

Power and social issues: topic vocabulary & phrasal verbs

1. Read the definitions and match them with a suitable word from the list. Use an online dictionary if necessary.

- _____ : to completely remove or get rid of something
- _____ : the power or right to control, command, or make decisions
- _____ : higher in quality, importance, or status
- _____ : to gain control over a place or situation, often by force or great effort
- _____ : to make someone feel frightened or less confident
- _____ : a situation involving strong disagreement or public debate
- _____ : having the right to do or have something without having to work for it or deserve it
- _____ : having held a particular role or position in the past
- _____ : permission or agreement for something to happen
- _____ : lower in quality, importance, or status

2. Now, use these words to complete the sentences below.

entitled	eliminate	former	consent	intimidate	controversy	authority	inferior	conquer	superior
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- The decision to reduce working hours has caused considerable _____ among both employees and management.
- He comes across as _____, expecting special treatment at work despite having little experience or proving his abilities.
- The company is trying to _____ unnecessary costs in order to remain competitive in an increasingly challenging market.
- Although the product is cheaper, it is clearly _____ in quality and does not last as long as more expensive alternatives.
- This updated version of the software is considered _____ to the previous one because it is faster and more reliable.
- After months of practice, she finally managed to _____ her fear of speaking in front of an audience.
- Some senior employees tend to _____ new staff members, being overly critical and unwilling to offer support or guidance.
- The department manager has the _____ to make final decisions, especially when urgent action is required.
- Before collecting any personal data, the organisation must obtain clear _____ from its users.
- The _____ director returned to the company after gaining valuable experience abroad.

3. Read the text and fill in the empty gaps with the word forms from the box.

heritage	reluctant	vulnerable	advocate	mainstream	remains	mastered	prejudice	restricting	prohibits
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Balancing Tradition and Change in Modern Society

In today's world, many ideas that were once considered unusual have become ¹_____. As societies evolve, people are expected to adapt quickly and develop new skills that allow them to succeed in changing environments. Some individuals have already ²_____ the ability to balance tradition with innovation, while others are still adjusting.

However, not everyone feels comfortable with these changes. Some communities are ³_____ to accept new ideas, especially when they believe their cultural identity may be at risk. In certain cases, rules and regulations may even seem to be ⁴_____ personal freedom rather than protecting it.

At the same time, it is important to recognise that some groups remain ⁵_____ and require support. Governments often introduce legislation that ⁶_____ discrimination and ensures equal opportunities for all citizens. Activists and community leaders continue to ⁷_____ for fairness and inclusion, encouraging people to challenge outdated attitudes.

Preserving cultural ⁸_____ is also an important part of this discussion. While progress is necessary, it should not come at the cost of losing valuable traditions. Unfortunately, ⁹_____ still exists in many societies, making it harder for different groups to fully integrate and feel accepted.

Finding the right balance between respecting heritage and embracing change ¹⁰_____ one of the key challenges of modern life.

4. Choose a suitable phrasal verb from the list to complete the sentences.

- Despite a close race, the young candidate _____ and became one of the youngest members of the city council.
- A larger company is currently _____ the business. It may lead to significant changes for employees.
- The company quickly _____ at the blame, arguing that the accusations were unfair and misleading.
- As a new employee, she focused on _____ with her colleagues by observing their communication style and workplace habits.
- After hours of negotiation, both sides refused to _____, which delayed the final agreement.
- The criminal was _____ after the court found him guilty of multiple offences.
- She finally _____ her supervisor, refusing to accept unfair treatment for something that was clearly not her responsibility.
- After facing strong opposition from both the public and his own team, the manager eventually _____ and agreed to revise the policy.
- The teacher was criticised for _____ to students instead of encouraging open discussion and respect.
- He felt uncomfortable after being _____ in front of the whole team for a mistake that others had also made.