Strengthen English

PHRASAL VERBS

FOR SECONDARY LEVELS



- Contextual use of phrasal verbs
- Multiple uses of verbs

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CHAPTER 1 The basics

Practice 1.1

Match the meanings with the correct phrasal verbs below.

1	Abstain from	• To demand something immediately
2	Act out	• To not do or take something
3	Agitate for	• To support or confirm
4	Bear out	• To reach a serious stage
5	Accede to	• To increase something
6	Blow over	• To perform something with actions and gestures
7	Bow out	• To pass and be forgotten
8	Account for	• To agree to something
9	Boil up	• To resign
10	Add to	• To explain something

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Practice 1.2

Match the meanings with the correct phrasal verbs below.

1	Call off	• To subtract from something
2	Dally about	• To interrupt a conversation
3	Clam up	• To cancel something
4	Dash off	• To write hurriedly
5	Chip in	• To add a share of money
6	Cut in	• To be slow and waste time
7	Draw in	• To bring in
8	Dwell on	• To stop talking
9	Crave for	• To talk or think a lot about something
10	Deduct from	• To have a strong desire for something

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CHAPTER 2

Working with common themes

Animals and Plants

Practice 2.1

Choose the correct phrasal verb.

1 Ally tried to (worm through, worm out of) getting punished by her parents for sneaking out of the house last night.

2 My teacher (leafed through, leafed over) my homework before pointing out the grammatical mistakes that I had made.

3 Everyone knows that Shoby loves to talk. She can (rabbit off, rabbit on) for hours.

4 The highway from the main land (branches off, branches on) to resort island.

5 I had to (bear along, bear with) the nagging that I received from my mother for not cleaning my room.

6 Something must have (cropped up, cropped on) at work. My mother has never been this late.

7 Sam (ducked up, ducked down) when he saw the football flying at him.

8 Anna had to (fish over, fish around) in her handbag to find her purse.

9 The company is going through a financial crisis and they now have to (weed in, weed out) the people who are a liability to the company.

10 The police had to (bear down upon, bear down over) the aggressive man who tried to attack them.

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Practice 2.2

Fill in the blanks. Use each word once.

fish	bear	planted	worm	branch

1 Andy had to _____ around his pocket before finding his apartment keys.

2 He decided to _____ out his business to the east coast of Malaysia.

3 The young widow could not _____ with the gossip spread by her neighbours.

4 The drugs were _____ in those men's apartment by several thugs, so as to intimidate them.

5 He tried to _____ out of the task that was given to him by his boss.

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CHAPTER 3

One verb, many uses

Practice 3.1

Combine the different forms of the word 'bring' with the correct prepositions to complete the phrasal verbs for the sentences below. Use each word once.

into	out	along	over	together
around	up	in	back	down

1 My uncle brought my cousin _____ the city yesterday.

2 I had to bring _____ an umbrella with me when I went out as I felt that it was going to rain.

3 Desmond could not believe that he had been brought _____ an argument by his sisters where he had to decide who should get more closet space.

4 Teachers should always bring _____ the spark in their students by giving them challenging tasks.

5 My cousin will bring _____ the pundits to win the football game.

6 Mr and Mrs Carey have done a good job of bringing _____ their children.

7 Crisis always brings people _____.

8 Rita decided not to bring her MP3 player _____ to my house since my baby brother keeps meddling with it.

9 Wei Ru was asked by her mother to bring _____ the old boxes from the attic.

10 My mother has brought _____ some sweets from South Korea for me.

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Practice 3.2

Combine the different forms of the word 'cut' with the correct prepositions to complete the phrasal verbs for the sentences below. Use each word once.

back	out	off	down	in
above	up	to	along	through

1 My grandmother loves to cut _____ stamps from the letters she receives and paste them into her stamp album.

2 Sandra has no manners. She simply cut _____ on us when we were having a serious conversation.

3 The doctor told my uncle to cut _____ on fatty food as it is affecting his health.

4 The whole state had their electricity cut _____ because of the heavy monsoon rains last month.

5 Ever since the recession started, many workers had to have their working hours cut _____ as there were not enough orders coming in.

6 Cut _____ the old documents before placing them in that blue bin.

7 Ever since Erika was young, she has always been a cut _____ the rest as she possesses not only beauty, but brains and talent as well.

8 Jason had to cut _____ the crowd to reach his friends who were on the other side of the mall.

9 "You need to cut _____ the line of the paper and then paste it in your exercise book," said the teacher to his students.

10 Andrew was told to cut _____ the chase and to tell how exactly he had got hurt.

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CHAPTER 1

Practice 1.1

1 Abstain from — To not do or take something
2 Act out — To perform something with actions and gestures.
3 Agitate for — To demand something immediately
4 Bear out — To support or confirm
5 Accede to — To agree to something
6 Blow over — To pass and be forgotten
7 Bow out — To resign
8 Account for — To explain something
9 Boil up — To reach a serious stage
10 Add to — To increase something

Practice 1.2

1 Call off — To cancel something
2 Dally about — To be slow and waste time
3 Clam up — To stop talking
4 Dash off — To write hurriedly
5 Chip in — To add a share of money
6 Cut in — To interrupt a conversation
7 Draw in — To bring in
8 Dwell on — To talk or think a lot about something
9 Crave for — To have a strong desire for something
10 Deduct from — To subtract from something

Practice 1.3

1 Eat away — To slowly destroy or erode
2 Fan out — To spread out
3 Edge in — To get in quietly
4 Figure out — To understand or solve something
5 Ferret about — To search busily and persistently
6 Accept from — To take something from someone
7 Flood in — To arrive in great quantities
8 Exult in — To feel overjoyed over something
9 Fish around — To search for something
10 Fret about — To worry or to become concerned about something

Practice 1.4

1 Give away — To give something to someone
2 Get along — To have a good relationship with someone
3 Go off — To explode
4 Hard up — To not have much money
5 Hold over — To defer
6 Hot up — To increase
7 Gain on — To get closer to someone or something
8 Hammer at — To keep working on something
9 Hang together — To form a whole; to be consistent
10 Go round — To have enough for everyone

Practice 1.5

1 Keyed up — To be excited or tense
2 Let up — To stop
3 Kick out — To dismiss
4 Lash out — To hit violently
5 Kick in — To start to take effect
6 Lag behind — To move slower than others
7 Kick up — To start a fuss or trouble
8 Lose out — To make a large loss
9 Knock about — To treat someone roughly
10 Lay down — To order or instruct

Practice 1.6

1 Make up — To become friends after a quarrel
2 Make out — To understand
3 Match up — To form a pair
4 Named after — Given the name of another person or thing
5 Map out — To plan something in detail
6 Opt for — To choose something
7 Mark down — To reduce the price of an item
8 Nail down — To fix firmly on a wall
9 Owing to — Because of a certain person or thing
10 Patch up — To settle a quarrel

Practice 1.7

1 Perk up — To become more lively
2 Rail at — To speak angrily or bitterly
3 Reel off — To say something quickly
4 Queue up — To stand in a line
5 Pile up — To amass into a big heap
6 Reckon with — To take into account
7 Rest on — To depend on someone
8 Rooted in — To have something as its origin
9 Put off — To postpone something
10 Pitch in — To work together

Practice 1.8

1 Sell out — To be disloyal to your friends
2 Toil away — To work long and hard
3 Set in — To begin
4 Tail off — To decrease
5 Slacken off — To become lazy
6 Take after — To resemble
7 Spell out — To describe in detail
8 Topple over — To be unsteady and fall
9 Stamp out — To extinguish or destroy
10 Triumph over — To beat someone and be victorious

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