

Phrasal Verbs Practice | Lesson 21

back up | break down | come apart | take up | think over

Example Dialogues

Charlie : Hi, Haru! Listen, I have a problem. My car broke down.

Haru : Oh, that's horrible! Is there something I can do?

* * *

Mary : I don't know what to do! I thought it over, but I don't think I can afford to move.

Jake : I think your parents will back you up if you ask them.

* * *

Leo : This new sofa in your house takes up too much space!

Sofie : Well yeah.. It actually comes apart! You can make a bed if you move this here.

Leo : Oh, that's pretty neat!



Try to figure out the meaning of these phrasal verbs.

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Example Passage

Lucy had a hard time in winter. She **broke down** frequently, so she felt like staying inside her apartment. She was very lonely, because there was nobody to **back** her **up**. Lucy felt like her world was **coming apart**. Once, she **thought over** everything that had happened in her life. She was so tired of feeling sad, she decided to try to think positive and become happy without anyone's help. She **took up** a hobby and, eventually, conquered her depression.



Again, try to figure out the meaning of these phrasal verbs.

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Definitions

back up

back ... up | support; help

*My parents **backed up** my decision to enroll into this University.*

*My parents **backed** me **up** when I decided to enroll into this University.*

break down | stop working; start crying

*My car **broke down** in the middle of the road.*

*I was so stressed during exams that I **broke down** and started crying on the street!*

come apart | break into pieces

*The Lego house **came apart** in my hands.*

take up

take ... up | shorten a piece of clothing; occupy time (space); start a new hobby

*These trousers were too long, which is why I **took** them **up**.*

*The new TV **takes up** half of the wall.*

*Mike would like to **take up** surfing this summer.*

think over

think ... over | consider

*I **thought** it **over** and decided to move to London.*

*I **thought over** your suggestion and decided to move to London.*

Make sure you can understand the meaning of these phrasal verbs.

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Practice

Answer using the correct **phrasal verbs** (in a correct form) to complete the sentences.

1 | Don't make any hasty decisions! _____ it _____ first.

2 | The bus _____, so the tourists had to wait for another one to drive them to the city.

3 | This one exercise _____ all my time during the test.

4 | Before I accept his job offer, I will have to _____ it _____ carefully.

5 | You can't stop crying once you _____.

6 | I was thinking of _____ knitting.

7 | The book was so old it _____ in my hands!

8 | Katie thought her skirt would look nicer if she _____ it _____ a bit.

9 | Mark _____ surfing last summer. Now he's as good as a professional surfer.

10 | My old shoes are _____. I need new ones.

APPLICATION:

Create your own sentences using these phrasal verbs.

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Exercise

Answer using the correct **phrasal verbs** (in a correct form) to complete the dialogue.

(Chloe and Jack are talking about Jack's car.)

Chloe : Hey, Jack! How's it going?

Jack : Hi, Chloe. Not that great actually. My car _____ again.

Chloe : I told you to _____ the deal that you got on that other car last week. If I were you, I'd just buy that car.

Jack : Well... I don't know. It's not like my old car is _____ or anything.

Chloe : That's true. It's great that you had the chance to call someone to _____ you _____. Imagine being left without any help somewhere far from the city.

Jack : Don't say it like that, Chloe! That won't happen.

Chloe : You never know. Plus, the constant repairs are _____ too much of your time!

Jack : I'm still not planning on getting rid of it!

APPLICATION:

Create your own dialogue using these phrasal verbs with your teacher.

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