

27 I can talk about the media

A Scandal

BBC under pressure to sack presenter

Politicians **are putting pressure on** the BBC **to** remove chat-show host Bob Aldred, after a story **leaked out** that he uttered racist remarks following his Saturday show. The comments were made **off the record**, and colleagues feel they have **been blown out of proportion**. However, Aldred is **a household name**, and any comments that could **stir up** controversy and **cast doubt on** the integrity of the BBC would be very damaging. Friends hope the incident will quickly **blow over**, but critics argue that the BBC has been left with no option. 'This story won't **go away**,' said one MP. 'The BBC must act now to **stamp out** any possible accusation of racism, and **the sooner the better**.'



Glossary

put pressure on sb (to do sth)	force or try to persuade sb to do sth; that person is then under pressure .
leak out off the record	(of secret information) become known to the public. used for saying that a remark is not official or intended to be made public. OPP on the record .
blow sth (up) out of (all) proportion a household name	make sth seem much worse or more dangerous than it really is. a name known to everyone; a famous person.
stir sth up	try to cause arguments or problems.
cast doubt(s) on sth	make people feel less certain about sth.
blow over	If a difficult situation blows over , people stop talking about it and soon forget about it.
go away	disappear.
stamp sth out	get rid of sth that is wrong or dangerous, often with force.
the sooner the better	as soon as possible.

1 Circle the correct answer.

- 1 If you **cast doubt on something**, you make other people feel *more / less* certain about it.
- 2 If a situation **blows over**, people *start / stop* worrying about it.
- 3 If a comment is made **on the record**, it *is / isn't* intended to be made public.
- 4 If information **leaks out**, it becomes *known / official*.
- 5 If you **stamp something out**, you *put your foot on it / get rid of it*.
- 6 If a problem **goes away**, it *disappears / moves somewhere else*.

2 Rewrite the sentences using the correct form of the word in capitals. Keep the same meaning.

- We need to get rid of prejudice. STAMP *We need to stamp out prejudice.*
- 1 He tried to make her change her mind. PRESSURE
 - 2 His comments weren't intended to be made public. RECORD
 - 3 We need to do this, and as soon as possible. SOONER
 - 4 He's known to everyone. HOUSEHOLD
 - 5 The secrets have become known recently. LEAK
 - 6 People will soon forget about the incident. BLOW
 - 7 She made it seem much worse than it was. PROPORTION
 - 8 His comments have caused a lot of anger. STIR