

MODERN DATING & THE ART OF PARTING WAYS

Upper-Intermediate (B2) Vocabulary & Listening Worksheet — Student Version

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 30

PART 1: Contextual Reading — Modern Dating & Breakup Culture

*Instruction: Read the passage below about modern relationships. Pay close attention to the **bolded vocabulary and idioms**. Try to deduce their meanings from the context before completing the matching exercise.*

Dating in the modern world can be an emotional rollercoaster. When someone realizes a relationship isn't working, they often procrastinate simply because they can't **get up the courage** to face their partner. Telling someone it is over usually leads to an **awkward** conversation, filled with uncomfortable silences and forced excuses.

Some people prefer to make a clean break, while others wait so long that their friends feel compelled to intervene. However, relationship experts advise that you should never let a group of friends **gang up on** your partner—ending a relationship should remain a private matter between two people.

In modern dating culture, being suddenly rejected or **dumped by** someone you cared about hurts deeply. However, you might notice weeks later that moving on actually **agrees with** them—they suddenly look happier, healthier, and more confident than before! On the other hand, if an ex tries to manipulate or guilt-trip you after ending things, it can really **burn you up** inside and cause lasting resentment.

When a partner starts acting distant or cold, the most direct question to ask is simple: **'What's the matter?'** If they respond with a tense, **scrunchy** facial expression, trouble is usually brewing. Rather than resorting to dramatic tactics like going on an emotional **hunger strike** or giving the silent treatment, mature adults know when it is time to **break up with** someone respectfully.

Ultimately, learning to navigate romantic endings builds emotional maturity. Proving that you can thrive **on your own** creates genuine independence. When the right person comes along, you won't appear too **eager** or desperate—you'll be ready for a healthy connection.

PART 2: Vocabulary & Idiom Matching (12 Points)

Instruction: Match each numbered word/phrase from the reading text (1–12) with its correct definition (A–L). Write the letter in the bracket.

Target Vocabulary / Expression	[]	Definition / Meaning
1. Break up with (someone)	[]	A. Strongly wanting to do or have something; overly enthusiastic.
2. Get up the courage	[]	B. To gather enough bravery to do something difficult or intimidating.
3. Be / get dumped by	[]	C. Causing or feeling social embarrassment, discomfort, or inconvenience.
4. Awkward	[]	D. To join together as a group to oppose, attack, or criticize one person.
5. Gang up on (someone)	[]	E. An informal question asking why someone looks upset, troubled, or unhappy.
6. On your own	[]	F. To suit someone well, making them look healthy, happy, or attractive.
7. Burn (someone) up	[]	G. To end a romantic relationship with a partner.
8. What's the matter?	[]	H. An informal idiom meaning to make someone extremely angry or irritated.
9. Scrunchy	[]	I. Having a facial expression that looks tense, strained, or visibly annoyed.
10. Hunger strike	[]	J. To be abruptly rejected or broken up with by a romantic partner.
11. Agree with (someone)	[]	K. Alone, independently, or without relying on assistance from others.
12. Eager	[]	L. A refusal to eat as a protest (used metaphorically for extreme refusal).

PART 3: Sentence Completion — Contextual Practice (12 Points)

Instruction: Complete each sentence using the correct form of the target vocabulary from the box below.

Word Bank: break up with • get up the courage • dumped by • awkward • gang up on • on your own • burns me up • what's the matter • scrunchy • hunger strike • agrees with • eager

1. After months of lingering tension, Sarah finally decided to _____ her boyfriend at a quiet café.
2. Mark couldn't _____ to ask his supervisor for a raise until he practiced his presentation three times.
3. Feeling deeply hurt after being _____ his former partner, Leo focused on personal growth.
4. There was a horribly _____ silence after he accidentally spilled orange juice all over his interviewer's desk.
5. It isn't fair when all three roommates _____ Tom just because he forgot to take out the trash once.
6. Moving into her own apartment allowed Maya to prove to her family that she could manage perfectly _____.
7. It really _____ when people talk loudly on speakerphone in a quiet study library.
8. You've been staring silently out the window for twenty minutes— _____?
9. When I asked him if he liked the dish, he made a _____ face and admitted it was far too salty.
10. She jokingly threatened to go on a _____ if her parents refused to extend her weekend curfew!
11. Single life obviously _____ Jason; he looks vibrant, energized, and hit a new fitness milestone.
12. Don't reply to their text message instantly; you don't want to seem too _____ on the very first day.

PART 4: Listening Comprehension — 'Friends' Video Clip (6 Points)

Instruction: Watch the coffee shop scene from *Friends* (Season 1) and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Chandler's Breakup Dread: What specific part of breaking up does Chandler dread the most? How does he describe the feeling right after delivering a breakup note?

Answer: _____

2. Joey's Alternative Approach: How does Joey suggest Chandler handle ending his relationship with Janice? Why does Chandler decline?

Answer: _____

3. Phoebe's Mutual Offer: What offer does Phoebe make regarding their partners, and why does Chandler decline doing it together?

Answer: _____

4. Rachel's Family Tension: What argument did Rachel have with her father regarding her independence, and why does his reaction 'burn her up'?

Answer: _____

5. Joey's Reaction to Angela: What observation does Joey make about his ex-girlfriend Angela when he sees her across the coffee shop? What phrase does he use?

Answer: _____

6. Social Rules & Timing: Why does Joey deliberately wait a few seconds before approaching Angela? What social impression is he trying to avoid?

Answer: _____