Phrasal verbs

Study the questions and match each underlined phrasal verb with its meaning below.

1. Are you **looking** forward to Christmas?
2. Do you often **put off** buying Christmas presents until the last minute?
3. Do you **put up** decorations during the Christmas period?
4. Do you **hang up** stockings on a Christmas tree?
5. Do you enjoy **wrapping up** presents?
6. Are you going to **give something up** for the New Year?
7. Have you ever **ended up** somewhere you didn’t expect to be on New Year’s Eve?
8. Do you plan to **go out** or stay in on New Year’s Eve?
9. Do you usually **bump into** old friends over the Christmas period?

a. attach something somewhere from the top of the object
b. covering something completely with paper material
c. delay, postpone
d. finally found yourself in a place that you didn’t intend to go to
e. meet by chance
f. place something somewhere so that everybody notices it
g. stop doing something, for example a bad habit
h. take part in a social activity outside the home
i. waiting for something with pleasure
Ask and answer the questions with a partner. Try to use the phrasal verbs in your answers and get more information by asking further questions, for example ‘Why/Why not?’, ‘Where did you end up?’, ‘What are you going to give up?’ etc.

Now complete the phrases below and make an original sentence for each phrasal verb, selecting one of the choices or using your own ideas.

1. look forward to a. a birthday party/the end of the week/the winter
2. put up b. a gift/a toy/a bottle of wine
3. put off c. an umbrella/a coat/a hat
4. hang up d. a sign/a poster/a painting/a notice
5. wrap up e. at a party/in a strange part of town/in the wrong street
6. end up f. your boss/your teacher/your doctor
7. bump into g. your homework/cleaning the floor/doing the dishes

Same verb, different meaning

Some of the phrasal verbs can have more than one meaning. Use one phrasal verb from Exercise 1 in the correct form for each pair of sentences. Each phrasal verb has a new meaning in the second sentence. Try to guess what it means and complete the definitions on the next page.

1. I was really surprised when I ____________ Mike on New Year's Eve. I hadn't seen him since we were at school together.
   I ____________ the wall on my way to the bathroom. I think I had too much wine this Christmas.
2. Alan always ____________ the cleaning until the minute before the guests arrive.
   His awful behaviour really _____ me _____ every Christmas.
3. Can you ____________ that bottle of wine? It's a present.
   It's getting late. Let's _________ this meeting and go home.
4. I hardly ever ____________ during the week. I'm just too busy.
   When the lights _________, I will fall asleep like a baby.
5. Jim ____________ smoking last year. He hasn't smoked since then.
   When Claire decided to exercise every day, she stuck to it and never _________.
6. You can ____________ your coat over there.
   He was complaining on the phone about the present I gave him, so I decided to _________.
1. ____________ : to hit an obstacle accidentally
2. ____________ : to stop doing what you had decided to do, for example because it is too difficult
3. ____________ : to end a telephone conversation by putting the receiver down
4. ____________ : to make you stop liking someone or something
5. ____________ : to finish or conclude something
6. ____________ : to stop burning or shining

**Talking point**

Discuss any of the following questions.

1. What things put you off when you meet someone for the first time?
2. Have you ever hung up on someone who was being rude?
3. Do you make New Year's resolutions? Do you usually stick to them or do you give up very quickly?
4. What things do you put off until the last minute (apart from buying presents)?

**Homework**

Write 10 original sentences about you using any of the phrasal verbs from this lesson.