

Getting down to phrasal verbs

Introduction and aim

Three of the most common verbs used in phrasal verbs are *come*, *get* and *put*. In the following activities students use their dictionaries to help them increase their understanding and use of a selection of these phrasal verbs.

Point out to your students that in the *Macmillan English Dictionary* (MED), phrasal verbs and their definitions can be found at the end of the main entry for the verb.

The answers have been taken from the MED.

Time

Allow five minutes each for activities 1, 2 and 3, and ten minutes for activity 4.

Procedures

► Activity 1

- 1 Explain that in this activity students have to match the sentences with a suitable ending.
- 2 When the students have finished ask them to discuss the meanings of the phrasal verbs with their partners and then go through the answers as a class.
- 3 Recap on the meaning of the phrasal verbs by asking the students these questions:
Which phrasal verb means *to give a first impression/to seem?* (come across)
Which means *to inherit money when somebody dies?* (come into)
Which means *to experience something unpleasant, for example attack or criticism?* (come under)
Which means *to become covered in something, for example spots?* (come out in)
Which means *to come to my house?* (come over)
Which means *to be the most important aspect of a situation?* (come down to)

Answers

- a** as rather aggressive **b** a lot of criticism recently **c** a fortune when his grandmother died
d a rash all over **e** on your way home **f** who you know, not what you know

► Activity 2

- 1 Ask your students to complete the sentences using a phrasal verb with *put* from the box. Encourage them to use their dictionaries to check the answers.
- 2 Go through the answers as a class.
- 3 As in activity 1, recap by asking these questions to elicit the phrasal verbs from the students:
Which phrasal verb means *to prevent someone from concentrating?* (put off)
Which phrasal verb means *to pretend to have a particular feeling?* (put on)
Which means *to communicate something?* (put across)
Which means *to extinguish, for example a cigarette?* (put out)
Which means *to accept something in a patient way?* (put up with)
Which means *to spend a particular amount of time doing something?* (put in)

Answers

- a** put ... off **b** putting in **c** putting ... on **d** put ... out **e** put ... across **f** put up with

► Activity 3

- 1 Give the students a minute to brainstorm in pairs all the phrasal verbs they know with *get* and to write them in the box. Get them to compare their lists with another pair.
- 2 Ask the students to look at the sentences with *get* and circle the particle that fits the meaning of the sentence.
- 3 Go through the answers as a class.

Answers

a around **b** on **c** over **d** through **e** into **f** over

► Activity 4

In this activity some of the phrasal verbs are activated. Ask students to ask and answer the questions. Encourage them to use the phrasal verbs and to develop the conversations as much as possible.

Follow-up

- 1 Encourage students to keep vocabulary records of the new phrasal verbs.
- 2 Ask students to choose some of the new phrasal verbs and make sentences which show their meaning.