



## News Article Close Reading Activity: Phrasal Verbs

Read the news article and circle all phrasal verbs. Then, look up the definitions. Write down the definition and a synonym which matches the meaning in the story.

Phrasal verbs are verbs with two or more words, such as *look up* and *write down*.

Dictionary.com is a good online dictionary and thesaurus.

Idiom \_\_\_\_\_

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom \_\_\_\_\_

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym \_\_\_\_\_

Idiom \_\_\_\_\_

Definition \_\_\_\_\_

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Synonym \_\_\_\_\_

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Definition \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym \_\_\_\_\_

## **Sandwich Chain Seeks to Hire Apprentices for £3.50 per Hour**

A well-known chain of sandwich shops has come under fire for job advertisements for apprentice sandwich makers. Successful candidates would only be paid £119 per 35-hour work week. Unions have taken note, because apprentices would be required to perform the same tasks as regular employees.

Because several large international companies have been caught stretching the definition of *apprentice*, the Public Accounts Committee is pushing the Department for Education to look closely at the quality of apprenticeships being created. Additionally, last year, the National Audit Office reported that there was no reason to continue providing money for the program, because there is no proof it benefits society.

Right now, the program is only measured by the number of apprenticeships created. Success, they say, should come down to quality rather than quantity. Unless the participants' skills are looked at, there is no way to size up the success or failure of an apprenticeship.





## Answer Key

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**Idiom: to come under fire**

**Definition:** to be criticized (usually *by* +someone or *for* + some action)  
**Synonym:** to be criticized

**Idiom: to take note**

**Definition:** notice or pay attention to something  
**Synonym:** to notice

**Idiom: to look at**

**Definition:** to examine, study, or consider something  
**Synonym:** to study

**Idiom: to come down to**

**Definition:** to be reduced to or amount to no more than something  
**Synonym:** to amount to no more than something

**Idiom: to look at**

**Definition:** to examine, study, or consider something  
**Synonym:** to test

**Idiom: to size up**

**Definition:** to make an estimate, opinion, or judgment of something  
**Synonym:** to judge

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