



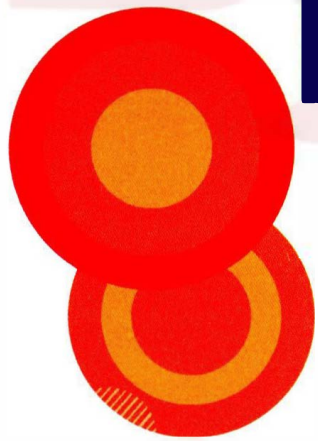
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# Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Advanced

Ruth Gairns and Stuart Redman



OXFORD

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# Introduction

## Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

*Idioms and Phrasal Verbs* forms part of the *Oxford Word Skills* vocabulary series. It is a series of two books for students to learn, practise, and revise everyday English idioms and phrasal verbs.


<b>Intermediate:</b>	intermediate and upper-intermediate (CEF levels B1 and B2)
<b>Advanced:</b>	advanced (CEF levels C1 and C2)

There are over 1,000 new idioms and phrasal verbs in each level, and all of the material can be used in the classroom or for self-study.

## How are the books organized?

Each book contains 60 units of vocabulary presentation and practice. Units are one to three pages long, depending on the topic. New vocabulary is presented in manageable quantities for learners, with practice exercises following immediately, usually on the same page. The units are grouped together thematically in modules of four to nine units. At the end of each module there are further practice exercises in the review units, so that learners can revise and test themselves on the vocabulary learned.

At the back of each book you will find:

- an answer key for all the exercises
- an answer key for the review units
- a list of the spotlight boxes
- a list of all the idioms and phrasal verbs taught, with a unit reference to where each item appears
- a separate list of key words with unit references
- a page featuring the histories behind some of the idioms in the book (  look on the website [www.oup.com/elt/wordskills](http://www.oup.com/elt/wordskills) for more).

## What are idioms and phrasal verbs?

### Why teach them together?

**Idioms** are usually defined as groups of words whose meaning is different from the individual words. So, *under the weather* has nothing to do with the literal meaning of 'the weather'; it means 'feeling ill'. If you *sweep something under the carpet*, you try to keep something secret; and if you *put someone in the picture*, you give them the information they need to understand a situation. As these examples illustrate, in some idioms the meaning can be almost impossible to guess out of context, while others are more transparent.

**Phrasal verbs** consist of two and occasionally three words: a base verb and at least one particle (preposition or adverb). Many phrasal verbs are idiomatic: in other words, the meaning of the verb and particle is different from the base verb on its own. For example, the meanings of *give up* and *give in* are quite different from the meaning of *give*. As with idioms, some phrasal verbs are more transparent than others, e.g. *stand up* and the most

common meaning of *stand* are very similar in meaning, as are *sit down* and *sit*. In other words, phrasal verbs can be seen as a type of idiom, although they are often singled out for specific attention in language-teaching materials.

Putting idioms and phrasal verbs together has a linguistic rationale, but perhaps an even greater pedagogic one. A relatively short passage of text – a practical necessity in most language-teaching materials – does not normally produce nine or ten naturally occurring phrasal verbs, but it can easily yield that number if the target language includes both phrasal verbs and idioms. This makes it easier to present the target language in continuous text rather than disconnected sentences, and gives learners more opportunity to see the expressions being used naturally, and to use them themselves in a realistic way.

# 1 I can understand idioms

Idioms are fixed or semi-fixed phrases, and many of them are difficult to understand.

<i>The situation is improving, but we're <b>not out of the woods</b> yet.</i>	<b>not out of the woods</b> INF not yet free from difficulties or problems.
<i>I'll probably <b>take a back seat</b> and let Marco do most of the work.</i>	<b>take a back seat</b> deliberately become less actively involved in sth, and stop trying to control things.
<i><b>My heart sank</b> when I saw the hotel room they'd given us.</i>	<b>my heart sank</b> used to tell sb that you suddenly felt sad or worried about sth.

Idioms are particularly common in spoken English. Some are easier to understand, but you will need to learn many of them as fixed phrases.

'It's an expensive restaurant. **Having said that**, the food is very good.'

'... and then **the next thing I knew**, the cat had jumped out of the window ...'

'Pete and Sue have split up. ~ Mmm. **I thought as much**.'

## Glossary

<b>having said that</b>	used to say that sth is true despite what you have just said.
<b>the next thing I knew</b>	used to say that sth happened very quickly and unexpectedly.
<b>I thought as much</b>	used to say you are not surprised that sth is true.

The glossaries and tables in this book will also show you that some idioms have a choice of words or a particular style. (See Units 49–54 for more on style.)

Idiom	Meaning	Special feature
<i>Will they lose? ~ <b>More than likely</b>. She can't do the gardening. ~ I'd be <b>more than happy</b> to help her.</i>	very likely. very happy.	a choice of words with different meanings: <b>more than likely/happy/ready</b> , etc.
<i>I'd be <b>hard pressed</b> to name all the countries in Europe.</i>	find it very difficult to do sth.	a choice of synonyms: <b>be hard pressed/pushed/put to do sth</b> .
<i>I think Ann <b>got out of bed on the wrong side</b> this morning.</i>	used to say that sb is in a bad mood.	the style is HUMOROUS.

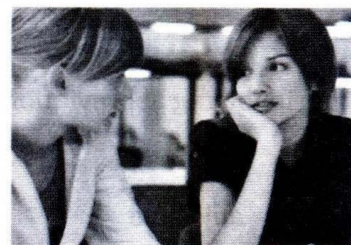
Most of all, you need to be aware that idioms **come in all shapes and sizes** (= are of many different types), and they are not always obvious. When you read a text, look for possible idioms and check in a good dictionary to see if you are right.

I asked Sue about her essay and she just ignored me.

~ Yes, I think it's a bit of **a sore point** because she got a very low mark for it.

Oh dear. I **put my foot in it**, then.

~ No, **it serves her right**. She **didn't do a stroke of work**, so don't **take it personally**. She'll just have to work harder next time.



## Glossary

<b>a sore point</b>	sth that makes you upset, angry, or embarrassed when sb mentions it.
<b>put your foot in it</b>	INF accidentally say sth that embarrasses, upsets, or annoys sb.
<b>it serves sb right (for doing sth)</b>	used to say that you think sb deserves sth unpleasant that happens to them.
<b>not do a stroke of work</b>	INF not do any work at all.
<b>take it/sth personally</b>	feel that a failure is your fault, or feel offended by sth/sb.



## 5 I can describe character

### A What are they like?



#### For the Love of Alice – Cast List

Gideon Beck: Ex-army major, **loves the sound of his own voice**; **doesn't suffer fools gladly**. Thought to be **tough as old boots**. Very protective of daughter, Alice.

Alice Beck: Attractive and charming **on the surface**, Alice likes to **play it cool** with men, but **deep down**, she's quite shy. Loves her father, but very much **under** his **thumb**.

Jocelyn Beck: Gideon's wife. **Has a quick temper**; friends think she's **mad as a hatter**.

Andrew Elder: Neighbour, in love with Alice. Sadly, **thick as two short planks**.



#### Glossary

**like/love the sound of your own voice**

**not suffer fools gladly**  
(as) **tough as old boots**  
**on the surface**

**play it cool**

**under sb's thumb**

**have a quick temper**

(as) **thick as two short planks**

DISAPPROVING talk too much, usually without listening to other people.

not be polite or patient with people you think are less intelligent than you.  
INF very strong and able to bear pain, criticism, etc. without complaining.  
when you consider obvious things. OPP **deep down**.

INF hide your feelings so that you appear calm and controlled.

controlled or influenced by sb.

become angry easily and often.

INF (of a person) very stupid.

#### spotlight *mad*

*She's (as) mad as a hatter.* INF = strange or crazy. SYN **barking (mad)** INF.

*He's mad keen on Alice.* INF = likes her very much.

*I was hopping mad.* INF = very angry.

#### 1 Circle the correct word.

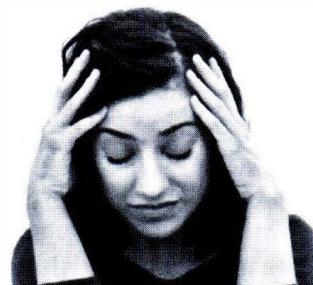
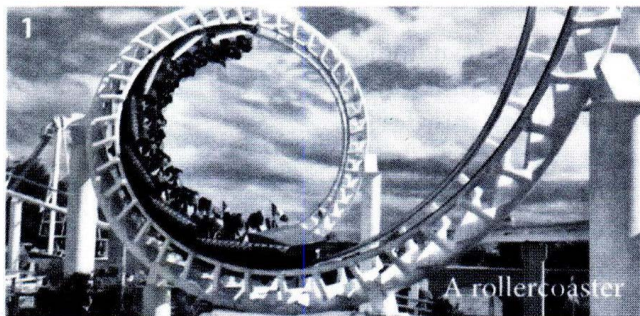
- Keep out of the new boss's way; apparently he's got a very *quick* | *fast* temper.
- Low* | *Deep down*, Joe's a true romantic. It just doesn't look that way *on the surface* | *top*.
- That was a really crazy thing to do. ~ Yeah, I thought she was *barking* | *hopping* mad.
- You'll find that Mr Waters doesn't suffer fools *gladly* | *happily*, so watch what you say.
- She's a very dominant woman; *she* certainly has her husband under her *finger* | *thumb*.
- My aunt's *rough* | *tough* as old boots, so I'm sure she'll get through the operation.

#### 2 Complete the second sentence so that it paraphrases the first.

- My brother's furious about the money. In other words, he's ..... mad.
- John's really stupid. In other words, he's thick as .....
- Ella didn't show Luis her true feelings. In other words, she played .....
- Ana adores horse-riding. In other words, she's ..... it.
- Don just talks and never listens. In other words, he loves the sound of his .....
- I love Caz, but she's crazy. In other words, she's mad .....
- Mona does everything Pete tells her to. In other words, she's under .....
- Grandad can put up with anything. In other words, he's tough .....

## 9 I can describe my emotions

### A An emotional rollercoaster



Since I found out that I was pregnant, I've been on an emotional rollercoaster<sup>1</sup>: my mood seems to change **for no apparent reason**. One minute I'm **on top of the world**, the next I'm **at the end of my tether**, or **crying my eyes out** at some silly romantic movie. I'm so short-tempered – the slightest thing **winds me up**. A guy in the office was tapping on the radiator earlier, and I just **went off the deep end** and **screamed my head off** at him. Poor man – I have since apologized. Pregnancy **has stirred up** feelings I didn't know existed! It's such a new experience; I guess I just need time to **take it all in**.

#### Glossary

**for no apparent reason**  
**on top of the world**  
**at the end of your tether**

**cry your eyes/heart out**  
**wind sb up**  
**go off the deep end**  
**scream/laugh/shout your head off**  
**stir sth up**  
**take sth in**

without an obvious cause.  
 very happy or proud. **OPP down in the dumps** **INF**.  
 having no patience or energy left to deal with a difficult situation. **SYN at your wits' end**.  
**INF** cry in an uncontrolled way and be unable to stop.  
**INF** make sb angry or upset.  
**INF** suddenly become very angry or emotional.  
 scream/laugh/shout very loudly.  
 make sb feel or think sth, e.g anger, fear, memories.  
 accept sth as real or true (*I can't take it all in*).

#### 1 Rewrite the sentences using the word in capitals. The meaning must stay the same.

- ▶ I'm feeling really fed up. **DOWN** *I'm feeling really down in the dumps.*
- 1 The news is so bad that I can't believe it. **TAKE** .....
- 2 The boy was making a lot of noise. **HEAD** .....
- 3 She couldn't stop crying. **EYES** .....
- 4 I can't deal with the situation; I'm so upset. **TETHER** .....
- 5 He got angry and lost his temper. **DEEP** .....
- 6 The news made everyone angry. **STIR** .....
- 7 Please don't make her angry. **WIND** .....
- 8 I'm feeling extremely happy. **WORLD** .....

#### 2 ABOUT YOU Complete the questions. Then write your answers in your notebook, or talk to another student.

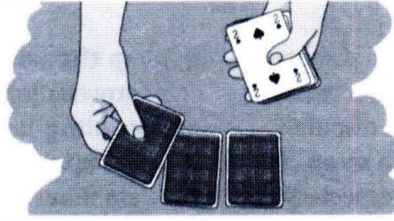
- 1 What kinds of things in life tend to wind you ..... ?
- 2 What makes you feel down in the ..... ?
- 3 Do you ever feel at your wits' ..... ? If so, why?
- 4 When did you last laugh your head ....., and why?
- 5 When did you last go off the ..... end at someone, and why?
- 6 Do you ever feel incredibly positive for no ..... reason?
- 7 What memories would it ..... up to see your old school?
- 8 Which single thing would make you feel on ..... of the world right now?



## 10 I can describe physical actions



She **rolled** the picture **up**.



She **dealt** the cards **out**.



She **stuck** her tongue **out**.



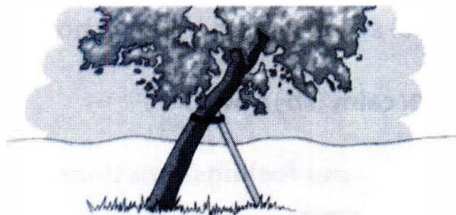
He **zipped** his jacket **up**.



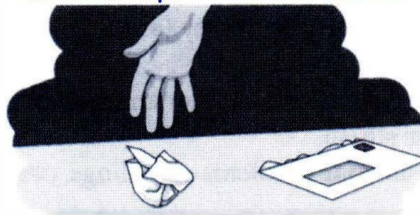
He **doubled up** in pain (also **be doubled up**). SYN **double over**.



She **took** the skirt **up**. OPP **let sth down**.



We **propped** the tree **up**.



I **screwed** the letter **up**.



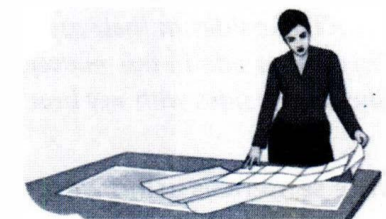
She **curled up** on the sofa.



I **mopped up** the spilt milk.



I **chucked** the packet **away** INF.  
SYN **chuck sth out** INF.



She **spread** the map **out** on the desk.

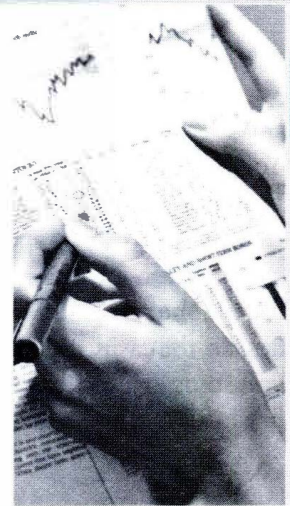
Some of these phrasal verbs also have figurative meanings.

Example	Meaning
The business is in a bad state; we'll have to <b>roll our sleeves up</b> and get on with it.	<b>roll your sleeves up</b> start doing a difficult or unpleasant job.
Judge Wallis <b>dealt out</b> tough penalties for people driving without a licence.	<b>deal sth out</b> give a punishment to a person or group. SYN <b>hand sth out</b> .
She hates her job, but she'll have to <b>stick it out</b> until the end of the year.	<b>stick it/sth out</b> INF continue to do sth to the end, even though it is boring or difficult.
The new Italian Prime Minister <b>took up</b> his post at the weekend.	<b>take sth up</b> start a new job or have a new responsibility.
The government is <b>propping up</b> the ailing car industry. Do you agree with that?	<b>prop sth up</b> support sth that is in difficulty. SYN <b>shore sth up</b> .
I made a mess of the exam last time, so I don't want to <b>screw it up</b> this time.	<b>screw sth up</b> SLANG do sth badly or spoil sth. <b>screw-up</b> N.
When she sang, we <b>curled up</b> with embarrassment.	<b>curl up</b> INF become very embarrassed.
We just have a few things to <b>mop up</b> before signing the contracts.	<b>mop sth up</b> complete or end sth by dealing with a few final details.

## B Financial investment

### TOP TIPS for investing in the stock market

- Don't invest more than you can afford, or you could **land yourself in** trouble.
- Don't invest **off your own bat** – seek proper financial advice first.
- **Err on the side of caution** if you don't **have** a lot of **money to play with**.
- Don't let all the jargon **put** you **off** – you'll pick it up **as time goes by**.
- Once you've bought stocks, **hold on to** them for a while. Fast trading can be expensive.
- Don't forget to **add on** the fees you will have to pay: this could **come to** 3 or 4 per cent.
- Don't expect your investments to **bear fruit** immediately – you need patience.
- Remember shares go down as well as up, so go into it **with your eyes open**.



### Glossary

**land sb/yourself in sth**  
**off your own bat**

INF get sb/yourself into a difficult situation.

INF If you do sth **off your own bat**, it is your idea and you do it without help from others.

**err on the side of caution**

be careful and not take many risks.

**have money/time, etc. to play with**  
**as time goes by**

have enough money/time, etc. for doing sth.  
as time passes.

**hold on to / onto sth**

keep sth; not give or sell sth to sb else.

**add sth on (to sth)**

include sth extra. **add-on** N.

**come to sth**

add up to a total amount (*The bill **came to** £50*).

**bear fruit**

have a successful result.

**with your eyes open**

knowing that there could be problems in a situation.

### spotlight

*The accident **put her off** driving.* = made her dislike it (as above).

*It's too late to **put him off**.* = postpone or cancel the arrangement I made with him.

*Don't **put me off** when I'm working.* = disturb or distract me.

### 4 Put the words into correct sentences.

- 1 the | err | on | should | side | you | caution | of \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 it | eyes | went | I | with | open | my | into \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 he | an | own | his | account | bat | off | opened \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 could | himself | in | trouble | he | land \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 she | her | to | shares | held | on | oil \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 play | don't | much | with | money | we | to | have \_\_\_\_\_

### 5 Complete the texts.

'The shares were going to cost me just under £800, but once you (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on the broker's fee at 2 per cent, and the management fee, it (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to a bit more than £800.'

'My broker told me not to expect shares to bear (3) \_\_\_\_\_ immediately, but he said they would go up as time (4) \_\_\_\_\_ by, and that would give me more money to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with.'

'I knew the shares were a bit risky and that (6) \_\_\_\_\_ me off. I'm afraid I always (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on the side of caution; that's my nature. My cousin is the complete opposite. He invested £5,000 entirely off his own (8) \_\_\_\_\_, with no financial advice at all.'



## 16 I can talk about study

DEZI I wasn't very good at English when I started, but **it wasn't for want of trying**. I worked really hard **night after night**, but I **couldn't make head or tail of** the grammar, and it really **held me back**. Then one day things just seemed to make sense, and I started **showing signs of** improvement. My teacher says it's all part of the learning process. I hope she's right.

MATTEI For a long time I did **next to nothing**, until my teacher told me one day that if I didn't **pull my socks up**, I'd fail my English exams and then I'd **have nothing to show for** three or four years' studying. So, I decided to **turn over a new leaf**. I really began to **apply myself**, and I'm pleased to say I've just passed my university exams **with flying colours**.



ORLA One of my problems is that I make silly mistakes in my writing, and I only just **scraped through** my last exam. My teacher's always **telling me off** for this, and says I should check my work carefully **as a matter of routine**. She's right, because if I don't **cut out** the errors, I'll **be marked down** in the next exam.

URSULA I went to the States three summers **running**, and that helped me a lot. My English **came on in leaps and bounds** as a result.

### Glossary

**it is not for want/lack of trying**  
**night after night**  
**hold sb back**  
**show signs of sth**

**next to nothing**  
**pull your socks up**  
**have nothing / something / little / a lot to show for sth**  
**turn over a new leaf**  
**apply yourself**  
**with flying colours**  
**scrape through sth**  
**tell sb off**  
**as a matter of routine/course**  
**cut sth out**  
**mark sb down**  
**two weeks / three years / four times etc. running**  
**come on**  
**in/by leaps and bounds**

used to say that sb is trying hard even though they are not successful.  
every night for a period of time.

stop sb being as successful as they should be.

show that sth seems to be happening, e.g. **show signs of improvement/recovery**, etc.

almost nothing.

INF used to tell sb that they are not doing well and must work harder.  
have achieved nothing / something / little / a lot as a result of sth that you have done.

change your life by stopping a bad habit or becoming a better person.

work hard on sth; give your full attention to something.

very well; with a very high mark/grade.

succeed in doing sth with difficulty, especially passing an exam.

INF talk angrily to sb for doing sth wrong.

as a habit; as the usual way of doing sth.

stop doing sth, especially sth wrong.

reduce the mark/grade given to sb in an exam.

two weeks / three years / four times etc., one after another.

improve.

very quickly; in large amounts.

### spotlight Not understanding

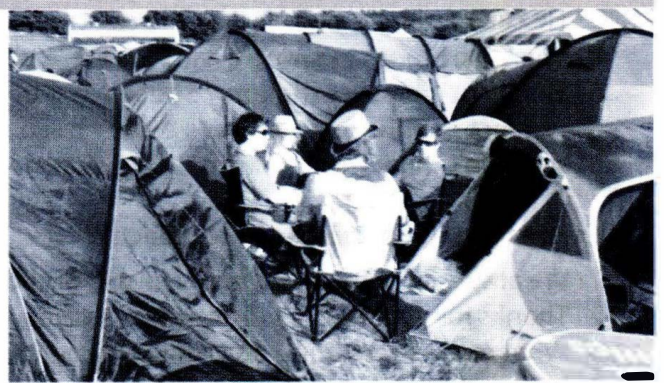
If you **can't make head or tail of sth** INF, you are completely confused by it. You can also say that something **goes over your head** if you don't understand it.

## 21 I can describe a music festival

### A Preparations for an outdoor event

#### TIPS FOR FESTIVAL GOERS

- Find a good spot to **set up** camp, **put** your tent **up**, and then get to know your neighbours. That way, you can **keep an eye on** each other's stuff.
- Don't **roll up** with loads of equipment; try to **make do with** the minimum. If you take too much, the chances are you'll end up **leaving something behind**. But one thing that **will come in handy** is a torch – to help you find your way back to your tent after dark.
- You can **take the easy way out** by buying food and drinks on site, but it's not cheap.
- Don't **wear yourself out** by trying to see all the acts. Relax, and **go easy on** the alcohol.



#### Glossary

<b>keep an eye on sth/sb</b>	take care of sth/sb, so they are not stolen, damaged, or harmed.
<b>roll up</b>	INF arrive somewhere, often late or unexpectedly.
<b>make do (with sth)</b>	manage with sth that is not completely satisfactory.
<b>leave sth/sb behind</b>	not take sth/sb with you when you go somewhere.
<b>come in handy/useful</b>	INF be useful for a particular situation.
<b>take the easy way out</b>	end a difficult situation by choosing the simplest solution, even if it is not the best one.
<b>wear yourself/sb out</b>	make yourself/sb feel very tired. SYN <b>tire yourself/sb out</b> . <b>worn out</b> ADJ.
<b>go easy on sth</b>	INF used to tell sb to use or eat less of sth.

#### spotlight *put sth up, set sth up*

Both can mean to build or place something somewhere, but we say *set up camp* and *put up a tent*. **Set sth up** is not used for permanent things (NOT *set up a new car park*). You can use **put sth up** or **set sth up** for most temporary things, e.g. *put/set up a fence / road block / shelter*.

#### I Form sentences using words from each column.

We set up	in	on the cakes.
They rolled	the easy	out.
Try not to tire	yourself	handy.
The cash came	camp	late as usual.
You should go	up	near a lake.
Don't take	easy	way out.

#### 2 Complete the dialogues.

- She came home completely exhausted. ~ Yes, she .....
- Was the torch useful on the trip? ~ Yes, it .....
- What time did your sister arrive? ~ She finally ..... two hours late.
- Do you want the tent here? ~ Yes, could you ..... please?
- Could you look after my bag, please? ~ Don't worry, I'll ..... on it.
- I've been drinking too much coffee. ~ You ought to go ..... it for a while.
- Can you manage with this small knife? ~ Yeah, we can ..... with it.
- You didn't take the bag? ~ No, we left .....



## B A successful festival

### Glastonbury memories

I'd **had my doubts about** the weather. Last year, it **tipped down** all weekend and we **got soaked to the skin**, and this year wasn't looking promising either; in the end, the rain **held off**. The festival **kicked off** with a short set by the Moogs, who **went down really well**. After that, I wandered around the different stages, at one point **stumbling on** an amazing performance of jazz dance. I'd heard that Joan Baez had had to **pull out**, but in fact, she turned up and **put on** a great show. For me, it was **the high point of** the weekend.



### Glossary

<b>have your doubts about sth/sb</b>	have reasons why you do not feel certain about sth/sb.
<b>tip down</b>	INF (of rain) fall fast; rain a lot.
<b>be/get soaked to the skin</b>	(of a person) be/get very wet.
<b>hold off</b>	If rain <b>holds off</b> , it does not fall, although you thought it would.
<b>kick off</b>	INF (of an event) start in a particular way. OPP <b>wind up</b> .
<b>stumble on/across sth</b>	find sth by chance.
<b>pull out (of sth)</b>	stop being involved in an event or activity.
<b>put sth on</b>	produce or provide sth, especially for the benefit of other people or for a special purpose.
<b>the high point of sth</b>	the best, most enjoyable, etc. part of sth. OPP <b>the low point of sth</b> .

### spotlight Describing successful events

**Go down** + ADJ, ADV, or N can mean to cause a particular reaction.

*The band **went down really well**.* = were very successful or popular.

*They **went down a bomb**.* INF = were very successful or popular. Also **go down a storm** INF.

### 3 Good news or bad news? Write G or B.

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 The rain held off for the evening. .... | 4 The band put on a real show. ....   |
| 2 The group went down a bomb. ....        | 5 Several bands had to pull out. .... |
| 3 I got soaked to the skin. ....          | 6 It tipped down all day. ....        |

### 4 One word is missing in each line of text. Where does it go? Write it at the end.

Last year at the Isle of Wight festival, I'd had my **X** about whether **doubts** .....  
 to go or not, but in the end I did, and the rain held for the whole 1 .....  
 week. This summer, though, it just down the whole time and I got 2 .....  
 fed up with being to the skin all the time. I wandered around with 3 .....  
 a friend, and in one corner we suddenly stumbled an incredible band 4 .....  
 called 'Engine Room' who were going a storm. A guy next to us 5 .....  
 said that their performance had kicked with an amazing version of 6 .....  
 'Leila', and the high came when they were joined on stage by 7 .....  
 Paul McCartney, who went down pretty too. Watching someone like 8 .....  
 him putting a real show is a great experience; I forgot about the rain. 9 .....

### 5 ABOUT YOU Have you ever been to an open-air music festival or concert? If so, what was the weather like? Did it go down well? What was the high point for you? Write your answers in your notebook or talk to another student.

## B How the fans saw it



### Chelsea fans

'I thought we **eased off** and **let** them **off the hook** in the second half.'

'I'm disappointed we didn't **go all out for** a third goal.'

'A win's a win, and now we're **within striking distance of** Man United.'

### Liverpool fans

'We had to **dig deep**, but we **fought back** well in the second half.'

'We **held our own** for half an hour, but we were always going to **come off worse** with that team.'

'We're **out of the running** for the league now. I think our manager's **lost the plot**.'

### Glossary

**let sb off the hook**

**go all out for sth**

**within striking distance (of sb/sth)**

**dig deep**

**fight back**

**hold your own (against sb)**

**come off worse**

**be in / out of the running (for sth)**

**lose the plot**

INF allow sb to get out of a difficult situation.

make a big effort to achieve sth.

near enough to reach or attack sb/sth or to achieve sth.

use all your effort.

work hard to achieve or oppose sth, especially in a situation where you are losing.

compete equally against sb, especially sb stronger than you, in a competition or difficult situation.

lose a fight, competition, etc., or suffer more compared with others.

have some/no chance of being successful in sth.

INF no longer understand a situation or how to deal with it.

**spotlight** *ease off*

If a player or team **eases off**, it usually means they try less hard (as above). If something unpleasant or annoying **eases off**, it becomes less strong, e.g. *The rain is easing off. The pain will ease off soon.*

### 4 Are you pleased or unhappy with your team? Write P or U.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 We dug deep. ....              | 5 We held our own. ....                |
| 2 We let them off the hook. .... | 6 We fought back. ....                 |
| 3 We lost the plot. ....         | 7 We came off worse. ....              |
| 4 We're in the running. ....     | 8 We're within striking distance. .... |

### 5 Complete the text.

The conditions were terrible at the start of the game and they had a much bigger side, so we (1) ..... off worse in the early exchanges. But the guys (2) ..... deep and once the rain (3) ..... off I felt we pretty much (4) ..... our own. In fact, in the second half, we were the ones going all (5) ..... for the winning goal. Unfortunately it never came, and some people may say we let them off the (6) ..... in the end. But I still thought it was a good performance, and if we win on Saturday we'll be within (7) ..... distance of second place, so we're definitely still in the (8) ..... for the title.



## 26 I can describe a conference

### Feedback from the 10th International Memory Conference, York

✦ A terrific conference. The time just **flashed by** and I **came away with** a wealth of ideas. You can give yourselves **a pat on the back!**

✦ I really enjoyed the weekend. I met some delegates<sup>1</sup> who I didn't **see eye to eye with**, but that's given me plenty of **food for thought**. Thanks from one very satisfied delegate!

✦ I was impressed with the standard of speakers – Jim Rose really **opened** my **eyes** with his talk, and he was brilliant at answering questions **off the cuff**. Plus I got the chance to hear about the latest research, which had been my aim **all along**.

✦ Thank you. You **lined up** some great speakers. I really appreciated the way they **bridged the gap between** theory and practice, and managed to **cater for** all sorts of participants. And the accommodation on the university campus was **second to none**.

✦ I was disappointed at the lack of opportunity to **bounce ideas off** one another. We needed more time to **feed** our ideas **back** to the organizers while the conference was still going on.

✦ A couple of events were swapped but we were not told about it, so I **missed out on** Jim Rose's apparently excellent talk. Instead, I sat through a terrible talk in the Great Hall where the speaker really didn't **know his stuff**. And we needed wireless facility – it would be worth **bearing in mind** for next year.



<sup>1</sup>delegates

### Glossary

#### flash by

If time **flashes by**, it goes very quickly. SYN **fly by**.

#### come away with sth

leave a place with new knowledge or ideas or a particular impression.

#### a pat on the back

INF praise for something you have done well.

#### see eye to eye with sb

share the same views as sb about sth.

#### food for thought

an idea that makes you think about sth seriously and carefully.

#### open sb's eyes (to sth)

make sb realize the truth about sth.

#### all along

all the time; from the beginning.

#### line sb/sth up

arrange for sb to be available for an event or arrange for an event to happen.

#### bridge the gap/gulf/divide

reduce the differences between two things or groups of people.

#### (between ...)

#### cater for sb/sth

provide the things that a person or a situation requires.

#### second to none

as good as the best; excellent.

#### bounce ideas off sb

discuss ideas with other people to get their opinion and make a decision.

#### feed (sth) back (to sb)

give information or opinions about sth to sb, especially so that it can be improved. **feedback** N.

#### miss out (on sth)

lose the opportunity to have or to do sth.

#### know your stuff

INF know a lot about a particular subject or job.

#### bear sth in mind

remember an important piece of information that could be useful in the future.

### spotlight Idioms with off

He speaks well **off the cuff**. = without planning it first; spontaneously.

She said a number **off the top of her head**. = without careful thought or checking the facts.

His talk was a bit **off the wall**. = INF unusual; slightly crazy.

## B The protesters' views

People need to **stand up for** what they believe in – and today we did. We definitely **got our message across**; we can't **back down** now. We're **pressing ahead with** plans for further marches, which could **pave the way for** a coordinated international campaign.

We organized a **sit-in** in front of the embassy, but the police broke it up.

The police **cordoned off** part of the square and ordered us to stay there for reasons of safety. In fact, we were just **being fenced in** so that the press couldn't talk to us.

The authorities **shut down** our website, but we managed to **spread the word** by phone.



### Glossary

**stand up for sb/sth**

support and defend sb/sth.

**back down (on sth)**

admit that you are wrong or have lost an argument.

**press ahead (with sth)**

continue doing sth in a determined way.

**pave the way (for sth)**

create a situation which makes it easier for sth to happen.

**sit-in**

a protest in which people sit down and refuse to leave a place until their demands are listened to. **sit in** v.

**cordon sth off**

stop people from getting into an area by surrounding it with the police or by putting a barrier round it.

**fence sb in**

(often passive) 1 surround sb with a fence. 2 restrict sb's freedom. SYN **hem sb in**.

**shut sth down**

stop a machine, business, etc. from operating. **shutdown** N.

### spotlight Communicating information

If you **get your message across (to sb)**, you succeed in communicating with other people. You may need to **spread the word**, i.e. tell a lot of people about something, or **put the word out about sth** INF. The opposite is to **keep sth to yourself**, i.e. keep it secret.

### 3 Circle the correct answer. Both answers may be possible, but have a different meaning.

- 1 The demonstrators organized a *sit-in* | a *fence-in* to protest about students' fees.
- 2 The government is trying to *spread* | *put* the word about climate change.
- 3 This is secret information: please keep it *for* | *to* yourself for the time being.
- 4 I don't know why the police *cordoned off* | *fenced in* that particular area.
- 5 I don't think the protesters can *back down on* | *press ahead with* this issue.
- 6 The company was trading illegally, so the police shut it *off* | *down*.

### 4 Rewrite the sentences using the word in capitals. Keep the meaning the same.

- 1 They will never admit they were wrong. BACK .....
- 2 Don't tell anyone about it. KEEP .....
- 3 We will certainly proceed with our plans. PRESS .....
- 4 He always defended his beliefs. STAND .....
- 5 Why did they put a barrier round the café? CORDON .....
- 6 How will we tell everyone? SPREAD .....
- 7 The talks made the reforms possible. PAVE .....
- 8 It's very hard to explain what we mean. MESSAGE .....



## B A teenage problem

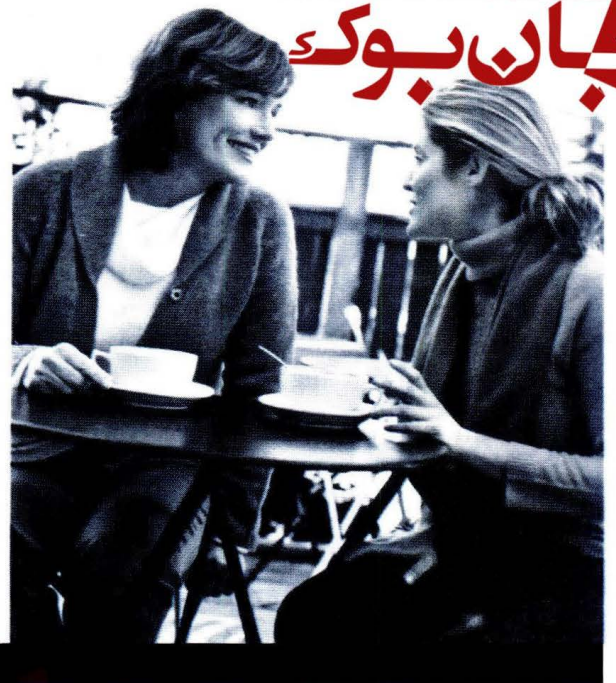
ELLE Jonathan's got important exams **coming up**, and his girlfriend's just **finished with** him. He's **in a terrible state** – I don't know what to do. He's even **off his food**.

SIAN Come on, it's **not the end of the world**; he'll **get over** it.

ELLE But with these exams **hanging over** his **head**! In his present **frame of mind**, he'll fail.

SIAN I don't think so. Jonathan's a bright boy. **At the end of the day** I'm sure he'll **pull himself together** and **sail through** his exams.

ELLE I don't know. Teenage relationships and school exams: what **a recipe for disaster**!



### Glossary

**finish with sb**

**be in a (terrible) state (about sth)**

**be off your food**

**not the end of the world**

**get over sth**

**hang over sb / sb's head**

**frame of mind**

**at the end of the day**

**pull yourself together**

**sail through sth**

**a recipe for disaster**

end a romantic relationship with sb.

be very anxious (about sth).

not want to eat, usually because you are ill or upset.

INF not the worst thing that could happen.

recover from sth such as a disappointment or illness.

If sth difficult or unpleasant is **hanging over you / your head**, you are thinking and worrying about it.

the way you think or feel about sth at a particular time.

INF used to introduce a fact that remains true when everything else has been considered.

regain control of your feelings and behave calmly.

pass an exam, test, etc. without any difficulty.

a thing that is likely to cause sth bad to happen.

### spotlight Meanings of come up

The race **is coming up** at 6 p.m. = is going to happen in the near future (as above).

The subject **came up** in conversation. = was mentioned or discussed.

Your number **came up**, so you've won. = was chosen.

### 3 Complete the dialogues. You may need more than one word.

- Will she be upset if she fails? ~ Yes, but it's not the end **of the world**.
- 1 Won't he eat anything? ~ No, he's \_\_\_\_\_ food.
- 2 Do you think he'll pass the exam easily? ~ Oh yes, he'll \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 3 Is she very anxious about the tests? ~ Yes, she's \_\_\_\_\_ about them.
- 4 The disappointment won't last. ~ I know. He'll \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 5 This will cause all sorts of problems. ~ I know. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ disaster.
- 6 Has Lisa ended the relationship? ~ Yes, she's \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- 7 Did they discuss the new bus route? ~ Yes, the subject \_\_\_\_\_ up.
- 8 He must control his feelings and stay calm. ~ Hmm, he needs to \_\_\_\_\_ together.

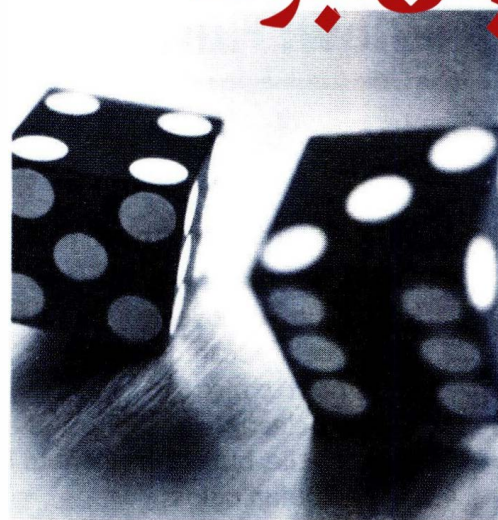
### 4 Complete the text.

Charlotte hasn't been in the most positive (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of mind recently. She's got an interview (2) \_\_\_\_\_ up next week for a job at the BBC. She's had it (3) \_\_\_\_\_ over her for almost a month and she's in a real (4) \_\_\_\_\_ about it. It's silly really, because I'm sure she'll (5) \_\_\_\_\_ through the interview. And even if she doesn't, it's not the end of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_. I know Charlotte's a very talented girl, and at the end of the (7) \_\_\_\_\_, that's what matters.

## B Risk-takers

### Why do people take risks?

Recent research **sheds** some **light on** this and suggests it may **be down to** the psychological **make-up** of a person. It seems that 60 per cent of risk-takers are 'sensation seekers': people who **seek out** and **thrive on** novel and exciting experiences. This does **not necessarily** involve risk, but it is a common by-product. Sensation-seekers are more **at risk from** drink or drugs, and more likely to **take a chance on a long shot**; they are less likely to **err on the side of caution**. However, not all risk-taking is bad. Mankind has only evolved by taking risks; without it we would stagnate.



#### Glossary

<b>shed/cast/throw light on sth</b>	help to explain sth by providing new information about it.
<b>be down to sb/sth</b>	be caused by a particular person or thing.
<b>make-up</b>	the different qualities or things that combine together to form sth. <b>make sth up</b> v.
<b>seek out sth/sb</b>	try to find sth/sb.
<b>thrive on sth</b>	enjoy sth so much that it makes you a happier or healthier person.
<b>not necessarily</b>	used to say that sth is possibly true but not definitely true.
<b>take a chance (on sth)</b>	decide to do sth knowing it may be the wrong choice.
<b>a long shot</b>	an attempt that is unlikely to succeed, but may be worth trying.
<b>err on the side of caution</b>	be prepared to miss an opportunity rather than take a risk.

#### spotlight Idioms with risk

If you are **at risk from/of sth**, you are in danger of something unpleasant or harmful happening.  
 If you **run the risk of sth**, you put yourself in a situation in which something bad could happen.  
 If you **do sth at your own risk**, you do it even though you have been warned of the dangers.

#### 4 Replace the word(s) in *italics* with an idiom or phrasal verb that keeps a similar meaning. The first letter has been given to help you.

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1 She <i>loves</i> work.  | t .....   |
| 2 It's <i>composed of</i> four parts.                                 | m .....   |
| 3 The mistake was <i>caused by</i> Jim.                               | d .....   |
| 4 Does he <i>actively look for</i> adventure?                         | s .....   |
| 5 I would <i>be careful rather than take a risk</i> .                 | e .....   |
| 6 Can you <i>help by explaining any of</i> this?                      | s .....   |
| 7 It's <i>unlikely to succeed but we can try it</i> .                 | a l ..... |
| 8 Is it a big problem? ~ <i>It could be, but that's not certain</i> . | N .....   |

#### 5 Complete the sentences.

- Do you think you ..... out novel and exciting experiences?
- Do you ..... on new challenges or do you prefer familiar things?
- Is being a 'sensation seeker' part of your psychological ..... ?
- Would you normally ..... a chance on a ..... shot?
- Are you at ..... from anything dangerous in your daily life?
- Would you ..... the risk of losing a lot of money in order to win a lot?

#### 6 ABOUT YOU Write your own answers to Exercise 5 in your notebook, with your reasons, or talk to another student.



## Unit 46

- 1  
1 C 2 C 3 P 4 C 5 P 6 P 7 C 8 P  
9 C 10 P

- 2  
1 short, on  
2 conclusions, away  
3 stopping him, himself into it  
4 her head in the sand, up to it

## Unit 47

- 1  
1 weigh up 7 courage of your  
2 two minds convictions  
3 final/last straw 8 turned to  
4 lost sight 9 toss-up  
5 Rightly or 10 step in  
6 rushed into 11 draw a line

## Unit 48

- 1  
1 light 5 into  
2 chance 6 neck  
3 safe 7 put  
4 bluff 8 down
- 2  
1 on 4 out 7 on  
2 on, of 5 at 8 up  
3 at 6 out

## Styles of language

## Unit 49

- 1  
1 he's glued to it 5 leave it at that  
2 I wouldn't say no 6 I was miles away  
3 none too pleased 7 far from it  
4 it's in the bag

- 2  
1 g 2 h 3 e 4 a 5 d 6 c 7 b

## Unit 50

- 1  
1 I'm going to clean out the dustbin.  
2 I hope I win the lottery.  
3 Are you going out in the dark?  
4 How's the new job?  
5 Is the climb very difficult?  
6 Is it OK if I don't come with you tonight?  
7 Did you enjoy the film?

2

- 1 You don't dare **Don't you**  
2 Ready **as** you are **when**  
3 **What's** a load of rubbish **That's/what**  
4 Just ~~so~~ well **as**  
5 ~~this~~ figures **that**  
6 you ~~or~~ me **than**

## Unit 51

- 1  
1 the threshold of a new era  
2 no heed to my advice ('no attention' would also be correct but less formal)  
3 down their lives for their country  
4 due respect, I have to disagree with you  
5 waste to the town  
6 the call of duty
- 2  
1 We **paid** our respects to the widow.  
2 Delays could **give** rise to further problems. OR Problems could **give** rise to further delays.  
3 I took issue **with** her over the expenses claim.  
4 He **paid** tribute to the soldiers who had died.  
5 We **had** the honour of meeting the President.  
6 The country has suffered **at** the hands of this government. or This country has suffered **at** the hands of the government.

## Unit 52

- 1  
1 kindly 5 oath 9 print  
2 enter 6 accordance 10 letter  
3 summing-up 7 fixed 11 Breach  
4 undoing 8 false

*The phrase in the grey squares is 'in good faith'. (If you have done something **in good faith**, you have done it believing that it is right.)*

## Unit 53

- 1  
4, 8, 11, 1, 10, 6, 9, 3, 7, 5, 2
- 2  
1 dwell  
2 *Both are correct*, enlarge  
3 resigned, contend  
4 deprived, *both are correct*  
5 call, adhere (NOT 'abide to')

## Unit 54

- 1
- 1 F. It is the title of a newspaper section where jobs are advertised.
- 2 F. It means according to what you decide or want to do.
- 3 T
- 4 F. It means you are not allowed to go in a particular place.
- 5 F. It means 'or nearest offer'.
- 6 T

## Types of idiom

### Unit 55

- 1
- 1 fall apart                      5 spill over
- 2 wrap sth up                  6 fall apart
- 3 stand back                   7 wrap sth up
- 4 stand back                   8 spill over
- 2
- 1 tighten                        6 knocked ('pulled' is also possible)
- 2 turn
- 3 stand                         7 gone
- 4 feed                         8 wrapped
- 5 spilled

### Unit 56

- 1
- 1 f   2 e   3 g   4 a   5 d   6 c   7 h   8 b
- 2
- 1 success                      4 carpet                      7 conflict
- 2 seal                           5 finger                      8 storm
- 3 shot                           6 potato
- 3
- 1 black                         4 golden                      7 fuss
- 2 white                        5 red                           8 lost
- 3 thing                        6 green

### Unit 57

- 1
- These noun phrases do not follow the words in bold:*
- 1 c **all probability**              4 a **their heart**
- 2 b **closed doors**                5 c **nick of time**
- 3 d **the blue**

- 2
- 1 closed                      4 last                          7 deep
- 2 same                        5 old                          8 good
- 3 plain                        6 loose

- 3
- 1 too difficult for you to understand
- 2 working well
- 3 unusual
- 4 in trouble
- 5 nothing particular to do
- 6 crazy
- 7 in good condition
- 8 true from the beginning

### Unit 58

- 1
- 1 cake **rake**                      5 hall **wall**
- 2 rails **nails**                    6 lead **read**
- 3 hits **fits**                       7 bag **rag**
- 4 flood **blood**                8 sheep **sheet**
- 2
- 1 like wildfire
- 2 a, in a haystack
- 3 as new
- 4 as a cucumber
- 5 as a button
- 6 as pie
- 7 like a hawk
- 8 as a flash

- 1
- 5, 8, 3, 6, 11, 1, 9, 10, 4, 7, 2
- 2
- 1 T   2 F   3 T   4 T   5 F   6 F   7 T   8 F
- 9 T   10 T

### Unit 60

- 1
- 1 Its spots.                      4 They spoil the broth.
- 2 The iron.                      5 They make light work.
- 3 New tricks.                   6 Throw stones.
- 2
- 1 Don't count your chickens
- 2 Two's company
- 3 When in Rome
- 4 The spirit's willing
- 5 Better the devil you know
- 6 The grass is always greener
- 7 A bird in the hand
- 8 An eye for an eye



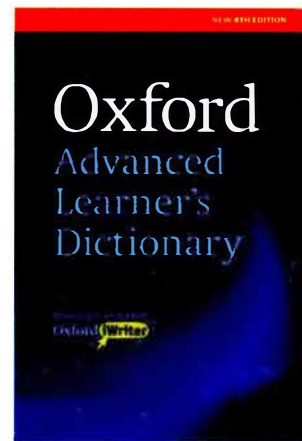
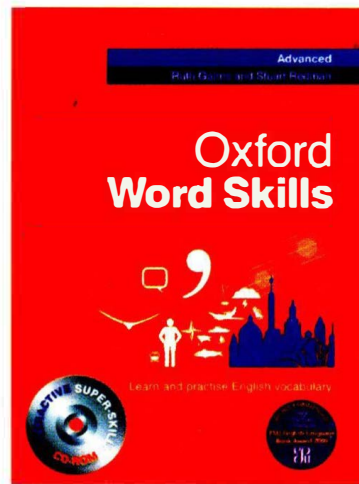
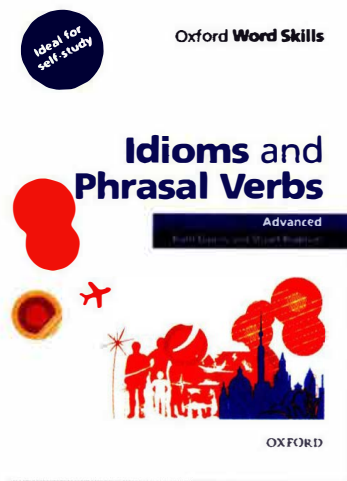
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