

# 3 Phrasal verbs 1: *break, bring, call, come*

**A** Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *break*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 I'm going to have to change my car. It keeps on breaking down !

1 The two countries have \_\_\_\_\_ diplomatic relations.

2 Thieves \_\_\_\_\_ at the weekend and stole two valuable paintings.

3 Police were called in to \_\_\_\_\_ the demonstration.

4 The two prisoners \_\_\_\_\_ from their guards and escaped.

**B** Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *bring*.

1 It must have been standing in the pouring rain at Saturday's match that \_\_\_\_\_ your cold.

2 It is far more difficult nowadays to \_\_\_\_\_ children than it used to be.

3 Gold Software have announced that they are going to \_\_\_\_\_ thirty new computer games this year.

4 Every time I go camping it \_\_\_\_\_ happy memories of my youth.

Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *call*.

David said he would \_\_\_\_\_ us at 7.30 to drive us to the station.

2 Because of objections from local residents they had to \_\_\_\_\_ the open-air pop concert.

3 If you're visiting Manchester next month, why don't you \_\_\_\_\_ my sister. She'd be delighted to see you again.

4 They \_\_\_\_\_ her Emily \_\_\_\_\_ her grandmother.

D Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *come*.

1 I \_\_\_\_\_ these old photographs while I was tidying up the attic.

2 It took the boxer over a minute to \_\_\_\_\_ after he had been knocked out by his opponent.

3 She will \_\_\_\_\_ quite a lot of money when her grandmother dies.

4 I don't think much of this new washing powder. Look! The stain on my shirt still hasn't \_\_\_\_\_!

**E** Without looking back at exercises A–D, write the correct phrasal verb (*break, bring, call or come*) next to the following definitions. (They are in no particular order).

**1** collect (someone) (e.g. by car) \_\_\_\_\_

**2** raise (children) \_\_\_\_\_

**3** go and visit (someone) \_\_\_\_\_

**4** appear (e.g. the sun, a flower) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** to stop working, fail mechanically (e.g. a car)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6** find by accident \_\_\_\_\_

**7** be the cause of, lead to (e.g. a cold) \_\_\_\_\_

**8** enter a building illegally, often with force  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9** cancel \_\_\_\_\_

**10** regain consciousness (after fainting or being knocked out)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**11** recall, cause a memory to return \_\_\_\_\_

**12** inherit (money, property) \_\_\_\_\_



The meaning of a phrasal verb can sometimes, but not always, be worked out from the meaning of the particle (preposition or adverb) that follows the verb. For example, the particle *up* is used (amongst other things) to show that an action is completed, as in *Cabbage is good for you, so eat it all up!* i.e. eat all of it.

# 4 Phrasal verbs 2: *fall, get, go, keep*

Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *fall*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 The roof of the building fell in, killing two people and injuring twenty others.

1 She slipped and \_\_\_\_\_, breaking her leg in the process.

'I see Paul and Jane aren't speaking to one another.'

'Yes, they've \_\_\_\_\_ again for some reason.'

You didn't \_\_\_\_\_ that old three-card trick, did you? I didn't think you were so gullible!

'Did you get that contract you were talking about?'

'No, it \_\_\_\_\_.'

**B** Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *get*.

1 'When did you \_\_\_\_\_ from your holidays?'  
'Last Friday.'

2 The telephone socket was behind the bookcase which made it very difficult to \_\_\_\_\_.

3 I tried phoning twice but couldn't \_\_\_\_\_. The line was engaged each time.

4 All this rain is really \_\_\_\_\_ me  
\_\_\_\_\_. I wish it were summer again.

**C** Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *go*.

- 1 After months of negotiations, the deal finally \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Time always seems to \_\_\_\_\_ so quickly when you're enjoying yourself.
- 3 Don't drink that milk – it's \_\_\_\_\_!
- 4 Do you think this T-shirt will \_\_\_\_\_ my yellow shorts?

**D** Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *keep*.

- 1 Try to \_\_\_\_\_ the subject of politics tonight. We don't want Peter and Colin quarrelling again, do we?
- 2 They were walking so quickly that she found it hard to \_\_\_\_\_ with them.
- 3 Do you have any sprays or anything else that will \_\_\_\_\_ flies and mosquitoes?
- 4 You haven't told me everything, have you? You're still \_\_\_\_\_ something \_\_\_\_\_.

Without looking back at exercises A–D, write the correct phrasal verb (*fall, get, go or keep*) next to the following definitions. (They are in no particular order).

- 1 be connected (by telephone) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 match (style, colour) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 maintain same speed, level as others \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 reach (e.g. something on a high shelf) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 be deceived by (e.g. a false story) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 return (e.g. from a holiday) \_\_\_\_\_
- withhold (information) \_\_\_\_\_
- avoid a subject \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 go bad (food, milk) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 depress, demoralise \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 quarrel \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 pass (time) \_\_\_\_\_

# 5 Phrasal verbs 3: *look, put, take*

SECTION 1

**A** Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *look*. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 Could you look after the children for me on Friday evening? I've got to go to a Parent-Teacher Association meeting.

1 \_\_\_\_\_! There's a car coming.

2 Most children \_\_\_\_\_ to the summer holidays.

3 Do you \_\_\_\_\_ on your schooldays and think of them as the best days of your life.

4 If you don't know the meaning of a word, \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ in a dictionary.

5 We've had several complaints this week, Mrs Baker. I'd like you to \_\_\_\_\_ them please.

**B** Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *put*.

1 The fire brigade arrived quickly and soon \_\_\_\_\_ the fire.

2 We've decided to get rid of our coal fires and \_\_\_\_\_ central heating instead.

3 He tried to \_\_\_\_\_ some money each week in case of emergencies.

4 By the way, James, there's no meeting tonight after all. It's been \_\_\_\_\_ until next week.

5 Their dog was old and in pain, so they decided to have it \_\_\_\_\_.

C Complete the sentences below with a suitable phrasal verb using *take*.

1 'Your daughter has a very good voice, Mr Blake.'  
'Well, she \_\_\_\_\_ her mother, not me. I can't sing a note.'

2 If you want a job, Julie, *The Book Store* are \_\_\_\_\_ extra staff for Christmas.

3 I tried playing golf once but never really \_\_\_\_\_ it. As far as I was concerned, it was boring.

4 He sounded so convincing when he said he was a film director that we were all completely \_\_\_\_\_. You can imagine how surprised we were to learn that in reality he was an out-of-work plumber.

5 There's a rumour going round that Rainbow Computers are planning to \_\_\_\_\_ a top American software company.

D Without looking back at exercises A–C, write the correct phrasal verb (*look*, *put* or *take*) next to the following definitions. (They are in no particular order).

1 examine, investigate (e.g. a complaint) \_\_\_\_\_

2 develop a liking for (something) \_\_\_\_\_



- 3 save (money) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 4 try to find (information) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 5 extinguish (a fire) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 6 gain control of a company \_\_\_\_\_

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- 7 kill humanely (a pet) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 8 take care of, care for (someone) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 9 resemble (in looks, talent) \_\_\_\_\_

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- 10 remember the past \_\_\_\_\_

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One way to work on your knowledge of phrasal verbs is to draw a matrix like the one below and, using a good EFL dictionary, see how many combinations you can find.

	away	across	down	in	off	up
break	✓					
cut						
give						
keep						
fall						
see						
hold						

**Test 1**

- 1 had been stolen
- 2 phoned
- 3 leaving
- 4 returned
- 5 found
- 6 had been brought back
- 7 was
- 8 opened
- 9 found
- 10 apologizing
- 11 wrote/had written
- 12 did not have/didn't have
- 13 had gone
- 14 hoped
- 15 did not/didn't/wouldn't **mind**
- 16 had taken
- 17 (had) enclosed
- 18 were
- 19 had been trying
- 20 had
- 21 had expected
- 22 were
- 23 decided
- 24 got
- 25 was awaiting/awaited
- 26 had been burgled
- 27 had been stolen
- 28 knew
- 29 lying
- 30 recognized
- 31 saying
- 32 enjoyed

**Test 3**

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| A 1 broken off  | 3 break up         |
| 2 broke in      | 4 broke away       |
| B 1 brought on  | 3 bring out        |
| 2 bring up      | 4 brings back      |
| C 1 call for    | 3 call on          |
| 2 call off      | 4 called ... after |
| D 1 came across | 3 come into        |
| 2 come round    | 4 come out         |
| E 1 call for    | 7 bring on         |
| 2 bring up      | 8 break in         |
| 3 call on       | 9 call off         |
| 4 come out      | 10 come round      |
| 5 break down    | 11 bring back      |
| 6 come across   | 12 come into       |

**Test 4**

- |                            |
|----------------------------|
| A 1 fell over              |
| 2 fallen out               |
| 3 fall for                 |
| 4 fell through             |
| B 1 get back               |
| 2 get to/get at            |
| 3 get through              |
| 4 getting ... down         |
| C 1 went through           |
| 2 go by                    |
| 3 gone off                 |
| 4 go with                  |
| D 1 keep off               |
| 2 keep up                  |
| 3 keep away                |
| 4 keeping ... back         |
| E 1 get through            |
| 2 go with                  |
| 3 keep up (with)           |
| 4 get to/get at            |
| 5 fall for                 |
| 6 get back                 |
| 7 keep back                |
| 8 keep off                 |
| 9 go off                   |
| 10 get someone <b>down</b> |
| 11 fall out (with)         |
| 12 go by                   |

**Test 5**

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|-----------------|---------------|
| A 1 Look out    | 4 look ... up |
| 2 look forward  | 5 look into   |
| 3 look back     |               |
| B 1 put out     | 4 put off     |
| 2 put in        | 5 put down    |
| 3 put by        |               |
| C 1 takes after | 4 taken in    |
| 2 taking on     | 5 take over   |
| 3 took to       |               |
| D 1 look into   | 6 take over   |
| 2 take to       | 7 put down    |
| 3 put by        | 8 look after  |
| 4 look up       | 9 take after  |
| 5 put out       | 10 look back  |