

Private Schools and a New Rule

A2 Reading, Listening, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
estimate	to guess a number or amount based on the information you have
announced	told people officially about something new
unfair	not right or not equal
inclusive	including everyone, especially people who are often left out
bring in	to introduce something new, like a rule or law
worried	feeling nervous about something bad that might happen
support	to agree with and help something or someone
think about	to consider something carefully
similar	almost the same as something else
come from	to have its origin in something

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A2 Worksheet

Part 2: Reading

This text uses the Simple Present, Present Continuous, and Simple Past. Read the text.

The US government is trying to change a rule about private schools. Some private schools use race to help certain students. This includes help with getting into the school, scholarships, and other school programs.

Last week, the Treasury Department and the IRS announced a new rule. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent talked about the plan. He said schools cannot hide unfair choices by using nice words like “diversity” or “inclusive.” The government wants to bring in one clear rule for every school.

Right now, many schools are thinking about this new rule. Some schools are worried because they think it will change their programs. Other people agree with the government and support the plan.

The idea comes from an old court case. In 2023, a court decided that colleges cannot choose students by race. Now the government wants to use a similar rule for schools and taxes.

If the rule becomes official, it could affect up to 18,000 schools. Some schools may need to change their programs soon.

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Part 3: True or False?

Read the sentence. Circle True or False, based on the text.

1. The US government wants to change a rule about private schools.

☐ A) True

☐ B) False

2. The new rule only affects public schools.

☐ A) True

☐ B) False

3. Scott Bessent is a school teacher.

☐ A) True

☐ B) False

4. Bessent says schools cannot hide unfair choices with nice words.

☐ A) True

☐ B) False

5. All schools are happy about the new rule.

☐ A) True

☐ B) False

6. The idea comes from an old court case from 2023.

☐ A) True

☐ B) False

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Part 4: Vocabulary Practice — Match the word to the meaning

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. estimate	___	A. told people officially about something new
2. announced	___	B. to guess a number or amount based on the information you have
3. unfair	___	C. to have its origin in something
4. inclusive	___	D. to introduce something new, like a rule or law
5. bring in	___	E. feeling nervous about something bad that might happen
6. worried	___	F. almost the same as something else
7. support	___	G. to agree with and help something or someone
8. think about	___	H. including everyone, especially people who are often left out
9. similar	___	I. not right or not equal
10. come from	___	J. to consider something carefully

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Part 5: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the word with the same meaning.

1. Which word means the same as "announced"?

☐ A) forgot

☐ B) asked

☐ C) told officially

2. Which word means the same as "unfair"?

☐ A) not right

☐ B) very quick

☐ C) very old

3. Which word means the same as "worried"?

☐ A) excited

☐ B) nervous

☐ C) bored

4. Which word means the same as "support"?

☐ A) ignore

☐ B) forget about

☐ C) agree with and help

5. Which word means the same as "similar"?

☐ A) almost the same

☐ B) different

☐ C) very far

Part 6: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

1. Which word means the opposite of "unfair"?

☐ A) difficult

☐ B) quiet

☐ C) fair

2. Which word means the opposite of "worried"?

☐ A) loud

☐ B) calm

☐ C) tall

3. Which word means the opposite of "support"?

☐ A) begin

☐ B) read

☐ C) oppose

4. Which word means the opposite of "similar"?

☐ A) similar

☐ B) different

☐ C) easy

5. Which word means the opposite of "inclusive"?

☐ A) exclusive

☐ B) friendly

☐ C) modern

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Part 7: Grammar — Which tense is used?

Read each sentence from the text. Circle the correct tense.

1. "The US government is trying to change a rule."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

2. "Some private schools use race to help certain students."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

3. "Last week, the Treasury Department and the IRS announced a new rule."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

4. "Right now, many schools are thinking about this new rule."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

5. "In 2023, a court decided that colleges cannot choose students by race."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

6. "The idea comes from an old court case."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

Part 8: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. The government ____ to change a rule.

☐ A) try

☐ B) is trying

☐ C) tried

2. Some schools ____ race to help students.

☐ A) use

☐ B) are using

☐ C) used

3. Last week, the IRS ____ a new rule.

☐ A) announce

☐ B) is announcing

☐ C) announced

4. Right now, many schools ____ about this new rule.

☐ A) think

☐ B) are thinking

☐ C) thought

5. In 2023, a court ____ that colleges cannot choose students by race.

☐ A) decide

☐ B) is deciding

☐ C) decided

6. The idea ____ from an old court case.

☐ A) come

☐ B) comes

☐ C) coming

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Part 9: Grammar — Change the tense

1. Change to Present Continuous: "The government tries to change a rule."

- ☐ A) The government tried to change a rule.
- ☐ B) The government tries to changing a rule.
- ☐ C) The government is trying to change a rule.

2. Change to Simple Past: "The IRS announces a new rule."

- ☐ A) The IRS announced a new rule.
- ☐ B) The IRS is announcing a new rule.
- ☐ C) The IRS announce a new rule.

3. Change to Simple Present: "Schools were thinking about the new rule."

- ☐ A) Schools are think about the new rule.
- ☐ B) Schools think about the new rule.
- ☐ C) Schools thought about the new rule.

4. Change to Present Continuous: "Some schools worry about the plan."

- ☐ A) Some schools worried about the plan.
- ☐ B) Some schools worries about the plan.
- ☐ C) Some schools are worrying about the plan.

5. Change to Simple Past: "A court decides that colleges cannot choose students by race."

- ☐ A) A court decide that colleges cannot choose students by race.
- ☐ B) A court decided that colleges cannot choose students by race.
- ☐ C) A court is deciding that colleges cannot choose students by race.

Part 10: Word Scramble

Put the words in the correct order. Write the full sentence.

1. is / The / US / government / trying / to / change / a / rule.

Your sentence: _____

2. talked / Scott / Bessent / about / the / plan.

Your sentence: _____

3. are / Many / schools / thinking / about / this / new / rule.

Your sentence: _____

4. decided / A / court / that / colleges / cannot / choose / students / by / race.

Your sentence: _____

5. could / The / rule / affect / up / to / 18,000 / schools.

Your sentence: _____

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A2 Worksheet

Part 11: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Maya and Tom talk about the new rule. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Maya: Did you hear about the new rule for private schools?

Tom: Yes! The government ____ (1) ____ to stop schools from using race to help students.

Maya: I read that the IRS ____ (2) ____ this last week.

Tom: Right. Some schools ____ (3) ____ about how it will affect them.

Maya: I know. Bessent says schools can't hide ____ (4) ____ choices with nice words.

Tom: True. The government wants to ____ (5) ____ one clear rule for every school.

Maya: Where does this idea ____ (6) ____?

Tom: It ____ (7) ____ from an old court case about college admissions.

Maya: Interesting. Do you think people will ____ (8) ____ the plan?

1. Blank 1

- ☐ A) tried
- ☐ B) tries
- ☐ C) is trying

2. Blank 2

- ☐ A) announced
- ☐ B) announces
- ☐ C) is announcing

3. Blank 3

- ☐ A) was worried
- ☐ B) are worried
- ☐ C) worry

4. Blank 4

- ☐ A) similar
- ☐ B) inclusive
- ☐ C) unfair

5. Blank 5

- ☐ A) bring in
- ☐ B) think about
- ☐ C) come from

6. Blank 6

- ☐ A) think about
- ☐ B) bring in
- ☐ C) come from

7. Blank 7

- ☐ A) come
- ☐ B) comes
- ☐ C) coming

8. Blank 8

- ☐ A) support
- ☐ B) worry
- ☐ C) estimate

Private Schools and a New Rule

Answer Key

Part 3: True or False?

1. The US government wants to change a rule about private schools.

☒ A) True ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) False

2. The new rule only affects public schools.

☐ A) True

☒ B) False ✓ CORRECT

3. Scott Bessent is a school teacher.

☐ A) True

☒ B) False ✓ CORRECT

4. Bessent says schools cannot hide unfair choices with nice words.

☒ A) True ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) False

5. All schools are happy about the new rule.

☐ A) True

☒ B) False ✓ CORRECT

6. The idea comes from an old court case from 2023.

☒ A) True ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) False

Private Schools and a New Rule

Answer Key

Part 4: Vocabulary Matching

1. estimate → B
2. announced → A
3. unfair → I
4. inclusive → H
5. bring in → D
6. worried → E
7. support → G
8. think about → J
9. similar → F
10. come from → C

Part 5: Synonyms

1. Which word means the same as "announced"?

☐ A) forgot

☐ B) asked

☒ C) told officially ✓ CORRECT

2. Which word means the same as "unfair"?

☒ A) not right ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) very quick

☐ C) very old

3. Which word means the same as "worried"?

☐ A) excited

☒ B) nervous ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) bored

4. Which word means the same as "support"?

☐ A) ignore

☐ B) forget about

☒ C) agree with and help ✓ CORRECT

5. Which word means the same as "similar"?

☒ A) almost the same ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) different

☐ C) very far

Private Schools and a New Rule

Answer Key

Part 6: Antonyms

1. Which word means the opposite of "unfair"?

☐ A) difficult

☐ B) quiet

☒ C) fair ✓ CORRECT

2. Which word means the opposite of "worried"?

☐ A) loud

☒ B) calm ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) tall

3. Which word means the opposite of "support"?

☐ A) begin

☐ B) read

☒ C) oppose ✓ CORRECT

4. Which word means the opposite of "similar"?

☐ A) similar

☒ B) different ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) easy

5. Which word means the opposite of "inclusive"?

☒ A) exclusive ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) friendly

☐ C) modern

Part 7: Which Tense is Used?

1. "The US government is trying to change a rule."

☐ A) Simple Present

☒ B) Present Continuous ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Simple Past

2. "Some private schools use race to help certain students."

☒ A) Simple Present ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

3. "Last week, the Treasury Department and the IRS announced a new rule."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☒ C) Simple Past ✓ CORRECT

4. "Right now, many schools are thinking about this new rule."

☐ A) Simple Present

☒ B) Present Continuous ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Simple Past

5. "In 2023, a court decided that colleges cannot choose students by race."

☐ A) Simple Present

☐ B) Present Continuous

☒ C) Simple Past ✓ CORRECT

6. "The idea comes from an old court case."

☒ A) Simple Present ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Present Continuous

☐ C) Simple Past

Private Schools and a New Rule

Answer Key

Part 8: Correct Verb Form

1. The government ____ to change a rule.

☐ A) try

☒ B) is trying ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) tried

2. Some schools ____ race to help students.

☒ A) use ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) are using

☐ C) used

3. Last week, the IRS ____ a new rule.

☐ A) announce

☐ B) is announcing

☒ C) announced ✓ CORRECT

4. Right now, many schools ____ about this new rule.

☐ A) think

☒ B) are thinking ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) thought

5. In 2023, a court ____ that colleges cannot choose students by race.

☐ A) decide

☐ B) is deciding

☒ C) decided ✓ CORRECT

6. The idea ____ from an old court case.

☐ A) come

☒ B) comes ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) coming

Private Schools and a New Rule

Answer Key

Part 9: Change the Tense

1. Change to Present Continuous: "The government tries to change a rule."

☐ A) The government tried to change a rule.

☐ B) The government tries to changing a rule.

☒ C) The government is trying to change a rule. ✓ CORRECT

2. Change to Simple Past: "The IRS announces a new rule."

☒ A) The IRS announced a new rule. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) The IRS is announcing a new rule.

☐ C) The IRS announce a new rule.

3. Change to Simple Present: "Schools were thinking about the new rule."

☐ A) Schools are think about the new rule.

☒ B) Schools think about the new rule. ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Schools thought about the new rule.

4. Change to Present Continuous: "Some schools worry about the plan."

☐ A) Some schools worried about the plan.

☐ B) Some schools worries about the plan.

☒ C) Some schools are worrying about the plan. ✓ CORRECT

5. Change to Simple Past: "A court decides that colleges cannot choose students by race."

☐ A) A court decide that colleges cannot choose students by race.

☒ B) A court decided that colleges cannot choose students by race. ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) A court is deciding that colleges cannot choose students by race.

Part 10: Word Scramble

1. is / The / US / government / trying / to / change / a / rule.

✓ The US government is trying to change a rule.

2. talked / Scott / Bessent / about / the / plan.

✓ Scott Bessent talked about the plan.

3. are / Many / schools / thinking / about / this / new / rule.

✓ Many schools are thinking about this new rule.

4. decided / A / court / that / colleges / cannot / choose / students / by / race.

✓ A court decided that colleges cannot choose students by race.

5. could / The / rule / affect / up / to / 18,000 / schools.

✓ The rule could affect up to 18,000 schools.

Private Schools and a New Rule

Answer Key

Part 11: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☐ A) tried

☐ B) tries

☒ C) is trying ✓ CORRECT

2. Blank 2

☒ A) announced ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) announces

☐ C) is announcing

3. Blank 3

☐ A) was worried

☒ B) are worried ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) worry

4. Blank 4

☐ A) similar

☐ B) inclusive

☒ C) unfair ✓ CORRECT

5. Blank 5

☒ A) bring in ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) think about

☐ C) come from

6. Blank 6

☐ A) think about

☐ B) bring in

☒ C) come from ✓ CORRECT

7. Blank 7

☐ A) come

☒ B) comes ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) coming

8. Blank 8

☒ A) support ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) worry

☐ C) estimate