82 Phrasal verbs

A Phrasal verbs with more formal equivalents

PHRASAL VERB	MORE FORMAL EQUIVALENT
If you **get** your ideas **across** to someone,	you **communicate** them to sb successfully.
If you **bring up** a topic in conversation,	you **raise** the topic. = introduce it into the conversation
If you **look up to** someone,	you **respect** them. = have a high opinion of them
If you **own up to** something,	you **confess to** it. = admit you did sth wrong
If you **get over** a problem	you **overcome** it. = find a way to solve it
If you **put** something **off**,	you **postpone** it. = arrange for an event etc. to take place at a later time
If you **put forward** a plan,	you **propose** it. = suggest it for discussion
If you **call off** a meeting,	you **cancel** it. = decide that sth that has been arranged will not take place
If you **make up for** something,	you **compensate for** it. = provide sth good to balance or reduce the bad effects of damage, loss, etc.
If you are **taken in** by someone,	you **are deceived** by them. = are made to believe sth that isn't true
If a book **comes out**,	it **is published**. = is produced for sale

1 **Match the verbs on the left with the phrasal verbs on the right with the same meaning.**

propose	compensate	cancel	take sb in	call sth off	put sth off
postpone	deceive	confess	own up to sth	get sth across	get over sth
communicate	overcome		make up for sth	put sth forward	

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2 **Rewrite the sentences using the word in capitals at the end as part of a phrasal verb.**

1 I never expected him to confess to the crime. UP .....
2 Nothing can compensate for the loss of earnings. MAKE .....
3 Will someone raise the topic at the meeting? UP .....
4 Who proposed the plan? FORWARD .....
5 The inspector isn't easily deceived. IN .....
6 Why did they cancel the meeting? OFF .....
7 He has always respected his uncle. UP .....
8 When was the new dictionary published? OUT .....
9 The match has been postponed for a week. OFF .....
10 We have to communicate our message more clearly. ACROSS .....

3 **Complete the responses using a suitable phrasal verb**

1 Elena Ferranti is writing a new novel. ~ Great! When will ..... ?
2 We need to discuss staff holidays. ~ Yes, at the next meeting, I'm going to ..... .
3 This is such an unhappy situation. ~ Yes, but in time, I'm sure ..... .
4 Do you think a lot of your grandparents? ~ Yes, I really ..... .
5 Damian seems so charming and friendly. ~ Be careful: don't be ..... .
6 Oh, no! I've got a dental appointment tomorrow and I'm going away! ~ Well, you'll just have to ..... .
7 Do they know who stole the painting? ~ Yes, one of the gallery guides has ..... .
8 The transport strike is coming to an end, isn't it? ~ Yes, they've decided to ..... .

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B Multiple meanings

One of the difficulties with phrasal verbs is that some have more than one meaning.

*My brother **gets through** a lot of money.*
(= use up a large amount of sth)
*I tried calling the bank several times, but couldn't **get through** (to anyone).* (= make contact by phone)
*We couldn't **get through to** the village because of snow.* (= reach somewhere)

*Could you **set up** a meeting?*
(= arrange for sth to happen)
*I had to **set up** the computer for them.*
(= make equipment or machinery ready for use)
*The police have **set up** more roadblocks.*
(= build sth or put sth somewhere)

*I'm **taking over from** Sarah Miles next week.*
(= begin to have responsibility for sth, especially in place of sb else)
*The army has **taken over** the country.*
(= gain control of a political party, country, etc.)

*My mum **went through** a difficult period when my dad died.* (= experience or suffer sth)
*I **went through** the evidence carefully.*
(= examine sth carefully, especially to find sth)
*You have to **go through** various security checks.*
(= perform a series of actions)

4 What is the meaning of the phrasal verb in each sentence? Write your answer at the end.

1 UN supply trucks are now trying to get through to the refugee camps. .....
2 Who will take over when the manager retires? .....
3 Do you need someone to set up the recording equipment? .....
4 I went through my emails but couldn't find any record of the meeting. .....
5 I got through to someone in the Accounts department, and they were very helpful. .....
6 We went through a terrible time when our baby was ill, but, fortunately, he recovered. .....
7 The region has been taken over by rebel soldiers. .....
8 If you've never set up a tent before, have a look at some online videos. .....

5 Circle the correct word.

1 I finally ***went through / got through*** to the doctor after 20 minutes on the phone.
2 The police have ***gone through / set up*** a traffic-free area in front of the parliament.
3 The lawyers are ***going through / setting up*** the documents, looking for clues to the disappearance of the money.
4 We are worried about who will ***set up / take over*** when the old leader resigns or dies.
5 The boys are home from university, so we're ***getting through / going through*** a mountain of food.
6 Nobody should have to ***go through / take over*** such terrible medical treatment.
7 The person who ***got through / set up*** the meeting sent out the wrong date to everyone.
8 Could you ***go through / take over*** the shop for a minute while I go and get a coffee?

6 Complete the phrasal verbs in the questionnaire.

Have you ever:

1 had problems _____ _____ to a place because of really bad weather? What happened?
2 _____ _____ a tent in pouring rain?
3 _____ _____ the driving when the person you were with was ill or too tired to carry on?
4 _____ _____ a terrible experience in a plane or on a train? What was it?
5 been stopped and questioned when you were_____ _____ passport control?
6 been involved in_____ _____ a festival?
7 had to help someone_____ _____ their PC or mobile phone?
8 known someone who_____ _____ money faster than they can earn it?

7 ABOUT YOU **Write your answers to the questionnaire in Exercise 7, or tell another student.**

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