

# V. Travail sur la richesse lexicale

## A. Some adjectives to avoid "good", "bad", "big", "interesting"

### Rappel

#### Bad

- ◆ Opponents believe that the increase in university tuition fees is a **bad** measure because it could put an end to social diversity. → **unfair (an unfair measure)**
- ◆ Cap-and-trade is regarded as a **bad** system in that it has failed to solve the emission problem. → **ineffective (an ineffective system)**
- ◆ The Kyoto Protocol was a **bad** treaty as there was no penalty for those who failed to respect the targets. → **flawed**
- ◆ Many Republicans are convinced that eco-friendly measures are **bad for** the economy. → **detrimental to**
- ◆ Putting criminals behind bars is increasingly considered a **bad** solution as it does not address the root of the problem. → **inappropriate**
- ◆ Environmentalists are convinced that congestion is mainly due to **bad** urban planning. → **ill-designed/inadequate**
- ◆ Shale gas could turn out to have **bad** consequences on human health. → **harmful**
- ◆ Some primary schools are in **bad** condition not least in inner cities. → **poor**

#### Good

- ◆ Most analysts agree that bailing out the car industry was **good** for the economy. → **beneficial to**
- ◆ Whether shale gas is a **good** alternative to coal remains to be seen. → **suitable**
- ◆ The Chancellor's assessment of the situation was fairly **good**. → **accurate**



- ◆ The NHS will ensure that the new guidelines are implemented in a **good** way.  
→ **effective (an effective way)**
- ◆ The CEO has agreed that staff needed to be given **good** training to be more efficient.  
→ **adequate**
- ◆ A **good** business plan is the key to the long-term success of any company.  
→ **well-thought-out**
- ◆ The EU has agreed to review some of its regulations, which was a **good** decision.  
→ **wise**

## Big

- ◆ Most climate experts forecast that climate change could have **big** consequences for some countries. → **far-reaching**
- ◆ There is no denying that under Obama healthcare has undergone **big** change.  
→ **significant**
- ◆ **Big** amounts of money have been pumped into urban revival. → **huge**
- ◆ The private sector has a **big** influence on the mainstream media. → **widespread**
- ◆ The devolution of Scotland was a **big** issue during the 1997 campaign. → **major**

## Interesting

- ◆ The IPCC's latest report on climate change is **interesting**. → **thought-provoking**.
- ◆ Rudi Giuliani's broken windows approach was quite **interesting** because he was one of the first mayors to implement it. → **ground-breaking**
- ◆ It is **interesting** to mention that an increasing number of gun owners in the US are women. → **noteworthy**
- ◆ Microsoft has taken an **interesting** approach to tackle the shortage of computer science graduates in the US. → **unusual**

## Exercise 1

Replace the adjectives in bold with one of the above.

1. Appointees will be given **good** training before they start work.
2. The subprime crisis had **big** consequences on the global economy.



3. Stiglitz's latest book was really **interesting**.
4. Many Labour MPs stressed that this measure was **bad** for national cohesion.
5. Apple has always been praised for its **good** marketing strategy.
6. Providing shelters to homeless people is a **bad** solution in the long term.
7. Many experts highlight that hybrid cars are **good** for the environment.
8. Students decided to stage **big** demonstrations across the country.
9. Authorities have failed to provide a **good** response to the NHS deficit.
10. The implementation of CCTV provides an **interesting** example of state surveillance.

## B. Some specific verbs to remember

### Rappel

- ◆ After the increase in university tuition fees, Canadian students **staged** huge demonstrations.
- ◆ The newly-appointed CEO **delivered** a comprehensive speech to reassure shareholders.
- ◆ The Met Office has **issued** a severe weather warning.
- ◆ Hopefully both countries will **abide by** the UN ceasefire.
- ◆ Some studies have shown that prevention has little influence on teenagers who **break** the law.
- ◆ New cars have to **comply with** environmental standards.
- ◆ The coalition government is determined to **enforce** these new laws.
- ◆ In the run-up to the presidential election, President Obama had promised to **implement** a French-style healthcare system.
- ◆ In the wake of the economic crisis, the EU has **enacted** a series of banking reforms.
- ◆ Some Western countries are considering **introducing** legislation on same-sex marriage.
- ◆ The State of Massachusetts has decided to **hold** a referendum about assisted suicide.



- ◆ The traders involved in the money-laundering scandal have decided to **hold** a press conference.
- ◆ Syria has decided to retaliate. The President himself **broke** the news.
- ◆ The EPA is expected to **release** a report about the impact of shale gas extraction on drinking water.
- ◆ The Home Secretary is determined to **curb** juvenile crime in the UK.
- ◆ The Welfare State was originally designed to **narrow** the gap between the rich and the underprivileged.
- ◆ Japanese officials and environmentalists have failed to **strike** a deal to curb whale hunt.
- ◆ Some companies are making it easier for women to **strike** a balance between working life and family life.
- ◆ Clint Eastwood's declaration during the Super Bowl **sparked** a huge controversy.
- ◆ The coalition government's decision to streamline the NHS has **drawn** a lot of criticism.
- ◆ One of the main criticisms **levelled** against President Obama is his aloofness.
- ◆ For some teenagers it is increasingly difficult to **draw** the line between real and virtual life.
- ◆ The Chancellor's attention was **drawn** to the plight of asylum seekers.
- ◆ Many left-wing analysts were quick to **draw** the parallel between David Cameron and Margaret Thatcher.
- ◆ There is no consensus about what conclusions to **draw** about London's 2012 summer riots.
- ◆ PepsiCo has **devised** a new strategy to regain market shares.
- ◆ Mitt Romney has promised that he would **repeal** what he calls "Obamacare" as soon as he was elected.
- ◆ The so-called "climategate" scandal has **sown** the seeds of doubt about the reality of climate change.
- ◆ Making a promise **entails** the risk of not being able to fulfill it.
- ◆ The real challenge for politicians is to **bridge** the gap between their political agenda and the people's expectations.



## Exercise 2

Complete the following sentences with the missing verbs.

1. Students who fail to ..... with the rules will be suspended.
2. Same-sex marriage is ..... a huge debate in many Western countries.
3. Unemployment figures are expected to be ..... next week.
4. Google will ..... new changes in Gmail to improve security.
5. The French government banned vending machines in school in an effort to ..... childhood obesity.
6. When it comes to immigration, it is essential to ..... the line between legal and illegal aliens.
7. Sarah Palin was accused of ..... the seeds of hatred.
8. Engineers are ..... new strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
9. After Hurricane Sandy hit New York City, the President ..... a statement to reassure the population.
10. In Arizona, authorities have decided to ..... strict dress code for voters.
11. The USA and China ..... their differences at the Cancun climate talks.
12. The guide was right to ..... our attention to the need to protect the site.
13. It is unsure whether the newly elected President will ..... his predecessor's reform.
14. Chicago's teachers ..... a huge rally in order to put an end to the strike.
15. The coalition government's NHS reform would certainly ..... benefit cuts.



## C. Use phrasal verbs

- ◆ It is virtually impossible **to come up with** a solution to illegal immigration.
- ◆ The EU economy is struggling **to keep up with** emerging countries.
- ◆ Local residents have decided **to set up** an association against the third runway.
- ◆ The newly-elected President seems determined **to crack down on** tax evasion.
- ◆ So far, the UN has failed **to draw up** a lasting peace plan.
- ◆ Greenwashing is an excellent way for companies **to brush up** their image.
- ◆ After the riots, local residents spontaneously **set about** cleaning the city.
- ◆ Women now **account for** more than half of the world population living with HIV.
- ◆ The Police are still trying **to figure out** what happened.
- ◆ Representatives are expected **to stand up for** their constituents' rights.
- ◆ The First Lady made it clear that the President **stands for** solidarity.
- ◆ Libertarians argue that because of CCTV, the UK **is turning into** a surveillance state.
- ◆ Many city-dwellers can no longer **put up with** the constant noise pollution.
- ◆ Their unprecedented profit can be **put down to** their record exports.
- ◆ This new reform should **bring about** an improvement in air quality.
- ◆ Uranium demand is expected **to pick up** as emerging markets demand more and more energy.
- ◆ Studies show that people who **have dropped out of** school are more likely **to end up** being unemployed.
- ◆ In his leading article, the journalist **looks into** the reasons **accounting for** this worrying trend.
- ◆ Doomsayers may not like it, but thanks to shale gas, the US is not about **to run out of** energy.
- ◆ Most Western governments do not really know how **to go about** reducing the deficit.



### Exercise 3

Replace the verbs in bold with a phrasal verb.

1. Thanks to the Internet, you can **follow** all the latest developments.
2. The USA is increasingly **becoming** a polarized country.
3. People living near Heathrow can no longer **bear** the constant noise.
4. The governor of Arizona accused the federal government of failing to **find** a lasting solution to illegal immigration.
5. Financial analysts do not expect the economy to **get better** before the end of next year.
6. Student unions encouraged students to **defend** their rights.
7. In the US, shale gas should **represent** 35 % of energy production by 2035.
8. The fast food industry is determined to **improve** its bad image.
9. The Serious Fraud Office will **investigate** into what happened.
10. The Conservative contender promised that, once elected, he would **start** reforming the NHS.
11. The earlier you **stop** school, the more unlikely you are to find a good job.