

NEWS & PRESS VOCABULARY

Vocabulaire journalistique anglais

Mieux comprendre la presse anglo-saxonne

Améliorer son style de rédaction

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1. INFLUENCE AND POWER

- **A bulwark against** protection, defense, safeguard
The unemployment measures introduced by the government are a bulwark against dire poverty.
- **A juggernaut** steamroller, a force that crushes everything on its way
Russia is a sports juggernaut in the Olympic Games.
- **Rubber-stamp** approved, endorsed, validated
The National People's Congress in China is often considered as a rubber-stamp parliament.
- **A shock and awe response** use of quick overwhelming power
During the Cold War, sending a man on the Moon was a shock-and-awe response in the space race opposing the US and the USSR.
- **Stalwart** faithful, reliable, staunch
George has been a stalwart support since the start of the project.
- **A standard-bearer** a lead figure setting an example
The United States has been a standard-bearer of civil liberties in the world for many years.
- **A theatrical act of chest-beating** boasting, bragging
The national pageantry they displayed to the world was a theatrical act of chest beating.
- **A tone-deaf (support)** unnuanced
The President benefits from a tone-deaf support from conservative voters.
- **A towering (figure)** prominent, of great influence
Churchill was the most towering figure of post-WWII.
- **A wake word** awakening, arousing, incentivizing
'Make America Great Again' has become a wake word for many hitherto indecisive voters.
- **Whitewashing** censorship
Gagging the press was an act of whitewashing from the government.
- **Adamantine** stubborn, inflexible
The Prime Minister is an adamantine supporter of the reform.
- **At someone's behest** responding someone's orders, at someone's command
Most young interns are at the behest of their managers.

- **At the helm of** in charge of
Patrick is at the helm of the expansive overhaul undergone by the company.
- **Base-rallying (pol.)** resonating with the grassroots, the foundational members
The President's latest policies are a base-rallying blueprint for the next general elections.
- **Beggar-thy-neighbour (policy)** everyone for themselves, protectionist
The new beggar-thy-neighbour trade policies imposed on China will spark many tensions.
- **Beholden to** indebted to
I feel beholden to my mentor for inspiring me during my research.
- **Bigwigs** the celebrities, the VIP, the hotshots
All the bigwigs of the party attended the ceremony.
- **Browbeaten** bullied
The new Mayor was browbeaten into opening new dual carriageways around the city.
- **Buccaneering** high-risk and adventurous
He succeeded thanks to his spirit of buccaneering entrepreneurship.
- **Clout** heft, influence
The clout of the UN has been on the wane for a few years.
- **Cronyism** favouritism, partisanship
The government was accused of cronyism for granting lots to its allies in the Green Belt.
- **Crowd-pleasing** popular
Her crowd-pleasing policies had her re-elected.
- **Flagship (brands)** showpiece, star, centerpiece
Elon Musk proudly presented his flagship vehicle to the audience.
- **Glib** smooth-talking
He always knows how to offer glib comments to his supporters.
- **Heft** weight, power
The heft of Chinese trade is visible in its ever-growing GDP.
- **Hubris** excessive pride and self-confidence
Their hubris drove them to bet all their money on that horse but it lost the race!
- **In thrall to** enslaved to, controlled by
Children are often in thrall to their parents, which may affect their self-esteem.
- **Kneecapping** impairing, crippling, damaging
His being sent to prison was an act of kneecapping from his opponents.

- **To act on one's threat** to carry out a menace
After he kept repeating to the students to be quiet, the teacher acted on his treat and held them up 15 minutes after the end of class.
- **To badger** to harass
His mother badgered her son until he cleaned his room.
- **To bang down the door to** to demand something, to present oneself as a preferable candidate
She was determined to be granted that promotion, so she banged down the door of management to put her case across.
- **To bankroll** to support financially
Countless financial institutions were bailed out and bankrolled by their governments during the 2008 crisis.
- **To be a badge of pride/honour** to be something to be proud of
His stint in the army was a badge of honour he wore proudly.
- **To be a cut above** to be better than the others
He deserved to win, as he was clearly a cut above the other candidates.
- **To be a masterstroke** an achievement, a success, a performance
His decision to pump money in was a political masterstroke.
- **To be booted out** to be kicked out, to be driven out
The Prime Minister was booted out when the government was reshuffled.
- **To be bound by** to be accountable to, dependable on
Many countries are bound by international treaties.
- **To be cock of the walk** someone who dominates others within a group
The American President was cock of the walk during the latest G7.
- **To be culled from** to be selected or chosen from a group
The culled selection of books offered by the library will help students prepare the exhibition.
- **To be edged** to be surpassed or beaten by a small margin
I could have won but I was edged by two better competitors.
- **To be front and centre** to be given a lot of attention
The development of the new space race is now front and centre of all scientific magazines.
- **To be gulled into doing** to be deceived into doing
Drivers were gulled into buying diesel vehicles.
- **To be helmed by** to be controlled by
Brexit is helmed by the European Council along with British MPs.

- **To be in cahoots with** to secretly work with someone, usually on an ill-intended scheme
The secret services were in cahoots with the government to avoid any uprising.
- **To be in lockstep with** to be forced to go in the same direction as someone else
Social media followers are in lockstep with the latest trends bandied about online.
- **To be in the slipstream of** to follow someone's example
John is in the slipstream of his father: like father, like son!
- **To be laid low** to be put out of action
The military tanks were laid low in the region after the peace treaty was signed.
- **To be rammed home** to be emphasized very strongly
The protective recommendations were rammed home for people not to forget them.
- **To bend nature to our will** to force nature in the direction that is the most convenient for us
Some scientists bend nature to their will for the sole purpose of research.
- **To bend to s.o.'s will** to comply with someone's intentions
After much harassment, they finally bent to their mother's will and repainted the house.
- **To bring something to heel** to force sb to obey one's wishes or commands
Scientists are currently working on a vaccine in order to bring the disease to heel.
- **To call the shots** to be in the position of being able to make the decisions that will influence a situation
It was my father who called the shots when my grandmother passed away and organized the funeral.
- **To cement one's control of** to secure one's dominance over
The new laws cemented his control of the government.
- **To chivvy** to tell someone repeatedly to do something, to nag, to badger, to harass, to hound
My sister chivvied me into applying for the most prestigious universities.
- **To clobber** to defeat heavily
The centre-right candidate was clobbered in the latest election.
- **To close ranks** to remain united in the face of danger or criticism
The party members closed ranks when their representative was attacked in the press.
- **To come to a head** to reach a crisis
The trade talks came to a head when the US refused to sign the international agreement.
- **To court publicity** to curry the favour of or pursue fame
The political bigwigs court the Press publicly in order to be depicted favourably.

- **To have an early edge** to benefit from an advantage
right from the start
The younger contestant had an early edge in the interview as he had travelled in the country where the company was willing to outsource.
- **To have free rein** freedom of action or expression
The artist had free rein over his representation of the city centre in his latest work.
- **To have latitude** to enjoy some leeway, some freedom
of action or expression
MA students have latitude to write an essay on whatever topic inspires them.
- **To have the final say over** to have the final word over something
The head of the company had the final say over the decision to streamline his staff.
- **To have the whip hand over** to have the most power
Superpowers have the whip hand over how to govern the world.
- **To hector** to talk in a bullying way,
to intimidate, to browbeat
The teacher hectoring his students until they finally got down to work.
- **To helm** to direct, to control
My uncle helmed the ceremony in quite a delicate manner.
- **To hold sway over** to be in control, to wield power
Our social representations hold sway over the way we perceive the world.
- **To impinge on** to violate, to trespass on
These new regulations are impinging on our privacy rights.
- **To instigate** to incite sb to do stg/to bring about,
to initiate, to set in motion
The blast instigated the resignation of the entire government.
- **To instill fear** to gradually but firmly establish
stg in a person's mind, to implant, to ingrain
Scaremongers instill fear into the most vulnerable audience.
- **To jawbone somebody into** to use one's position or authority
to pressure sb to do something
His friends jawboned him into giving up his bid for the Olympic Games.
- **To keep in check** to keep under control
The prisoners were kept in check by the threatening dog of the warden.
- **To keep someone on their toes** to cause to remain alert for anything
that might happen
The boss kept us on our toes by menacing to dismiss any shirker in the company.

- **To keep someone in the driving seat** to keep someone in control
The President, after his reelection, was then kept in the driving seat for another five years.
- **To keep tabs on** to monitor the activities or developments of to keep under observation
Most countries use secret intelligence in order to keep tabs on their citizens' activities.
- **To lay down the rules** to officially state the rules
The master of ceremony laid down the rules of the games before the contest took place.
- **To lay off** to dismiss
Many employees were laid off after the crisis that hit the country.