59 Protest movements

Extinction **Rebellion protest** blocks the Strand

During the *Extinction Rebellion** **demonstrations** in April, the police arrested over 1,000 people and charged 53 **in connection with** the climate change protests across five UK cities. In response to these arrests, the group **staged** another demonstration yesterday outside the Royal Courts of Justice. They **occupied** much of the Strand, and by **erecting barriers** and sitting in the road, they effectively blocked the **entire** area for almost eight hours. No arrests were made and the police have recognised their right to protest. Nevertheless, the Chief Constable has made it clear that the police do have a duty to **uphold** the rule of law, and cannot **tolerate** significant **disruption** to communities across the capital.



Meanwhile, the group has **called on activists** to participate in a summer of 'creative acts of civil **disobedience**', which they hope will force government into taking action.

Extinction Rebellion* is a political **movement with a **mission** to **avert** climate catastrophe and **minimise** the risk of ecological collapse, and with it the extinction of **human beings** altogether. They aim to do this through non-violent **resistance**.

GLOSSARY

rebellion [U, C]	opposition to authority by an organized group
protest [U, C]	the expression of strong disagreement with or opposition to sth. A person is a **protester**. **protest** *v*
demonstration	a public meeting or march at which people show they are protesting against sth or supporting sth. A person is a **demonstrator**. **demonstrate** *v*
in connection with sth/sb	for reasons connected with sth/sb
stage	organize and take part in action that needs careful planning
erect	put sth in position and make it stand *upright* (= in a vertical position)
barrier	an object like a fence that stops people moving forward
entire	including everything, everyone or every part
uphold	support sth that you think is right and make sure it continues to exist
tolerate	allow sb to do sth that you do not agree with SYN **put up with sth**
disruption	a situation in which it is difficult for sth to continue in the normal way
call on sb to do sth	ask or demand that sb do sth
activist	a person who works to achieve political or social change
disobedience	refusal or failure to obey
movement	a group of people who share the same ideas or aims
mission	particular work that you feel it is your duty to do
avert	prevent sth bad or dangerous from happening
minimize	reduce sth, especially sth bad, to the lowest possible level
being	a living creature: ***a human being***
resistance [U, *sing*]	opposition to or dislike of an idea, plan, etc; refusal to obey

SPOTLIGHT *occupy*

Occupy has several meanings:

1 enter a place in a large group and take control of it (as above)
2 fill or use a space, an area or an amount of time: *The bed **occupies** half the room.*
3 live or work in a room, building, etc: *We **occupy** the 12th floor of the building.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Underline the stress on these words. Use the APP to help you.

rebellion	minimise	protester	uphold	demonstrators	avert
erect	occupy	demonstration	meanwhile	protest *n*	disobedience

2 Circle the words which suggest public protest.

demonstration	mission	disruption	rebellion	
uphold	disobedience	tolerate	resistance	occupy

3 True or false? Write *T* or *F*. If false, explain why.

1 If you erect something, you make it stand upright. .....
2 If someone upholds the law, they are trying to break it. .....
3 If you avert an accident, you see it. .....
4 If you tolerate something, you stop it happening. .....
5 A building which is occupied is empty. .....
6 A barrier is put somewhere to prevent someone from going somewhere. .....
7 If you minimize something, you reduce it slightly. .....
8 A rebellion is a person who is demonstrating against something. .....

4 Replace the underlined word(s) with a word or phrase that keeps the same meaning.

1 The protesters pulled down the <u>metal fences</u> that the police had put across the road. .....
2 There was even greater <u>refusal to obey</u> today at the march. .....
3 The <u>people who are working to get political change</u> are meeting in the square. .....
4 The demonstration caused considerable <u>problems and interruptions</u>. .....
5 There could be a lot of <u>opposition</u> to this plan. .....
6 A new <u>political group</u> has formed around concerns about hate crimes. .....
7 The government has <u>asked</u> people to cooperate with them at this time of crisis. .....
8 We're <u>organizing</u> a march through the city to protest about cuts to public spending. .....
9 The <u>whole</u> village is opposed to the council plan for more new homes. .....
10 The local community won't <u>put up with</u> any more disruption. .....

5 One word is missing in each sentence. What is it, and where does it go?

1 We weren't treated like human at the demonstration – more like animals. It was disgusting. .....
2 The organizers of the march have called activists to avoid any forms of violence. .....
3 Although the demonstration will cause problems, the police are keen to the disruption. .....
4 Reporters want to interview the protesters in with the events of last night. .....
5 The offices have been by an employment agency for over forty years. .....
6 They were careful to any potential danger to the neighbourhood. .....
7 We joined a group of who were carrying banners protesting about climate change. .....
8 The airline has attempted to avert during the pilots' strike. .....
9 We should no longer up with our politicians continually ignoring global warming. .....
10 It was the protesters who the barriers in order to keep themselves safe. .....

6 Complete the texts.

Economic instability in the country has led to the emergence of a new protest **(1)** ..... called 'Fight to Survive'. Their **(2)** ..... is to bring about political change through civil **(3)** ..... : acts such as marching, sitting in the road or strikes. At the same time, they wish to **(4)** ..... any disruption to the general public, and they are aware that actions such as **(5)** ..... government buildings are rarely **(6)** ..... by the authorities.

A group of **(7)** ..... have been protesting in front of Parliament about animal rights. The **(8)** ..... started at 8.00 a.m. in Hyde Park, and led to a march towards Parliament Square with **(9)** ..... carrying signs saying 'Meat is Murder' and 'Think with your heart, not your stomach'. They are **(10)** ..... on Members of Parliament to pass laws ensuring that animals have equal rights with human **(11)** ..... , and they are planning to **(12)** ..... further demonstrations in the coming weeks.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS