Expressions with ‘look’

There are many examples of expressions which use the verb ‘look’. Match the verb on the left with the definition on the right.

1. Look up to someone  Anticipate something with pleasure
2. Look forward to something  Take care, be cautious
3. Look something up  Seek something
4. Look over something  Have a view of something
5. Look out  Check a reference for something
6. Look for something  Respect someone

Now try completing these sentences with the appropriate expression.

1. Look ____________! There’s a truck coming!
2. My hotel looks _______________ the ocean.
3. We’ll never find it. It’s like looking ________________ a needle in a haystack.
4. When I was a child I always looked __________________ my older brother; he seemed so cool.
5. I’m really looking __________________ the party this weekend.
6. Try looking the word ________________ in the dictionary if you don’t understand it.

One of those sentences included an idiom: ‘It’s like looking for a needle in a haystack’. This expression is used to describe something which is very difficult to find. A ‘haystack’ used to be left in the fields on a farm after the harvest. It is a large pile of hay or straw which was used to provide food and bedding for farm animals in winter. You can imagine that it would be difficult to find a needle in a pile of hay. An example when you might use this sentence would be if you were asked to find a single document on a shelf full of papers.