

28 cut back (on something); cut something back

Study Read these sentences carefully.

- ▶ The company will need to **cut back** if it wants to meet its spending targets.
- ▶ A lot of businesses have **cut back on** managerial staff.
- ▶ During the recession, many companies **cut back** technology spending.
- ▶ The company has **cut output back** by 2%.
- ▶ Our expenses are far too high – we'll have to **cut them back**.
- ▶ Production has been **cut back** dramatically.

Check

Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

MEANING

Delete the **one** choice which is not appropriate.

If a company or an organization **cuts back**, it reduces...

- a the amount of money it spends
- b the number of people it employs
- c the amount of something it produces
- d the amount of profit it makes

GRAMMAR

Which of these are grammatically possible?

- a We have cut back spending.
- b We have cut spending back.
- c We have cut it back on.
- d We have cut it back.
- e Spending has been cut back.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Practise

1 Delete the **one** unnecessary word from each of the following sentences.

- a A lot of firms had to cut back on during the recession.
- b Expenditure on essential services will not be cut it back .
- c Consumers cut back on it their borrowing in November.

2 Rewrite the following sentences so that the meaning stays the same, using an appropriate form of **cut back** or **cut back on** and any other words you need.

- a In order to reduce inflation, the government must spend less.

In order to reduce inflation, the government must _____ spending.

- b The amount that the firm produces will be reduced in the next few years.

The firm's production _____

- c To cut costs, we reduced the number of people we employ.

To cut costs, we _____ staff.

- d The amount of money given to this project has been dramatically reduced.

The funding for _____

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Build your vocabulary

RELATED WORDS NOUN: **cutback** (This is usually used in the plural.)

- ▶ *There have been **cutbacks** in spending over the last three years.*