



## Front Groups

Reading Test

EXAMPLE

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# Student

Time: *Approximately 1hour*

## Two types of lesson

**Lesson#1:** [Easier] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Predict the content of the text by reading the title. Write down the key terms & ideas.
2. Read the text. Check the unknown words with a dictionary.
3. Answer the comprehension questions.
4. Check your answers with the provided key (pass mark is 70%).

**Lesson #2:** [Challenging] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Read the text without looking up any words.
2. Answer the comprehension questions.
3. Check your answers with the provided key (pass mark is 70%).

# Teacher

## Two types of lesson

**Lesson#1:** [easier] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Distribute **text 1 (without reference words underlined)** a week before the test. Students read, check vocabulary & meanings.
2. Test day. Distribute **text 2 (with reference words underlined)** & the **questions** (no dictionary or notes).
3. Set 1 hour to read the text & answer the questions.
4. Take in & correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%).
5. Extra activity. Students write the \*summary (add 30 minutes to the test).

**Lesson #2:** [Challenging] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Test day. Distribute **text 2 (with reference words underlined)** & the **questions**.
2. Set 1 hour to read the text & answer the questions.
3. Take in & correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%).
4. Extra activity. Students write the \*summary (add 30 minutes to the test).

\*Summary writing: [www.academic-englishuk.com/summary](http://www.academic-englishuk.com/summary)

## Front groups (Text 1)

By H. Kennedy (2023) EXAMPLE

A front group is a type of independent organisation but is set up and funded by other corporations [REDACTED]. According to STOP (2020), front groups are perhaps the clearest example of the third-party technique whereby the front group will publicly champion another company in order to persuade [REDACTED], also known as lobbying. This in contrast to 'astroturf' groups, however, who specifically draft in new [REDACTED] 'grassroots' support for a particular issue or policy. In reality, the idea has usually been conceived [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are sockpuppets, that is to say, false online identities deliberately created by an individual or group to [REDACTED] (Beder, 2017).

There are several characteristics which can determine whether an organisation is acting as front group. Some of the key, tell-tale signs could be simply [REDACTED] is funded. SourceWatch (2020) argues that a front group will typically use a name that suggests [REDACTED] surveys, reports and polls conducted by their own 'esteemed and credible' experts, and which solely [REDACTED] corroborates with. There also seems to be an incredible amount of effort on the part of these experts [REDACTED] of tours, conferences and other promotional events, which would require a huge amount of additional [REDACTED]. As stated by SourceWatch (2020), although front groups rely on memberships to adhere to its [REDACTED] is required more than their money, as front groups are generally funded by outside sponsors, who incidentally, [REDACTED] far-reaching channels of communication.

Some well-known examples of front groups in the food, tobacco and climate industry include the [REDACTED] in 1985, has *Kraft Foods* and *The Hershey Company* as board members, and is an advocate of genetic modification, [REDACTED] in livestock; the 1996 *Center for Consumer Freedom*, which is against organic food and reduction policies [REDACTED] *Coca-Cola* on its board; and more recently in 2011, *Protect the Harvest*, of which *Lucas Oil* and the *Lucas Cattle Company* are members, and endorses industrial farming (Friends Of The Earth, 2017). With [REDACTED] *Reynolds Tobacco Company* funds two major front groups, *Business Tobacco Alliance* and *The Non-Smoker Protection Committee*, [REDACTED] taxation and overturn smoking bans, as well as preventing the adoption of any new smoking laws, whereas one of the largest [REDACTED] *Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy*, who object to the promotion of solar or wind as an alternative and [REDACTED] several major oil and gas producers (SourceWatch, 2020). As these major industries are increasingly [REDACTED] possible adverse impacts their ideals and operations may have, which could have serious implications for [REDACTED] interest group has been created, known as the Social Aspects Public Relations Organization (SAPRO), [REDACTED] these potentially damaging consequences (Pietracatella and Brady, 2020). This is perhaps most felt in [REDACTED] Pietracatella and Brady (2020), industry-funded SAPROs such as *DrinkWise* use pro-consumption lobbying and self-[REDACTED] by harmful consumption of alcohol, and yet when disclosing their findings, they themselves do not [REDACTED] patterns instead.

What remains most apparent is that these organisations, which appear to be independent and [redacted] in fact [redacted] damaging to public health. Perhaps what is needed most of all at present is more awareness and education of these types of groups, [redacted] to lack strict policies, so that those wishing to invest financially or become recruited voluntarily are more informed [redacted] funding and members, front groups would not exist.

### Reference list

Beder, S., (2017). *Front Groups and Astroturf* [online]. Available at:

<http://www.herinst.org/BusinessManagedDemocracy/environment/fronts/index.html> [Viewed 17.02.2023].

Friends of the Earth, (2017). [redacted] [pdf]. Available at:

[https://foe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/webiva\\_fs\\_2/FOE\\_Top11FrontGroups\\_1.pdf](https://foe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/webiva_fs_2/FOE_Top11FrontGroups_1.pdf) [Viewed 15.02.2023].

[redacted] (2020). *A New Development in Front Group Strategy: The Social Aspects Public Relations Organization (SAPRO)* [online]. Available at: [redacted] [Viewed 17.02.2023].

SourceWatch, (2020). *Front groups* [online]. Available at:

[https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Front\\_groups](https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Front_groups) [Viewed 16.02.2023].

STOP, (2020). *STOP Identifies 18 [redacted] Public Health* [online].

Available at: <https://exposetobacco.org/news/stop-exposes-18-more-industry-allies/> [Viewed 17.02.2023].

## Front groups (Text 2)

By H. Kennedy (2023) EXAMPLE

1. A front group is a type of independent organisation but is set up and funded by other corporations [redacted]. According to STOP (2020), front groups are perhaps the clearest example of the third-party technique whereby the front group will publicly champion another company in order to persuade [redacted], also known as lobbying. This in contrast to 'astroturf' groups, however, **who** specifically draft in new [redacted] 'grassroots' support for a particular issue or policy. In reality, the idea has usually been conceived [redacted] [redacted] are sockpuppets, that is to say, false online identities deliberately created by an individual or group to [redacted] (Beder, 2017).

2. There are several characteristics which can determine whether an organisation is acting as front group. Some of the key, tell-tale signs could be simply [redacted] is funded. SourceWatch (2020) argues that a front group will typically use a name that suggests [redacted] surveys, reports and polls conducted by their own 'esteemed and credible' experts, and which solely [redacted] corroborates with. There also seems to be an incredible amount of effort on the part of these experts [redacted] of tours, conferences and other promotional events, which would require a huge amount of additional [redacted]. As stated by SourceWatch (2020), although front groups rely on memberships to adhere to its [redacted] is required more than **their** money, as front groups are generally funded by outside sponsors, who incidentally, [redacted] far-reaching channels of communication.

3. Some well-known examples of front groups in the food, tobacco and climate industry include the [redacted] in 1985, has *Kraft Foods* and *The Hershey Company* as board members, and is an advocate of genetic modification, [redacted] in livestock; the 1996 *Center for Consumer Freedom*, which is against organic food and reduction policies [redacted] *Coca-Cola* on its board; and more recently in 2011, *Protect the Harvest*, of which *Lucas Oil* and the *Lucas Cattle Company* are members, and endorses industrial farming (Friends Of The Earth, 2017). With [redacted] *Reynolds Tobacco Company* funds two major front groups, *Business Tobacco Alliance* and *The Non-Smoker Protection Committee*, [redacted] taxation and overturn smoking bans, as well as preventing the adoption of any new smoking laws, whereas one of the largest [redacted] *Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy*, who object to the promotion of solar or wind as an alternative and [redacted] several major oil and gas producers (SourceWatch, 2020). As these major industries are increasingly [redacted] possible adverse impacts their ideals and operations may have, which could have serious implications for [redacted] interest group has been created, known as the Social Aspects Public Relations Organization (SAPRO), [redacted] these potentially damaging consequences (Pietracatella and Brady, 2020). This is perhaps most felt in [redacted] Pietracatella and Brady (2020), industry-funded SAPROs such as *DrinkWise* use pro-consumption lobbying and self-[redacted] by harmful consumption of alcohol, and yet when disclosing **their** findings, they themselves do not [redacted] patterns instead.

4. What remains most apparent is that these organisations, which appear to be independent and [redacted] in fact [redacted]

damaging to public health. Perhaps what is needed most of all at present is more awareness and education of these types of groups, [redacted] to lack strict policies, so that those wishing to invest financially or become recruited voluntarily are more informed [redacted] funding and members, front groups would not exist.

### Reference list

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Friends of the Earth, (2017). [redacted] [pdf]. Available at:

[https://foe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/webiva\\_fs\\_2/FOE\\_Top11FrontGroups\\_1.pdf](https://foe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/webiva_fs_2/FOE_Top11FrontGroups_1.pdf) [Viewed 15.02.2023].

[redacted] (2020). *A New Development in Front Group Strategy: The Social Aspects* Public Relations Organization (SAPRO) [online]. Available at: [redacted] [Viewed 17.02.2023].

SourceWatch, (2020). *Front groups* [online]. Available at:

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Available at: <https://exposetobacco.org/news/stop-exposes-18-more-industry-allies/> [Viewed 17.02.2023].

## Comprehension Questions

**1. Headings:** Choose a subheading for each paragraph. One title is not needed.

1		A	Clear recommendations for dealing with front groups
2		B	[REDACTED]
3		C	Plausible interpretation of front groups
4		D	[REDACTED]
		E	Typical cases of front groups

\_\_\_ / 4

**2. True / False / Not Given:** One question per paragraph.

		T / F / NG
<b>Paragraph 1</b>		
i.	A front group is established to generate national interest.	
<b>Paragraph 2</b>		
ii.	Front groups often [REDACTED]	
<b>Paragraph 3</b>		
iii.	Genetic [REDACTED] front group 'the International Food Information Council' was set up.	
<b>Paragraph 4</b>		
iv.	Front groups provide [REDACTED].	

\_\_\_ / 4

**3. Reference Words:** What do these words connect to? (Underlined in the text).

Paragraph	Word	Connection
1	Who	
2	[REDACTED]	
2	Their	
3	[REDACTED]	
3	They	
4	[REDACTED]	

\_\_\_ / 6

**4. Open Answer Questions:** One question per paragraph.

<b>Paragraph 1</b>		
i.	What are 'astroturf' groups?	
	1.	
<b>Paragraph 2</b>		
ii.	What <b>THREE</b> ways do [REDACTED] known?	
	1.	2. 3.
<b>Paragraph 3</b>		
iii.	What is the focus of the following front groups?	
	Front Group (s)	Focus
1.	International Food Information Council.	
2.	[REDACTED]	

<b>3.</b>	Business Tobacco Alliance and The Non-Smoker Protection Committee.	
<b>4</b>	The Citizens' Energy.	
<b>Paragraph 4</b>		
<b>iv.</b>	What <b>TWO</b> things are needed the most, according to the writer?	
	1.	2.

\_\_\_ / 10

**5. Citations:** Match the source with the point they make about front groups.

	Source		Point
i.	SourceWatch (2020)	a.	A new type of organisation has been set up to help companies
ii.		b.	A person or a group creates a fake identity in order to give the illusion of endorsements.
iii.	STOP (2020)	c.	Front groups and memberships.
iv.		d.	A front group openly endorses another company in order to convince others to support its policies.

i.		ii.		iii.		iv	
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**6. Key language:** Search for the word in the paragraph that means:

Paragraph	Explanation	Word
1	An attempt to influence people on an issue.	
1	A deceptive	
2	Able to judge something fairly without allowing your own interest to influence you.	
2	The act of something or someone.	
3	To ask for and	
3	Attempt to doing something.	
4	An action adopted or proposed by an organisation or individual.	
4	A set of	

\_\_\_ / 8

**Overall Total:** \_\_\_ / 36



## Comprehension Questions **ANSWERS**

**1. Headings:** Choose a subheading for each paragraph. One title is not needed.

1	<i>C</i>	<b>A</b>	Clear recommendations for dealing with front groups
2	<i>D</i>	<b>B</b>	<del>Severe restrictions on front groups</del>
3	<i>E</i>	<b>C</b>	Plausible interpretation of front groups

**ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**