

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### 20 Common English Phrasal Verbs

1. <b>break up</b> ---	end a relationship	2. <b>bang up</b> ---	put in prison
3. <b>take out</b> ---	arrange sth, e.g. a loan	4. <b>fit in</b> ---	be accepted as part of a group
5. <b>end up</b> ---	reach a place which you neither planned nor wished to reach	6. <b>bunk off</b> ---	be absent without permission
7. <b>pick up</b> ---	acquire sth, e.g. an illness	8. <b>pass away</b> ---	die
9. <b>get on</b> ---	have a good relationship	10. <b>knock up</b> ---	make a woman pregnant
11. <b>make up</b> ---	become friends again after an argument	12. <b>lash out</b> ---	attack suddenly and violently
13. <b>set aside</b> ---	save; keep sth separate	14. <b>drop out</b> ---	leave a course or programme before the end
15. <b>sign on</b> ---	declare that you're unemployed; receive unemployment benefits	16. <b>stand up to</b> --- ---	defend yourself
17. <b>long for</b> ---	desire sth very much	18. <b>give up</b> ---	finish a habit; stop trying
19. <b>rack up</b> ---	accumulate; collect a lot of sth	20. <b>be on</b> ---	take; be dependent on

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### English Phrasal Verbs – Matching Game

Match each sentence below with one of the phrasal verbs from this unit. Change forms where necessary:



Hilda _____ peacefully last night – in her sleep.
It's much better to _____ people, rather than let them walk all over you!
She got really upset and _____ at all her former colleagues.
Tony _____ a lot of debts since taking up poker.
I _____ with Mark yesterday. Things weren't working out.
After I _____, I'm going to ask my adviser to help me with my CV.
Do you fancy _____ school tomorrow? Go on! It'll be fun!
Aren't you going to _____ with Kim? She said she was sorry.
Cassie said she would _____ smoking, if you quit gambling.
Bryan _____ in this dump for nearly twelve years – poor guy.
We _____ this money for our trip to Greece next year.
We drove around in circles for ages, before _____ on the edge of a cliff in the middle of nowhere!
Me and Molly really _____ well. She's one of my best friends.
Up to 15% of students _____ before the end of the first year.
We went to the bank and _____ a loan for fifteen thousand.
How long had he _____ methadone?
"Where did Zoe _____ the cold?" "At her friend's house, I think."
Frank _____ Gemma – while she was still seeing his brother!
"Why have you stopped choir practice?" "I felt like I didn't _____."
I've been _____ a baby my whole life.

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## Problems – English Phrasal Verbs Activities

This is a handy table showing **collocations** – words that go well with these phrasal verbs. You could use it to make a quick quiz for students after they have learned the meanings, e.g. “Which phrasal verb is to do with prison?” Or, “Find a phrasal verb that’s transitive separable.” Or guess the preposition linking phrasal verb and object, e.g. “To get on **with** somebody...” Or encourage students to make sentences (positive, negative, and question forms) by linking content words together using function words, e.g. “The **students** are going to **bunk off** school **tomorrow**.” etc.

#	subject (person)	p/verb*	tr?	sep?	object e.g.	place / time e.g.
1.	a pronoun, e.g.  I, you, he, she, it, we, they, etc.	<b>break up</b>	✓	✗	with somebody	over dinner
2.		<b>bang up</b>	✓	✓	a criminal / a prisoner	in prison / in jail
3.		<b>take out</b>	✓	✓	a loan / a mortgage	at the bank / online
4.		<b>fit in</b>	✓	✗	with a group / a class	at school / at work
5.		<b>end up</b>	✓	✗	alone / getting fired	if you’re not careful
6.		<b>bunk off</b>	✓	✗	school / a lesson	tomorrow
7.		<b>pick up</b>	✓	✓	an infection / a cold	at nursery / at the pool
8.		<b>pass away</b>	✗	-	-	in bed / peacefully at home
9.		<b>get on</b>	✓	✗	with somebody / friends	at school / at work
10.		<b>knock up</b>	✓	✓	his girlfriend / his partner	at his parents’ house
11.	a person or thing, e.g.  the students, my sister, Max, the children, Sarah’s grandma, our good friends, etc.	<b>make up</b>	✓	✗	with somebody	in the staff canteen
12.		<b>lash out</b>	✓	✗	at sby / because...	at the nightclub
13.		<b>set aside</b>	✓	✓	some money / savings	for a rainy day**
14.		<b>drop out</b>	✓	✗	of school / of the concert	last week / for good
15.		<b>sign on</b>	✓	✗	the dole***	for two years
16.		<b>stand up to</b>	✓	✗	my boss / a bully	in the office / at school
17.		<b>long for</b>	✓	✗	a child / a holiday	all the time / every day
18.		<b>give up</b>	✓	✗	smoking / gambling	yesterday / forever
19.		<b>rack up</b>	✓	✗	some debts / a high score	over a period of time
20.		<b>be on</b>	✓	✗	drugs / medication	for the past few months

Notes: **tr = transitive** – the phrasal verb can have an object. **sep = separable** – some transitive phrasal verbs are separable, which means that the object, e.g. an object pronoun like “him” or “it”, or somebody’s name, can go before the particle or after it. Some transitive phrasal verbs are **inseparable** – the object has to go after the particle. **Intransitive** phrasal verbs do not have an object, therefore cannot be separable or inseparable. Remember, some phrasal verbs, e.g. “pick up”, can have many different meanings. The information here relates to the definitions given on the “20 Common English Phrasal Verbs” handout.

\* Choose any verb form, e.g. Present Perfect Continuous, Third Conditional, Future Perfect, etc.

\*\* Idiom meaning “for a time when I won’t have enough money”. \*\*\* Slang for “unemployment register”

### Topic Questions

Choose the correct phrasal verb, and make a sentence about... a) yourself, b) a friend:

- worrying about starting a new school.
- losing your job and having to claim benefits.
- wishing that you could buy your own house with a garden.
- shouting at somebody, then hitting them after getting drunk.
- deciding to quit college and do something different.
- how a favourite uncle died at the weekend.
- putting somebody in prison.
- getting somebody pregnant.
- how you finally stopped somebody from bullying you.
- not wanting to take tablets prescribed by your doctor.
- leaving class early when nobody was looking.
- getting a bad cold after visiting some friends who were ill.
- trying hard to maintain a working relationship with a colleague.
- saving for a holiday in Portugal.