

Explanations

This unit (and Grammar 23 and 24) assume that a wide range of phrasal verb: and their grammatical types, are already known. These units focus on multiple meaning, and alternative ways of expressing meanings of phrasal verbs. Note that there may be other meanings for the verbs listed here.

Rip off (charge too much - colloquial)

*You paid £50? They really **ripped** you off!*

Run down (criticise)

*She's always **running down** her husband.*

(lose power, allow to decline)

*I think the batteries are **running down**.*

Run into (meet)

*Guess who I **ran into** at the supermarket!*

Run to (have enough money)

*I don't think we can **run** to a holiday abroad this year.*

Run over (check - also *run through*)

*Let's **run over** the plan once more.*

Run up (a bill - let a bill get longer without paying)

I ran up a huge telephone bill at the hotel.

Run up against (encounter - usually *a problem*)

*We've **run up against** a slight problem.*

See someone off (go to station, airport, etc to say goodbye to someone)

*I went to the station to **see them off**.*

See through (realise the truth about)

*I **saw through** his intentions at once.*

Send up (make fun of by imitating)

*Jean is always **sending up** the French teacher.*

Set about (start working)

*We must **set about** re-organising the office.*

Set in (establish itself - especially weather)

*I think this rain has **set in** for the day.*

Set out (give in detail in writing)

*This document **sets out** all the Union demands.*

(arrange)

*I've **set out** the refreshments in the hall.*

(start an action)

*Sue **set out** to write a biography but it became a novel.*

Set up (establish)

*An inquiry into the accident has been **set up**.*

- Set (up) on (attack)
*We were **set upon** by a gang of hooligans.*
- Sink in (realise slowly - colloquial, intransitive)
*Slowly the realisation that I had won began to **sink in**.*
- Slip up (make a mistake - colloquial)
*Someone **slipped up** and my application was lost.*
- Sort out (find a solution - colloquial)
*Don't worry, Mary will **sort out** your problems.*
- Stand by (keep to an agreement)
*The company agreed to **stand** by its original commitment.*
- Stand for (represent - initials)
*E.g. **stands for** *exempli gratia*, it's Latin.
 (tolerate)
*I will not **stand for** this kind of behaviour in my house!**
- Stand in for (take the place of)
*Carol has kindly agreed to **stand in for** Graham at the monthly meeting.*
- Stand up to (resist, bear stress)
*The engine won't **stand up to** the strain.*
- Step down (resign - colloquial)
*The Chairman has **stepped down** after criticism from shareholders.*
- Step up (increase)
*Production at the Leeds plant has been **stepped up**.*
- Stick up for (defend - especially yourself, your rights - colloquial)
*You must learn to **stick up for** yourself.*
- Take in (deceive)
*Don't be **taken in** by her apparent shyness.*
- Take (it) out on (make someone else suffer because of one's own sufferings)
*I know you are unhappy, but don't **take it out on** me!*
- Take off (imitate - colloquial)
*Dave **takes off** the Prime Minister really well.*
- Take on (acquire a new characteristic)
*My grandmother has **taken on** a new lease of life since her operation.
 (do something extra)
 She has **taken on** too much with a full-time job as well.*
- Take out (insurance - sign an insurance agreement)
*Ann has **taken out** life insurance.*
- Take over (gain control of)
*The army tried to **take over** the country.*
- Take to someone (develop a liking for)
*You'll soon **take to** your new boss, I'm sure.*
- Take up (time - occupy time)
*The meeting **took up** a whole morning.*
- Talk out of or into (dissuade from, persuade into)
*Paul **talked me into** going skiing, against my better judgement.*

Tell off (scold - colloquial)

*Our teacher **told** us off for being late.*

Tie in with (be in agreement with)

*I'm afraid your party doesn't quite **tie in with** our arrangements.*

Track down (trace the whereabouts of)

*The police **tracked down** the killer and arrested him.*

Try out (test - a machine)

*Let's **try out** the new washing machine.*

Turn down (reject an offer)

*Another company offered me a job but I **turned** them **down**.*

Turn out (happen to be in the end)

*He **turned out** to be an old friend of Helen's.*

(come to a meeting or to form a crowd)

*Thousands of fans **turned out** to welcome the team.*

Turn up (be discovered by chance)

*Don't worry about that missing book, it's bound to **turn up** sooner or later.*

(arrive - often unexpectedly)

*Not many people **turned up** for the lesson.*

Wear off (lose effect - especially a drug)

*These painkillers **wear off** after about two hours.*

Work out (calculate - also *work out at* for specific amounts)

*The hotel bill **worked out at** over £500.*

Practice

Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) Tom asked Jane out, but she *turned down him/turned him down*.
- b) *In the end/Initially* I set out to prove that such a voyage was possible.
- c) If he treated me like that I wouldn't stand for *him/it*.
- d) The government should set up *a committee/a minister* to sort the matter out.
- e) Both teams stepped up *the pace/the rate* in the second half.
- f) The dog didn't take to *its new owner/liking me*.
- g) *The good news/The prize* hasn't really sunk in yet.
- h) I *told her off/told off her* for leaving the office unlocked.
- i) After a week on the ice the expedition ran into *difficulties/potholes*.
- j) They really rip *the bill/you off* in this restaurant!

2 Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Telesales have become the bane of my life. Recently I have been so inundated with them that I now refuse to answer the phone between 6 and 9 in the evenings. Friends and relatives understand, and don't bother calling at these times. Last week I was almost (1) *...D....* accepting a year's subscription to a video company, before the red mist descended just in time, and I slammed the phone down. If it's not advisors promising to (2).....out your finances for you, or persuading you to (3).....life insurance, it will usually be home improvement companies.

My advice is, don't be taken (4).....by the friendly chat at the beginning of the conversation. You can (5).....all their charming chit chat with ease - all they really want is your custom and your money. So (6).....them, and, preferably politely, just say 'no'.

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|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) A set in | B stuck up for | C worn off | D talked into |
| 2) A try | B set | C sort | D run |
| 3) A run into | B take out | C set about | D stand by |
| 4) A in | B over | C up | D off |
| 5) A turn out | B take to | C tell off | D see through |
| 6) A stick up for | B run up against | C tie in with | D stand up to |

Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Meetings which (1) ..D... too much of managers' time are being blamed for inefficiency and lost revenue, according to a report from the Institute of Managerial Affairs. The report concludes that a lot of meetings which take place in the business world are a waste of time: the decisions made in them could be arrived at by other means, or the manager's presence delegated, with a capable deputy standing (2).....the manager. But it seems this message has not (3).....in yet, for the number of hours devoted to meetings continues to increase annually, in most countries of the world. In-house meetings are bad enough, but some companies insist on lavish affairs in hotels or restaurants, (4)..... huge bills in the process. With delicious irony, one leading finance company has (5).....a committee to investigate the new scourge of unnecessary meetings. The number of weekly meetings for the committee has

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|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1) A run over | B set in | C turn out | D take up |
| 2) A by | B in for | C up to | D for |
| 3) A sunk | B set | C taken | D turned |
| 4) A taking on | B sending up | C working out | D running up |
| 5) A run into | B sorted out | C taken out | D set up |
| 6) A sent | B stepped | C run | D taken |

Put one suitable word in each space.

- a) The government has allowed the coal industry to run ..down.....
- b) Robert was set.....by two masked men and robbed.
- c) Why didn't you stick.....for me instead of saying nothing?
- d) Let's run.....the details of the arrangements just once more.
- e) Most of my time is taken.....with answering the phone.
- f) I've run.....against a number of difficulties in this area.
- g) The buffet was set.....on a number of low tables.
- h) The next day, teams of local people set.....clearing up the damage.
- i) No one expected the government to stand.....the agreement.
- j) Hundreds of people turned.....in the rain to see the prince.

5 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- a) I need someone to take my place at the ceremony.
in
I need someone to **..stand** in for me.....at the ceremony.
- b) In the end it was quite a sunny day after all.
out
It.....be quite a sunny day after all.
- c) Members of the audience started sending up the speaker.
of
Members of the audience started.....the speaker.
- d) Janet persuaded me not to sell my house.
out
Janet.....my house.
- e) Brian takes off the French teacher really well.
imitation
Brian does.....the French teacher.
- f) The effect of these pills only lasts for three hours.
off
The effect of these pills.....three hours.
- g) Harry swore he would stand by his promise.
back
Harry swore that he would not.....his promise.
- h) Terry has just insured her life.
out
Terry has just.....life insurance policy.
- i) In the end it was discovered that Joe was the thief.
out
Joe.....the thief.
- j) I need a calculator to arrive at the total.
work
I can't a calculator.

→ SEE ALSO

Grammar 23 and 24: Phrasal verbs
Grammar 26: Consolidation 5