

B1.9 Phrasal Verbs in Conversation

You can learn:

- How to use phrasal verbs in conversation.
- How to sound friendly rather than overly formal.

1



In informal English we often use 'phrasal verbs'. A phrasal verb has two parts, for example 'get up' or 'go on'. There are about 5,000 phrasal verbs in English. Some are very idiomatic, which means it is difficult to guess their meaning. Others are easier to understand. Notice how the people below are using phrasal verbs in every day conversation. Can you guess (or 'work out', which is a phrasal verb!) what they mean?

1



Image Attribution to Jess Rivera

In my opinion, it's very important to pay off your credit card debt every month. If you don't, the interest builds up. Then it's very difficult to manage your finances effectively. Ted

2



Image Attribution to GregPC

I'm young and I want to travel for a year. I want to find out about life in other countries before I settle down with my boyfriend. We want kids and a home, but I also want to see the world. Belle

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3



Image Attribution to CharlesFred

I feel so depressed. I asked my girlfriend to marry me, but she turned me down. I was really looking forward to our wedding. She just said she's not ready yet. Bill

4



Image Attribution to GregPC

I'm feeling great because I've given up smoking. Now I have more money, I'm healthier and I don't need to worry about running out of cigarettes when the shops are shut like I used to. Andy

5



Image Attribution to mau3ry

Molly is my best friend. Of course, having her around can't make up for losing my husband. He died three years ago now. But when I'm unhappy she always cheers me up by telling me a joke, or a funny story. Patricia

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2



Discuss the questions in the box below, which all contain the same phrasal verbs.

- What do you think is the best age to settle down and raise a family? Is it ever too late?
- What have you found out recently about life in the U.K.? Anything that surprised you?
- Do you always pay off your credit card every month, or does it sometimes build up? Are you good at managing your finances?
- How could you make up for forgetting somebody's birthday? Have you ever done so?
- If somebody offered you the chance to live in the U.K. for six months would you turn it down?
- Is there anything that you are looking forward to in the next few months? Any special occasions or holidays?
- Have you ever run out of money when you were on holiday? What would you do if you did?
- How would you try to cheer up a depressed friend?
- Do you have a bad habit you should give up?

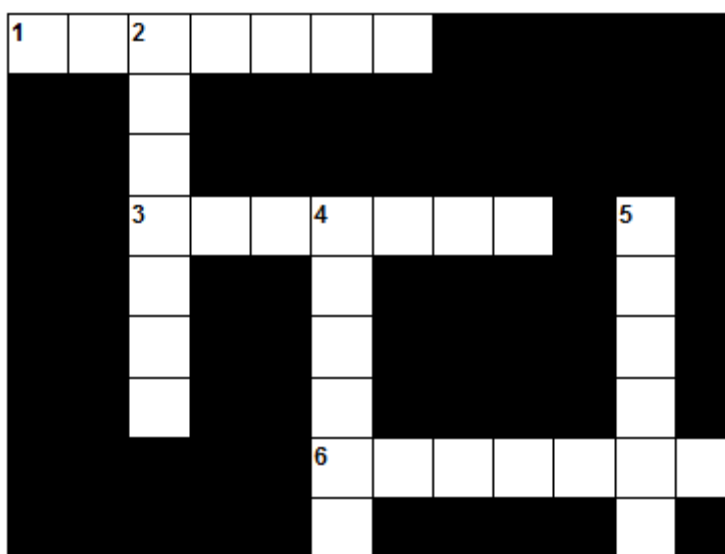
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3



Now, together with your partner, try to do the 'Phrasal Verbs Crossword' below.

Phrasal Verbs Crossword
Crossword



4

Clues

Across: 1: We must _____ / _____ playing until somebody wins. (continue)

Across: 3: Can you _____ / _____ that parcel at my flat when you are in the area? (deliver)

Across: 6: I do not want to _____ / _____ because of one argument. (stop being friends)

Down: 2: Can you _____ / _____ what is says in the paper about the weather? (say aloud)

Down: 4: The cost of accommodation has always _____ me _____ living in London. (discouraged)

Down: 5: I used to love to _____ / _____, but now I always cook at home to save money. (dine in restaurants)

4



Now write a dialogue between two friends using as many phrasal verbs from the topic sheet as possible.

