

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with the particles in the box.

down | by | into | out of | to | back on | out | down to

- 1 The government has refused to back _____ on this issue.
- 2 I think it comes _____ how much money you have.
- 3 He said he would stand _____ his comments even if it ended his political career.
- 4 'Did she say why she was going there?' – 'No, she didn't go _____ it.'
- 5 When I pointed this _____ to Adam, he got upset.
- 6 Is there anything I can say to talk you _____ it?
- 7 I should have listened _____ your advice.
- 8 Now you're going _____ what you told me earlier.

Exercise 2

Correct the phrasal verbs in these sentences.

- 1 I didn't want to go out after work, but my colleagues insisted in it.
- 2 The guide pointed up all the places of interest along the journey.
- 3 OK, I'll join the committee. I didn't want to, but you've managed to talk me over it!
- 4 She won the interviewers through with her excellent presentation.
- 5 Nobody agrees with the manager's decision, but he refuses to back up.
- 6 When it comes in to working overtime, everyone wants to make their opinions heard.
- 7 She had strong beliefs and always stood up her decisions.
- 8 I can't go back up my word.

Exercise 3

Match phrasal verbs 1–6 with definitions A–F.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 agree with | A start talking about something again |
| 2 back up | B give your attention to |
| 3 insist on | C give evidence to prove something is true |
| 4 go back to | D ask for something and refuse anything else |
| 5 listen to | E show someone where something is (or give important information) |
| 6 point out | F approve of something |

Exercise 4

Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 If you talk someone out of something, you persuade them not to do it. ☐
- 2 If you point something out, you persuade someone to do something. ☐
- 3 If you give in, you start talking about something. ☐
- 4 If you bring something into a discussion, you start talking about it. ☐
- 5 If you talk someone into something, you persuade them to do it. ☐
- 6 If you listen to someone, you pay attention to them. ☐

Exercise 5

Match sentence halves 1–8 with A–H to make complete sentences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 If you don't listen to all the arguments, | A to a point you made earlier. |
| 2 It's no good trying to talk me out | B you won't be able to make a fair judgement. |
| 3 We haven't got time to | C of my decision. |
| 4 I'd like to just point out | D go into the matter more thoroughly at the moment. |
| 5 I know you want me to change my mind | E that we all agreed on this two weeks ago. |
| 6 I just want to go back | F but I'm not going to give in. |
| 7 A true friend would never | G her earlier comments. |
| 8 She said she stands by | H go back on a promise. |

Exercise 6

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box.

talk ... into | talk ... out of | point out | listen to | go into | back ... up

- The tour guide _____ various landmarks to us.
- Don't _____ anyone who tells you anything different.
- I really don't want to _____ it right now.
- Gary _____ his argument _____ with various examples.
- I don't want her to go, so I'm going to try to _____ her _____ it.
- I decided to apply for the job after my boss _____ me _____ doing it.

Exercise 7

Read the discussion about a newspaper article. Underline all the phrasal verbs, then answer the questions which follow.

Josh: I agree with most of the points the author makes, but not all of them.

Ryan: He didn't win me over with his argument at all. He just didn't back up any of his claims with facts or research.

Josh: But if you listen to what he said about how technology has changed society, you have to agree with him.

Ryan: No, for me it all comes down to money – that's what really matters.

- Does Josh agree with all the points made by the author?
- Does Ryan agree with any of the points made in the article?
- What does Ryan think the author failed to do?
- On what issue does Josh agree with the author?
- What is the most important issue for Ryan?

Exercise 8

Make these sentences less formal. Replace the underlined verbs with the phrasal verbs in the box.

back up | bring ... into | stand by | gave in | go into | insisted on | listening to

- We finally surrendered to their demands.
- Can you support your argument with any examples?
- I'd rather not discuss this here.
- Hannah always insisted upon only the best restaurants.
- Are you actually paying attention to me?
- I'd like to introduce a new topic into the debate.
- We still abide by our earlier decision to fire him.

Your turn!

Read an article about a subject you find interesting in a newspaper, journal or online. Use the phrasal verbs in this unit to talk about your opinions on the subject. For example:

I found it interesting that the author went into her experiences in detail.

