Phrasal verbs — free worksheet

Sentences with a gap; choose the phrasal verb that fits from four options.

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1. Phrasal Verbs in Everyday Situations

Phrasal verbs · Phrasal verbs across different areas of daily life: everyday life, work, study, travel, health, technology, relationships and money

For questions 1–8, choose the phrasal verb (A, B, C or D) that best completes each sentence.

1. I don't know how she _____ her noisy neighbours every night without complaining.

A) puts up with B) puts across C) puts down D) puts off

2. After hours of brainstorming, the marketing team finally _____ an original slogan that nobody had ever used before.

A) came down with B) came across C) came round to D) came up with

3. If you come across an unfamiliar technical term while reading a research article, it's worth taking a moment to _____ its precise meaning in a specialised dictionary rather than guessing from context.

A) look forward to B) look into C) look up D) look over

4. We decided to _____ of the hotel a day early because the constant construction noise next door was unbearable.

A) drop out B) back out C) pull out D) check out

5. She's been feeling exhausted and thinks she might be _____ flu.

A) coming across B) coming up with C) coming round D) coming down with

6. You should always _____ before installing any new software, in case something goes wrong and all your data is lost.

A) back off B) back up C) back down D) back out

7. They _____ each other over something trivial and haven't spoken in months.

A) fell behind B) fell through C) fell for D) fell out with

8. After years of careless spending, he somehow managed to _____ debts amounting to tens of thousands of pounds.

A) run up B) run down C) run through D) run into

2. Phrasal Verbs in Everyday Situations

Phrasal verbs · Phrasal verbs across everyday life, work, study, travel, health, technology, relationships and money

For questions 1–8, choose the phrasal verb (A, B, C or D) that best completes each sentence.

1. We need to buy more coffee — we've completely _____.

A) run off B) run over C) run out D) run through

2. Could you _____ me at tomorrow's meeting? I've got a dentist appointment and can't make it.

A) stand by B) stand in for C) stand out from D) stand up for

3. Before the exam, I'll _____ my notes one more time to make sure everything's clear.

A) look down on B) look into C) look up D) look over

4. We arrived at the airport three hours early so we could _____ without rushing.

A) check in B) check over C) check up on D) check out

5. She's been feeling awful all week — she must have _____ a bad cold.

A) come up with B) come across C) come down with D) come round

6. Make sure you _____ your files before updating the software, in case something goes wrong.

A) back out B) back off C) back down D) back up

7. My sister and I _____ over something silly last month, but we've made up now.

A) fell out B) fell through C) fell behind D) fell for

8. I've been trying to _____ a little money each month for our holiday next year.

A) put down B) put aside C) put off D) put up with

Answer Key

1. Phrasal Verbs in Everyday Situations

1. A) puts up with

2. D) came up with

3. C) look up

4. D) check out

5. D) coming down with

6. B) back up

7. D) fell out with

8. A) run up

1. 'Puts up with' means to tolerate something unpleasant without complaining, which fits enduring noisy neighbours every night. 'Puts down' means to write something or to criticise someone, 'puts off' means to postpone something or to discourage someone, and 'puts across' means to communicate an idea clearly — none describe simply tolerating noise.

2. 'Came up with' means to invent or produce an idea through your own effort, which matches the mention of hours of brainstorming to create something original. 'Came across' means to find something by chance, which contradicts the deliberate brainstorming described; 'came round to' means to accept an idea after resisting it, which needs an earlier disagreement not mentioned here; and 'came down with' means to fall ill, which is unrelated to inventing a slogan.

3. 'Look up' means to search for information such as a word's meaning in a reference source, which fits consulting a specialised dictionary. 'Look into' means to investigate a situation or problem, not a single word's definition; 'look over' means to review something quickly rather than search for a precise meaning; and 'look forward to' means to anticipate something with pleasure, which makes no sense here.

4. 'Check out' means to leave a hotel formally after paying the bill, which fits leaving early because of the noise. 'Back out' means to withdraw from a commitment before it even begins, which does not fit someone who had already been staying there; 'drop out' means to quit a course or programme, not a hotel stay; and 'pull out' means to withdraw from an agreement or project, which does not describe simply leaving accommodation.

5. 'Coming down with' means to start suffering from an illness, which fits catching the flu. 'Coming round' means to regain consciousness or to visit casually, 'coming up with' means to produce an idea, and 'coming across' means to find something by chance or to give a certain impression — none describe falling ill.

6. 'Back up' means to make a copy of data for safety, which matches the warning about losing data if something goes wrong. 'Back down' means to give up a position in an argument; 'back off' means to stop pressuring or threatening someone; and 'back out' means to withdraw from a plan or agreement — none of these protect data before an installation.

7. 'Fell out with' means to argue and stop being friendly with someone, which fits months of silence over something trivial. 'Fell for' means to be deceived by someone or to fall in love, 'fell behind' means to make less progress than others, and 'fell through' means a plan failed to happen — none describe a quarrel between people.

8. 'Run up' means to allow a bill or debt to grow through careless spending, which fits accumulating a large amount owed. 'Run into' normally pairs with the uncountable word 'debt' to mean becoming indebted, not with a specific plural sum like 'debts amounting to tens of thousands'; 'run through' means to use up money or resources quickly, which does not describe debts

themselves; and 'run down' means to criticise someone or gradually deplete something like a battery, which is unrelated to owing money.

2. Phrasal Verbs in Everyday Situations

1. C) run out
2. B) stand in for
3. D) look over
4. A) check in
5. C) come down with
6. D) back up
7. A) fell out
8. B) put aside

1. "Run out" means a supply has been completely used up, which fits having no coffee left. "Run over" means to hit with a vehicle or exceed a time limit, "run through" means to rehearse or go through something quickly, and "run off" means to print copies or leave hurriedly — none describe an empty supply.

2. To "stand in for" someone means to take their place temporarily, which is exactly what is needed when a person cannot attend. "Stand up for" means to defend someone, "stand out from" means to be noticeably different, and "stand by" means to support or wait ready, none of which suit replacing someone at an event.

3. "Look over" means to examine or review something quickly, which matches checking notes before an exam. "Look down on" means to despise, "look into" means to investigate, and "look up" means to search for a specific piece of information — none describe a final review of existing notes.

4. "Check in" means to register at an airport or hotel desk before a trip, which fits arriving early for a flight. "Check out" means to leave a hotel, "check up on" means to monitor someone, and "check over" means to examine something carefully — none describe arriving before departure.

5. "Come down with" means to become ill with something, which fits describing why someone feels awful. "Come up with" means to think of an idea, "come across" means to find by chance, and "come round" means to regain consciousness or visit — none relate to catching an illness.

6. "Back up" means to make a copy of data for safety, which fits protecting files before an update. "Back off" means to retreat, "back down" means to give up in an argument, and "back out" means to withdraw from an agreement — none involve saving data.

7. "Fall out" means to have an argument with someone, which matches the disagreement followed by making up. "Fall for" means to be deceived or to fall in love, "fall through" means a plan fails, and "fall behind" means to lag behind — none describe a quarrel between people.

8. "Put aside" means to save something gradually for later use, which fits saving money monthly for a future holiday. "Put up with" means to tolerate, "put off" means to postpone, and "put down" means to write something or make an initial payment — none match regular saving.

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