

Exercise 1

Complete the news headlines with the particles in the box.

TO | DOWN | OUT | OFF | OUT | UP

- 1 BUS BREAKS _____ CAUSING TRAFFIC JAM
- 2 MALFUNCTION CAUSES POWER PLANT TO BLOW _____
- 3 POWER CUT _____ FOR THOUSANDS OF CITY RESIDENTS
- 4 BRIDGE REDUCED _____ RUBBLE IN TRAIN CRASH
- 5 MILLIONS COULD BE WIPED _____ BY DISEASE
- 6 FIREFIGHTERS STRUGGLE TO PUT _____ BLAZE

Exercise 2

Match phrasal verbs 1–8 with definitions A–H.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Some tents were blown away in the storm. | A hit or drive over someone, causing injury |
| 2 The fire broke out on the fifteenth floor. | B have no more of something left |
| 3 An earthquake caused the buildings to fall down. | C explode |
| 4 A bomb went off in the building last night. | D damage a vehicle so it is not worth repairing |
| 5 The fumes from the fire knocked her out for a short time. | E cause someone to become unconscious |
| 6 We need to use less water, otherwise we might run out. | F break into pieces due to being old, weak, or damaged |
| 7 He was run over by a bus and injured. | G begin suddenly |
| 8 The car was completely written off in the accident. | H be moved away from a place by the wind |

Exercise 3

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

put out | run out | blew up | smash down | wipe out | going off

- 1 They had to demolish the door to get access to the apartment.
- 2 It took them four hours to extinguish the fire.
- 3 Scientists are trying to eradicate the disease.
- 4 A car was destroyed in the explosion.
- 5 Police managed to stop the bomb exploding last night.
- 6 The town's food supplies are starting to decrease.

Exercise 4

Match questions 1–8 with replies A–H.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Who was injured in the explosion? | A Yes, the storm knocked out our electricity. |
| 2 When did the war break out? | B Many buildings fell down as a result of it. |
| 3 Was this area affected by the floods? | C Yes, someone was knocked down by a car. |
| 4 What kind of damage was caused by the earthquake? | D No one was injured. But a car was blown up. |
| 5 Did you lose your power supply during the storm? | E It started about a year ago. |
| 6 What happened to the building during the hurricane? | F Yes, the flood water completely cut off parts of the town. |
| 7 Was there an accident on this road earlier? | G No, but the other car was badly damaged. |
| 8 Did you write off your car in the accident? | H It was completely reduced to rubble. |

Exercise 5

Correct the phrasal verbs in these sentences.

- 1 The wind blew up all the papers on my desk.
- 2 My car broke out on the way to work.
- 3 After the petrol shortage, petrol supplies have all run down.
- 4 The earthquake caused large parts of the building to fall through.
- 5 It took fire fighters several days to put off the fire.
- 6 She wrote away the car when she crashed into a wall.

Exercise 6

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

run down go off break down blow up blow away reduce to

- Hundreds were left homeless after storms _____ their houses.
- The boat was _____ fifty years ago by a torpedo.
- Last night the train _____ leaving passengers stuck for eight hours.
- The old wooden shed was _____ a pile of wood by the storm.
- She thought she could hear the sound of a gun _____ in the distance.
- A man was _____ by a bus while trying to cross the road.

Exercise 7

Choose the best answers.

- What breaks out?
A a fire B the wind C a car
- What usually blows something away?
A an explosion B the wind C a balloon
- What breaks down?
A a building B a vehicle C a tree
- What falls down during a storm?
A a road B the wind C a tree
- What can be written off?
A a letter B a building C a car
- What can be put out?
A fire B war C an explosion

Exercise 8

Read the news story. Underline all the phrasal verbs, then decide if the sentences that follow are true (T) or false (F).

FOREST FIRES UNDER CONTROL

A forest fire that broke out on a farm three days ago is now under control. Firefighters were running out of water supplies yesterday, but helicopters brought extra supplies today to help put out the blaze. Huge areas of forest have been wiped out by the fire. Many farm buildings were also reduced to rubble. Fortunately the fire did not spread to a nearby town, which could have cut the town off from firefighters.

- The fire started on a farm. ☐
- Firefighters did not have enough water supplies yesterday. ☐
- They have still not stopped the fire burning. ☐
- Large areas of forest were destroyed by the fire. ☐
- No buildings were damaged. ☐
- A nearby town was separated from the firefighters by the fire. ☐

Your turn!

Look for news stories about an accident or disaster in a newspaper or online. Can you find any examples of the phrasal verbs in this unit?

