of money in transport but was very unpopular with the locals as it meant that most people had to drive around the village to get to town in Wisbech to do their Sunday shopping. Ryder used another old bylaw to get the roads open again on Sundays and the councillor, after many protests, finally \_\_\_\_\_ and agreed to abolish the sheep drive rule.

Richard Ryder then turned his attention to corruption and told the local voters that he \_\_\_\_\_ make West Walton the cleanest borough in North Norfolk. With the support of the government, he initiated a strict police investigation to \_\_\_\_\_ on the very liberal business practices in the area. Several business leaders were sent to prison as a result and the head of a local food chain was forced to \_\_\_\_\_ from his job. Consequently, Ryder started to accrue enemies and it was only a matter of time before his political career was brought to an end.

When Ryder backed the government's decision to \_\_\_\_\_ on farming subsidies to the area in an effort to reduce public spending, his political rivals managed to capitalise on this and he found that the local population were starting to tire of him. He then started to attack North Norfolk County Council who he claimed were using public money from the farming subsidies to build social housing. It seemed that he was right when it was revealed that the council had tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the details of its social housing policy from public scrutiny. This led to Ryder demanding a boundary change for the area which would have led to West Walton becoming a county of Cambridgeshire if he had succeeded.

At the next election, Richard Ryder used a lot of anti-Norfolk rhetoric to try and \_\_\_\_\_ local resentment against North Norfolk. Unfortunately for Ryder, this backfired and he failed to \_\_\_\_\_ the electorate. He was defeated in the election and his political career lay in ruins. Well, for the time being anyway. The rest, as many of you already know, is history.



# Public Holiday Debate



You are attending a Parish Council meeting to debate the merits of allowing a public holiday to celebrate the life of local politician, Richard Ryder. Read the letter below and then read your personality card. Debate the question that is being discussed according to your personality card with the other attendees.



## Parish of West Walton



To: Residents of West Walton

From: The Parish Office

Date: 09/01/20

Re: Richard Ryder Day

---

Dear People of West Walton,

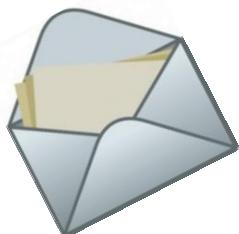
As you all know from our previous meetings, plans have been submitted to allow a public holiday on October 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the life of our late MP, Richard Ryder. A delegation from the County Council will be coming to a meeting this Friday to hear our proposal and also to hear the opinions of local residents.

As such, all of you are welcome to attend this meeting and express your views on this matter to the councillors. At the end of the meeting, there will be a free vote from all residents and parish council members on whether or not this is something that the local community will benefit from. If the vote is in favour of the holiday, then the councillors will decide whether or not to grant us this time off. This would, of course, include the closure of schools and businesses on the day in question.

I look forward to seeing you all there on Friday.

Warmest regards

Rev. R. Read



## Public Holiday Debate: Personality Cards

You are a member of the parish council and also a member of Make Britain Great, a pressure group that believes in preserving the traditions of the UK and in making it economically, politically and militarily powerful. You think that too many holidays make people lazy.

You are a member of the parish council and also the cousin of Richard Ryder. You are very proud of your cousin and think that he deserves this honour. You would be very happy to pay towards the celebrations in some way.

You are a member of the parish council and also a factory owner. You think there are enough public holidays already and you are obligated to pay for these days off. You would be happy for the workers to have the time off if the local authority pays their wages.

You are a member of the parish council and also a restaurant owner. You have noticed that more people come to your restaurant on holidays. You have also just finished building an extension to your restaurant. This could be very profitable for you.

You are a member of the parish council and also the cousin of a businessman that was imprisoned because of one of Richard Ryder's campaigns. This led to a serious decline in his health and he is now a very sick man. You think Richard Ryder was cruel and heartless.

You are a member of the parish council and also a retired school teacher. You used to teach Richard Ryder and found him to be a pleasant boy. The school was very proud of Smith and you think a public holiday would be great for the children's sense of identity.

You are a member of the parish council and also a former neighbour of Richard Ryder. To your mind he was the worst neighbour anybody could ever have. He was always complaining and causing trouble for you. You think West Walton would be better off forgetting about him.

You are a member of the parish council and also a childhood friend of Richard Ryder. You grew up together and you supported him when he became a politician. You are immensely proud of Richard Ryder.

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE PERSONALITY CARDS ABOVE AND THEN USE THIS AS YOUR MOTIVATION DURING THE ROLE-PLAY.**

# Phrasal Verbs about Politics

act for aim at/to back down break away (from) bring in call for come in for cover up crack down (on)  
cut back (on) do away with look into play down push for set up stand/step down stir up win over



Insert the phrasal verbs that fit best into the gaps in the story below.  
You will need to conjugate the verbs appropriately.



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.

**IN PAIRS CREATE A GAP-FILL EXERCISE FOR THE 18 PHRASAL  
VERBS IN THE BOX AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE.**

## Phrasal Verbs: Bingo Game

Cut out and place the definition slips in a cup or envelope. Cut out the bingo cards and give to the students. Take a definition slip from the cup one at a time and read the definition. Students tick off the corresponding phrasal verbs. Once a student has crossed out 5 words on a card they shout "bingo" and the round starts again with fresh cards. Repeat the process 3 times.

### Definition Slips

act for = to represent in a special capacity	aim at/to = to have as an objective	back down = to move away from a confrontation or argument	break away = for a group of people to leave some kind of organisation or country	bring in = to introduce legislation or laws
call for = to publicly demand some kind of action	come in for = to receive (disapproval or approval)	cover up = to try and keep something secret	crack down = to take severe measures	cut back = to reduce
do away with = to abolish or eliminate	look into = to investigate or research	play down = to claim something is less serious than it is believed to be	push for = to actively campaign for something	set up = to establish
stand/step down = to resign	stir up = to incite negative emotions with an article or speech	win over = to persuade or influence positively		

### Bingo Cards

act for		stir up
	aim at/to	
back down		call for
aim at/to		call for
	bring in	
break away		cover up
bring in		aim at/to
	break away	
come in for		call for
break away		stand down
	call for	
stir up		back down
cover up		cut back
	push for	
come in for		do away with
stand down		break away
	cut back	
look into		stand down
come in for		back down
	crack down	
cover up		push for
cut back		win over
	play down	
push for		set up
act for		stir up
	aim at/to	
back down		call for
aim at/to		call for
	bring in	
break away		cover up
bring in		aim at/to
	break away	
come in for		call for
break away		stand down
	call for	
stir up		back down
cover up		cut back
	push for	
come in for		do away with
stand down		break away
	cut back	
look into		stand down
come in for		back down
	crack down	
cover up		push for
cut back		win over
	play down	
push for		set up

### Bingo Cards

play down		crack down
	stir up	
bring in		look into
call for		look into
	win over	
stand down		bring in
come in for		play down
	look into	
aim at/to		crack down
cut back		back down
	come in for	
look into		do away with
crack down		do away with
	set up	
win over		cover up
push for		come in for
	do away with	
cover up		crack down
call for		stir up
	cover up	
cut back		do away with
act for		stand down
	win over	
play down		call for
play down		crack down
	stir up	
bring in		look into
call for		look into
	win over	
stand down		bring in
come in for		play down
	look into	
aim at/to		crack down
cut back		back down
	come in for	
look into		do away with
crack down		do away with
	set up	
win over		cover up
push for		come in for
	do away with	
cover up		crack down
call for		stir up
	cover up	
cut back		do away with
act for		stand down
	win over	
play down		call for

## Answers

# Phrasal Verb Mix and Match

Connect each of the phrasal verbs below with the correct definition.

1) act for	a) to publicly demand some kind of action
2) aim at/to	b) to try and keep something secret
3) back down	c) to represent in a special capacity
4) break away (from)	d) to have as an objective
5) bring in	e) to abolish or eliminate
6) call for	f) for a group of people to leave some kind of organisation or country
7) come in for	g) to introduce legislation or laws
8) cover up	h) to move away from a confrontation or argument
9) crack down (on)	i) to establish
10) cut back (on)	j) to receive (disapproval or approval)
11) do away with	k) to take severe measures
12) look into	l) to incite negative emotions with an article or speech
13) play down	m) to reduce
14) push for	n) to investigate or research
15) set up	o) to persuade or influence positively
16) stand/step down	p) to actively campaign for something
17) stir up	q) to resign
18) win over	r) to claim something is less serious than it is believed to be

### Answers

- 1) = c)
- 2) = d)
- 3) = h)
- 4) = f)
- 5) = g)
- 6) = a)
- 7) = j)
- 8) = b)
- 9) = k)
- 10) = m)
- 11) = e)
- 12) = n)
- 13) = r)
- 14) = p)
- 15) = i)
- 16) = q)
- 17) = l)
- 18) = o)

## Answers

- 1) Once the news of the scandal broke to the world's media, the minister **stood/stepped down** and his post was taken by somebody less controversial.
- 2) The government has **come in for** a lot of criticism for its handling of the crisis.
- 3) The UK **did away with** the death penalty in the 1960s.
- 4) The Prime Minister has decided to **set up** a parliamentary committee to investigate complaints about press standards.
- 5) He failed to **win over** the voters in his town and lost the election by a wide margin.
- 6) The opposition have promised to **bring in** new laws to combat against corruption if they win the next general election.
- 7) The opposition have promised to **crack down** on corruption if they win the next general election.
- 8) The Prime Minister has decided to establish a parliamentary committee to **look into** complaints about press standards.
- 9) The government has been accused of trying to **play down** the extent of the epidemic after saying it was confined to only two small areas in one region in the north of the country.
- 10) A new environmental pressure group has staged two benefit concerts, led a boycott of three supermarket chains and lobbied local politicians in an effort to **push for** the abolition of plastic packaging in supermarkets.
- 11) A new environmental pressure group has **called for** the abolition of plastic packaging in supermarkets.
- 12) The opposition has accused the government of trying to **cover up** a serious accident at the new nuclear power station in Wales. The government has insisted that it will allow a complete and open investigation once the area has been deemed safe.
- 13) Ireland officially **broke away** from the United Kingdom in 1922.
- 14) The Prince of Wales will **act for** the Queen at official functions and ceremonies while she is away on a tour of Australia and New Zealand this week.
- 15) The main opposition party has vowed to **cut back** on public spending if it wins the next election.
- 16) The committee **aims to** improve public transport with a series of cost-efficient measures that should transform maintenance and infrastructure practices.
- 17) The board of directors and the union were on the verge of escalating the crisis, with both sides refusing to **back down**, when a compromise was reached at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.
- 18) The news populist leader has been accused of trying to **stir up** racial hatred by his controversial use of language and negative comments about immigrants.

## Answers

This month marks the 5th anniversary of the death of controversial local politician, Richard Ryder, the man that tried to persuade the inhabitants of West Walton to **break away** from Norfolk and join the county of Cambridgeshire. And while there may be some who will **call for** the events celebrating his life in the village to be cancelled, local authorities are expecting record numbers to turn up this weekend.

Before getting involved in politics, Richard Ryder was a defence lawyer and often **acted for** clients who were rumoured to be linked to organised crime. His work with prominent organised crime figures was frequently commented on by his political enemies but he would try and **play it down** by claiming that he was just doing his job. However, his connections to these people continued to haunt his political career. At one point, his professional record was **looked into** by a parliamentary group that was investigating organised crime and its links to the establishment. However, despite **coming in for** a lot of criticism due to his friendship with several well-known criminals, nothing could ever be found to cause him any concern.

Ryder first got interested in politics when he joined a campaign group that was **pushing for** restrictions on fishing rights in local rivers. This group claimed that over-fishing was becoming a problem in the area and that if something was not done, the fish stocks in the local rivers would suffer irreparable damage. Ryder, a keen fisherman, claimed that the problem was due to people coming from other areas to fish in the rivers next to West Walton and said that the answer was to **bring in** a new law to limit fishing rights only to local people.. The county council did not agree although it did **set up** a special unit to police the local rivers and check on peoples' fishing licences. Ryder claimed that this is all he wanted all along and many saw this as a victory for the group.

By now, Richard Ryder had developed a taste for politics and he found that he liked it. He ran for office as an independent candidate the following year and won by a thin margin. The focus of his argument was to **do away with** an unpopular bylaw relating to sheep farming. A law that was introduced in 1245 stated that the main road into West Walton was to be closed every Sunday from 7am until 7pm to allow local sheep farmers to safely drive their sheep to grazing grounds on the banks of the River Nene. The bylaw had not been used for centuries until the election of a councillor who happened to own a sheep farm. He acted to enforce the ancient bylaw which therefore saved him a lot of money in transport but was very unpopular with the locals as it meant that most people had to drive around the village to get to town in Wisbech to do their Sunday shopping. Ryder used another old bylaw to get the roads open again on Sundays and the councillor, after many protests, finally **backed down** and agreed to abolish the sheep drive rule.

Richard Ryder then turned his attention to corruption and told the local voters that he **aimed to** make West Walton the cleanest borough in North Norfolk. With the support of the government, he initiated a strict police investigation to **crack down** on the very liberal business practices in the area. Several business leaders were sent to prison as a result and the head of a local food chain was forced to **stand down** from his job. Consequently, Ryder started to accrue enemies and it was only a matter of time before his political career was brought to an end.

When Ryder backed the government's decision to **cut back** on farming subsidies to the area in an effort to reduce public spending, his political rivals managed to capitalise on this and he found that the local population were starting to tire of him. He then started to attack North Norfolk County Council who he claimed were using public money from the farming subsidies to build social housing. It seemed that he was right when it was revealed that the council had tried to **cover up** the details of its social housing policy from public scrutiny. This led to Ryder demanding a boundary change for the area which would have led to West Walton becoming a county of Cambridgeshire if he had succeeded.

At the next election, Richard Ryder used a lot of anti-Norfolk rhetoric to try and **stir up** local resentment against North Norfolk. Unfortunately for Ryder, this backfired and he failed to **win over** the electorate. He was defeated in the election and his political career lay in ruins. Well, for the time being anyway. The rest, as many of you already know, is history.

## Bingo Cards

set up		back down
	<b>do away with</b>	
<b>cut back</b>		bring in

win over		set up
	<b>bring in</b>	
<b>play down</b>		stir up

play down		back down
	<b>call for</b>	
<b>do away with</b>		come in for

act for		crack down
	<b>come in for</b>	
<b>win over</b>		<b>do away with</b>

cut back		<b>do away with</b>
	<b>stir up</b>	
<b>win over</b>		<b>cover up</b>

act for		come in for
	<b>aim at/to</b>	
<b>cover up</b>		<b>crack down</b>

call for		stir up
	<b>act for</b>	
<b>set up</b>		<b>aim at/to</b>

act for		aim at/to
	<b>come in for</b>	
<b>win over</b>		<b>call for</b>

## Part 4

For these questions complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given.

**Do not change the word given.** You must use between **TWO** and **FIVE** words, **INCLUDING** the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 His doctor advised him to stop smoking.

**UP**

His doctor told him \_\_\_\_\_ cigarettes.

The gap can be filled with the words "to give/pack up," so you write:

Example:

**0**

**TO GIVE/PACK UP**

Write **only** the missing words **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

1 The council changed its policy on parking due to the negative comments it received from the public.

**COMING**

After \_\_\_\_\_ lot of public criticism, the council changed its parking policy.

2 The local MP promised there would be a thorough investigation to find the cause of the accident.

**INTO**

The accident would \_\_\_\_\_ thoroughly by the authorities, according to the local politician.

3 A lot of people are demanding a public inquiry into the accident.

**CALLING**

Many people \_\_\_\_\_ inquiry into the accident.

4 The government tried to keep the results secret but the story was revealed in the press.

**UP**

Despite trying to \_\_\_\_\_, the story came out in the end, anyway.

5 The establishment of an effective workgroup to tackle the problem is very important.

**UP**

It is important to \_\_\_\_\_ workgroup to deal with the issue.

6 The Home Office intends to take severe action against illegal digital media downloads.

**DOWN**

The authorities are going \_\_\_\_\_ illegal downloads of films and music.

# Answers

**1** The council changed its policy on parking due to the negative comments it received from the public.  
**COMING**

After **COMING IN FOR A** lot of public criticism, the council changed its parking policy.

**2** The local MP promised there would be a thorough investigation to find the cause of the accident.  
**INTO**

The accident would **BE LOOKED INTO** thoroughly by the authorities, according to the local politician.

**3** A lot of people are demanding a public inquiry into the accident.

**CALLING**

Many people **ARE CALLING FOR A PUBLIC** inquiry into the accident.

**4** The government tried to keep the results secret but the story was revealed in the press.

**UP**

Despite trying to **COVER UP THE RESULTS**, the story came out in the end, anyway.

**5** The establishment of an effective workgroup to tackle the problem is very important.

**UP**

It is important to **SET UP AN EFFECTIVE** workgroup to deal with the issue.

**6** The Home Office intends to take severe action against illegal digital media downloads.

**DOWN**

The authorities are going **TO CRACK DOWN ON** illegal downloads of films and music.