

CAMBRIDGE

ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS IN USE

60 units of vocabulary
reference and practice

Self-study and
classroom use

Second Edition

Advanced

Michael McCarthy
Felicity O'Dell

Experience
Better
Learning

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Exercises

8.1 Answer these questions.

- 1 What should you not throw out with the bathwater?
- 2 What expression uses a burning house as a metaphor for a good relationship?
- 3 What expression uses steam as a metaphor for strong feelings?
- 4 According to the idiom, why might people cut off their own nose?
- 5 What idiom means 'ease an unpleasant situation' and refers to what bees can do?
- 6 Which two phrasal verb idioms refer to circular motion?

8.2 Complete these sentences using expressions from 8.1.

- 1 Refusing that job offer just because you're annoyed about the interview would be cutting your to your
- 2 When she came back to the UK, Harriet decided it was time she down and she bought a little cottage not far from here.
- 3 The robbers round the police. It took two years to catch them.
- 4 The extra day's holiday we offered should take the out the pay cut.
- 5 I felt as if I was just going in and getting nowhere.
- 6 We should keep the better parts of the old system when we move over to the new system. We don't want to the out with the bathwater.
- 7 Isaac and Matthew on like a on fire; they're great friends.
- 8 I don't think she was really angry with you; she was just steam.

8.3 Cross out the five mistakes in this text and write the correct form in the box next to that line.

After a year of travelling, I decided to ~~put~~ my act together and get a job. A friend who worked for a bank put in some good words for me. In fact he pushed in all the stops and arranged for me to have lunch with the CEO. I got on the wrong feet by saying I wasn't ready to plant down roots yet; I think they were looking for someone to make a long-term commitment. I should have kept quiet!

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 | <i>get</i> |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |

8.4 Complete these dialogues using phrasal verbs from the opposite page so that the second speaker agrees with and repeats more or less what the first speaker says.

- 1 **Michael** Alice seems determined not to agree to the new plan.
Juan Yes, she really seems to be digging
- 2 **Sarah** Wow, my Uncle Joshua is 75 and he's getting married for the first time!
Amelia Really? He's obviously trying to make up!
- 3 **Luis** Charles lives in a fantasy world. He thinks he can make a living writing poetry.
Ava That's crazy! He should wake up that poets never make any money!
- 4 **Eva** Teddy has been very successful in his new career.
Gabriel Yes, he really seems to have come into
- 5 **Robert** The boss seems to be getting very serious about the new sales campaign lately.
Dan Yes, he's really turning up
- 6 **Franck** I think it's time I made a decision.
Daisy Yes, it's time for you to make up

A

Increasing and totalling

| phrasal verb | definition of phrasal verb | example |
|---|--|---|
| build up (sth) / build (sth) up | increase in amount, size or strength, or make something increase | Paula has been doing a lot of long-distance running to try to build up her stamina. |
| bump up sth / bump sth up | (informal) increase the size or amount of something, e.g. price, by a large amount | Hotels in this town always bump their prices up when the film festival is on. |
| round up sth / round sth up ¹ | increase a number to the nearest whole number | The taxi fare came to £29.25, but we rounded it up and gave the driver £30. |
| push up sth / push sth up | increase the amount, number or value of something | The TV series about Caitlin Cliff's pottery pushed up the value of her work. |
| put on sth / put sth on | if a person or animal puts on weight, they become heavier | Bobby's put on six kilos since he stopped playing football. |
| amount to sth | become a particular amount | When we added living costs to the fees, the cost of the course amounted to £34,000. |
| add up | (informal) increase and become a large number or amount | Bringing up children is an expensive business. Clothes, shoes, food, toys, – it all adds up! |

¹ (opposite: **round down** sth / **round** sth **down** = reduce to nearest whole number)

B

Decreasing

Ice cream sales are high in summer but **tail off** as winter approaches. [decrease in amount]

Since they employed a new chef, the quality of the food has really **fallen off**. [become smaller or lower]

We'll never be able to get out of the car park now. Let's wait till the football crowds **thin out** a bit. [become fewer in number]

Laura was so keen to get rid of her old car that I was able to get her to **knock** the price **down** a bit. [(informal) reduce]

I'm afraid we have no choice but to **slim** the business **down** and some redundancies will be announced next week. [make it smaller in size, often by employing fewer people]


C

Staying the same

● ● ● < >
↻ 🔍 🏠

Exam results out: Differences narrowing between boys and girls

This year 16-year-old girls have again done much better than boys in their school exams. However, the differences in grades between the sexes now seem to be **levelling off**¹ by the time pupils reach 18. At 18, boys' results now **average out at** 66% per exam, whereas the equivalent figure for girls is 67%. Several years ago there was concern at the rapidly rising rate of academic success among girls in comparison with boys, but this rate has clearly now **flattened out**². It is believed that greater use of technology in the classroom is helping to **balance things out**³, reviving boys' interest in their schoolwork.



¹ becoming more similar (can also be **level out**)

² stopped increasing or decreasing and begun to stay at the same level

³ make things equal

A

Coping with money


[Reply](#)
[Forward](#)

Hi Sara,

How are you coping financially this term? My parents had to **bail me out**¹ last week. I'd **run through**² a huge amount of money without realising it and I couldn't pay my fees. But they **coughed up**³ without a protest. I guess I'll have to **work off**⁴ the debt in the holidays. Expensive being a student, isn't it?

Freyda

¹ help a person or organisation to get out of difficulty by giving them money

² spent a lot very quickly

³ (informal) provided money, often unwillingly

⁴ reduce the size of a debt by earning money to pay for it



I can't believe my mobile phone bill. It **gobbles up**⁵ a large part of my salary every month. And I've had so many other bills! I've had to **break into**⁶ my savings and use money I'd **put by**⁷ for the holidays.

⁵ (informal) uses a lot of something, especially money

⁶ start to use an amount of money that you have been saving

⁷ saved in order to use it later


[Reply](#)
[Forward](#)

Hi Matthew,

Just back from my trip to South America, which was fantastic, but it **set me back**⁸ €8,000 and **cleaned me out**⁹ completely. I was just wondering if you could lend me a couple of hundred euros? I'll **square up**¹⁰ with you when I get my next pay cheque.

Robert

⁸ (informal) cost a particular amount of money, usually a large amount

⁹ (informal) you used all the money you had on it

¹⁰ (informal) pay somebody the money that you owe them

I **came into**¹¹ some money recently. My great aunt died and left me a very generous sum and I got a big bonus at work last month, too, so the money's been **rolling in!**¹² I'm seriously considering buying a flat and **renting it out**.



¹¹ got money from someone who died

¹² (informal) arriving in large amounts

B

Financial services

If you are unable to pay everything in the same month, we'll arrange for your payments to be **carried forward** to the next month.

What are the best ways of **ploughing back**¹ profits into a small business? Call us for advice.

¹ putting money that you have earned into a business in order to make the business bigger or better

If your aim is to **put aside**² money regularly, our monthly savings plan enables you to **pay** a regular sum **into** your bank account each month.

² save money for a particular purpose

- 3 Yes, teachers often used to mark me down for bad handwriting. I used to think this was really unfair and that they should just think about the content of my work. However, now I am a teacher and have to mark badly written work, I understand why they marked me down!
- 4 In the UK, taking part in extra-curricular activities, such as sport or music, having work experience and good references, showing you have good organisational or leadership skills, possibly also having good contacts can count towards getting into some universities.

Unit 33

- 33.1**
- 1 Zeyneb's experiments were mostly **carried out** in the 19th century using much less sophisticated equipment than is available today.
 - 2 This theory **draws on** research from several well-known scientists.
 - 3 I thought we could read Hayder's research for the seminar tomorrow, but my tutor **pointed out** that the original research paper is over 700 pages long!
 - 4 Alexander Fleming didn't **set out** to discover penicillin when he started experimenting with bacteria, but it was one of the most important discoveries of its time.
 - 5 He spoke for 50 minutes and then **finished off** the lecture with a question and answer session.
 - 6 Firstly, I'd like to **start with** an introduction to the subject of quantum physics, before moving on to some key definitions.
 - 7 If we **allow for** variations caused by weather conditions, the results are broadly in line with our predictions.

- 33.2**
- | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 together | 3 jot down | 5 sketch out | 7 weigh up | 9 go over |
| 2 up | 4 type up | 6 Think through | 8 ended up | 10 follow up |

33.3 *Suggested answers:*

- 1 This morning we're going to **look at** Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs'.
- 2 The lecturer **pointed out** that this research is still in its very early stages.
- 3 **To start with**, I want to talk about the background to the research.
- 4 In order to **get the most out of** the seminar, it's a good idea to do the suggested reading beforehand.
- 5 Can I borrow your lecture notes? I didn't **get down** the last few points.
- 6 Don't worry about writing every word; just **jot down** the key points.
- 7 For next week's seminar, I'd like you all to **look into** one aspect of this theory.
- 8 I'd like to **round off** the lecture today with a short video.

- 33.4**
- 1 The biology department needs undergraduates to help carry **out** research on plant cells over the summer, and I'm going to apply.
 - 2 The department has just received some funding to look **at/into** the links between diet and certain types of cancer.
 - 3 He spent most of the summer working on his thesis but ended **up** having to change it when some new research came out.
 - 4 The discussion we had last week brought **up** some very interesting questions about US foreign policy in the 1950s.
 - 5 As you read **up** on the subject for your essay, don't forget to make a note of useful sources as you go.
 - 6 A group of engineering students from Bristol have set **out** to prove the strength of plastic by building the largest Lego structure in the world.

- stake out sth or stake sth out** if the police or reporters stake out a building where someone is living or hiding, they watch the building continuously in order to see who is leaving or entering it 51
- stand back** to move a short distance away from something or someone 46
- stand by** to do nothing to prevent something unpleasant from happening 7
- standby** *n* a person or thing that can be used if someone or something else is not available or cannot be used 1, 3
- stand for sth** if a group of people stand for a set of ideas, they support those ideas, or if something stands for a particular idea, it represents that idea 22
- stand-off** *n* when two groups fail to reach an agreement in talks 3
- stand up** to rise from a sitting or lying position to a standing position 1
- stand up** if an idea or claim stands up, it is proved to be correct when it is examined carefully 15
- start sb off** to help someone to start an activity, especially a piece of work 12
- to start with** to begin 33
- start-up** *n* when a business or organisation is created and starts to operate 3
- steal away** to leave a place quietly without anyone knowing 46
- steam up (sth) or steam (sth) up** if a glass surface steams up, or if something steams it up, it becomes covered with very small drops of water 48
- be steeped in sth** to have a lot of (particularly tradition or history) 49
- stem from sth** if a problem or difficult situation stems from something, it is caused by it 17
- step aside** to leave a job or position, especially so that someone else can do it 31
- stick by sth** to continue to support or use a decision, opinion, or plan 22
- stick out sth or stick sth out** to push part of your body forward or out from the rest of your body 44
- stick up** if part of something sticks up, it comes up above the surface of something, or it points upwards 15
- stick up for sth** to defend or fight for something important [e.g. rights] 22
- stick with sb** if something sticks with you, you remember it 18
- stir up sth or stir sth up** if something stirs up memories, it makes you remember events in the past, usually ones that make you feel sad 18
- store up sth or store sth up** to remember things, usually so that you can tell people about them later 18
- storm out** to leave a place in an angry way 48
- stow away** to hide on a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle, in order to travel secretly or without paying 3, 50
- stowaway** *n* a person who stows away 3, 50
- straighten up sth or straighten sth up** to make a place tidy 37
- stream into swh** to move continuously in one direction, especially if a lot of people do this at the same time 5
- stretch out** if an area of land stretches out, it continues over a long distance 49
- stretch out sth or stretch sth out** to hold a part of your body straight out in front of you 44
- strike back (at)** to attack someone who has attacked you 1, 20
- strike out** to start doing something that you have not done before 7
- strike up sth** to start a conversation or relationship with someone 39
- stumble on sth/sb** to find or meet by chance 46
- succeed in sth/doing sth** to achieve something that you have been trying to get or do 27
- suck up to sb** *informal* to try to make someone who is in a position of authority like you by doing and saying things that will please them 39
- sum up (sth/sb) or sum (sth/sb) up** to describe briefly the most important facts or characteristics of something or someone 6
- sum up sb/sth or sum sth/sb up** if something sums up someone or something, it represents the most typical qualities of that person or thing 34
- summon up sth or summon sth up** if something summons up a memory or an image, it makes you remember something or think about something 18
- summon up sth or summon sth up** to try hard to find a particular quality [e.g. courage, energy] in yourself because you need it in order to do something 41