

VOCABULARY WORKBOOK

CHECK YOUR ENGLISH
VOCABULARY FOR

PHRASAL VERBS AND IDIOMS



All you need to pass your exams

CHECK YOUR ENGLISH VOCABULARY FOR

PHRASAL VERBS
AND
IDIOMS

Rawdon Wyatt

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Introduction

If you want to practise and develop your knowledge of phrasal verbs and idioms, you will find this book very useful. The various exercises contain many of the most common phrasal verbs and idioms, together with some useful spoken expressions that you might expect to hear or use in an English-speaking environment.

You should not go through this book mechanically from beginning to end. It is better to choose one particular verb or topic, do the exercise(s), make a record of any new words and expressions that you learn, then practise using these in sentences or situations of your own. When you feel you have a good command of these, move to another verb or topic and do the same. You should also review the things you have learned on a regular basis, so that they remain 'fresh' in your mind and become part of your 'active' vocabulary.

The meanings of most of the phrasal verbs and idioms are explained in the book, either in the exercises themselves, or in the answer key at the back. This key also provides you with lots of similar or alternative expressions, together with examples of how they are used. However, we recommend that you keep a good dictionary with you, and refer to it when necessary. In particular, we recommend the A & C Black *Easier English Intermediate Dictionary* (ISBN 0-7475-6989-4) or the *Macmillan English Dictionary* (ISBN 0-333-96482-9), from which many of the definitions and sample sentences in this book have been taken.

No vocabulary book can possibly contain all of the thousands of English phrasal verbs and idioms that you are likely to come across or need, so it is important to acquire new ones from other sources. If you have access to English-language newspapers, popular magazines, television and radio programmes, films and albums of popular music, you will find that these are excellent resources.

We hope that you enjoy doing the exercises in this book. Before you begin, we suggest that you read this important information about phrasal verbs and idioms.

What is a phrasal verb?

A phrasal verb is a verb formed from two (or sometimes three) parts: a *verb* and an *adverb* or *preposition*. These adverbs and prepositions are often called *particles* when they are used in a phrasal verb.

Most phrasal verbs are formed from a small number of verbs (for example, *get*, *go*, *come*, *put* and *set*) and a small number of particles (for example, *away*, *out*, *off*, *up* and *in*).

Phrasal verbs sometimes have meanings that you can easily guess (for example, *sit down* or *look for*). However, in most cases their meanings are quite different from the meanings of the verb they are formed from. For example, *hold up* can mean 'to cause a delay' or 'to try to rob someone'. The original meaning of *hold* (for example, *to hold something in your hands*) no longer applies.

There are five main types of phrasal verb. These are:

1. Intransitive phrasal verbs (= phrasal verbs which do not need an object).
For example: *You're driving too fast. You ought to **slow down**.*
2. Transitive phrasal verbs (= phrasal verbs which must have an object) where the object can come in one of two positions:
 - (1) Between the verb and the particle(s).
For example: *I think I'll **put my jacket on**.*
or
 - (2) After the particle.
For example: *I think I'll **put on my jacket**.*

However, if the object is a pronoun (*he, she, it*, etc), it must usually come between the verb and the particle.

For example: *I think I'll **put it on**.* (NOT *I think I'll **put on it**.*)

3. Transitive phrasal verbs where the object must come between the verb and the particle.

For example: *Our latest designs **set our company apart** from our rivals.*

4. Transitive phrasal verbs where the object must come after the particle.

For example: *John **takes after** his mother.*

*Why do you **put up with** the way he treats you?*

5. Transitive phrasal verbs with two objects, one after the verb and one after the particle.

For example: *They **put their success down to** good planning.*

Some transitive phrasal verbs can be used in the passive, but the object *cannot* come between the verb and the particle.

For example:

Active: *The soldiers **blew up** the bridge / The soldiers **blew the bridge up**.*

Passive: *The bridge was **blown up** by the soldiers.*

Active: ***Switch the lights off** before you leave / **Switch off the lights** before you leave.*

Passive: *The lights must be **switched off** before you leave.*

Active: *It's time they **did away with** these silly rules.*

Passive: *It's time these silly rules were **done away with**.* (where the subject is either not known or not needed).

A dictionary such as the *Bloomsbury Easier English Intermediate Dictionary* or the *Macmillan English Dictionary* will clearly show you the way you should use each phrasal verb.

What is an idiom?

An idiom is an expression where the meaning is different from the meaning of the individual words.

For example, *to have your feet on the ground* is an idiom meaning 'to be sensible': "*Tara is an intelligent girl who **has both her feet firmly on the ground**.*"

A lot of idioms are formed using phrasal verbs.

For example: *After he left me, it took me a long time to **pick up the pieces*** (= It took me a long time to return to a normal life).

Many idioms are *colloquial*, which means that they are used in informal conversation rather than in writing or formal language.

For example: "*I won't tell anyone your secret. **My lips are sealed**.*"

In this book, you will find a lot of colloquial idioms, together with some examples of *slang* (very informal words and expressions that are often used by particular groups of people, such as teenagers). If an idiom that is being practised is informal or very informal, the book will tell you this.

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Idioms and other expressions using animals

Complete the idioms and other expressions in bold with an animal, insect, etc, from the box. Many of the animals must be used more than once. The meaning of each idiom / expression is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence.

bee	bird	cat	chicken	dog	donkey	duck	fish	fly	goat
goose	hen	horse	monkey	pig	rat	shark	whale		

1. I always thought Laurence was rather shallow and superficial, but yesterday I saw him reading a book of Renaissance poetry. He's a bit of a **dark _____**, isn't he? (*someone with a secret, especially a secret ability, skill or achievement that surprises you when you discover it*)
2. I'm not going out with you looking like that. You **look like something that the _____ dragged in!** Brush your hair and put on some clean clothes! (*to have a very dirty or untidy appearance*)
3. I live on the 14th floor of a tower block, so I have a wonderful _____ **'s-eye view** of the town. (*a good view of something from a high position*)
4. How did I know that you were going out with Lucy? Aha! **A little _____ told me!** (*an expression used for saying that you are not going to say who told you something*)
5. It really **gets my _____**, the way she keeps interrupting all the time. (*to annoy someone*)
6. William didn't get the promotion he wanted last year, and he's had a _____ **in his bonnet** about it ever since. (*to be very involved in something that you think is important, in a way that other people find annoying*)
7. You really **let the _____ out of the bag** when you asked Louise what time her party started. She didn't know anything about it. It was supposed to be a surprise. (*to tell someone something that was supposed to be a secret*)
8. Where have you been? You're soaking wet! You **look like a drowned _____!** (*looking very wet and cold*)
9. Tony! What a surprise! It's wonderful to see you again. I haven't seen you **for _____'s years!** (*an extremely long time*)
10. The hotel used to be the best in town, but since the new manager took over it's really **gone to the _____s.** (*not as good at it was in the past*)
11. I don't trust Eric when he says he's working late at the office. To be honest, I **smell a _____.** (*to be suspicious, or to think that someone is trying to trick you*)
12. That's the third burger you've eaten. I wish you'd stop **making such a _____ of yourself.** (*to eat a lot of food*)
13. "Do you think I'll pass my driving test tomorrow, Julie?" "Sorry, Mark, I don't think you **have a _____ in hell's chance.**" (*to have no chance at all of doing something*)
14. I only started my new job last week, and I still feel **like a _____ out of water.** (*to be in a situation that you know nothing about or are not used to*)
15. "How did you know that Mr Roberts is going to resign?" "I **got it straight from the _____'s mouth.**" (*information that comes from someone who is directly involved – in this case, from Mr Roberts*)
16. Have you met our new manager? He really **thinks he's the _____'s knees!** (*to think you are very clever and important*)

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17. What do you think of our new English teacher? Personally I think she's a bit of **a cold** _____.
(someone who is not very friendly)
 18. Antonia is very timid: she **wouldn't say boo to a** _____. (an expression used to describe someone who is very quiet and shy)
 19. Why do I always have to **do the** _____ **work**? (boring work that needs a lot of effort but has to be done as part of a job)
 20. I'd love to be **a** _____ **on the wall** when Debbie tells Mr Roberts what she thinks of him! (to be able to see what people are doing without them noticing you)
 21. Two weeks before her wedding, Jane went to a nightclub for her _____ **night**. (a celebration for a woman who is about to get married, in which only her women friends take part)
 22. I'm so hungry, **I could eat a** _____! (an expression used for saying that you are very hungry)
 23. The bank wouldn't lend me the money, so I had to go to a **loan** _____. (someone who lends money to people and charges them a very high rate of interest)
 24. My boss is such a _____ **bag**. I don't think I can go on working for her much longer. (somebody who is unpleasant with other people)
 25. I feel really sorry for poor old Steven: he's so _____ **pecked**. (criticised and given orders all the time by a wife or female partner)
 26. It was a very simple job, but I **made a** _____ **'s ear of it**. (do something very badly)
 27. I wanted to go to Spain for my holiday, but just before I left for the airport I lost my passport. As you can imagine, that really **cooked my** _____. (to cause a lot of problems for someone, or spoil their plans)
 28. I can't help you at the moment, I'm afraid. I've **got bigger** _____ **to fry**. (to have more important things to do or think about)
 29. The party was wonderful. We had **a** _____ **of a time**. (to have a lot of fun)
 30. You can tell John that he's a stupid boring idiot if you like, but I'm afraid it will just be **water off a** _____ **'s back**. (an expression used for saying that advice, warnings or insults do not affect someone)
 31. I've got so many things to do today. I'm **running around like a headless** _____! (trying to do a lot of things quickly without being sensible or calm about it)
 32. He thinks he's better than us. I wish he would **get off his high** _____. (stop behaving as if he knows more or is better than anyone else)
 33. Corporate **fat** _____ **s** have once again been accused of putting profits before people. (people who receive too much money for the job they do)
 34. I don't like him, I don't respect him, and I **don't give a** _____ **'s** what he thinks. (to not care about something at all)
 35. While we're in town doing our shopping, let's go and see my mother. That way, we can **kill two** _____ **s with one stone**. (to achieve two aims with one action)
 36. I've never seen Arnie looking so happy. He's **like a** _____ **with two tails**. (to be very happy because something good has happened)

Note that most of the expressions in this exercise are informal or very informal.

Idioms and other expressions for describing character and personality

The words and expressions in the box can all be used informally to describe different kinds of people. Use them to complete sentences 1 – 35. Note that many of the words / expressions have a negative connotation and are not very polite, so you should be careful how you use them!

anorak	bigmouth	bunny boiler	busybody	chatterbox	chinless wonder
clock-watcher	couch potato	crank	creep	daydreamer	Don Juan
eager beaver	early bird	golden boy	happy camper	life and soul of the party	
moaning Minnie	pain in the neck	rolling stone	rough diamond	salt of the earth	
Scrooge	scrounger	skiver	slave driver	smart Alec	smart cookie
stuffed shirt	tearaway	troublemaker	wallflower	wet blanket	wimp
					wolf in sheep's clothing

1. Nobody likes Peter very much because he's so annoying. He's a right _____!
2. Andy is so boring. Did you know that his idea of a perfect day is going to the station to collect train registration numbers? What a / an _____!
3. I know that you don't like your job very much, but I wish you would stop complaining about it all the time. Don't be such a / an _____!
4. Imelda loves working here: she's a real _____.
5. Alan is an excellent and intelligent manager who runs the department well and deals effectively with any problems that come up. Everyone agrees that he's a / an _____.
6. You've been sitting in front of the television for almost four hours. Why don't you turn it off and go for a walk? You're turning into a / an _____.
7. We were having a wonderful evening until Anne joined us. Why does she have to be so negative about everything all the time? She's such a / an _____!
8. Don't be such a / an _____! If you concentrated instead of speaking all the time, you would get more work done.
9. If you want some help, ask Imelda. She's always happy and willing to help out: she's a real _____!
10. I hope Rick comes out with us tonight. He's such good fun, always the _____.
11. Poor Samantha is a bit of a / an _____. She would have much more fun and would get to know more people if she had more confidence.
12. Don is a bit of a / an _____. He never eats vegetables because he thinks they slow down your brain!
13. Don't be such a / an _____! You've only got a small cut on your hand; you haven't lost a whole arm!
14. All the newspapers are writing about Gordon Stapleton. He's the new _____ of English football.
15. When Laurence ended his relationship with Mandy, she refused to accept it and started sending him insulting letters. Then one day she went to his house and threw a brick through his window! I never realised she was such a _____!

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16. My line manager Mr Burton is a real _____. Yesterday he made us work for six hours without a break, and wouldn't let us leave until 7 o'clock.
 17. Maureen is the _____ in this company. She starts work at 7 o'clock, two hours before anyone else arrives.
 18. I'm afraid my son has become a bit of a / an _____. He stays out all night with his friends and he never listens to a word I say.
 19. All the girls in the office love Daniel, and he loves them right back! He's a regular _____.
 20. Mrs Ranscombe is such a /an _____. I wish she would stop interfering in my private life!
 21. My boss is a real _____: he pays us peanuts and hasn't given us a pay rise for two years.
 22. James is a bit of a / an _____. He never seems to pay attention during his lessons, and doesn't appear to take in anything I say.
 23. Martin isn't ill! He's not at work today because he's too lazy to come in, the _____!
 24. Michelle never pays for anything when we go out, and just relies on other people. She's such a / an _____.
 25. Mike has always been a / an _____. He can never stay in the same place for very long, and he rarely keeps the same job for more than six months.
 26. Our new secretary is a / an _____. She doesn't work very hard, and she can't wait for the working day to end.
 27. Everyone respects Arthur. He's the _____.
 28. I would avoid Christine, if I were you. She's a real _____, and loves to start arguments.
 29. When I ask you a question, I want you to give me a short, sensible answer. Don't be a / an _____!
 30. Come on, Bill. Relax and enjoy yourself! Don't be such a / an _____.
 31. Anthony is always following the boss around, carrying his briefcase and papers, opening doors for him and bringing him cups of coffee. What a _____!
 32. Don't ask Tina to keep a secret: she's a real _____.
 33. I know that Mr Connor isn't very well spoken and doesn't behave very politely, but he's a pleasant and kind man, a real _____.
 34. Mr Kelly seems nice and kind when you first start working for him, but in fact he's a ruthless businessman who will fire you the first time you make a mistake. He's a real _____.
 35. Tarquin is a bit of a _____. He has lots of money, but everyone thinks he's weak and stupid.

Idioms and other expressions using clothes

There are several items of clothing hidden in the box below. You will find these by reading from left to right and from top to bottom. Use these items of clothing to complete the idioms and other expressions in **bold** in sentences 1 – 20. You will need to use some of the items more than once, and you may need to change the form from singular to plural or vice versa.

O	N	C	E	U	P	O	N	A	B	E	L	T	T	I	S	M	E	T
H	E	R	E	B	W	C	E	R	O	E	T	H	R	S	H	O	E	S
E	E	B	C	L	O	A	K	E	O	A	S	R	S	D	I	A	D	D
Y	B	E	A	O	R	R	M	U	T	R	O	U	S	E	R	S	M	M
T	H	B	E	U	A	D	R	A	A	N	C	D	B	A	T	B	Y	B
P	A	N	T	S	E	I	A	N	R	T	K	H	E	Y	L	I	V	E
D	T	I	N	E	A	G	L	O	V	E	S	D	I	N	K	Y	L	I
T	T	L	E	H	O	A	U	R	S	E	T	H	A	T	T	H	E	Y
H	A	D	F	I	L	N	L	A	P	R	O	N	E	D	W	I	T	H
D	E	S	I	G	N	E	R	K	G	O	O	D	S	F	R	O	M	H

- Kerry and Charlie work together well. In fact, they've always been **hand in** _____.
- "I can't help you carry these boxes. I've got a bad back." "Oh don't be such **a big girl's** _____!"
- Look, I'm sorry I lost your camera. **Keep your** _____ **on**. I'll buy you a new one, I promise.
- Have you read Geoff Bowman's latest book? It's complete _____!
- You've done really well. I **take my** _____ **off to you**.
- Up until now the game has been quite friendly, but now **the** _____ **are off!**
- My boyfriend would rather sit at home in front of the television than go to a pub or nightclub. I wish he wasn't such a / an _____!
- Poor old Bob was **given the** _____ last week.
- She told me that I was stupid and ugly, which I felt was a bit **below the** _____.
- My teacher told me that unless I **pulled my** _____ **up**, he would have to move me down to a lower class.
- I saw a film last night that **scared the** _____ **off** me!
- Andy is so boring. Did you know that his idea of a perfect day is going to the station to collect train registration numbers? What a / an _____!
- Clarice is 25 years old, but she's still **tied to her mother's** _____ **strings**.
- My uncle works for a _____-**and-dagger** department in the government.
- You're always complaining. **Put a** _____ **in it!**
- I've heard a rumour that Andrew is going to leave the company and go to work for one of our competitors, but **keep it under your** _____.
- My father used to pretend that he made all the major decisions in our family, but it was really my mother who **wore the** _____.
- He's really generous. He **would give you the** _____ **off his back**.
- I can't decide whether or not to resign. What would you do if you were **in my** _____?
- Ever since his promotion, he's become **too big for his** _____.

Idioms and other expressions using colours

Complete sentences 1 – 34 with one of the colours from the box. Each colour can be used to complete or make an idiom or other expression (in **bold**). Some of the colours have to be used more than once. Each idiom is explained in the answer key at the back of the book.

black blue brown green grey pink red white yellow

1. Elsa congratulated me on getting the job, but I could tell that secretly she was _____ **with envy**.
2. Generally I'm a very calm, relaxed person. But when people are rude to me, I start to **see** _____.
3. I very rarely see my parents these days. They only come to visit **once in a** _____ **moon**.
4. Everyone in my family is a teacher, but I decided from a young age that I wanted to be an actor. I guess I've always been **the** _____ **sheep**.
5. My wife asked me if I liked her new dress. Well, I thought it was horrible, but of course I told her it looked wonderful. You have to tell a little _____ **lie** from time to time, don't you?
6. I hate applying for a new passport. There's so much _____ **tape** involved.
7. You can ask me to lend you money **until you're** _____ **in the face**, but my answer is still 'No'.
8. When Maria was attacked in the street, instead of running away she started **screaming** _____ **murder** until someone came to her help.
9. The best way to stay **in the** _____ is to eat sensibly, take regular exercise, drink in moderation and not smoke.
10. I think the new underground railway is a _____ **elephant**. The city already has a very efficient bus and tram system.
11. Everyone in my department is very happy because the project we've been working on for six months has finally been **given the** _____ **light**.
12. There were 200 people in a room designed for only 75. It was like the _____ **Hole of Calcutta** in there.
13. Your report is full of errors and spelling mistakes. I don't think you were using your _____ **matter** when you wrote it.
14. You must hear the new album by the American rock group Nuclear Puppy: it's _____ **-hot!**
15. I had a real _____ **-letter day** yesterday: my boss gave me a pay rise, I won £60 on the lottery, and my boyfriend took me to my favourite restaurant for dinner.
16. Most of the people in my town are _____ **-collar** workers. There are very few people working in factories.
17. The company has been doing badly for over two years, and now everyone agrees that it's a financial _____ **hole**.

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18. Nobody in the office likes him very much: he's always _____ **-nosing** the boss.
19. Your garden looks wonderful. What lovely, healthy plants. You must have _____ **fingers!**
20. I hadn't heard from Jo for almost ten years, so when a letter from her came **out of the** _____, I was naturally very surprised.
21. He would never argue with or contradict his boss. He's far too _____.
22. Yesterday I had an overdraft of almost £300, but I got paid today, so my bank account is **in the** _____ again. Unfortunately I don't think it will stay like that for long!
23. Nobody knew who had been stealing money from the office, until the new salesman was **caught** _____ **-handed** opening the safe.
24. I feel terrible this morning because I was out **painting the town** _____ last night, and didn't go to bed until 3 o'clock.
25. If I were you, I would avoid the boss today. You're **in his** _____ **books** after that rude comment you made about his wife.
26. I know he was angry, but I was still shocked at the terrible language he was using. The **air was turning** _____!
27. (At a party): Hello, Anthea. Thanks for coming. Lovely to see you again. Let me get you a drink. **Glass of** _____?
28. I wouldn't recommend him for a senior position in management: he's still a bit _____.
29. When I told Sara that I wanted to go out for a drink with my ex-girlfriend, she didn't say anything, but she gave me a really _____ **look**.
30. There wasn't much we could do when we discovered that the office had been robbed except call the police station and wait for **the boys in** _____ to arrive.
31. What's the matter with you? You've been **in a** _____ **mood** all evening.
32. It's only my parents who are coming to dinner tonight, not the Queen of England! There's no need to **roll out the** _____ **carpet**.
33. (Complete this sentence with two different colours): I was told that I had got the job at the interview, but I won't be happy until I see it **in** _____ **and** _____.
34. (Complete this sentence with two different colours): After falling off his bicycle, he was _____ **and** _____ all over.

Exercise 2: Complete these two conversations with the expressions from the box.

as rich as they come	come a long way	come again
come clean	come in handy	come off it
come to think about it	come up in the world	coming right up
don't come cheap	for years to come	you'll get what's coming
when it comes to making	how come	taking each day as it comes
I don't know where you're coming from	don't come the innocent with me	I don't know if I'm coming or going

Julie: You two-timing, double-crossing cheat!
 Rick: _____?
 Julie: You heard me. I saw you leaving a restaurant with a strange woman today.
 Rick: _____! What woman?
 Julie: _____!
 Rick: Look, I'm sorry, but _____.
 Julie: The long-haired brunette in the jeans and leather jacket.
 Rick: Ah, right. _____ you saw us?

Julie: I had gone into town to do some shopping and saw the two of you. Who is she? And don't lie, or _____, believe me.
 Rick: Well, I suppose I'll have to _____, won't I?
 Julie: You certainly will.
 Rick: You saw us from behind, right?
 Julie: Uh, right.
 Rick: Yes, well, _____ false assumptions, you win. That was Alan, my new boss.

Tim: I haven't seen John this week. _____, I haven't seen him for a few weeks.
 Andy: Oh, he's busy moving into his new house. He's bought a place in Hampstead.
 Tim: In Hampstead? How did he afford that? Houses in Hampstead _____.
 Andy: Well, he's _____ since he worked as a salesman for PTG. He owns his own company now, and is making a fortune. Apparently he's now _____.
 Tim: He kept that quiet. I didn't know how much he had _____.
 Andy: Well, he doesn't like to boast about it. How are you getting on in your new job, by the way?

Tim: Oh, there's so much to do and so much to learn that most of the time _____. I'm just _____. How's work for you?
 Andy: Oh, so so, you know. I was hoping to look for something else more interesting, but there aren't many jobs out there. I guess I'll be with the same company _____. What I need is a big win on the lottery.
 Tim: Yes, that would _____! In the meantime, how about buying me another drink?
 Andy: Same again?
 Tim: Yes please.
 Andy: OK, _____!

Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'cut'

Exercise 1: Replace the words and expressions in **bold** with a phrasal verb from the box. You will need to use some of the phrasal verbs more than once.

cut across cut back on cut down on cut in cut off cut out cut out of cut through

1. I was cutting the grass when the lawnmower **suddenly stopped working**.
2. Did you see how that Mazda **suddenly drove** in front of the Audi?
3. We will have to **reduce** staff costs at work if we want to continue operating as normal.
4. We were in the middle of a telephone conversation when we were suddenly **disconnected**.
5. I don't understand why all my friends have **suddenly started ignoring me**. (You will need to put the phrasal verb on either side of *me*: "...my friends have _____ me _____.")
6. I wish you wouldn't **interrupt me** while I'm talking.
7. The traffic noise is terrible, and even closing the windows doesn't **remove** it. (You will need to put the phrasal verb on either side of *it*: "...closing the windows doesn't _____ it _____.")
8. She decided to **stop eating** sweet things so as to lose weight.
9. He didn't pay his bill, so the power company **stopped** his electricity.
10. To save time, we decided to **go over** the field instead of walking around it.
11. To save time, we decided to **go through** the shopping centre instead of walking around it.
12. The air conditioning will automatically **start working** when the room gets too warm.
13. Our house is **isolated** from the rest of the town.
14. My father **didn't include** us in his plans. (You will need to put the phrasal verb on either side of *us*: "*My father _____ us _____ his plans.*")

Exercise 2: Decide if the definitions given for the idioms and other expressions in **bold** are *true* or *false*.

1. Someone or something that is **a cut above** other people or things is much better than those people or things. TRUE / FALSE
2. If you are having a conversation with someone and you **cut them short**, you stop talking so that they can say something. TRUE / FALSE
3. If you are **cut up** about something (for example, you are *cut up* about the way you are treated by someone), you are very happy and surprised. TRUE / FALSE
4. If somebody **cuts you dead**, they shout at you because they are very angry. TRUE / FALSE
5. A new employee in your company **doesn't cut the mustard**. In other words, he / she is not good enough. TRUE / FALSE
6. Something in a shop that is described as **cut-price** is more expensive than it should be. TRUE / FALSE

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7. If your friend has a plan, and you **cut the ground out from under his feet**, you offer to support him, usually by lending him money. TRUE / FALSE
 8. A business that is described as **cutthroat** is a one that has a disadvantage because it is smaller than other businesses making the same product or offering the same service. TRUE / FALSE
 9. When someone **cuts loose** (for example, they *cut loose* from their family), they stop being influenced or controlled by them. TRUE / FALSE
 10. If you **cut off your nose to spite your face**, you work so hard and for so long that you become ill. TRUE / FALSE
 11. You have a train to catch and you are **cutting it fine**. This means that you have arrived at the station very early and have plenty of time before the train leaves. TRUE / FALSE
 12. If something is described as **cut and dried** (for example, "*The issue of pay rises is cut and dried.*"), it is being talked about very carefully. TRUE / FALSE
 13. If something is described as **cutting-edge** (for example, *cutting edge* technology), it is very dangerous. TRUE / FALSE
 14. If you say to someone "**Cut it out!**", you are telling them to stop doing something that you do not like. TRUE / FALSE
 15. If, in a meeting, you **cut to the chase**, you waste time by talking about small, unimportant issues rather than issues which are more urgent. TRUE / FALSE
 16. A **cutting remark** is a remark that is cruel and intended to upset someone. TRUE / FALSE
 17. If you are in a difficult or unpleasant situation and you decide to **cut and run**, you pretend that the situation is not so difficult or unpleasant and continue behaving as normal. TRUE / FALSE
 18. If somebody tells you something important or impressive, and you say "**That doesn't cut any ice with me**", you are telling them that you have had the same experience yourself. TRUE / FALSE
 19. If you are doing a job and you **cut corners**, you do not do the job as thoroughly as you should, especially because you want to finish it as quickly as possible. TRUE / FALSE
 20. If you **cut somebody down to size**, you talk kindly to them and help them because they are very upset. TRUE / FALSE
 21. If somebody says something to you that **cuts you to the quick**, they offer you a suggestion or an idea which would help you a lot. TRUE / FALSE
 22. Somebody **cuts a dash** in the new clothes they are wearing. In other words, the clothes make them look stupid. TRUE / FALSE
 23. If you **cut something short** (for example, you *cut* a visit *short*), you arrive early. TRUE / FALSE
 24. If something **cuts both ways**, it has both good and bad aspects. TRUE / FALSE
 25. You and your friend own a car together, and your friend wants to sell it. You tell him that you want **your cut**. This means that you want to decide whether or not the car is sold. TRUE / FALSE

Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'do'

Exercise 1: Each of the sentences in the following sentence pairs can be completed with the same phrasal verb using *do*. The meaning of the phrasal verb in its context is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence. Note that in some cases, you will need to change the form of the verb (for example, to a past participle).

1. (a) _____ your shoelaces, or you'll fall over. (*to fasten*)
(b) Our new house is wonderful, but it needs _____. (*to repair, paint and improve an old building, car, boat, etc*)
2. (a) As soon as I opened the door, I could see that my house had been _____. (*informal: to be burgled; to have things stolen from your house*)
(b) While I was walking back from the cinema, I was _____ by a gang of teenagers. (*to attack someone and hit and kick them*)
3. (a) While we're cleaning the room, let's _____ the cupboards. (*informal: to make a room, cupboard, etc, very tidy and clean*)
(b) We've had the kitchen _____ with aluminium units and light blue tiles. (*to decorate*)
4. (a) What you _____ yourself in your free time is your business. (*used for saying how someone spends their time*)
(b) I could really _____ a nice cup of tea. (*used for saying that you want or need something*)
5. (a) We need to get a new photocopier. This one's _____. (*informal: in such bad condition or so badly damaged that it cannot be used*)
(b) If the police see us, we're _____. (*informal: to be likely to be punished*)
6. (a) A lot of the restrictions on imports have been _____. (*to get rid of something*)
(b) There were rumours that Doug had _____ his wife. (*informal: to murder someone*)
7. (a) He gave me a small parcel _____ in silver paper. (*to wrap something in paper or cloth in an attractive way*)
(b) Before the party she spent hours _____ herself _____. (*to dress in special clothes, make-up, etc*)
8. (a) I think that someone _____ him _____ to get his money. (*informal: to murder someone*)
(b) I'm completely _____ after all that running around. (*very tired*)
9. (a) Joe had been _____ by his teacher so often that he had lost all confidence. (*to criticise someone in a way that makes them seem stupid or unsuccessful*)
(b) You mustn't _____ yourself _____ – you have a lot of ability. (*as above, used as a reflexive verb*)
10. (a) Most of the articles in today's paper are to _____ America's foreign policy. (*to be connected with someone or something*)
(b) My resignation has nothing to _____ my argument with the manager. (*as above, but negative*)

Exercise 2: Complete sentences 1 – 18 with idioms and other expressions from the box. Each idiom is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence. When 'do' is used as a verb, you may need to change its form (for example, by changing it to its past simple form).

a bit of a do do as you're told do me a good turn do the sights do the trick
do to a turn do me a favour do's and don'ts do the dirty do you a world of good
do you justice do your dirty work make do with take some doing that does it
 that's done it the done thing you were done

1. This steak is delicious. It's _____. (*cooked perfectly*)
2. We haven't got any coffee, I'm afraid. We'll have to _____ tea. (*to deal with a situation by using what is available rather than using what you want*)
3. The boss spent all morning writing out a list of _____ for the office. (*rules*)
4. _____, Harriet! One more word from you, and you can leave the room immediately! (*a spoken expression used for saying that someone or something that has been annoying you has finally made you so angry that you will do something*)
5. We've missed our train. _____! Now we'll never get to London in time for the show. (*a spoken expression used for when something goes wrong and as a result you will be in trouble*)
6. You need a holiday. A break would _____. (*to make you feel happy or healthy*)
7. That's a nice dress you're wearing, but it doesn't really _____. (*to show or emphasise all the good qualities of someone or something*)
8. You paid £200 for that old television? _____! (*a very informal spoken expression which is used for saying that someone has paid too much for something*)
9. We're having _____ this Saturday to celebrate our anniversary. (*a party*)
10. If the printer doesn't work, hit it gently: that usually _____. (*something that is needed in order to achieve something, in this case to get the printer to start working*)
11. We spent a week in Paris, and _____. (*to visit all the most important and famous places*)
12. I don't believe that you sold your computer to Paul when you knew it was broken. How could you _____ on one of your friends like that? (*informal, to treat someone very badly and unfairly*)
13. I'm fed up _____! (*to do an unpleasant or dishonest job for someone so that they do not have to do it themselves*)
14. I was wondering if you could _____. I need to borrow £20. (*to help someone*)
15. _____, Alison, or I'll send you to your room. (*a spoken expression used for telling a child to obey you*)
16. It will _____ to get all this work finished by five o'clock. (*an expression used for saying that something will be very difficult to do*)
17. Jane _____ last week, and I would really like to return the favour. (*to help someone*)
18. You shouldn't argue with your teacher. It's not _____. (*to be the correct or suitable thing to do*)

Idiomatic emphasis

A lot of adjectives can be made 'stronger' by the addition of another word or words. In most cases, these words are used as a substitute for *very* or *extremely* (sometimes because *very* and *extremely* do not collocate (= *work*) with the adjectives that are being used).

For example: I'm awake = I'm **wide** awake / I'm warm = I'm **as** warm **as** toast

Complete the sentences with a word that emphasises the adjective / adjective phrase in **bold**, and write your answers in the crossword grid on the next page. Some of the letters are already in the grid. Note that in some sentences more than one answer may be possible, but only one will fit in the crossword grid.

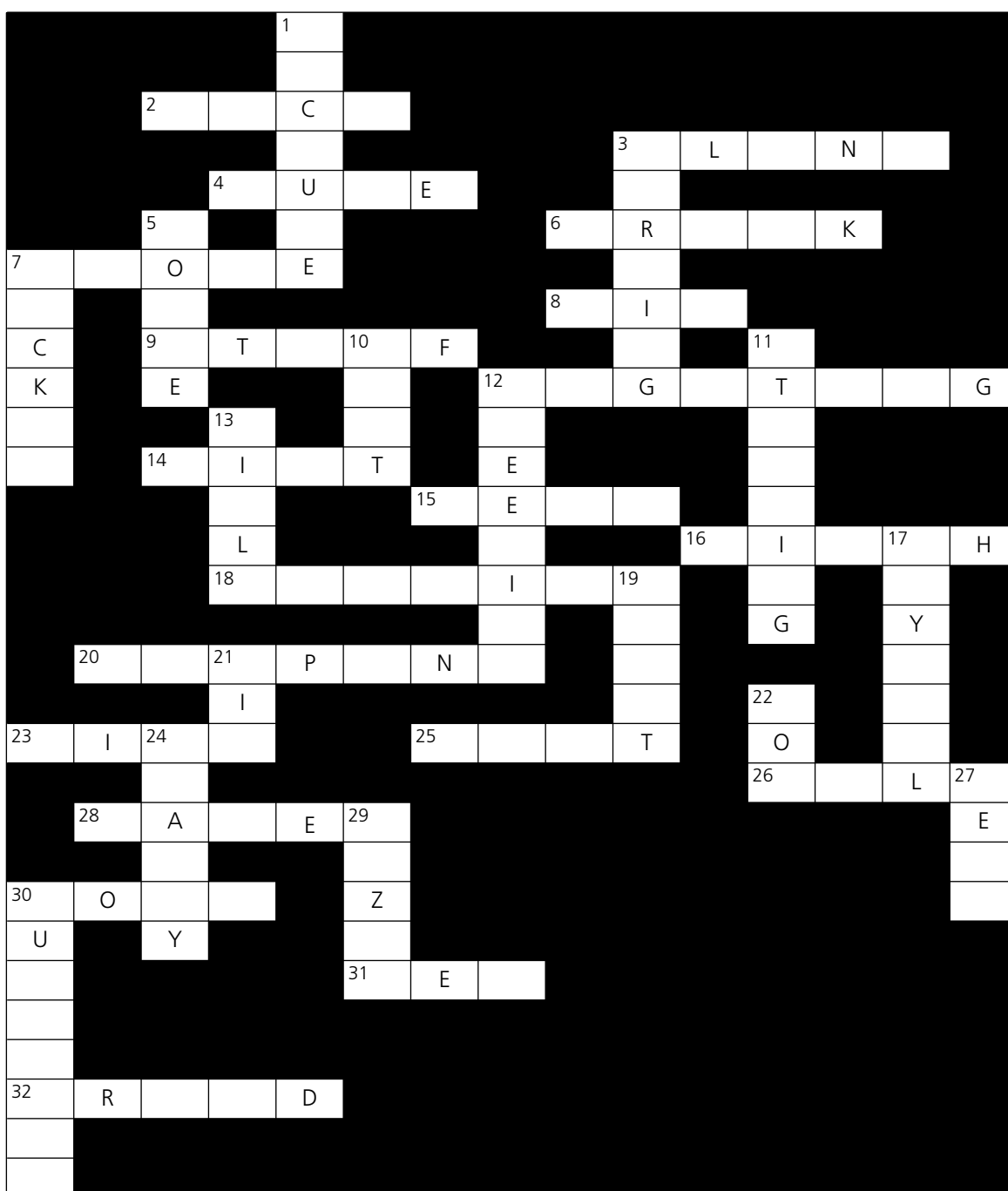
Across (⇩)

2. I don't think it's safe to play football. The ground is _____ **hard**.
3. The party began at eight o'clock, and by midnight Jim was _____ **drunk**.
4. He never listens to my advice. He's **as stubborn as a** _____!
6. He's **as thick as a** _____. I don't know how anyone can be so stupid!
7. She can't hear a word you're saying. She's _____ **deaf**.
8. I know I'm not the most handsome man in the world, but I think it's a bit unfair to say that I'm **as ugly as** _____.
9. I'm **bored** _____ sitting here. Let's go out and do something.
12. She goes to the fitness centre every day, so as you can imagine she's _____ **fit**.
14. Our holiday was _____ **cheap**: we only paid £150 for the flights and two weeks in a four-star hotel.
15. It was a lovely day and the sea was _____ **calm**, so we decided to go for a swim.
16. I can't see a thing in here. It's _____ **black**.
18. It's raining heavily. Take an umbrella or you'll get _____ **wet**.
20. Alison is _____ **mad**: someone borrowed her dictionary and didn't return it.
23. I'm not surprised the room is cold. Someone's left the door _____ **open**.
25. I can't afford to come out tonight. I'm _____ **broke** again.
26. The children have been **as good as** _____ all morning.
28. You'll freeze to death in that jacket: it's _____ **thin**.
30. Everyone at the party was drunk except for Bob, who was **stone** _____ **sober**.
31. Don't touch the plate: it's just come out of the oven and it's _____ **hot**!
32. I usually buy my cars second-hand, but this time I'm going to buy a _____ **new** one.

Down (⇨)

1. What a lovely dress. You look _____-**perfect** in it.
3. He went out in the snow wearing just a pair of shorts and a T-shirt. He must be _____ **mad**!
5. He sat in the corner **as quiet as a** _____.
7. Uurrghhh! This cake is _____ **sweet**. I can't possibly eat it.
10. I was so tired that I went to bed at eight, and within seconds I was _____ **asleep**.
11. Mike has got loads of money. He's _____ **rich**.

12. Can I put the heating on? It's _____ **cold** in here.
13. I've heard that joke before. It's **as old as the** _____!
17. His explanation was _____ **clear**. I understood everything perfectly.
19. There's a _____ **big** rat in the kitchen.
21. The exam wasn't difficult. It was **as easy as** _____.
22. I must go to bed. It's been a busy day and I'm _____ **tired**.
24. Mr Grant is _____ **dull**. In fact, he's the most boring man I've ever met.
27. I'm _____ **beat**. I really need to get some sleep.
29. Be careful with that knife. It's _____ **sharp**.
30. Everyone was panicking, but Sarah remained **as cool as a** _____.



Idioms and other expressions using food and drink

Complete these sentences with items of food or drink, and write your answers in the crossword grid on the next page.

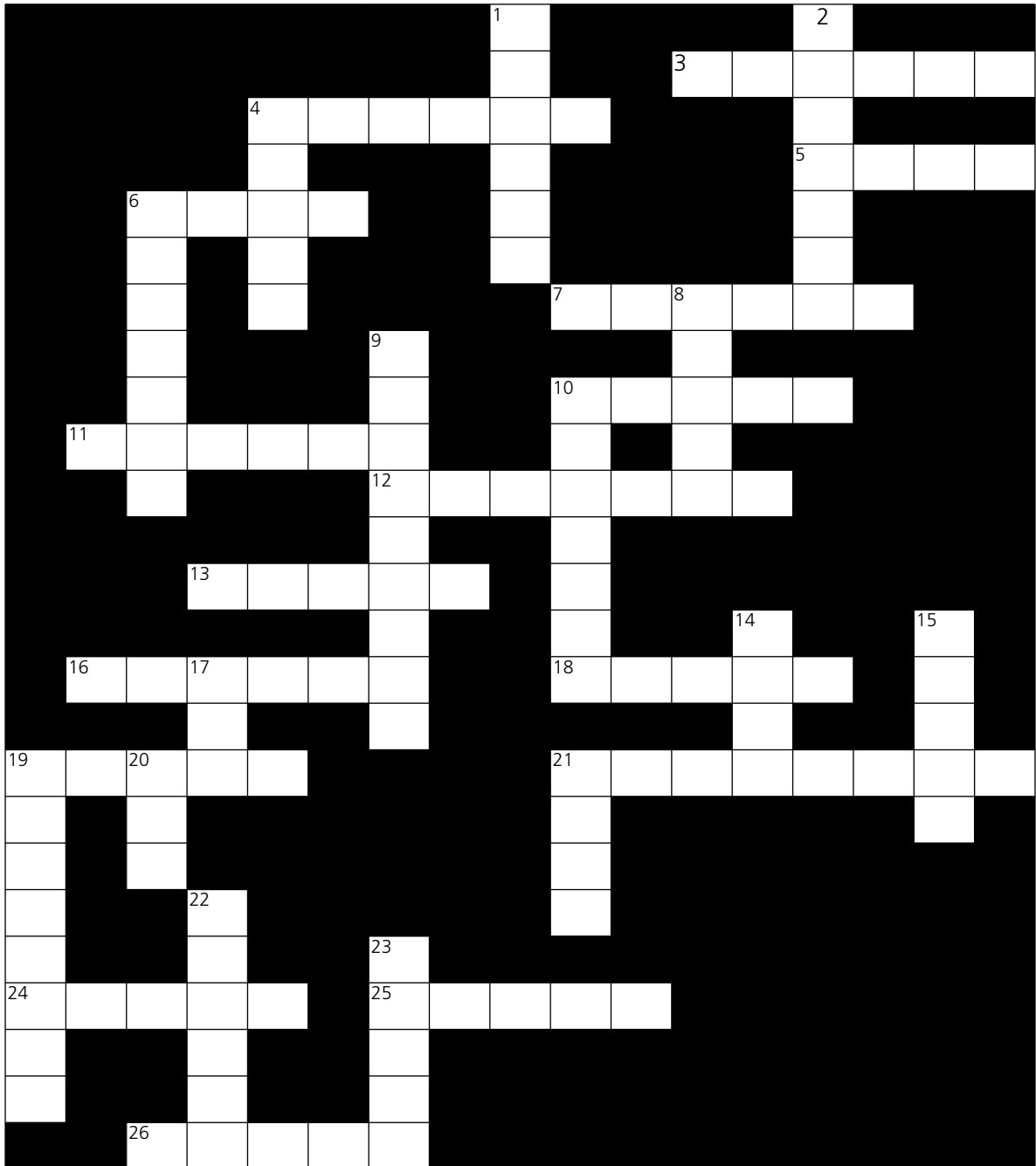
Across (⇨)

3. Mr Taylor is the best computer programmer I've ever met. He certainly knows his _____!
4. Don't _____ me with so many questions at once. I can only give you one answer at a time.
5. Was the exam difficult? No! It was a piece of _____!
6. Liverpool are playing Arsenal in the Cup Final. Liverpool are certain to win: Arsenal are easy _____!
7. You're such a couch _____. Why don't you turn off the television, throw away those empty pizza boxes and go for a walk?
10. When the police asked him if he had robbed the shop, he spilled the _____ and told them everything.
11. Maggie was a bit rude to me when I was offered the job that she had applied for. It was probably just sour _____.
12. I don't get paid much for the work I do. My boss pays me _____.
13. I'm not surprised you never have any money left by the middle of the month. You spend it like _____!
16. You're such a _____ fingers: you're always dropping things and breaking them.
18. Sarah's new boyfriend is more than twice her age, but he's very rich. Perhaps I should look for a _____ daddy as well!
19. What are you smiling about? You look like the cat who got the _____.
21. You look really embarrassed. You've gone as red as a _____!
24. I stay at home and look after the children, and my wife goes out to work. Well, one of us has to bring home the _____.
25. It only takes one bad _____ to give a company a bad reputation.
26. I hate flying. Whenever I have to get on a plane, I go cold all over and my legs turn to _____.

Down (⇩)

1. I'm not the boss of the company. Mrs Manser is the big _____ here.
2. Your latest excuse for being late is pathetic! It really takes the _____!
4. Manchester United just scored again. You should have seen it: it was a _____ of a goal!
6. Our new manager is very enthusiastic. Everyone agrees that he's as keen as _____.
8. Are you cold? I'll turn the heating on. Before you know it, you'll be as warm as _____!
9. I told him to sit down and behave, and he just blew a _____ at me!
10. You're mad, crazy, deranged, completely _____!
14. Mr Lewis is the _____ of the earth: he's a good, honest man and everyone respects him.
15. What on earth are you wearing? You look a right _____!
17. I really don't like horror films. They're not my cup of _____.
19. Andy is always calm and relaxed. He never panics or loses his temper. He's as cool as a _____.

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20. When the United Nations decided that the war was illegal, the President was left with _____ on his face.
 21. If you are unhappy about your job, do something. Don't just _____ about it.
 22. Toby Morrison would be ideal for the job. He works hard and he's a really smart _____.
 23. Brenda's new boyfriend is very good looking, but he's not very intelligent or interesting. He's just a bit of eye _____.



Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'get'

Exercise 1: Choose the correct particle or particles (*in, on, at*, etc) to make phrasal verbs. An explanation or meaning of each phrasal verb in the sentence is in *italics* at the end of the sentence.

1. He was very rude to the teacher, but got **down to / off with / away with** it. (*He managed to do something bad without being punished.*)
2. What did you get **up to / through to / on to** last night? (*What did you do last night?*)
3. How's your son getting **on / into / over** at University? (*How well is your son doing at University?*)
4. Karen was ill for a few weeks, but she's got **under / about / over** it now. (*Karen has recovered from her illness.*)
5. I don't really want to see her tonight. How can I get **over with / in on / out of** it? (*How can I avoid seeing her?*)
6. After lunch we got **down to / off with / away from** discussing future plans for the company. (*We started doing something seriously / with effort.*)
7. I just need to get **by / through / over** this week, then I can take a break for a few days. (*I need to deal with a difficult situation until it's over.*)
8. I don't earn much money, but I manage to get **down / off / by**. (*I have just enough money to do what I need to do, such as buy food, pay my rent, etc.*)
9. Although they are very different, Toby and Andrea get **on / by / around** together. (*They like each other and are friendly to each other.*)
10. My boss is always getting **over / at / to** me. (*My boss is always criticising me.*)
11. I tried to call the complaints department, but I couldn't get **over / around / through**. (*It was not possible for me to be connected to the complaints department by telephone.*)
12. I sometimes have problems getting my meaning **through / across / over** in English. (*I have problems making people understand my meaning.*)
13. Everyone told me that it was a really good film, but I just couldn't get **into / onto / over** it. (*I couldn't begin to enjoy it.*)
14. Mr Johnson must be getting **on for / in to / off with** 80. (*Mr Johnson must be almost 80 years old.*)
15. The goods we ordered last week haven't arrived yet. I'll get **away with / out of / on to** the supplier this afternoon. (*I'll write or speak to the supplier (in this case, to find out what has happened).*)
16. I'm not enjoying my computer classes. I don't get much **round to / out of / on to** them. (*I don't get much pleasure or benefit from them.*)
17. I'm sorry I don't have the information you need at the moment. Leave me your phone number and I'll get **off with / up to / back to** you this afternoon. (*I'll speak to you again later.*)
18. I finally got **through to / round to / away from** reading that book you lent me. (*I had intended to read the book for a long time, and eventually I did it.*)

Remember that many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning. This applies to most of those in this exercise. Use your dictionary to find the other meanings.

Exercise 2: Look at the idioms and other expressions in **bold** in sentences 1 – 25, and choose a suitable definition or expression with a similar meaning from the box at the bottom of the page.

1. If you want to become rich, you have to work hard. There are no real **get-rich-quick** plans.
2. Come on! **Get a move on!**
3. When she asked for help, he told her to **get lost**.
4. You'll **get the sack** if you continue coming in late.
5. Where was I last night? Well, officer, **you've got me there**.
6. I think Helen **got out of bed on the wrong side** this morning.
7. My neighbour is so noisy. He's really **getting on my nerves**.
8. Gordon's having a little **get together** at his place tonight.
9. You've **got a nerve** asking me to lend you more money!
10. What are you wearing that **get-up** for? You look like a drug dealer!
11. OK everyone, let's **get down to brass tacks** and look at the sales figures.
12. Gary and I **get on like a house on fire**.
13. I don't know what's wrong with me. I don't seem to have any **get-up-and-go**.
14. If I don't **get a rise** soon, I'll start looking for another job.
15. This is ridiculous: we're **getting nowhere**.
16. You're always watching television. **Get a life!**
17. My job drives me crazy, but I like it, if you **get my meaning**.
18. **Get a grip on yourself** – you've got an interview in half an hour.
19. I **can't get to grips** with my new computer.
20. You need to **get your act together** if you want to succeed.
21. I've got absolutely no money, and it's really **getting me down**.
22. It's almost eight o'clock. Let's **get going**, or we'll be late.
23. He was so rude to me. Just wait until I **get my own back**.
24. Our teacher lets us **get away with murder!**
25. I need a break, so I've decided to **get away from it all** for a few weeks.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (A) Energy; enthusiasm. | (M) To be unable to do or use something. |
| (B) To hurry up; to do something more quickly. | (N) To do something more interesting. |
| (C) To receive more money for doing your work. | (O) To control your emotions and behaviour. |
| (D) To understand what someone is trying to say. | (P) To be very friendly with each other. |
| (E) To make someone feel unhappy. | (Q) To be dismissed from a job. |
| (F) To be unsuccessful; to not make any progress. | (R) To take revenge on someone for something they have done. |
| (G) To be over-confident or rude. | (S) A party or social event with friends. |
| (H) To take a holiday. | (T) To go away; to leave someone alone. |
| (I) Something that will make you a lot of money in a short space of time. | (U) To annoy someone |
| (J) To organise yourself. | (V) To not punish someone for doing something wrong. |
| (K) Clothes. | (W) To start the day badly; to be in a bad mood. |
| (L) To start doing something; to begin a journey. | (X) To start discussing small but important details. |
| | (Y) To be unable to answer. |

Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'give'

Choose the word or words in **bold** to complete the phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions in italics in these sentences. In one case, **all** options are possible. The meaning of each phrasal verb, idiom, etc, in its given context is in *italics* at the end of each sentence.

1. I've finally managed to give **off / out / up / in** smoking. (*to stop doing something you do regularly*)
2. Ten thousand copies of the latest software package are being given **away / over / in / back**. (*to let someone have something without paying for it*)
3. Have I done something to upset Anne? She's been giving me the cold **face / shoulder / elbow / finger** all morning. (*to be unfriendly towards someone you know*)
4. She's been looking for me all morning, but I've managed to give her the **trip / slip / slide / skid**. (*to escape from someone who is looking for you*)
5. Most of Janet's teachers have given **up on / in to / over to / back to** her. (*to stop hoping that someone will improve and to stop trying to help or change them*)
6. "You're one of the most beautiful girls I've ever met!" "Oh, give **off / over / out / away!**" (*an informal spoken expression used for telling someone to stop doing something. In this case, the second speaker wants the first speaker to stop flattering her*)
7. You promised not to give **up / in / off / away** my secret! (*to tell information or facts that you should keep secret*)
8. I knew she was lying. Her face was a dead **giveback / giveoff / giveaway / giveout!** (*a movement, action or expression on someone's face that shows the truth about something*)
9. The photocopier is giving **away / off / over / up** a funny smell. (*to produce something such as heat or a smell*)
10. If the boss shouts at me again in front of a customer, I'm going to give him a piece of my **mouth / mind / brain / heart**. (*to tell someone exactly what you think, especially when you are angry with them*)
11. I would give **my right arm / the world / my eye teeth / anything** to see his face right now! (*a spoken expression used for saying that you would very much like to have something*)
12. I wouldn't argue with Robin, if I were you. He gives as **much / good / well / hard** as he gets. (*informal: to compete or fight as hard as your opponent*)
13. "Have you finished yet?" "Give me **a hope / an opportunity / a try / a chance**: I've only just started!" (*an informal spoken expression used for telling someone not to hurry you or expect something immediately*)
14. Each talk lasts for half an hour, give or **remove / deduct / take / extract** five minutes. (*used for talking about numbers or quantities that are not exact*)
15. Are you seeing another man? Give it to me **straight / hard / direct / fast**, Helga. I promise I won't be angry. (*an informal spoken expression used for telling someone not to hide unpleasant facts from you*)
16. If you are rude to me again, I'll give you **when to / what for / why do / how far**. (*an informal spoken expression which means that you will punish someone or speak to them severely because they have done something wrong*)

Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'go'

Exercise 1: Half of the phrasal verbs in the following sentences use the *wrong particle or particles* (*in, on, about, etc.*). Decide which ones are wrong and replace them with a correct particle(s). Each phrasal verb in its context is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence.

1. I overslept because my alarm clock didn't **go off**. (*to start ringing*)
2. When they decided to get married, they **went against** the wishes of their parents. (*to oppose someone or something*)
3. I don't think we should eat this fish. It smells like it's **gone out**. (*of food, to go bad, so that you cannot eat it*)
4. The price of gas has **gone out** again. (*to increase*)
5. What has been **going on** in here? The room looks like a bomb's hit it! (*to happen*)
6. We thought the presentation had finished, but the director **went on** speaking for another hour. (*to continue as before*)
7. Before you sign the contract I suggest you **go round** it carefully with your solicitor. (*to check something carefully*)
8. James and Annette have been **going out with** each other for over a year. (*to have a romantic relationship with someone, and spend a lot of time with them*)
9. At first she thought her new boss was wonderful, but she **went about** him when he continually criticised her work. (*to stop liking someone or something*)
10. There wasn't enough work to **go through**, so we had to make some of our staff redundant. (*to be enough so that everyone can have one or some*)
11. Your plans are excellent, but do you think you'll be able to **go through with** them? (*to do something you have planned or agreed to do, and to finish it*)
12. I **go in for** what you're saying. (*to agree with someone or something*)
13. There were 200 people **going towards** just three jobs. (*to try to get something that you have to compete for*)
14. He promised to help us, but at the last moment he **went down with** his word. (*to fail to do something that you have agreed to do*)
15. Alex has decided to **go into** teaching when he leaves university. (*to start working in a particular type of job or business*)
16. I've still got a few things to do. You **go ahead** and I'll meet you outside the cinema in half an hour. (*to go to a place before someone else you are with*)
17. Several guests in the hotel have **gone in for** food poisoning. (*to become ill with a particular illness*)
18. After two years of rapidly falling sales, the business finally **went under**. (*of a business, to fail completely and stop operating*)

Exercise 2: The idioms and other expressions in sentences 1 – 20 have had some letters removed. Replace the letters in the idioms. These letters, when used in the same order as they appear in the sentences, can be used to make an informal spoken expression which is used for saying that in difficult situations, the best people will work harder to succeed, and will not stop trying. Write this expression in the box at the bottom of the next page.

1. Originally we were going to have a private marriage ceremony, but in the end we **went the _ _ol_ hog** and had a big lavish wedding. (*to do something in a very thorough or enthusiastic way*)

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2. After fifteen years with the company, Michael decided it was time to **go it alo_e**. *(to work for yourself and by yourself)*
 3. The bill comes to £66. Shall we **go Du_c_**? *(when eating out with a friend or friends, each person pays for what they have eaten and drunk)*
 4. Hi, Charlotte. How **ar_ thin_s g_ing**? *(an informal spoken expression that you use when you want to know how someone is)*
 5. It's going to rain later. Let's leave now **wh_le the goi_g is _ood**. *(an informal expression meaning to do something before any problems happen that will prevent you from doing it)*
 6. My fiancée wants to hire a limousine for our wedding day, but I'm going to **_o one b_t_er** and hire a Rolls Royce. *(to do something in a bigger and more impressive way)*
 7. Gas prices are very expensive. It **goe_ wi_h_ut saying that** customers would prefer them to be cheaper. *(an expression that is used when you think that someone will already know what you are going to tell them)*
 8. Because of the current government, our country is **going to rack and r_in**. *(to become less successful)*
 9. There are so many hooligans and lager louts in our town that at night it becomes **a no-_o area**. *(an area of a town that is not considered safe because there are high levels of crime and violence there)*
 10. If you're angry, go for a long walk or something. Just don't **_ave a go a_** me! *(to criticise someone strongly or shout at them because you are angry)*
 11. Our plans went well at first, but suddenly everything **went _aywir_**. *(to stop working or behaving correctly)*
 12. Amy and Carol really **went to __ wn** on the party decorations. *(to do something very well or make something look very good by spending a lot of money on it)*
 13. I really want the job, and I'm going to **go all o_t** to get it. *(to try as hard as you can to achieve something)*
 14. I've told my boss that he's stupid, rude and arrogant. Oh well, **ban_ goes my c_ance of** promotion. *(an informal spoken expression that you use when you have ruined the possibility of achieving something)*
 15. This restaurant used to be the best in town, but since it was taken over by a new manager, it's really **gone to the do_s**. *(of a place, not as good as it was in the past)*
 16. "Ian is so ugly! Can you imagine kissing him?" "Yuck! **Don't _ven go _here!**" *(an informal spoken expression that you use when you do not want someone to say something)*
 17. I bought this television in the sales. It was **going for a son_**. *(very cheap)*
 18. I can't work properly with all this **c_m_ng and going**. *(noise and disturbance caused by people moving around a lot)*
 19. "I've made some tea. Would you like a little cup? Oh, **go o_**, of course you do!" *(a spoken expression used for encouraging someone to do something)*
 20. After several meetings with the Directors, he **_ot the go-ahead** to open a new office in Manchester. *(to receive permission to do something)*

Write the expression here:

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Idioms and other expressions to talk about health, feelings and emotions

How would the people in sentences 1 – 35 feel, happy (☺) or unhappy (☹), if they were experiencing the feelings, emotions, etc, highlighted in **bold**?

1. Amanda is **at her wits' end**. ☺ / ☹
2. Ian is **in a state**. ☺ / ☹
3. Amelia is **at death's door**. ☺ / ☹
4. Nigella is **not feeling herself**. ☺ / ☹
5. Imogen is in **good shape**. ☺ / ☹
6. Tom's condition is **touch-and-go**. ☺ / ☹
7. Felicity is **feeling blue**. ☺ / ☹
8. Orville is **on top of the world**. ☺ / ☹
9. Oliver is **on the warpath**. ☺ / ☹
10. William looks **washed out**. ☺ / ☹
11. Paul is feeling **pooped**. ☺ / ☹
12. Priscilla is a **picture of health**. ☺ / ☹
13. Frank is as **fit as a fiddle**. ☺ / ☹
14. Claudia is **on cloud nine**. ☺ / ☹
15. Dave is **down in the dumps**. ☺ / ☹
16. Olivia is **over the moon**. ☺ / ☹
17. Regan is **run down**. ☺ / ☹
18. Henrietta **hasn't got a care in the world**. ☺ / ☹
19. Samantha is **seeing red**. ☺ / ☹
20. Pamela is **in the pink**. ☺ / ☹
21. Olga is **on a high**. ☺ / ☹
22. Fernando **feels lousy**. ☺ / ☹
23. Charles is **chucking his toys out of the pram**. ☺ / ☹
24. Justin is **just peachy**. ☺ / ☹
25. Sean looks **shattered**. ☺ / ☹
26. Henry is **hopping mad**. ☺ / ☹
27. Freddy **feels really rough**. ☺ / ☹
28. Teresa has **taken a turn for the worse**. ☺ / ☹
29. Camilla has **come down with something**. ☺ / ☹
30. Davina is **dead on her feet**. ☺ / ☹
31. Harry is **het up**. ☺ / ☹
32. Lucy **looks like death warmed up**. ☺ / ☹
33. Ursula is **under the weather**. ☺ / ☹
34. Belinda is **in a black mood**. ☺ / ☹
35. Larry is **like a dog with two tails**. ☺ / ☹

Informal phrasal verbs

The phrasal verbs in this exercise have all been taken from British television and radio programmes (news reports, soap operas, quizzes, films, chat shows, etc) over a 3-month period. They are all very informal, and many of them are relatively recent additions to our common vocabulary.

Look at sentence (a) in each pair, then decide if sentence (b) provides a correct explanation of the phrasal verb in **bold**. Write 'Yes' if you think it does, and 'No' if you think it doesn't.

1. (a) The Prime Minister has told his government to stop **faffing about**.
(b) The Prime Minister has told his government to stop wasting time doing unnecessary and unimportant things.
2. (a) I had to **stump up** almost £2000 for repairs to my car.
(b) I had to borrow almost £2000 for repairs to my car.
3. (a) All this talk about the war is really **hacking me off**.
(b) All this talk about the war is getting me excited.
4. (a) I don't want to go out with a man who **bottles out** at the first sign of trouble.
(b) I don't want to go out with a man who starts a fight at the first sign of trouble.
5. (a) When we heard the news, we **freaked out**.
(b) When we heard the news, we became so frightened we couldn't control ourselves.
6. (a) The government has been accused of **sexing up** the facts.
(b) The government has been accused of making the facts too difficult for people to understand.
7. (a) She **breezed through** the final exam.
(b) She failed the final exam.
8. (a) When the minister was asked about pensions, he **clammed up**.
(b) When the minister was asked about pensions, he started telling lies.
9. (a) I wish my neighbour would stop **banging on** all the time.
(b) I wish my neighbour would stop making changes to his house all the time.
10. (a) It's time everyone **wised up to** the illegal acts the government is committing.
(b) It's time everyone became aware of the illegal acts the government is committing.
11. (a) The President has finally **lucked out** over world trade.
(b) The President has finally lost an argument over world trade.
12. (a) Lorraine never **mucks in** with any of us.
(b) Lorraine never goes out to bars, clubs, etc, with any of us.
13. (a) If anyone wants to **wimp out**, now is the time.
(b) If anyone wants to decide not to do something because they're too frightened, now is the time.
14. (a) Ever since he started his new company, he's been **raking it in**.
(b) Ever since he started his new company, he's been so busy he can't do anything else.
15. (a) Television bosses deny that programmes are being **dumbed down**.
(b) Television bosses deny that television programmes are becoming shorter, with longer commercial breaks.
16. (a) Why do you always **suck up to** your boss?
(b) Why are you always so rude to your boss?