

PHRASAL VERBS AND IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

EXERCISE 1.

Using the following phrasal verbs and idiomatic expressions,
complete the sentences.

to be on to sth

to be worked up

to pop over

to keep on doing sth

to tip sb off

to come down to it

to come on

to break up

to get through to

ups and downs of sth

to settle on

up and about

to be up against sth

up and down

to crack up

to make up

to speak up

1. _____ please! I can't hear what you are saying.
2. Why don't you _____ and see me later. I'll be at home after 5 pm.
3. We _____ the house in the country. It was a hard decision though.
4. Yvonne has been _____ lately since her marriage broke up.
5. I've got so much work to do at the moment that if I don't take a holiday, I _____.
6. The detective _____ to the case since January. It won't be long before he knows who was responsible.
7. The teacher _____ lots of new activities before she left. She had a lot of imagination.

8. David _____ the police _____ about the drugs deal which was taking place that evening.
9. Don't get yourself so _____ about the interview – you'll be fine.
10. How _____ the message _____ to you so quickly? I only sent it a few hours ago.
11. He _____ asking and asking until his mother eventually said yes.
12. Have you heard the news? George and Belinda _____ . George has a new girlfriend now. Belinda is distraught.
13. I hate going into work because my boss _____ to me. He is always sending me messages and phoning me and telling me how beautiful I look.

14. When it _____, she hasn't got a leg to stand on.
15. There will always be _____ and _____ of everything. You have to learn to cope with good and bad situations.
16. Don't worry! After the operation, you will be _____ and _____ in no time. Wait and see!!
17. I _____ a real hard case this time. I don't think it will be easy to solve.

EXERCISE 2.

Fill in the spaces with the phrases below and put them in the correct tense.

to take a shine to to put your finger on to look through
to look forward to to knock down to fail to come through

e.g. She seems to have fallen apart after her break up with her boyfriend.

1. Would you take a look at that! Henry really seems to have _____ that bimbo.

Look! He is even holding her hand.

2. I can't _____ it but I think it may have something to do with the drive-shaft. If I were you, I wouldn't drive another inch.

3. After the bombing of Dresden during the Second World War, almost all the buildings left standing had _____.

4. It has been such a long time since we had the opportunity to go anywhere. I'm really _____ to our holiday in July.

5. It's very unfortunate that you will have to _____ your company _____ to that son of yours. How long do you think the business will last under that idiot's management?

6. I _____ my father's papers after his death and came across these old photos taken during the war.

7. This old dress is all tattered and torn. It's literally _____.

8. He was very upset when the offer to buy his firm _____.

EXERCISE 3.

Put the correct word in the gaps below:

denied to get a grip old-fashioned steer clear of

e.g. What are you so nervous and jumpy about.

Everything will be fine.

1. Despite keeping up his perfect record of good behaviour, the prisoner was _____ early release due to the seriousness of his crime.
2. “Private Jones, if you don’t _____ of yourself now, I’ll shoot you myself before you get us all killed.

3. Irene definitely has an _____ way about her. She wears clothes I used to see my grandmother wear and she doesn't seem to keep any modern equipment in that cottage of hers. She hasn't even got a fridge.
4. I have told you several times to _____ that rascal down the street, but you just wouldn't listen. I hope you have learnt your lesson now.
5. Roger had never been so _____ in his life as on the day of his wedding. It was a big enough ordeal for him as it was, without his crazy ex-girlfriend turning up at the church. She then proceeded to burst into tears in front of his bride.

6. Don't be so _____! We'll be in and out of the building in less than five minutes. The police won't have any chance of catching us.
7. Henry hadn't put any effort into his job over the last three years, yet when he was told he had been _____ he expressed an amazing sense of Surprise and anger. He confronted his boss with a look that suggested "how dare you"!
8. Jenny's having her birthday party next week. Why don't we all _____ a nice present?

EXERCISE 4.

Put the correct expression in the sentences. You may have to make necessary changes.

look over peter out grow up go in
look through think out pay court to be sacked

e.g. Their love petered out and boredom set in.

1. Don't forget to _____ this exercise again before you give it to the teacher to correct.
2. Some people never _____. They can be thirty-five years old but act like they're fifteen!
3. If we want to get the deal done, we'll have to _____ to the politicians!

4. Please _____ your objectives before you start the actual work.

5. The family had a lot of money but after three generations it _____

6. After thirty years in the firm, he _____ without notice.

7. The screw doesn't fit; it _____.

8. I _____ my recipe book when I found my great-grandmother's Christmas cake recipe.

EXERCISE 5.

Fit the words in the box below into the correct spaces in the story.

*To think up - to take sth in one's stride - to look out for someone
To hang about - to litter up - to drop by - to bump into*

Martin desperately needed something to do. It had been one of those mornings where everything seemed so stale and so dead. He decided that it was about time he _____ a plan of action for his life, or at least for today. Without further delay he got dressed, grabbed a quick sandwich and left the house for the town centre.

On route, he met the usual wasters _____ the old mill entrance, which was their usual haunt. As he passed by, they shouted abuse at him. Martin showed his hands deeper into his pockets and tried to look like he _____.

Unfortunately, Martin wasn't the type of person who could deal with these situations emotionally, and he realised that without his big brother _____, he was no longer so brave about going into town alone. This was particularly true when he had to pass by these gangs of bigger, older and much more frightening boys than he had ever imagined.

He wondered how the villagers could ever allow these boys _____ the streets all day with their scruffy appearances and their nasty attitudes.

Martin changed his pace to a much faster one, and he quickly reached the centre of town. As he was turning the corner past The Crown bar he _____ his oldest friend. A short ugly little creature might be the best description one could give to him. Melvin was a year older than Martin, but he looked several years younger. Melvin always spoke with a fast broken accent:

“I’ve been looking for you everywhere. Martin, I have a very important proposal to _____ “. Melvin’s voice grew faster and more excited as he explained his plans . It was extremely difficult , as it always was , for Martin to understand his friend , but he did get general gist . Melvin wanted to get some funds together in order _____ his own little business venture. He wanted Martin _____ so he could show him his plans. Martin dropped his hands back into his pockets and turned around in the direction of his home. Melvin heard him mutter something about maybe _____ later.