

5A GRAMMAR distancing

a Rewrite the sentences with *It* + clause.

- 1 The government appears to be planning to raise taxes.
It appears that the government is planning to raise taxes.
- 2 Men seem to be more at risk from this disease than women.

- 3 She appears to have changed her mind since I last spoke to her.

- 4 You seem to be unable to deal with this problem effectively.

- 5 The weather seems to be about to improve.

- 6 The robbers appear to have been wearing face masks.

b Rewrite the sentences beginning with the **bold** phrases.

- 1 It is thought that **the finance minister** is about to resign from his post.
The finance minister is thought to be about to resign from his post.
- 2 It is expected that **a spokesman** will make an announcement later today.

- 3 It is believed that **more than half of the population** suffers from headaches.

- 4 It is said that **St. Petersburg** is one of the most majestic cities in the world.

- 5 It is thought that **at least 70 people** have been injured as a result of the explosion.

- 6 It is expected that **the economy** will grow over the next six months.

ACTIVATION

c You are a TV news anchor. Use the following pieces of gossip to prepare an official news report about a famous actress, Blanche Devoy. Be careful to distance yourself from the people's claims using a range of structures from **a** and **b** above.

Actress Blanche Devoy was said to be close to a nervous breakdown last night.
It has been suggested that...

She's close to a nervous breakdown because the paparazzi follow her everywhere.

Her husband Jeff left her last week, and she was seen at a party last night with another man.

Jeff's going to file for divorce and Blanche won't have anything left after she's paid the lawyers.

Blanche doesn't have any real friends, only people who want to be famous like her.

The box office earnings for her new movie were very low and her career is in ruins.

5B GRAMMAR unreal uses of past tenses

a Circle the correct answer, **a**, **b**, or **c**.

- 1 That boyfriend of yours is useless. Isn't it time _____ a new one?
a you found
b you find
c you had found
- 2 If only our neighbors _____ a dog, life would be much more peaceful.
a wouldn't have
b don't have
c didn't have
- 3 What a lovely view! I wish _____ my camera.
a I brought
b I'd brought
c I've brought
- 4 I'm too tired to go out tonight. I'd rather _____ at home.
a we would stay
b we'd stayed
c we stayed
- 5 If only _____ Mike the car, we'd be able to drive there.
a you hadn't lent
b you lent
c you didn't lend
- 6 Come on, children! It's time _____ to bed.
a you go
b you had gone
c you went
- 7 I'd rather _____ your shoes off at the door, if you don't mind.
a you took
b you take
c you had taken
- 8 I'd love to be able to sing in a choir. If only _____ a better voice!
a I'd have
b I had
c I have
- 9 As soon as I said it, I wished _____.
a I wouldn't
b I hadn't
c I didn't
- 10 Diane thinks it's about time her daughter _____ married.
a had got
b gets
c got
- 11 Those children look freezing. I bet they wish _____ indoors.
a they were
b they had been
c they would be
- 12 Since you're busy, _____ we postponed the meeting?
a had you rather
b would you rather
c do you rather
- 13 I'd wear these jeans more often if _____ so tight.
a they were
b they weren't
c they wouldn't be
- 14 If only those people in the front row _____ talking. I can't hear the movie!
a would stop
b stopped
c will stop
- 15 I've just gotten a text from Ann. She'd rather _____ at 6:30 because she's running late.
a we had met
b we were meeting
c we met

ACTIVATION

b Look at the context and complete each of the sentences in a logical way.

- 1 It's about time _____. (parent to teenager)
- 2 I wish you _____. (wife to husband)
- 3 I'd rather you _____. (boss to employee)
- 4 If only our teacher _____. (student to student)
- 5 If you hadn't _____. (doctor to patient)