English phrasal verbs are notoriously difficult to learn, but this colourful, entertaining book contextualises them in a memorable and supportive way. *Phrasal Verbs in Context* presents over 300 phrasal verbs in the context of a humorous story in cartoon form which sustains the reader's interest and concentration. Learning is promoted and reinforced by a series of vocabulary and preposition exercises that practise and recycle individual items.

The book contains:

- the full cartoon story with accompanying exercises and detailed grammar notes;
- the text reworked as an extended blank-filling exercise;
- an answer key;
- an alphabetical listing of the phrasal verbs covered in the book, cross-referenced to the original text.

The cartoon story has been recorded on cassette, and can also be bought as a book/cassette package.

*Phrasal Verbs in Context* is recommended as supplementary material for Peter Dainty's *Passport to Cambridge First Certificate* course, or for any other coursebook at First Certificate level.
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INTRODUCTION

This book offers you a new method for learning phrasal verbs such as 'put on', 'take off', 'give up' and 'look for'.

It starts with a specially written cartoon story in which 325 common phrasal verbs are introduced in a tale of adventure, love, money, crime, honour and a blue Rolls Royce. To help you recognise these different verb-preposition forms and bring them into your active vocabulary, there are follow-up exercises and detailed grammar notes.

Then – in Part Two – there is an extended blank-filling revision exercise based on the cartoon.

Part Three has the answers for all the exercises and a full alphabetical listing of the phrasal verbs, cross-referenced to the original text.

If you learn some of the story by heart and do all the follow-up exercises, you should find that these 325 phrasal verbs can become a part of your everyday language as you develop a more natural and more instinctive command of English.

But now, as Sir Gerald Prescott would say, 'Let's go through the whole story right from the start'...
CHAPTER ONE

ON A COLD NOVEMBER EVENING MANY YEARS AGO, ANGUS MACPHERSON (CHIEF GUARD AT THE NEWTOWN PRISON) YAWNEE AND CLOSED HIS EYES.

ANGUS HAD A LONG AND Tiring DAY AND NOW, AS THE CLOCK STRUCK 11, THE THREE PLATEFULS OF SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE HE'D ENJOYED AT DINNER WERE PULLING HIM TOWARDS THE DEEPEST OF DEEP SLEEPS.

ANGUS STRETCHED OUT ON A WOODEN BENCH AND TRIED TO RELAX. BUT, FOR SOME REASON, HE COULDN'T GET OFF TO SLEEP. THEN HE HAD AN IDEA.

I know what the trouble is. It's this belt of mine. It's much too tight.

HE ROLLED OVER, TOOK OFF THE BELT AND DROPPED IT ON TO THE FLOOR.

IN THE DARKNESS OF CELL 269, FREDERICK CARRUTHERS (A BANK MANAGER WHO HAD LENT HIMSELF £250,000) WAS PLANNING HIS ESCAPE.

If I could get the keys off MacPherson's belt, I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.

HE TIPTOED TO THE FRONT OF THE CELL AND LOOKED AROUND. THERE WAS NO ONE ABOUT. HE TOOK A DEEP BREATH...

...and then, softly and slowly, he stretched out his hand, picked up the belt and lifted it back through the bars...

The keys! He's just dropped the belt with the keys. This is too good to be true.

JUST THEN HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF ANGUS' BELT LYING ON THE FLOOR.
Practice

1 Complete the following sentences using one of the words below.

| breakfast | floor | keys | belt | door |
| bars      | wall  | cell |      | yard |

1 He rolled over, took off the _____________.
2 ...and dropped it onto the _____________.
3 If I could get the _____________ off Macpherson's belt.
4 ...I could slip out through the side _____________.
5 ...run across the _____________,
6 ...jump over the prison _____________
7 ...and be back home for _____________.
8 He tiptoed to the front of the _____________ and looked around.
9 There was no one about. He took a deep _____________.
10 ...picked up the belt and lifted it back through the _____________.

2 Complete the following sentences using one of the prepositions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>off</th>
<th>out</th>
<th>up</th>
<th>off</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>about</td>
<td>around</td>
<td>across</td>
<td>over</td>
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</table>

1 For some reason, he couldn't get _____________ to sleep.
2 He rolled _____________, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.
3 A few minutes later, the stone corridors echoed _____________ the sound of Angus Macpherson's unmistakable snore.
4 If I could get the keys _____________ Macpherson's belt,
5 I could slip _____________ through the side door,
6 ...run _____________ the yard,
7 ...jump _____________ the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.
8 He tiptoed to the front of the cell and looked _____________.
9 There was no one _____________.
10 He picked _____________ the belt and lifted it back through the bars.

Notes

1 a nap = a short, light sleep
2 to nod off = to fall asleep gradually
3 When talking about clothes, to take off is the opposite of to put on.
   'Angus... took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.' (Chapter One)
   'She put on her coat.' (Chapter Three)
4 Two common meanings of *slip* are...
   a to move quietly or secretly, trying not to be seen
      'I could slip out through the side door...' (Chapter One)
      'But whenever my father's back was turned, I would slip out of the house
      and go and meet Gerald secretly.' (Chapter Eight)
   and
   b to fall or nearly fall
      • She slipped on a banana skin and sprained her ankle.

5 Notice the difference between *to jump over*, *to jump onto* and *to jump off*...
   a 'I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the
      prison wall and be back home for breakfast.' (Chapter One)
   and
   b 'Frederick had...jumped onto a train that was slowing down in front of a set
      of signals. Run down the corridor to avoid the ticket collector and then
      jumped off again as the train pulled into a station.' (Chapter Five)

6 'There was no one about' = Nobody else was there
   Compare...
   'Lady Prescott got out of the car and looked around. There was no one else
   about.' (Chapter Fourteen)
   and
   'Frederick turned his face and looked out at Crawford Street. There were
   now lots of people about. It was half past three and the local school had
   just broken up for the day.' (Chapter Twelve)

Note that *to look around* generally has the idea of looking on all sides, while
*to look round* suggests that the person turns to look at something they
couldn't see before.

*round* can also be an informal word for *around*. 
Dawn broke over Newtown Prison, Angus stretched, yawned and half opened his eyes.

I feel much better now. I think that little nap did me good.

He stood up and looked for his belt. But, for some reason, it wasn't on the floor. Where had he dropped it? He yawned again and thought about going back to sleep. But then, to his surprise, he suddenly saw his belt hanging on a key which was in the lock of the open door of Cell 269.

Angus blinked twice.

Something's wrong here! But what is it?

When Angus had at last worked out what had happened he rushed down the corridor and ran up the steps to the Prison Governor's Office.

With his heart pounding, he banged on the door.

Governor, Governor! Let me in! Let me in!

Gradually, shockingly, profoundly the awful truth dawned on him.

Sir Gerald Prescott was sitting at his desk reading the 'Times'.

Come in. The door's open.

Angus rushed in, his red face covered with sweat.

It's Frederick Carruthers. He's broken out of his cell and run away and it was all my fault!

Sir Gerald was sitting at his desk. He tore up his 'Times' and burst into tears.

Well, Sir. Last night I stretched out on a wooden bench near Cell 269. I took off my belt and dropped it onto the floor. Then I nodded off for a few minutes.

Now calm down. And go through the whole story right from the start.

Angus took a handkerchief out of his pocket and handed it to Sir Gerald.

But that's terrible!

Now, now, Sir. There's no need to cry. It wasn't your fault that Carruthers escaped. I shouldn't have taken off my belt and nodded off like that. But... don't worry, Governor! I'll make up for it. I'll give up my landbreak and go out and look for him and find out where he is.
Practice

3 Complete the following sentences using one of the words below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>lunchbreak</th>
<th>door</th>
<th>desk</th>
<th>tears</th>
<th>cell</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>handkerchief</td>
<td>keys</td>
<td>Times</td>
<td>belt</td>
<td>minutes</td>
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</table>

1 He stood up and looked for his ______ belt.
2 Sir Gerald Prescott was sitting at his ____________ reading The Times.
3 He's broken out of his _______ and run away.
4 I nodded off for a few ________.
5 Carruthers picked up the belt and took off one of the ________.
6 He opened his cell and slipped out through the side ________.
7 Sir Gerald tore up his ________.
8 ...and burst into ____________.
9 Angus took a ________ out of his pocket.
10 I'll give up my ________ and go out and look for him and find out where he is...

4 Complete the following sentences using one of the prepositions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>out</th>
<th>away</th>
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<th>with</th>
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<td></td>
<td>for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 He stood up and looked ______ for ______ his belt.
2 Sir Gerald was sitting ______ his desk reading The Times.
3 Angus rushed in, his red face covered ______ sweat.
4 He's broken ______ of his cell
5 ...and run ______ !
6 I nodded ______ for a few minutes.
7 Sir Gerald tore ______ his Times and burst into tears.
8 Angus took a handkerchief ______ of his pocket
9 ...and handed it ______ Sir Gerald.
10 I shouldn't have taken _________ my belt and nodded off like that.

Notes

1 dawn can be a noun ('Dawn broke over Newtown Prison') and a verb ('the...truth dawned on him').
2 There are many phrasal verbs with look. Among the most common are...
   to look for = to try to find
   to look at = to see; to examine
   to look after = to take care of

   'He stood up and looked for his belt.' (Chapter Two)
   'I looked at the cheque. My head was spinning.' (Chapter Eleven)
'She looks after sick children.' (Chapter Ten)

3 *to work (something) out* = to solve (a problem, puzzle, mystery, etc.)

4 *to let in* (= to allow to enter) is the opposite of *to let out* (= to allow to leave).
   ‘Governor! Governor! Let me in! Let me in!’ (Chapter Two)
   ‘When he came to the prison gates, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.’ (Chapter Fifteen)
   ‘There was no need for you to run off like that. They were going to let you out anyway.’ (Chapter Thirteen)

5 Note the difference between *to sit at, to sit back, to sit down, to sit in and to sit up.*
   ‘Sir Gerald was sitting at his desk reading *The Times.*’ (Chapter Two)
   ‘Frederick sat back and just watched the volcano erupt.’ (Chapter Seven)
   ‘Angus sat down and took a deep breath.’ (Chapter Two)
   ‘Here he was, sitting in a Rolls Royce driven by the wife of the governor of the prison he’d just escaped from.’ (Chapter Seven)
   ‘He was so ill that he couldn’t sit up in bed properly.’ (Chapter Ten)

6 *to calm down* = to relax
   ‘Now calm down. And go through the whole story right from the start.’ (Chapter Two)
   ‘By the time they arrived at the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed down a little and Frederick was feeling a bit more relaxed.’ (Chapter Eight)

7 *to make up for (something)* = to compensate for (something)
   ‘I’ll make up for it. I’ll give up my lunchbreak and go out and look for him and find out where he is.’ (Chapter Two)
   ‘And, now, there was so much to say, so much to do. So much lost time to make up for.’ (Chapter Fourteen)
CHAPTER THREE

AT THAT MOMENT LADY PRESCOTT, THE WIFE OF THE PRISON GOVERNOR, ARRIVES.

SHE TOOK OFF HER COAT.

For goodness sake stop crying, Gerald. Pull yourself together man! What's wrong with you? Why don't you grow up?

I can't help it. Yet another of my prisoners has run away - That's the fifth one this week. Why don't they like it here? Is it the prison food? Or the colour of the walls? Or my after shave? I wish I knew.

That's it. I've had enough of all this nonsense, I hate to see a grown man cry and I'm not going to put up with it any longer. I'm leaving you, Gerald! I'm going to break up our marriage and run away to a run down area of Birmingham.

AND WITH THAT HE BURST INTO TEARS AGAIN.

But you can't do that! If you run away to a run down area of Birmingham I'll have a nervous breakdown.

That's your problem, not mine. I'm going to walk out of that door and you'll never see me again!

If I run away to a run down area and you run after me I'll run over you in my car.

Our car. You should remember that we bought it together. But you must be careful my dear. If you run away to a run down area of Birmingham and I run after you and you run over me in the car you might then run into a tree and the cost of repairing the damage could run into hundreds of pounds.

Money! Money! Money! That's all you care about! Here am I threatening to break up our marriage and run away to a run down area of Birmingham and all you can think about is the cost of repairing the car - OUR car - if you run after me and I run over you and then run into a tree! That's so typical of you! Self! Self! Self! Me! Me! Me! I've had enough, I've run out of patience, Gerald. I'm off.
Practice

5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>coat</th>
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<td>prisoners</td>
<td>breakdown</td>
<td>nonsense</td>
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1 Lady Prescott took off her ____________.
2 Yet another of my ____________ has run away.
3 And with that he burst into ____________ again.
4 I’ve had enough of all this ____________.
5 I’m leaving you, Gerald! I’m going to break up our ____________ and run away.
6 She put on her ____________.
7 I’ll have a nervous ____________.
8 I’m going to walk out of that ____________.
9 The cost of repairing the damage could run into hundreds of ____________.
10 I’ve run out of ____________, Gerald.

6

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<td>into</td>
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</table>

1 She took ____________ her coat.
2 Why don’t you grow ____________?
3 I can’t help it. Yet another of my prisoners has run ____________.
4 And with that he burst ____________ tears again.
5 I’ve had enough ____________ all this nonsense.
6 I’m not going to put up ____________ it any longer.
7 I’m leaving you, Gerald! I’m going to break ____________ our marriage.
8 She put ____________ her coat.
9 Money! Money! Money! That’s all you care ____________!
10 I’ve run ____________ of patience, Gerald.

Notes

1 Grow up! = Stop behaving like a child!
2 to put up with = to tolerate
   ‘I’m not going to put up with it any longer.’ (Chapter Three)
   ‘...and you’ve put up with all my complaints about Sir Gerald.’
   (Chapter Nine)
3 A run-down area is poor, dirty and in decline.
4 *to break up* (= to finish) can be used to describe the end of a relationship, a marriage, a school day and a school term.

'I'm going to break up our marriage and run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.' (Chapter Three)

'There were now lots of people about. It was half past three and the local school had just broken up for the day.' (Chapter Twelve)

5 The noun *breakdown* and the phrasal verb *to break down* can be used to describe people or machines.

'I'll have a nervous breakdown.' (Chapter Three)

'The bus broke down and all the passengers had to get off and walk.' (Chapter Nine)

6 You can also *run out of* time, money, food and ideas.
Chapter Four

No, No, No. You can't do this to me.

Look, I know I've not been a very good husband lately. I've been working too hard and putting on weight. But you can't walk out on me like this. If you went away I'd go to pieces.

I know what the problem is! I've been so wrapped up in my work that I've started to take you for granted. But don't leave me. Give me one last chance. I'll make up for it!

I'll be put in your hands. You name it and I'll do it.

I'll take up jogging and take off weight! I'll give up smoking and wash up after dinner! I'll clear out the cupboards and take you out at weekends. Now what could be fairer than that?

Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.

Shall I go after her?

No. Let her go. She's made up her mind to run away to a run down area of Birmingham and there's nothing we can do.

He picked up the ashtray and put it back on the table.

I don't know what's got into her lately. She used to be so calm and quiet. But now she blows up all the time. I can't understand women, Angus. I just can't make them out. Why can't they be strong and logical like us men?

And, with that, Sir Gerard took a handkerchief out of his pocket, blew his nose and, for the first time, burst into tears.
Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>chair</th>
<th>room</th>
<th>smoking</th>
<th>tears</th>
<th>women</th>
<th>jogging</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>weight</td>
<td>tie</td>
<td>handkerchief</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The prison governor knelt down and burst into _______________.
2 I’ve been working too hard and putting on _______________.
3 I’ll take up _______________ and take off weight!
4 I’ll give up _______________
5 ...and wash up after _______________!
6 Lady Prescott knocked over a _______________.
7 ...and stormed out of the _______________.
8 The prison governor sat down and straightened his _______________.
9 I can’t understand _______________, Angus. I just can’t make them out.
10 Sir Gerald took a _______________ out of his pocket.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
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<td>away</td>
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<td>over</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 I’ve been working too hard and putting _______________ weight.
2 You can’t walk _______________ on me like this.
3 If you went _______________, I’d go to pieces.
4 Lady Prescott turned _______________.
5 ...knocked _______________ a chair,
6 ...and stormed _______________ of the room.
7 Shall I go _______________ her?
8 The prison governor sat _______________ and straightened his tie.
9 She blows _______________ all the time.
10 I can’t understand women, Angus. I just can’t make them _______________.

Notes

1 *down* often means ‘to the ground’ or ‘to the floor’.
   ‘The prison governor knelt down and burst into tears.’ (Chapter Four)
   ‘They promise to pull down the terraced housing and build some new flats.’ (Chapter Eight)
   ‘I don’t want them tearing down my childhood. They should leave my home alone.’ (Chapter Eight)

- He fell down the stairs and twisted his ankle.
- The boxer was knocked down in the fourth round.
- They shot down three enemy planes.
2 When talking about weight, a handbrake or a seat belt, to put on is the opposite of to take off.
‘I’ve been working too hard and putting on weight.’ (Chapter Four)
♦ That new diet is amazing! I’ve taken off six kilos in three days.
‘Lady Prescott put on the handbrake...’ (Chapter Eight)
‘The woman got in, put on her seat belt, took off the handbrake...’ (Chapter Six)
‘Frederick took off his seat belt and tried to get out of the car.’ (Chapter Twelve)

3 to walk out on = to abandon

4 to take up = to start to do (a new job, a new sport, etc.)
‘I’ll take up jogging and take off weight!’ (Chapter Four)
‘“And if I was to take up this new challenge,” Frederick said, “you’d expect me to keep quiet about the events of two years ago.”’ (Chapter Thirteen)

5 ‘Storming out of a room’ is more dramatic than ‘walking out of a room’.

6 to go after = to run after = to follow
‘Shall I go after her?’ (Chapter Four)
‘If you run away, I’ll run after you.’ (Chapter Three)

7 to make up your mind = to make a decision
‘She’s made up her mind to run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.’ (Chapter Four)
‘It didn’t take me long to make up my mind!’ (Chapter Eight)

8 ‘I don’t know what’s got into her’ = I don’t understand why she is acting so strangely

9 to blow up = to lose your temper, to get angry suddenly

10 to make (someone) out = to understand (someone); to appreciate what drives or motivates another person
CHAPTER FIVE

BY THE TIME THAT LADY PRESCOTT HAD STORMED OUT OF THE OFFICE, SIR GERARD HAD STÄRTohen HIS TIE, AND ANGRY HAD COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE ARMOUR, FREDERICK CARRUTHERS WAS WELL ON HIS WAY HOME.

HAVING CAESSED THE MAIN ROAD THAT LINKS NEWTOWN TO OLDTOWN,

HAD ROLLED DOWN A HILL,

DIVED INTO A STREAM

AND SWIMMED ACROSS TO THE OPPOSITE BANK.

CLIMBED UP A HILL,

AND THEN JUMPED OFF AGAIN AS THE TRAIN PULLED INTO A STATION.

WHILE THE OTHER PASSENGERS WERE GETTING OFF THE TRAIN, FREDERICK HAD SLIPPED THROUGH THE TICKET BARRIER BY SHOWING HIS PASSPORT IDENTIFICATION BADGE.

IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT HIS PROBLEMS RELATIVELY ENDED. FREDERICK HAD BEEN RUSHING, ROLLING, RUNNING, JUMPING, CLIMBING, CRAWLING, WADING AND SWIMMING FOR SEVERAL HOURS NOW AND THE LAST MEAL HE'D HAD WAS THREE BISCUITS AND A GLASS OF WATER BEFORE ANGRY HAD TURNED OFF THE LIGHT IN HIS CELL. HIS EXHAUSTED BODY WAS BEGINNING TO COMPLAIN. HIS STOMACH WAS CRIED OUT FOR FOOD AND HIS THROAT FELT LIKE SANDPAPER, BUT WHAT COULD HE DO? PRISONERS DON'T CARRY MONEY AND HE DIDN'T HAVE A PENNY ON HIM.

FREDERICK LOOKED THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF THE CAFE AND FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES HE WENT THROUGH A DREADFUL TORTURE.

WATHER IN THE THOUGHTS RUNNING THROUGH FREDERICK CARRUTHERS' TROUBLED MIND AS A BLUE ROLLS ROYCE PULLED INTO THE LAY-BY AND GLIDED TO A HALT.

THESE WERE THE THOUGHTS RUNNING THROUGH FREDERICK CARRUTHERS' TROUBLED MIND AS A BLUE ROLLS ROYCE PULLED INTO THE LAY-BY AND GLIDED TO A HALT.

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS? HERE AM I—WITH MY STOMACH RUMBLING AND MY THROAT PUFFED AND I CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A CUP OF TEA! HOW DID I GET INTO THIS MESS? AND, MORE TO THE POINT, HOW DO I GET OUT OF IT?
Practice

9 Revision Exercise

In Chapters One to Five, who...

1 ...nooded off?
2 ...took off his belt?
3 ...was sitting at his desk?
4 ...rushed in?
5 ...sat down?
6 ...slipped out through the side door?
7 ...tore up his Times?
8 ...burst into tears?
9 ...took off her coat?
10 ...ran out of patience?
11 ...knelt down?
12 ...turned round?
13 ...blows up all the time?
14 ...can't make women out?
15 ...crawled through a field of turnips?
16 ...jumped off a train?
17 ...ran across six kilometres of open countryside?
18 ...elbowed his way through a group of tourists?
19 ...ended up standing outside a café?
20 ...pulled into a lay-by?

Notes

1 In this sense, to run off and to run away have the same meaning.

2 to crawl = to move on all fours

3 The literal meaning of to wade through is 'to walk through water or mud that is knee or chest high'.
   For this reason, storks and flamingoes are known as wading birds.
   to wade through can also be used metaphorically with the sense of 'having to read lots of boring information'.
   ♦ I had to wade through 500 pages of detailed text before I found what I was looking for.

4 to slow down = to reduce your speed gradually
5 For buses, trains and planes, to get on is the opposite of to get off.
   'While the other passengers were getting off the train...' (Chapter Five)
   'The bus broke down and all the passengers had to get off and walk.'  
   (Chapter Nine)

6 Compare...
   'Frederick ended up standing outside a café at a lay-by near Junction 34 of
   the M1 motorway.' (Chapter Five)
   'If she found out that he was a convict on the run, perhaps she'd turn him
   in and then he might end up in cell 269 again.' (Chapter Ten)
   'How could a good man end up like this?' (Chapter Twelve)

7 out can mean 'loudly', 'openly', 'publicly', 'noisily' or 'angrily'.
   'His stomach was crying out for food.' (Chapter Five)
   ♦ They shouted out the names...
   ♦ He spoke out against injustice...
   ♦ They called out the winning numbers...

8 Compare to go through and to go through with.
   a to go through = to suffer
   'For the next few minutes, he went through a dreadful torture.'
   (Chapter Five)
   'For the next few months, we went through a really bad patch.'
   (Chapter Nine)
   b to go through with (something) = to do (something) even though you
   know it will be difficult, frustrating or painful
   'I've decided to go through with the trial.' (Chapter Eleven)

9 Compare...
   'These were the thoughts running through Frederick Carruthers' troubled
   mind as a blue Rolls Royce pulled into the lay-by and glided to a halt.'
   (Chapter Five)
   and
   'Through Frederick's mind went a simple formula – changing a wheel is
   work. Work brings money. Money brings food.' (Chapter Six)
CHAPTER SIX

The Blue Rolls Royce glided to a halt a few metres from where Frederick was standing. The driver wound down her window and leaned across.

Excuse me. Do you know anything about cars? I'm having a few problems with the steering and I think I may have a puncture. Could you take a look for me?

Through Frederick's mind went a simple formula. Changing a wheel is work. Work brings money. Money brings food.

Yes, of course.

The front left hand wheel wasissing like a snake. Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the tyre.

You were lucky. This is a slow puncture. It could have been a lot worse.

Then he pulled a large piece of glass out of the wheel and held it up.

That's what caused the problem. You must have picked it up along the way.

Frederick walked to the back of the car and opened up the boot. Then he took out the spare wheel, a tool kit, a jack and a pump.

He took off his jacket, hung it up on one of the wing mirrors, jackass up the car, took off the flat tyre, put on the spare wheel which he then pumped up a little, and finally, having done all that, he put the old wheel, the tool kit, the jack and the pump back in the boot.

You've been so kind. Frederick nodded, smiled and held out his hand.

Now can I give you a lift anywhere? I'm on my way to Birmingham. Would that be any good for you? Perhaps I can drop you off somewhere along the way.

Frederick's face dropped. He'd been expecting money or food and he felt a bit let down.

He wiped his hands on a cloth and got into the car. That's very kind of you. Birmingham would be just fine.

But then it suddenly dawned on him that the offer of a free ride in a Rolls Royce far away from Newtown might be quite a good idea.

The woman got in, put on her seat belt, took off the handbrake, put the car into first gear, looked in the rear view mirror, and pulled gently out of the layby.

Birmingham

And then - with a sudden burst of speed - they roared onto the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.
Practice

10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>window</th>
<th>mirror</th>
<th>handbrake</th>
<th>cloth</th>
<th>lay-by seat belt</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jacket</td>
<td>hand</td>
<td>tyre</td>
<td>glass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The driver wound down her _____________ and leaned across.
2 Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the _____________.
3 He pulled a large piece of _____________ out of the wheel and held it up.
4 He took off his _____________.
5 Frederick nodded, smiled and held out his _____________.
6 He wiped his hands on a _____________.
7 The woman put on her _____________.
8 ...took off the _____________.
9 ...looked in the rear-view _____________.
10 ...and pulled gently out of the _____________.

11

| out off | out on | on up | off in | on over | up onto |

1 Frederick bent down and ran his hand _____________ the tyre.
2 Then he pulled a large piece of glass _____________ of the wheel
3 ...and held it _____________.
4 Frederick nodded, smiled and held _____________ his hand.
5 Perhaps I can drop you _____________ somewhere along the way.
6 But then it suddenly dawned _____________ Frederick that the offer of a free ride in a Rolls Royce far away from Newtown might be quite a good idea.
7 The woman got _____________.
8 ...put _____________ her seat belt,
9 ...took _____________ the handbrake,
10 ...and then – with a sudden burst of speed – they roared _____________ the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.

Notes

1 Compare to hold up (= vertical) and to hold out (= horizontal).
   ‘Then he pulled a large piece of glass out of the wheel and held it up.’ (Chapter Six)
   ‘I held up my hand and the man from the bank stopped talking.’ (Chapter Eleven)
   ‘Frederick nodded, smiled and held out his hand.’ (Chapter Six)
2 up can mean...
   a higher
   ‘He...jacked up the car...’ (Chapter Six)
   ‘She picked up the phone again.’ (Chapter Twelve)

   b to the end
   ‘By that summer, I’d managed to save up a quarter of a million pounds.’
   (Chapter Eleven)
   ‘Frederick drank up his coffee...’ (Chapter Twelve)

   and

   c thinking creatively or imaginatively
   ‘At first, I couldn’t think what to do. But then – all of a sudden – I came up with an idea.’ (Chapter Ten)
   ‘But – each week – I made up some new story to explain the cheques away.’ (Chapter Eleven)

3 to drop (someone) off is the opposite of to pick (someone) up.
   ‘Perhaps I could drop you off somewhere along the way.’ (Chapter Six)
   ‘...he’d come and pick me up when the classes were over.’ (Chapter Eight)

4 to let (someone) down = to disappoint (someone), to break a promise
   ‘Frederick’s face dropped. He’d been expecting money or food and he felt a bit let down.’ (Chapter Six)
   ‘I can’t let the children down.’ (Chapter Eleven)

5 ‘it suddenly dawned on him that’ = he suddenly realised that

6 When talking about cars, vans or lorries, to get into is the opposite of to get out of.
   ‘He wiped his hands on a cloth and got into the car.’ (Chapter Six)
   ‘Frederick took off his seat belt and tried to get out of the car.’ (Chapter Twelve)

7 to pull out of (= to leave) a lay-by, station, etc. is the opposite of to pull into (= to enter) a lay-by, station, etc.
   ‘The woman got in, put on her seat belt, took off the handbrake, put the car into first gear, looked in the rear-view mirror, and pulled gently out of the lay-by.’ (Chapter Six)
   ‘...and then jumped off again as the train pulled into a station.’ (Chapter Five)

8 roar (the noun) and to roar (the verb) are used to describe the sound made by crowds, lions, cars, trains and planes.
   ‘And then – with a sudden burst of speed – they roared onto the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.’ (Chapter Six)
   ‘The driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared on.’ (Chapter Seven)
CHAPTER SEVEN

The steering's fine now. I'm very grateful to you, Mr... er...

FrederickMust.He looked out of the window and waved his hand in a rather vague way.
I... er... I'm in prison.

Well, I never! Isn't that a coincidence? So is my husband. Perhaps you've heard of him.
His name is Sir Gerald Prescott.

Frederick sank lower in his seat. A cold shiver ran down his spine.
That's right. Do you know him?

That's my husband, Sir Gerald Prescott. The Governor of Newtown Jail.

Er... not personally. But I... er... I know him... he has quite a reputation in my field.

She was like a dragon breathing fire.
Sir Gerald's nickname is Niagara, because he keeps bursting into tears. When I first met him he was a tiger but he's turned into a kitten. It's a stubborn, uncooperative jelly, and he drives me up the wall.

Frederick sat in a state of shock trying to squeeze words through his frozen lips. But it was just no good. His mouth opened and closed like a demented goldfish.

And although he did utter a few incoherent grunts none of the sound came out right.

So—accepting defeat—he gave up trying to change the subject, sat back and just watched the volcano erupt.

Frederick's mind was not at peace. Here he was, driving a Rolls Royce driven by the wife of the Governor of the Prion where he'd just escaped from.

Carruthers, Frederick Carruthers.

Now that name rings a bell. I'm sure I've come across it somewhere before. But I can't quite place it. And so, tell me, Mr Carruthers, what do you do?

Lady Prescott's voice grew louder as she warmed to her subject.
Sir Gerald is the weakest, the stupidest, the meanest and the most selfish man to walk this earth.

Frederick wanted to move on to another topic like the weather or the price of cauliflower but it was no good. Lady Prescott was getting carried away and there was just no stopping her now.

The driver put her foot down and the Blue Rolls Royce roared on.

Perhaps I should have stayed in my cell.

He was mumbling, his stomach was rumbling, his confidence was crumbling, and Lady Prescott was glaring.
Practice

12 kitten sounds wall subject name
volcano Rolls Royce prison reputation spine

1 Now that _________ rings a bell. I'm sure I've come across it somewhere before.
2 A cold shiver ran down his _________________.
3 I know of him. He has quite a ________________ in my field.
4 When I first met him, he was a tiger, but he's turned into a _________________.
5 He drives me up the _________________.
6 None of the ________________ came out right.
7 So - recognising defeat - he gave up trying to change the _________________.
8 ...sat back and just watched the ________________ erupt.
9 Here he was sitting in a ________________
10 ...driven by the wife of the governor of the ________________ he'd just escaped from.

13 in through out up on back for across to of

1 I'm very grateful _____________ you, Mr... er...
2 Now that name rings a bell. I'm sure I've come _____________ it somewhere before.
3 I know _____________ him. He has quite a reputation in my field.
4 I'm sure it's a reputation _____________ childish, incompetent stupidity!
5 Frederick sat _____________ a state of shock.
6 ...trying to squeeze words _____________ his frozen lips.
7 None of the sounds came _____________ right.
8 So - recognising defeat - he gave _____________ trying to change the subject,
9 ...sat _____________ and just watched the volcano erupt.
10 The driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared _____________

Notes

1 on often means 'to continue'.
   'The blue Rolls Royce sped on down the M1.' (Chapter Seven)
   'The driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared on.' (Chapter Seven)
   'He kept on proposing and I kept on saying "no".' (Chapter Nine)
   ""Go on," Lady Prescott said gently.' (Chapter Ten)
   'Karen Blackstone carried on talking, ignoring that last remark.' (Chapter Thirteen)
2 'That name rings a bell' = I've heard that name before

3 to come across (something) = to come into contact with (something) unexpectedly or by chance

4 Well I never! = That's incredible! What a surprise!

5 'Perhaps you've heard of him' = Perhaps his name is familiar to you

6 'I know of him' = I've heard of him

7 A grunt (the noun) and to grunt (the verb) can also describe the sounds made by a pig and a tennis player.

8 to give up (= to stop or to abandon) can be used with a gerund or a noun.
   'So – recognising defeat – he gave up trying to change the subject, sat back and just watched the volcano erupt.' (Chapter Seven)
   'Frederick had given up trying to work out what was going on.' (Chapter Thirteen)
   'I knew that I couldn't give Gerald up.' (Chapter Eight)

9 A few years ago, it was considered 'bad style' to put a preposition at the end of a sentence. Grammar books would tell you that 'To whom did you send the letter?' was better than 'Who did you send the letter to?'
   But fashions and conventions change and these days it is quite acceptable to end a sentence with a preposition...
   'Here he was, sitting in a Rolls Royce driven by the wife of the governor of the prison he'd just escaped from.' (Chapter Seven)
   'I knew that I couldn't give Gerald up.' (Chapter Eight)
   'I needed more time to think things through.' (Chapter Nine)
   '...I suppose I needed someone to talk to.' (Chapter Ten)
   'I can't let the children down.' (Chapter Eleven)
   'They might even have let you off.' (Chapter Twelve)
   'But where shall I send the papers to?' (Chapter Thirteen)
   etc...
CHAPTER EIGHT

By the time they arrived at the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed down a little and Frederick was feeling a bit more relaxed. And as we pick up the story again (at 1.23 p.m.) our two characters have started to get on surprisingly well.

The Blue Rolls Royce slowed down and they drew up in front of a row of shabby terraced houses.

Do you see number 42, the one with the pale green door? I was born there. And this little run down street on the edge of the city is where I grew up. Whenever I feel down I come back here. This will always be my home. It's dirty and messy and some of the shops are boarded up. But as far as I'm concerned this is the best place in the world.

Lady Prescott put on the handbrake, took off her seatbelt and stepped out of the car.

And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk. Would you like me to show you around?

That would be very kind of you. But I don't want to put you to any trouble.

It would be no trouble at all. In fact you'd be doing me a favour. I've got a lot of things on my mind at the moment and I need someone to talk to. So I'd be very grateful if you came and walked with me.

They set off across the market square on a tour of the town.

They came over the narrow stone bridge that crossed the canal.

Has it changed much over the years?

No not really. They've done up some of the houses... like these ones here... but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.

Whenever there's an election, the politicians come round and knock on the door. They promise to pull down the terraced housing and build some new flats. But after the votes are counted, they never seem to get round to it. It's strange that, isn't it?

And now, anyway - I'd be a bit sad if they knocked everything down and put up one of those ugly tower blocks. Perhaps it's better to keep it the way it is. I don't want them tearing down my childhood. They should leave my home alone.

You say this is your home. But then why did you go away?
The story continues...

'Oh, that's simple,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I fell in love. Strange though it may seem, I left Birmingham to be with Gerald Prescott - the gutless, brainless, spineless fool who is now governor of Newtown Prison. You look a bit surprised, Mr Carruthers. Then perhaps I should explain.

There was a time when my husband was a bright, tender young man. It's only recently that he's turned into a workaholic who eats, drinks and sleeps prison life.

I met him when I was just eighteen. I was in my last term at school and Gerald was studying at the local technical college. He was absolutely broke and so he'd taken a part-time job at a take-away restaurant called The Birmingham Big Burger Bar. The take-away was in Crawford Street. It was on my way home from school. One day, I went in to get some chips. Gerald was serving behind the counter. He smiled at me and I felt a cold shiver run down my spine.

After that I went to the take-away every day. I wasn't hungry. I just wanted to see Gerald. Anyway, one afternoon he asked me out and we went for a walk in the park. We got on really well and I started seeing him all the time. He used to walk me to school in the morning and he'd come and pick me up when the classes were over. And then - all of a sudden - I fell in love with him. I don't know why. It just happened that way.

When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy. He didn't want his only daughter going out with someone who cooked hamburgers in a take-away. He told me that I had to stop seeing Gerald straightaway.

I had to make a choice. Should I obey my father and split up with the person I loved? Or should I defy my parents and go on seeing him? It didn't take me long to make up my mind! I knew that I couldn't give Gerald up. And so I had to work out some way of deceiving my parents.

The plan was simple. I pretended that I'd obeyed my father. I said that I'd broken up with Gerald. I cried for two or three days and went through ten packets of tissues. I stopped eating and slammed lots of doors. I put on a really good show. My parents were completely taken in.

But whenever my father's back was turned, I would slip out of the house and go and meet Gerald secretly, in the park or at the take-away. When I came home, I made up some story or other to explain where I'd been. "I was at a friend's house playing records" or "I was visiting a museum in the centre of the town".

My father seemed happy that I'd suddenly made lots of new friends who had money in their pockets and didn't cook burgers. But he didn't know what I was really up to...

Lady Prescott suddenly broke off and - for the next minute or so - they walked on in silence. Frederick looked straight ahead. He said nothing. There was no need to talk. They crossed a main road and walked past a school. And then, as they turned down a narrow side street, Lady Prescott picked up the story again...
Practice

14

handbrake  childhood  houses  spine  street

seat belt  mind  workaholic  Gerald

1 This little run-down _______________ on the edge of the city is where I grew up.
2 Lady Prescott put on the _______________.
3 ...and took off her _______________.
4 They've done up some of the _______________.
5 I don't want them tearing down my _______________.
6 There was a time when my husband was a bright, tender young man. It's only recently that he's turned into a _______________.
7 I felt a cold shiver run down my _______________.
8 And then--all of a sudden--I fell in _______________ with him.
9 It didn't take me long to make up my _______________!
10 I knew that I couldn't give _______________ up.

15

out  out  out  on  on

up  up  around  round  at

1 By the time they arrived _______________ the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed down a little.
2 And as we pick up the story again, our two characters have started to get _______________ surprisingly well.
3 This little run-down street on the edge of the city is where I grew _______________.
4 And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk. Would you like me to show you _______________?
5 They've done _______________ some of the houses...like these ones here...but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.
6 But after the votes are counted, they never seem to get _______________ to it. It's strange that, isn't it?
7 One afternoon, he asked me _______________ and we went for a walk in the park.
8 When my father found _______________ what
9 ...was going _______________, he went crazy.
10 He didn't want his only daughter going _______________ with someone who cooked hamburgers in a take-away.

Notes

1 to calm down = to relax
    'By the time they arrived at the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed down a little...' (Chapter Eight)
‘Now calm down. And go through the whole story right from the start.’
(Chapter Two)

2 to get on with (someone) = to have a good relationship with (someone)
‘...our two characters have started to get on surprisingly well.’ (Chapter Eight)

‘We got on really well and I started seeing him all the time.’ (Chapter Eight)

3 to feel down = to feel depressed
‘Whenever I feel down, I come back here.’ (Chapter Eight)
‘Frederick was staring deep into his coffee. Telling the story of the kidney machines had brought back some painful memories. And he suddenly felt very down.’ (Chapter Twelve)

4 to have something on your mind = to be worried about something
‘Lady Prescott paused. There was something on her mind.’ (Chapter Ten)
‘I’ve got a lot of things on my mind at the moment and I need someone to talk to.’ (Chapter Eight)

5 Compare...
‘And now, Mr Carruthers, I’m going for a walk. Would you like me to show you around?’ (Chapter Eight)

and
‘The woman showed them into the Managing Director’s office and sniffed again.’ (Chapter Twelve)

6 to do up (a flat, house, building, etc.) = to renovate, to repaint,
to redecorate, etc.
‘They’ve done up some of the houses...like these ones here...but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.’ (Chapter Eight)

• They did up the flat and then sold it.

7 to come round (here) = to go round (there) = to visit
‘The politicians come round and knock on the door.’ (Chapter Eight)
‘Gerald went round to see my father. They had a long talk and - somehow - they sorted the whole thing out.’ (Chapter Nine)

8 to get round to (= to find the time to do something) is often used in a slightly negative sense, suggesting that someone is too lazy, too uncaring or too selfish to bother to do something...
‘But after the votes are counted, they never seem to get round to it. It’s strange that, isn’t it?’ (Chapter Eight)
(Lady Prescott is suggesting that once the politicians are elected, they no longer care about the people who voted for them.)

9 going on = happening
‘When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy.’ (Chapter Eight)

‘He’d realised what had been going on behind his back.’ (Chapter Nine)
CHAPTER NINE

On my last day at school Gerald asked me to marry him. As you can imagine I felt tremendously flattered. But I turned him down. I told him I was just too young to settle down. I needed more time to think things through.

For the next few months we played a sort of game. He kept on proposing and I kept on saying 'No.'

But then one night — it was May 10th — everything changed. I told my father I was going to a poetry reading in the local town hall. In fact, I slipped out of the side door and went to the cinema with Gerald.

When the film was over we caught the last bus home but — along the way — the bus broke down and all the passengers had to get off and walk.

It was now 2 o'clock in the morning. I took out my key and let myself in as quietly as I could. My father was walking for me in the hall. He normally went to bed at about 11 but that night he'd decided to stay up until I got in.

It was furious. He'd seen Gerald bringing me to the door and — at that moment — he'd realized what had been going on behind his back. I'd never seen my father so angry. I thought he was going to hit me! So I ran past him and went straight up to bed.

He was furious. He'd seen Gerald bringing me to the door and — at that moment — he'd realized what had been going on behind his back. I'd never seen my father so angry. I thought he was going to hit me! So I ran past him and went straight up to bed.

Anyway, to cut a long story short, we eloped to Newtown and got married in the local church. It was a very quiet wedding. Just me, Gerald, the vicar — and a couple of witnesses. All very romantic!

The next morning at breakfast we had a huge row. He shouted at me. I shouted at him. And it ended up with me packing a suitcase and storming out of the house. I went straight round to Gerald's flat and we decided to run away.

As soon as the service was over I rang up my parents to tell them what we'd done.

My father was stunned and hurt. He lost his temper and slammed down the phone.

For the next few months we went through a really bad patch. I didn't go back to the house and whenever I rang home there were long, pregnant pauses. It was all very awkward.

But then one day Gerald went round to see my father. They had a long talk and — somehow — they sorted the whole thing out. I made it up with my parents and since then we've been very close.

And I suppose that now looking back — I can appreciate what my mother and father were going through. I was their only daughter and they didn't think my husband was good enough for me.

After all, when Gerald was younger he wasn't exactly rolling in money. He was so hard up that he'd use the same tie bag for a week. He owned three shirts and they all had holes in them. His shirt sleeves were frayed and his trousers were held up with string.

LADY PRESCOTT
SIGNED AND SMILED. A SINGLE TEAR RAN DOWN HER CHEEK.

Ah, those were happy days.
The story continues...

Lady Prescott broke off and – once again – they walked on in silence.

It was now mid-afternoon and the streets were empty. There was a stillness in the cool summer air, as if the world had paused for thought. No birds sang. No cows mooed. No ducks quacked. No sheep baaed. No dogs woofed. No cats miaowed. In fact, on that bright, soft, tranquil day, there was only one sound to be heard – the low, continuous rumbling of Frederick’s empty stomach, for twenty-four hours starved of food.

They walked down a couple of alleyways and then, as they turned into the main road, they came upon a postman riding a bicycle. The bicycle was very old and it had no springs. And so, as he rode across the cobblesstones, he seemed to be nodding his head and shaking his head all at the same time.

Lady Prescott was talking again: ‘Do you know where we are, Mr Carruthers? This is Crawford Street. And at the end of this row of shops, there’s The Birmingham Big Burger Bar – where I met Gerald all those years ago. Look, I don’t know about you, but I’m starving. Why don’t we pop in there and have a late lunch? They serve the best beefburgers in town!’

Frederick seemed a little agitated. ‘I could do with a meal too,’ he said. ‘But I’m afraid I don’t have a penny on me. You see, I went out in rather a hurry last night.’

Lady Prescott smiled. ‘But you must be my guest, Mr Carruthers. You’ve gone out of your way to help me and you’ve put up with all my complaints about Sir Gerald. Paying for lunch will be my way of paying you back for all your kindness. Come on, I insist. I’ve had a long and difficult day. I’m tired out and very worked up about my husband. I need a good meal to calm me down and I don’t want to eat alone.’

Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>penny</th>
<th>cheek</th>
<th>key</th>
<th>proposing</th>
<th>husband</th>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>way</td>
<td>complaints</td>
<td>phone</td>
<td>money</td>
<td>back</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 He kept on ________ and I kept on saying ‘no’.
2 I took out my ________ and let myself in.
3 At that moment, he’d realised what had been going on behind his ________.
4 He lost his temper and slammed down the ________.
5 When Gerald was younger, he wasn’t exactly rolling in ________.
6 Lady Prescott sighed and smiled. A single tear ran down her ________.
7 I’m afraid I don’t have a ________ on me.
8 You’ve gone out of your ________ to help me.
9 You’ve put up with all my ________ about Sir Gerald.
10 I’m tired out and very worked up about my ________. 
17

1 On my last day ___________ school, Gerald asked me to marry him.
2 I needed more time to think things ___________.
3 He kept ___________ proposing.
4 I told my father I was going ___________ a poetry reading in the local Town Hall.
5 I took ___________ my key and let myself in.
6 He’d realised what had been going ___________ behind his back.
7 He shouted ___________ me.
8 We eloped ___________ Newtown and got married in the local church.
9 They had a long talk and – somehow – they sorted the whole thing ___________.
10 You’ve put up ___________ all my complaints about Sir Gerald.

Notes

1 to turn (someone or something) down = to say ‘no’ to (an offer, proposal, suggestion or application)

2 to settle down can mean ‘to start to live in one place or situation permanently’.
   ‘I was just too young to settle down.’ (Chapter Nine)
   But notice a slightly different meaning in Chapter Fifteen:
   ‘The prisoners had settled down for the night and the jail was locked and still.’
3 to think (something) through = to think (something) over
   = to consider (a proposal, plan, situation, etc.) very carefully
   ‘I needed more time to think things through.’ (Chapter Nine)
   ‘We’re going to give you twenty-four hours to think it over,” he said.’
   (Chapter Eleven)
4 ‘I let myself in’ = I opened the door with a key
5 it ended up... = the result was...
6 a pregnant pause = an embarrassing silence
7 to sort (something) out = to solve (a problem, issue, argument, dispute, etc.)
   ‘Gerald went round to see my father...and – somehow – they sorted the whole thing out.’ (Chapter Nine)
   ‘We had a long talk on the phone and we sorted a few things out.’ (Chapter Thirteen)
8 to make it up with (someone) = to re-establish a friendship or a loving relationship
9 rolling in money = very rich
10 hard up = very poor
Lady Prescott was right about the food. It was definitely the best burger that Frederick had ever tasted, but that was hardly surprising. He was so hungry that he could have eaten the'salad' and the cheap blue plastic tray.

It's 3 o'clock. I've been babbling on about my problems for over an hour now. Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to burden you. It's just that after my break-up with Sir Gerald, I suppose I needed someone to talk to.

Lady Prescott paused. There was something on her mind.

"But you have an honest, kindly face and you're obviously an intelligent man. So how did you end up like this?"

Frederick said nothing. He looked down at the table and stirred his coffee with a spoon. He didn't know what to do. He wanted to explain things, but he wasn't sure whether he could trust Lady Prescott. After all, she was the wife of the governor of the prison he'd just escaped from. If she found out that he was a convict on the run, perhaps she'd turn him in and then he might end up in cell 269 again.

Frederick looked up. He broke the silence.

"You're right of course. It's strange that I should be drifting around with nowhere to go. And yes I am in trouble. But if I told you what I've been through in the past few months, you might get angry. And that would make things worse."

Frederick finished off his french fries and smiled.

Mr. Carruthers, I want to ask you a question. When I drove into that town, you were standing around with your hands in your pocket, looking like a down-and-out.

There must be something wrong. And I think it's time for you to tell me the truth. Why were you wandering around near the motorway with no money in your pocket and those very strange clothes?

You've no reason to be afraid. If you're in trouble then you need help. And if there's something on your mind, you shouldn't just bottle it up inside you. You should tell me about it and get it off your chest. Then you'd feel a lot better. And I give you my word that I won't get angry, whatever you say."
The story continues...

Frederick sighed. 'Perhaps you’re right,' he said. 'And, after all, what have I got to lose? Well, the truth is that up until two years ago, I was leading a very simple and predictable life. I had a steady job, a beautiful home and a loving family. Then, all of a sudden, something happened that changed everything. My whole world just fell apart.'

Frederick broke off. He seemed a little uneasy.

'Go on,' Lady Prescott said gently.

'Well, it’s a very long story,' Frederick replied. 'And I don’t really know where to begin.'

'Try the beginning,' said Lady Prescott, putting a straw into her milkshake. 'I’m in no hurry. I’m going to drink this very, very slowly.'

Frederick took a deep breath and picked up the story again. 'My mother is a nurse in a small hospital,' he said. 'She looks after sick children. She’s a wonderful, extraordinary woman and she works incredibly hard.

One day, I drove down to the hospital to pick my mother up after work. We were going out to dinner. I parked the car and, as I was walking through one of the wards, I could hear a child crying very softly. I looked across and saw a little boy. He must have been about eight or nine. He was so ill that he couldn’t sit up in bed properly. He had to lie against pillows all day long. It was terrible. He was pale, lifeless, too weak to move.

The next day, I rang up the manager of the hospital and asked about the little boy. She told me that all the children in that ward had problems with their kidneys.

"And is there nothing you can do?" I asked.

"I’m afraid not," she said. "What we really need is half a dozen kidney machines. Then the children would be able to get out of bed and walk around the ward. But, unfortunately, the hospital is very short of money. We’re so hard up that we can’t afford to buy one machine, let alone six. So, I’m afraid the children will just have to suffer."

When I put down the phone, I felt terribly disturbed. It was so sad, so shocking, so unfair. I decided that I had to find a way to help the children. I couldn’t stand by and do nothing.

At first, I couldn’t think what to do. But then – all of a sudden – I came up with an idea. I was a bank manager and a lot of money passed through my hands. During a normal working day, I would write out ten, maybe twelve, official cheques for different things – stationery, coffee, furniture, stamps and so on. I’d worked at the bank for thirty years, so everybody knew me. And nobody ever checked up on what I was doing, I suppose I had an honest face and they just trusted me!

One afternoon – it was a Wednesday – I called my secretary into the office and told her to cancel my appointments. When she’d left the room, I took the phone off the hook and drew the curtains. Then I took the official cheque book out of the safe and wrote a cheque to myself!

Pay Mr F. Carruthers,
£100.00 only
Signed Frederick Carruthers.

It was breathtakingly, outrageously simple. A bank manager stealing money from his own bank!'
Practice

18 Revision Exercise

In Chapters Five to Ten, who...

1 ...held out his hand?
2 ...felt a bit let down?
3 ...took off the handbrake?
4 ...was like a dragon breathing fire?
5 ...sat back?
6 ...put her foot down?
7 ...calmed down?
8 ...grew up at number 42?
9 ...showed Frederick around?
10 ...had a lot of things on her mind?
11 ...worked in a take-away?
12 ...kept on proposing?
13 ...kept on saying 'no'?
14 ...took out a key?
15 ...stayed up?
16 ...stormed out of the house?
17 ...eloped to Newtown?
18 ...slammed down the phone?
19 ...rabbled on?
20 ...came up with an idea?

Notes

1 to rabbit on = to talk on and on and on and on...
2 a bust-up = an argument
3 to bottle (something) up inside you is the opposite of 'to get (something) off your chest'.
4 Compare...
   'My whole world just fell apart.' (Chapter Ten)
   'But most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.' (Chapter Eight)
   and
   'How could a good man end up like this? He's falling apart.' (Chapter Twelve)
5 to break off = to pause; to stop talking
6 out often means 'outside the house'.
   'Anyway, one afternoon, he asked me out and we went for a walk in the park.' (Chapter Eight)
   'We were going out to dinner.' (Chapter Ten)
   'And that night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined out in style.' (Chapter Fourteen)
Chapter Eleven

At the age of 45 I was about to commit my first crime. I looked at the cheque. My head was spinning. This was robbery. Was I doing the right thing? Could I get away with it? Should I just tear up the cheque and throw it away? Perhaps I should forget about the whole thing.

But then I thought about the children in the hospital. They needed the money more than the bank. I was stealing it for them.

So, I took a deep breath, folded the cheque up and put it into my pocket.

I left the office and took a taxi to another branch of the bank. I knew one of the cashiers there. We chatted for a while. And then, with my heart pounding, I paid the cheque into my current account. Three days later the payment cleared. I had stolen my first fifty. The following week I did the whole thing again. Another cheque. The same branch. The same cashier. The same fear. The same excitement when the money was cleared into my account.

And so it went on. Week after week I stole money from the bank and each cheque was a little bigger than the last.

You've no idea how I felt. I was risking everything I had - my career, my family life, my reputation. But nothing was going to stop me now. The image of the little boy crying on his pillow haunted me. I couldn't get it out of my mind. And I had to do something to help.

I think the next few weeks were the most exciting of my life. In some strange way I'd suddenly come alive. I was sharp, human, burning with anger. And I suppose I got a bit carried away.

I was soon writing cheques for five and ten thousand pounds. It was crazy. Sometimes, the cashier seemed a bit suspicious. She couldn't work out what the payments were for. But each week I made up some new story to explain the cheques away. And she fell for it every time.

I suppose it never occurred to her that Frederick Carruthers - her punctual, conscientious friend - could have turned into a common thief, an embezzler, a liar, a man obsessed.

By that summer I'd managed to save up a quarter of a million pounds.

A few days later we had a small ceremony in the ward. It was a bit like launching a ship, or opening a bridge! I unwrapped the machines, plugged them in and switched them on. And then as the lights flashed the children gave me a round of applause that seemed to go on forever. I felt very proud. It was the best moment of my life.

One morning I didn't go into work. I walked into the hospital and wrote out a cheque for every penny I had. The manager went straight out and bought six new kidney machines.
The story continues...

But then – inevitably, I suppose – my luck failed.

Someone at Head Office became suspicious. How could a branch manager afford to donate £250,000 to a hospital?

The Head of Finance went to the central computer and started going through my account. She noticed that I’d been building up large amounts of cash. But how could I save up so much money on the salary I earned? She smelt a rat and, when she looked into the strange dealings on the branch account, she knew that something was wrong.

Anyway, it wasn’t long before she’d put two and two together and worked out what I’d been up to. She tipped off the police and, when I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my office. They took me down to the police station and that was it. I was charged with theft and my world just fell apart. The trial was fixed for December 18th – just one week before Christmas!

Two days before I was due in court, a director of the bank came to see me. He came straight to the point. He offered me a deal. He said they would drop all the charges if I paid the money back.

“But how can I do that?” I asked. “The hospital have spent it all.”

“That’s simple,” the man said. “Tell the hospital that you’ve changed your mind. Tell them it was all a mistake. Just tell them to send the machines back.”

“But what about the children?” I said.

The man shrugged his shoulders. “Our bank is a business, Mr Carruthers. It’s not a charity. And if you don’t get our money back, you’ll end up in jail. It’s as simple as that. It’s up to you. But you can’t have it both ways.”

He stood up. “We’re going to give you twenty-four hours to think it over,” he said. “You don’t have to decide right away. You can sleep on it. I’ll come back tomorrow and you can tell me what you’ve decided. But just remember one thing, Mr Carruthers. You can’t rip the bank off and expect to get away with it. Life’s not like that. And we will hunt you down until we get every penny of our money back. I trust I’ve made myself clear. Good afternoon.”

That night, I lay awake in my cell and thought the whole thing through. Was I being stupid? Should I save my own skin? Was it all worth fighting for? I went over it again and again.

The man from the bank came back the next day. He walked into my cell with a stupid smirk on his face. He was so sure of himself. So confident. He thought I was going to give in without a fight. He sat down and grinned at me. And at that moment, I noticed he had false teeth.

“So, Mr Carruthers,” he began. “I trust that you’ve come to your senses. I’ve prepared this letter for you to sign. It instructs the hospital to send the items in question back to the factory and...”

I held up my hand and the man from the bank stopped talking.

“You can save your breath,” I said. “Put the letter away. I’ve got no intention of signing it. I’ve decided to go through with the trial. I can’t let the children down. I promised them six kidney machines and I’m not going back on my word.”

The man from the bank gaped at me and his false teeth fell out. They crashed noisily onto the floor and rolled under my bed. I bent down, picked them up and handed them back to him.

“I believe these are yours,” I said. You should have seen his face!

And so the trial went ahead. I pleaded guilty, the judge sentenced me to three years in jail and that’s how I ended up in...’ Frederick paused and took a
deep breath, '...in Newtown Prison...from where I escaped at eleven o' clock last night.'
Lady Prescott blinked twice. She didn't seem at all shocked or upset by the fact that Frederick was a convict on the run from her husband's jail. In fact, her one and only concern was for the children in the ward.

Practice

19

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1 I looked at the ____________. My head was spinning.
2 She couldn't work out what the ____________ were for.
3 But - each week - I made up some new ____________ to explain the cheques away.
4 The Head of Finance went to the central computer and started going through my ____________.
5 She tipped off the ____________
6 ...and when I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my ____________.
7 If you don't get our money back, you'll end up in ____________.
8 You can't rip the ____________ off and expect to get away with it.
9 I held up my ____________ and the man from the bank stopped talking.
10 I've decided to go through with the ____________.

20

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1 It's up ____________ you.
2 That night, I lay awake ____________ my cell
3 ...and thought the whole thing ____________.
4 Was it all worth fighting ____________?
5 He was so sure ____________ himself.
6 He thought I was going to give ____________ without a fight.
7 I've prepared this letter ____________ you to sign.
8 I've got no intention ____________ signing it.
9 I've decided to go through ____________ the trial.
10 And that's how I ended ____________ in Newtown Prison.
Notes

1 'It was a bit like launching a ship...' (Chapter Eleven)
   You can also launch a rocket, a campaign, a new product and an attack.

2 'she smelt a rat' = she became suspicious; she realised that something
   was wrong

3 to be up to (something) = to be acting secretly, suspiciously or
   conspiratorially

4 Compare...
   '...a director of the bank came to see me.' (Chapter Eleven)
   'He came straight to the point.' (Chapter Eleven)
   and
   'I trust that you've come to your senses.' (Chapter Eleven)
   You can also come to an agreement and to a conclusion.

5 'It's up to you' = It's your decision

6 to rip (someone) off = to cheat (someone); to trick (someone); to take unfair
   advantage of (someone)
   'You can't rip the bank off and expect to get away with it.' (Chapter Eleven)
   'And Karen Blackstone got a promise that the Head of Charity Donations
   would never let on how to rip off the bank.' (Chapter Thirteen)

7 to give in = to surrender; to stop fighting
Chapter Twelve

There's one thing I don't understand. Why didn't you tell the court what you did with the money? Then they would have seen things in a different light. They would have reduced your sentence. They might even have let you off.

I thought of that. But then the judge would have ordered the hospital to sell the machines and pay the money back. And that was the last thing I wanted. I may have got out of going to prison but what would have happened to the children? I couldn't take that risk.

Lady Prescott shook her head.

I can't decide if you were very brave or very stupid. But I have to admire what you did. And you nearly got away with it. You were really quite unlucky.

Now I don't condone stealing. Theft is theft and you deserved to be punished. But after two years in jail you've paid off your debt.

And with that she suddenly stood up and picked up her bag.

Would you excuse me, Mr. Corruthers? I have a couple of calls to make.

Lady Prescott walked over to the pay phone in the corner of the room. She took a yellow diary out of the bag and looked up a number. Then she picked up the receiver, put some coins into the slot and started dialling.

Frederick turned his face and looked out at Crawford Street. There were now lots of people about. It was half past three and the local school had just broken up for the day. A young girl came in and ordered some chips.

Lady Prescott finished her first call and put down the phone. Then she turned round and looked across at Frederick. He was miles away, staring out of the window.

She picked up the phone again and dialled a second number.

A few minutes later she was through.

Is that Newtown Prison? This is Lady Prescott. I want to speak to my husband.
The story continues...

Lady Prescott came back to the table and sat down. 'I made a call to a friend of mine, Mr Carruthers. She'd like to meet you. I said we'd be in her office just after five. So why don't you drink up your coffee and eat up your cheeseburger and finish off the French fries, and then we can set off.'

'But where are we going?' Frederick said. 'And who is your friend?'

'For the moment, that must remain a secret,' Lady Prescott replied. 'But she's an important woman and I think she can help you. Oh, and do cheer up, Mr Carruthers. You mustn't worry so much. It'll all work out in the end.'

Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.

They walked back to the car - along Crawford Street, down a couple of side alleys, over the stone bridge that crossed the canal. And a few minutes later, the blue Rolls Royce was on the road again.

Frederick was exhausted. The last twenty-four hours were beginning to catch up with him. And, as the car sped on down the motorway, he closed his eyes and gently nodded off, falling ever deeper into sleep.

A couple of hours later, Frederick felt someone tapping on his shoulder.

'Come along, Mr Carruthers,' Lady Prescott said. 'Wake up. We're nearly there.'

Frederick woke up with a start. And at first he thought he was still dreaming. Because there - right ahead of them - was a vast glass and metal building that he knew all too well. But this was no dream. And their car was heading straight for the main entrance.

'Where are you taking me?' Frederick shouted. 'This is the Head Office of my old bank. You've set me up, haven't you? You're going to turn me in! I should never have trusted you. Stop the car right now! Let me out!'

Frederick took off his seat belt and tried to get out of the car. But Lady Prescott turned round and dragged him back inside.

'For goodness' sake, calm down, Mr Carruthers,' she said. 'I haven't set you up and I'm not going to turn you in. And don't get so worked up. You're as bad as my husband. Now just listen to me. When we were in the take-away, I rang up your Head Office and fixed up an appointment with Karen Blackstone. She's a good friend of mine. We went to school together.'

'Karen Blackstone?' Frederick said. 'But she's the Managing Director of the bank.'

'Exactly, Mr Carruthers. And we're on our way to her office. She's going to give you a new job.'

'You must be joking,' said Frederick. 'The bank would never dream of taking me on again. I've got a criminal record for stealing their money.'

'Well, just you wait and see,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I think you're in for a surprise.'

The blue Rolls Royce pulled up in front of a huge skyscraper that seemed to pierce the clouds. They got out of the car and walked through into the main lobby. Then they made their way to the Managing Director's penthouse suite. As the lift rose smoothly to the eighty-ninth floor, Frederick broke out into a cold sweat.

A thousand thoughts were running through his mind. Could he really trust Lady Prescott? Was he walking into a trap? Would the police be there to arrest him again? And what would Karen Blackstone make of his clothes? He stared at himself in the mirror. He wasn't exactly dressed up for the occasion. In the past twenty-four hours, he'd crawled through mud, swum across lakes, climbed up
trees, jumped onto trains, rolled down hills and put a spare wheel onto the blue Rolls Royce. And now, after all that, he looked like a scarecrow in a thunderstorm. The stains on his shirt and his crumpled prison trousers didn’t quite fit in with the thick-pile carpet and the soft leather chairs.

When the lift doors opened, they were met by a tall, angular secretary who took one look at Frederick’s bedraggled appearance and gave a shrill sniff of disapproval. The woman showed them into the Managing Director’s office and sniffed again. Then she turned and closed the door behind her.

Practice

21

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1 I may have got out of going to ____________, but what would have happened to the children?
2 She took a yellow ____________ out of the bag
3 ...and looked up a ____________.
4 There were now lots of ____________ about.
5 Frederick was exhausted. The last twenty-four ____________ were beginning to catch up with him.
6 Frederick woke up with a ____________.
7 I think you’re in for a ____________.
8 A thousand thoughts were running through his ____________.
9 And what would Karen Blackstone make of his ____________?
10 The woman showed them into the Managing Director’s ____________ and sniffed again.

22

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1 They would have reduced your sentence. They might even have let you ____________.
2 I may have got out ____________ going to prison, but what would have happened to the children?
3 You nearly got away ____________ it. You were really quite unlucky.
4 How could a good man end up like this? He’s falling ____________.
5 This is the Head Office of the bank. You’ve set me ____________, haven’t you?
6 Stop the car right now! Let me ____________!
7 And don’t get so worked ____________, You’re as bad as my husband.
8 Now just listen ____________ me.
9 I’ve got a criminal record ____________ stealing their money.
10 And what would Karen Blackstone make ____________ his clothes?
Notes

1 Note the use of...
   a to let (someone) off
   b to get away with (something)
   c to get out of (doing something)

These three phrasal verbs are used when talking about crime and punishment.

a to let (someone) off = to choose not to punish (someone) for a mistake, sin, error or crime

'They would have reduced your sentence. They might even have let you off.’ (Chapter Twelve)

b to get away with (something) = not to be punished for a mistake, sin, error or crime

'But I have to admire what you did. And you nearly got away with it.’ (Chapter Twelve)

c to get out of (doing something) = to avoid doing something you dislike or fear

'I may have got out of going to prison, but what would have happened to the children?’ (Chapter Twelve)

2 to look up (something) = to look (something) up
   = to find information in a diary, timetable, reference book, etc.

'She took a yellow diary out of the bag and looked up a number.’ (Chapter Twelve)

3 he was miles away = he was daydreaming; he wasn’t concentrating

4 Cheer up! = Don’t be so sad!

5 to get worked up = to become excited, anxious, tense, nervous, etc.
   (You can also say to be worked up.)
CHAPTER THIRTEEN

WITH THE INTRODUCTIONS OVER, KAREN BLACKSTONE SAT DOWN AND PICKED UP A PENCIL.

Right, let's get down to business. I've been going through your file, Mr Carruthers. As far as I can see you were a model employee - punctual, industrious, conscientious, loyal. Then came the incident with the kidney machines and you threw away thirty years of hard work. But there are two things in your favour. You know the bank inside out and you're obviously committed to charity work. And that makes you just the person we're looking for.

What do you mean? I don't understand.

Then let me explain. Over the past few months the bank has run into some problems. For some reason we've been losing a lot of business.

It's a worrying trend. And last week we carried out a survey to find out what's wrong. We discovered Mr Carruthers that the Bank is not universally loved.

It seems that because we don't sponsor opera or football teams or dog shows people think we're mean. The public sees us as selfish, ruthless and greedy. To put it bluntly, our image puts people off.

But this can't go on. And so something has to change. I want the Bank to come across in a more human, caring way. I want people to look on us as a friend, not as an enemy. I want people to come to us with their problems.

KAREN BLACKSTONE CARRIED ON TALKING, IGNORING THAT LAST REMARK.

Now when I heard the story of you and the kidney machines it set me thinking. We make a solid return on our capital. And it wouldn't do us any harm to give away some of those profits to worthy causes in the community... hospitals, voluntary groups, youth clubs and so on. Just think of it. Mr Carruthers. Just think of all the good we could do!

The Managing Director smiled and then picked up her theme again.

And just think of it, Mrs Blackstone. Just think of all that tax-deductible, cheap publicity.

And this is where you come in, Mr Carruthers. I'd like you to come back to the Bank and see the whole thing up. I'm offering you a new job - Head of Charity Donations.
The story continues...

‘And if I was to take up this new challenge,’ Frederick said, ‘you’d expect me to keep quiet about the events of two years ago. You wouldn’t want me to reveal how I showed up the flaws in your security system. In other words, you want to buy my silence.’

Karen Blackstone was drumming her pencil on the table. ‘Let’s be practical, Mr Carruthers. Not every convict can leave prison and walk straight back into a job. It’s very simple. I need you and you need me. It’s a case of you scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours. I think we understand each other perfectly!’

And so a deal was struck. Frederick got a new job. And Karen Blackstone got a promise that the Head of Charity Donations would never let on how to rip off the bank.

‘You’ll have your new contract in the morning,’ Karen Blackstone said. ‘But where shall I send the papers to?’

The question hung in the air like a vulture. It suddenly dawned on Frederick that he couldn’t take up a new job until he’d served out his term in jail. And he just didn’t know what to say.

Lady Prescott leaned forward. ‘If I could just butt in here,’ she said. ‘I think I’ve sorted out that problem, too. I made two phone calls from the take-away, Mr Carruthers. The first was to Karen, as you know. The second was to my husband. And you’ll be leaving prison much sooner than you think.’

It was now 5.35 and the blue Rolls Royce was coming home.

‘Could you tell me what’s going on?’ Frederick said. ‘I’m getting a bit confused.’

‘Well, it’s all quite simple,’ Lady Prescott replied. ‘I’m going back to my husband. We had a long talk on the phone and we sorted a few things out.’

‘But where does that leave me?’ Frederick asked. ‘Are you going to turn me in?’

‘Not exactly.’ Lady Prescott smiled. ‘I’m going to smuggle you back into the prison and then the governor’s going to let you out.’

Frederick seemed a bit confused. ‘I’m not with you,’ he said.

Lady Prescott took a deep breath. ‘Gerald tells me that you’ve served two thirds of your sentence. And since you’ve been a model prisoner, you’re now due for parole. There was no need for you to run off like that. They were going to let you out anyway.’

Frederick was getting lost again.

‘Let me put it another way,’ Lady Prescott said. ‘If you’d stayed in, instead of breaking out, the governor would have let you off the last twelve months of your sentence and let you out one year early!’

Frederick’s eyebrows collided with each other. The demented goldfish had returned.

Lady Prescott pulled in and stopped the car. ‘We’ll be there in a few minutes,’ she said. ‘I’ve taken a blanket out of the boot. I think it’s time for you to hide.’

Frederick had given up trying to work out what was going on. So, rather sulkily, he climbed over onto the back seat and covered himself up. A few moments later, the blue Rolls Royce moved off again and headed for Newtown.

By the time they arrived at the prison gates, night was falling. Lady Prescott slowed down and stopped the car. Then she wound down her window and leaned across.
Practice

23

profits problem friend jail job image survey Frederich file pencil

1 Karen Blackstone sat down and picked up a _____________.
2 I’ve been going through your _____________, Mr Carruthers.
3 We carried out a ____________ to find out what’s wrong.
4 To put it bluntly, our _____________ puts people off.
5 I want people to look on us as a ______________.
6 It wouldn’t do us any harm to give away some of those ______________
to worthy causes in the community.
7 It suddenly dawned on _____________ that
8 ...he couldn’t take up a new ______________
9 ...until he’d served out his term in ______________.
10 I think I’ve sorted out that ______________, too.

24

out off out to out up out through on as

1 I’ve been going _____________ your file, Mr Carruthers.
2 We carried _____________ a survey
3 ...to find ______________ what’s wrong.
4 The public sees us ______________ selfish, ruthless and greedy.
5 To put it bluntly, our image puts people ______________.
6 But where shall I send the papers ______________?
7 I think I’ve sorted ______________ that problem, too.
8 Frederick had given ______________
9 ...trying to work ______________
10 ...what was going ______________.

Notes

1 to go through = to check
2 ‘...we carried out a survey...’ (Chapter Thirteen)
   You can also carry out an investigation, an attack and a threat.
3 ‘The public sees us as selfish, ruthless and greedy.’ (Chapter Thirteen)
   ‘I want people to look on us as a friend, not as an enemy.’ (Chapter Thirteen)

Notice how...

to see (someone or something) as =
to look on (someone or something) as =
to consider (someone or something) to be
4 Notice how to go on, to carry on and to keep on are followed by a gerund...

'Karen Blackstone carried on talking, ignoring that last remark.' (Chapter Thirteen)

'He kept on proposing and I kept on saying “no”.' (Chapter Nine)

'Or should I defy my parents and go on seeing him?' (Chapter Eight)

5 Compare...

to show up (something) = to reveal (something) that was previously hidden

'You wouldn’t want me to reveal how I showed up the flaws in your security system.' (Chapter Thirteen)

and

to show (someone) up = to embarrass (someone) in public

6 a flaw = a weakness

Note also: ‘a flawless diamond’ and ‘a flawless performance’.

7 to let on = to reveal (a secret)

'And Karen Blackstone got a promise that the Head of Charity Donations would never let on how to rip off the bank.' (Chapter Thirteen)

'But don’t let on that you managed to break out.' (Chapter Fourteen)

8 to butt in = to interrupt
Good evening, Mr Thomas. And how are you tonight?

I'm fine, thank you. We're very glad to see you again.

She flashed her headlights and Angus— for some reason wearing a false moustache and a pair of dark glasses—came out from behind a large grey dustbin and waved.

Lady Prescott got out of the car and locked around. There was no one else about.

You can come out now, Mr Carruthers. The coast is clear. And Mr Macpherson is waiting for you.

Welcome back, Sir. I'm so glad to see you again. I thought I was going to lose my job when you disappeared. I shouldn't have nodded off. It was all my fault.

Frederick smiled and they slipped through a side gate into the main wing of the prison.

Angus took the keys off his belt and unlocked cell 269. Then he pushed open the door and stepped back.

After you, Mr Carruthers. After you.

Lady Prescott in the meantime had climbed the steps to the Governor's office. Sir Gerald was waiting, nervously by the door.

He'd obviously dressed up for the occasion, combing his hair, polishing his shoes and putting on the spotted pink tie that Lady Prescott had given him on their silver wedding anniversary.

History does not record what issues of domestic importance were discussed that evening in the Prescott household. But there is a rumour that the next morning Sir Gerald went out and bought a new pair of rubber washing-up gloves and a book called 'How to Flatter Your Stomach and Lose Your Double Chin.'
The story continues...

That weekend, the governor brought the parole forms down to Frederick’s cell.
‘I owe you a great deal, Mr Carruthers,’ he said. ‘Your escape was a blessing in disguise. The events of the last twenty-four hours have taught me a lot. I’ve come to appreciate just how good my life is. Oh, and by the way, my wife has told me all about the kidney machines and the children in the ward. I think you were very brave. I rang up the Home Office last night and we’ve fixed up your parole. We’re going to give you twelve months off for good behaviour! That means we’ll be letting you out on Monday.

Now, there’s just one more thing that we have to sort out. The other prisoners don’t know that you escaped. Angus and I hushed the whole thing up. So, if anyone asks you where you’ve been for the past twenty-four hours, just say that we thought you’d gone down with German measles. We took you up to the hospital wing and called in a doctor, but it turned out that you had a rash, or an allergy or something, which cleared up overnight. You can make up any story you like. But don’t let on that you managed to break out. Otherwise Angus and I will be out of a job.’

Frederick began to laugh. ‘Your secret is safe with me, Governor,’ he said. ‘And anyway, if anyone found out that I ran away, I couldn’t get parole. So it’s in my interests to hush everything up too!’

＊＊＊＊＊＊＊

Dawn broke over Newtown Prison. It was Monday, and Frederick Carruthers was going home. Sir Gerald, Lady Prescott and Angus stood by the front gates to see him off. They shook hands and talked for a few minutes. Then the huge iron gates swung open and Frederick walked out onto the street.

It was a strange feeling to be truly free again – like having a canvas and a brush and not knowing what to paint. But Frederick was looking forward to doing the simple things again – walking the dogs after Sunday lunch, browsing in bookshops, fishing in the canal.

The family were there to meet him. They’d stood by him through all the ups and downs of the past two years. And, now, there was so much to say, so much to do. So much lost time to make up for.

＊＊＊＊＊＊＊

A few days later, a table was reserved at the best Italian restaurant in Newtown. And that night, the Carruthers family. Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined out in style.

There was only one topic of conversation – but that’s often the way at the best parties. Frederick told the story of the night of his escape – how he had swum across a river, crawled through a field of turnips and jumped on and off trains. Angus described how he’d broken out in a cold sweat when he’d woken up and found out that Frederick had managed to break out and run off. Sir Gerald explained how they’d made up a story that Frederick had gone down with a particularly contagious form of German measles in an attempt to hush up news of the breakout. And Lady Prescott recounted the story of driving into a lay-by and coming across a shabby down-and-out with such a kindly, honest face.
Practice

25 parole  breakout  rash  trains  Frederick
life  coast  river  belt  behaviour

1 The ____________ is clear. And Mr Macpherson is waiting for you.
2 Angus took the keys off his ____________.
3 I’ve come to appreciate just how good my ____________ is.
4 We’re going to give you twelve months off for good ____________.
5 But it turned out that you had a ____________ or an allergy.
6 If anyone found out that I ran away, I couldn’t get ____________.
7 Frederick told the story of the night of his escape – how he had swum across a ____________
8 ...and jumped on and off ____________.
9 Angus had woken up and found out that ____________ had managed to break out and run off.
10 Sir Gerald had tried to hush up news of the ____________.

26 across  away  off  of  up
out  out  out  on  on

1 Angus took the keys ____________ his belt and unlocked cell 269.
2 Don’t let ____________
3 ...that you managed to break ____________.
4 And anyway, if anyone found ____________ that
5 ...I ran ____________, I couldn’t get parole.
6 So it’s in my interests to hush everything ____________ too!
7 That night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined ____________ in style.
8 Frederick told the story ____________ the night of his escape –
9 ...how he had swum ____________ a river
10 ...and jumped ____________ and off trains.

Notes

1 to dress up = to make yourself look as smart as possible
   You dress up for an interview, meeting, party, etc.

2 Note these three common patterns:
   a go out and...
   b go out to...
   c go out for...
   ‘Sir Gerald went out and bought a new pair of rubber washing-up gloves...’
   (Chapter Fourteen)
   • She went out to get some fruit...
   • They went out for a meal...
3 ‘I owe you a great deal...’
Notice similar collocations such as...
♦ I owe you an apology.
♦ I owe you £100.
♦ I owe you an explanation.

4 *Hush!* = Be quiet!
    *to hush (something) up* = to keep (something) quiet
    = to keep (information) secret

5 In the following sentences, *off* = free.
    ‘Frederick had run across the prison yard, climbed over a wall and run off
    into the night.’ (Chapter Five)
    ‘...the governor would have let you off the last twelve months of your
    sentence...’ (Chapter Thirteen)
    ‘We’re going to give you twelve months off for good behaviour!’ (Chapter
    Fourteen)
    Note also:
    ♦ We get an hour off for lunch.
    ♦ a day off, a week off, a month off, etc.

6 ‘We...called in a doctor.’ (Chapter Fourteen)
   You can also call in a plumber, an engineer or an expert.

7 ‘We thought you’d gone down with German measles...’ (Chapter Fourteen)
   You can also go down with flu, mumps, measles and malaria.

8 Note the similarity between *to end up* and *to turn out* – phrasal verbs used
   when the result is surprising, shocking or unexpected.
   ‘How could a good man end up like this?’ (Chapter Twelve)
   ‘But it turned out that you had a rash or something...’ (Chapter Fourteen)
CHAPTER FIFTEEN

At 10.30, just after the fourth course, but some time before the fifth, Angus looked at his watch and sighed.

"I'll have to go now. I'm on duty in half an hour."

He stood up and said goodbye to Mrs Caruthers, the children, Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott. Then he turned and thanked Frederick for the meal.

"Thank you, Angus. None of this would have been possible if you hadn't let me escape. You've changed my life. I owe you a lot."

Angus blushed a deep shade of red and looked down at the floor. He tidied his coat. Frederick smiled and patted him on the shoulder.

"All's well that ends well."

Angus left the restaurant and walked back along the peaceful streets of Newtown.

When he came to the prison gates, he knocked on the front door and the guard let him in.

Put on his uniform, and then went through the corridors checking the cells and turning off the lights.

Everything was in order. The prisoners had settled down for the night and the jail was locked and still.

Angus yawned and sat down on a small wooden bench. He was tired. And now — as the clock struck 11 — the French fries, the Welsh rabbit made with blue cheese, the Scotch egg, covered with French dressing, the steak (well done) and the three platefuls of spaghetti Bolognese he'd enjoyed at dinner were pulling him towards the deepest of deep sleep.

I'll just have a little nap. I'm sure nobody will mind if I nod off for a while.

He stretched out, took off his belt and dropped it onto the floor.

Meanwhile, in the darkness of Cell 269, Angela Richardson (an athlete who had run off with the membership fee of her local sports club) was planning her escape.

But that — as they say — is another story...

A few minutes later, the stone corridors echoed to Angus Macpherson's unmistakable snores.
Practice

Revision Exercise

In Chapters Eleven to Fifteen, who...

1 ...was falling apart?
2 ...looked up a number?
3 ...looked out at Crawford Street?
4 ...nodded off in the blue Rolls Royce?
5 ...looked like a scarecrow in a thunderstorm?
6 ...went through Frederick’s file?
7 ...threw away thirty years of hard work?
8 ...showed up the flaws in the bank’s security system?
9 ...butted in?
10 ...was due for parole?
11 ...was waiting for Frederick?
12 ...took the keys off his belt?
13 ...sat down?
14 ...put on a spotted pink tie?
15 ...stood up?
16 ...clocked on?
17 ...put on his uniform?
18 ...went through the corridors?
19 ...turned off the lights?
20 ...nodded off in Newtown Prison?

Notes

1 to do up (your coat, shirt, jacket, top button, etc.) is the opposite of to undo (your coat, shirt, jacket, top button, etc.)

2 to go through = to check
   Compare...
   ‘Angus went through the corridors checking the cells...’ (Chapter Fifteen)
   and
   ‘The Head of Finance went to the central computer and started going through my account.’ (Chapter Eleven)

3 Welsh rabbit = cheese on toast

4 to run off with (something) = to steal (something) and then run away
CHAPTER ONE

Practice

On a cold November evening many years ago, Angus Macpherson (chief guard at the Newtown Prison) yawned and closed his eyes.

Angus had had a long and tiring day and now, as the clock struck eleven, the three platefuls of spaghetti bolognese he'd enjoyed at dinner were pulling him towards the deepest of deep sleeps.

'I'll just have a little nap,' he thought to himself. 'All the cells are locked and everything's quiet. I'm sure nobody will mind if I nod ___ for a while.'

Angus stretched ___ on a wooden bench and tried to relax. But, for some reason, he couldn't get off to sleep. Then he had an idea. 'I know what the trouble is,' he said to himself. 'It's this belt of mine. It's much too tight.'

He rolled ___ , took ___ the belt and dropped it ___ the floor.

A few minutes later, the stone corridors echoed to Angus Macpherson's unmistakable snore.

In the darkness of cell 269, Frederick Carruthers (a bank manager who had lent himself £250,000) was planning his escape.

'If I could get the keys ___ Macpherson's belt,' he said to himself, 'I could slip ___ through the side door, run ___ the yard, jump ___ the prison wall and be back home for breakfast. But how do I do it?'

Just then, he caught sight of Angus's belt lying ___ the floor. 'The keys!' Carruthers whispered. 'He's just dropped the belt with the keys. This is too good to be true.'

He tiptoed to the front of his cell and looked ___ . There was no one ___ . He took a deep breath. And then, softly and slowly, he stretched ___ his hand, picked ___ the belt and lifted it back through the bars...
Exercise 9 (Revision)
1 Angus
2 Angus
3 Sir Gerald
4 Angus
5 Angus (Chapter Two).
   Sir Gerald (Chapter Four)
6 Frederick
7 Sir Gerald
8 Sir Gerald
9 Lady Prescott
10 Lady Prescott
11 Sir Gerald
12 Lady Prescott
13 Lady Prescott
14 Sir Gerald
15 Frederick
16 Frederick
17 Frederick
18 Frederick
19 Frederick
20 Lady Prescott

Exercise 10
1 window
2 tyre
3 glass
4 jacket
5 hand
6 cloth
7 seat belt
8 handbrake
9 mirror
10 lay-by

Exercise 11
1 up
2 out
3 up
4 out
5 off
6 on
7 in
8 on
9 off
10 onto

Exercise 12
1 name
2 spine
3 reputation
4 kitten
5 wall
6 sounds
7 subject
8 volcano
9 Rolls Royce
10 prison

Exercise 13
1 to
2 across
3 of
4 for
5 in
6 through
7 out
8 up
9 back
10 on

Exercise 14
1 street
2 handbrake
3 seat belt
4 houses
5 childhood
6 workaholic
7 spine
8 love
9 mind
10 Gerald

Exercise 15
1 at
2 on
3 up
4 around
5 up
6 round
7 out
8 out
9 on
10 out

Exercise 16
1 proposing
2 key
3 back
4 phone
5 money
6 cheek
7 penny
8 way
9 complaints
10 husband

Exercise 17
1 at
2 through
3 on
4 to
5 out
6 on
7 at
8 to
9 out
10 with

Exercise 18 (Revision)
1 Frederick
2 Frederick
3 Lady Prescott
4 Lady Prescott
5 Frederick
6 Lady Prescott
7 Lady Prescott
8 Lady Prescott
9 Lady Prescott
10 Lady Prescott
11 Sir Gerald
12 Sir Gerald
13 Lady Prescott
14 Lady Prescott
15 Lady Prescott's father
16 Lady Prescott
17 Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott
18 Lady Prescott's father
19 Lady Prescott
20 Frederick

Exercise 19
1 cheque
2 payments
3 story
4 account
5 police
6 office
7 jail
8 bank
9 hand
10 trial

Exercise 20
1 to
2 in
3 through
4 for
5 of
6 in
7 for
8 of
9 with
10 up

Exercise 21
1 prison
2 diary
3 number
4 people
5 hours
6 start
7 surprise
8 mind
9 clothes
10 office

Exercise 22
1 off
2 of
3 with
4 apart
5 up
6 out
7 up
8 to
9 for
10 of

Exercise 23
1 pencil
2 file
3 survey
4 image
5 friend
6 profits
7 Frederick
8 job
9 jail
10 problem

Exercise 24
1 through
2 out
3 out
4 as
5 off
6 to
7 out
8 up
9 out
10 on
Exercise 25
1 coast
2 belt
3 life
4 behaviour
5 rash
6 parole
7 river
8 train
9 Frederick
10 breakout

Cloze Test
Chapter One
1 off
2 out
3 over
4 off
5 onto
6 off
7 out
8 across
9 over
10 on
11 around
12 about
13 out
14 up

Chapter Two
15 up
16 for
17 out
18 up
19 at
20 in
21 in
22 down
23 through
24 out
25 off
26 off
27 up
28 up
29 into
30 off
31 off
32 for
33 up
34 for
35 out

Exercise 26
1 off
2 on
3 out
4 out
5 away
6 up
7 out
8 of
9 across
10 on

Exercise 27 (Revision)
1 Frederick
2 Lady Prescott
3 Frederick
4 Frederick
5 Frederick
6 Karen Blackstone
7 Frederick
8 Frederick
9 Lady Prescott
10 Frederick
11 Angus
12 Angus
13 Frederick (Chapter Fourteen),
    Angus (Chapter Fifteen)
14 Sir Gerald
15 Angus
16 Angus
17 Angus
18 Angus
19 Angus
20 Angus

Chapter Three
36 off
37 up
38 into
39 on
40 with
41 away
42 down
43 after
44 down
45 after
46 down
47 after

48 over
49 into
50 up
51 away
52 down
53 about
54 after
55 over
56 into
57 out

Chapter Four
58 into
59 on
60 up
61 off
62 up
63 up
64 round
65 at
66 over
67 out
68 up
69 up
70 away
71 down
72 down
73 into
74 up
75 out
76 into

Chapter Five
77 out
78 out
79 across
80 through
81 through
82 across
83 off
84 off
85 through
86 through
87 through
88 out
89 on
90 through

Chapter Six
91 across
92 out
93 out
94 off
95 off

96 on
97 out
98 on
99 on
100 out
101 onto

Chapter Seven
102 on
103 across
104 out
105 of
106 down
107 of
108 into
109 into
110 up
111 back
112 in
113 from
114 on

Chapter Eight
115 down
116 up
117 on
118 down
119 up
120 down
121 up
122 down
123 back
124 up
125 on
126 off
127 out
128 around
129 off
130 over
131 up
132 down
133 apart
134 round
135 on
136 down
137 round
138 down
139 up
140 down
141 away
142 into
143 in
144 at
145 down
ask about  The next morning, I rang up the hospital to ask about the little boy.  10
ask out  One afternoon, he asked me out and we went for a walk in the park.  8
bang on  With his heart pounding, he banged on the door.  2
be about  There were now lots of people about.  12
be back  I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.  1
be in for  I think you are in for a surprise.  12
be off  I’ve run out of patience. I’m off.  3
be over  When the film was over, we caught the last bus home.  9
be up to  My father seemed happy, but he didn’t know what I was really up to.  8
be with  Frederick seemed a bit confused. ‘I’m not with you,’ he said.  13
bend down  Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the tyre.  6
blow up  She blows up all the time.  4
board up  It’s dirty and messy and some of the shops are boarded up.  8
bottle up  You shouldn’t just bottle it up inside you.  10
breakdown  If you run away to a run-down area of Birmingham, I’ll have a nervous breakdown.  3
break down  The bus broke down and all the passengers had to get off and walk.  9
break off  Lady Prescott broke off and – once again – they walked on in silence.  9
break out into  Frederick broke out into a cold sweat.  12
break out of  He’s broken out of his cell and run away.  2
break up  It was half past three and the local school had just broken up for the day.  12
break up  I’m going to break up our marriage and run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.  3
break up with  I said that I’d broken up with Gerald.  8
bring back  Telling the story of the kidney machines had brought back some painful memories.  12
build up  She noticed that I’d been building up large amounts of cash.  11
burst into  Sir Gerald took a handkerchief out of his pocket, blew his nose and, not for the first time, burst into tears.  4
bust-up  After my bust-up with Sir Gerald, I just needed someone to talk to.  10
butt in  Lady Prescott leaned forward. ‘If I could just butt in here,’ she said.  13
call in  We took you up to the hospital wing and called in a doctor.  14
call into  One afternoon, I called my secretary into the office.  10

calm down  'Now calm down,' Sir Gerald said. 'And go through the whole story very slowly right from the start.'  2

care about  Money! Money! Money! That's all you care about.  3

carry away  Lady Prescott was getting carried away and there was just no stopping her now.  7

carry out  We carried out a survey.  13

catch up with  The last twenty-four hours were beginning to catch up with him.  12

check up on  Nobody checked up on what I was doing.  10

cheer up  Oh, and do cheer up, Mr Carruthers. You mustn't worry so much.  12

clear out  I'll clear out the cupboards and take you out at the weekends.  4

clear up  It turned out that you had a rash, or an allergy or something, which cleared up overnight.  14

climb up  Frederick...climbed up a hill.  5

climb over  He had climbed over a couple of gates.  5

clock on  Angus clocked on, put on his uniform and then went through the corridors, checking the cells and turning off the lights.  15

come across  I'm sure I've come across it somewhere before.  7

come along  'Come along, Mr Carruthers!' Lady Prescott said. 'Wake up. We're nearly there.'  12

come back  Whenever I feel down, I come back here.  8

come in  'Come in,' he shouted. 'The door's open.'  2

come in  And this is where you come in, Mr Carruthers.  13

come out  'You can come out now, Mr Carruthers,' she whispered. 'The coast is clear.'  14

come out  He did manage a few incoherent grunts, but none of the sounds came out right.  7

come out from  Angus came out from behind a large, grey dustbin and waved.  14

come round  Whenever there's an election, the politicians come round and knock on the door.  8

come to  When he came to the prison gates, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.  15

come to  I trust you've come to your senses.  11

come up with  Then - all of a sudden - I came up with an idea.  10

come upon  They came upon a postman riding a bicycle.  9

\textit{crash onto}  They crashed noisily onto the floor and rolled under my bed.  11

\textit{crawl through}  Frederick...crawled through a field full of turnips.  5

cry out  His stomach was crying out for food and his throat felt like sandpaper.  5
dawn on  Gradually, shockingly, horrifyingly, the awful truth dowedn on him.  

dine out  And that night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined out in style.  

dive into  Frederick had dived into a stream and swam across to the opposite bank.  

do up  'All's well that ends well,' he said, doing up his coat.  

do up  They've done up some of the houses, but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.  

down-and-out  You were standing around with your hands in your pockets looking like a down-and-out.  

drag back  Lady Prescott turned round and dragged him back inside.  

draw up  The blue Rolls Royce slowed down and they drew up in front of a row of shabby, terraced houses.  

dress up  Sir Gerald...had obviously dressed up for the occasion, combing his hair, polishing his shoes and putting on the spotted pink tie that Lady Prescott had given him on their silver wedding anniversary.  

drift around  It is strange that I was drifting around with nowhere to go.  

drink up  Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.  

drive down to  One day I drove down to the hospital to pick my mother up after work.  

drive into  When I drove into that lay-by, you were standing around with your hands in your pockets.  

drop off  I'm going to Birmingham. Perhaps I can drop you off somewhere along the way.  

drop onto  He rolled over, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.  
eat up  Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.  

noise to  A few minutes later, the stone corridors echoed to Angus Macpherson's unmistakable snore.  

end up  He ended up standing outside a cafe in a lay-by near junction 34 of the M1 motorway.  

explain away  I made up some new story to explain the cheques away.  

fall apart  They've done up some of the houses, but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.  

fall down  They've done up some of the houses, but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.  

fall out  The man from the bank gaped at me and his false teeth fell out.  

fall for  She fell for it every time.  

feel down  Whenever I feel down, I come back here.  

find out  When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy.
**finish off**  Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.

**fit in with**  The stains on his shirt and his crumpled prison trousers didn’t quite fit in with the thick-pile carpet and the soft leather chairs.

**fix up**  When we were in the take-away, I rang up your Head Office and fixed up an appointment with Karen Blackstone.

**fold up**  I took a deep breath, folded up the cheque and put it into my pocket.

**get away with**  Could I get away with it?

**get back to**  I’ll be glad when this whole thing is over and I can get back to my old routine.

**get carried away**  And I suppose I got a bit carried away.

**get down to**  ‘Right, let’s get down to business,’ she said.

**get in**  The woman got in, put on her seat belt and looked in the rear-view mirror.

**get in**  That night, he’d decided to stay up until I got in.

**get into**  ‘That’s very kind of you,’ he said, wiping his hands on a cloth and getting into the car.

**get into**  I don’t know what’s got into her lately.

**get into**  How did I get into this mess?

**get off**  …the other passengers were getting off the train.

**get off**  If I could get the keys off Macpherson’s belt...

**get off to sleep**  But, for some reason, he couldn’t get off to sleep.

**get on**  We got on really well and I started seeing him all the time.

**get out of**  How do I get out of this mess?

**get out of**  I might have got out of going to prison, but what would have happened to the children?

**get out of**  Lady Prescott got out of the car and looked around.

**get round to**  But when the votes are counted, they never seem to get round to it.

**give away**  …it wouldn’t do us any harm to give away some of those profits to worthy causes in the community.

**give in**  He thought I was going to give in without a fight.

**give up**  I’ll give up smoking and wash up after dinner.

**give up**  I knew that I couldn’t give Gerald up.

**go after**  ‘Shall I go after her?’ Angus asked, from somewhere behind the armchair.

**go ahead**  And so the trial went ahead.

**go away**  If you went away, I’d go to pieces.

**go back on**  I’m not going back on my word.

**go down with**  We thought you’d gone down with German measles.

**go for**  He asked me out and we went for a walk in the park.

**go in**  One day, I went in to get some chips.

**go into**  One morning, I didn’t go into work.
go on  Or should I defy my parents and go on seeing him?  8
go on  She went on like a dragon breathing fire.  7
go on  When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy.  8
'Go on,' Lady Prescott said gently.  10
And so it went on.  11
I went out in rather a hurry last night.  9
You've gone out of your way to help me.  9
Then one night, we went out to the cinema.  9
He didn't want his only daughter going out with someone who cooked hamburgers in a take-away.  8
I went over it again and again.  11
I went straight round to Gerald's flat and we decided to run away.  9
'Now calm down,' Sir Gerald said. 'And go through the whole story very slowly right from the start.'  2
For the next few months, we went through a really bad patch.  9
They went through my account.  11
Angus clocked on, put on his uniform and then went through the corridors, checking the cells and turning off the lights.  15
I cried for two or three days and went through ten packets of tissues.  8
I've decided to go through with the trial.  11
I went to the hospital to pick my mother up after work.  10
And this little run-down street on the edge of the city is where I grew up.  8
I bent down, picked them up and handed them back to him.  11
Angus took a handkerchief out of his pocket and handed it to Sir Gerald.  2
Frederick took off his jacket and hung it up on one of the wing mirrors.  6
He was so hard up that he'd use the same tea bag for a week.  9
I'm afraid I don't have any money on me.  9
But this was no dream. And their car was heading straight for the main entrance.  12
Perhaps you've heard of him. His name is Sir Gerald Prescott.  7
Frederick nodded, smiled and held out his hand.  6
His trousers were held up with string.  9
Then he pulled a large piece of glass out of the tyre and held it up.  6
And we will hunt you down until we get every penny of our money back.  11
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hush up</td>
<td>Angus and I hushed the whole thing up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jack up</td>
<td>Frederick took off his jacket, jacked up the car, took off the flat tyre and put on the spare wheel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jump off</td>
<td>Frederick jumped off as the train pulled into a station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jump onto</td>
<td>Frederick jumped onto a train that was slowing down in front of a set of signals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jump over</td>
<td>I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep on</td>
<td>Gerald kept on proposing and I kept on saying 'no'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kneel down</td>
<td>'You can't do this to me,' the prison governor shouted, kneeling down and bursting into tears.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knock down</td>
<td>I'd be a bit sad if they knocked everything down and put up one of those ugly tower blocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knock on</td>
<td>When he came to the prison, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knock over</td>
<td>Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>know about</td>
<td>Do you know anything about cars?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>know of</td>
<td>I know of him... He has quite a reputation in my field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lay-by</td>
<td>He ended up standing outside a café in a lay-by near Junction 34 of the M1 motorway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lean across</td>
<td>The driver wound down her window and leaned across.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>let down</td>
<td>I can't let the children down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>let in</td>
<td>When he came to the prison, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>let on</td>
<td>...but just don't let on that you managed to break out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>let off</td>
<td>They might even have let you off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>let out</td>
<td>Stop the car right now. Let me out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>let through</td>
<td>I'm a train engineer. Let me through.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lie against</td>
<td>He had to lie against pillows all day long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look across</td>
<td>I looked across and saw a little boy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look after</td>
<td>She looks after sick children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look around</td>
<td>Lady Prescott got out of the car and looked around.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look at</td>
<td>I looked at the cheque. My head was spinning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look back</td>
<td>I suppose that now - looking back - I can appreciate what my parents were going through.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look down</td>
<td>Angus blushed a deep shade of red and looked down at the floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look for</td>
<td>Angus stood up and looked for his belt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look in</td>
<td>The woman got in, put on her seat belt and looked in the rear-view mirror.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look on as</td>
<td>I want people to look on us as a friend, not an enemy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look out of</td>
<td>Frederick looked out of the window and waved his hand in a rather vague way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look through</td>
<td>Frederick looked through the windows of the café.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrasal Verbs</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look up</td>
<td>Frederick looked up. ‘You’re right, of course,’ he said, breaking the silence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look up</td>
<td>She took a yellow diary out of the bag and looked up a number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make out</td>
<td>I can’t understand women, Angus. I just can’t make them out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make up</td>
<td>She’s made up her mind to run away to a run-down area of Birmingham and there’s nothing we can do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make up</td>
<td>I made up some story or other to explain where I’d been.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make up</td>
<td>I made it up with my parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make up for</td>
<td>Give me one last chance. I’ll make up for it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>move off</td>
<td>The blue Rolls Royce moved off and headed for Newtown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>move on to</td>
<td>Frederick wanted to move on to another topic like the weather or the price of cauliflowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nod off</td>
<td>I’m sure nobody will mind if I nod off for a while.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open up</td>
<td>He walked to the back of the car and opened up the boot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pass through</td>
<td>I was a bank manager and a lot of money passed through my hands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay back</td>
<td>Paying for lunch will be my way of paying you back for all your kindness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay for</td>
<td>Paying for lunch will be my way of paying you back for all your kindness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pay off</td>
<td>After two years in jail, you’ve paid off your debt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pick up</td>
<td>He stretched out his hand, picked up the belt and lifted it back through the bars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pick up</td>
<td>I went to the hospital to pick my mother up after work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pick up</td>
<td>Frederick took a deep breath and picked up the story again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pick up</td>
<td>You must have picked it up along the way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plug in</td>
<td>I unwrapped the machines, plugged them in and switched them on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop in</td>
<td>Why don’t we pop in here and have a late lunch?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pull down</td>
<td>They promise to pull down the terraced housing and build some new flats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pull in</td>
<td>Lady Prescott pulled in and stopped the car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pull into</td>
<td>Frederick jumped off as the train pulled into a station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pull into</td>
<td>…a blue Rolls Royce pulled into the lay-by and glided to a halt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pull out</td>
<td>Then he pulled a large piece of glass out of the tyre and held it up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pull out</td>
<td>She pulled gently out of the lay-by.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pull up</td>
<td>The blue Rolls Royce slowed down and they pulled up in front of a shabby terraced house.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pump up</td>
<td>Frederick put on the spare wheel and pumped it up a little.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put away</td>
<td>Put the letter away. I’ve got no intention of signing it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrasal Verb</td>
<td>Example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>put back</td>
<td>‘No,’ Sir Gerald replied softly, picking up the ashtray and putting it back on the table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put down</td>
<td>When I put down the phone, I felt terribly disturbed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put down</td>
<td>...the driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put into</td>
<td>The woman took off the handbrake, looked in the rear-view mirror and put the car into first gear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put into</td>
<td>‘Try the beginning,’ said Lady Prescott, putting a straw into her milkshake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put off</td>
<td>To put it bluntly, our image puts people off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put on</td>
<td>‘That’s it,’ Lady Prescott said, putting on her coat. ‘I’ve had enough of all this nonsense.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put on</td>
<td>...put on her seat belt...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put on</td>
<td>...put on the spare wheel...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put on</td>
<td>Lady Prescott put on the handbrake, took off her seat belt and stepped out of the car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put on</td>
<td>I’ve been working too hard and putting on weight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put on</td>
<td>I put on a really good show.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put up</td>
<td>I’d be a bit sad if they...put up one of those ugly tower blocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put up with</td>
<td>I hate to see a grown man cry and I’m not going to put up with it any longer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rabbit on</td>
<td>I’ve been rabbiting on about my problems for over an hour now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ride across</td>
<td>And as he rode across the cobbled stones, he seemed to be nodding his head and shaking his head at the same time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring up</td>
<td>The next morning, I rang up the hospital to ask about the little boy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rip off</td>
<td>You can’t rip the bank off and expect to get away with it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roar onto</td>
<td>She pulled gently out of the lay-by and then – with a sudden burst of speed – roared onto the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll down</td>
<td>Frederick...rolled down a hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roll over</td>
<td>He rolled over, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run across</td>
<td>I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run after</td>
<td>If you run away, I’ll run after you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run away</td>
<td>I’m going to break up our marriage and run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run-down</td>
<td>She’s made up her mind to run off to a run-down area of Birmingham and there’s nothing we can do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run down</td>
<td>He smiled at me and I felt a cold shiver run down my spine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run down</td>
<td>Frederick had...run down the corridor to avoid the ticket collector.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
run into  The bank has run into some problems.
run into  If you run away to a run-down area and I run after you
and you run over me in our car, you might then run
into a tree and the cost of repairing the damage might
run into hundreds of pounds.
run off  She's made up her mind to run off to a run-down area
of Birmingham and there's nothing we can do.
run out of  I've run out of patience. I'm off.
run over  Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the tyre.
run over  If you run away to a run-down area and I run after you
and you run over me in our car, you might then run
into a tree...
run through  These were the thoughts running through Frederick
Carruthers' troubled mind as a blue Rolls Royce pulled
into the lay-by and glided to a halt.
run up  Angus ran up the steps to the prison governor's office.
rush down  Angus...rushed down the corridor.
rush in  Angus rushed in, his red face covered with sweat.
save up  By that summer, I'd managed to save up a quarter of
a million pounds.
see as  The public sees us as selfish, ruthless and greedy.
see off  Sir Gerald, Lady Prescott and Angus stood by the front
gate to see him off.
send back  Just tell them to send the machines back.
serve out  It suddenly dawned on Frederick that he couldn't take
up a new job until he'd served out his term in jail.
set off  Lady Prescott locked the car and they set off across
the market square.
set up  This is the Head Office of the bank. You've set me up,
haven't you?
set up  I'd like you to come back to the bank and set the
whole thing up.
settle down  I told him I was just too young to settle down.
settle down  The prisoners had settled down for the night and the
jail was locked and still.
show around  And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk. Would
you like me to show you around?
show up  I showed up the flaws in your security system.
sit at  Sir Gerald was sitting at his desk reading The Times.
sit back  Frederick sat back and watched the volcano erupt.
sit down  Angus sat down and took a deep breath.
sit in  Frederick was sitting in a Rolls Royce driven by the
wife of the governor of the prison he had just escaped
from.
sit up  He was so ill that he couldn't sit up in bed properly.
slap down  He lost his temper and slammed down the phone.
slip out  I could slip out through the side door, run across the
yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for
breakfast.
slip through  Frederick slipped through the ticket barrier by showing his prison identification badge.  5
slow down  Frederick jumped onto a train that was slowing down in front of a set of signals.  5
sort out  There’s just one more thing that we have to sort out.  14
split up  Should I obey my father and split up with the person I loved?  8
speed on  The blue Rolls Royce sped on towards Birmingham.  7
stand around  When I drove into that lay-by, you were standing around with your hands in your pockets.  10
stand by  I couldn’t stand by and do nothing.  10
stand by  They’d stood by him through all the ups and downs of the past two years.  14
stand up  Angus stood up and looked for his belt.  2
stay in  If you’d stayed in instead of breaking out, the governor would have...let you out one year early!  13
stay up  He normally went to bed at about eleven, but that night he had decided to stay up until I got in.  9
step back  Then he pushed open the door and stepped back.  14
step out of  Lady Prescott put on the handbrake, took off her seat belt and stepped out of the car.  8
stretch out  Angus stretched out on a wooden bench and tried to relax.  1
storm out of  Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.  4
swim across  Frederick had...swum across to the opposite bank.  5
switch on  ...plugged them in and switched them on...  11
take-away  He’d taken a part-time job at a take-away restaurant called The Birmingham Big Burger Bar.  8
take in  My parents were completely taken in.  8
take off  He rolled over, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.  1
take off  I’ll take up jogging and take off weight.  4
take on  The bank would never dream of taking me on again.  12
take out  I’ll clear out the cupboards and take you out at weekends.  4
take out  Sir Gerald took a handkerchief out of his pocket, blew his nose and, not for the first time, burst into tears.  4
take up  I’ll take up jogging and take off weight.  4
take up  And if I was to take up this new challenge...  13	talk to  I needed someone to talk to.  10
tear down  I don’t want them tearing down my childhood.  8
tear up  ‘But that’s terrible,’ the prison governor screamed, tearing up his Times and bursting into tears.  2
think over  We’re going to give you twenty-four hours to think it over.  11
think through  He had to give me more time to think things through.  9
throw at  Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.  4

throw away Should I just tear up the cheque and throw it away?  11

tip off  She tipped off the police, and when I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my office.  11

tire out  I'm tired out and very worked up about my husband.  9

turn round  Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.  4

turn down  I felt very flattered, but at first I always turned him down.  9

turn down  ...as they turned down a narrow side street. Lady Prescott picked up the story again.  8

turn in  If she found out that he was a convict on the run, perhaps she would turn him in.  10

turn into  ...as they turned into the main road...  9

turn into  It's only recently that he's turned into a workaholic who eats, drinks and sleeps prisons.  8

turn out  ...but it turned out that you had a rash, or an allergy or something, which cleared up overnight.  14

turn off*  Angus clocked on, put on his uniform and then went through the corridors checking the cells and turning off the lights.  15

turn out*  ... Angus had turned out the light in his cell.  5

turn up  When I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my office.  11

wade through  Frederick had...waded through a swamp...  5

wait for  My father was waiting for me in the hall.  9

wake up  Frederick woke up with a start.  12

walk around  Then the children would be able to get out of bed and walk around the ward.  10

walk into  I walked into the hospital and wrote out a cheque for $250,000.  11

walk into  Was I walking into a trap?  12

walk on  They walked on in silence.  9

walk out of  I'm going to walk out of that door and you'll never see me again.  3

walk out on  You can't walk out on me like this.  4

walk over to  Lady Prescott walked over to the pay-phone in the corner of the room.  12

walk through  As I was walking through one of the wards, I could hear a child crying very softly.  10

wander around  Why were you wandering around near the motorway with no money in your pocket and those very strange clothes?  10

* In these two sentences, turn out and turn off have the same meaning.
warm to  Lady Prescott’s voice grew louder as she warmed to her subject.  7
wash up   I’ll give up smoking and wash up after dinner.  4
wave through  The guard saluted, pressed a button and waved the car through.  14
wind down  The driver wound down her window and leaned across.  6
work out   When Angus had at last worked out what had happened, he rushed down the corridor and ran up the steps to the prison governor’s office.  2
wrap up in  I’ve been so wrapped up in my work that I’ve started to take you for granted.  4