

Phrasal Verbs

in Context

Reading · Comprehension · Language Focus



Read the text. Don't worry about unknown words — focus on understanding the story.

Warm-up Discussion

1. Do you think it's possible to build a career from a hobby? Why / why not?
2. Have you ever been rejected for something you worked hard on? How did you feel?
3. Who is someone you look up to? What makes them inspiring?



Reading | Daniel's Story (Part 1)

Daniel had always **looked up to** his uncle, a self-made entrepreneur who had managed to **get ahead** without a university degree. They had always **got along with** each other well; Daniel **took after** him in many ways: ambitious, creative, and never one to **show off**.

At 28, Daniel was **getting by** on a modest salary as a graphic designer. He had **taken up** photography on the side. In the dim light of his studio, he could barely **make out** the details in older prints. One afternoon, he **came across** a photography competition in a well-known arts magazine.

He almost didn't enter. His confidence hadn't fully **got over** the moment, two years earlier, when a prestigious agency had **turned down** his portfolio without a word of feedback. But his uncle's voice rang in his head: "Stop **putting off** what matters."



Reading | Daniel's Story (Part 2)

So Daniel **filled in** the entry form. The weeks of waiting were hard to **get through**. His manager told him: "**Look out for** the results — they post at midnight." At 12:03 a.m., his phone **went off**. He had won second place.

Opportunities began to **go on from there**. A small agency asked him to **take on** freelance projects. He **took to** the new pace quickly. But a fellow freelancer tried to **get away with** using one of Daniel's images without credit. Daniel **made up** a polite but firm message, and the matter was resolved.

One major project was **put off** for three months. A collaborator **came down with** illness, and Daniel had to **make up for** the gap. At one point he wondered if things would ever **look up** again — but his career **took off**, and his old side hobby was now his livelihood.

? Comprehension Questions | Questions 1 – 3

Answer in full sentences.

1 What was Daniel's job before he became a full-time photographer?

...

2 Why did Daniel almost not enter the competition?

...

3 Who encouraged him to take the risk, and how?

...

? Comprehension Questions | Questions 4 – 6

Answer in full sentences.

4 What problem did he face with a fellow freelancer, and how did he handle it?

...

5 What setbacks did Daniel experience after his initial success?

...

6 How does Daniel's relationship with fear and failure change by the end of the story?

...



Phrasal Verb Bank | Use each verb only once

come across

get ahead

get by

go off

look for

look up to

make of

put off

take after

take to

turn up

come down with

get along with

get over

go on

look out for

make into

make out

put on

take off

take up

fill in

get away with

get through

look up

look through

make up

make up for

show off

take on

turn down



Language Focus | Items 1 – 7 of 20

Choose the correct phrasal verb and write it in the right form / tense.

1 I _____ my purse everywhere, but I couldn't find it.

2 My mother has a very low pension; she has to _____ on €350 a month.

3 My students _____ the most incredible excuses for not having done their homework.

4 I had so much work that I thought I would never _____ it.

5 The meeting has been _____ until next week because the president is ill.

6 I need to lose some weight, so I think I'd better _____ jogging.

7 We invited 20 people, but only 7 _____.



Language Focus | Items 8 – 14 of 20

Choose the correct phrasal verb and write it in the right form / tense.

8 She _____ her grandmother in looks, but not in character.

9 What do you _____ her strange attitude?

10 I _____ all my colleagues at work. They're very helpful.

11 When the timer _____, you must switch off the oven.

12 I want to _____ my behaviour earlier, so here's a little present for you.

13 Do you think the price of petrol will ever _____?

14 _____ ice on the road. I think there was a frost last night.



Language Focus | Items 15 – 20 of 20

Choose the correct phrasal verb and write it in the right form / tense.

15 You're not going to _____ this. You will be severely punished.

16 I was _____ as a secretary, but actually I do public relations work too.

17 I'm going to _____ all my old exams to make sure I don't make the same mistakes again.

18 It was dark in the room, and I _____ one blue sock and one black one!

19 I _____ some old coins from my trip to Malaysia when I was looking for something else.

20 I invited her out for dinner, but she _____ me _____.



Answer Key | Items 1 – 7

For teacher reference only

1

looked for

2

get by

3

come up with / make up

4

get through

5

put off

6

take up

7

turned up