

SAMPLE UNIT

James Milton  
Bill Blake  
Virginia Evans

# a Good Turn of Phrase

Advanced Practice in Phrasal Verbs  
and Prepositional Phrases



Express Publishing

**1 Read the dialogue and match the verbs in bold to the definitions below.**



Gary: Have you **1) got round to** writing that report for the Board Meeting?

Jeff: Not yet, I'm afraid. I was going to do it last Saturday, but I took the chance to **2) lie in** instead. Don't worry, though — I'll **3) grind away at** it this weekend and it'll be ready for you by Monday.

Gary: Sorry, Jeff. We can't **4) hang around** on this one. I have to **5) go over** the report with the Chairman tomorrow, so I need it by five o'clock today at the latest. I have to **6) insist on** that.

Jeff: But I can't possibly write a whole report by five o'clock!

Gary: Could you do a summary? I don't need to **7) go into** details with the Chairman — just the main points and the conclusions.

Jeff: Yes, that might actually be better. It'll be a long report and he couldn't **8) take in** the whole thing in just a short session anyway.

Gary: No, I'm sure he won't **9) object to** a summary. When can I have that?

Jeff: I'll start writing it now and **10) print it out** for you after lunch.

- a**  stay in bed later than normal
- b**  work hard at sth difficult/unpleasant
- c**  demand sth, not accept anything less/different
- d**  disapprove of sth
- e**  find time to do sth
- f**  fully understand sth
- g**  read/discuss sth (*usu. main points*) again
- h**  examine/discuss sth in detail
- i**  print sth (*usu. computer file*) onto paper
- j**  wait, doing nothing

**2 Fill in each gap with a suitable expression from the list, using the correct tense/form.**

*grind away, insist on, lie in, object to, print out*

- 1 I don't often get up early on Sunday mornings. I usually ..... and read the papers.
- 2 This new job isn't very interesting, but I'll ..... at it until I find something better.
- 3 I'll ..... your insurance policy and fax it to you.
- 4 I strongly ..... people smoking when I'm eating.
- 5 I am not satisfied with the product I bought and I ..... a full refund of the purchase price.

**3 Replace the underlined expressions with phrasal verbs from the list, using the correct tense/form.**

*get round to, go into, go over, hang around, take in*

Have you **1) found the time for** filling in your tax forms yet? Do you have problems **2) fully understanding** all the new rules and regulations? Why not let The Tax Helpline help you? We'll **3) review** your finances with you, then our expert accountants will **4) investigate** all the details. Don't **5) wait!** Call The Tax Helpline now on 0818 420 6374.

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**4 Use each word in bold to make a new sentence similar in meaning to the original. Do not change the word in bold.**

- 1 The patient was in so much pain that he couldn't understand what the doctor was saying. **(take)**  
.....
- 2 The management demands that all workers follow safety procedures. **(insists)**  
.....
- 3 We can't wait here all day — if he doesn't arrive soon, I'm going home. **(hang)**  
.....
- 4 I haven't found time to read the report yet. **(round)**  
.....
- 5 I don't want to explain the exact arrangements now — I'll send you a detailed schedule later. **(into)**  
.....

**5 Read the dialogue and match the words in bold to the definitions below.**

Detective: Sorry to **1) impose on** you, sir, but I wonder if you could help me. It's **2) in connection with** a burglary which took place last night.

Jim: Of course. How can I help you?

Detective: Well, to **3) start off**, perhaps you could look at this picture and say whether you've seen this man before.

Jim: No, I don't know him ... he looks a rough type, though, judging by his appearance.

Detective: He's a con man, sir. He got into the flat above you by pretending he'd come to read the gas meter. Old Mrs Simpson was completely **4) taken in**.

Jim: How awful!

Detective: It seems he **5) kept up** the pretence for almost an hour while he searched the flat. He stole the money she'd **6) put by** and **7) slipped away** while she was making him a cup of tea. He was seen being **8) picked up** by an accomplice in a white car.

Jim: How much did he steal?

Detective: **9) In excess of** £500. Incidentally, sir, a reward is being offered for any information which **10) leads to** an arrest.

Jim: Well, of course I'll help in any way I can, reward or not. Poor old Mrs Simpson ...

- a**  save sth (*usu. money*) over a period of time
- b**  result in sth
- c**  give sb a ride in a vehicle
- d**  continue, maintain sth
- e**  concerning, with regard to
- f**  more than
- g**  begin a procedure/series of actions
- h**  leave quietly without being noticed
- i**  deceive, trick sb
- j**  take impolite advantage of sb's kindness

**6 Fill in each gap with a suitable expression from the list.**

*imposed on, in connection with, keep up, puts by, start off*

- 1 Mr Halford ..... £2 every week to pay for the television licence.
- 2 I'm going to ..... my training schedule – now I've got fit, I want to stay that way.

- 3 John ..... the Smiths by arriving without warning and staying with them for three weeks.
- 4 John was arrested ..... the theft of the company's funds.
- 5 We'll ..... today's prayer meeting with a hymn.

**7 Replace each word/phrase in bold with a suitable expression from the list, using the correct tense/form.**

*in excess of, lead to, pick ... up, slip away, take in*

- 1 I'm not really interested in this job but I hope it may **result in** a better one.
- 2 What a boring party! Let's **leave quietly** and go to the cinema instead.
- 3 Tony was completely **fooled** – he thought that the magician had really sawn the lady in half!
- 4 Of course I'll give you a lift to London. I'll **collect** you at six o'clock.
- 5 The Margham mine produces **more than** a million tons of ore a year.

**8 Use each word in bold to make a new sentence similar in meaning to the original. Do not change the word in bold.**

- 1 Many parents disapprove of violent scenes in TV programmes for children. **(object)**  
.....
- 2 I still haven't found the time to fix the broken lock on the back door. **(got)**  
.....
- 3 I was very upset and didn't want to speak to anyone, so I left quietly and went home. **(slipped)**  
.....
- 4 Please make an appointment to see Mr Miller with regard to your application. **(connection)**  
.....
- 5 The Headmaster demands punctuality and politeness on the part of all students. **(insists)**  
.....
- 6 If we're going to get to Birmingham by lunchtime, I'd better collect you at eight. **(up)**  
.....
- 7 I'm afraid I'm so tired that I can't fully understand what you're saying. **(in)**  
.....
- 8 More than 10,000 people were left homeless after the earthquake. **(excess)**  
.....



**12 Complete each sentence with at, by, for, in, on or out of.**

- 1 I'm not ..... liberty to say anything about our agreement until the contracts are signed.
- 2 ..... arrival at the hotel, guests should go to the reception desk, where they will be given their key.
- 3 David and Sue should get along well because they have a lot ..... common with each other.
- 4 I know all of my friends' phone numbers ..... heart.
- 5 Jane didn't know ..... certain what time the plane was due to land.
- 6 Mary's behaviour in class has never been good, but now it has got completely ..... hand.

**13 Underline the correct alternative in each sentence.**

- 1 I felt that Peter was **on the level/in the level** when he said he hadn't taken the money.
- 2 The local council is **over pressure/under pressure** from residents to improve public facilities in the area.
- 3 Learning to drive may seem quite straightforward but **at fact/in fact** it can take some people years to learn.
- 4 **One at one/One by one** the naughty schoolboys were called into the headmaster's office.
- 5 The defendant claimed that he had acted **in self-defence/by self-defence** when he hit the policeman.
- 6 The students taking the exam were told to stop writing **at the sound/with the sound** of the bell.

**14 Use each word in bold to make a new sentence similar in meaning to the original. Do not change the word in bold.**

- 1 Tom was not given permission to divulge the contents of the secret document to us. **(liberty)**  
.....
- 2 Both sides in the conflict are being urged to find a peaceful solution. **(pressure)**  
.....
- 3 The salesman made us all sorts of promises, but I wasn't convinced he was being honest. **(level)**  
.....
- 4 Acting so as to protect yourself is the only excuse for violent behaviour. **(self-defence)**  
.....
- 5 The tourists in the group were asked to collect their tickets individually rather than all together. **(one)**  
.....

- 6 The economic situation in the country has now got completely beyond control. **(hand)**  
.....
- 7 We can't know without a doubt that the burglar won't come back. **(certain)**  
.....
- 8 The reason she is my friend is that we have a lot of shared interests. **(common)**  
.....

**15 a) Underline the most suitable preposition in each of the expressions.**

1 (take) delight <b>in/with</b> (doing) sth	6 sympathise <b>for/with</b> sb
2 engrossed <b>in/into</b> sth (e.g. a book)	7 sensitive <b>at/to</b> sth
3 shelter sb <b>from/of</b> sth	8 <b>in/on</b> connection <b>for/with</b> sth
4 adequate <b>for/in</b> sb/sth	9 short <b>of/with</b> sth (e.g. money)
5 to account <b>for/of</b> sth	10 consist <b>in/of</b> sth

**b) Use each word in bold to make a new sentence similar in meaning to the original. Do not change the word in bold.**

- 1 The man is being questioned concerning a number of burglaries in the area. **(connection)**  
.....
- 2 I don't have a well-paid job, but my salary is enough for my needs. **(adequate)**  
.....
- 3 He's a cruel little boy, because he takes pleasure in upsetting the other children. **(delights)**  
.....
- 4 An elephant's diet is made up of the leaves and branches of various trees. **(consists)**  
.....
- 5 James couldn't explain the fact that the stolen money was found in his desk. **(account)**  
.....
- 6 Tracy didn't notice the time because she was concentrating on her book. **(engrossed)**  
.....
- 7 We all felt sorry for Mrs Brown after the sad loss of her husband. **(sympathised)**  
.....
- 8 Mary needs to be more easy-going – she's far too easily offended by criticism. **(sensitive)**  
.....
- 9 The town is built around the narrow bay which once protected ships from storms at sea. **(sheltered)**  
.....

10 There are many people in the world who don't have enough food to eat. **(short)**  
 .....

**16 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C or D.**

- 1 The new students were told to report to the school secretary .....  
**A** for certain                      **C** on arrival  
**B** on the level                      **D** in self-defence
- 2 Sally isn't working late today. .... , she's leaving at three o'clock.  
**A** For certain                      **C** In common  
**B** In fact                              **D** At liberty
- 3 The dogs were trained to come ..... of the bell.  
**A** at the sound                      **C** in common  
**B** on the level                      **D** on arrival
- 4 Lorraine had learnt the poem so well she knew it .....  
**A** out of hand                      **C** in fact  
**B** by heart                              **D** for certain
- 5 The money I've saved should ..... the holiday I've planned.  
**A** be sensitive to                      **C** account for  
**B** be short of                              **D** be adequate for
- 6 Marcia took great ..... announcing her engagement.  
**A** connection with                      **C** delight in  
**B** engrossed in                              **D** shelter from
- 7 It was a long film, but I ..... the action from beginning to end.  
**A** was engrossed in                      **C** was sensitive to  
**B** was short of                              **D** sympathised with
- 8 A basic tool kit may ..... nothing more than a saw, a hammer and a screwdriver.  
**A** account for                              **C** be adequate for  
**B** be sensitive to                              **D** consist of
- 9 There was a sudden shower, but we found a shop doorway to ..... the rain.  
**A** shelter us from                      **C** be short of  
**B** delight in                              **D** be engrossed in
- 10 The spokesman said he was not ..... to release any further information.  
**A** on arrival                              **C** at liberty  
**B** on the level                              **D** for certain

**17 Use the word in bold to complete each new sentence with a similar meaning to the original. Use two to five words. Do not change the word in bold.**

- 1 The police wanted to talk to John on the subject of his stolen car. **(connection)**  
 The police wanted to talk to John ..... his stolen car.
- 2 Tim was totally fascinated by the film and he didn't hear the phone ring. **(engrossed)**  
 Tim was ..... he didn't hear the phone ring.
- 3 There are some nasty people around who get great pleasure from seeing others fail. **(delight)**  
 There are some nasty people ..... others fail.
- 4 I understand your problem, but I am unable to do anything to help you. **(sympathise)**  
 I ..... , but I am unable to do anything to help you.
- 5 A seismometer is affected by the slightest movement of the earth's crust. **(sensitive)**  
 A seismometer ..... movement of the earth's crust.
- 6 Dave asked Phil to lend him £20 until payday since he didn't have much cash. **(short)**  
 Dave asked Phil to lend him £20 until payday ..... cash.
- 7 Passengers must complete immigration formalities when they arrive at their destination. **(arrival)**  
 Passengers must complete immigration ..... their destination.
- 8 These caves protected Stone Age people from the weather and wild animals. **(sheltered)**  
 These caves ..... the weather and wild animals.



**1 Complete the sentences using the words in bold.**

- 1 Mr Green is proud of his beautiful garden. **(prides)**  
Mr Green ..... garden.
- 2 She wasn't the least bit surprised to hear that she had been fired. **(surprise)**  
It ..... that she had been fired.
- 3 You can try to open it with that key, but it won't work. **(point)**  
There's no ..... it with that key.
- 4 It is said that Mozart wrote this symphony. **(credited)**  
Mozart has been ..... symphony.
- 5 Many people will do anything to get rich. **(lengths)**  
Many people will ..... to get rich.
- 6 Harold and his wife appear to have no similarities. **(common)**  
Harold and his wife appear ..... with each other.
- 7 Many ecologists have said they are worried about the new problem. **(concern)**  
Many ecologists ..... about the new problem.
- 8 During the storm the river overflowed. **(burst)**  
The river ..... during the storm.
- 9 The youth of today don't appreciate anything. **(granted)**  
Young people ..... these days.
- 10 Bill, not Jim, was driving the van when it crashed. **(driven)**  
The van ..... not Jim, when it crashed.
- 11 Your brother looks like Elvis Presley. **(bears)**  
Your brother ..... Elvis Presley.
- 12 He isn't capable of doing the job. **(competent)**  
He isn't ..... the job.
- 13 Young people today don't play many board games. **(popular)**  
Board games are not very ..... today.
- 14 Even though he hadn't been invited to the party, John took advantage of our hospitality and came. **(imposed)**  
John ..... by coming to the party uninvited.
- 15 The letter has nothing to do with you. **(concern)**  
The letter ..... yours.
- 16 When I was a student, I never had enough money. **(short)**  
I was always ..... as a student.
- 17 The outdoor life doesn't suit me. **(cut)**  
I am not ..... the outdoor life.
- 18 It was arranged for postgraduate students to use the computer room whenever they needed to. **(disposal)**  
The computer room ..... of postgraduate students.
- 19 It was quite a surprise to me when I failed the exam. **(aback)**  
I was rather ..... the exam.
- 20 I don't have a timetable and don't know what time the bus will come. **(knowing)**  
Without a timetable, I've ..... what time the bus will come.
- 21 Everyone came to the party apart from Karen. **(exception)**  
Everyone came to the party, ..... Karen.
- 22 The defendant refused to answer questions without his lawyer. **(insisted)**  
The defendant ..... present before answering any questions.
- 23 It isn't my fault that the bus is late. **(blame)**  
I am not ..... the bus's late arrival.
- 24 Jack didn't explain his absence the previous day. **(explanation)**  
Jack ..... his absence the previous day.
- 25 The company would benefit from upgrading its computers. **(interests)**  
It would be in ..... to upgrade its computers.
- 26 I don't mind if you go out. **(objection)**  
I have ..... out.
- 27 More mathematics teachers are needed in schools. **(demand)**  
There is ..... mathematics teachers in schools.
- 28 Somebody is building some new flats in the town centre. **(construction)**  
Some new flats ..... in the town centre.

- 29 I never suspected that he was lying. .... **(occur)**  
It didn't .....  
..... that he was lying.
- 30 The bad weather ruined their holiday plans. **(paid)**  
The bad weather .....  
..... their holiday plans.
- 31 I didn't know what to say when I saw the damage to my car. **(loss)**  
I was .....  
..... when I saw the damage to my car.
- 32 It surprised me to see Gill covered in mud. **(sight)**  
I was surprised .....  
..... covered in mud.
- 33 Very few people responded to the police appeal for information. **(response)**  
There was .....  
..... police appeal for information.
- 34 I don't mind if you bring Julie to the party. **(objection)**  
I have no .....  
..... Julie to the party.
- 35 His doctor told him to reduce the number of cigarettes he smoked. **(cut)**  
His doctor told him to .....  
..... cigarettes.
- 36 Jane said some nice things about my new hairstyle. **(complimented)**  
Jane .....  
..... my new hairstyle.
- 37 The book doesn't give me the impression of being very optimistic. **(come)**  
The book doesn't .....  
..... very optimistic.
- 38 The students approved of their new teacher. **(met)**  
The new teacher .....  
..... students' approval.
- 39 We have to learn to accept our limitations. **(terms)**  
We have to .....  
..... our limitations.
- 40 It is completely prohibited to take alcoholic drinks into the stadium. **(total)**  
There is a .....  
..... alcoholic drinks in the stadium.
- 41 I can't be the only person who believes that there is life on other planets. **(alone)**  
I can't be .....  
..... there is life on other planets.
- 42 If we get him an expensive toy we'll be wasting our money. **(waste)**  
It would be .....  
..... to buy him an expensive toy.
- 43 His handwriting is illegible. **(sense)**  
I can't .....  
..... his handwriting at all.
- 44 Roy wore a hat, foolishly hoping that his friends wouldn't notice his new haircut. **(vain)**  
Roy wore a hat in the .....  
..... wouldn't notice his new haircut.
- 45 Nobody passed the exam except for Sally. **(exception)**  
Everyone failed the exam, .....  
..... Sally.
- 46 No late applications for the post will be considered. **(take)**  
They will not .....  
..... any late applications for the post.
- 47 There was flooding in many areas due to the heavy rain. **(resulted)**  
The heavy rain .....  
..... many areas.
- 48 Very few people came to my party. **(hardly)**  
There was .....  
..... my party.
- 49 You hurt her feelings when you said she was fat. **(offence)**  
She .....  
..... when you said she was fat.
- 50 Not many young people are fond of ballroom dancing nowadays. **(popular)**  
Ballroom dancing .....  
..... young people nowadays.
- 51 A lot of people want to buy computers these days. **(demand)**  
There is .....  
..... computers these days.
- 52 We knew Mary had painted the graffiti on the wall. **(responsible)**  
We knew Mary .....  
..... the graffiti on the wall.
- 53 All those who think the excursion is a good idea should say so. **(favour)**  
Everyone who is .....  
..... the excursion should say so.
- 54 The play wasn't as good as I'd been led to believe. **(short)**  
The play .....  
..... expectations.
- 55 He probably won't know the answer, but you might as well ask. **(harm)**  
Although he probably won't know the answer, .....  
..... asking.