

# VOCABULARY WORKBOOK

CHECK YOUR ENGLISH  
VOCABULARY FOR

# PHRASAL VERBS AND IDIOMS



All you need to pass your exams

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PHRASAL VERBS  
AND  
IDIOMS

Rawdon Wyatt

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# Introduction

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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**.*

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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

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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.



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## Idioms and other expressions for describing character and personality

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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** \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Idioms and other expressions using colours

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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, \_\_\_\_\_!

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'cut'

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**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 <b>a cut above</b> 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 <b>cut them short</b> , you stop talking so that they can say something.                            | TRUE / FALSE |
| 3. If you are <b>cut up</b> about something (for example, you are <i>cut up</i> about the way you are treated by someone), you are very happy and surprised. | TRUE / FALSE |
| 4. If somebody <b>cuts you dead</b> , they shout at you because they are very angry.   | TRUE / FALSE |
| 5. A new employee in your company <b>doesn't cut the mustard</b> . In other words, he / she is not good enough.  | TRUE / FALSE |
| 6. Something in a shop that is described as <b>cut-price</b> 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

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'do'

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**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*)

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**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*)

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## Idiomatic emphasis

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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.

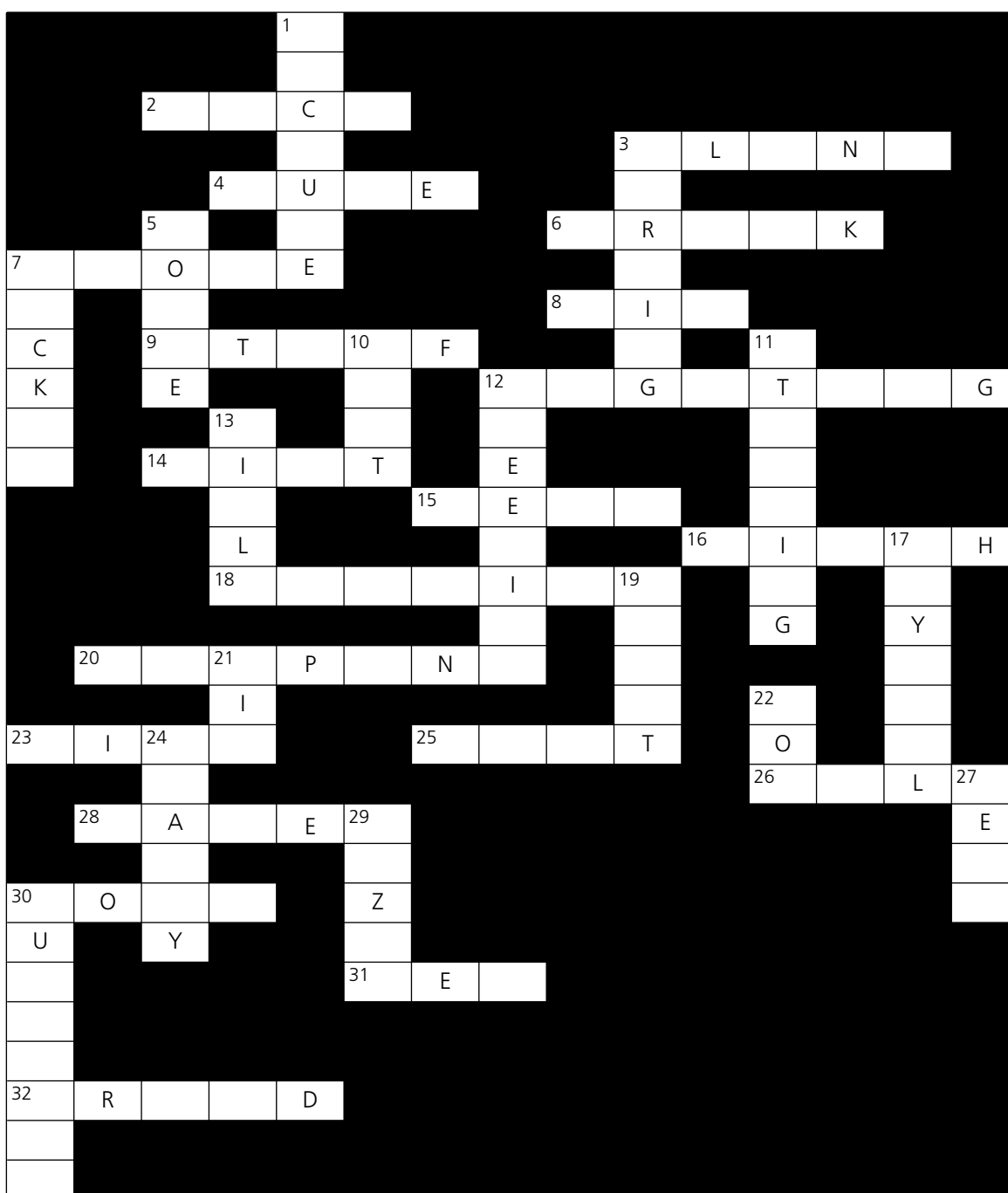
### Across ( ⇩ )

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** \_\_\_\_\_.



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## Idioms and other expressions using food and drink

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

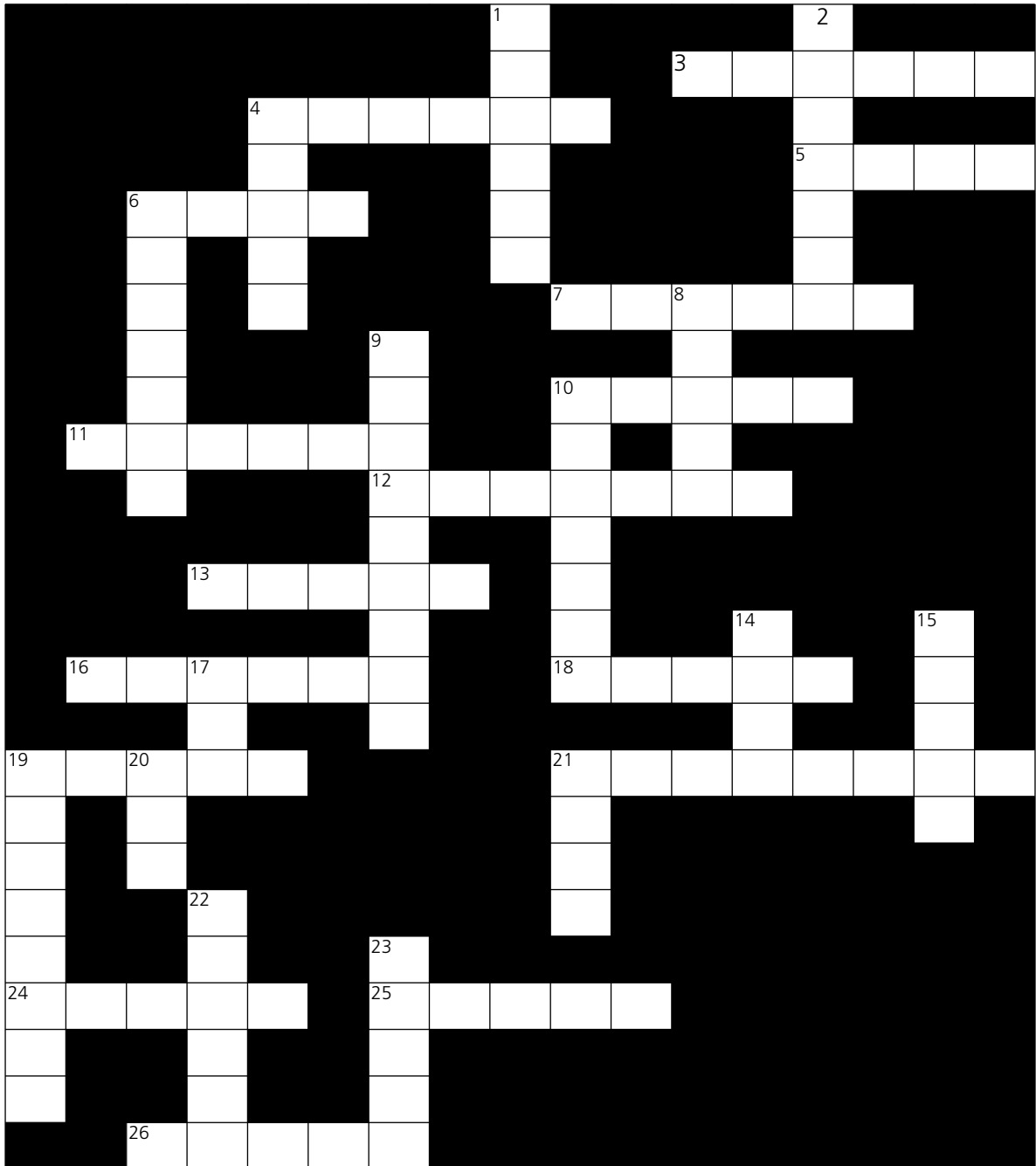
### Across ( ⇨ )

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 \_\_\_\_\_.



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## 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.



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**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.                                  |

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'give'

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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*)

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'go'

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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*)

- 
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

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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**. ☺ / ☹

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## Informal phrasal verbs

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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?

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17. (a) You'll be OK in the exam if you **mug up** before.  
(b) You'll be OK in the exam if you have a drink before you do it.
  18. (a) If you're going to **chuck up**, go outside.  
(b) If you're going to be in a bad mood, go outside.
  19. (a) The air-conditioning has **conked out** again.  
(b) The air-conditioning has stopped working again.
  20. (a) The Council will prosecute parents whose children **bunk off** school.  
(b) The Council will prosecute parents whose children stay away from school without a good reason.
  21. (a) The latest opinion poll suggests that in the next election, the current government is going to **romp in**.  
(b) The latest opinion poll suggests that in the next election, the current government is going to lose.
  22. (a) When we asked him if he had taken the money, he **fessed up**.  
(b) When we asked him if he had taken the money, he denied it.
  23. (a) The public are **lapping up** the latest news about football's most famous player.  
(b) The public are not interested in the latest news about football's most famous player.
  24. (a) I really wish that Fiona would **lighten up** a bit.  
(b) I really wish that Fiona would be more serious about things.
  25. (a) We spent all of Sunday **vegging out**.  
(b) We spent all of Sunday relaxing.
  26. (a) By half past eleven, half of us had **zonked out**.  
(b) By half past eleven, half of us had gone home.
  27. (a) I'm **gagging for** a cup of tea.  
(b) I really want a cup of tea.
  28. (a) The rail company **flogged off** half its stock to overseas companies.  
(b) The rail company let overseas companies maintain its stock to keep it in good working order.
  29. (a) Please don't **monkey around** in here.  
(b) Please don't lose your temper in here.
  30. (a) If you **goof up** again, you'll lose your job.  
(b) If you make a big mistake again, you'll lose your job.
  31. (a) Yolanda has been **prattling on** for almost an hour without stopping.  
(b) Yolanda has been crying for almost half an hour without stopping.
  32. (a) You shouldn't **mouth off** to him like that.  
(b) You shouldn't laugh at his ideas and opinions like that.
  33. (a) I've had enough of you. **Shove off!**  
(b) I've had enough of you. Be quiet!
  34. (a) Don't ask him for advice on buying a computer: he'll only **geek you out**.  
(b) Don't ask him for advice on buying a computer: he'll give you basic and useless information.
  35. (a) She never goes out without **blinging up** first.  
(b) She never goes out without phoning her friends first.

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'look'

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Exercise 1: Complete these phrasal verbs with an appropriate particle (*in, to, of, etc*) or particles. The particles you need are in *alphabetical order*, and you need to use each particle or particle pair *once only*. The meaning of each phrasal verb in its context is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence.

1. It can be very hard **looking** \_\_\_\_\_ three children all day. (*to take care of someone or something and make certain they have everything they need*)
2. **Looking** \_\_\_\_\_, I think that the company needs to develop some new services. (*to think about what is likely to happen, or plan what you are going to do in the future*)
3. We're **looking** carefully \_\_\_\_\_ all the options that are open to us. (*to think about a situation or subject carefully, especially in order to make a decision*)
4. Most people **look** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ their schooldays with mixed feelings. (*to think about a time or event in the past*)
5. Jane **looks** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ people who haven't been to university. (*to think you are better or more important than someone else*)
6. Maureen is really **looking** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ her holiday next week. (*to feel happy and excited about something that is going to happen*)
7. Can you **look** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Eileen on your way to work, and see if she needs anything? (*to visit someone for a short time on your way to another place, especially if they are ill or may need help*)
8. I wrote a letter of complaint to the airline, and they've promised to **look** \_\_\_\_\_ the matter for me. (*to try to discover the facts about something such as a problem or a crime*)
9. Steve isn't related to me, but I **look** \_\_\_\_\_ him as a brother. (*to think of someone or something in a particular way*)
10. The restaurant is small but it's easy to find. **Look** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ the post office, and it's almost directly opposite. (*to look carefully at people or things around you in order to find a particular person or thing*)
11. The Health and Safety officer has been **looking** \_\_\_\_\_ the factory. (*to visit a place in order to examine it*)
12. I can't decide what to cook for the dinner party, so I've been **looking** \_\_\_\_\_ your cookery books for inspiration. (*to read something quickly, especially to find the information you need*)
13. When I was young, I always **looked** \_\_\_\_\_ my grandparents for advice. (*to hope or expect to get help, advice, etc, from someone*)
14. If you don't know what 'loquacious' means, **look** it \_\_\_\_\_ in the dictionary. (*to try to find a particular piece of information by looking in a book or on a list, or by using a computer*)
15. Liz Watkins is the best manager we've ever had, and everyone **looks** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ her. (*to admire and respect someone*)



**Exercise 2:** Match the first part of each sentence on the left with the second part on the right, using the idioms and other expressions in **bold** to help you. Try to decide what each one means, then check your answers in the back of the book.

(1) Mark isn't very attractive. Most women **wouldn't look...**

(2) Sue's a really nice person, but she's **not much to look...**

(3) The computer he gave you isn't the best one in the world, but you shouldn't **look a gift horse...**

(4) I told you to be careful with that. Now **look...**

(5) We know that Bob is stealing from the office. We need to do something. We can't just **look...**

(6) Liverpool dominated the game from the beginning, and Chelsea hardly even got a **look-...**

(7) When Mike asked me why I had taken his money without asking, I couldn't **look him...**

(8) You're such a snob! You always **look down...**

(9) I started my own Internet company when I was sixteen, and I've never **looked...**

(10) This is the third time this week that you've been late. You must be **looking for...**

(11) Be careful! **Look where...**

(12) Anyone who needs a job **need look...**

(13) Goodbye. **Look after...**

(14) You think you're so perfect and wonderful, don't you? Well, you're wrong. It's time you **took a long hard look...**

(15) What are you wearing? You **look like something that...**

(16) What have you done? I don't like that **look...**

(17) I've just moved to London and am on **the lookout...**

(18) You always make decisions without thinking properly. You really need to **look before you...**

(19) Everyone says that the new art gallery is really good. Let's go and **have a look-...**

(20) We were going to eat in the hotel restaurant, but we **took one look...**

(a) ...**what you've done!**

(b) ...**in the mirror.**

(c) ...**in the eye.**

(d) ...**trouble.**

(e) ...**no further** than our website.

(f) ...**the cat dragged in!**

(g) ...**at.**

(h) ...**yourself** and keep in touch.

(i) ...**for** a cheap apartment.

(j) ...**at** the kitchen and went somewhere else.

(k) ...**in.**

(l) ...**see.**

(m) ...**twice** at someone like him.

(n) ...**leap.**

(o) ... **your nose at** people.

(p) ...**on your face.**

(q) ...**back.**

(r) ...**in the mouth.**

(s) ...**you're going** or you'll have an accident.

(t) ...**the other way.**

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







## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'make'

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**Exercise 1:** Complete the phrasal verbs in **bold** with an appropriate particle or particles (*in, up, out*, etc). The situation is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence.

1. It's getting late. Why don't you stay? I'll **make** \_\_\_\_\_ a bed for you. (*The speaker is offering to prepare something – in this case a bed – for a friend*)
2. Oh no! Someone has **made** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ my mobile phone. (*Someone has stolen the speaker's mobile phone*)
3. You haven't spoken to each other for days. I think it's time you both **made** \_\_\_\_\_. (*The speaker thinks that two people should become friendly with each other again after an argument*)
4. Can you **make** \_\_\_\_\_ the house in the dark? (*Two people are trying to find their way to a friend's house in the countryside at night. Because it is dark, they are finding it difficult to see the house*)
5. The car costs £2000. I'm paying £1500, and Sally is **making** \_\_\_\_\_ the rest. (*Sally is making something – in this case a payment – complete: she is paying the other £500*)
6. He **made** \_\_\_\_\_ that he had won the lottery. (*Someone pretended that something was true when it wasn't*)
7. I can't **make** \_\_\_\_\_ why he didn't come to the party. (*The speaker is puzzled about a friend's absence from a party*)
8. He **made** \_\_\_\_\_ some excuse about the dog eating his homework. (*Someone has invented an explanation for something, probably to avoid being punished or embarrassed*)
9. He **made** \_\_\_\_\_ the property to his daughter last week. (*Someone has officially made someone else the owner of a building or piece of land*)
10. It's getting late. I should **make** \_\_\_\_\_ home. (*The speaker thinks she should move towards a place, in this case her home*)
11. When he saw the police coming, he **made** \_\_\_\_\_ as quickly as possible. (*Someone saw the police coming and left quickly*)
12. Before I begin work, I should **make** \_\_\_\_\_ a list of all the things I need to do. (*The speaker is going to write a list of things he needs to do*)
13. What do you **make** \_\_\_\_\_ our new teacher? (*The speaker is asking for someone's opinion about their teacher*)
14. The wonderful hotel we stayed at **made** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ the terrible weather we had all through the holiday. (*The speaker's hotel was so good that the terrible weather didn't matter so much*)
15. I'm sorry I forgot your birthday. I'll **make** it \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ you, I promise. (*After doing something bad, the speaker promises to do something good in order to make someone feel better*)

**Exercise 2:** Some of the words in the following expressions that use *make* have been replaced with symbols. Each symbol represents a letter of the alphabet. Change these symbols back into letters to make words. The first two have been done for you.

1. Today is **make**     day for the company. (*Very important, resulting in success or failure*)  
**Answer:**     = or break: Today is **make or break** day for the company.

2. Everyone wants to **make** 🖥️🌟 ✂️🖥️👤 in Hollywood these days. (To be very successful)  
  
Answer: 🖥️🌟 ✂️🖥️👤 = *it big*: Everyone wants to **make it big** in Hollywood these days.
3. He's only one of our salesmen, but he **makes** 🙌🖥️😊🌀 he's the managing director of the company. (To pretend to be something that you are not)
4. Are you going to accept the job? I think that you need to **make** 🎯➔ ⚙️🔁🕒 ⚙️🖥️🔔 as soon as possible. (Make a decision)
5. The children **made** ✨📧🔁🕒🌟 😊🔁😊🕒 📞📞 the chocolate and cakes. (To deal with something quickly and easily. In this case, the children ate the chocolate and cakes very quickly)
6. Paul thinks he can become rich by writing a book. He's living in a world of **make** ✂️🌀🙌🖥️🌀🌟🌀! (The activity of pretending that something is real, or that a situation is better than it is)
7. You ate all the pizza! I can't believe you **made** 🍷 ➔🖥️👤 📞📞 ⚙️🔁🕒🌟🌀🙌📞 like that! (To eat far too much food at one time)
8. It's a beautiful day. Let's **make** 🌟📧🌀 ✨🔁🌟 📞📞 it. (To use a good situation to get the best possible result)
9. As soon as we got to the party, we **made** 🍷 ✂️🌀🙌🖥️🌀📞🔁 the food. (To go towards someone or something in the quickest possible way)
10. I'm really pleased for Anne. She's really **made** 🍷 ⚙️🍷🌀 📞🔁🕒 📧🌀🌟🌀🙌📞. (To become well-known or famous)
11. What is this a picture of? A man? A dog? A bunch of flowers? I can't **make** 📧🌀🍷👤 🔁🕒 🌟🍷🙌👤 of it. (To be unable to understand something)
12. I don't earn much money, and I often have problems **making** 🌀🔔🌟 ✨🌀🌟. (To have enough money to pay for important things such as accommodation, food, clothing etc)
13. The job was really quite simple, but he was **making** 📧🌀🍷🌟🌟 😊🌀🍷🌟📧🌀🕒 📞📞 it. (To make a situation or job much more difficult than it really is)
14. He **makes** ⚙️📞 ✂️📞🌀🌟 ✂️✂️🎯🌟 the fact that he wants my job. (To talk about or do something in a very open way without feeling ashamed or embarrassed)
15. I tried to hang up some pictures in the living room, but I **made** 🍷 📞👤'🌟 📞🖥️🌀🌀🕒 📞📞 it. (Something that is very untidy or badly done)
16. She was seriously ill, but she managed to **make** 🙌🖥️📧🌟 📞📞 it. (To treat something as not very serious)
17. People often think that she's very quiet and shy, but when you know her better you realise that she's **made** 📞📞 ✨🌟🌀🕒🌀🕒 ✨🌟🎯📞📞. (To be stronger in your character than people expect)
18. It was a very small incident. You didn't need to **make** 🍷 ✨🔁🎯🌀🌟🍷🖥️🌀 🔁🎯🌟 📞📞 🍷 ✨🙌🌀📧🖥️🙌🙌. (To treat a minor problem as if it were a very serious problem)

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## Mixed idioms and other expressions

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This section looks at some common idioms and other expressions that are not included in the main exercises elsewhere in this book.

Each of the three idioms and other expressions in **bold** in the following sentence groups can be completed with the same verb. Decide what that verb is in each case, and write it in the sentence. Make sure that you use it in its correct form. The meaning of each idiom is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence.

- (a) I've made a terrible mistake at work, and now my career is \_\_\_\_\_ **by a thread**. (*to be very likely to fail*)

(b) I know things are difficult for you at the moment, but \_\_\_\_\_ **in there**, OK? (*an informal spoken expression used for telling someone to continue doing something in a determined way*)

(c) How could you treat your best friend like that? \_\_\_\_\_ **your head in shame!** (*a spoken expression used in a humorous way to tell someone that they have behaved badly*)
- (a) I'm afraid that your argument in favour of moving to a new office doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ **much conviction**. (*to be capable of persuading someone that something is true, real or practical*)

(b) Laura's been \_\_\_\_\_ **a torch for** Martin for years. (*to be in love with someone, usually without them realising this*)

(c) Dr Watson's opinions have always \_\_\_\_\_ **great weight** in this town. (*to be respected and have influence*)
- (a) I think I've \_\_\_\_\_ **foul** of the boss again. (*to get into trouble with someone or something*)

(b) You certainly \_\_\_\_\_ **on your feet** when you got that job. (*to be lucky and get into a good situation after being in a difficult one*)

(c) Nobody ever laughs at my jokes. They always \_\_\_\_\_ **flat**. (*to not succeed in entertaining someone or making them laugh*)
- (a) Let's go out for dinner. I know somewhere that won't \_\_\_\_\_ **the bank**. (*an expression used for saying that something does not cost very much money*)

(b) Our company has \_\_\_\_\_ **new ground** with its latest range of laptop computer. (*to do something completely different from what has been done before*)

(c) Everyone was a bit quiet until Ronnie \_\_\_\_\_ **the ice** by telling a joke. (*to make people feel more relaxed and ready to talk, for example at the beginning of a party*)
- (a) I think it's time that you and Lisa \_\_\_\_\_ **bygones be bygones**. (*to decide to forget about a disagreement or something unpleasant that has happened in the past*)

(b) She promised to keep my news a secret, but she \_\_\_\_\_ **it slip** at the party. (*to reveal a secret either by accident, or by making it seem like an accident*)

(c) I originally wanted £2500 for my car, but I \_\_\_\_\_ **it go for** £2000. (*to sell something, usually for a cheaper price than you originally wanted*)
- (a) Mr Gomm is the person who \_\_\_\_\_ **the shots** in this company. (*to be in a position of control or authority*)

(b) I think we've done everything we can with this report. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ **it a day**. (*to decide that you have finished doing something*)

(c) Have you ever seen 'The Godfather'? **Now that's what I** \_\_\_\_\_ **a** good film! (*an informal spoken expression used for emphasising that something is a very good example of what you are talking about*)
- (a) I'm going to tell you something important, but I want you to \_\_\_\_\_ **it to yourself**. (*to not tell anyone else about something*)

(b) Trudi is a very private person. She likes to \_\_\_\_\_ **herself to herself**. (*to stay alone or with your family rather than spend time with other people*)

(c) I don't earn much money, but it \_\_\_\_\_ **the wolf from the door**. (*to have enough money to pay for important things, like food, rent, bills, etc*)

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8. (a) Louise is always able to \_\_\_\_\_ **her own** in an argument. *(to be as good as other more experienced or stronger people, for example in an argument)*  
(b) I wanted to speak, but I was told to \_\_\_\_\_ **my tongue**. *(to not say anything)*  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ **it!** Where do you think you're going? *(a spoken expression used for telling someone not to move)*
9. (a) \_\_\_\_\_ **how you go**. *(an informal spoken expression used for saying goodbye to someone you know well)*  
(b) What did Peter and I talk about? **Never you** \_\_\_\_\_! *(an informal spoken expression used for refusing to tell someone something)*  
(c) "Would you like one of these cakes?" "Thanks, I **don't** \_\_\_\_\_ **if I do**." *(a spoken expression used in a polite and humorous way to accept something that someone has offered you)*
10. (a) Why are you so unhappy? You have a wonderful family, a good job and a lovely house. You should \_\_\_\_\_ **your blessings**. *(to tell someone that they should realize there are good things in their life and that they should appreciate them)*  
(b) You haven't got the job yet. **Don't** \_\_\_\_\_ **your chickens (before they've hatched)**. *(an expression used for telling someone not to make plans that depend on the success of something until they are certain that it is successful)*  
(c) The whole town is \_\_\_\_\_ **the cost** of today's terrorist attack. *(to realise what has been lost or damaged as a result of something)*
11. (a) I wish Toby would \_\_\_\_\_ **his weight** a bit. *(to work as hard as the other people who are doing an activity or job)*  
(b) I want this project to be successful. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ **out all the stops**. *(to make a big effort so that something happens or is successful)*  
(c) Susan phoned in to say she's sick, but I think she's \_\_\_\_\_ **a fast one**. *(to trick someone or say something that isn't true)*
12. (a) If you \_\_\_\_\_ **your cards right**, you can come over for dinner tonight. *(informal – used for saying that if someone behaves in the right way, they might be successful)*  
(b) You're \_\_\_\_\_ **with fire**, talking to her like that. *(to do something dangerous or risky that could cause problems for you)*  
(c) I think we can eat these pies cold, but let's \_\_\_\_\_ **it safe** and heat them in the microwave. *(to avoid taking any risks)*
13. (a) I don't know how you can \_\_\_\_\_ **your face** in here. *(informal – to go somewhere where other people will see you, especially when they might not want you to be there)*  
(b) Right, I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone in this office **who's boss**. *(informal – to make people aware that you have more power or authority than them)*  
(c) I've spent a lot of money, and have **nothing to** \_\_\_\_\_ **for it**. *(to have achieved nothing as a result of something you have done)*
14. (a) I'm **half** \_\_\_\_\_ **that** Mark won't come to the party. *(a spoken expression used about your feelings when you are not sure whether you want something or not)*  
(b) **I** \_\_\_\_\_ **to God it** doesn't rain in the next hour. *(a spoken expression used for emphasising that you do or don't want something to happen)*  
(c) "Thanks for lending me the money. I'll pay it back tomorrow." "**I should** \_\_\_\_\_ **so**." *(an informal spoken expression used for emphasising that you feel it is important that something will happen)*
15. (a) You paid £200 for that old computer? Somebody \_\_\_\_\_ **you coming**. *(to realise that someone is easy to trick or cheat)*  
(b) According to this story in the paper, a child in the USA is divorcing his parents. Huh! **Now I've** \_\_\_\_\_ **everything!** *(a spoken expression used for saying that you find something very shocking or surprising)*  
(c) My father has finally \_\_\_\_\_ **the light** and bought a computer. *(to suddenly realise or understand something, usually in a way that improves your life)*

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## Mixed phrasal verbs

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This section looks at some common phrasal verbs that are not included in the main exercises elsewhere in this book.

Complete the second sentence of each pair with a phrasal verb so that the meaning of the sentence is the same as, or very similar to, the first sentence. The phrasal verbs should replace the words and expressions in **bold**. Choose your verb from the first box, and your particle from the second box. Some of the verbs, and most of the particles, must be used more than once. In some cases you will need to change the form of the verb. Also remember that some phrasal verbs need more than one particle.

Verbs
break bring call carry catch count die drop end face find fall fill hand hold keep leave let point pull put show wear

Particles
behind down in of off on out through to up with

1. Can I **rely on** you for your support?  
Can I \_\_\_\_\_ you for your support?
2. If you **continue** trying, you are bound to succeed.  
If you \_\_\_\_\_ trying, you are bound to succeed.
3. A large number of students **leave** university **before they finish their course**.  
A large number of students \_\_\_\_\_ university.
4. You must **obey** my instructions carefully.  
You must \_\_\_\_\_ my instructions carefully.
5. I will **let you stay with me** if you ever come to Oxford.  
I will \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ if you ever come to Oxford.
6. You must **complete** this form before we can let you in.  
You must \_\_\_\_\_ this form before we let you in.
7. I think that learning English is quite difficult, and I often have problems **working at the same speed as** the other students in my class.  
I think that learning English is quite difficult, and I often have problems \_\_\_\_\_ the other students in my class.
8. My teacher **showed me** all the mistakes I had made in my essay.  
My teacher \_\_\_\_\_ all the mistakes I had made in my essay.
9. If you **are late with** your mortgage repayments, the bank can impose financial penalties.  
If you \_\_\_\_\_ your mortgage repayments, the bank can impose financial penalties.
10. People celebrate the Chinese New Year by **exploding** fireworks in the street.  
People celebrate the Chinese New Year by \_\_\_\_\_ fireworks in the street.
11. At the meeting, Laura **raised** the question of overtime pay.  
At the meeting, Laura \_\_\_\_\_ the question of overtime pay.
12. A lot of parents are criticised for the way they **raise** their children.  
A lot of parents are criticised for the way they \_\_\_\_\_ their children.

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13. He was very ill, but managed to **recover**.  
He was very ill, but managed to \_\_\_\_\_.
  14. The effects of the drug **disappear** after a few hours.  
The effects of the drug \_\_\_\_\_ after a few hours.
  15. Andrew and Steve have **argued** again.  
Andrew and Steve have \_\_\_\_\_ again.
  16. They refused to **accept and deal with** their responsibilities.  
They refused to \_\_\_\_\_ their responsibilities.
  17. The meeting was **cancelled** because too many people were absent.  
The meeting was \_\_\_\_\_ because too many people were absent.
  18. I missed a lot of lessons, and it took me a long time to **get to the same level as** the other students in my class.  
I missed a lot of lessons, and it took me a long time to \_\_\_\_\_ the other students in my class.
  19. The storm was terrible, but eventually the wind **became less strong**.  
The storm was terrible, but eventually the wind \_\_\_\_\_.
  20. Could you call the station and **ask** what time the 9.15 train from Reading arrives?  
Could you call the station and \_\_\_\_\_ what time the 9.15 train from Reading arrives?
  21. Some students can be very creative with the reasons they give for not **giving** their homework **to their teachers**.  
Some students can be very creative with the reasons they give for not \_\_\_\_\_ their homework.
  22. You haven't completed this form properly. You've **forgotten to include** your date of birth.  
You haven't completed this form properly. You've \_\_\_\_\_ your date of birth.
  23. The talks **failed** because nobody could agree on anything.  
The talks \_\_\_\_\_ because nobody could agree on anything.
  24. Don't **exhaust** yourself by working too hard.  
Don't \_\_\_\_\_ yourself \_\_\_\_\_ by working too hard.
  25. I invited a lot of people to my party, but only a few **came**.  
I invited a lot of people to my party, but only a few \_\_\_\_\_.
  26. It's pointless relying on people to help you if they **don't do as they promised**.  
It's pointless relying on people to help you if they \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_.
  27. We asked him to be quiet, but he **continued** talking.  
We asked him to be quiet, but he \_\_\_\_\_ talking.
  28. I'm sorry I was late, but I was **delayed** by heavy traffic on the A40.  
I'm sorry I was late, but I was \_\_\_\_\_ by heavy traffic on the A40.
  29. The doctors need to **do** some more tests before I can leave the hospital.  
The doctors need to \_\_\_\_\_ some more tests before I can leave the hospital.
  30. I would hate to lose my job and **find myself** on the dole.  
I would hate to lose my job and \_\_\_\_\_ on the dole.

A lot of the phrasal verbs in this exercise can have more than one meaning when used in different situations. Use your dictionary to check these other meanings.

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## Mixed phrasal verbs and idioms

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In each of these paragraphs, the gaps can be completed with the same word to form a phrasal verb or idiom. The word you need can either be a noun or a verb form of that word. If it is a verb, you need to make sure you put it in its correct form. Use a dictionary to check meanings.

1. A manager is talking to an employee:

I personally think you've \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong horse and you've got your \_\_\_\_\_ to the wall, but I'll \_\_\_\_\_ you up as long as you don't \_\_\_\_\_ down. Just don't do anything behind my \_\_\_\_\_, or do anything else that is likely to get my \_\_\_\_\_ up, otherwise I'll transfer you to one of our offices in the \_\_\_\_\_ of beyond.

2. A lawyer is talking to a client:

I'll say this to your \_\_\_\_\_: you're \_\_\_\_\_ some serious charges. On the \_\_\_\_\_ of it, however, there isn't any evidence that you committed the crime, and there is no judge on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth who would find you guilty. The prosecution will have to \_\_\_\_\_ up to it: there's no way you're going to \_\_\_\_\_ the music over this.

3. A doctor is talking to a patient:

I can't \_\_\_\_\_ down the seriousness of your illness. I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ on your emotions and pretend to \_\_\_\_\_ God. However, we might be able to \_\_\_\_\_ for time before you need an operation, so I'm going to recommend a course of medication. The medicine I'm going to recommend is actually illegal in this country, but I know how to \_\_\_\_\_ the system and get you some, as long as you're prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ ball with me on this.

4. A young man is talking to his best friend:

My girlfriend is always complaining about me. She says I \_\_\_\_\_ her round the bend. I just don't understand what she's \_\_\_\_\_ at, and it's \_\_\_\_\_ me to distraction. Maybe she does it on purpose in the hope that she can \_\_\_\_\_ me out. Things aren't helped by her parents \_\_\_\_\_ a wedge between us all the time. It's enough to \_\_\_\_\_ me to drink!

5. A young woman is talking to her best friend:

I can't believe I \_\_\_\_\_ under his spell and \_\_\_\_\_ for his lies. I mean, there I was \_\_\_\_\_ over myself to do everything for him, and then I discover he'd \_\_\_\_\_ in with a group of girls he'd met in the pub and had \_\_\_\_\_ head over heels for one of them. I begged him to stop seeing her, but my plea just \_\_\_\_\_ on stony ground.

6. A man is talking to a radio interviewer about an event in his life:

It was very exciting. We were about to \_\_\_\_\_ the world record for the world's largest house of cards. The room was silent with anticipation. Suddenly, one of the journalists who was there to record the moment \_\_\_\_\_ the silence by \_\_\_\_\_ wind very loudly! That \_\_\_\_\_ my concentration and I dropped the card I was about to add to the pile. Of course, the whole construction collapsed. The journalist responsible tried to make a \_\_\_\_\_ for it, but I caught him. I was going to hit him, but he looked so scared I decided to give him a \_\_\_\_\_.

7. A man is talking to a detective who is interviewing him about a stolen watch:

I had lost my job and my wife had \_\_\_\_\_ out on me, so as you can imagine I wasn't exactly \_\_\_\_\_ on air. My mind must have been on other things when I \_\_\_\_\_ into the jewellers and \_\_\_\_\_ off with one of their Rolex watches. I was arrested by one of your officers \_\_\_\_\_ the beat. Do you think I'll go to prison for this, or do you think I'll \_\_\_\_\_ free?



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## Idioms and other expressions used for talking about money

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Exercise 1: Look at the idioms in bold in sentences 1 – 22, and decide if the people:

(A) have a lot of money.

(B) have very little or no money.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Steve is <b>up to his ears in debt</b> .  | 12. Mike is <b>made of money</b> .         |
| 2. Kevin is <b>on the dole</b> .             | 13. Don is <b>penniless</b> .              |
| 3. Jamie has <b>made his pile</b> .          | 14. Judy has <b>money to burn</b> .        |
| 4. Sue <b>can't make ends meet</b> .         | 15. Pete is <b>broke</b> .                 |
| 5. Jacqueline is <b>stinking rich</b> .      | 16. Tim has <b>more money than sense</b> . |
| 6. Mark's boss <b>pays him chickenfeed</b> . | 17. Alison is <b>rolling in it</b> .       |
| 7. Tarquin is <b>loaded</b> .                | 18. Bob is <b>skint</b> .                  |
| 8. Laurence is <b>hard up</b> .              | 19. Andy is <b>down and out</b> .          |
| 9. Christine is <b>well off</b> .            | 20. Jeanette is <b>feeling flush</b> .     |
| 10. Brenda is <b>in the red</b> .            | 21. Charles is <b>raking it in</b> .       |
| 11. John is <b>strapped for cash</b> .       | 22. Annabel is a bit <b>down-at-heel</b> . |

Exercise 2: Look at the idioms in **bold** in sentences 23 – 38, and decide if the people:

(A) have paid a lot of money for something.

(B) have paid a small amount of money for something.

23. The shop sold us our hi-fi for a **rock-bottom price**.
24. A pizza and a glass of wine cost us £10. It was **daylight robbery**.
25. We paid **next to nothing** for the holiday.
26. It **cost us the earth** to get our car repaired.
27. It **didn't break the bank** to travel business class to New York.
28. I paid £6 for a hot dog and a Coke. What **a rip-off!**
29. My new car cost me a **packet**.
30. It **cost us an arm and a leg** to change our flight times.
31. We paid **a tidy sum** for our new computer.
32. The rent on my house is a bit **steep**.
33. How much was my new camera? Well, it **didn't come cheap**.
34. The restaurant served excellent food, **at a price**.
35. This suit **set me back** a bit.
36. This home cinema system was **going for a song**.
37. We had an excellent meal, and it was **dirt cheap**.
38. I paid **good money** to stay in this hotel.

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## Idioms and other expressions that use numbers

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Sentences 1 – 20 all contain an idiom or other expression in bold that uses a cardinal number (1, 2, 3, etc) or an ordinal number (first, second, third, etc). Complete each idiom / expression with one word only, and write the word in the appropriate space in the grid on the next page. Each idiom / expression is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence. The first and last letters of each word are already in the grid.

If you complete the grid correctly, you will reveal a four-word expression in the shaded vertical column. This expression can be used to complete sentence 21.

1. If you decide to sell your car, could you give me **first** \_\_\_\_\_? (*to give someone the opportunity to buy something before offering it to anyone else*)
2. She paid me a **two-edged** \_\_\_\_\_: she said that I was very good looking for a fat person! (*capable of being understood in two different ways, or of having both good and bad effects*)
3. Tom has got a **one-**\_\_\_\_\_ **mind**. He just thinks about girls all the time! (*Tom thinks about the same thing all the time*)
4. She sometimes arrives early, but **nine** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of ten** she's late. (*nearly always*)
5. "Do you think we'll win the match tomorrow?" "Maybe. We've got a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **chance**." (*our chances are equal. Note that the same word is used twice in this expression. You only need to write it once in the grid*)
6. "I've failed my driving test twice, but I'm going to try again tomorrow." "Oh, well, good luck. **Third time** \_\_\_\_\_, right?" (*a spoken expression that is used for saying that the third time you try something you will be successful when the first two times you were not successful*)
7. When he asked me to marry him I said yes immediately, but now I'm **having second** \_\_\_\_\_. (*to begin to doubt a decision that you have made*)
8. I went to a party last night and had **one too** \_\_\_\_\_. (*to drink too much alcohol*)
9. "I haven't got any money." Well, **that** \_\_\_\_\_ **two of us!**" (*a spoken expression used for telling someone that you are in the same situation as they are*)
10. You're so **two-**\_\_\_\_\_! You tell me that I work hard and get good results, then you tell everyone else that I'm lazy and incompetent! (*dishonest about your feelings, thoughts and beliefs, and tending to tell people whatever you think will please them*)
11. Redheads Wine Bar is popular with **thirty**\_\_\_\_\_ professionals. (*an adjective used to describe people between the ages of 30 and 39*)
12. When I was young, we moved from the city to a **one** \_\_\_\_\_ **town** in East Anglia. (*a place that is small and boring*)
13. It was a very formal dinner party, so everyone **was** \_\_\_\_\_ **up to the nines**. (*wearing extremely fashionable or, in this case, formal clothes*)
14. OK, everyone, we've worked really well and got a lot achieved in the last couple of hours. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ **five**. (*a spoken expression which means 'stop working for a short period of time'*)
15. How did you know I was in the house? You must have a **sixth** \_\_\_\_\_! (*a special ability to feel or see things without using sight, hearing, touch, smell or taste*)

16. Holly thinks she's an expert on computers, but she **hasn't got the first** \_\_\_\_\_ **about them.** (to not know anything about a subject, or not have the skills to do something)
17. "She hit me, so I hit her." "That was stupid. **Two** \_\_\_\_\_ **don't make a right.**" (a spoken expression used for saying that you should not react to someone's wrong behaviour by doing something wrong yourself)
18. She's been **in seventh** \_\_\_\_\_ ever since she got the job. (to feel extremely happy)
19. When I saw my girlfriend coming out of a restaurant with a strange man, I naturally **put two and two** \_\_\_\_\_. (to guess what is happening or what something means based on what you have seen or heard)
20. I was supposed to come home by 10 o'clock, but I didn't get back until 4 in the morning. Naturally my mother **gave me the third** \_\_\_\_\_ and demanded to know where I had been. (to ask someone a lot of questions in a determined way)

1.				R						L
2.		C								T
3.					T					K
4.			T				S			
5.				F				Y		
6.					L				Y	
7.					T					S
8.						M			Y	
9.				M				S		
10.						F				D
11.	S								G	
12.					H				E	
13.				D						D
14.							T			E
15.				S				E		
16.					I			A		
17.						W				S
18.				H					N	
19.				T						R
20.							D			E

Use the expression to complete this sentence:

21. Tickets for the concert will be allocated on a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ basis. (a four-word expression which is used for saying that if you arrive before other people, you will be given or sold something before them)

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## Idiomatic 'pairs'

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Complete the first gap in each sentence with a word from the left-hand box, and the second gap in each sentence with a word from the right-hand box, to make idiom 'pairs'.

alive	bits	black	by	cheap
down	fair	hard	heaven	high
ins	length	pros	safe	sick
song	spick	up	ups	wear

about	breadth	cheerful	cons	dance	
downs	earth	fast	kicking	mighty	
large	out	outs	pieces	sound	span
square	tear	tired	white		

1. I walked the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Woodstock Road looking for a chemist.
2. Tidy your room. I want it \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by the time your father gets home.
3. I went shopping, but I didn't buy very much; just a few \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What are the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of working for a large company?
5. I hope you enjoy your holiday, but I won't be happy until you're \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at home again.
6. A few years ago he was a millionaire, but he lost all his money and is now \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, living on the streets of London.
7. Your new job probably seems a bit strange at the moment, but you'll soon get to know the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the company.
8. You're always complaining. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of it!
9. I've been ill in bed for a while, but I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ again.
10. I've had my computer for a couple of years, and it's beginning to show signs of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Our new teacher is a bit bad-tempered, but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ he's OK.
12. The company phoned me today to offer me the job, but I won't be happy until I see the offer in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
13. I know that the service in this restaurant is slow, but there's no point making a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ about it: it won't achieve anything.
14. My boyfriend and I have our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but we usually get on very well together.
15. I would move \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to get some tickets for tonight's concert.
16. Our new sales manager is a bit \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: she thinks she's much better than the rest of us.
17. What shall we drink with dinner? How about a bottle of something \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?
18. Susie lost the game, but admitted that she had been defeated \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Some people say that the British film industry is dead, but most people would agree that it's still \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The company I work for doesn't have any \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ rules about what we should wear to the office, but they like us to look smart.

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## Idioms and other expressions using parts of the body

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Complete the idioms in **bold** with a word from the box. Both sentences in each pair use the same word, although the idiom in each one has a different meaning. Each idiom is explained in *italics* at the end of the sentence. Note that in some cases you will need to use the word from the box in its plural form.

arm	back	chin	ear	elbow	eye	face	finger	foot	hair	hand	head
heart	leg	lip	neck	nose	shoulder	throat	toe	tongue	tooth		

- (a) I can't quite remember the name of the restaurant we went to last night, but it's **on the tip of my** \_\_\_\_\_. (*I know the name of the restaurant, but I can't remember it at this exact moment*)

(b) Helen has a rather **sharp** \_\_\_\_\_, especially if you do something to upset her. (*Helen has a severe and unkind way of talking to people*)
- (a) You've won the lottery? I don't believe you! **You're pulling my** \_\_\_\_\_. (*You are telling me something that is not true, as a joke*)

(b) My new camera **cost me an arm and a** \_\_\_\_\_. (*My new camera was very expensive*)
- (a) Do you want to speak to me? Well, go ahead: **I'm all** \_\_\_\_\_. (*I'm listening carefully*)

(b) Dave works really hard, but he's still a bit **wet behind the** \_\_\_\_\_. (*Dave is a bit young and lacking knowledge and experience*)
- (a) I'm sorry, but your explanation **went right over my** \_\_\_\_\_. (*I didn't understand your explanation*)

(b) I made a small mistake, and my boss **bit my** \_\_\_\_\_ **off!** (*My boss reacted in a rude and angry way when there was no reason*)
- (a) I've always wanted to live in Australia. I'd **give my right** \_\_\_\_\_ to go out there right now. (*I'd do anything to go to Australia*)

(b) There are lots of things wrong with the company I work for. I've got a list **as long as my** \_\_\_\_\_. (*I've got a very long list of problems with my company*)
- (a) We caught the train **by the skin of our** \_\_\_\_\_. (*We caught the train, but we nearly missed it*)

(b) My children are always **fighting** \_\_\_\_\_ **and nail**. (*My children are always fighting and arguing a lot*)
- (a) Have I done something to upset Noel? I just said hello to him and he **gave me the cold** \_\_\_\_\_. (*Noel treated me in an unfriendly way, or refused to speak to me*)

(b) I can't work properly with you **looking over my** \_\_\_\_\_ all the time. (*I can't work properly because you are always watching me and then criticising my work*)
- (a) You really **put your** \_\_\_\_\_ **in it** when you asked Hilary how her husband was: he left her for another woman last week. (*You said something that upset or embarrassed Hilary*)

(b) I was going to ask Sarah to go out with me, but at the last minute I **got cold** \_\_\_\_\_. (*I suddenly felt nervous about doing something that I had planned to do*)
- (a) I can't stand Erica. She **gets right up my** \_\_\_\_\_. (*Erica annoys me a lot*)

(b) I offered Bob a job working in the shop, but he just **turned his** \_\_\_\_\_ **up** at it. (*Bob refused to accept the job I offered him because he didn't think it was good enough*)
- (a) Mr Jennings thinks he's a popular teacher, but the children are always making fun of him **behind his** \_\_\_\_\_. (*The children say things about Mr Jennings without him knowing*)

(b) I'm trying to work. **Get off my** \_\_\_\_\_! (*Stop criticising me or telling me what to do*)

- 
11. (A) I can't go out with you tonight. **I'm up to my** \_\_\_\_\_ in work. (*I've got a lot of work to do*)  
(B) I've just lost the company a £10,000 order. I'll probably **get it in the** \_\_\_\_\_ for that. (*I'll probably be criticised or punished for losing the order*)
12. (A) You're always working so hard. Why don't you **let your** \_\_\_\_\_ **down** for a change? (*Why don't you relax and enjoy yourself?*)  
(B) I thought Heidi would be really angry with me for going out with her boyfriend, but to my surprise she **didn't turn a** \_\_\_\_\_. (*Heidi didn't seem surprised or shocked that I went out with her boyfriend*)
13. (A) Your secret is safe with me. **My** \_\_\_\_\_ **are sealed**. (*I won't tell anyone about your secret*)  
(B) **Read my** \_\_\_\_\_: get out, you're fired! (*Listen very carefully to what I'm saying*)
14. (A) I would love to help you, but **my** \_\_\_\_\_ **are tied**. (*I can't help you because a rule or law is preventing me*)  
(B) I can't see you at the moment, I'm afraid: **my** \_\_\_\_\_ **are full**. (*I'm extremely busy with a difficult job*)
15. (A) When John stood up and started singing in the restaurant, it **made my** \_\_\_\_\_ **curl**. (*I was extremely embarrassed when John started singing*)  
(B) I didn't mean to **tread on your** \_\_\_\_\_, but I didn't realise it was your job to answer the phone. (*I didn't mean to offend you by doing something that you are responsible for*)
16. (A) Could you **keep an** \_\_\_\_\_ **on** the children while I go to the shops? (*Could you look after the children for a short while?*)  
(B) Andy and I get on very well together, even though we don't always **see** \_\_\_\_\_ **to** \_\_\_\_\_. (*Andy and I don't always agree on the same things*)
17. (A) Richard and Mark were **at each other's** \_\_\_\_\_ all through the meeting. (*Richard and Mark were arguing in an angry way*)  
(B) Television channels are always **forcing** programmes about the environment **down our** \_\_\_\_\_. (*Television channels are always forcing us to accept programmes about the environment*)
18. (A) Amy has **a** \_\_\_\_\_ **of gold**. (*Amy is a very kind person*)  
(B) Brian seems a bit rude and bad-tempered, but **his** \_\_\_\_\_ **is in the right place**. (*Brian tries to be kind and do good things, even though it does not always seem like this*)
19. (A) Good luck in the exam. I'll be **keeping my** \_\_\_\_\_ **crossed** for you. (*I'll be hoping that things will happen in the way that you want them to*)  
(B) Natalie is extremely lazy. She **won't lift a** \_\_\_\_\_ to help us. (*Natalie won't do anything to help us*)
20. (A) When he slipped on the banana skin, none of us could **keep a straight** \_\_\_\_\_. (*We couldn't prevent ourselves from laughing*)  
(B) We need to end the conflict without **losing** \_\_\_\_\_. (*We need to end the conflict without losing people's respect by appearing weak or stupid*)
21. (A) I know that you're having a hard time at the moment, but try to **keep your** \_\_\_\_\_ **up**. (*Try to be brave and happy, even though you are in a difficult situation*)  
(B) I was very critical of his work, but he **took it on the** \_\_\_\_\_. (*He accepted something unpleasant in a brave way without complaining*)
22. (A) Maggie is upset because her boyfriend **gave her the** \_\_\_\_\_ last night. (*Maggie's boyfriend told her that he didn't want to go out with her anymore*)  
(B) Could you give me some \_\_\_\_\_ **room**, please? (*Could you give me enough space so that I'm comfortable?*)
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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'pick'

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In the following sentence pairs, complete sentence (b) so that it has the same or a very similar meaning to sentence (a). In each case, you will need to use a phrasal verb, idiom or other expression using *pick*. Use between two and four words in each sentence.

1. (a) They spent ages talking in detail about his faults.  
(b) They spent ages \_\_\_\_\_ his faults.
2. (a) Sales have been slow, but we hope they will improve in the summer.  
(b) Sales have been slow, but we hope they will \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer.
3. (a) I don't speak German, but I managed to learn a few phrases without intending to when I was in Munich.  
(b) I don't speak German, but I managed to \_\_\_\_\_ a few phrases when I was in Munich.
4. (a) We looked carefully at all the contents of his room looking for evidence.  
(b) We \_\_\_\_\_ the contents of his room looking for evidence.
5. (a) The manager always treats me unfairly or criticises me.  
(b) The manager always \_\_\_\_\_ me.
6. (a) I wasn't very hungry, so only ate only small amounts of the meal.  
(b) I wasn't very hungry, so only \_\_\_\_\_ the meal.
7. (a) Have you chosen a dress from your collection to wear to the party?  
(b) Have you \_\_\_\_\_ a dress to wear to the party?
8. (a) I couldn't see her in the huge crowd.  
(b) I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ in the huge crowd.
9. (a) We'll send a car to collect you from the hotel.  
(b) We'll send a car to \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel.
10. (a) The car suddenly started going faster.  
(b) The car suddenly \_\_\_\_\_.
11. (a) We've had a very difficult year, but we're slowly returning to a normal life.  
(b) We've had a very difficult year, but we're slowly \_\_\_\_\_.
12. (a) Our company makes a lot of mobile phones. Chose one from our extensive range.  
(b) Our company makes a lot of mobile phones. \_\_\_\_\_ from our extensive range.
13. (a) My teacher is always making my work seem bad by finding all the things that are wrong with it.  
(b) My teacher is always \_\_\_\_\_ my work.
14. (a) You've disagreed with me on everything I've said. Are you trying to start an argument?  
(b) You've disagreed with me on everything I've said. Are you trying to \_\_\_\_\_?
15. (a) I need some help buying a new computer and was wondering if I could ask you some questions so that you can give me the right advice.  
(b) I need some help buying a new computer and wondering if I could \_\_\_\_\_.
16. (a) When you invest money, make sure that you choose a company that will perform well.  
(b) When you invest money, make sure that you \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'put'

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Use the words in the box to complete the phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using *put* in this story. You will need to use some of them more than once.

across	aside	away	behind	down	for	forward	in	into	off	onto
out	straight	through	to	together	under	up	with			

The company I had been working for was taken over by a new manager, and we didn't get on very well. Every suggestion that I put \_\_\_\_\_ he rejected, he put me \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of pressure to work longer hours, and he continually put me \_\_\_\_\_ in front of the other employees. The final straw came when he told me to put \_\_\_\_\_ an exhibition for a trade fair: I put \_\_\_\_\_ weeks of work, but he told me that he thought the final result was "rubbish". He even put the word \_\_\_\_\_ that I was lazy and unreliable. I made a great effort to put \_\_\_\_\_ our differences, but eventually decided the best thing would be to put \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ a transfer to another department. When this was refused, I decided I couldn't put \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ it any more, and resigned.

Fortunately I had managed to put \_\_\_\_\_ a bit of money (including some that I had put \_\_\_\_\_ a high-interest deposit account), and so I decided to take a well-deserved holiday. There were several interesting holiday offers in the newspapers, but I decided to put \_\_\_\_\_ choosing one until I found exactly what I wanted. It was a friend who put me \_\_\_\_\_ a travel agency that specialised in walking holidays in interesting parts of the world. I checked their website, found a holiday that I wanted and put \_\_\_\_\_ a £200 deposit, followed by the balance three weeks later. When the tickets didn't arrive, I tried calling their telephone helpline, but was continually put \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ a recorded announcement. After several attempts to phone them, I put pen \_\_\_\_\_ paper and wrote them a letter (I'm always much better at putting myself \_\_\_\_\_ in writing than I am at speaking). I was naturally put \_\_\_\_\_ when I didn't get a reply, so I visited the agency in their London offices. The manager saw me personally and I put my situation \_\_\_\_\_ him, explaining that I either wanted my tickets or my money back. He tried to put me \_\_\_\_\_ by saying that there was no record of my booking, but I put him \_\_\_\_\_ by showing him the transaction record on my credit card account. I then put my foot \_\_\_\_\_ and insisted he return my money. To my shock he called me a liar and told a security guard to remove me from the building. That was when I lost my temper. I went to my car, started the engine, put the car \_\_\_\_\_ gear, put my foot \_\_\_\_\_, and smashed the car through the agency's window.

And that, your honour, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is my story. I hope you will take into account my feelings and emotions at the time. I just want to put it all \_\_\_\_\_ me. Please don't put me \_\_\_\_\_!



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## Idiomatic and colloquial responses

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These exercises contain a lot of spoken expressions (some of them are formal, but most of them are informal) that we use in response to things that people say. For example, if somebody says "How did you know that I've been offered that job in London?", you might reply "A little bird told me." (which means that you are not going to say who told you).

Exercise 1: Match the sentences 1 – 25 with the most suitable response from the box at the bottom of the page. Use each response once only.

1. Goodbye. See you next week.
2. I forgot my wife's birthday.
3. My wife and I are celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary tonight.
4. Who was that man I saw you with last night?
5. I waited for the bus for half an hour, then three came along at once.
6. I've just eaten six hot dogs and now I've got a terrible stomach ache.
7. If you look at my girlfriend again, I'll kill you!
8. Thanks for inviting me to dinner.
9. I'm brilliant! My teacher says I'm the best student in her class.
10. Have a nice weekend.
11. What shall we have for dinner?
12. Please don't tell anyone my secret.
13. I'm tired. I'm going to bed.
14. I'm going to spend the weekend sitting in front of the television.
15. These chocolates look delicious.
16. Have you had enough to eat?
17. I can't come to your party.
18. I've just won £10,000!
19. I've got some amazing news.
20. By the time I'm 30, I'll be a millionaire and married to a supermodel.
21. I've heard that you're going to give me a surprise party for my birthday.
22. Acchhhooooooooo!
23. Men are much more intelligent than women.
24. Come on, let's go or we'll be late.
25. What are you going to get me for my birthday?

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|--|--|
| (A) Get a life!                            | (N) Oh dear, so you're in the doghouse again?          |
| (B) Hands off!                             | (O) I could murder a curry.                            |
| (C) I'm absolutely stuffed!                | (P) Mind your own business!                            |
| (D) Oh no, who let the cat out of the bag? | (Q) How typical!                                       |
| (E) Night night, sweet dreams.             | (R) Yes, cheerio, take care.                           |
| (F) What complete rubbish!                 | (S) Fire away, I'm all ears.                           |
| (G) Oh yes, you and whose army?            | (T) In your dreams!                                    |
| (H) No way! You're pulling my leg!         | (U) That'll teach you.                                 |
| (I) Stop blowing your own trumpet!         | (V) Oh, what a shame.                                  |
| (J) Same to you.                           | (W) You're welcome. Come in and make yourself at home. |
| (K) Never you mind. Wait and see!          | (X) Don't worry, my lips are sealed.                   |
| (L) Hang on, give me a moment.             | (Y) Oh, congratulations                                |
| (M) Bless you!                             |  |

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**Exercise 2:** Choose the correct word in **bold** to complete the responses in these dialogues. In one of them, all three options are possible.

1. "I'm feeling a bit miserable at the moment."  
"Jeer / **Cheer** / Sneer up!"
2. "Can we have your decision?"  
"Um, let me **dream** / think / sleep on it."
3. "I, er, um, well, you know, I, er, the thing is, you see, well..."  
"Come on, spit / **cough** / blow it out!"
4. "I, er....."  
"What's the matter? Has the cat got your **tongue** / lips / teeth?"
5. "Come on darling, give me a great big kiss and then have a dance with me!"  
"Go and take a running **leap** / jump / fall!"
6. "I'm taking my IELTS exam tomorrow."  
"Good luck. I'll be keeping my **toes** / fingers / legs crossed for you."
7. "Can I borrow your mobile to make a quick call?"  
"Sure. Be my **host** / friend / guest."
8. "It's my birthday today."  
"Is it? Oh, well, many happy **reruns** / returns / repeats."
9. "Could I use your car tonight?"  
"I'd **prefer** / wish / rather you didn't"
10. "I promise not to be late from now on."  
"Yeah right, that'll be the **day** / week / month!"
11. "My girlfriend left me last week."  
"Oh dear, so you're on the **fence** / wall / shelf again."
12. "Do you know Patrick Hartley?"  
"No, the name doesn't ring any **phones** / bells / changes"
13. "I'm the boss here, and you will do what I say!"  
"Stop throwing your **weight** / body / head around!"
14. "I'm afraid I've run out of coffee. I can only offer you tea."  
"That's all right. Any **harbour** / dock / port in a storm."
15. "I'm sorry, but I forgot to do my homework again."  
"Again? It's time you pulled your **trousers** / socks / pants up, young man."
16. "I'm under too much pressure at college."  
"Well, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the **fire** / oven / kitchen."
17. "I failed my driving test again."  
"Oh, **hard** / bad / tough luck!"
18. "What's the name of that restaurant we went to last week?"  
"It's on the tip of my **tongue** / finger / nose. I'll remember it in a minute."
19. "Have you ever been to hospital?"  
"No, touch **cloth** / paper / wood."
20. "Excuse me, could you take our picture?"  
"Sure, give me your camera. OK, say **chips** / cheese / cheers everyone!"

## Idioms and other expressions that rhyme or alliterate

There are lots of English idioms and expressions in which the words *alliterate* or *rhyme*. When two or more words that make an idiom or expression *alliterate*, they begin with the same letter or letters (for example, *double Dutch*). When two or more words that make an idiom or other expression *rhyme*, they end with the same sound as each other (for example, *higgledy-piggledy*).

In dialogues 1 – 30 below, you will see the first letter of each of the main words from a rhyming or alliterative expression. The rest of the expression is in the table. Complete the sentences with these.

...eebie ...eebies	...reepy ...rawly	...itter ...atter	...hick ...hin	...ear ...ear
...ull ...ishwater	...ancy ...ree	...ead ...eels	...illy ...illy	...ocus ...ocus
...oity ...oity	...old ...orses	...unky ...ory	...hilly ...hally	...ven ...tevens
...ittle ...attle	...lap ...rap	...hort ...hrift	...oi ...olloi	...ouble ...utch
...ishy ...ashy	...one ...usted	...ook ...rook	...ie ...ky	...hyme ...eason
...iggledy ...iggledy	...o ...um	...hock ...lock	...urly ...urly	...ager ...outs

- "Hi, Liz. How are things?"  
"Oh, the family's fine, work's good, everything's **h**\_\_\_\_\_ **d**\_\_\_\_\_."
- "Did you understand what the manager's speech was about?"  
"No, not a word. It was all **d**\_\_\_\_\_ **D**\_\_\_\_\_."
- "There's a rumour that Mrs White has left her husband for a man half her age!"  
"Hmm, I wouldn't listen to **t**\_\_\_\_\_ **-t**\_\_\_\_\_ if I were you."
- "Why did you get involved in their argument?"  
"I didn't intend to, but I got drawn into it **w**\_\_\_\_\_ **-n**\_\_\_\_\_."
- "Can we go home yet?"  
"No, there's still some work to do, but as soon as everything's **d**\_\_\_\_\_ **and d**\_\_\_\_\_ we can leave."
- "Have the children tidied their bedrooms?"  
"Well, sort of, but everything's still a bit **h**\_\_\_\_\_ **-p**\_\_\_\_\_."
- "Do you think his plan will work?"  
"Not really. His ideas are good in theory, but in reality they're just **p**\_\_\_\_\_ **in the s**\_\_\_\_\_."
- "Did you manage to get a seat on the train?"  
"No, it was **c**\_\_\_\_\_ **-a-b**\_\_\_\_\_ with commuters, so I had to stand."
- "It's the middle of the night. What's that strange noise outside?"  
"I've no idea, but it's giving me the **h**\_\_\_\_\_ **-j**\_\_\_\_\_."
- "It's really peaceful here, isn't it? No cars going by, no aeroplanes flying over."  
"It certainly is. Nothing but the **p**\_\_\_\_\_ **-p**\_\_\_\_\_ of rain on the window."
- "Come on, let's go or we'll be late."  
"**H**\_\_\_\_\_ **your h**\_\_\_\_\_. I'm not quite ready yet."
- "Do you think it's time we got a new computer?"  
"I think so. The one we've got now is really showing signs of **w**\_\_\_\_\_ **and t**\_\_\_\_\_."

- 
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13. "The city centre is terrible on a Friday and Saturday night."  
"I agree. The place is full of **l\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_**, causing trouble and starting fights."
14. "I thought you were going to have a bath."  
"I was, but there's a big **c\_\_\_\_\_ -c\_\_\_\_\_** in the bathtub!"
15. "Do you think we'll get the contract?"  
"We certainly will, **by h\_\_\_\_\_ or by c\_\_\_\_\_**."
16. "What do you think of our new teacher?"  
"Well, he's good at explaining things, but he's as **d\_\_\_\_\_ as d\_\_\_\_\_**."
17. "How long have Mr and Mrs McCall been married?"  
"Fifty years. They've stayed with other **through t\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_**."
18. "Nigel always talks down to me and acts like he's better than me."  
"Don't worry. He's very **h\_\_\_\_\_ -t\_\_\_\_\_** with everyone. It's just his way."
19. "Have you got a girlfriend?"  
"Not at the moment. I'm **footloose and f\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_!**"
20. "Shall we go somewhere this weekend?"  
"Good idea. Let's get out into the countryside, away from the **h\_\_\_\_\_ -b\_\_\_\_\_** of the city."
21. "I'm not ready to decide yet. Can I sleep on it?"  
"Yes, but don't **s\_\_\_\_\_ -s\_\_\_\_\_**: there are several more people who are interested in the job."
22. "The new manager's nice, isn't he?"  
"Yes, but he seems a bit **w\_\_\_\_\_ -w\_\_\_\_\_**."
23. "Do you agree that men are more intelligent than women?"  
"No, I don't. I've never heard such **c\_\_\_\_\_ -t\_\_\_\_\_!**"
24. "Sandra seems to be in a world of her own at the moment, doesn't she?"  
"Yes, well, she's fallen **h\_\_\_\_\_ over h\_\_\_\_\_** for that new accountant on the third floor."
25. "Marissa thinks she can communicate with dead people."  
"Yes, she's told me, but I don't believe in any of that **h\_\_\_\_\_ -p\_\_\_\_\_**."
26. "Was the film as good as everyone says?"  
"Not really. In fact I thought it was very **h\_\_\_\_\_ -h\_\_\_\_\_**."
27. "When I fly, I prefer to go business class."  
"Me too. I don't like mixing with the **h\_\_\_\_\_ -p\_\_\_\_\_** in economy class."
28. "Do you think I should ask Mr Searle if I can take Monday off work?"  
"Well, you can try, but I think he'll give you very **s\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_**."
29. "Who do you think will win the match?"  
"Well, it's **e\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_** at the moment, so it could go either way."
30. "Do you know why she left the company without giving any notice?"  
"No, there was no **r\_\_\_\_\_ or r\_\_\_\_\_** for her sudden departure."

## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'run'

**Exercise 1:** The 'prompt' sentences on the left all have a 'follow-on' sentence which is divided into two parts, in the middle and on the right. Match the prompt sentences with the two parts of the follow-on sentences, and complete these follow-on sentences with a phrasal verb using 'run' and a particle or particles from the box. Make sure you use the correct form of the verb.

across around away by down from into off on out over  
through to up with

Prompt sentence	Follow-on sentence part 1	Follow-on sentence part 2
(1) I'm not very happy with the people I work with.	I _____ a huge heating bill...	...I'll have to come home.
(2) I saw Janine for the first time in years today.	I hope the morning meeting doesn't _____	...crossing a pedestrian crossing as a child.
(3) Look at this wonderful vase I found.	It's been like that ever since I was _____	...150 copies, that should be enough.
(4) I've always been a very independent person.	I've been _____ at work...	...as a result.
(5) I am absolutely exhausted.	I'll just _____ the names on my list...	...all day.
(6) I really want to discuss my ideas for the company with someone.	I suppose that when my money _____	...the first man who catches my eye!
(7) We need enough agendas for everyone coming to the conference.	I couldn't believe it when the bill for repairs _____	...to make sure.
(8) Last winter was particularly cold.	I was wondering if I could _____ them _____ you...	...in an antique shop in Brighton.
(9) I really must deal with these accounts.	Perhaps I should just _____	...all day without a break.
(10) I've got a lot to do at work today.	If I _____	...all the time.
(11) I'm having a lovely holiday in Italy, and I really don't want to leave.	I _____ her... It began when I tried to _____ home...	...when I was 10 years old.
(12) I've got one leg slightly longer than the other.	I _____ it...	...for too long.
(13) I think that everyone's here.	I guess I'm a bit fed up with them _____ me _____	...in a café on the High Street.
(14) I had a small accident in my car last month.	I've been _____ them...	...some time this morning?
(15) I need a bit of romance and adventure in my life.		...almost £1000.

**Exercise 2:** The idioms and other expressions in **bold** in sentences 1 – 17 can all be completed with a word from the box. These words can be found by reading from left to right (→) and from right to left (←), following the direction of the arrows. The meaning of each idiom / expression is explained in *italics* at the end of each sentence. Note that the words in the box are *not* in the same order as the sentences.

Start →	C	U	T	T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E	↘		
↙	G	I	H	Y	E	N	O	M	D	L	I	W	E	E	R	F	↘
↙	H	S	T	E	A	M	M	I	L	E	R	I	N	G	S	R	↘
↙	S	E	T	A	L	E	F	I	L	N	W	O	D	K	S	I	↘
↙	C	A	R	E	D	I	N	S	E	Y	E	S	W	A	L	K	

- If you tell her the truth, you **run the \_\_\_\_\_ of** making her angry. (*to do something that may have a bad result*)
- I've been working hard all day, and I'm beginning to **run out of \_\_\_\_\_**. (*to become too tired to finish something*)
- Derek's had several **run-\_\_\_\_\_** with the management recently. (*arguments*)
- I should call a doctor. Jamie's **running a** very high \_\_\_\_\_. (*to be very hot because you are ill*)
- I must hurry. I'm **running** a bit \_\_\_\_\_ this morning. (*doing things or arriving in places later than planned*)
- I think that you're being too ambitious. You shouldn't try to **run before you can \_\_\_\_\_**. (*to try to achieve something very difficult immediately, without first doing more basic things*)
- Outside teaching hours the classrooms are shut and locked, but students **have \_\_\_\_\_ run** of the library, the computer room, the restaurant and the gardens. (*to be allowed to go anywhere in a place and do what you want*)
- Would you mind **running your \_\_\_\_\_ over** this report? (*to look at or read something very quickly*)
- If you asked Susan for date, she would probably **run a \_\_\_\_\_**. (*an informal expression which means that someone would try to avoid a situation because he / she is frightened or embarrassed*)
- I wish you would stop trying to **run my \_\_\_\_\_!** (*to keep telling someone what they should do in a way that is annoying*)
- Things are becoming difficult at work. Perhaps I should \_\_\_\_\_ **and run**. (*to get out of a situation when it becomes too difficult or unpleasant*)
- I've been running the company for forty years and I've **had a good run for my \_\_\_\_\_**, but now it's time to retire. (*to have a long period of time when you are successful or happy*)
- I've been feeling a bit **run-\_\_\_\_\_** recently. (*so tired that you do not feel well*)
- Sampera was confident at the beginning of the game, but Waterman has won all the sets and is **running \_\_\_\_\_ around** him. (*to do something much better than someone else*)
- They aren't very good parents. They let their children **run \_\_\_\_\_** all the time. (*to behave in an uncontrolled way*)
- Liverpool are playing a fantastic match, and with the half-time score at 3–0, Spurs are **running \_\_\_\_\_**. (*to be worried because you know that your opponent is very good or strong*)
- As the match enters its final minutes, **feelings are running \_\_\_\_\_** at the Spurs end. (*many people are angry or upset*)

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'set'

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Look at the definitions for each phrasal verb and idiom in **bold** and decide if they are TRUE or FALSE.

1. If something **sets** people **against** each other, it encourages them to work together.
2. If your plans are **set back**, this means that their progress has been delayed.
3. If you **set down** something in writing, you write something on a piece of paper so that it will not be forgotten and can be looked at later.
4. If you have just **set off** on a trip, you have just finished it.
5. If someone **sets** you **up**, they have arranged a situation so that you are blamed, especially if it is something illegal.
6. If you **set up** a company, you have closed a company down because of, for example, financial difficulties.
7. If something **sets off** an alarm, it stops the alarm from working properly.
8. If something you buy **sets** you **back** a lot, it has cost you very little money.
9. If you **set aside** some money, you spend it quickly, usually on something that you do not need.
10. If something such as bad weather **sets in**, it starts to happen and is not likely to stop for a long time.
11. If you **set** someone **straight** or **right**, you tell them the right way to do something, or you correct them on a mistake they have made.
12. If you **have your heart set on something**, you are very angry and want to get revenge.
13. If you **set up home**, you lose your home and become homeless.
14. If you are **set up for life**, you do not have enough money to live on.
15. If one action **sets the stage** for a second action, it prevents that action from taking place.
16. If you are **set against** or **dead set against** something, you are in favour of it or want it.
17. Someone who is **set in his / her ways** is not willing to change his / her opinion or way of doing things.
18. If you have a **set-to** with someone, you enjoy a drink or a meal with them.
19. If someone **sets the cat among the pigeons**, they have an idea that everyone tries to copy.
20. If a noise **sets your teeth on edge**, it is so unpleasant that you cannot listen to it.
21. If someone **sets the ball rolling**, they stop working and do something else.
22. If someone tells you to **set your (own) house in order**, they are telling you to apologise to someone for something that you have said or done.

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'take'

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Complete the phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions in *italics* below. You will need one or two words to complete each one. Use your answers to fill in the crossword grid on the next page. When two words are needed, there will be no gaps between the words in the crossword grid.

### Across ( ⇨ )

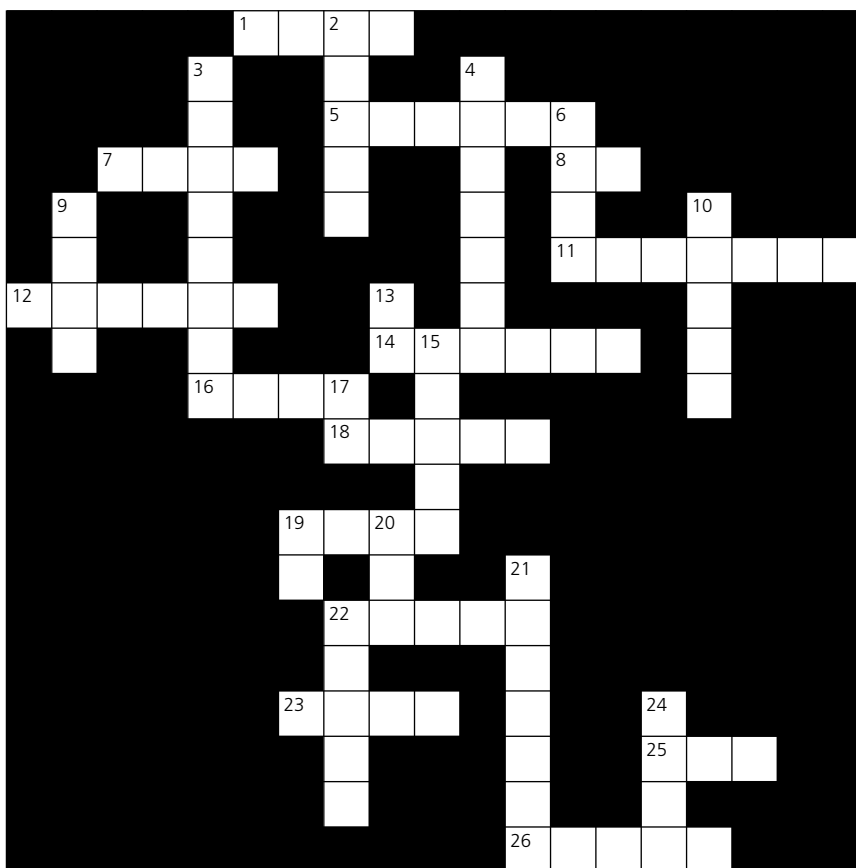
1. How many teams are *taking* \_\_\_\_\_ in the competition? (*to be involved in an activity with other people*)
5. Jim's *taken* \_\_\_\_\_ a crowd of boys who have a bad reputation with the police. (*to become friendly with someone, especially someone who could have a bad influence on you. You need two words here*)
7. Can you *take* \_\_\_\_\_ the cooking while I walk the dog? (*to begin to do something that someone else was doing*)
8. I'm not sure how much of my explanation she *took* \_\_\_\_\_. (*to understand and remember something that you hear or read*)
11. Could you *take* me \_\_\_\_\_ the rules again, please? (*to explain to someone in detail how something should be done, what something is about, etc*)
12. Don't worry, I'm only *taking the* \_\_\_\_\_. (*informal – to say something to try and make someone or something look silly, especially in a friendly way. Clue: the word you need is also the name of a famous cartoon character!*)
14. Mr Dimech can be really rude to people at times. Just *take no* \_\_\_\_\_ of him. (*to ignore someone*)
16. You should *take* anything he says *with a pinch of* \_\_\_\_\_. (*to doubt the truth or value of something*)
18. Playing tennis in this heat really *takes it* \_\_\_\_\_ you. (*to need a lot of effort and make you feel very tired. You need two words here*)
19. I've decided to *take you* \_\_\_\_\_ your offer of a job. (*to accept an offer or invitation. You need two words here*)
22. Joe *takes* \_\_\_\_\_ his father. (*to look or behave like an older relative*)
23. I didn't mean what I said. I *take it* \_\_\_\_\_. (*informal – to admit that something you said to or about someone was wrong*)
25. Sales of the new computer *took* \_\_\_\_\_ after the television commercial. (*to become successful or popular fast*)
26. You want my report by this afternoon? That's going to *take a bit of* \_\_\_\_\_. (*to need a lot of effort, skill or determination*)

### Down ( ⇩ )

2. Life isn't always perfect. Sometimes you have to *take the* \_\_\_\_\_ *with the smooth*. (*a spoken expression which means that bad things happen as well as good things, and you have to accept them*)
3. If you say I've got a big nose again, I'll *take you to the* \_\_\_\_\_! (*informal – to fight and defeat someone completely, or to get a lot of money from someone, either in a dishonest way or through a legal process*)
4. She's said a few stupid things today, but her latest comment really *takes the* \_\_\_\_\_. (*to be the most silly, stupid or annoying thing in a series of things*)
6. Tracey is always following me around everywhere. I wish she would *take a* \_\_\_\_\_ and leave me alone. (*understand what someone wants you to do, even though they do not say it directly*)



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9. I can't come out with you tonight, but I'll *take a \_\_\_\_\_ check*. (*used for saying that you can't accept an offer now, but that you may accept it later*)
10. My new neighbour is very strange. Oh well, *it takes all \_\_\_\_\_*, I suppose. (*a spoken expression used for saying that you find someone's behaviour surprising or strange*)
13. We're not *taking \_\_\_\_\_* any new staff at the moment. (*to start to employ someone*)
15. Whenever he's in a bad mood, he *takes it \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_* me. (*to make someone suffer because you are angry, upset, etc. You need two words here*)
17. Everybody said how nice she was, but I never really *took \_\_\_\_\_* her. (*to start liking someone or something*)
19. She decided to *take \_\_\_\_\_* photography as a hobby. (*to start doing something regularly as a habit, job or interest*)
20. I'm *taking the day \_\_\_\_\_* next Monday. (*to have a particular amount of time away from work*)
21. Alan is selfish, and *takes me for \_\_\_\_\_*. (*to expect someone to always be there and do things for you, even when you do not show that you are grateful*)
22. I was *taken \_\_\_\_\_* at his sudden departure. (*to be very surprised*)
24. The police *took \_\_\_\_\_* our names and addresses. (*to write down information or a statement*)



## Idioms and other expressions using 'time'

Match the first part of each sentence on the left with its second part on the right, using the idioms in **bold** to help you.

1. We've got a lot to do today. I'm afraid we'll be **racing**...
2. I'm very busy at the moment, but I'll try to **make**...
3. **Once upon**...
4. Don is a really nice man. I **have a lot of**...
5. Susanna is so old-fashioned. She seems to be **living in a**...
6. I would love a holiday, but I never seem to **find**...
7. We thought we would be late, but we arrived **with**...
8. Shall we start now? After all, **there's no**...
9. At last, here comes our bus. **About**...
10. Chris is sometimes late, but **nine**...
11. We really need to hurry. There's **no**...
12. I don't want to make a decision now; I'll decide **when**...
13. I don't know if we will be successful; **only**...
14. I must have told you...
15. I'm not really watching this film; I'm just **killing**...
16. If the company is going to compete successfully, we will need to **move with**...
17. I've never had Japanese food before, but **there's a first**...
18. I don't believe it. It's already 4 o'clock. **Doesn't**...
19. If we don't win this time, we will be the **second**...
20. Picasso was a remarkable artist who was years **ahead of**...
21. Winters here are generally cold and grey, but **from**...
22. I'm thinking of changing jobs in the future, but I'll continue working here **for the**...
23. This isn't a sudden decision. I've been thinking of moving **for some**...
24. I would love to stop for a chat, but I'm a bit **pressed**...
25. My students just aren't interested in their lessons. They don't even listen to me **half**...

- (a) ... **time warp**.
- (b) ... **times out of ten** she's punctual.
- (c) ... **time for everything**, I suppose.
- (d) ... **the time comes**.
- (e) ... **time**, too.
- (f) ... **the time**.
- (g) ... **for time**.
- (h) ... **time being**.
- (i) ... **time to time** it can be glorious.
- (j) ... **time fly when you're having fun!**
- (k) ... **time will tell**.
- (l) ... **the times**.
- (m) ... **time now**.
- (n) ... **time around**.
- (o) ... **his time**.
- (p) ... **against time** to get everything finished.
- (q) ... **time to spare**.
- (r) ... **time for** him.
- (s) ... **time and time again** to arrive earlier.
- (t) ... **time** until my friends arrive.
- (u) ... **the time** to see you later.
- (v) ... **time to lose**.
- (w) ... **a time** there lived a handsome prince.
- (x) ... **the time** for one.
- (y) ... **time like the present**.

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## Idioms and other expressions used for talking about travel and holidays

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Complete each idiom in **bold** with an appropriate word from A, B or C. Each idiom is explained in *italics* after each sentence.

1. We stayed in a wonderful hotel just a \_\_\_\_\_ **throw** from the beach. (*very near to*)  
A. **rock's** B. **stone's** C. **pebble's**
2. The motorway is the quickest way of getting from Paris to Marseilles, but many drivers prefer to take the slower \_\_\_\_\_ **route**. (*a road that goes through an area of natural beauty, such as mountains, countryside, etc*)  
A. **pretty** B. **picturesque** C. **scenic**
3. He's always going on holiday to interesting and exciting places. He's such a **globe**-\_\_\_\_\_. (*somebody who travels a lot*)  
A. **runner** B. **hopper** C. **trotter**
4. Thanks to \_\_\_\_\_ budget airlines, it is now possible to get a cheap flight to most European destinations. (*very cheap*)  
A. **cut-price** B. **cut-throat** C. **cut-and-run**
5. The hotel used to be the best one on the island, but since a new manager took over last year it's **gone to the** \_\_\_\_\_. (*declined in quality: it was good, but now it's bad*)  
A. **pigs** B. **dogs** C. **cats**
6. This hotel is dirty and uncomfortable. It's a real \_\_\_\_\_! (*a dirty, uncomfortable and, usually, cheap hotel*)  
A. **doghouse** B. **fleapit** C. **henhouse**
7. If you miss the last bus, you should take a taxi back to the hotel: don't try to \_\_\_\_\_ **a lift**. (*hitch-hike*)  
A. **thumb** B. **finger** C. **hand**
8. I don't like staying in busy resorts. I prefer to go somewhere that's **off the** \_\_\_\_\_ **track**. (*away from popular areas*)  
A. **beaten** B. **well-walked** C. **tramped**
9. The resort was **in the middle of** \_\_\_\_\_, so there was nothing interesting to see or do. (*isolated from any towns, villages, etc*)  
A. **everywhere** B. **somewhere** C. **nowhere**
10. The brochure said that our hotel was in a peaceful location. It really meant that the hotel was **in the** \_\_\_\_\_ **of beyond**. (*very remote, a long way from other buildings, people, etc*)  
A. **front** B. **middle** C. **back**
11. Local restaurants are very cheap, so you won't \_\_\_\_\_ **the bank** by eating out every night. (*spend a lot of money*)  
A. **rob** B. **bankrupt** C. **break**
12. I travel a lot on business, so I seem to spend most of my life **living out of a** \_\_\_\_\_. (*to be away from home a lot*)  
A. **bag** B. **suitcase** C. **rucksack**
13. The barman tried to \_\_\_\_\_-**change** me: the drink cost £2, I gave him £5 and he only gave me £2 back. (*to cheat someone by not giving him the correct money in change*)  
A. **small** B. **short** C. **little**
14. I hadn't been anywhere for years, and then suddenly I got \_\_\_\_\_ **feet** and decided to do some travelling. (*a desire to travel and see different places*)  
A. **itchy** B. **scratchy** C. **tickly**

- 
- 
15. I always try to **travel** \_\_\_\_\_ when I go on holiday. I usually just take a very small suitcase and nothing else. (*to take very little luggage with you when you travel*)  
A. **light** B. **gentle** C. **easy**
16. When I arrive in a foreign city, I can't wait to \_\_\_\_\_ **the sights**. (*to go sightseeing*)  
A. **run** B. **play** C. **do**
17. One of the biggest problems anyone faces when they travel abroad is **culture** \_\_\_\_\_. (*confusion or anxiety that travellers experience when visiting a different country*)  
A. **surprise** B. **shock** C. **daze**
18. Some tourists are never happy. They like to **pick** \_\_\_\_\_ in everything. (*complain, usually about small, unimportant things*)  
A. **gaps** B. **cracks** C. **holes**
19. The Lighthouse Hotel in Sri Lanka is **out of this** \_\_\_\_\_. (*very good*)  
A. **world** B. **planet** C. **earth**
20. The staff at the hotel I stayed in went **out of their** \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure I had a pleasant stay. (*did everything possible*)  
A. **heads** B. **way** C. **jobs**
21. Applying for a visa often involves dealing with a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ **tape**. (*bureaucracy*)  
A. **blue** B. **white** C. **red**
22. Don't eat in that restaurant. It looks nice from the outside, but it's a real **tourist** \_\_\_\_\_. (*a place that is in a good location to attract tourists, but is overpriced and generally provides poor service*)  
A. **pit** B. **trap** C. **trick**
23. When you're on holiday and want a good meal, it's a good idea to choose a restaurant that's popular with the \_\_\_\_\_. (*the people who live in a place that you are visiting*)  
A. **natives** B. **savages** C. **originals**
24. Last year we went on a \_\_\_\_\_-**stop tour** of Europe: we did seven capital cities in seven days! (*visiting a lot of places in a short period of time*)  
A. **flute** B. **whistle** C. **recorder**
25. My flight from London to Singapore **went round the** \_\_\_\_\_.: we stopped over in Dubai, Karachi, Colombo and Kuala Lumpur. (*to go to a lot of places before reaching your destination*)  
A. **houses** B. **buildings** C. **apartments**
26. We arrived in Singapore at **an unearthly** \_\_\_\_\_. (*very late at night / very early in the morning*)  
A. **moment** B. **minute** C. **hour**
27. Don't go into that bar. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ **joint**. (*a place where men go to try to meet women*)  
A. **pick-up** B. **put-down** C. **chat-up**
28. Tonight's the last night of our holiday. Let's go out and **paint the town** \_\_\_\_\_! (*go out and have a good time*)  
A. **pink** B. **purple** C. **red**
29. Several people recommended the hotel to me, but unfortunately it **fell** \_\_\_\_\_ **of my expectations**. (*not as good as you expected*)  
A. **short** B. **small** C. **flat**
30. When you choose a holiday from a brochure, you should always **read between the** \_\_\_\_\_.: for example, if it describes your resort as 'lively', it usually means 'noisy'. (*to guess something that is not expressed directly*)  
A. **words** B. **paragraphs** C. **lines**
-

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'turn'

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**Exercise 1:** Look at the dictionary definitions of phrasal verbs that use *turn*, and decide which particle or particles (*around, back, on, etc*) can be used to complete them.

- (a) To tell the police about someone or take them to the police because they have committed a crime ("His own brother turned him \_\_\_\_\_").

(b) Informal – to go to bed at night ("It's getting late. I think I'll turn \_\_\_\_\_")
- (a) To develop in a particular way or have a particular result ("I was disappointed with the way things turned \_\_\_\_\_").

(b) To produce something in large quantities ("The company plans to turn \_\_\_\_\_ 2000 cars a month").

(c) To force someone to leave a place, especially their home ("Our landlord turned us \_\_\_\_\_ without any warning")
- (a) To ask someone for help when you are having a problem dealing with a situation ("He turned \_\_\_\_\_ his father for some money to pay his rent").

(b) To start thinking about or discussing something ("All right, let's turn \_\_\_\_\_ more important matters now")
- (a) To start using a piece of equipment by pressing a button or moving a switch ("Is your computer turned \_\_\_\_\_?").

(b) To make a sudden and unexpected attack on someone using violence or angry words ("I was shocked when he suddenly turned \_\_\_\_\_ me")
- (a) To give someone or something to someone who has a position of authority ("I turned \_\_\_\_\_ the money I had found to the police").

(b) To stop watching one television channel and start watching another ("This programme is boring. Let's turn \_\_\_\_\_").

(c) To think carefully about all the details of something ("He began to turn \_\_\_\_\_ the plan in his mind")
- (a) To stop being unsuccessful and start being successful, or make something do this ("The loan will help us to turn the company \_\_\_\_\_").

(b) To complete a piece of work, process or activity within a particular time ("We can produce quality work and turn it \_\_\_\_\_ very quickly")
- (a) To increase the amount of sound, light, etc, produced by a piece of equipment ("I can't hear the radio. Can you turn it \_\_\_\_\_?").

(b) To come somewhere unexpectedly or without making a firm arrangement ("You don't need to reserve a table: just turn \_\_\_\_\_").

(c) To be found, especially by accident, after being lost ("My car keys turned \_\_\_\_\_ in the kitchen cupboard!")
- To refuse to let someone come into a place ("The restaurant was full, and a lot of customers had to be turned \_\_\_\_\_")
- To stop liking or supporting someone or something and start opposing them ("The workers turned \_\_\_\_\_ the management when their wages were reduced")
- (a) To stop using a piece of equipment by pressing a button or moving a switch ("Will you turn the television \_\_\_\_\_, please?").

(b) To leave the road you are travelling along in order to go along another one that leads away from it ("If you're coming from London, you'll need to turn \_\_\_\_\_ the motorway before you get to Oxford").

(c) To make someone feel bored or no longer interested in something ("His policies could turn \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of voters")
- (a) To return the same way that you came instead of continuing on your journey, or make someone do this ("Bad weather forced them to turn \_\_\_\_\_").

(b) To return to a previous situation or condition ("I've come too far to turn \_\_\_\_\_ now")
- (a) To refuse to accept an offer or request ("I don't believe he turned \_\_\_\_\_ my offer of help!").

(b) To reduce the amount of sound, heat or light produced by a piece of equipment by pressing a button or moving a switch ("Can you turn the music \_\_\_\_\_ a bit, please?")

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**Exercise 2:** Match the sentences on the left with a suitable response on the right, using the idioms and other expressions in **bold** to help you.

- (1) "If you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."
- (2) "Your work hasn't been very good recently."
- (3) "I have to leave early today."
- (4) "You're very good looking."
- (5) "Don't worry about your children, Mrs Jackson. They'll probably come home soon enough."
- (6) "Mrs Ranscombe hasn't got any idea how to run this company."
- (7) "Your living room is a real mess!"
- (8) "I've done everything I can to help you, but I feel I've done enough."
- (9) "I've been unemployed for six months, but I've got two job interviews next week."
- (10) "For almost two years we didn't get a pay rise, and then our salaries were almost doubled!"
- (11) "How do you like your steak cooked?"
- (12) "For years he always made more sales than me, but last year I exceeded his sales by almost 50%."
- (13) "I'm really sorry to hear that your boyfriend left you for someone else."
- (14) "Boo! Surprise! It's me!"
- (15) "I don't like this. It tastes horrible."
- (16) "I've heard that a rock group have recorded a heavy metal version of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*."
- (17) "I'm really fed up with my job. It's so boring."
- (18) "Were you frightened when the man pulled out the knife?"

- (a) "That's good. Perhaps your luck is **on the turn**."
- (b) "Well, it's not really allowed, but just this once I'll **turn a blind eye**."
- (c) "**Done to a turn**, but not burnt to a crisp."
- (d) "Don't do that! You **gave me a right turn!**"
- (e) "I know. I've been **turning the place upside down looking** for my car keys."
- (f) "Well done. It must feel good to **turn the tables on someone** like that."
- (g) "Good lord! He must be **turning in his grave!**"
- (h) "I know. I promise to **turn over a new leaf** from now on."
- (i) "But you can't just **turn your back on** me like this!"
- (j) "But I'm at my wits' end, constable. I **don't know which way to turn**."
- (k) "Don't be silly. It's healthy and filling, and you shouldn't **turn your nose up** at it."
- (l) "Well, that's a **turn-up for the books**, isn't it?"
- (m) "I don't think you should **talk out of turn like that**."
- (n) "Sure. **One good turn deserves another**."
- (o) "Yes, the rat! I feel like **my whole world has been turned upside down**."
- (p) "Oh, I'm not so sure. I certainly **wouldn't turn any heads**."
- (q) "I should have been, but I **didn't turn a hair**."
- (r) "Well, why don't you try **turning your hand to** something a bit more challenging?"

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## Idioms and other expressions that use words connected with the weather

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As you might expect, a country with changeable weather like the United Kingdom has a lot of idioms that use weather words. In sentences 1 – 24, complete the first part of each idiom or expression in **bold** with its second part from the box.

...as rain	...but it pours	...cloud nine	...disposition	...for a rainy day	...in a fog
...in a storm	...in a teacup	...my thunder	...of criticism	...or shine	...parade
...rain check	...reception	...red mist	...snowed	...the driven snow	...like the wind
...the wind blows	...thunder	...wind of	...wind out of my sails	...wind up	...your judgement

1. The Education Minister's speech to the teachers got **a frosty** \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I can't think properly. I'm tired, and **my mind is** \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I usually spend most of my salary, but I always try to **save something** \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I'm sorry you don't feel very well. Why don't you go to bed, and I'm sure you'll be **right** \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning.
5. She's always happy, friendly and smiling: she **has a really sunny** \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I can't join you for lunch today. I'm absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ **under** with work.
7. I would avoid the boss if I were you: he's got **a face like** \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Your train leaves in one minute. You'll have to **run** \_\_\_\_\_ if you want to catch it.
9. I know that you're angry and upset, but don't let your emotions **cloud** \_\_\_\_\_.
10. I told Bill about my ideas for improving the company, then he told them to the boss and said they were his ideas. I can't believe he **stole** \_\_\_\_\_ like that!
11. I'm usually fairly calm and relaxed, but when someone intentionally scratched my car with their keys, I **got the** \_\_\_\_\_.
12. I thought my idea to improve sales was fantastic until my manager told me it would never work. As you can imagine, that **took the** \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Elaine has been **on** \_\_\_\_\_ ever since she got the promotion that she wanted.
14. What a morning! I got a parking ticket, then someone drove into my car in the supermarket car park, and to top it all I ran out of petrol. I guess **it never rains** \_\_\_\_\_.
15. I would love to go for a drink, but I'm a bit busy. Can I **take a** \_\_\_\_\_?
16. She thinks she's **as pure as** \_\_\_\_\_, but she's no better than the rest of us.
17. "We haven't got any tea. Would you like coffee instead?" "I suppose so. **Any port** \_\_\_\_\_".
18. "Do you think we should employ more staff?" "I'm not sure. Let's **see which way** \_\_\_\_\_ in the next few weeks".
19. "Are you coming to the match with us on Saturday?" "Oh yes, we wouldn't miss it for anything. We'll be there **come rain** \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The shop refused to refund my money, so I told them that I would take them to court. That **put the** \_\_\_\_\_ them!
21. Everybody was getting angry and upset about nothing. It was just a **storm** \_\_\_\_\_.
22. He tried to keep his plans secret, but we soon **got** \_\_\_\_\_ them.
23. Her suggestions were met with **a hail** \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Her suggestions were excellent, and it was wrong of you to **rain** on her \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Idioms and other expressions used for talking about work

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**Exercise 1:** Choose the best definition, (a) or (b), to explain the idiom or other expression in **bold** in these sentences.

1. Sue has always been a **high-flier**.  
(a) *Someone who has achieved a lot and is determined to continue being successful.*  
(b) *Someone in a company who thinks they are more important than other people.*
2. I hate **carrying the can** for people in my department.  
(a) *Taking instructions from people and doing what they tell you to do.*  
(b) *Being the person who is considered responsible for something that has gone wrong.*
3. My boss is such a **slave driver**!  
(a) *Someone who never has his / her own ideas, and so steals other people's.*  
(b) *Someone who makes his / her employees work very hard for long hours.*
4. This job can be difficult at times, but just **go with the flow**.  
(a) *Work as hard as you can for as long as you can.*  
(b) *Do what seems like the easiest thing in a particular situation.*
5. You want 2000 items delivered by Monday? That's a **tall order**.  
(a) *Something very difficult that someone expects you to do.*  
(b) *Something which happens very suddenly, especially when you don't expect it.*
6. This company has a long history of employing **movers and shakers**.  
(a) *People who are powerful or have a lot of influence.*  
(b) *People who work for a company for a very short time, then leave.*
7. You've got a choice: you can **shape up or ship out!**  
(a) *Do a simple job and receive low pay, or do a more difficult job and get more pay.*  
(b) *Improve your work and behaviour, or leave the company.*
8. Friday is **dress down day** in our department.  
(a) *A day when employees wear what they like to work.*  
(b) *A day when each employee's work and performance during the week is assessed by his / her boss.*
9. Our boss always gives us a lot of **ear candy**, although we would rather have a pay rise instead.  
(a) *Kind words that praise and encourage an employee.*  
(b) *Small gifts, such as chocolate, cinema tickets, bottles of wine, etc.*
10. It's time we **cut out the dead wood** in this company.  
(a) *Dismiss the employees who do not work very well or efficiently.*  
(b) *Reduce the number of unnecessary meetings and discussions.*
11. He's an industrious member of staff, but his work really isn't **up to the mark**.  
(a) *Good enough.*  
(b) *Fast enough.*
12. Our line manager is always **picking holes in my work**.  
(a) *Giving someone more work than they can do in the time allowed.*  
(b) *Finding faults or mistakes with someone's work.*
13. This newspaper survey says that most people who call in sick on Monday are **pulling a fast one**.  
(a) *Working too hard the rest of the week, and not relaxing enough during their free time.*  
(b) *Pretending something that is not true in order to trick someone.*
14. My boss is always **laying down the law**.  
(a) *Breaking the rules in order to get what you want.*  
(b) *Telling people what to do or how to behave.*



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15. Your request for a pay rise is **out of the question**.  
(a) *Not possible*.  
(b) *Being considered by the people responsible for giving pay rises*.

Exercise 2: Choose the correct idiomatic word or expression for each of these sentences.

- A job that offers no prospect of promotion is sometimes known as a / an...  
(a) **hatchet job** (b) **dead-end job** (c) **inside job** (d) **nose job**
- Boring and detailed work, such as examining documents for mistakes, can be described as...  
(a) **hammer and chisel work** (b) **nut and bolt work** (c) **bucket and spade work** (d) **pick and shovel work**
- We sometimes say that people who compete for success in business or in a career are working for the...  
(a) **horse race** (b) **dog race** (c) **rat race** (d) **camel race**
- We might refer to a bad employer with a reputation for losing talented staff as a...  
(a) **people churner** (b) **people mixer** (c) **people stirrer** (d) **people beater**
- If you do a lot of different types of work in an office for very low pay, you could be referred to as a...  
(a) **catsbody** (b) **pigsbody** (c) **ratsbody** (d) **dogsbody**
- When an employee telephones to say that s/he is not coming to work because s/he is ill, but in fact is only pretending to be ill, we say that s/he is throwing...  
(a) **a sickie** (b) **the book at someone** (c) **a wobbly** (d) **a punch**
- If an employee gets very angry at work because of something bad or unpleasant that happens, we can say that they are experiencing...  
(a) **office anger** (b) **work rage** (c) **shopfloor strops** (d) **workplace wobbles**
- Work that offers the same money for less effort than another similar job is often known as...  
(a) **a cushy number** (b) **a doddle** (c) **a pushover** (d) **child's play**
- When somebody is dismissed from their job, we can say that they have...  
(a) **got the shoe** (b) **got the sandal** (c) **got the boot** (d) **got the slipper**
- Someone who receives very little money for their job can be said to make, earn or receive...  
(a) **water** (b) **stones** (c) **sweets** (d) **peanuts**
- Someone who works extremely hard for a long time might complain that they are working their...  
(a) **nose to the grindstone** (b) **fingers to the bone** (c) **ear to the ground** (d) **back to the wall**
- An employee who works very hard in a determined way can be said to...  
(a) **chisel away** (b) **cut away** (c) **beaver away** (d) **hammer away**
- Some people have a second job in addition to their main job, which they might want to keep secret from their employer. This is called...  
(a) **sunlighting** (b) **starlighting** (c) **lamplighting** (d) **moonlighting**
- A lazy employee who only pretends to work is said to be...  
(a) **swinging a cat** (b) **swinging both ways** (c) **swinging the lead** (d) **swinging the balance**
- Someone who is out of work and claiming money from the government can be said to be...  
(a) **on the dole** (b) **on the pull** (c) **on the razzle** (d) **on the level**

Also see: Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'work' on the next page.

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## Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'work'

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Exercise 1: Complete sentences 1 – 10 with an appropriate form of *work* (for example, present continuous, past simple, etc), and an appropriate particle or particles, to make phrasal verbs.

1. The exact details of the event haven't been \_\_\_\_\_ yet. (*To decide or agree on something*)
2. We'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ Joey to find out what's going on. (*To try to influence someone, often in order to get information from them*)
3. In my experience, the best way of \_\_\_\_\_ tension is by playing a good game of tennis. (*To get rid of a feeling, or get rid of some weight, by doing something that involves physical activity*)
4. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ tell me that you've lost my camera? (*To prepare yourself to do something difficult, or try to prepare someone for bad news. This phrasal verb needs 2 particles.*)
5. I've finally \_\_\_\_\_ what that strange noise in the attic is. (*To solve a problem by considering the facts*)
6. The total cost of our holiday last year, including flights and accommodation, \_\_\_\_\_ at about £300. (*To add up to a particular amount*)
7. When I damaged my father's car, he made me \_\_\_\_\_ the cost of the repairs. (*To pay someone what you owe them by doing a job for them instead of giving them money*)
8. I'm not very hungry. Perhaps I should go for a walk to \_\_\_\_\_ an appetite. (*To develop a particular feeling*)
9. If she \_\_\_\_\_ improving her game, she could be a champion. (*To try hard to develop or improve something*)
10. Unless we \_\_\_\_\_ getting fit before the game, we won't win. (*To spend time producing or improving something*)

Exercise 2: Try to decide what the idioms and other expressions in sentences 11 – 20 mean, then check your answers in the back of the book.

11. He cooked us a fantastic breakfast. We had **the whole works!**
12. Everything was going really well, and then the boss **threw a spanner in the works.**
13. We'll **have our work cut out for us** if we want to continue making money from this project.
14. I was hot, tired and in a really bad mood, but a cold shower **worked wonders!**
15. You will pass your exams, but only if you **work your socks off.**
16. He was very hungry, and **made short work** of the meal I had cooked.
17. We're only a little bit late, and we have got a good excuse, so don't get so **worked up!**
18. It is very difficult to obtain a visa to visit the country, but if you know how to **work the system** it can be very easy.
19. I've **worked my fingers to the bone** for this company for twenty years, and now they tell me that they don't need me anymore!
20. I work in the customer complaints department for a major airline, so being shouted at by angry customers is **all in a day's work** for me.

## Answer key

### Idioms and other expressions using animals (pages 6–7)

1. horse. This expression can also be used to describe someone who wins a race, competition, etc, that no one expected them to win. 2. cat. This is sometimes used as an exclamation: "Look what the cat dragged in!" If someone is very untidy, we can also say that they *look like they've been dragged through a hedge backwards*, or that they *look like a dog's dinner*. If someone is *dressed up like a dog's dinner*, they are dressed in a way that shows they want to impress people, but their clothes are not suitable for the occasion: "Everyone was wearing jeans and T-shirts, then in walked Maria dressed up like a dog's dinner". 3. bird 4. bird. When we find out news or information without it being officially announced, we say that we *heard it on / through the grapevine*, or *heard it through the bush telegraph*. 5. goat. We can also say *hacks me off*. Somebody who annoys you intentionally *winds you up*. 6. bee 7. cat 8. rat 9. donkey. We can also say *for ages*. 10. dog 11. rat 12. pig. If you eat a lot of food very quickly, you could say that you *pig out*: "The children were *pigging out on biscuits and crisps*". The word pig can also be used to insult someone: "You *greedy pig!*" "He's *such an ignorant pig!*" etc. 13. cat. We could also say *You haven't got a hope in hell*. These are not very polite expressions. 14. fish 15. horse 16. bee. We can also say *the cat's whiskers*: "Ever since he got promoted, Tom really thinks he's the cat's whiskers." 17. fish 18. goose 19. donkey. Somebody who often does the donkey work and the other jobs that nobody wants (often for very low pay) could be described as a *dogsbody*. 20. fly. People sometimes watch *fly-on-the-wall* television programmes which show real people doing what they normally do every day: "Last night I saw a really interesting *fly-on-the-wall* documentary about low-cost airlines." 21. hen. We can also say *hen party*. The male equivalent is a *stag night* (in American English it is a *bachelor party*). 22. horse. If you are a *little* bit hungry, you could say that you are *peckish* or *have the munchies*. 23. shark 24. rat (Written as one word: *ratbag*). 25. hen (Written as one word: *henpecked*). A woman who is treated in such a way by a husband or male partner could be said to be *browbeaten*, although this word has more aggressive implications. 26. pig. We can also say that you *cocked it up* or *messed it up*. 27. goose 28. fish. We can also say *other fish to fry*. 29. whale 30. duck (People who are not affected by comments, insults, etc, are *thick-skinned*). 31. chicken 32. horse 33. cat 34. monkey 35. bird 36. dog

### Idioms and other expressions to describe character and personality (pages 8–9)

1. pain in the neck (= someone who is very annoying). This is often shortened to a pain: "Peter is *such a pain!*". 2. anorak (= someone who is very interested in something that most people think is boring or unfashionable). *Nerd* has a similar meaning, but is usually used to describe someone who is very interested in technical or scientific subjects, especially computers: "George is a *real computer nerd!*" *Nerd* can also be used to describe someone who is not physically attractive, and does not have much social ability. He / she might also wear *nerdy clothes* or have a *nerdy haircut*. 3. moaning Minnie (= someone who complains a lot, usually about minor, unimportant things). We can also say *moaner* or *whinger* (from the verbs to

moan and to whinge): "He's *such a moaner!*" "She's a *real whinger!*" If the person who always moans or whinges is also unhappy all the time, we could call him / her a *misery guts*. 4. happy camper (= someone who enjoys their job and the company they work for). *Eager beaver* could also be used in this sentence. A *happy bunny* is a similar expression which can be used to describe anyone who is always smiling and happy: "Who's the *happy bunny* next to you in this photograph?" 5. smart cookie (= someone who has a strong character or who is intelligent, and deals well with problems and disappointments). We can also say a *tough cookie*. 6. couch potato (= someone who spends a lot of time sitting at home watching television). If the person who does this is very untidy, rarely washes himself / herself or his / her clothes, and eats lots of junk food (eg, burgers, pizzas, etc), we could describe him / her as a *layabout* or a *slob*: "You *lazy slob!* Clear up this mess, have a shower and put on some clean clothes!" 7. wet blanket (= someone who spoils other people's fun by being negative and complaining). We could also say a *killjoy* (= someone who makes it difficult for people to enjoy themselves) or, less specifically, a *pain in the neck* (see number 1 above). 8. chatterbox (= someone who talks a lot). Someone who talks a lot in a boring way could be called a *windbag* or a *bore*. Compare these with *bigmouth* in number 32 below. 9. eager beaver (= someone who is extremely enthusiastic and enjoys working extremely hard). Note that the people in numbers 4, 5 and 9 could also be described as a *live wire* (= someone who has a lot of energy and is interesting to be with). 10. life and soul of the party (= someone who is good company, lively, and fun to be with. Note that this expression always uses *the*, not *a*). A person who gets on well with lots of people in different situations (social, work, etc) is a *good mixer*. A person who loves going to parties and having fun is a *party animal*. 11. wallflower (= someone at a social event who has no one to dance with or talk to, often because they are shy). *Shrinking violet* has a similar meaning. 12. crank (= someone who has very strange ideas or behaviour). We can also say *an oddball* or (very informally), a *weirdo*. 13. wimp (= someone who is not strong, brave or confident). If you decide not to do something because you are frightened or not confident, we say that you *wimp out*: "I was going to ask the boss for a pay rise, but then I *wimped out*". We can also say a *softie*. 14. golden boy (= a successful man that a lot of people like and admire. This expression is often used by journalists). *Blue-eyed boy* is a similar expression, but is often used in a disapproving way: "You know that Alastair McKinnon? He's *such a blue-eyed boy!* He'll be running the company before you know it!" 15. bunny boiler (= a woman who reacts badly, and sometimes violently, if a man ends a relationship with her or treats her badly in other ways). A *bunny* is an informal word for a *rabbit*, and the expression *bunny boiler* comes from a film in which a rejected woman gets her revenge on her ex-boyfriend by killing and boiling his child's pet rabbit. There is no male equivalent of this expression. Note that *troublemaker* could also be used to complete this sentence. 16. slave driver (= someone who makes people work very hard). 17. early bird (= someone who gets up early, starts work early, etc). This expression comes from the English saying "The *early bird catches the worm*". 18. tearaway (= a young person who does dangerous, silly or illegal things that often get them into trouble). A person or animal who is difficult to deal with or control could be called a *terror*: "Annie was so sweet when she was a baby, but now she's a *little terror*." 19. Don Juan (= a man who is very

## Answer key

successful with women). We can also say a *Casanova* or a *Romeo* (all three are named after famous lovers from stories). Note that these words are often preceded by a *regular*. A woman who is attractive to men but who treats them badly could be called a *femme fatale*.

**20.** busybody (= someone who is very interested in other people's private lives and activities, and tries to get involved in them in a way that is annoying). Someone who is very interested in other people's private lives but doesn't normally get involved could be called a *nosey parker*. If one of your neighbours is a nose parker, you could describe him / her as a *curtain twitcher* (he / she watches the neighbours from behind the curtains in his / her house).

**21.** Scrooge (= someone who likes to keep all their money and doesn't like to spend it: from a character in a novel by Charles Dickens). If you *pay someone peanuts*, you pay them very little money. We could describe a miser as *tight* or *tight-fisted*: "*Don't be so tight-fisted dad! I only want to borrow £10.*" A person who likes to make money is sometimes described as a *moneygrabber* or a *moneygrubber*.

**22.** daydreamer (= someone who is always thinking about something pleasant when they should be doing something more important). A daydreamer could be said to *have their head in the clouds*.

**23.** skiver (= a person who isn't at school or work when they should be). A skiver often pretends to be ill, and is said to be *skiving off* or *throwing a sickie*.

**24.** scrounger (= someone who gets something they want by asking someone for it instead of getting or paying for it themselves. It comes from the verb to *scrounge*). A lazy, greedy person who does this could be called a *parasite* (this word has a much more negative connotation). *Scrooge* (see number 21) would also work in this sentence.

**25.** rolling stone (= someone who does not

stay in the same job or with the same friends for long). This comes from the English saying "*A rolling stone gathers no moss*".

**26.** clock-watcher (= someone who doesn't concentrate on their work because they wish it was time to stop).

**27.** salt of the earth (= an ordinary person who is respected because they are honest and good. Note that this expression always uses *the* and not *a*). A good or reliable person could also be described as a *good egg*.

**28.** troublemaker (= someone who causes problems, often by being violent or by making others argue). We can also say a *stirrer* (someone who likes to *stir up* trouble).

**29.** smart Alec (also written *alec* or *Aleck*) (= someone who behaves in an annoying way by trying to show how clever they are). We can also say a *clever dick*.

**30.** stuffed shirt (= a boring person, usually male, who always behaves in a very correct way). We can also say a *stick in the mud*.

**31.** creep (= an unpleasant person, especially someone who tries to please or impress people in positions of authority). A child at school who is popular with the teachers for doing this might be called a *teacher's pet* by his / her jealous schoolmates: "*I can't stand Linda Harley: she's such a teacher's pet.*"

**32.** bigmouth (= someone who talks a lot and is unable to keep anything secret). We can also say a *blabbermouth*.

**33.** rough diamond (= someone who does not behave politely or is not well-educated, but is pleasant and kind)

**34.** wolf in sheep's clothing (= someone who seems friendly but is in fact unpleasant or cruel). The opposite is a *teddy bear* (= someone, always a man, who looks tough and unfriendly, but is in fact very friendly and pleasant)

**35.** chinless wonder (= a rich but weak or stupid man). This expression is often used to describe members of the British upper classes.

### Idioms and other expressions using clothes (page 10)

This is the box with the words highlighted:

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

These are the answers:

**1.** Glove. People who are *hand in glove* (with each other) work very closely together. **2.** Blouse. A *big girl's blouse* is someone who is weak and lacking strength of character. It is a very informal expression, and some people might be offended by it. **3.** Shirt. If you tell someone who is angry or annoyed to *keep their shirt on*, you are telling them not to get angry or annoyed. We can also say *don't get your knickers in a twist* or *keep your hair on*. **4.** Pants.

Something that is *pants* is of very poor quality. This very informal expression is often used by children and teenagers. **5.** Hat. When you say that you *take your hat off to someone*, you are showing your admiration or respect for something impressive they have done. **6.** Gloves. If *the gloves are off*, you start fighting or competing hard in order to achieve something. **7.** Cardigan. A *cardigan* is a jacket made of wool that you button at the front. When we call someone a *cardigan*, we think that they are very boring because they never do anything interesting or exciting.

## Answer key

**8.** Boot. If you are *given the boot*, you are dismissed from your job. We can also say *sacked* or *fired*. **9.** Belt. A comment that is *below the belt* is cruel and unfair. **10.** Socks. If someone tells you to *pull your socks up*, they are telling you that you are not doing a job well enough and that you must do better. **11.** Pants. Something that *scares the pants off you* is very frightening and scares you a lot. We can also use this expression with other verbs, such as *bore*, *annoy*, etc: "*Our Biology teacher bores the pants off us!*" **12.** Anorak. An *anorak* is a short coat with a hood. When we describe a person as an *anorak*, we think that they are someone who is very interested in something that most people think is boring or unfashionable. **13.** Apron. An *apron* is something you wear to protect the front of your clothes when you are cooking. A person who is *tied to someone's apron strings* is influenced or controlled by someone (usually their mother). **14.** Cloak. A cloak is a long thick loose coat without sleeves that fastens around your neck. Something that is described as *cloak-and-dagger* is secret and may involve an element of mystery. **15.** Sock. When you tell someone to *put a sock in it*, you want them to stop talking. This is an impolite expression. **16.** Hat. When you tell someone to *keep it under their hat*, you want them to keep something secret. **17.** Trousers. The person in a relationship who *wears the trousers* has the most control and makes most of the decisions. **18.** Shirt. If we say that someone would *give you the shirt off their back*, we are saying that they are very kind and generous, and would do anything to help you. **19.** Shoes. To be *in someone's shoes* is to be in the same situation. It is usually used in a conditional sentence: "*What would you do if you were in my shoes?*" "*If I were in your shoes, I would resign*". **20.** Boots. Someone who is *too big for his / her boots* thinks he / she is more important and powerful than he / she really is.

### Idioms and other expressions using colours (pages 11 – 12)

**1.** green. A person who is *green with envy* is very *jealous* (= envious) of the success of others. Jealousy / envy is sometimes humorously referred to as *the green-eyed monster*. We sometimes say that a jealous person has a *green streak in them*. **2.** red. When someone *sees red*, they become very angry. We sometimes say that they *get the red mist*. Something that is likely to make an angry person even more angry can be described as a *red rag to a bull*: "*Don't ask Charles why his wife left him; that would be like showing a red rag to a bull*". If you become *extremely* angry, we can say that you *go purple with rage*. A person who loses his / her temper can be said to *lose their rag*, *fly off the handle* or *blow their top*. **3.** blue. If something happens *once in a blue moon*, it happens very rarely. **4.** black. Someone who is described as *the black sheep (of the family)* is different from the other members of his / her family, and is not approved of by other members of the family. **5.** white. If you tell a *white lie*, you tell someone something that is not true in order to avoid hurting their feelings. **6.** red. *Red tape* refers to documents, rules or processes that cause delay. **7.** blue. If someone says that you can do something *until you're blue in the face*, they are telling you that there is no point in doing it because you will not be successful (we can also use the expression *until the cows come home*). **8.** blue. If you *scream blue murder*, you shout very loudly because you are angry, frightened or in pain. **9.** pink. If you are *in the pink*, you are healthy and happy. This is an old-

fashioned expression. **10.** white. A *white elephant* is something that costs a lot of money and is not very useful. **11.** green. When somebody *gives you the green light*, they are giving you their official approval for something to be done. This can also be a verb, *to greenlight*: "*Three directors have greenlighted the project*". We can also say *give the go-ahead* or *be given the go-ahead*. **12.** Black. If a place is described as being like the *Black Hole of Calcutta*, it is very crowded and uncomfortable (it comes from the informal name of a former prison in the Indian city of Calcutta, which was so hot and small that many people died there). **13.** grey. Your *grey matter* is your brain. We can also say *use your head* or *use your loaf*. **14.** red. Something that is described as *red-hot* is very good or very exciting. This can also be used to describe someone who is very popular or successful: *A new red-hot American band*. The word *white* could also be used here. **15.** red. A *red letter day* is a very happy or exciting day. **16.** white. *White-collar* workers work in offices rather than doing physical work. People who work in factories, down mines, etc, are called *blue-collar* workers. **17.** black. A *black hole*, in this context, is a situation in which lots of money is spent without bringing any benefits. We can also say a *money pit*. **18.** brown. If you *brown-nose* someone who is important or powerful, you try very hard to please them by agreeing with them all the time. This can also be a noun: a *brown-noser*. It is not a polite expression. A man who always agrees with his boss might be called a *yes-man* and is always *sucking up* to his boss. **19.** green. Somebody who has *green fingers* is very good at making plants and flowers grow. In American English you would have a *green thumb*. **20.** blue. When something happens *out of the blue*, it is sudden and unexpected. If it is a big surprise or a big shock, we can say that it is a *bolt from the blue*. **21.** yellow. A person who is *yellow* is cowardly (= not very brave). We sometimes say that a cowardly person has a *yellow streak* in them. **22.** black. A bank account that is *in the black* has money in it. When the account is *overdrawn* (= less than £0 in it, and the account holder owes money to the bank), we say that it is *in the red*. **23.** red. If a person is *caught red-handed*, he / she is caught doing something wrong (we can also say *caught in the act*). The salesman in this situation is committing a *white-collar crime*: see number 16 above. **24.** red. When you *paint the town red*, you enjoy yourself by going to bars and clubs. We can also say that you *go out on the town* or *go out on the razzle*. **25.** black. If you are *in someone's black books*, you are in trouble with them because of something you have said or done. We can also say that you are *in the doghouse (with someone)*: *Poor old Bob's in the doghouse with his wife: he forgot their anniversary again*. **26.** blue. When the *air is turning blue*, someone is *swearing* (= using very rude words) a lot in a loud voice. We can also say that the person who is swearing is *turning the air blue*. **27.** red / white. A *glass of red / white* is an informal, shortened expression for a *glass of red / white wine*. **28.** green. Somebody who is described as *green*, or *a bit green*, is not very experienced at something, usually because he / she is young. We can also say that they are a bit *wet behind the ears*.

Note that *green* is also frequently used to talk about the environment, and the protection of the environment: *a green transport policy, greener farming methods, green campaigners, the Green Party*, etc).

**29.** black. When someone gives you a *black look*, they look at you in a very angry way. **30.** blue. *The boys in*



## Answer key

*blue* is an informal (and usually friendly) expression for the police. **31.** black. If you are *in a black mood*, you are unhappy or angry and in a bad mood. **32.** red. If you *roll out the red carpet* for somebody, you give them special treatment because they are important. **33.** black and white. Something that is *in black and white* is written on paper (for example, a letter or a contract). Note that we cannot say *white and black*. Do not confuse this with "*Black or white?*" (an expression that is used when we want to know if someone wants milk in their tea or coffee). **34.** black and blue. Someone who is *black and blue (all over)* is covered with *bruises* (= dark marks on the skin caused by an accident, or perhaps because they have been hit by someone or something). Note that we cannot say *blue and black*.

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'come' (pages 13 – 14)

#### Exercise 1:

1. across 2. along with 3. from 4. in for 5. between  
6. together 7. around (we can also say round) 8. into  
9. up with 10. up against 11. forward 12. out with  
13. apart 14. through

The phrasal verb that completes sentence 15 is: *coming down with*

Most of the phrasal verbs in this exercise can have a different meaning in other contexts. Use your dictionary to find out which ones, and the different meanings they can have.

Exercise 2: Here are the complete conversations. An explanation of each expression can be found below the complete conversations.

Julie: You two-timing, double-crossing cheat!  
Rick: **Come again?**  
Julie: You heard me. I saw you leaving a restaurant with a strange woman today.  
Rick: **Come off it / I don't know where you're coming from!** What woman?  
Julie: **Don't come the innocent with me!**  
Rick: Look, I'm sorry, but **I don't know where you're coming from.**  
Julie: The long-haired brunette in the jeans and leather jacket.  
Rick: Ah, right. **How come** 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 **you'll get what's coming**, believe me.  
Rick: Well, I suppose I'll have to **come clean**, won't I?  
Julie: You certainly will.  
Rick: You saw us from behind, right?  
Julie: Uh, right.  
Rick: Yes, well, **when it comes to making** false assumptions, you win. That was Alan, my new boss.

Tim: I haven't seen John today. **Come to think about it**, 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 **don't come cheap**.

Andy: Well, he's **come a long way / come up in the world** since he worked as a salesman for PTG. He owns his own company now, and is making a fortune.

Apparently he's now **as rich as they come**.

Tim: He kept that quiet. I didn't know how much he had **come up in the world**.

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 don't know if I'm coming or going**. I'm just **taking each day as it comes**. 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 **for years to come**. What I need is a big win on the lottery.

Tim: Yes, that would **come in handy!** In the meantime, how about buying me another drink?

Andy: Same again?

Tim: Yes please.

Andy: OK, **coming right up!**

• **Come again?** = An informal spoken expression used for asking someone to repeat what they said. • **Come off it!** = An informal spoken expression used for telling someone that you do not believe them or what they are saying is stupid.

• **Don't come the innocent with me!** = An informal spoken expression used for telling someone not to pretend they are in a particular situation, because you do not believe them. This can be used in other ways. For example, "*Don't come the poor overworked teacher with me! I know that teaching is the easiest job in the world!*"

• **I don't know where you're coming from** = A spoken expression which means "*I don't know what you're saying or why you're saying it*".

• **How come...?** = An informal spoken question used for asking how or why something happened. It can be used on its own: "*I'm leaving my job next week.*" "*Really? How come?*"

• **You'll get what's coming!** = An informal spoken expression meaning "*You'll experience something bad, which you deserve.*"

• **Come clean** = To admit the truth, usually about something bad you have done.

• **When it comes to...** = When the subject being discussed is a particular thing. This can be used in other ways. For example, "*When it comes to holidays, I prefer something lazy.*" "*When it comes to writing letters, she's hopeless.*"

• **Come to think about it** = A spoken expression used for adding something that you have just remembered about a subject that you are talking about.

• **Don't come cheap** = Costing a lot of money.

• **Come a long way** = Improve a lot, or make a lot of progress.

• **As rich as they come** = Very rich. This can be used with other adjectives. For example, "*He's as lazy as they come*" (= he's very lazy); "*She's as poor as they come*" (= she's very poor).

• **Come up in the world** = To become richer, more powerful or more successful than before.

• **I don't know if I'm coming or going** = An informal spoken expression meaning you are very confused, usually because you have too many things to deal with.

• **I'm taking each day as it comes** = I don't worry about something before it happens, and I try to deal with it calmly when it does happen.

• **For years to come** = For a long time in the future. This can also be used with other 'time' words: *for days to come, for weeks to come*, etc.

• **Come in handy** = Useful for a particular situation (*handy = useful*)

• **Coming right up!** = An informal spoken expression meaning you will bring what someone has asked for (in this case, a drink) very soon.

## Answer key

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'cut' (pages 15 – 16)

#### Exercise 1:

1. cut out 2. cut in 3. cut back on or cut down on (*cut down on* is usually used when you reduce something from your diet. For example, you might *cut down on the amount of meat you eat*, or you might *cut down on the number of cigarettes you smoke*) 4. cut off 5. cut me off 6. cut in 7. cut it out 8. cut out 9. cut off 10. cut across or cut through 11. cut through (*not cut across*, because a shopping centre is a building, not an open space) 12. cut in 13. cut off 14. cut us out of

#### Exercise 2:

1. True. 2. False. You interrupt them so that they cannot finish what they are saying. 3. False. You are very upset or offended. 4. False. They pretend not to see or recognise you. 5. True. 6. False. It is cheaper than the normal price. 7. False. You spoil his plans by doing the same thing better than him, or by doing it before him. 8. False. It is one that behaves in an unfair or immoral way in order to get an advantage over other businesses. 9. True. 10. False. You do something that is intended to harm someone even though you know it will harm you too. 11. False. If you *cut it fine*, you are giving yourself only a very short time to do something. In this case, you might miss your train as a result. 12. False. It is already clearly decided or settled. 13. False. It is extremely modern and advanced. 14. True. 15. False. You start dealing with the most important aspects of something rather than things that are less relevant. 16. True. 17. False. You get out of that situation. 18. False. You are telling them that you are not impressed or influenced by what they are telling you. 19. True. You might also want to save some money. 20. False. You make them accept that they are not as important or impressive as they believe they are. 21. False. They say something that makes you feel very upset. We can also say *cuts you to the bone* or *cuts you to the heart*. 22. False. The clothes make them look very attractive. 23. False. You make something last for less time than planned. 24. True. 25. False. You want your share of any money that is made.

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'do' (pages 17 – 18)

#### Exercise 1:

1. (a) do up, (b) doing up 2. (a) done over, (b) done over 3. do out, (b) done out 4. (a) do with, (b) do with (*could* must be used in this situation. This expression can also be negative: "*I could do without your bad moods*") 5. (a) done for, (b) done for (in both of the definitions, *do for* is usually used in the passive) 6. (a) done away with, (b) done away with 7. (a) done up, (b) doing (herself) up 8. (a) did (him) in, (b) done in (in this definition, *done* is usually used in the passive) 9. (a) done down, (b) do (yourself) down (we can also say *put down* or *put yourself down*) 10. (a) do with, (b) do with (in this situation, *do with* is usually preceded by *nothing to* or *something to*)

#### Exercise 2:

1. done to a turn 2. make do with 3. do's and don'ts 4. That does it 5. That's done it 6. do you a world of good (we can also say *do I work wonders for you*) 7. do you justice 8. You were done 9. a bit of a do 10. does the trick 11. did the sights 12. do the dirty 13. doing your dirty work 14. do me a favour (This is often used on

its own as an informal expression which means that you are angry or frustrated with something that someone says: "*I'll give you £500 for your car.*" "*Do me a favour! It's worth at least £1000.*") 15. Do as you're told 16. take some doing 17. did me a good turn or did me a favour 18. the done thing (often used in the negative, as in this sentence)

### Idiomatic emphasis (pages 19 – 20)

#### Across:

2. rock 3. blind (We can also say *as drunk as a lord*) 4. mule (A *mule* is an animal that has a horse as its mother and a donkey as its father. Idiomatically, a mule is also someone who is paid to bring illegal drugs into a country by hiding them on or in their body) 6. brick (*Thick* is an informal word for *stupid*. We can also say *as thick as two short planks*) 7. stone 8. sin 9. stiff (Note that we say *bored stiff* and *not stiff bored*. We can also say *bored rigid*) 12. fighting (We can also say *as fit as a fiddle*) 14. dirt 15. dead\* 16. pitch (= it is very dark. We can also say *pitch dark* or *as dark as night*) 18. soaking (Clothes that are very wet can also be *sopping wet* or *dripping wet*) 20. hopping (*Mad* in this sentence means *angry*) 23. wide (The opposite is *shut tight*) 25. flat (Someone who is *broke* has no money. We can also say *stony broke*) 26. gold 28. paper (Objects such as clothes, a wall, etc, are *paper thin*. Food, when it is very thin, is *wafer thin*: "*Would you like one of these wafer-thin mints?*") 30. cold (We need to use *stone* in this expression. We can also say *as sober as a judge*) 31. red (We sometimes say *white hot*. If food is very hot, we can say that it is  *piping hot*) 32. brand (We could make this even stronger by saying *brand spanking new*: "*Roger has got a brand spanking new car*")

#### Down:

1. picture (If something is very pretty, we can say that it is *as pretty as a picture*) 3. barking (*Mad* in this sentence means *crazy* or *insane*) 5. mouse (We can also say *as quiet as a church mouse*) 7. sickly 10. fast (Someone who is *fast asleep* is *dead to the world*) 11. stinking 12. freezing (Food or drink which is very cold is *ice-cold*: "*I could do with an ice-cold beer*") 13. hills 17. crystal 19. great 21. pie 22. dog 24. deadly 27. dead (*Beat* in this sentence is an informal word for *tired*) 29. razor 30. cucumber

\* *dead* can be used as an informal substitute for *very* in many cases. For example, *dead straight*, *dead slow*, *dead wrong*, *dead funny*, *dead right*, etc.

Several *verbs* can also be emphasised using idioms. These include:

*Smoke like a chimney* (= smoke a lot); *drink like a fish* (= drink heavily); *sell like hot cakes* (= sell a lot of items very quickly: "*The new TR76 model mobile phone is selling like hot cakes*"); *sleep like a log* (= sleep very well); *run like the wind* (= run very quickly); *fit like a glove* (= fit very well: "*My new jumper fits like a glove*"); *spend / eat / drink (etc) like there's no tomorrow* (= do something a lot without thinking of the consequences: "*She's spending money like there's no tomorrow*". We can also say *like it's going out of fashion*: "*She's spending money like it's going out of fashion*").





## Answer key

**Idioms and other expressions using food and drink (pages 21 – 22)**Across:

**3.** onions. Somebody who *knows their onions* knows a lot about their job or profession. This is a slightly old-fashioned expression. **4.** pepper. If you *pepper someone with questions*, you ask them a lot of questions, usually quite quickly. Pepper can be used in other situations to mean *containing a lot of*: *The report was peppered with mistakes.* **5.** cake. Something that is *a piece of cake* is very easy. We can also say *as easy as pie*: *The test was as easy as pie.* **6.** meat. Something or someone who is *easy meat* is very easy to defeat. If someone is in serious trouble with someone else, we can describe them (very informally) as *dead meat*: *If you borrow my car again without asking, you're dead meat!* **7.** potato. *A couch potato* is someone who spends a lot of time watching television and not getting any exercise. **10.** beans. When you *spill the beans*, you confess or admit to something wrong that you have done (usually when under pressure from someone, such as the police). **11.** grapes. *Sour grapes* is criticism of something that you make because you cannot have it. **12.** peanuts. If someone *pays you peanuts* for doing a job, they pay you very little money. **13.** water. Someone who *spends money like water* spends a lot of money very quickly. **16.** butter. Someone who has *butter fingers* or who is *a butter fingers* is often dropping things. *Butter* can be used in other expressions. For example, "*Billy Brannigan looks like butter wouldn't melt in his mouth, but in fact he's the best salesman in the company*" (= Billy Brannigan looks a bit weak, but he is in fact a very efficient, confident person). **18.** sugar. A *sugar daddy* is a humorous expression for an older man who gives a younger woman expensive presents, especially in exchange for a romantic or sexual relationship. There is no female equivalent of this word, but a young man who goes out with an older woman is sometimes humorously called a *toy boy*. **19.** cream. Someone who *looks like the cat who got the cream* looks very happy. **21.** beetroot. If you go *as red as a beetroot* (or just *go beetroot*), your face becomes very red, usually because you are embarrassed. A beetroot is the root of a vegetable that is cooked and eaten cold in salads, but is in fact more *purple* in colour than red. **24.** bacon. The person or people in a family who *bring home the bacon* earn the money which supports the family. We sometimes call the work that you do for money your *bread and butter*: "*Teaching English is my bread and butter*". The person who makes money for their family is called *the breadwinner*. **25.** apple. A *bad* or *rotten apple* is someone in a group who does bad things and therefore has a negative effect on the whole group. **26.** jelly. If your body, or part of your body, *turns to jelly* or *feels like jelly*, you start to shake and feel weak because you are nervous or frightened. *Jelly* is a sweet food that shakes when you touch or move it (called *Jell-O* in the USA).

Down:

**1.** cheese. *The big cheese* is a humorous expression for the most important person in a company or organisation. In the USA, people sometimes use the expression *head honcho*. Cheese can be used in other expressions, including *chalk and cheese*: *Although Rick and Chris are brothers, they're chalk and cheese* (= Rick and Chris are very different from each other). **2.** biscuit. If something takes the biscuit, it is the most silly, stupid or annoying thing in a series of things. **4.** peach. *A peach of something* is very good. This is a slightly old-fashioned

expression. *Peach* is also sometimes used to describe an attractive woman (*Debbie McKenzie is lovely. She's a real peach!*), but this might be considered sexist by some people. **6.** mustard. Someone who is as keen as mustard is very keen / enthusiastic. Mustard can also be used in the expression *cut the mustard*: *I'm afraid we can't offer you the job. You're very keen, but you just don't cut the mustard* (= you are not good enough for this job). **8.** toast. A person or a place that is as *warm as toast* is comfortably warm. **9.** raspberry. When you *blow a raspberry* at someone you make a rude noise with your mouth and tongue (in the USA, this is known as a *Bronx cheer*). **10.** bananas. This is a humorous word for someone who behaves in a mad or crazy way. We can also say *nuts* or *crackers*\*. **14.** salt. If someone is *the salt of the earth*, they are a good, honest person who people respect. More informally, we could call that person a *good egg*. **15.** lemon. A person who *is or looks a lemon* or appears to be stupid or not effective. This word can also be used to describe something that you buy that does not work properly: *I spent £14000 on this car, and it's a complete lemon!* **17.** tea. If something is *your cup of tea*, you like or enjoy it. This expression is usually used in the negative. **19.** cucumber. A person who is *as cool as a cucumber* is very relaxed and does not show extreme emotions such as fear or panic. **20.** egg. If you *have or are left with egg on your face*, you are embarrassed because of something you have done. This expression is often used when talking informally about politics and politicians. **21.** beef. If you *beef about something*, you complain a lot about it. **22.** cookie (a *cookie* is the North American word for a *biscuit*). A *smart cookie* (sometimes called a *tough cookie*) is someone who has a strong character or is intelligent, and deals well with problems and disappointments. **23.** candy (*candy* is the North American word for *chocolate*). If we describe something as *eye candy*, it is nice to look at, but not very useful.

\* There are a lot of English idioms and other words and expressions that can be used (often humorously, but not politely) to describe someone who is mad or insane, or who behaves in a mad way. Here are a few:

barmy; off his / her rocker; out of his / her tree; dotty; potty; batty; out to lunch; round the bend; potty; bonkers; stark staring bonkers; stark raving mad; a nutcase; a nutter; a basket case; a fruitcake; as nutty as a fruitcake; as mad as a hatter; as mad as a March hare; as mad as a box of frogs; a loony; a crackpot; two sandwiches short of a picnic; a few cards short of a full deck; a few bricks short of a full load; he's / she's lost his / her marbles; he's / she's got toys in the attic; gaga; doolally (these last four are often used to describe old people who are going senile)

**Be very careful** how and when you use these words and expressions: they are not *politically correct* (= they are not considered acceptable in many situations, and some people might be offended by them).

**Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'get' (pages 23 – 24)**Exercise 1:

**1.** got away with **2.** get up to (This is sometimes used to talk about something you did that you should not have done) **3.** getting on **4.** got over **5.** get out of **6.** got down to **7.** get through **8.** get by **9.** get on (We can also say *get along*) **10.** getting at **11.** get through

## Answer key

12. getting...across 13. get into 14. getting on for (This can be used in other sentences that involve numbers: "It's getting on for 10 (o'clock). Perhaps we should leave?") 15. get on to (also written *get onto*) 16. get...out of 17. get back to 18. round to (We can also say *get around to*)

### Exercise 2:

1. I 2. B (*Get on with it* has a similar meaning) 3. T (impolite: sometimes used as a direct command: "Get lost! Leave me alone!". You could also tell someone to *get off your back* if you are trying to work and someone is watching you and interfering: "Get off my back! Let me do it my own way") 4. Q (This has the same meaning as *to be / get fired*: "You'll get fired if you continue coming in late") 5. Y (We can use this spoken expression if we don't know the answer to a question, or because we don't want to give an answer to a question because we know it will get us into trouble) 6. W 7. U (If someone continually annoys you, usually on purpose, we can say that they *get your back up*: "My neighbour plays his music really loud just to get my back up") 8. S (This can also be a phrasal verb, to *get together*: "Let's get together at the weekend") 9. G 10. K (Usually used when we think someone looks stupid in the clothes) 11. X 12. P 13. A 14. C (We can say *raise* instead of *rise*) 15. F (We can also say *We aren't getting anywhere*, or, if you are making progress, *We're getting somewhere*: "At last we're getting somewhere!") 16. N (a spoken expression. If someone is being very lazy and we want them to do something, we could say "Get off your backside!") 17. D (Often used in its conditional form, as in this sentence) 18. O (a spoken expression) 19. M 20. J 21. E 22. L (More informally, we could say *Let's get cracking*) 23. R 24. V (also see number 1 in Exercise 1) 25. H

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'give' (page 25)

1. up 2. away 3. shoulder 4. slip 5. up on 6. over (This is normally said in a friendly way. If we are angry with someone, we can say *Don't give me that*) 7. away 8. giveaway (We can also say *Her face gave the game away*) 9. off 10. mind 11. All of these options are possible 12. good 13. a chance 14. take 15. straight 16. what for

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'go' (pages 26 – 27)

#### Exercise 1:

1. ✓ 2. ✓ 3. × (gone off) 4. × (gone up) 5. ✓ 6. ✓ 7. × (go over) 8. ✓ 9. × (went off) 10. × (go round or go around) 11. ✓ 12. × (go along with) 13. × (going for) 14. × (went back on) 15. ✓ 16. ✓ 17. × (gone down with) 18. ✓

#### Exercise 2:

1. went the whole hog 2. go it alone 3. go Dutch 4. How are things going? 5. while the going is good 6. go one better 7. it goes without saying that... 8. going to rack and ruin (This expression can also be used to describe a building that needs to be repaired) 9. no-go area 10. have a go at 11. went haywire 12. went to town 13. go all out 14. bang goes my chance of... (We can also say *there goes my chance of...*)

15. gone to the dogs (This has a similar meaning to number 8 above) 16. Don't even go there! 17. going for a song 18. coming and going 19. go on 20. got the go-ahead.

The letters that you have replaced make this expression:

'When the going gets tough, the tough get going!'

### Idioms and other expressions to talk about health, feelings and emotions (page 28)

1. ☹ (She is so worried and tired because of her problems that she cannot think of any more ways of solving them) 2. ☹ (He is very nervous or worried) 3. ☹ (She is very ill and could die) 4. ☹ (She is not feeling as good as she usually feels) 5. ☺ (She is fit and healthy) 6. ☹ (He is very ill and could die) 7. ☹ (She is a bit depressed) 8. ☺ (He is feeling extremely happy) 9. ☹ (He is very angry and you should avoid him) 10. ☹ (He looks very tired) 11. ☹ (He is very tired) 12. ☺ (She looks very fit and healthy) 13. ☺ (He is very fit and healthy) 14. ☺ (She is extremely happy) 15. ☹ (He is feeling depressed) 16. ☺ (She is feeling very happy because something good has happened) 17. ☹ (She is feeling a bit ill and tired) 18. ☹ (She is not worried about anything) 19. ☹ (She is very angry because of something that someone has said or done) 20. ☺ (She is very healthy) 21. ☺ (She is experiencing a feeling of great happiness or excitement) 22. ☹ (He is feeling very ill) 23. ☹ (He is angry and has lost his temper, probably because of something minor or unimportant) 24. ☺ (He is feeling happy and healthy, although this expression is often used ironically when you are not feeling happy or healthy: "Are you OK, Mark?" "Oh yes. My wife has left me, my car has been stolen and I've lost my job, so everything is just peachy!") 25. ☹ (He looks extremely tired) 26. ☹ (He is very angry) 27. ☹ (He feels very ill) 28. ☹ (She is ill, and has suddenly become more ill) 29. ☹ (She has become ill, usually with something minor like a cold or a mild stomach illness) 30. ☹ (She is very tired) 31. ☹ (He is excited, worried or angry about something. We could also say he is *agitated*) 32. ☹ (She looks very ill) 33. ☹ (She is feeling a bit ill) 34. ☹ (She is angry or unhappy) 35. ☺ (He is feeling very happy because something good has just happened)

### Informal phrasal verbs (pages 29 – 30)

1. Yes. 2. No. *Stump up* means *to pay*, often without wanting to. 3. No. If something *hacks you off*, it makes you angry. 4. No. If you *bottle out*, you run away in order to avoid a fight. 5. Yes. If you *freak out*, you might become very angry, surprised or excited. 6. No. The government has been accused of making the facts more interesting and impressive than they really are in order to try to trick people. We can also say *juice up* or *jazz up*. 7. No. She took (and passed) the exam without difficulty. 8. No. He suddenly went quiet. 9. No. The neighbour talks about something for a long time in a boring and annoying way. We can also say *harp on* (*about something*); "He's always harping on about politics" 10. Yes. 11. No. The President has become lucky. 12. No. If you *muck in*, you join an activity in order to help people get a job done. 13. Yes. This has a similar meaning to *bottle out* in number 4. We can also say *chicken out*. 14. No. Someone who is *raking it in* is making a lot of money. 15. No. They deny that

## Answer key

programmes are being made simpler and easier to understand in a way that reduces their quality. **16.** No. If you *suck up* to someone, you are very nice to someone in authority so that they treat you well. This expression shows that you do not respect people who behave in this way. **17.** No. If you mug up, you revise. We can also say *bone up* (on something): "I'm *boning up* on my history for tomorrow's test." **18.** No. If you *chuck up*, you vomit or throw up. **19.** Yes. **20.** Yes. We can also say *skive off*. The usual idiomatic expression is *play truant*, or (in the USA) *play hooky*. Some people also say *goof off*, although this is usually used for work rather than school. **21.** No. They are going to win easily. We can also say *romp home*. **22.** No. He admitted it was true. **23.** No. They are enjoying the news and want to hear more. **24.** No. If you lighten up, you become less serious. This is often used as an imperative: "For heavens sake, Fiona. *Lighten up a bit!*" **25.** Yes. (The *gg* is pronounced like a *j*). **26.** No. Half of us had fallen asleep. **27.** Yes. This is a more informal version of *dying for*. **28.** No. It sold half its stock to overseas companies. **29.** No. If you *monkey around*, you behave in a silly way. We can also say *mess about* or *muck about*. **30.** Yes. We can also say *mess up*. **31.** No. Yolanda has been talking for almost an hour about unimportant things. **32.** No. If you *mouth off* to someone or about something, you give your opinions in an annoying way, especially when you are complaining about or criticising something. **33.** No. If you tell someone to *shove off*, you want them to go away because you are angry with them. **34.** No. He'll give you lots of complicated technical information that will confuse you. **35.** No. If you *bling up*, or *get blinged up*, you put on lots of jewellery.

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'look' (pages 31 – 32)

#### Exercise 1:

**1.** looking after **2.** Looking ahead **3.** looking ... at **4.** look back on **5.** looks down on **6.** looking forward to (this phrasal verb can also be followed by an object: "I'm really looking forward to my holiday") **7.** look in on **8.** look into **9.** look on **10.** look out for **11.** looking over **12.** looking through **13.** looked to **14.** look ... up **15.** looks up to

#### Exercise 2:

**1.** (m) (*Wouldn't look twice* at is used for saying that you are not at all interested in someone or something) **2.** (g) (Someone or something that is *not much to look at* is not very attractive) **3.** (r) (*Don't look a gift horse in the mouth* is used for saying that if you are given something good, you should not complain about it or try to find things that are wrong with it) **4.** (a) (*Look what you've done* is a spoken expression used when you are annoyed with someone and want them to look at the result of their action) **5.** (t) (If you *look the other way*, you deliberately ignore something that is happening) **6.** (k) (*Get or have a look-in* means to get an opportunity to take part in something or show how well you can do something. It is usually used in negatives or questions: "You've been talking non-stop for half an hour. Can I get a look-in?") **7.** (c) (When you *look someone in the eye* or *in the face*, you look at them when you are talking to them, especially when you are telling them something that is true. It is usually used in negatives and questions: "Can you look me in the eye and tell me that you aren't seeing someone else?") **8.** (o) (If you *look down your nose* at someone,

you think that you are better than they are) **9.** (q) (*Never looked back* is used for saying that someone achieved something special and then became even more successful) **10.** (d) (Someone who is *looking for trouble* is behaving in a way that is likely to get them involved in an argument or fight) **11.** (s) (*Look where you're going* is a spoken expression used for telling someone to be more careful. We can also say *look what you're doing*) **12.** (e) (*Need look no further* is used for saying that you do not need to search anywhere else apart from the suggested place) **13.** (h) (*Look after yourself* is a spoken expression used for saying goodbye to someone you know well. It has the same meaning as *take care*) **14.** (b) (If someone tells you to *take a long hard look in the mirror* or *at yourself*, they are telling you that you are not as good or perfect as you think you are) **15.** (f) (Someone who *looks like something that the cat dragged in* has a very dirty and untidy appearance) **16.** (p) (*The look on someone's face* is the expression they have on their face or in their eyes) **17.** (i) (If you are *on the lookout* for something, you are looking carefully to find, obtain or avoid someone or something) **18.** (n) (*Look before you leap* is an expression used for advising someone to think carefully before doing something) **19.** (l) (*A look-see* is an informal expression meaning an act of looking at or checking something quickly) **20.** (j) (If you *take one look at* someone or something, you look quickly and make a decision)

Notice how a lot of the idioms and other expressions in exercise 2 use phrasal verbs.

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'make' (pages 33 – 34)

#### Exercise 1:

**1.** make up **2.** made off with **3.** made up (We can also say *made it up*) **4.** make out (This can also be used if you have difficulty hearing or understanding something: "We were at the back of the theatre and we had difficulty making out what the actors were saying") **5.** making up **6.** made out (that can be removed: "He made out he had won the lottery") **7.** make out **8.** made up (You can also make up a story to entertain or frighten someone: "Don't worry. He made up the story about someone in the house just to frighten you") **9.** made over **10.** make for **11.** made off **12.** make out (We often use this when we write a cheque: "Who should I make the cheque payable to?" "Could you *make it out* to Chile Organica Ltd, please?") **13.** make of **14.** made up for **15.** make ... up to

#### Exercise 2:

This shows you the 'code' for the symbols in this exercise. The letters C, J, Q, X and Z are not needed in any of the sentences.

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



## Answer key

1. make-or-break (This can also be used as a verb which means to help someone or something to be very successful or to cause them to fail completely: "Music producers have the power to make or break a new star" )  
 2. make it big 3. makes like (This expression is normally only spoken) 4. make up your mind (We can also say *make your mind up*) 5. made short work of 6. make-believe 7. made a pig of yourself 8. make the most of 9. made a beeline for 10. made a name for herself 11. make head or tail 12. making ends meet 13. making heavy weather of 14. makes no bones about 15. made a dog's dinner of (We can also say *a dog's breakfast* or *a pig's ear*) 16. make light of 17. made of sterner stuff 18. make a mountain out of a molehill

### Mixed idioms and other expressions (pages 35 – 36)

1. (a) hanging (We can also say *hanging in the balance*), (b) hang, (c) Hang 2. (a) carry, (b) carrying, (c) carried  
 3. (a) fallen, (b) fell, (c) fall 4. (a) break, (b) broken, (c) broke 5. (a) let (We can also say *bury the hatchet*), (b) let, (c) let 6. (a) calls, (b) call, (c) call 7. (a) keep (We can also say *keep mum*, *keep it dark* or *keep it under your hat*), (b) keep, (c) keeps 8. (a) hold, (b) hold, (c) Hold  
 9. (a) Mind, (b) mind, (c) mind 10. (a) count, (b) count, (c) counting 11. (a) pull, (b) pull, (c) pulling 12. (a) play, (b) playing, (c) play 13. (a) show, (b) show, (c) show  
 14. (a) hoping, (b) hope, (c) hope 15. (a) saw, (b) seen, (c) seen

### Mixed phrasal verbs (pages 37 – 38)

1. count on 2. keep on or carry on 3. drop out of  
 4. carry out 5. put...up 6. fill in or fill out 7. keeping up with 8. pointed out 9. fall behind with 10. letting off 11. brought up 12. bring up (Note the difference in meaning between *raise* and *bring up* in numbers 11 and 12) 13. pull through 14. wear off 15. fallen out  
 16. face up to 17. called off 18. catch up with 19. died down 20. find out 21. handing in 22. left out or left off 23. broke down 24. wear ... out  
 25. showed up (We can also say *turned up*) 26. let...down 27. carried on or kept on 28. held up  
 29. carry out 30. end up

### Mixed phrasal verbs and idioms (page 39)

1. back (the 1st gap needs *backed*) 2. face (the 2nd gap needs *facing*) 3. play 4. drive (the 2nd, 3rd and 5th gaps need *driving*) 5. fall (the 1st, 2nd and 6th gaps need *fell*, the 3rd gap needs *falling* and the 4th and 5th gaps need *fallen*) 6. break (the 2nd and 4th gaps need *broke*, the 3rd gap needs *breaking*) 7. walk (the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th gaps need *walked*, the 5th gap needs *walking*)

### Idioms and other expressions used to talk about money (page 40)

#### Exercise 1:

1. B (If you are *up to your ears in debt*, you owe a lot of money) 2. B (If you are *on the dole*, you are unemployed and getting money from the government)  
 3. A (Someone who has *made their pile* has made a lot of

money, usually over a long period of time) 4. B (If you *cannot make ends meet*, you are finding it difficult to pay for important things like your house, food, clothes, etc)  
 5. A (Someone who is *stinking rich* is extremely rich)  
 6. B (If your boss *pays you chickenfeed*, he / she pays you very little money. We can also say that your boss *pays you peanuts*) 7. A (Someone who is *loaded* is very rich)  
 8. B (Someone who is *hard up* doesn't have much money and finds it difficult to *make ends meet*) 9. A (If you are *well off*, you have enough money to live a comfortable life) 10. B (If someone is *in the red*, they have less than £0 in their bank account and owe the bank money as a result. If they have more than £0 in their account, they are *in the black*) 11. B (Someone who is *strapped for cash* needs money. This is usually a temporary situation: "*Can I pay you tomorrow? I'm a bit strapped for cash at the moment*".) 12. A (Someone who is *made of money* is very rich) 13. B (If you are *penniless*, you have no money at all: this word comes from *penny*, the smallest unit of British currency) 14. A (As this expression suggests, someone who has *money to burn* has so much money that they could burn it if they wanted to) 15. B (If you are *broke*, you have no money. This is usually a temporary situation: "*I'm completely broke and I don't get paid for another week*") 16. A (Someone who has *more money than sense* has a lot of money, but often wastes it on things that they don't really need or want) 17. A (This expression has a similar meaning to number 14)  
 18. B (This has a similar meaning to number 15, but is more informal) 19. B (Someone who is *down and out* has no money and no home, and is probably *living rough* on the streets) 20. A (If you are *feeling flush*, you are not rich, but you have more money than usual, perhaps because you have won something: "*I'm feeling flush: let me buy you dinner tonight*") 21. A (If you are *raking it in*, you are getting a lot of money for doing your job)  
 22. B (Someone who is described as *down-at-heel* is poor and looks poor: their clothes are probably dirty and in bad condition, their hair is untidy, etc)

#### Exercise 2:

23. B (We could also say at a *giveaway price*) 24. A  
 25. B 26. A (We could also say *It cost us a bomb...*)  
 27. B (*Break the bank* is usually used in the negative: "*It won't break the bank to eat here*") 28. A (This very informal expression can also be a phrasal verb, to *rip someone off*: "*Don't buy a car from him, he'll rip you off*", "*I don't believe it, we've been ripped off again!*")  
 29. A (We can also say a *small packet* or an *absolute packet*. Alternatively, we could use the word *fortune*: "*My new car cost me a small fortune!*". Some people also use the expression *a king's ransom*) 30. A (This expression is very similar to *cost the earth* or *cost a bomb*) 31. A  
 32. A 33. A 34. A 35. A 36. B (Something that is *going for a song* is very cheap: it is a *bargain*) 37. B (*dirt cheap* = extremely cheap) 38. A

Another popular expression in English is *pay through the nose*. This is used when you have spent a lot of money on something: "*We paid through the nose for our tickets to see the match*".

There are several very informal words for money in English. These include: *dough*, *dosh*; *readies*; *wonga*; *spondulics*; *the wherewithal* (= the money that you need to do something: "*We would love to take a holiday, but we haven't got the wherewithal*". This is less informal than the other words here.)

## Answer key

**Idioms and other expressions that use numbers (pages 41 – 42)**

1. refusal 2. compliment (We can also say a *double-edged compliment*) 3. track 4. times 5. fifty 6. lucky 7. thoughts 8. many 9. makes 10. faced 11. something (Written as one word: *thirtysomething*. This can also be a noun: "*The bar is very popular with thirtysomethings*". We can also say *twentysomething*, *fortysomething*, *fiftysomething*, etc) 12. horse 13. dressed 14. take 15. sense 16. idea (We can also say *She doesn't know the first thing about them*) 17. wrongs 18. heaven (We can also say *on cloud nine*) 19. together 20. degree 21. **First come, first served.**

**Idiomatic 'pairs' (page 43)**

1. length and breadth. If you *walk / drive / travel the length and breadth* of a place, you go in or through every part of it, usually looking for something. We can also say that we *search, look or hunt high and low* when we are trying to find something that is not easy to find: "*I've hunted high and low for the car keys, but I can't find them anywhere*". 2. spick and span. A place that is *spick and span* is very clean and tidy. 3. bits and pieces: small things that don't cost much money. This expression can be applied to other areas apart from shopping: "*I've been sorting through a few bits and pieces that I found in my bedroom cupboard*". We can also say *odds and ends*. 4. pros and cons: advantages and disadvantages / good points and bad points. 5. safe and sound: in a situation or place where there is no danger. 6. down and out. A person who is *down and out* has no money and no home, and *lives rough*, sleeping on the street. 7. ins and outs: the rules and the way something works or is organised. 8. sick and tired. If you are *sick and tired* of something, you are angry because it happens all the time. We can also say that you are *sick to the back teeth* of something. 9. up and about: out of bed and feeling better after an illness. 10. wear and tear. Something that is *showing signs of wear and tear* is not in a very good condition because it has been used a lot. 11. by and large: generally, for most of the time. We can also say *on the whole or for the most part*. 12. black and white: written on paper, in the form of a letter, document, etc. *Black and white* can also be used as an adjective to talk about one idea that is clearly right and another that is clearly wrong: "*Immigration is not a simple black-and-white issue*". 13. song and dance. If you *make a song and dance about something*, you complain about it in an annoying and unnecessary way. 14. ups and downs. If you *have your ups and downs*, you experience a variety of situations that are sometimes good and sometimes bad. 15. heaven and earth. A person who is prepared to *move heaven and earth for something* is very determined to get what they want, and will therefore do anything to get it. 16. high and mighty. A person who is *high and mighty* thinks that they are more important than other people, and this attitude is reflected in their behaviour and attitude. 17. cheap and cheerful. Something that is *cheap and cheerful* is not expensive and of reasonable quality. It is often used to describe wine and restaurants: "*Let's go somewhere cheap and cheerful for dinner*". 18. fair and square: in a way that is clear and fair, so that no one can complain or disagree. 19. alive and kicking: still existing and not gone or forgotten, especially when this is surprising, or living and healthy or active, especially when this is surprising. We can also say *alive and well*. 20. hard

and fast. *Hard and fast rules* are rules that people must obey.

Other idiom 'pairs' include:

Life and limb (if you *risk or sacrifice life and limb*, you are put or put yourself in physical danger: "*The journalist risked life and limb to get his story*"); cut and dried (something that is *cut and dried* is already clearly decided or settled: "*This matter is cut and dried, so we don't need to discuss it any more*"); neck and neck (in a race, two people, etc, who are *neck and neck* are both in the same position: "*Jones and Allinson are both neck and neck as they approach the finish line*"); prim and proper (someone who is *prim and proper* is very careful about their behaviour and appearance, and is easily shocked by what other people say or do: "*For heavens sake, Moira, don't be so prim and proper all the time!*"); cloak and dagger (something that is *cloak and dagger* involves mystery or secrets: "*My father works for a very cloak-and-dagger department in the government*"); now and again (sometimes, occasionally: "*I speak to her on the phone every week, and now and again we meet for lunch*"); cock and bull (a *cock and bull story* is a story that people don't think is true: "*He was late and made up some cock-and-bull story about losing his car keys*"); free and easy (relaxed and pleasant: "*There was a very free and easy atmosphere at the meeting*"); skin and bone (someone or something who is *all or just skin and bone* is very thin: "*Have you been eating properly? You're all skin and bone!*"); so-and-so (we sometimes use this expression when we are describing someone we don't approve of and don't want to use a rude word: "*Her children are right so-and-so's!*")

Three expressions (*up and down, to and fro, back and forth*) have a similar meaning: to repeatedly move in one direction and then in another: "*While he waited for the news, he paced back and forth anxiously*".

**Idioms and other expressions using parts of the body (pages 44 – 45)**

1. tongue 2. leg 3. ears 4. head (For (b), we can also say *My boss jumped down my throat*) 5. arm 6. (a) teeth, (b) tooth (For (b), we can also say *fighting tooth and claw*) 7. shoulder 8. (a) foot, (b) feet 9. nose (For (a), we can also say *She gets my back up* or *She pisses me off* (⚡)) 10. back 11. neck (For (b), we can also say *I'm up to my eyeballs in work*) 12. hair (For (b), we can also say *She didn't bat an eyelid*) 13. lips 14. hands 15. toes 16. eye 17. throats (In (b), *forcing* could be replaced with *pushing, ramming, thrusting or shoving*) 18. heart 19. (a) fingers, (b) finger 20. face 21. chin 22. elbow

There are also lots of compound adjectives (= adjectives containing more than one word) which use parts of the body. These include: *weak-kneed; starry-eyed; straight-faced; tight-lipped; tight-fisted; big-headed; hard-headed; hard-hearted; soft-hearted; big-hearted; thick-skinned; two-faced; light-fingered*.

This exercise uses just a few of the English idioms that use parts of the body. There are hundreds more in the *Macmillan English Dictionary*. Develop a 'bank' of these, and try to use them in your everyday English.

## Answer key

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'pick' (page 46)

1. picking over 2. pick up 3. pick up 4. picked through 5. picks on 6. picked at 7. picked out 8. pick her out 9. pick you up from 10. picked up speed 11. picking up the pieces 12. Take your pick 13. picking holes in 14. pick a fight 15. pick your brains 16. pick a winner (This informal expression can be used in any situation where you make a good decision that makes you successful)

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'put' (page 47)

Here is the completed text. Use your dictionary to check the meanings of any expressions that you don't understand.

The company I had been working for was taken over by a new manager, and we didn't get on very well. Every suggestion that I put **forward** he rejected, he put me **under** a lot of pressure to work longer hours, and he continually put me **down** in front of the other employees. The final straw came when he told me to put **together** an exhibition for a trade fair: I put **in** weeks of work, but he told me that he thought the final result was "rubbish". He even put the word **out** that I was lazy and unreliable. I made a great effort to put **aside** our differences, but eventually decided the best thing would be to put **in for** a transfer to another department. When this was refused, I decided I couldn't put **up with** it any more, and resigned.

Fortunately I had managed to put **aside** a bit of money (including some that I had put **into** a high-interest deposit account), and so I decided to take a well-deserved holiday. There were several interesting holiday offers in the newspapers, but I decided to put **off** choosing one until I found exactly what I wanted. It was a friend who put me **onto** a travel agency that specialised in walking holidays in interesting parts of the world. I checked their website, found a holiday that I wanted and put **down** a £200 deposit, followed by the balance three weeks later. When the tickets didn't arrive, I tried calling their telephone helpline, but was continually put **through** to a recorded announcement. After several attempts to phone them, I put pen **to** paper and wrote them a letter (I'm always much better at putting myself **across** in writing than I am at speaking). I was naturally put **out** when I didn't get a reply, so I visited the agency in their London offices. The manager saw me personally and I put my situation **to** him, explaining that I either wanted my tickets or my money back. He tried to put me **off** by saying that there was no record of my booking, but I put him **straight** by showing him the transaction record on my credit card account. I then put my foot **down** and insisted he return my money. To my shock he called me a liar and told a security guard to remove me from the building. That was when I lost my temper. I went to my car, started the engine, put the car **into** gear, put my foot **down**, and smashed the car through the agency's window.

And that, your honour, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is my story. I hope you will take into account my feelings and emotions at the time. I just want to put it all **behind** me. Please don't put me **away**!

### Idiomatic and colloquial responses (pages 48 – 49)

Exercise 1: (These are the most appropriate answers):

1. R (*Cheerio* is an informal way of saying *goodbye*. Do not confuse this with *Cheers*, which is something we say when we drink, or when we thank someone very informally) 2. N (Someone who is *in the doghouse* is in trouble for something they have or haven't done: "You'll be in the doghouse if you don't finish Mr Walton's report by lunchtime") 3. Y (*Congratulations* is used for special events such as anniversaries, engagements, marriages, the birth of a new baby, etc. Some people also use it for birthdays, but this is less common) 4. P (This impolite expression is something we say when we want people to stop asking personal questions. It is sometimes shortened to *Mind your own*) 5. Q (*How typical!*, sometimes shortened to just *Typical!* is a very common English expression that we use when something that happens frequently happens again: "Our flight has been delayed. Typical!") 6. U (We say *That'll teach you* when we do not feel sorry for the person who is complaining because it is their own fault. It is often followed by *for* + an *-ing* verb: "That'll teach you for eating so much" or *not to* + an infinitive verb: "That'll teach you not to eat so much". We can also say *Serves you right*.) 7. G (*You and whose army?* is a very informal and aggressive expression which means that you do not think the person who is speaking to you is capable of doing something, especially fighting. It is sometimes used humorously between good friends) 8. W (*You're welcome* is a polite response when someone thanks us. We can also say *Not at all*, *My pleasure* or, less formally, *No problem* or *OK*. *Make yourself at home* is an expression we use to make people feel comfortable when they visit our home) 9. I (*Stop blowing your own trumpet* is an informal, impolite expression which means the same as *Don't boast!* or *Stop showing off!*) 10. J (We can also say *You too*) 11. O (This is a very informal expression that we use when we want to say how much we want something to eat or drink: "I'm really thirsty: I could murder an ice-cold Coke") 12. X (We can also say *Your secret's safe with me* or *I won't breathe a word*) 13. E (a very informal way of saying you hope someone sleeps well) 14. A (This is a very informal way of telling someone that they should do something more interesting in their free time) 15. B (a very informal way of saying *Don't touch!*) 16. C (a very informal way of saying that you are full and can't eat any more) 17. V (an expression of disappointment) 18. H (These expressions are used informally to say that you don't believe someone, that you think they are joking) 19. S (Both these informal expressions are used to tell someone that you are listening or are going to listen to them) 20. T (*In your dreams!* is a very informal expression that we use to say that something is unlikely to happen. We can also say *Dream on!*) 21. D (To *let the cat out of the bag* means to reveal a secret) 22. M (We say *Bless you!* when someone sneezes. North Americans usually say *Gesundheit!*) 23. F (used very informally when you disagree strongly with someone. *Nonsense* or *garbage* can be used instead of *rubbish*) 24. L (*Hang on* means *wait*, and has the same meaning as *hold on*) 25. K (The second speaker is saying that the present he has bought for the first speaker is a secret for now)

Exercise 2:

1. Cheer (We say this when we want someone who is sad to be happy) 2. sleep (The second speaker wants time to think about his / her decision) 3. spit (The second speaker wants the first speaker to say what he / she



## Answer key

means) **4.** tongue (The second speaker wants to know why the first speaker is having problems speaking) **5.** jump (The second speaker is angrily and very impolitely telling the first speaker to *go away*. Some people might say *Get lost, Get knotted, Shove off, Take a hike, Sling your hook, Take a long walk off a short pier, Go and play with the traffic, Get on your bike*, or other expressions which are much too rude to print here) **6.** fingers (The second speaker is saying that he / she hopes the first speaker will be successful) **7.** guest (*Be my guest* is a polite way of saying *Yes you can*. We can also say *Help yourself*) **8.** returns (This is a slightly more formal way of saying *Happy Birthday*) **9.** rather (This is a polite way of saying *No you can't*) **10.** day (We say *That'll be the day* when we don't believe something will happen. We might also say *"And pigs might fly!"*) **11.** shelf (Someone who is *on the shelf* hasn't got a girlfriend / boyfriend) **12.** bells (When something like a person's name *rings a bell*, it sounds familiar to you, but you can't remember why: *"Have you been to that bistro on the High Street? It's called Quasimodo"* *"Quasimodo? I'm not sure. The name rings a bell"*) **13.** weight (Someone who *throws their weight around* uses their authority in an unreasonable or unpleasant way) **14.** port (We use this expression when something that we want or need is not available and we must have something else instead. *Beggars can't be choosers* has a similar meaning) **15.** socks (The second speaker wants the first speaker to work harder) **16.** kitchen (This expression is used for telling someone that they should not do something if they cannot deal with the difficult or unpleasant aspects of it) **17.** hard, bad, tough (These all have the same meaning. *Tough luck* is more informal. Some people also say *Hard cheese*, but this is usually used in an ironic way) **18.** tongue (The second speaker knows the name of the restaurant, but cannot remember it at the moment) **19.** wood (We say *touch wood* to prevent bad things happening to us. Some people also touch a piece of wood when they say this) **20.** cheese (We say *Say cheese* when we take someone's photograph and we want them to smile)

### Idioms and other expressions that rhyme or alliterate (pages 50 – 51)

**1.** hunky-dory (pleasant because there are no problems) **2.** double Dutch (speech or writing that is difficult to understand) **3.** tittle-tattle (talk about what other people are doing, especially when it is not true or accurate. Gossip) **4.** willy-nilly (Something that happens *willy-nilly* happens whether you want it to or not, or it happens in a careless way, without planning) **5.** done and dusted (If something is *done and dusted*, you have finished dealing with it and it is not necessary to discuss it any more) **6.** higgledy-piggledy (mixed together in a way that is not planned, organised or tidy) **7.** pie in the sky (a plan, hope, idea or suggestion that will never happen) **8.** chock-a-block (very full, so that there is not much room for anything or anyone else) **9.** heebie-jeebies (Something that *gives you the heebie-jeebies* makes you feel very nervous) **10.** pitter-patter (the noise that rain makes on a window or roof) **11.** Hold your horses (an informal spoken expression which means *wait*) **12.** wear and tear (Something that is *showing signs of wear and tear* is not in as good a condition as it once was) **13.** lager louts (young men who drink too much alcohol and then start fights or damage property. Hooligans) **14.** creepy-crawly (an insect or spider, used to show that you dislike or are afraid of them) **15.** by hook or by crook

(If you do something *by hook or by crook*, you try to achieve what you want in any way possible, either honestly or dishonestly) **16.** as dull as dishwater (also as *dull as ditchwater*. Very boring)\* **17.** through thick and thin (People who stay with each other *through thick and thin* stay together despite all the bad things that happen to them) **18.** hoity-toity (behaving in a rude way to other people because you think you are better than them. This is similar to *high and mighty*) **19.** footloose and fancy-free (single, without a girlfriend or boyfriend. This expression suggests that the person is happy to be single. If they are unhappy about it, we would describe them as being *on the shelf*) **20.** hurly-burly (a lot of noisy activity, usually involving large numbers of people) **21.** shilly-shally (to delay too long before making a decision. Similar to *dilly dally*: to do things very slowly) **22.** wishy-washy (not strong or definite. We can also say *airy-fairy* to describe people who are like this and who are also not sensible or practical) **23.** clap-trap (also written as one word: *claptrap*. Stupid talk that you do not believe) **24.** head over heels (If you *fall head over heels* (*in love*) with someone, you start to love them very much) **25.** hocus-pocus (an activity or a belief that you think has no value and is intended to trick people. This is similar to *mumbo-jumbo*) **26.** ho-hum (not very good / nothing special. We can also say *humdrum*) **27.** hoi polloi (an insulting expression for ordinary people who are not very rich or well-educated. It is similar to *riff-raff*) **28.** short shrift (if you *give someone short shrift*, you give them a firm and immediate refusal to do something) **29.** even Stevens (equal during a competition such as a football match, quiz, etc. For a race, we can say *neck and neck*) **30.** rhyme or reason (If there is *no rhyme or reason* why something has happened, you are unable to explain why it happened)

\* A lot of idioms of emphasis (see page 19) use alliterations. These include: as thick as thieves; as right as rain; as pleased as Punch; as dead as a doornail / as dead as a dodo; as pretty as a picture; as mad as a March hare; as cool as a cucumber; as fit as a fiddle

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'Run' (pages 52 – 53)

#### Exercise 1:

There are several possible combinations, but these are the best ones. You can probably guess the meanings of most of the phrasal verbs from their context. Use your dictionary to look up any that you don't know or can't guess. Remember, however, that one phrasal verb can have several meanings: make sure you find the right meaning in your dictionary.

**1.** I'm not very happy with the people I work with. I guess I'm a bit fed up with them **running** me **down** all the time. **2.** I saw Janine for the first time in years today. I **ran into** her in a café on the High Street. **3.** Look at this wonderful vase I found. I **ran across** it in an antique shop in Brighton. **4.** I've always been a very independent person. It began when I tried to **run away** from home when I was 10 years old. **5.** I am absolutely exhausted. I've been **running around** at work all day without a break. **6.** I really want to discuss my ideas for the company with someone. I was wondering if I could **run** them **by** you some time this morning? **7.** We need enough agendas for everyone coming to the conference. If I **run off** 150 copies, that should be enough. **8.** Last

## Answer key

winter was particularly cold. I **ran up** a huge heating bill as a result. **9.** I really must deal with these accounts. I've been **running away from** them all day / for too long. **10.** I've got a lot to do at work today. I hope the morning meeting doesn't **run on** for too long / all day. **11.** I'm having a lovely holiday in Italy, and I really don't want to leave. I suppose that when my money **runs out** I'll have to come home. **12.** I've got one leg slightly longer than the other. It's been like that ever since I was **run down / over** crossing a pedestrian crossing as a child. **13.** I think that everyone's here. I'll just **run through** the names on my list to make sure. **14.** I had a small accident in my car last month. I couldn't believe it when the bill for repairs **ran to** almost £1000. **15.** I need a bit of romance and adventure in my life. Perhaps I should just **run off** with the first man who catches my eye!

### Exercise 2:

**1.** risk **2.** steam (We can also say *run out of gas*) **3.** ins  
**4.** temperature **5.** late **6.** walk **7.** free **8.** eyes  
**9.** mile (A *mile* is a measure of distance still used in the United Kingdom. 1 mile = 1.609 kilometres) **10.** life  
**11.** cut **12.** money **13.** down **14.** rings (We can also say *running circles around him*) **15.** wild (We can also say *run riot, run amok or run amuck*) **16.** scared **17.** high

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'set' (page 54)

**1.** False. It causes them to fight or argue, even though they were in a friendly relationship before: "*A bitter industrial dispute set worker against worker*". **2.** True. "*Spending cuts have set the project back by several months*". This can also be a noun: *a setback*. **3.** True. "*She set her concerns down in a letter and gave it to her manager*". **4.** False. You have just started it: "*We set off early the next morning*". We can also say *set out*. **5.** True. "*She claims she is innocent and someone has set her up*". **6.** False. You have started a business: "*The group plans to set up an import-export business*". **7.** False. It makes it start, usually accidentally: "*When Jeff pushed the door open, he set off the alarm*". **8.** False. It has cost you a lot of money: "*His new car has set him back almost £25000*". **9.** False. You save money to use for a particular purpose. "*We've set aside some money for a holiday*". We can also say *put aside*. **10.** True. "*Let's go inside. It looks like the rain has set in*". **11.** True. "*I always thought that Sydney was the capital of Australia until someone set me straight*". We can use *put* instead of *straight*. **12.** False. You want something very much: "*I've got my heart set on the new Mazda MX5*". We can also say *to set your heart on something*: "*I've set my heart on the new Mazda MX5*". **13.** False. You begin living in a particular place or with a particular person. "*Many people set up home together before getting married*". We can also say *set up house*. **14.** False. You have, or have been given, enough money so that you do not have to work for the rest of your life: "*Her inheritance set her up for life*". We can also say *set for life*. **15.** False. It creates the conditions in which something is likely to happen: "*The workers' demands were rejected, setting the stage for a strike*". **16.** False. You are completely opposed to it: "*She's dead set against giving her children fast food*". **17.** True. "*Mr Bridger is old, stubborn and set in his ways*". **18.** False. You have a short quarrel or fight with them: "*I had a bit of a set-to with Carol earlier*". **19.** False. They cause trouble by doing or saying something: "*He really set the cat among the pigeons*".

*when he accused us of not working hard enough*". **20.** True. "*What's that horrible noise? It's really setting my teeth on edge*". **21.** False. They make something start: "*There are several things we need to discuss. Who wants to set the ball rolling?*" We can also say *start* or *get the ball rolling*. **22.** False. They are telling you to improve the way you behave or do things, especially before criticising how other people behave or do things: "*Before you criticise my bad habits, you should set your own house in order*". We can also say *get* or *put your house in order*.

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'take' (pages 55 – 56)

**Across:** **1.** part **5.** up with **7.** over **8.** in **11.** through  
**12.** mickey **14.** notice **16.** salt **18.** out of **19.** up on  
**22.** after **23.** back **25.** off **26.** doing

**Down:** **2.** rough **3.** cleaners **4.** biscuit **6.** hint **9.** rain  
**10.** sorts **13.** on **15.** out on **17.** to **19.** up **20.** off  
**21.** granted **22.** aback (note that this phrasal verb is always used in the passive) **24.** down

### Idioms and other expressions using 'time' (page 57)

**1.** = (p): a situation in which you do not have enough time to do something. **2.** = (u): to make some of your time available for a particular purpose. **3.** = (w): an expression used at the beginning of children's stories about events that happened in the past. **4.** = (r): to like someone or something a lot. **5.** = (a): someone or something that is in a time warp seems old-fashioned because they have not changed when other people and things have changed. **6.** = (x) or (f): to make some of your time available for a particular purpose. This expression is often used in the negative. **7.** = (q): earlier than necessary. **8.** = (y): a spoken expression used for saying that someone should do something now, instead of waiting to do it later. **9.** = (e): an expression that is usually spoken, which means that you are annoyed because something has happened later than it should. **10.** = (b): usually. **11.** = (v) or (q): used for telling someone to hurry. **12.** = (d): used for talking about what will happen at some future time. **13.** = (k): a spoken expression used for saying that you will know in the future whether something is true or right. **14.** = (s): many times, usually so often that you become annoyed. We can also say *time after time* or *time and again*. **15.** = (t): to make time seem to pass more quickly by doing something instead of just waiting. **16.** = (l): to change and become modern. **17.** = (c): used for saying that something is strange or surprising. **18.** = (j): a humorous spoken expression, usually ironic, to say that you are surprised what the time is. **19.** = (n): the second time that something happens. Also the first time around, the third time around, etc. **20.** = (o): much more modern or advanced than other people or things. **21.** = (i): sometimes, but not often. **22.** = (h): for the present. **23.** = (m): for a long period of time. **24.** = (g): busy. **25.** = (f): used for talking about things that happen fairly often.



## Answer key

**Idioms and other expressions used to talk about travel and holidays (pages 58 – 59)**

1. stone (More informally, we can also say *within spitting distance*: "The hotel was *within spitting distance of the beach*") 2. scenic 3. trotter (Someone who travels to a lot of places by air could be called a *jetsetter*) 4. cut-price (Tickets for these and other airlines are usually bought on the Internet, but you might also buy them from a *bucket shop*, a travel agency that specialises in cheap travel tickets) 5. dogs (We could also say *it's gone downhill*) 6. fleapit 7. thumb 8. beaten 9. nowhere 10. back (The expressions in numbers 8, 9 and 10 have a similar meaning, but 9 and 10 usually have negative connotations) 11. break 12. suitcase 13. short 14. itchy 15. light 16. do 17. shock 18. holes 19. world 20. way (More informally, we could say that the staff *bent over backwards*) 21. red 22. trap 23. natives (We can also say *locals*) 24. whistle (If you visit a person or a place for a very short period of time, you could say that you *pay a flying visit*: "Last year we *paid a flying visit to my aunt in Glasgow*") 25. houses 26. hour 27. pick-up 28. red 29. short 30. lines

Note that many of the expressions in this exercise are not exclusive to travel and holidays, and can be used to talk about other things. For example, you often *read between the lines* when you read a story in a newspaper, or when you listen to a politician's speech.

**Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'turn' (pages 60 – 61)**Exercise 1:

1. in 2. out 3. to 4. on (Note that the position of the object *me* in sentence (b) is very important: if you put it *after* the phrasal verb, the sentence has a very different meaning!) 5. over 6. around or round 7. up 8. away 9. against 10. off (This has the same meaning as *switch off*. For lights, we can also say *put out*) 11. back 12. down

Note that most of the phrasal verbs in this exercise have more meanings than are shown here. Use your dictionary to find these.

Exercise 2:

You can probably guess the meanings of most of the idioms and expressions in this exercise from their context. Use your dictionary to look up any that you don't know or can't guess. There are several possible combinations of sentence / response, but these are the best ones:

1. n (If you *scratch my back*, I'll *scratch yours* is an informal spoken expression which means that you will help someone if they help you) 2. h 3. b 4. p 5. j (Someone who is *at their wits' end* is very upset or worried and doesn't know what to do about it) 6. m 7. e 8. i 9. a 10. l 11. c 12. f 13. o 14. d 15. k 16. g 17. r 18. q

**Idioms that use words connected with the weather (page 62)**

1. a frosty reception (= the people who listened to the speech disapproved of what they heard. *Frosty* can be used with other words to express disapproval. For

example, *a frosty look, a frosty stare, a frosty tone*, etc) 2. my mind is in a fog (= the speaker cannot think clearly) 3. save something for a rainy day (= save some money for when you need it) 4. right as rain (= feeling well) 5. has a really sunny disposition (= very happy, cheerful, friendly, etc) 6. snowed under (= the speaker has so much work to do that he cannot do anything else) 7. a face like thunder (= the boss looks very angry) 8. run like the wind (= run very quickly) 9. cloud your judgement (= if something *clouds your judgement*, it makes you less able to make a good decision) 10. stole my thunder (= he took my ideas and used them as his own, then got all the credit) 11. got the red mist (= became extremely angry) 12. took the wind out of my sails (= the manager made the speaker feel much less enthusiastic or confident about something) 13. on cloud nine (= very happy because of something that has happened. We can also say *in seventh heaven*) 14. it never rains but it pours (= a spoken expression which means that problems often seem to happen all at the same time) 15. take a rain check (= turn down an offer and accept it at a later date) 16. as pure as the driven snow (= an expression we use when someone thinks that they are morally superior to other people, but we know that they are not) 17. Any port in a storm (= a spoken expression which means that you will accept any help or take any opportunity if you are in a bad situation) 18. see which way the wind blows (= if you *wait to see which way the wind blows*, you observe a situation carefully before making a decision) 19. come rain or shine (= a spoken expression which means that you will do something regardless of what else happens) 20. put the wind up (= if you *put the wind up someone*, you make them nervous or frightened) 21. a storm in a teacup (= a lot of trouble about something that is not important) 22. got wind of (= find out something secret or private) 23. a hail of criticism (= a lot of people criticised her suggestions) 24. rain on her parade (= do something to spoil someone's ideas, plans, etc)

There are also a lot of expressions that can be used to talk about the weather. If it is raining very heavily, we can say that *it is raining cats and dogs* (a rather old-fashioned expression), or *it's chucking (it) down*. We can describe a very hot day as a *scorcher*. If there is a very strong wind, we might say that *it is blowing a gale*. If there is a cold breeze (= light wind), we could say that there is a *nasty nip in the air*. When the weather is very cold, we could humorously say that it is *brass monkey weather* or *it's cold enough to freeze the balls of a brass monkey* (an old navy expression that has passed into everyday English: *balls* in this case are *cannonballs*). A thick fog could be described as a *pea-souper*, and the speaker might complain that he *can't see his hand in front of his face*. If it is cold, windy and rainy, we could describe it as a *pig of a day*.

**Idioms and other expressions used for talking about work (pages 63 – 64)**

Exercise 1: 1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (a) 7. (b) 8. (a) (from the phrasal verb *to dress down*: to wear informal clothes) 9. (a) 10. (a) 11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (b) 15. (a)

Exercise 2: 1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (d) (The other options are not real English words) 6. (a) 7. (b)\* 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (d) 11. (b) 12. (c) (You usually *beaver away* at a particular task: "She's *beavering away at her expenses*") 13. (d) (The other options are not real English

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## Answer key

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words) **14.** (c) (We could describe someone who *swings the lead* a lot as being *work-shy*) **15.** (a) (If they are claiming money illegally – for example, if they have a job and are still on the dole – we could say that they are *on the fiddle*)

\* Other 'rages' (when you get very angry because of something bad that happens) include: *air rage* (in an aircraft or at the airport); *road rage* (while driving your car); *trolley rage* (in a busy supermarket – this is usually used humorously)

Note that many of the idioms and expressions in this exercise are *not* exclusive to work, and can be used in other areas.

### Phrasal verbs, idioms and other expressions using 'work' (page 65)

#### Exercise 1:

**1.** worked out **2.** work on **3.** working off **4.** working up to **5.** worked out **6.** worked out **7.** work off **8.** work up **9.** works at **10.** work on

#### Exercise 2:

**11.** We had everything (for example, bacon, sausage,

eggs, toast, mushrooms, tomatoes, beans, etc). We can also say *the full works* or *the full Monty*. **12.** The boss did something that suddenly stopped a process or plan.

**13.** We will have a difficult job to do. **14.** The cold shower had an extremely (and surprisingly) good result.

**15.** You will need to work very hard to pass your exams. People from the USA sometimes say *work your butt off*.

**16.** He ate the meal very quickly. This expression can be used in other situations to mean *deal with something quickly and efficiently*. If you *make short work of someone*, you defeat an opponent quickly and easily: "*Harrison wasn't playing very well, and Jennings made short work of him in the second set*"

**17.** Don't get upset, angry or excited. We can also say *Don't work yourself up*.

**18.** People who *work* or *play the system* do or get what they want despite the rules that make it difficult.

**19.** I've worked very hard. This expression is often used when hard physical work is involved.

**20.** *All in a day's work* is an expression used for saying that a particular situation or experience is normal for someone, although most people would find it difficult or unusual. It is often used as a sentence on its own: "*I've been shouted at, spat at, sprayed with paint and had eggs thrown at me today!*" "*Never mind, Prime Minister. All in a day's work, eh?*"