



lingoda

Phrasal verbs for describing people ✨

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_3041G_EN

LANGUAGE
English



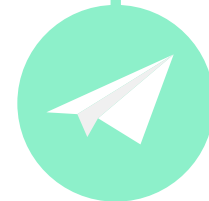


Goals

- Can recognise and explain the meaning of some important phrasal verbs.
- Can describe people and narrate an event using these phrasal verbs.



She **comes across** as a bit shy but once you get to know her you'll find her sense of humour really **shines through**. She tends to **hang back** in group situations but yesterday I had lunch with her, just the two of us, and I was **doubled up** laughing at some of her jokes. She's really great fun!





Introduction

- In this lesson you will learn advanced phrasal verbs that we use for narration and describing people.



Now that he has recovered from the surgery he's **making up for** lost time, he's taking a round-the-world cruise leaving next month!



Reviewing phrasal verbs

A **phrasal verb** acts like a **verb** but is made up of two words or more: a **verb** and a **particle**.

Examples of phrasal verbs in use

He will **pick up** the children after school.

I keep **putting off** my dentist appointment because I hate going to the dentist.

She will **carry on** working until the end of the month.

She is going to **mull it over** and will get back to you by Monday.

They want to **look into** getting better facilities but cost is an issue.





Phrasal verbs

What phrasal verbs do you already use? List as many as you can and give an example sentence with each.





Check your understanding of phrasal verbs

1. I'm not sure if the jacket will fit. I'll have to _____ .

- a. try it on b. take it on c. put it on d. show it off

2. It was a really great offer but she had to _____ .

- a. turn it down b. switch it off c. take it down d. put it off

3. Take as much as you need. It's near its sell by date and I want to _____ .

- a. switch it off b. use it up c. take it off d. pick it up

4. It seems a bit suspicious to me. Something doesn't _____ .

- a. make up b. follow on c. add up d. account for



Check your understanding of phrasal verbs

1. It would be a challenging role but that really _____ .

- a. makes sense b. allows for c. applies for d. appeals to me

2. The burglars _____ .

- a. broke into the house b. broke up the house c. crashed into the house d. took over the house

3. Please don't complete the last page of the form. We _____ that section.

- a. pick it off b. drop it off c. fill out d. make it up

4. This is my stop. I need to _____ .

- a. take off b. get over c. get off d. get on



Phrasal verbs used when talking about memory

**to come
flooding back**

When I smelt the roasted chestnuts it all **came flooding back**. Those memories of family Christmases in that tiny cottage, mother nestled in her chair by the fireplace, and the Christmas tree that stretched almost to the roof.

to stir up

Birthdays are difficult for him, they **stir up** memories from a difficult childhood, of birthdays that were not such happy occasions.

**to put sth
behind one**

It was a difficult time but now I just want to **put** the memories of that house **behind me** and get on with the rest of my life.

**to come back
to one**

Yes, I think you did tell me about her before, it's **coming back to me**. Remind me again, was she in your class at school? Is that how you knew her?



Phrasal verbs used when talking about memory

to block out

Now I just try to **block out** any memories of that time, it's too painful for me to think of it.

to remind one of

I love hearing his accent, it **reminds me of** my grandfather who also came from Ireland.

to associate sth with

I **associate** the smell of cinnamon **with** Christmas – when I was a child we used to always make cinnamon biscuits at Christmas time.

to let sth eat away at one

Try not to **let** the memory of that difficult time **eat away at you**. It's better to try and focus on memories from happier times.



Recalling the past



You know, I went to the beach with Laura the other day and it **reminded** me **of** all the summers we used to spend there as children. Do you remember, Gran? You and Grandad used to always buy us a new bucket and spade, and we would have fish and chips for dinner!

Oh my goodness, yes, anytime I'm walking along the seashore and see children building sandcastles it all comes **flooding back**. What was the name of your friend from school who used to sometimes come on holiday with you too?



Hmmm, let me think, did she have red hair and glasses? Her name is on the tip of my tongue, give me a second and it'll **come back to me**...

Laura Gordon! I just remembered, oh she was a lovely girl. Whatever happened to her, how is she these days? I always associate her with strawberries! Don't you remember the summer she refused to eat anything but strawberry ice cream?





A trip down memory lane

On the previous slide you read a dialogue between two people recalling a shared memory from the past. Can you share anecdotes from your past using the phrasal verbs below?



to come
flooding back

to remind one
of something

to come back to
one

to associate ...
with ...



More phrasal verb practice

Role play the characters of a father and son. The son has confided in his father that he regrets a lot of his choices and behaviour in the past. The father must give advice to help the son move on, while the son must explain the difficulty of living with memories of his past behaviour. Decide which character you would like to play.

Life is too short to let...



I can't shake the feeling of regret...

to let sth eat away at one
to put sth behind one

to block out
to stir up
to come flooding back

Describing movements and emotions: sidling

to sidle up, to sidle away, to sidle off

A **sidle** is a type of walk that is timid and avoids drawing attention to itself.

Someone who is shy or embarrassed might **sidle up** to someone else, or someone who is guilty or embarrassed might **sidle away** from a situation or person. A person can also **sidle off**, which means they left for an unspecified destination.



Seeing her eating a sandwich, the little dog **sidled up** to her and nestled by her feet, hoping to be given some scraps.



Embarrassed, Nellie **sidled off**, hoping nobody had noticed her.

Describing movements and emotions: to light up

The phrasal verb **to light up** relates to a person's mood, expression, or face.

If someone is very happy about something, interested in something, or perhaps in love, their mood or face might **light up**. You can also say that someone's face **lights up** with a smile.



As soon as the conversation turned to music, Jenny's mood **lit up**.



At the mere mention of her name, Arnold's face **lit up** with a smile.



Describing movements and emotions

to come across

He **comes across** as a bit gruff when you meet him at first but he's actually got a heart of gold. When I was sick, he came to visit me every day in hospital.

to shine through

I think she's definitely the right candidate for the role. Her passion for the job really **shone through** during the interview.

**to choke back
(tears/anger)**

Laura **choked back her tears** as she said goodbye to her friends, but she knew moving away was the best decision.

**to have
someone down
as something**

I **had him down as being** very rude at first, but it turns out he's actually just very shy.



Match the right phrasal verb with the situation, then make a sentence!

A

to come across

to sidle up

to have
someone down
as something

to light up

to shine
through

to choke back
(tears/anger)

B

A little boy when
he sees his
father at the
school gates.

A mother seeing
her daughter
graduate.

A woman talking
about the dream
house she has
found.

A car showroom
assistant
approaching a
couple looking at
an expensive car.

Someone who
seems boring
but is actually
just shy.

Someone talking
about someone
they once thought
was very
conventional but
now has a tattoo.



She tried to choke back her
tears but they kept flowing



Describing people

Look at the six people below. Make sentences about them as if you are telling a story, either talking with your friend or narrating a book. Make sure to use a different phrasal verb for each person.





What's going on?

Look at the picture below. What's the story behind the picture? Describe the situation using as many phrasal verbs as possible. You can imagine yourself as a character or an onlooker and can choose to tell the story in the first or third person accordingly.



to come across
to sidle away

to choke back
anger
to have someone
down as sth



Idioms containing phrasal verbs

to let off steam

Yes, I heard all about it, I just got off the phone with him. I think he needed **to let off steam**, he talked about nothing else for over thirty minutes and I couldn't get a word in edgeways.

to get off on the wrong foot

Look, I think when we first met we **got off on the wrong foot**. I'm sorry if I seemed a bit rude. Can we start again?

to put in a good word for someone

I think there is a position opening up soon in our department. If you're still looking for a job I could **put in a good word for you**?

to dig your heels in

Mark was open to the idea but Cathy really **dug her heels in**. She said she much preferred the original plan, so they're sticking to it.



Idioms containing phrasal verbs

**to be going
round in circles**

I've been **going round in circles** thinking about it all day but I just can't make up my mind.

**to get on like a
house on fire**

Tom and Harry met at Jerry's party and spent the whole night swapping stories and tips about hillwalking. They **got on like a house on fire!**

**to let the cat
out of the bag**

Oh no! It was supposed to be a surprise and now I've gone and **let the cat out of the bag!**

**to make up
one's mind**

I know I need to come to a decision soon but I just need a couple of days to think things over before I **make up my mind.**



Thinking about meaning

Look at these idioms again. They present some very vivid images. Can you try to guess where they come from and why they might mean the things they do?

to get off on the
wrong foot

to let off steam

to let the cat
out of the bag

to dig your
heels in

to be going
round in circles

to get on like a
house on fire

A blank sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing notes.



Oops! I let the cat out of the bag!



When someone lets the cat out of the bag they give away a secret, often by mistake. What about you? Have you ever let the cat out of the bag? Tell your teacher about it!



Practise using phrasal verbs containing idioms

We use these idioms a lot when telling stories about our lives. Can you think of an example from your own life for each idiom below? If you can't think of an example, just invent a little story!



to get on like a house on fire

to be going round in circles

to dig your heels in

to get off on the wrong foot

to let off steam

to let the cat out of the bag



Practise telling anecdotes

Look at the situations below. Imagine yourself playing the part of each different person and practise telling anecdotes using appropriate phrasal verbs from the lesson. Use as many phrasal verbs as you can, and be as imaginative as possible!

- Someone telling a story of how they thought negatively about their new neighbour, and how they are now good friends.
- An old lady talking about meeting her husband at a dance 50 years ago.
- Someone reflecting on how they found it hard to decide what to do after leaving school.
- Someone talking about making a difficult decision about a new job offer.





Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Answer key

Exercise p. 7

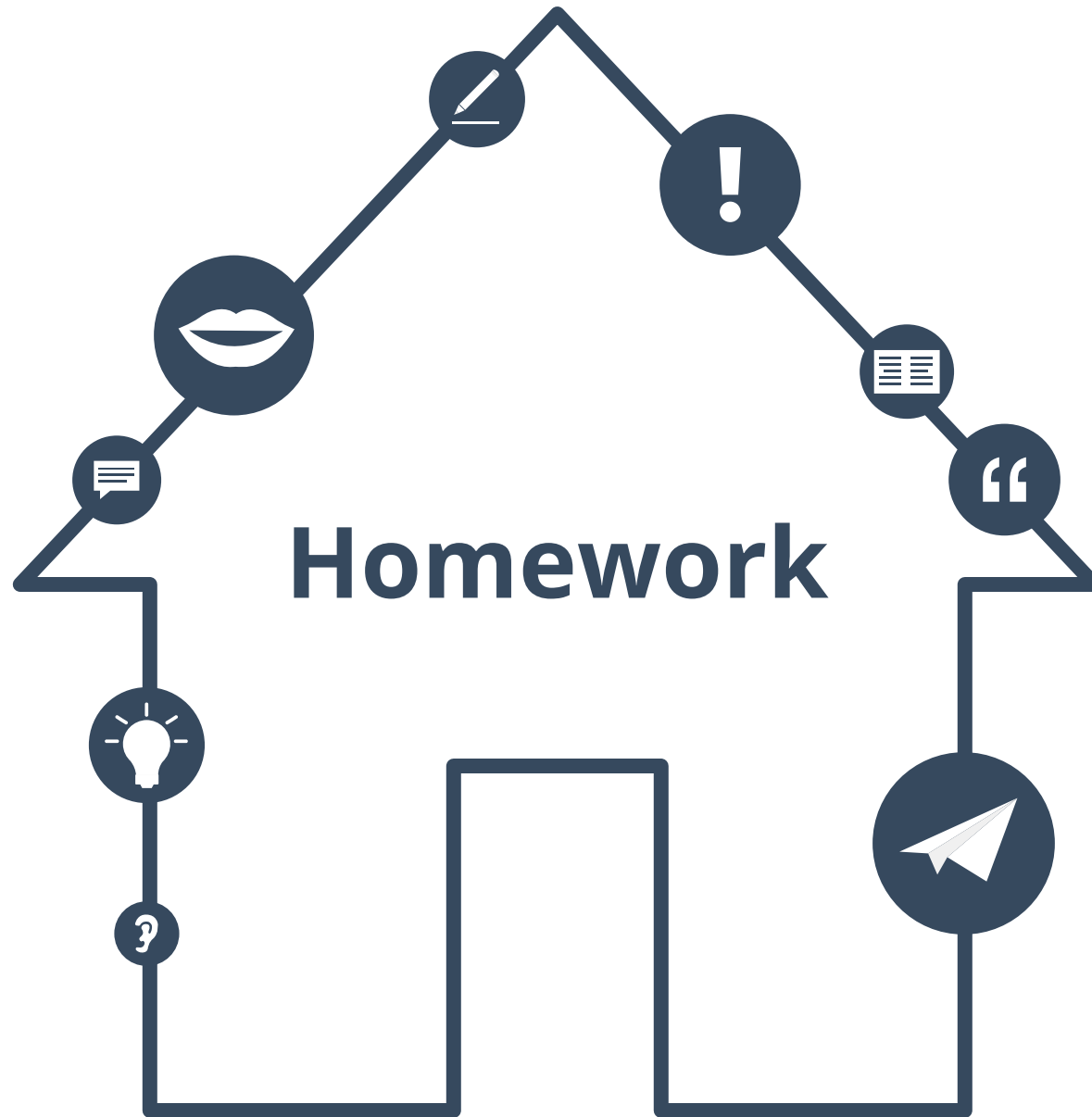
1. a
2. a
3. b
4. c

Exercise p. 8

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. c

Exercise p. 17

to come across → someone who seems boring but is actually just shy
to have someone down as something → someone talking about someone they once
thought was conventional but now has a tattoo
to sidle up → a car showroom assistant approaching a couple looking at an
expensive car
to light up → a little boy when he sees his father at the school gates
to shine through → a woman talking about the dream house she has found





Homework evaluation activity

How did you find this lesson? Which parts of the class did you find easiest, and which were most challenging? Give your feedback here.

A vertical feedback form with a white background and a light gray border. On the left side, there is a vertical column of ten small circles, resembling a spiral binding. To the right of this column are ten horizontal lines for writing feedback.



Language of narration practise

Look back through the lesson and choose 15 of your favourite phrasal verbs. Can you write a sentence with each?

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