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
2 back up
3 insist on
4 go back to
5 listen to
6 point out

A start talking about something again
B give your attention to
C give evidence to prove something is true
D ask for something and refuse anything else
E show someone where something is (*or* give important information)
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,
2 It's no good trying to talk me out
3 We haven't got time to
4 I'd like to just point out
5 I know you want me to change my mind
6 I just want to go back
7 A true friend would never
8 She said she stands by

A to a point you made earlier.
B you won't be able to make a fair judgement.
C of my decision.
D go into the matter more thoroughly at the moment.
E that we all agreed on this two weeks ago.
F but I'm not going to give in.
G her earlier comments.
H go back on a promise.

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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

1 The tour guide _____ various landmarks to us.
2 Don't _____ anyone who tells you anything different.
3 I really don't want to _____ it right now.
4 Gary _____ his argument _____ with various examples.
5 I don't want her to go, so I'm going to try to _____ her _____ it.
6 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.

1 Does Josh agree with all the points made by the author?
2 Does Ryan agree with any of the points made in the article?
3 What does Ryan think the author failed to do?
4 On what issue does Josh agree with the author?
5 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

1 We finally surrendered to their demands.
2 Can you support your argument with any examples?
3 I'd rather not discuss this here.
4 Hannah always insisted upon only the best restaurants.
5 Are you actually paying attention to me?
6 I'd like to introduce a new topic into the debate.
7 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.



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