

# Collocations with phrasal verbs

## News items

The Justice Minister said he would **abide by the decision**<sup>1</sup> of the High Court to free the prisoner.

The police, **acting on a tip-off**<sup>3</sup>, arrested the thieves as they left the building.

Hollywood star Glenda Nixon has **filed for divorce**<sup>4</sup>. She and her husband Kevin Lomax have lived apart for the last six months.

The new Regional Governor will **take up office**<sup>2</sup> on 1 March, following his party's recent election victory. The Education Commission has been asked by the government to **come up with an alternative** to the present schools examination system.

The police intend to **come down heavily on**<sup>5</sup> anyone causing trouble at tomorrow's football final.

<sup>1</sup> (formal) accept the decision

<sup>3</sup> a secret warning

<sup>2</sup> (formal) start work in an official position

<sup>4</sup> made an official request for a divorce

<sup>5</sup> punish very strongly

## Everyday conversation

Note how B uses a collocation with a phrasal verb to repeat A's ideas.

A: It was great just sitting in the town square and enjoying the feel of the place, wasn't it?

B: Yes, it was nice to just sit there **soaking up the atmosphere**.

A: I think we should both arrange our work schedules so we don't have to work in May.

B: Yes, I'll try to **free up some time** so we can go away together.

A: I'm finding it hard to find time to practise the French I learnt at school.

B: Yes, I have a similar problem **keeping up my Spanish**.

A: Well, all that gardening has made me hungry.

B: Yes, it certainly helps to **work up an appetite**.

A: It'd suit my arrangements if we could meet up at lunch-time.

B: Yes, that would fit in perfectly with **my plans too**.

A: The hotel wasn't as good as I thought it would be.

B: No, it didn't **live up to my expectations** either.



## Other phrasal verbs with strong collocations

**burst into laughter/tears** [suddenly start to laugh/cry]

When she saw the damage the floods had done to her house, she **burst into tears**.

**dip into savings/funds** [spend part of some money which was being saved]

The club had to **dip into** their emergency funds to pay for the repairs to the roof.

**jot down an address / a phone number / a room number** [write down quickly]

Can I **jot down** your email address?

**see off an intruder/opponent** [get rid of, defeat]

He's a tough guy. He **saw off** several intruders who were trying to break into his house.

**adhere to principles / beliefs / ideals / a philosophy** [formal: continue to maintain a belief]

It's difficult to **adhere to one's beliefs** when one is being constantly attacked.



### 11.1 Complete the collocations using prepositions from the box.

by   down   for   in with   to   up   up to   up with

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 file ..... divorce        | 5 live ..... expectations     |
| 2 come ..... an alternative | 6 abide ..... a decision      |
| 3 take ..... office         | 7 jot ..... someone's address |
| 4 adhere ..... a philosophy | 8 fit ..... plans             |

### 11.2 Complete each sentence using a collocation from 11.1 in the appropriate form.

- 1 I'd been looking forward to the course but unfortunately it ..... my expectations.
- 2 Has anyone ..... a good alternative to the petrol- or diesel-fuelled car yet?
- 3 I should ..... your address in case I forget it.
- 4 The new president of our club is due to ..... office next week.
- 5 We have to ..... the decision of the committee; we have no choice.
- 6 Most members of the group ..... a common philosophy.
- 7 I don't have any special arrangements, so can easily ..... your plans.
- 8 Hilda Bragg has ..... divorce in a New York court.

### 11.3 Answer these questions using collocations from the opposite page.

- 1 What can you do with savings or funds in an emergency?
- 2 What can you do with principles or ideals?
- 3 What can you try to do with a language if you don't want to lose it?
- 4 What can guard dogs help you to do if you have intruders?

### 11.4 Correct the collocation errors in these sentences.

- 1 Everyone broke into laughter when she told the story.
- 2 We had a run along the beach to work in an appetite before lunch.
- 3 The police have said they intend to go down heavily on anyone carrying an offensive weapon at the match.
- 4 Do you think you could free out some time to have a quick meeting this afternoon?
- 5 The police acted on a rip-off and managed to avert a possible disaster.
- 6 I hope the party will live on to your expectations.
- 7 We sat on our hotel balcony, soaking through the atmosphere of the carnival.
- 8 Tanya quickly saw out her opponent in the semi-final and now goes on to the final.