

# COMMON ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

## EXERCISE 1.

Complete the sentences with the following phrasal verbs.

*bring up*    *face up to*    *get carried away*    *go through*

1. The police ordered the outlaw to \_\_\_\_\_  
the gun.
2. After his wife died he had to \_\_\_\_\_ the  
fact that he had to live  
on his own.
3. My father \_\_\_\_\_ by his grandmother.

4. She is amazingly cheerful considering what she's had to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I had to come back from my holiday because I \_\_\_\_\_ money.
6. We must \_\_\_\_\_ if we want to buy a house.
7. The book I'm reading is very good. I \_\_\_\_\_ by the story and I read till four o'clock in the morning.
8. If you observe this picture very carefully you will be able \_\_\_\_\_ two different faces.
9. How \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ your new job?
10. In the end that tramp \_\_\_\_\_ to be a very famous journalist who was carrying out a research on the condition of homeless people.

11. I don't know what he will do, I'm not a witch and I can't \_\_\_\_\_ the future.
12. Our American friends couldn't find a hotel so we decided to \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ until they found a place to stay.
13. The teacher asked to \_\_\_\_\_ the exercises once again before handing them back.
14. That man was very rude. He \_\_\_\_\_ the receiver without even saying goodbye.
15. Our holiday was wonderful even if we had to \_\_\_\_\_ some weird situations, once we \_\_\_\_\_ petrol and our car stopped in the middle of nowhere, no petrol station in sight and no one else around.

## EXERCISE 2.

Match the phrasal verbs to the correct definition.

Call into	Pay a visit
Get over	Cancel
Run out	Increase
Look for	Look like
Take after	Search
Give up	Finished/empty
Drop by	Stop
Call off	Recover
Go up	Decrease
Come down	Pay a visit

## EXERCISE 3.

Now using the phrasal verbs from the list above complete the following sentences.

*Example:*

*He was looking for the right words to make her understand.*

1. If you don't \_\_\_\_\_ smoking you will get ill.
2. It took him a long time to \_\_\_\_\_ the death of his wife.
3. He is \_\_\_\_\_ her address because he wants to send her a card.
4. Tom can't start his car, the battery has \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ his father. He has dark hair and blue eyes.
6. On my way home I \_\_\_\_\_ the florists and bought some flowers.
7. We've \_\_\_\_\_ of bread. Can we borrow some?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ anytime you're passing for coffee.
9. The meeting was \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Inflation always \_\_\_\_\_ and never \_\_\_\_\_.

## EXERCISE 4.

Re-write the following sentences using the words given.

e.g. *An unexpected problem emerged.....come up.*

*An unexpected problem came up.*

1. The thief has never been punished.....away with

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1. Sarah went to the cinema and Paul went with her..... along

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2. The romance has ended .....over

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3. Even though I didn't mean it, I said something really tactless.....foot

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4. She was happy when Andrew left because she couldn't stand him.....saw

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6. I found his joke really funny but I didn't laugh.....kept

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## EXERCISE 5.

Complete the following sentences using one of the following phrasal verbs.

*to hunt down*      *to pack up*      *to shack up (with s/body)*

*to come across*      *to blow s/thing up*      *to drink up*

*to hang up*      *to pin s/thing/body down*

*to run away with*      *to rake s/thing up*

*to bring s/thing up*

*to check out*      *to fall for s/thing/body*      *to go on about s/thing*

*to pick s/thing/body up*      *to sit on/upon s/thing*

*to stumble on/upon/across*

1. It was such a small problem at first. Now it \_\_\_\_\_  
into something enormous.
2. At the end of the conversation I \_\_\_\_\_ the  
phone.
3. My plant hasn't been watered for days. I'm sure that as soon  
as I water it, it \_\_\_\_\_ all the water  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. The robbers \_\_\_\_\_ by the police for over a  
week.
5. I told John a few white lies regarding where I had been and  
he \_\_\_\_\_ it.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ anybody so rude in all my life.
7. Have you heard the news? Sarah and Andrew  
\_\_\_\_\_ together!

They are renting a house near the station.

8. She was looking for her old school books, when she \_\_\_\_\_ some school photos.
9. Shall we \_\_\_\_\_ the question of summer holidays at the next meeting?
10. On my last day of work, I will have to \_\_\_\_\_ all my belongings.
11. I don't like going out with Mary. She always \_\_\_\_\_ your past.
12. I'd rather \_\_\_\_\_ this problem for the moment.  
I need time to think about it.
13. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the tickets \_\_\_\_\_ on the way home from work?

14. Hilary never stops talking about her work problems. She \_\_\_\_\_ for hours.
15. I couldn't quite \_\_\_\_\_ what I thought about Jessica.
16. Don't let your imagination \_\_\_\_\_ you. Get the facts first.
17. We have to \_\_\_\_\_ of the hotel before 11.00am.

## EXERCISE 6.

Match the following phrasal verbs with their meanings.

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. to be/get mixed up in/with something | a. to quit                       |
| 2. to call somebody in                  | b. to postpone                   |
| 3. to come up with                      | c. to be occupied/busy with      |
| 4. to go round                          | d. to be involved in/with        |
| 5. to drop by                           | e. to clean/clear/push away      |
| 6. to drop out of                       | f. to be implying/trying to say  |
| 7. to go through                        | g. to hold tightly               |
| 8. to build up                          | h. to produce/find               |
| 9. to face up to something              | i. to visit unexpectedly         |
| 10. to get rid of something/body        | j. to accumulate/form a<br>block |

11. to hang on to something

12. to put something off

13. to sweep away

14. to be up to something

15. to get at something

16. to go over something

k. to send for somebody to come to the house to perform a service

l. to experience

m. to become free of

n. to examine details of/look at

o. to recognise and deal with, honestly and bravely

p. to reach a destination by using a route other than the usual or shortest way

## EXERCISE 7.

Using some of the above phrasal verbs, complete the following sentences.

1. What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_? I'm just filing the letters.
2. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ a solution to that problem you were telling me about?
3. I haven't been to see you for ages. Can I \_\_\_\_\_ at the weekend?
4. The tension at work \_\_\_\_\_ for months now and I think the boss is about to explode.
5. Due to the bad weather, today's football match \_\_\_\_\_ until next Tuesday.

## EXERCISE 8.

Replace the existing verbs in the sentence with the correct phrasal verb from the following list.

*to wipe off*

*to wipe out*

*to go ahead*

*to be through with*   *to get stuck with somebody or something*

*to lay oneself open*

*to something*

*to get through*

*e.g. The writing on the wall had been wiped off before the Pope's motorcade came past.*

1. The opposing forces will be totally eliminated during the political campaign.

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2. The plan to destroy his political opponents by any means possible proceeded with machine–like efficiency.

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3. At a very young age the now rich business man decided that he had had enough of the moral rigor imposed on him by his Jesuit teachers.

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4. For the moment, the young and ambitious businessman had to admit that he was forced to work with his older and more scrupulous partner

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5. He exposed himself to great risk in order to save his father from disgrace.

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6. He wouldn't listen, it was impossible to reason with him.

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7. If he could avoid any extra duty, he would.

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8. Although the tycoon put on a democratic appearance, anyone who knew him personally knew that he favoured fascism.

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9. He noted the phone number in his agenda.

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## EXERCISE 9.

A. Match the following phrasal verbs on the left with the appropriate meaning on the right:

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|----------------------|--|
| Hold on to sth       | a. Receive something unpleasant                              |
| Catch up with sb     | b. Agree with  |
| Look down on sb      | c. Reach somebody who is ahead                               |
| Send off for sth     | d. Begin to do/give serious attention                        |
| Come in for sth      | e. Continue doing  |
| Walk out on sb       | f. Ask to be sent something by mail                          |
| Get down to          | g. Keep something/ not give away                             |
| Carry on with sth    | h. End/abolish   |
| Do away with sth/sb  | i. Think you are better than others                          |
| Go along with sth/sb | j. Suddenly leave someone you are having a relationship with |

## EXERCISE 10.

Fill in the space with the phrases below and put them in the correct tense, if necessary.

*be left stranded*    *cross one's mind*    *come to terms (with)*  
*come straight to the point*    *have a go*    *start off*

e.g. *You've already tried. Let me have a go.*

1. We had such a hard time. I'd never \_\_\_\_\_  
so difficult a situation as that.
2. He's not very clear. He never \_\_\_\_\_
3. I'm sorry. I didn't think. It \_\_\_\_\_
4. I had no money, no passport and no friends. I \_\_\_\_\_

5. The project \_\_\_\_\_ well but met some difficulties later on.
6. The situation is incredible. It's \_\_\_\_\_
7. The opposing sides \_\_\_\_\_ after an all-night negotiating session.
8. I don't know if I can do it but I \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE 11.

Complete the sentences by writing the correct tense of the correct phrasal verb in the spaces. Remember that sometimes there is more than one meaning for a phrasal verb!

*to dream up / to rule something out / to stand out / to sum up /*

*to turn away /*

*to be tied up / to set somebody up / to come out with /*

*to knock somebody out /*

*to let oneself in for something / to come over / to make up /*

*to take off / to tie something up*

*e.g. Well, that's that investigation over, we've managed to tie up all the loose ends in the case and the criminal is behind bars. Well done everyone!*

*Oh, look at that poor dog! He's been tied up for hours outside that shop.*

1. I overheard Janice speaking to Simon the other day. It sounds as though the doctors have decided that they're not too old to have children, since she said they shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ having children yet.

2. That blackmailing hussy! I can't believe Graham hasn't seen through her yet. I really don't think he knows what \_\_\_\_\_ by moving in with her!



3. Felicity was looking through the newspaper clippings from the last Olympics, yesterday. Teresa had blurted out about her new boyfriend having been the Olympic Swimming Champion, and after she \_\_\_\_\_ it, Felicity went straight to check, and of course, the twerp had been lying!
4. That mischievous kid teased our neighbour's puppy so much, that it tried to bite him. You should have seen how fast he \_\_\_\_\_!
5. Sam has just told me about his latest plan to make money. Honestly! The things he \_\_\_\_\_ are incredible!
6. Do you remember that guy, Christopher from the party the other night? He really gives me the creeps – he's such a devious, person. He was trying to get Phil's girlfriend to go out

with him, you know. Mind you, she did look absolutely  
stunning, she really \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Stephanie and Marcus were really having a bad argument  
last night. You could hear them until 4 a.m. screaming at each  
other, but they seem to have \_\_\_\_\_ now, I saw them  
hand-in-hand at the market this morning.

8. Josephine went for an interview yesterday. Poor thing, the  
recruitment agent really \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_, the job  
wasn't anything like what she was looking for, and she had to  
spend £50.00 on the train fare, which is non-refundable!

9. It's a shame you didn't make it to the house-warming party  
the other evening – I wish you had been able to  
\_\_\_\_\_, it was a really good laugh.

10. “...and so, if nobody else has anything to add to this month’s meeting, I’ll just \_\_\_\_\_ the main points again so that everyone is clear about our objectives”.
11. “Stuart”, she cried, “don’t leave like this!” But he just looked and then \_\_\_\_\_ without uttering another word.
12. Emma looked fabulous in that Armani dress at the gala dinner. There was no-one else who looked nearly as good as her. She really \_\_\_\_\_ from the crowd.
13. I’m awfully sorry about not being able to come to dinner tonight, darling, I’m rather \_\_\_\_\_ at work still!

## EXERCISE 12.

Use the phrasal verbs seen above to complete the phrases below:

(use each phrasal verb once)

*e.g. George was kicked out of the bar last night for having drunk too much.*

1. I've \_\_\_\_\_ some new books.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ that painting. One day it will be worth millions.

3. It's about time I \_\_\_\_\_ studying for my finale exams.

4. He thinks it's time we \_\_\_\_\_ the British Monarchy.

5. He's still \_\_\_\_\_ his university studies after all these years.
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ her children when they were really young.
7. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ her views on abortion.
8. Elisabeth \_\_\_\_\_ people who haven't been to university.
9. The federal government's foreign policies have \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of criticism.
10. The police were finally able to \_\_\_\_\_ the criminal at the border.