



2b English in Use

PHRASAL VERBS 2

11 Replace the words in bold with one of the phrasal verbs in the correct form from the list below.

- break through • bear out • balance against
- blow up • bank on • brush up • blow over
- become of • build up • book up

- 0 What **has happened to** John?
I haven't seen him for ages. *has become of*
- 1 Over the years he **has accumulated** an impressive collection of artefacts from all over the world.
- 2 Your request for greater financial support has to be **assessed in relation to** the claims from other departments.
- 3 He may come tomorrow but don't **depend on it**.
- 4 Their disagreement about where to spend their holidays soon **stopped and was forgotten**.
- 5 The restaurant was fully **reserved** so we went to another.
- 6 I accept your excuse. His statement **supports the truth of** your story.
- 7 Fortunately, no one was in the car when it **exploded**.
- 8 I must **improve** my Italian before going to that meeting in Rome.
- 9 After days of rain, the sun finally **became visible** from behind the clouds.

What are the different uses of **burn down** and **burn up**? Use each meaning correctly in a sentence.

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IDIOMS/FIXED PHRASES 1

12 Match the idioms/fixed phrases with the definitions.

0 black and blue all over	a fed up
1 by and large	b very lively
2 behind bars	c sudden clever idea
3 full of beans	d show neither profit nor loss
4 drop a brick	e be very expensive
5 browned off	f covered with bruises
6 a brainwave	g suddenly and unexpectedly
7 out of the blue	h in prison
8 break even	i on the whole
9 cost a bomb	j do/say sth tactless

0	f	2	4	6	8
1		3	5	7	9

IDIOMS/FIXED PHRASES 2

13 Look at Appendix 2 and explain the following idioms/fixed phrases in bold.

- 1 Stop **beating about/around the bush** and come to the point.
- 2 You should **take the bull by the horns** and go and see him right now.
- 3 The name **rings a bell** but I can't remember who she is.
- 4 The scandal was **laid bare** by an ambitious journalist.
- 5 Tom is the teacher's **blue-eyed boy/golden boy**.
- 6 His life was hanging **in the balance**. We didn't know if he would live or die.
- 7 I'm afraid I'm **broke**. I can't lend you any money.
- 8 He's been in everyone's **black books** since he was caught cheating in the exam.
- 9 He decided to **make a clean breast of it** and tell his wife exactly what had happened.
- 10 The takeover came as **a bolt from the blue**.
- 11 Everything should be set out **in black and white** so that there will be no room for misunderstanding.
- 12 He's always playing practical jokes on us; I think it's time we **got our own back**.
- 13 My parents' attitude towards the less fortunate, really **makes my blood boil**.
- 14 It's going to rain; I **feel it in my bones**.

- 15 The researchers realised they had been **barking up the wrong tree** when the first results came back negative.
- 16 It might be a good idea to **butter up the boss** before you ask for a rise.
- 17 **Don't hold your breath** waiting for him; he'll never show up!
- 18 The student was **caught red-handed** cheating in the physics exam.
- 19 John's injury **dealt a blow** to his hopes of getting onto the Olympic swimming team.
- 20 I'm glad to **see the back** of those terrible children.

IDIOMS/FIXED PHRASES 3

- 14 What sort of person would you describe as

- 1 a chip off the old block?
.....
- 2 a wet blanket?
.....
- 3 big-headed?
.....
- 4 above board?
.....

PREPOSITIONS

- 15 Look at Appendix 5 and fill the blanks with the correct preposition.

- 0 Please take care *of* your sister while I'm out.
- 1 You have no choice the matter. You have to do what he says.
- 2 Your alibi is consistent our report.
- 3 Does this CD belong anyone?
- 4 He aimed the target, squeezed the trigger and fired.
- 5 The board was agreeable the proposal.
- 6 You're very careless locking the house; anyone could walk in.
- 7 She was bored the tedious conversation and tried to change the subject.
- 8 If you concentrated more your school work, your grades would improve.
- 9 My mother is confined a wheelchair so she doesn't go out very much.
- 10 She didn't like flying and was apprehensive making the journey alone.
- 11 If you can bear me a little longer, I'll give you all the information together.

- 16 Look at Appendix 5 and choose the best alternative.

- 1 Did you notice the **for sale/on sale** sign outside the house next door?
- 2 There's no point trying to talk to Stuart; he's totally **absorbed by/absorbed** in that magazine.
- 3 The agent is believed to have been **in possession of/in the possession of** the documents all along.
- 4 The social worker received an anonymous letter, warning him not to **meddle with/meddle** in other people's business.
- 5 As soon as the leopard came **in sight/on sight**, the hunter pulled the trigger.
- 6 This letter is to **advise you of/advise you on** the fact that your overdraft currently stands at £6,435.
- 7 Some people believe that the end of the world is **at hand/in hand**.
- 8 The most upsetting part of her relationship with her parents was that they rarely **supported her with/supported her** in her decisions.
- 9 Even though they knew each other **on sight/by sight**, they had never exchanged words.
- 10 When the magician was asked the secret of his trick, he **responded with/responded** to a secretive smile.

- 17 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use *between three and eight words*, including the word given.

- 1 His father was very angry with him when he heard he had damaged the car.
blew
His father he had damaged the car.
- 2 His speech was so confusing that nobody could understand what he was talking about.
baffled
Everyone speech.
- 3 Jenny's birthday is on the same day as the Queen's.
coincides
Jenny's Queen's.
- 4 Some children treat their younger siblings badly.
cruel
Some younger siblings.

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- 5 He bought a new jacket without having planned to.
spur
He bought moment.
- 6 Initially, losing one's job can seem awful; afterwards it can work out well, for some people.
blessing
Losing one's job has proved some people.
- 7 He's a pleasant man socially, but he's a tough businessman.
bargain
He's a pleasant man business.
- 8 He has an obsession about the dishonesty of lawyers.
bee
He dishonesty of lawyers.
- 9 The young actress was very nervous before the audition.
butterflies
The young actress audition.
- 10 She was just about to pass out when someone offered her a seat.
verge
She was when someone offered her a seat.
- 11 Simon couldn't remember ever having met the woman.
recollection
Simon ever having met the woman.
- 12 Malcolm has finally decided to leave his job at the bank.
hand
Malcolm has at the bank.
- 13 He got up very early this morning.
crack
He this morning.
- 14 He didn't seem to consider anything to be as important as winning that medal.
matter
Nothing winning that medal.
- 15 The conference will now take place at a later date.
postponed
The conference a later date.
- 16 The diplomat has been arrested because it is believed he had been spying for his government.
suspicion
The diplomat has been arrested for his government.
- 17 Cindy must be ill; she ate very little of her lunch.
touched
Cindy must be ill; her lunch.

FIXED PHRASES

make common cause with sb:	act together to achieve aim
rise to the challenge:	act and be successful even though sth is new
give chapter and verse:	give every exact detail
hold/keep in check:	control; prevent from becoming too powerful
big cheese (inf):	person with important job/position
take sth on the chin (inf):	bravely accept criticism, punishment etc
chop and change (inf):	keep changing (your mind)
strike a chord:	make sb feel sympathy/enthusiasm
claim to fame:	thing which makes sb unusual/important
come clean (inf):	admit the truth; confess
steer/stay clear of:	avoid sb/sth
part company with (f):	end association
of no/little consequence (f):	of no value/importance
cut corners:	be less thorough
not all it's cracked up to be (inf):	not as good as people say it is/overestimated
cramp one's style (inf):	restrict one's behaviour in some way