Phrasal Verbs & Idioms

Advanced · C1 · Answers on the last page.

HOW IT WORKS

Advanced phrasal verbs and idioms make your English sound natural. Learn them as whole chunks, with an example.

Phrasal verb: verb + particle, often non-literal. *She came up with a great idea.* (= thought of)
Idiom: a fixed expression with a non-literal meaning. *It cost an arm and a leg.* (= was very expensive)

1 Phrasal verbs — match each verb (1–6) with its meaning (a–f).

1	**put up with**	☐	a	*to think of (an idea)*
2	**come up with**	☐	b	*to confess*
3	**get away with**	☐	c	*to tolerate / accept*
4	**take after**	☐	d	*to resemble (a relative)*
5	**pull off**	☐	e	*to escape punishment*
6	**own up**	☐	f	*to succeed in something difficult*

2 Phrasal verbs — complete with a verb from the box (correct form).

VERBS

cut down on · run into · put off · carry out · bring about · back down

1 The doctor told me to _____ sugar and salt.

2 I _____ an old friend at the airport yesterday.

3 They had to _____ the meeting until next week.

4 The scientists _____ the experiment very carefully.

5 The new law could _____ real change.

6 He refused to _____ during the argument.

3 Choose the correct particle or word.

1 I can't put up (with / on) his constant complaining.

2 She really takes (after / off) her mother.

3 Our holiday plans fell (through / over) at the last minute.

4 That car cost an arm and a (leg / hand).

5 He finally owned (up / out) to the mistake.

6 Stop beating (around / across) the bush and tell me.

4 Idioms — match each idiom (1–6) with its meaning (a–f).

1	**bite the bullet**	☐	a	*to be very expensive*
2	**cost an arm and a leg**	☐	b	*to reveal a secret*
3	**get cold feet**	☐	c	*to do a difficult thing you've avoided*
4	**hit the nail on the head**	☐	d	*to be extremely busy*
5	**let the cat out of the bag**	☐	e	*to be exactly right*
6	**be snowed under**	☐	f	*to become nervous before an event*

5 Idioms — complete with an expression from the box (correct form).

IDIOMS

once in a blue moon · the last straw · cut corners · on the fence · pull your leg · through thick and thin

1 Don't worry, I'm just _____.

2 We only eat out _____.

3 Being late again was _____.

4 You should never _____ with safety.

5 They stayed together _____.

6 I can't decide — I'm still _____.

Soluciones

Answer key.

1 · Phrasal verbs — match

1 — c 2 — a 3 — e 4 — d 5 — f 6 — b
(put up with = tolerate · come up with = think of · get away with = escape punishment · take after = resemble · pull off = succeed · own up = confess)

2 · Phrasal verbs — complete

1 cut down on 2 ran into 3 put off 4 carried out 5 bring about 6 back down

3 · Choose

1 with 2 after 3 through 4 leg 5 up 6 around

4 · Idioms — match

1 — c 2 — a 3 — f 4 — e 5 — b 6 — d
(bite the bullet · cost an arm and a leg · get cold feet · hit the nail on the head · let the cat out of the bag · be snowed under)

5 · Idioms — complete

1 pulling your leg 2 once in a blue moon 3 the last straw
4 cut corners 5 through thick and thin 6 on the fence