

Private Schools and a New Rule

B2 Reading, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words & Phrasal Verbs

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
unveiled	officially revealed or announced something for the first time
overhaul	to completely change or repair something in order to improve it
crackdown	strict action taken to stop illegal or undesirable behavior
landmark	historically significant; having a major influence on future events
earmarked	set aside for a particular purpose
underrepresented	not having a fair or expected level of representation
rigorous	thorough, strict, and exacting
hit back	to strongly respond to criticism or an attack
hold up	to remain valid or strong when examined or challenged
carve out	to create a special exception or separate section within something larger

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B2 Worksheet

Part 2: Reading

This text uses the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd conditionals. Read the text.

The Trump administration has unveiled a proposal that could fundamentally reshape private education in America. If the rule goes ahead as planned, thousands of schools will have to overhaul their admissions and scholarship policies or risk losing their tax-exempt status entirely.

Officials argue that some institutions have got away with disguising race-based preferences under euphemisms like “diversity” and “inclusion” for years. If schools had been transparent about these practices from the start, this crackdown might never have become necessary. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has insisted that no school can talk its way out of the new standard, regardless of how it brands its programs.

The proposal doesn't come out of nowhere. It builds on a landmark 2023 Supreme Court ruling that did away with race-conscious college admissions. Since then, many universities have scrambled to bring their policies into line, quietly phasing out diversity offices and scholarships earmarked for specific racial groups.

If the rule comes into effect, it will apply to nearly 18,000 institutions, from small private schools to major research universities. Religious schools, however, would be carved out of certain restrictions, provided they don't use race as a stand-in for faith-based admissions criteria.

Critics have hit back hard, warning that the move could set back decades of progress for underrepresented students. If the government were serious about fairness, they argue, it would look into broader inequalities in education funding rather than singling out diversity initiatives. Supporters counter that if the rule hadn't been proposed now, discriminatory practices would have continued indefinitely, hidden behind well-meaning language.

Legal experts remain divided. Some believe the rule will hold up in court if challenged; others suspect it could be struck down unless the administration backs up its claims with far more rigorous evidence than it has offered so far.

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

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. unveiled	___	A. thorough, strict, and exacting
2. overhaul	___	B. not having a fair or expected level of representation
3. crackdown	___	C. strict action taken to stop illegal or undesirable behavior
4. landmark	___	D. set aside for a particular purpose
5. earmarked	___	E. officially revealed or announced something for the first time
6. underrepresented	___	F. historically significant; having a major influence on future events
7. rigorous	___	G. to remain valid or strong when examined or challenged
8. hit back	___	H. to completely change or repair something in order to improve it
9. hold up	___	I. to create a special exception or separate section within something larger
10. carve out	___	J. to strongly respond to criticism or an attack

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Part 4: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the option with the same meaning.

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

☐ A) hid

☐ B) revealed

☐ C) ignored

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

☐ A) slightly adjust

☐ B) destroy

☐ C) completely change

3. Which option means the same as "landmark"?

☐ A) historically significant

☐ B) insignificant

☐ C) minor

4. Which option means the same as "rigorous"?

☐ A) careless

☐ B) thorough

☐ C) quick

5. Which option means the same as "hold up"?

☐ A) collapse

☐ B) disappear

☐ C) remain valid

Part 5: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

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

☐ A) careless

☐ B) strict

☐ C) thorough

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

☐ A) ignored

☐ B) overrepresented

☐ C) included

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

☐ A) attack

☐ B) respond

☐ C) back down

4. Which word means the opposite of "hold up"?

☐ A) succeed

☐ B) collapse

☐ C) remain

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

☐ A) leniency

☐ B) punishment

☐ C) control

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Part 6: Grammar — Which conditional is used?

Read each sentence from the text. Circle 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Conditional.

1. "If the rule goes ahead as planned, thousands of schools will have to overhaul their policies."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☐ B) 1st Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "If the rule comes into effect, it will apply to nearly 18,000 institutions."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 2nd Conditional

3. "If the government were serious about fairness, it would look into broader inequalities."

☐ A) 3rd Conditional

☐ B) 1st Conditional

☐ C) 2nd Conditional

4. "If schools were more transparent, critics would trust them more."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 1st Conditional

5. "If schools had been transparent about these practices from the start, this crackdown might never have become necessary."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

6. "If the rule hadn't been proposed now, discriminatory practices would have continued indefinitely."

☐ A) 3rd Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 1st Conditional

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Part 7: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. If the rule ____ ahead as planned, schools will have to overhaul their policies.

☐ A) went

☐ B) go

☐ C) goes

2. If the rule ____ into effect, it will apply to nearly 18,000 institutions.

☐ A) comes

☐ B) came

☐ C) come

3. If the government ____ serious about fairness, it would look into inequalities.

☐ A) is

☐ B) were

☐ C) was

4. If schools ____ more transparent, critics would trust them more.

☐ A) are

☐ B) had been

☐ C) were

5. If schools ____ transparent from the start, this crackdown might never have become necessary.

☐ A) had been

☐ B) were

☐ C) are

6. If the rule ____ proposed now, discriminatory practices would have continued indefinitely.

☐ A) wasn't

☐ B) hadn't been

☐ C) isn't

7. If critics ____ right, the rule would face serious legal challenges.

☐ A) are

☐ B) had been

☐ C) were

8. If the administration ____ more evidence, the rule might have held up better in court.

☐ A) had provided

☐ B) provides

☐ C) provided

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Part 8: Grammar — Change the conditional

1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If the rule goes ahead, schools will overhaul their policies."

- ☐ A) If the rule went ahead, schools will overhaul their policies.
- ☐ B) If the rule went ahead, schools would overhaul their policies.
- ☐ C) If the rule goes ahead, schools would overhaul their policies.

2. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If schools are transparent, critics trust them."

- ☐ A) If schools were transparent, critics would trust them.
- ☐ B) If schools had been transparent, critics would trust them.
- ☐ C) If schools had been transparent, critics would have trusted them.

3. Change to 1st Conditional: "If the government were serious, it would look into inequalities."

- ☐ A) If the government is serious, it will look into inequalities.
- ☐ B) If the government were serious, it will look into inequalities.
- ☐ C) If the government is serious, it would look into inequalities.

4. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If critics are right, the rule faces challenges."

- ☐ A) If critics were right, the rule would face challenges.
- ☐ B) If critics are right, the rule will face challenges.
- ☐ C) If critics had been right, the rule would have faced challenges.

5. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If the administration provides more evidence, the rule holds up better."

- ☐ A) If the administration had provided more evidence, the rule would have held up better.
- ☐ B) If the administration provided more evidence, the rule would hold up better.
- ☐ C) If the administration provides more evidence, the rule will hold up better.

Part 9: Word Scramble

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

1. doesn't / The / proposal / come / out / of / nowhere.

Your sentence: _____

2. have / Many / universities / scrambled / to / bring / their / policies / into / line.

Your sentence: _____

3. would / Religious / schools / be / carved / out / of / certain / restrictions.

Your sentence: _____

4. have / Critics / hit / back / hard, / warning / that / the / move / could / set / back / decades / of / progress.

Your sentence: _____

5. remain / Legal / experts / divided / over / whether / the / rule / will / hold / up / in / court.

Your sentence: _____

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Part 10: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Nadia and Chris discuss the new rule. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Nadia: Have you read about the new rule for private schools?

Chris: Yes, the administration ____ (1) ____ it this week.

Nadia: If the rule ____ (2) ____ into effect, thousands of schools will need to change.

Chris: True. Some schools have already started to ____ (3) ____ their diversity offices.

Nadia: If they ____ (4) ____ more careful from the start, this crackdown might never have happened.

Chris: I agree. Critics have really ____ (5) ____ against the proposal.

Nadia: Do you think the rule will ____ (6) ____ in court if it's challenged?

Chris: Hard to say. If the government ____ (7) ____ stronger evidence, it would convince more skeptics.

Nadia: Religious schools will be ____ (8) ____ from certain restrictions, at least.

1. Blank 1

☐ A) hid

☐ B) ignored

☐ C) unveiled

2. Blank 2

☐ A) comes

☐ B) came

☐ C) come

3. Blank 3

☐ A) carve out

☐ B) phase out

☐ C) hit back

4. Blank 4

☐ A) were

☐ B) are

☐ C) had been

5. Blank 5

☐ A) hit back

☐ B) held up

☐ C) phased out

6. Blank 6

☐ A) carve out

☐ B) hold up

☐ C) phase out

7. Blank 7

☐ A) has

☐ B) have

☐ C) had

8. Blank 8

☐ A) carved out

☐ B) held up

☐ C) hit back

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Answer Key

Part 3: Vocabulary Matching

- 1. unveiled → E
- 2. overhaul → H
- 3. crackdown → C
- 4. landmark → F
- 5. earmarked → D
- 6. underrepresented → B
- 7. rigorous → A
- 8. hit back → J
- 9. hold up → G
- 10. carve out → I

Part 4: Synonyms

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

☐ A) hid

☒ B) revealed ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) ignored

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

☐ A) slightly adjust

☐ B) destroy

☒ C) completely change ✓ CORRECT

3. Which option means the same as "landmark"?

☒ A) historically significant ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) insignificant

☐ C) minor

4. Which option means the same as "rigorous"?

☐ A) careless

☒ B) thorough ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) quick

5. Which option means the same as "hold up"?

☐ A) collapse

☐ B) disappear

☒ C) remain valid ✓ CORRECT

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Answer Key

Part 5: Antonyms

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

☒ A) careless ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) strict

☐ C) thorough

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

☐ A) ignored

☒ B) overrepresented ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) included

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

☐ A) attack

☐ B) respond

☒ C) back down ✓ CORRECT

4. Which word means the opposite of "hold up"?

☐ A) succeed

☒ B) collapse ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) remain

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

☒ A) leniency ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) punishment

☐ C) control

Part 6: Which Conditional is Used?

1. "If the rule goes ahead as planned, thousands of schools will have to overhaul their policies."

☐ A) 2nd Conditional

☒ B) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "If the rule comes into effect, it will apply to nearly 18,000 institutions."

☒ A) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 2nd Conditional

3. "If the government were serious about fairness, it would look into broader inequalities."

☐ A) 3rd Conditional

☐ B) 1st Conditional

☒ C) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

4. "If schools were more transparent, critics would trust them more."

☒ A) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 3rd Conditional

☐ C) 1st Conditional

5. "If schools had been transparent about these practices from the start, this crackdown might never have become necessary."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☒ C) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

6. "If the rule hadn't been proposed now, discriminatory practices would have continued indefinitely."

☒ A) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 1st Conditional

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Answer Key

Part 7: Correct Verb Form

1. If the rule ____ ahead as planned, schools will have to overhaul their policies.

☐ A) went

☐ B) go

☒ C) goes ✓ CORRECT

2. If the rule ____ into effect, it will apply to nearly 18,000 institutions.

☒ A) comes ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) came

☐ C) come

3. If the government ____ serious about fairness, it would look into inequalities.

☐ A) is

☒ B) were ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) was

4. If schools ____ more transparent, critics would trust them more.

☐ A) are

☐ B) had been

☒ C) were ✓ CORRECT

5. If schools ____ transparent from the start, this crackdown might never have become necessary.

☒ A) had been ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) were

☐ C) are

6. If the rule ____ proposed now, discriminatory practices would have continued indefinitely.

☐ A) wasn't

☒ B) hadn't been ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) isn't

7. If critics ____ right, the rule would face serious legal challenges.

☐ A) are

☐ B) had been

☒ C) were ✓ CORRECT

8. If the administration ____ more evidence, the rule might have held up better in court.

☒ A) had provided ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) provides

☐ C) provided

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Answer Key

Part 8: Change the Conditional

1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If the rule goes ahead, schools will overhaul their policies."

☐ A) If the rule went ahead, schools will overhaul their policies.

☒ B) If the rule went ahead, schools would overhaul their policies. ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) If the rule goes ahead, schools would overhaul their policies.

2. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If schools are transparent, critics trust them."

☐ A) If schools were transparent, critics would trust them.

☐ B) If schools had been transparent, critics would trust them.

☒ C) If schools had been transparent, critics would have trusted them. ✓ CORRECT

3. Change to 1st Conditional: "If the government were serious, it would look into inequalities."

☒ A) If the government is serious, it will look into inequalities. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If the government were serious, it will look into inequalities.

☐ C) If the government is serious, it would look into inequalities.

4. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If critics are right, the rule faces challenges."

☐ A) If critics were right, the rule would face challenges.

☐ B) If critics are right, the rule will face challenges.

☒ C) If critics had been right, the rule would have faced challenges. ✓ CORRECT

5. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If the administration provides more evidence, the rule holds up better."

☐ A) If the administration had provided more evidence, the rule would have held up better.

☒ B) If the administration provided more evidence, the rule would hold up better. ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) If the administration provides more evidence, the rule will hold up better.

Part 9: Word Scramble

1. doesn't / The / proposal / come / out / of / nowhere.

✓ The proposal doesn't come out of nowhere.

2. have / Many / universities / scrambled / to / bring / their / policies / into / line.

✓ Many universities have scrambled to bring their policies into line.

3. would / Religious / schools / be / carved / out / of / certain / restrictions.

✓ Religious schools would be carved out of certain restrictions.

4. have / Critics / hit / back / hard, / warning / that / the / move / could / set / back / decades / of / progress.

✓ Critics have hit back hard, warning that the move could set back decades of progress.

5. remain / Legal / experts / divided / over / whether / the / rule / will / hold / up / in / court.

✓ Legal experts remain divided over whether the rule will hold up in court.

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Answer Key

Part 10: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☐ A) hid

☐ B) ignored

☒ C) unveiled ✓ CORRECT

2. Blank 2

☒ A) comes ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) came

☐ C) come

3. Blank 3

☐ A) carve out

☒ B) phase out ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) hit back

4. Blank 4

☐ A) were

☐ B) are

☒ C) had been ✓ CORRECT

5. Blank 5

☒ A) hit back ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) held up

☐ C) phased out

6. Blank 6

☐ A) carve out

☒ B) hold up ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) phase out

7. Blank 7

☐ A) has

☐ B) have

☒ C) had ✓ CORRECT

8. Blank 8

☒ A) carved out ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) held up

☐ C) hit back