

3 Phrasal verbs 1: *break, bring, call, come*

A Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *break*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 I'm going to have to change my car. It keeps on breaking down !

1 The two countries have _____ diplomatic relations.

2 Thieves _____ at the weekend and stole two valuable paintings.

3 Police were called in to _____ the demonstration.

4 The two prisoners _____ from their guards and escaped.

B Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *bring*.

1 It must have been standing in the pouring rain at Saturday's match that _____ your cold.

2 It is far more difficult nowadays to _____ children than it used to be.

3 Gold Software have announced that they are going to _____ thirty new computer games this year.

4 Every time I go camping it _____ happy memories of my youth.

Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *call*.

David said he would _____ us at 7.30 to drive us to the station.

2 Because of objections from local residents they had to _____ the open-air pop concert.

3 If you're visiting Manchester next month, why don't you _____ my sister. She'd be delighted to see you again.

4 They _____ her Emily _____ her grandmother.

Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *come*.

1 I _____ these old photographs while I was tidying up the attic.

2 It took the boxer over a minute to _____ after he had been knocked out by his opponent.

3 She will _____ quite a lot of money when her grandmother dies.

4 I don't think much of this new washing powder. Look! The stain on my shirt still hasn't _____!

E Without looking back at exercises A–D, write the correct phrasal verb (*break, bring, call* or *come*) next to the following definitions. (They are in no particular order).

1 collect (someone) (e.g. by car) _____

2 raise (children) _____

3 go and visit (someone) _____

4 appear (e.g. the sun, a flower) _____

5 to stop working, fail mechanically (e.g. a car)

6 find by accident _____

7 be the cause of, lead to (e.g. a cold) _____

8 enter a building illegally, often with force

9 cancel _____

10 regain consciousness (after fainting or being knocked out)

11 recall, cause a memory to return _____

12 inherit (money, property) _____



The meaning of a phrasal verb can sometimes, but not always, be worked out from the meaning of the particle (preposition or adverb) that follows the verb. For example, the particle *up* is used (amongst other things) to show that an action is completed, as in *Cabbage is good for you, so eat it all up!* i.e. eat all of it.

4 Phrasal verbs 2: *fall, get, go, keep*

Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *fall*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 The roof of the building fell in, killing two people and injuring twenty others.

1 She slipped and _____, breaking her leg in the process.

'I see Paul and Jane aren't speaking to one another.'

'Yes, they've _____ again for some reason.'

You didn't _____ that old three-card trick, did you? I didn't think you were so gullible!

'Did you get that contract you were talking about?'

'No, it _____.'

B Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *get*.

1 'When did you _____ from your holidays?'
'Last Friday.'

2 The telephone socket was behind the bookcase which made it very difficult to _____.

3 I tried phoning twice but couldn't _____. The line was engaged each time.

4 All this rain is really _____ me
_____. I wish it were summer again.

C Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *go*.

1 After months of negotiations, the deal finally
_____.

2 Time always seems to _____ so quickly when
you're enjoying yourself.

3 Don't drink that milk – it's _____!

4 Do you think this T-shirt will _____ my yellow
shorts?

D Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *keep*.

1 Try to _____ the subject of politics tonight. We
don't want Peter and Colin quarrelling again, do we?

2 They were walking so quickly that she found it hard to
_____ with them.

3 Do you have any sprays or anything else that will
_____ flies and mosquitoes?

4 You haven't told me everything, have you? You're still
_____ something _____.

Without looking back at exercises A–D, write the correct phrasal verb (*fall, get, go or keep*) next to the following definitions. (They are in no particular order).

- 1 be connected (by telephone) _____
- 2 match (style, colour) _____
- 3 maintain same speed, level as others _____
- 4 reach (e.g. something on a high shelf) _____
- 5 be deceived by (e.g. a false story) _____
- 6 return (e.g. from a holiday) _____
- 7 withhold (information) _____
- 8 avoid a subject _____
- 9 go bad (food, milk) _____
- 10 depress, demoralise _____
- 11 quarrel _____
- 12 pass (time) _____

5 Phrasal verbs 3: *look, put, take*

A Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *look*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 Could you look after the children for me on Friday evening? I've got to go to a Parent-Teacher Association meeting.

1 _____! There's a car coming.

2 Most children _____ to the summer holidays.

3 Do you _____ on your schooldays and think of them as the best days of your life.

4 If you don't know the meaning of a word, _____ it _____ in a dictionary.

5 We've had several complaints this week, Mrs Baker. I'd like you to _____ them please.

B Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *put*.

1 The fire brigade arrived quickly and soon _____ the fire.

2 We've decided to get rid of our coal fires and _____ central heating instead.

3 He tried to _____ some money each week in case of emergencies.

4 By the way, James, there's no meeting tonight after all. It's been _____ until next week.

5 Their dog was old and in pain, so they decided to have it _____.

C Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *take*.

1 'Your daughter has a very good voice, Mr Blake.'

'Well, she _____ her mother, not me. I can't sing a note.'

2 If you want a job, Julie, *The Book Store* are _____ extra staff for Christmas.

3 I tried playing golf once but never really _____ it. As far as I was concerned, it was boring.

4 He sounded so convincing when he said he was a film director that we were all completely _____. You can imagine how surprised we were to learn that in reality he was an out-of-work plumber.

5 There's a rumour going round that Rainbow Computers are planning to _____ a top American software company.

D Without looking back at exercises A–C, write the correct phrasal verb (*look*, *put* or *take*) next to the following definitions. (They are in no particular order).

1 examine, investigate (e.g. a complaint) _____

2 develop a liking for (something) _____

3 save (money) _____

4 try to find (information) _____

5 extinguish (a fire) _____

6 gain control of a company _____

7 kill humanely (a pet) _____

8 take care of, care for (someone) _____

9 resemble (in looks, talent) _____

10 remember the past _____



One way to work on your knowledge of phrasal verbs is to draw a matrix like the one below and, using a good EFL dictionary, see how many combinations you can find.

	away	across	down	in	off	up
break	✓					
cut						
give						
keep						
fall						
see						
hold						