

Private Schools and a New Rule

B1 Reading, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words & Phrasal Verbs

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
proposed	officially suggested a plan or idea
admissions	the process of accepting students into a school
shut down	to stop an operation or program completely
look into	to investigate or examine something carefully
rebrand	to give something a new name or image, often to make it seem different
draws on	to use information or ideas from a particular source
come into force	to become official and start being used, like a law
rule out	to decide that something is not possible or not allowed
back up	to support a claim or statement with evidence
funding	money provided for a particular purpose, especially by an organization or government

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B1 Worksheet

Part 2: Reading

This text uses the Present Perfect and modal verbs (could, might, must, should, may). Read the text.

The US government has proposed a new rule that could change private education. If schools use race in admissions or scholarships, they might lose their special tax status. Officials say schools must not hide unfair practices behind words like “diversity” or “inclusion.”

This plan has come from months of pressure on universities and colleges. Many schools have already shut down their diversity programs because they were worried about lawsuits or lost funding. Some experts have pointed out that schools should look into how the new rule could affect their programs before it takes effect.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said that schools cannot rebrand race-based choices as fair policies. He believes every school must follow the same standard. The plan draws on old court cases, including a well-known one from 2023 that ruled out race-based college admissions.

Religious schools may still choose students based on their faith, but they must not use race as a reason. If the rule comes into force, it could affect as many as 18,000 schools across the country.

Not everyone agrees with the plan. Some critics have called it an attack on efforts to help students from different backgrounds. Others support it and think it will bring in a fairer system for everyone. Legal experts have warned that the government must back up its position with strong evidence, or the rule could be challenged in court.

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Part 3: Vocabulary Practice — Match the word to the meaning

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. proposed	___	A. to give something a new name or image, often to make it seem different
2. admissions	___	B. to investigate or examine something carefully
3. shut down	___	C. to decide that something is not possible or not allowed
4. look into	___	D. to become official and start being used, like a law
5. rebrand	___	E. money provided for a particular purpose, especially by an organization or government
6. draws on	___	F. the process of accepting students into a school
7. come into force	___	G. to stop an operation or program completely
8. rule out	___	H. officially suggested a plan or idea
9. back up	___	I. to support a claim or statement with evidence
10. funding	___	J. to use information or ideas from a particular source

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Part 4: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the option with the same meaning.

1. Which option means the same as "proposed"?

- ☐ A) forgot
- ☐ B) suggested
- ☐ C) ignored

2. Which option means the same as "rebrand"?

- ☐ A) relabel
- ☐ B) obey
- ☐ C) attack

3. Which option means the same as "back up"?

- ☐ A) attack
- ☐ B) ignore
- ☐ C) support with evidence

4. Which option means the same as "rule out"?

- ☐ A) allow
- ☐ B) eliminate
- ☐ C) forget

5. Which option means the same as "draws on"?

- ☐ A) relies on
- ☐ B) avoids
- ☐ C) attacks

Part 5: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

1. Which word means the opposite of "shut down"?

☐ A) close

☐ B) open

☐ C) stop

2. Which word means the opposite of "rule out"?

☐ A) allow

☐ B) forget

☐ C) exclude

3. Which word means the opposite of "back up"?

☐ A) support

☐ B) undermine

☐ C) report

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

☐ A) suggested

☐ B) announced

☐ C) withdrew

5. Which word means the opposite of "look into"?

☐ A) investigate

☐ B) ignore

☐ C) study

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B1 Worksheet

Part 6: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. The government ____ a new rule.

- ☐ A) propose
- ☐ B) proposes
- ☐ C) has proposed

2. Schools ____ lose their tax status if they use race.

- ☐ A) might
- ☐ B) must
- ☐ C) should

3. Many schools ____ their diversity programs already.

- ☐ A) shuts down
- ☐ B) have shut down
- ☐ C) shut down

4. Experts ____ that schools should look into the new rule.

- ☐ A) points out
- ☐ B) point out
- ☐ C) have pointed out

5. Schools ____ hide unfair practices behind nice words.

- ☐ A) must not
- ☐ B) might
- ☐ C) could

6. The plan ____ on old court cases.

- ☐ A) draw
- ☐ B) draws
- ☐ C) has drawn

7. Religious schools ____ choose students based on faith.

☐ A) must not

☐ B) shouldn't

☐ C) may

8. The government ____ its position with strong evidence.

☐ A) must back up

☐ B) backs up

☐ C) back up

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B1 Worksheet

Part 7: Grammar — What does the modal verb express?

Read the sentence. Circle what the modal verb means here.

1. "Schools must not hide unfair practices."

- ☐ A) Advice
- ☐ B) Prohibition
- ☐ C) Possibility

2. "They might lose their tax status."

- ☐ A) Possibility
- ☐ B) Ability
- ☐ C) Advice

3. "Experts say schools should look into the new rule."

- ☐ A) Prohibition
- ☐ B) Ability
- ☐ C) Advice

4. "Religious schools may still choose students based on faith."

- ☐ A) Ability
- ☐ B) Permission / Possibility
- ☐ C) Prohibition

5. "The government must back up its position with evidence."

- ☐ A) Obligation
- ☐ B) Possibility
- ☐ C) Ability

Part 8: Word Scramble

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

1. has / The / government / proposed / a / new / rule.

Your sentence: _____

2. have / Many / schools / already / shut / down / their / diversity / programs.

Your sentence: _____

3. should / Schools / look / into / how / the / new / rule / could / affect / their / programs.

Your sentence: _____

4. draws / The / plan / on / old / court / cases.

Your sentence: _____

5. have / Legal / experts / warned / that / the / government / must / back / up / its / position.

Your sentence: _____

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B1 Worksheet

Part 9: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Priya and Sam talk about the new rule. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Priya: Have you heard about the new rule for private schools?

Sam: Yes, the government ____ (1) ____ it this week.

Priya: I read that some schools ____ (2) ____ their diversity programs already.

Sam: Really? I think schools ____ (3) ____ look into how this will affect them.

Priya: Bessent says schools ____ (4) ____ hide unfair choices behind nice words.

Sam: The plan ____ (5) ____ on an old court case from 2023.

Priya: Do you think religious schools ____ (6) ____ still choose students by faith?

Sam: I think so, but they ____ (7) ____ use race as a reason.

Priya: Legal experts say the government ____ (8) ____ its claims with strong evidence.

1. Blank 1

☐ A) has proposed

☐ B) proposed

☐ C) is proposing

2. Blank 2

☐ A) shut down

☐ B) have shut down

☐ C) are shutting down

3. Blank 3

☐ A) must not

☐ B) could

☐ C) should

4. Blank 4

- ☐ A) might
- ☐ B) must not
- ☐ C) should

5. Blank 5

- ☐ A) draws
- ☐ B) has drawn
- ☐ C) draw

6. Blank 6

- ☐ A) must
- ☐ B) may
- ☐ C) should

7. Blank 7

- ☐ A) must not
- ☐ B) might
- ☐ C) could

8. Blank 8

- ☐ A) backs up
- ☐ B) back up
- ☐ C) must back up

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Answer Key

Part 3: Vocabulary Matching

1. proposed → H
2. admissions → F
3. shut down → G
4. look into → B
5. rebrand → A
6. draws on → J
7. come into force → D
8. rule out → C
9. back up → I
10. funding → E

Part 4: Synonyms

1. Which option means the same as "proposed"?

☐ A) forgot

☒ B) suggested ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) ignored

2. Which option means the same as "rebrand"?

☒ A) relabel ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) obey

☐ C) attack

3. Which option means the same as "back up"?

☐ A) attack

☐ B) ignore

☒ C) support with evidence ✓ CORRECT

4. Which option means the same as "rule out"?

☐ A) allow

☒ B) eliminate ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) forget

5. Which option means the same as "draws on"?

☒ A) relies on ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) avoids

☐ C) attacks

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Answer Key

Part 5: Antonyms

1. Which word means the opposite of "shut down"?

☐ A) close

☒ B) open ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) stop

2. Which word means the opposite of "rule out"?

☒ A) allow ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) forget

☐ C) exclude

3. Which word means the opposite of "back up"?

☐ A) support

☒ B) undermine ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) report

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

☐ A) suggested

☐ B) announced

☒ C) withdrew ✓ CORRECT

5. Which word means the opposite of "look into"?

☐ A) investigate

☒ B) ignore ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) study

Part 6: Correct Verb Form

1. The government ____ a new rule.

☐ A) propose

☐ B) proposes

☒ C) has proposed ✓ CORRECT

2. Schools ____ lose their tax status if they use race.

☒ A) might ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) must

☐ C) should

3. Many schools ____ their diversity programs already.

☐ A) shuts down

☒ B) have shut down ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) shut down

4. Experts ____ that schools should look into the new rule.

☐ A) points out

☐ B) point out

☒ C) have pointed out ✓ CORRECT

5. Schools ____ hide unfair practices behind nice words.

☒ A) must not ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) might

☐ C) could

6. The plan ____ on old court cases.

☐ A) draw

☒ B) draws ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) has drawn

7. Religious schools ____ choose students based on faith.

☐ A) must not

☐ B) shouldn't

☒ C) may ✓ CORRECT

8. The government ____ its position with strong evidence.

☒ A) must back up ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) backs up

☐ C) back up

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Answer Key

Part 7: What Does the Modal Verb Express?

1. "Schools must not hide unfair practices."

☐ A) Advice

☒ B) Prohibition ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Possibility

2. "They might lose their tax status."

☒ A) Possibility ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Ability

☐ C) Advice

3. "Experts say schools should look into the new rule."

☐ A) Prohibition

☐ B) Ability

☒ C) Advice ✓ CORRECT

4. "Religious schools may still choose students based on faith."

☐ A) Ability

☒ B) Permission / Possibility ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) Prohibition

5. "The government must back up its position with evidence."

☒ A) Obligation ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) Possibility

☐ C) Ability

Part 8: Word Scramble

1. has / The / government / proposed / a / new / rule.

✓ The government has proposed a new rule.

2. have / Many / schools / already / shut / down / their / diversity / programs.

✓ Many schools have already shut down their diversity programs.

3. should / Schools / look / into / how / the / new / rule / could / affect / their / programs.

✓ Schools should look into how the new rule could affect their programs.

4. draws / The / plan / on / old / court / cases.

✓ The plan draws on old court cases.

5. have / Legal / experts / warned / that / the / government / must / back / up / its / position.

✓ Legal experts have warned that the government must back up its position.

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Answer Key

Part 9: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☒ A) has proposed ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) proposed

☐ C) is proposing

2. Blank 2

☐ A) shut down

☒ B) have shut down ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) are shutting down

3. Blank 3

☐ A) must not

☐ B) could

☒ C) should ✓ CORRECT

4. Blank 4

☐ A) might

☒ B) must not ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) should

5. Blank 5

☒ A) draws ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) has drawn

☐ C) draw

6. Blank 6

☐ A) must

☒ B) may ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) should

7. Blank 7

☒ A) must not ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) might

☐ C) could

8. Blank 8

☐ A) backs up

☐ B) back up

☒ C) must back up ✓ CORRECT