

PHRASAL VERBS WORKSHEET

English – Teenagers

Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

Part 1. Learn the phrasal verbs

Read the meanings and examples. Pay attention to how each phrasal verb is used.

Phrasal verb	Meaning	Example
1. Come down hard on somebody	Punish or criticize someone severely	The teacher came down hard on us for cheating.
2. Come out with something	Say something unexpected	He came out with a strange excuse.
3. Hold somebody back from doing something	Prevent someone from doing something	Fear held her back from speaking in public.
4. Hold a grudge against somebody	Continue feeling angry with someone	She still holds a grudge against her friend.
5. Hold off on doing something	Delay doing something	Let's hold off on buying a new phone.
6. Set about doing something	Start doing a task	We set about cleaning the classroom.
7. Set somebody against somebody else	Cause people to oppose each other	The rumor set the two friends against each other.
8. Set forth an idea or solution	Present an idea or solution clearly	He set forth a solution to the problem.
9. Take to doing something	Develop a habit or liking for something	She has taken to reading before bed.
10. Take something in	Understand or absorb information	There was so much information to take in.

Part 2. Match the phrasal verbs

Write the correct letter next to each definition.

1. ____ To begin working on a task.
2. ____ To delay doing something.
3. ____ To continue feeling angry with someone.
4. ____ To understand or absorb information.
5. ____ To present an idea or solution clearly.
6. ____ To prevent someone from doing something.
7. ____ To develop a new habit or liking.
8. ____ To punish or criticize someone severely.
9. ____ To say something unexpected.
10. ____ To cause two people to oppose each other.

Phrasal verbs

- A. Take something in
- B. Set about doing something
- C. Come down hard on somebody
- D. Hold off on doing something
- E. Set forth an idea or solution
- F. Take to doing something
- G. Hold somebody back from doing something
- H. Come out with something
- I. Hold a grudge against somebody
- J. Set somebody against somebody else

Part 3. Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with the correct phrasal verb from the box. Use the correct form when necessary. Use each phrasal verb once.

Word bank: come down hard on · come out with · hold back · hold a grudge · hold off · set about · set against · set forth · take to · take in

1. The coach _____ the players after they arrived late for the final match.
2. I couldn't believe what Daniel _____ during the class discussion. Everyone started laughing.
3. Don't let your fear _____ you _____ trying something new.
4. Even though they apologized, Mark continued to _____ against his former best friend.
5. We should _____ making a decision until we have all the facts.
6. After receiving the instructions, the students _____ preparing their presentations.
7. The false rumors _____ the two best friends _____ each other.
8. During the meeting, the students _____ several ideas for improving the school.
9. Since joining the basketball team, Luis has _____ practicing every afternoon.
10. The teacher explained the instructions twice, but I still found them difficult to _____.

Part 4. Choose the correct option

Circle the correct answer.

1. The principal came down hard (**on / against / about**) the students who damaged the classroom.
2. We decided to hold off (**to buy / on buying / buy**) a new computer.
3. She set about (**to write / writing / wrote**) her essay immediately.
4. The argument set the two brothers (**against / about / forth**) each other.
5. He has taken to (**play / playing / played**) video games in his free time.
6. I need some time to take (**on / out / in**) all this information.
7. She came out (**with / about / against**) an unexpected answer.

8. The speaker set forth **(to / with / an)** interesting solution to the problem.

Part 5. Complete the dialogues

Use an appropriate phrasal verb from the worksheet. Change the form if necessary.

Dialogue 1: A school project

A: Have you started the science project yet?

B: Not yet. I don't really know where to begin.

A: Let's _____ it together.

B: Good idea! We should also _____ some solutions to the problem.

Dialogue 2: Friendship problems

A: Why aren't you talking to Sofia?

B: I'm still angry about what she said last month.

A: You shouldn't _____ against her forever.

B: I know, but the situation is difficult.

Dialogue 3: A surprising announcement

A: Did you hear what our teacher said today?

B: Yes! I couldn't believe she _____ that we were going on a school trip.

A: There was so much information to _____!