action

1 Verb + action

Use the correct form of these verbs:

condone	*demand*	*explain*
put into	*swing into*	*take*

1. Shopkeepers in the town centre are ..... tougher action against the vandals who continue to damage their shops at night.
2. She will have to ..... her actions – and defend them before the disciplinary committee – if she is to get her job back.
3. We've had enough talk! We need to ..... these ideas .... action as soon as we can.
4. Air traffic controllers are threatening to ..... industrial action if their pay demands aren't met.
5. The emergency services are always on standby and ready to ..... action at a moment's notice.
6. There's no way that the college can ..... the actions of these students. Throwing eggs at the Queen is not an appropriate way to protest.

2 Common adjective collocations

Use the following adjectives in these sentences:

disciplinary	*drastic*
evasive	*joint*
prompt	*whatever*

1. If the manager hadn't acted so quickly, the whole factory would have been destroyed. It was his ..... action that prevented the fire from spreading.
2. The army has been given full powers to take ..... action is necessary to restore order to the streets of the capital.
3. The company cannot continue to lose money at this rate. The situation calls for ..... action.
4. ..... action will be taken against any member of staff who is found using the internet for personal matters.
5. Britain and the US agreed on ..... action to combat the threat of world-wide terrorism.
6. The pilot of a commercial jet had to take ..... action yesterday to avoid a mid-air collision with a small military plane.

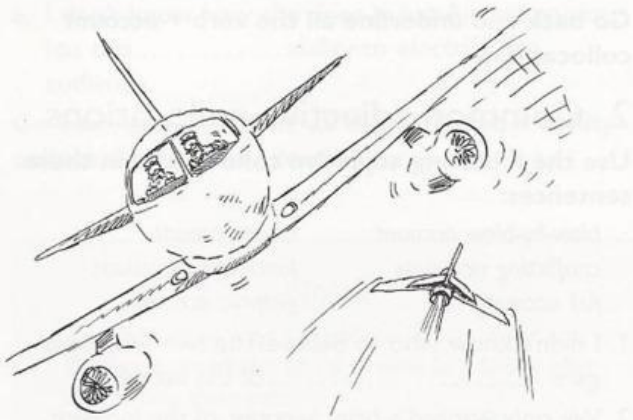
Go back and underline all the adjective + *action* collocations in this exercise.

3 Expressions with prepositions

Use these expressions with prepositions below:

plan of	*course of*	*need for*
implications of	*result of*	*responsible for*

1. We realise that the situation is critical and we fully appreciate the ..... immediate action.
2. When the settlers cut down all the trees, they failed to consider the wider ..... their actions, so the area became a desert.
3. People who are mentally ill cannot be held ..... their actions.
4. How are you going to deal with this situation? What's your ..... action?
5. The surgeon was to blame. My father's death was the direct ..... his actions.
6. They're planning to build a dam across the river. However, experts disagree whether this is the best ..... action to take.



"Taking evasive action!"

Notes

1. Note the following:
   They say he's a good player. I've never seen him in action.
   He is out of action due to an knee injury.
2. We talk about *taking industrial action* when we mean going on strike.
   We talk about *taking military action*.
3. Note the common expression:
   He's a typical politician – all talk and no action.
4. An *action group* is a group of people who get together with a common aim to do something positive, eg to help homeless people.

LIVEWORKSHEETS