

## SECTION 3

### Verbs used with prepositional and adverbial phrases

#### 1 VERBS OF MOVEMENT

Most verbs of movement are commonly followed by a prepositional phrase or an adverbial phrase:

*The van skidded into the back of the car in front.*

*The rescue workers hurried towards the scene of the accident.*

*The smell of something wonderful wafted through from the kitchen.*

- Other verbs we use in this way include:  
*drift pour speed slide stagger pull in set off leap storm bound turn arrive float burst limp race shuffle*

#### watch out!

We use *home* as an adverb after verbs of movement. We don't use a preposition:

✗ *I'm going to home as soon as we've finished.*

✓ *I'm going home as soon as we've finished.*

#### 2 VERBS OF POSITION

Some verbs which indicate the position of things are commonly followed by a prepositional phrase or an adverbial phrase:

*I grabbed my coat which was hanging behind the door.*

*We all sat at our desks and stared out of the window.*

*The sandy beach stretches for miles along this part of the coast.*

*His land extends as far as the eye can see.*

*She turned his chair so it faced towards the sea.*

- Other verbs we use in this way include:  
*remain end up occur stay settle stick*

#### 3 VERB + OBJECT + PREPOSITIONAL / ADVERBIAL PHRASE

With some verbs, the prepositional or adverbial phrase commonly follows an object:

*I picked up the picture and replaced it on the table.*

*You need to plunge the tomatoes into boiling water to help remove their skins.*

*Pop the pies into the oven for five minutes to heat them through.*

- Other verbs we use in this way include:  
*screw position load lean dump stuff thrust toss lower transfer drag invite urge tempt force steer*

#### 4 VERB + ADVERB

Some verbs are commonly followed by an adverb describing a particular quality:

*The car handles particularly well on corners.*

*Christoula's English is coming along nicely.*

*You'll find the section you need breaks off easily.*

- Other verbs we use in this way include:  
*begin end sell progress dress react behave eat go burn scratch cut do*
- A small group of verbs is commonly followed by *together*:  
*We must all stick together if we're going to survive.*
- Verbs we use in this way include:  
*pull get knock around move in club live*

#### 5 VERB + WAY

Some verbs are commonly followed by a possessive pronoun + *way* + prepositional / adverbial phrase:

*Spiderman managed to smash his way into the robbers' hideaway.*

*The advance guard slowly crawled their way across no-man's-land.*

- Other verbs we use in this way include:  
*fight force blast dig find make edge inch squeeze worm charm talk cheat trick buy lie negotiate*

#### ? check

Match each of these sentences with one of the five main points above.

- We were wandering around in circles for most of the afternoon, trying to find the house.
- I can't believe you've just munched your way through a whole packet of biscuits.
- William is faring quite well after his illness, though he still tires easily.
- If I were you, I'd shove the whole lot into the back of the cupboard and forget about it.
- The signpost pointed south, which was unexpected.

## Practice

**1** A prison escape and each prisoner chose a different escape route. Write the letter for the appropriate verb (a–k) in the numbered blanks (1–10) in the passage. The first (0) is given as an example.

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| a dived          | (g climbed)       |
| b leapt          | h strolled across |
| c ambled through | i crept           |
| d burrowed       | j got on          |
| e dug            | k slid            |
| f crawled        |                   |

One prisoner ....g.... (0) over the wall and ..... (1) on to the ground below. Another ..... (2) along the length of the prison wall and ..... (3) into the river below. A third man ..... (4) a tunnel under the wall of his cell and ..... (5) his way out of the prison. The fourth prisoner ..... (6) up to the wire fence at the back and ..... (7) through a hole in it. The last man to escape simply ..... (8) the gate, ..... (9) the road and ..... (10) a bus.

**2** Fill each of the blanks with one of the verb + adverb collocations listed. You may need to change the form of the verb.

Example: x smiled sweetly y records clearly  
(smile sweetly) eat healthily run smoothly  
fall dramatically crease easily react badly behave badly  
rise steadily (record clearly) start promptly

(x She simply ..... and left the room.)

(y Her voice always ..... remarkably ..... .)

- This silk dress ..... very .....
- I regret to say that orders ..... over the past few months.
- Unfortunately he ..... to not getting the job last week.
- More and more pressure is being put on people to .....
- We want the festival to ..... through the whole weekend.
- We mustn't get carried away yet but exports .....
- Fans who ..... are something of a problem.
- Lessons will ..... at 8.30 a.m.

**3** Fill each of the blanks with one of the verbs listed. You may need to change the form of the verb.

worm find inch fight dig smash work lie

- She rapidly ..... her way up from Junior Assistant to Head of Department.
- The couple were able to ..... their way back to their hotel with the help of the new moon.
- The doctor ..... his way most convincingly out of a potentially embarrassing situation.
- He cleverly ..... his way into Sonia's affections with mock-humility and subtle flattery.
- The gang ..... their way out of the gaol using wooden poles stolen from the workshop.
- The fire officer ..... his way along the ledge until he could just touch the girl's outstretched hand.
- From 2–0 down, United bravely ..... themselves out of a hole and emerged 2–3 winners.
- The following week they ..... their way back from 3–0 to earn a well-deserved draw.

**4** Two of these verbs or verb phrases can fill each numbered blank in the passage. Write the two letters (a–r) for them in each space.

- |              |           |                          |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| a ends       | g extends | m stretches              |
| b racing     | h stay    | n flooding               |
| c meet       | i begins  | o racing in my direction |
| d don't die  | j stops   | p running towards me     |
| e facing the | k remain  | q looking out to         |
| f starts     | l live on | r converge               |

There is a point on the shore where paths seem to ..... (1), where the land ..... (2) and the sea ..... (3). The beach ..... (4) for miles on either side. I stood there last night ..... (5) sea and all those memories came ..... (6) back. For a moment I saw her ..... (7). The memories ..... (8). Such events ..... (9) with you forever, don't they?