# 74 Word partners

### A What do we mean by word partners?

If you want to use a word naturally, you often need to know other words that are commonly used with it. These are called word partners or collocations, and they can be different from language to language. For example:

I spent time in Paris. (NOT I passed time in Paris.) I missed the bus. (NOT I lost the bus.) We have children. (NOT We get children.)

I made a mistake. (NOT I did a mistake.)

It was a serious injury. (also a serious illness)

It's quite likely that we'll stay here.

[we'll probably stay here]

It depends on my parents. (NOT It depends of my parents. See Unit 77.)

### Language help

More word partners can be found in the Combridge Learner's Dictionary for intermediate learners and the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary.

### B Verbs and nouns

There are many verbs and nouns that are often used together.

Pavel told me a joke but I can't remember it. [told me a funny story]

I need to lose weight. [become less heavy; opp put on weight]

The doctor told my father that he should go on a diet. [eat less in order to lose weight]

It's very difficult to predict the future. [say what will happen in the future]

We won the game 2-1, and my brother scored the first goal<sup>1</sup>.

My neighbour's alarm went off<sup>2</sup> in the middle of the night.

They fell in love and got married. Now Emily is expecting a baby<sup>3</sup>.







### C Adjectives and nouns

Many adjectives and nouns are often used together. These are all examples where the meaning is 'big' or 'a lot', but where we usually use a particular adjective.

We've got a large number of students/tourists this year. (opp a limited/small number) I will need a large amount of money.

There's a wide choice of food available. (opp a limited/narrow choice)

Claude has a wide vocabulary in English. (opp a limited vocabulary)

It's only a toy gun but it makes a very loud noise.

Her family is of great importance to her.

We went to a party last night and it was **great** fun. [very enjoyable; we enjoyed it a lot] There was heavy **raffic** on the motorway going out of town. (opp light traffic)

### Adverbs and adjectives

The adverbs in the first three sentences mean *very*, the adverbs in the last sentence mean *fully/completely*. In each case, the adverbs and adjectives are common word partners.

I'm terribly sorry I'm late.

She's well aware of the problem. [She knows all about the problem.]

It's vitally important that we get the right person for the job.

Lorna is fast asleep, but the other two are still wide awake.

speaks your language.

1.1	Correct the mistakes.
	1 Why does she do so many mistakes? make
	2 My sister got a baby last month.
	3 I'm sorry I'm late; I lost the bus.
	4 There was an accident and Tommy has a grave head injury.
	5 I don't know if I can come – it depends of the weather.
	6 We passed three days in Amsterdam
	7 I wouldn't like to try and say the future
	8 My sister is waiting for a baby next month.
	9 Axel said me a very funny joke.
	10 She gave us a big amount of money.
.2	Complete the text.
	My mum went to see the doctor, and he told her to go on a <sup>1</sup> diet
	she knows that she needs to 2 weight, but she's not happy about giving
	up chocolate. Anyway, I told her it's 3important that she keeps to the
	diet, because if she 4 any more weight, it's quite 5 that
	she'll end up with a more 6illness. Fortunately, I think she's
	<sup>7</sup> aware of that.
	Replace big or little with a more suitable adjective.
	1 You won't need a big amount of money
	2 Why are they making such a big noise?
	3 I've got quite a big vocabulary in French.
	4 There is only a <i>little</i> choice of things we can buy.
	5 We had a very big number of tourists this year.
	6 I think the event had big importance for her.
	7 Lola only has a <i>little</i> vocabulary in English.
	Complete the sentences and dialogues.
	1 A: Why were they late? B: They got stuck in heavy traffic.
	2 When I went into her bedroom, she was asleep.
	3 A: Did you enjoy last night? B: Yes, it was fun.
	4 I met Sasha in town. She told me she's a baby in June. Isn't that fantastic news?
	5 A: We won 1–0. B: Who the goal?
	6 Leif me a joke, but I'm afraid I didn't understand it.
	7 A: Are the boys asleep? B: No, they're still
	8 My neighbour's burglar alarm at 2 o'clock this morning and woke me up.
	9 A: Why is she staying in Paris? B: Shein love with a French guy.
	10 I'msorry, but I've lost your book – I'll buy you a new one.
5	
	Over to you
	Look at the verbs and nouns in section B, and the adjectives and nouns in section C on the opposite page. Are they the same in your language? If possible, compare with some one else who

# 75 Fixed phrases

### A What are fixed phrases?

There are many groups of words which you need to learn as complete phrases, because they often have a meaning which is different from the words on their own. Many of these are called idioms.

They arrived out of the blue. [I didn't know they were coming; it was unexpected] Does the name Merchant ring a bell? [sound familiar] You'll have to make up your mind soon. [make a decision]

Some fixed phrases are easier to understand, but the same idea may be expressed in a different way in your language.

I think we'll have to get rid of some of this furniture. [remove it, e.g. sell it, throw it away, give it away, etc.] I'm afraid I can't talk to you now; I'm (just) about to leave. [I am going to leave very soon] I don't know what Martin said, but Natalie burst into tears. [suddenly started crying] She was very upset. Everyone was there apart from Yasmine. [not including Yasmine; syn except for]

### B Time phrases

He's leaving in four days' time. [four days from now; also in three weeks'/six months'/two years' time, etc.]

I got here the week before last. [during the week/month, etc. before the previous one] The course is fine so far. [up until now]

I rang our local doctor and fortunately she was able to come at once. [now, immediately; syns right away / straight away]

He's so busy at work; he comes home late night after night. [every night; also day after day, etc.]

### Pairs of words

A number of fixed phrases consist of two words, usually joined by and, and sometimes or.

I go to the theatre now and again. [occasionally; syns now and then]

Andy had one or two [a few] suggestions.

I've got a house in the country, and I like to go there whenever possible for a bit of peace and quiet. [a calm situation without noise]

I've been up and down the street, but I can't find their house. [first in one direction, then the other] I've been to Paris once or twice. [a few times]

I'll finish this report sooner or later. [I don't know when, but I'll finish it.]

### Introducing advice, opinions, etc.

Many fixed phrases are used to introduce advice, an opinion, an example, etc.

If I were you [in your situation], I'd accept the job they offered you.

In general [usually, or in most situations; syn on the whole] the summers are quite warm in this part of the country.

There were lots of questions. For instance [for example], how much will it cost?

I'm sure you'll have a great holiday. By the way, what time does the train leave? (used to introduce a new subject to the conversation)

To be honest, I didn't like her boyfriend very much. (used to say what you really think)

### 75.1 Using all the words in the square, find eight more phrases.

ON	DAY	SOONER	AND	RIGHT
SO	AND	NOW	TWO	LATER
UP	OR	<del>OFF</del>	PEACE	AFTER
FAR	AND	ONE	<b>AWAY</b>	AGAIN
AND	DAY	QUIET	OR	DOWN

on and off	 
•••••	 

### 75.2 Complete the sentences with one word, then underline the full fixed phrase in each sentence.

- - 2 I'm arranging everything for next week. By the ....., is your sister coming this evening?

  - 4 Some people enjoyed the book, but to be ......, I thought it was boring.
  - 5 I'd like to get ...... of these CDs because I don't listen to them any more.
  - 6 In ....., people are much happier when they have jobs that they enjoy.
  - 7 I don't know what to do at the moment but I'll have to make up my ......soon.
  - 8 It's a flexible ticket. For ....., you can use it during the week or at weekends.
  - 9 Can I ring you later? I'm just ..... to have lunch.
  - 10 If I ......you, I'd get a new dictionary.

### 75.3 Complete the fixed phrase in each dialogue.

- 4 A: You arrived ten days ago?
- B: Yes, I would if ......
- 6 A: Will they get here?
- B: Yeah, sooner ......

- 7 A: Have you been there often?
  - B: Once ......
- 8 A: Do you need me there now?
  B: Yes. Could you come at .....?
- 9 A: When are you going back?
- B: In two weeks' .....
- 10 A: How's the course?
  - B: It's good so ......
- 11 A: I spoke to Chris Myler. Do you know him?
  - B: No, the name doesn't ring ................................
- 12 A: Have you done all the housework?
  - B: Yes, apart ..... the washing.

### 75.4 Here are more idioms. Can you underline one in each sentence, and guess what it means?

- 1 I've been in the job a few days, but I already feel at home. feel comfortable and relaxed......
- 2 I've just bought these shoes and they cost a fortune.
- 3 Could you keep an eye on my bag for me?
- 4 The answer's on the tip of my tongue.
- 5 We had a night on the town last night.
  6 I could do with a new computer; mine's quite old now.

# Fixed phrases in conversation

### A

### Common responses

A large number of fixed phrases are used as common responses in everyday conversation.

A: What time did he get here?

A: Are you going tonight?

A: Shall we go out tonight?

A: Did you like the film?

A: I'm going to Sweden next week.

A: Can I borrow your car?

A: They're coming tonight, aren't they?

A: Jason has grown a beard.

A: We have to work tonight.

A: Eli got top marks.

B: I've no idea. [I don't know]

B: That depends. [used to say you are not sure because other things affect your answer; also It depends]

B: Yeah, why not. [OK]

B: Not really. [used to say no but not strongly]

B: Really. What for? [why?]

B: No way. [that's impossible; infml; syn no chance]

B: I suppose so. [used to say yes but not strongly]

B: I know. I couldn't believe my eyes! [I was very surprised when I saw it]

B: You must be joking.

B: I don't believe it! [used to express great surprise]

### Language help

We can use **you must be joking** (syns **you're joking/kidding**) when someone has just said something that is a surprise. It may be an unpleasant surprise (as above), or a nice surprise, e.g. A: My father said he would pay for all of us to go on holiday.

B: **You're kidding**. Fantastic!

#### R

### In conversation

Notice how fixed phrases can form an important part of an everyday conversation.

- A: I had to have a word with Jiri and Milan today. [speak to them without others listening]
- B: Oh yeah? Are they causing trouble again?
- A: Well, you know, [used to fill a pause in conversation] they just keep talking to each other, and they don't pay attention [listen] that sort of thing.
- B: Why don't you make them sit in different places?
- A: I tried that, but they still talked to each other.
- B: Well, in that case [because of the situation described], you'll have to move one of them.
- A: Maybe, but I'd feel bad about that [be unhappy about]. They're quite nice boys, you know, they just can't help it. [can't control some actions or behaviour]
- B: Sure ... but you can't let that kind of thing continue.
- A: No, you're right. But I've given them a final warning today, so let's wait and see what happens. [wait to discover what will happen]
- B: OK. But what if they don't improve? [what will you do if they don't improve?]
- A: I think it'll be OK.
- B: Well, if you change your mind [change your decision], come and see me again, and I'll arrange for one of them to be moved to another class.

### Language help

We use sort/kind in several common phrases in informal speech. (and) that sort/kind of thing [examples of that type] e.g. I grow onions and carrats - that sort/kind of thing. sort/kind of [approximately/more or less] e.g. Her new top is sort of blue; I thought he was kind of strange.



### 76.1 Put the responses in the most suitable column below.

no way not really I suppose so why not you're kidding that depends I don't believe it

positive	negative	not sure or either
	no way	

### 76.2 Choose the correct word. Sometimes both are correct.

- 1 I need to have a word speak with Catalina.
- 2 I don't know what they plan to do; we'll have to wait and see / watch.
- 3 He usually wears jeans, trainers, and that sort / kind of thing.
- 4 Little children shout and scream all the time; they can't help / leave it.
- 5 A: I went to Cambridge last week. B: Really? What / Why for?
- 6 The trouble with Mark is that he doesn't pay / give attention.
- 7 A: Are you working tonight? B: It / That depends.

### 76.3 Complete the dialogues with a suitable fixed phrase.

- 1 A: Did you hear that Daniel's getting married?
  - B: Yeah. I don't believe it!
- 2 A: Sofia doesn't listen.
  - B: No. She never .......
- 3 A: Did you speak to Nathalie?
  - B: Yes, I .......
- 4 A: Dad wasn't happy about forgetting my birthday.
- 5 A: Do you know what time he'll be here?
  - B: No, I'm afraid I've
- 6 A: Are you still planning to sell the flat?

### 76.4 Where could you add the phrases in the box to the dialogues below?

<del>you know</del> I	couldn't believe my eyes	kind of	in that case
that sort of the	ng you must be joking	why not	

- 1 A: What did you say to him?
  - B: Well, it was quite difficult, you know
- 2 A: What colour was it?
  - B: Blue.
- 3 A: He's not coming this evening, so you won't be able to ask him.
  - B: Well, I'll phone him and ask him.
- 4 A: Jerry says we'll have to walk all the way to the campsite.
  - B: That's ten miles!
- 5 A: Do you want to get a takeaway?
  - B: Yeah.
- 6 A: What do they sell?
  - B: Oh, burgers, pizzas, ...
- 7 A: Did you see Chloe wearing those high-heeled shoes?
  - B: Yes.

# 77

# Verb or adjective + preposition

### A

### Verb + preposition

Pay special attention to prepositions that are different in your language.

Paul doesn't like the manager's decision and I agree with him. [have the same opinion as]

Don't worry about your exam. [be nervous about]

His teachers were satisfied with his progress. [pleased with]

Many people spend a lot of money on clothes.

I'm thinking of going to China. [it's my plan to go] (used in the continuous form)

This land belongs to the company. [it is the company's land]

I translated the letter into French. [changed from one language into another]

She complained to the manager about the food. [said she wasn't happy/satisfied with]

I can't concentrate on [think about] my work when the radio is playing.

We can rely on this photocopier. [trust it; it will not go wrong]

I may go but it depends on the weather. [used to say you are not sure about something]

### Language help

Depend (on) has other meanings:

Martha depends on her son for money. [she needs his money]

We can depend on the others for support. [wc can trust the others to support us]

Remember: it depends on something or someone (NOT it depends of something or someone)

### B

### Prepositions that change the meaning





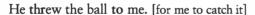
She **shouted to** me. [spoke in a loud voice to be heard]





He shouted at me. [spoke in a loud voice because he was angry]







He threw the ball at me. [in order to hit me]

#### േ

### Adjective + preposition

I've never been very good at maths. (opp bad at)

She's afraid of flying. [frightened of]

The neighbours are fond of the children. [like]

She's similar to her sister [the same as her in some ways], but very different from her brother.

He's very interested in photography.

I think she's aware of the problem. [knows about]

I'm tired of people telling me what to do. [bored or a bit angry about]

Katya is mad about Brad Pitt. [likes him very much; infml]

We're short of coffee at the moment. [we don't have much]

There's something wrong with this TV. [the TV is not working correctly]

77.1	Match the sentence beginnings on the left with the best endings on the right.
	1 He's tired a me, but it missed.
	2 She wasn't aware b to the manager.
	3 He threw the pen to c of working at weekends.
	4 She complained dhis friend on the other side of the lake.
	5 He shouted at e me, but I dropped it.
	6 He shouted to f with them.
	7 He threw the book at gus to get out of his garden.
	8 I don't agree h of her mistakes.
77.2	Complete the questions with the correct preposition, then write an answer for each one.
	1 A: What is she worried about ? B: Her exams.
	2 A: What subjects is she good?  B:
	3 A: Who does this belong?  B:
	4 A: What does he spend all his money?  B:
	5 A: What are you afraid? B:
	6 A: What kind of films are you interested? B:
	7 A: What does the decision depend?  B:
	8 A: I know he's angry, but who's he shouting? B:
	9 A: Who can we rely?  10 A: What language is the book being translated?  B:
	A; what language is the book being translated
77.3	Complete the dialogues.
	1 A: Are you going to the exhibition?  6 A: Did you like the course?
	B: Yes, I'm very interested in art.  B: No, I wasn't very satisfiedit.
	2 A: Is she to her sister?  7 A: What's the matter?
	B: No, they're completely different.  B: I can't on this with the TV on.
	3 A: What did she about? 8 A: It's a big problem.
	B: She wasn't happy with the food.  B: Yes, but we're of that.
	4 A: Angel is very good-looking.  9 A: We're a bit of milk.
	B: That's why I'mabout him! B: OK. I'll buy some when I go out.
	5 A: What's with the radio?  10 A: Do Max's children have jobs?
	B: I don't know, but it's not working.  B: No, they still on their parents.
77.4	Do you know which preposition follows the words below? They are all in this book. If you don't know, use the index to help you. A good dictionary will tell you if a verb or
	adjective is usually followed by a special preposition.
	keen succeed apply
	suffer get married apologise
77 6	
77.5	Over to you
	Complete the sentences about yourself. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.
	1 I'm not very good
	2 I've always been interested
	3 I'm not very fond
	4 I spend most of my money
	5 For my next holiday, I'm thinking

# **78** Prepositional phrases

### By, on or in + noun

I took his pen by mistake. [I thought it was my pen] These shoes are made by hand, [not using a machine] I met them by chance. [it wasn't planned; it was luck]





He broke the plate by accident. [he did not want or plan to do it]

He broke the plate on purpose. [he wanted to do it; it was his intention]

My boss is on the phone at the moment. [using the phone]

The workers are on strike. [they refuse to work because of a problem over pay, hours, etc.]

The books were on display in the window. [in the window for people to look at]

Part of the building was on fire. [burning]

Most of the passengers are now on board. [on the train, boat, plane, etc.]

Why are they always in a hurry? [needing to do something or go somewhere very quickly]

I explained everything in detail. [including all the important information]

She won't make that mistake again in future.

The poor little girl was in tears. [crying]

### Phrases easily confused

Sometimes two prepositions can be used with the same noun, but the meaning is different.

Lessons begin at 8.30 and the students are usually here on time. [at 8.30]

If we hurry, we'll be there in time. [before the time we need to be there]

We were tired of waiting, so in the end we went home. [finally, after a lot of time or thought] At the end of the book they get married. [in the last part]

To be successful in business it's important to get on well with people. [working as businesspeople] They're both in Germany on business. [they are there for work, not a holiday]

I'm afraid this book's a bit out-of-date. [old and not useful, or not correct in its information] I try to keep up-to-date with all the changes. [knowing all the most recent ideas and information]

I'll see you in a moment. [not now, but very soon; syn in a minute] I can't speak to you at the moment. [now; syn right now]

#### Common mistakes

I'm busy at the moment. (NOT I'm busy in this moment.)

### 78.1 Put the nouns into the correct columns.

board	hand	accident	displa	y detail
fire	future	mistake	tears	strike

on	in	by	
board			

### 78.2 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- 1 I'm afraid I deleted your email on / in /(by)accident.
- 2 Did she hit him on / by / in purpose?
- 3 I just saw them with / by / on chance.
- 4 Most of these files are out-of- / out-from- / out-for- date.
- 5 My wife is away in / on / by business at the moment.
- 6 I'm afraid I'm busy on / in / at the moment.
- 7 I've got to go; I'm in / on / at a hurry.
- 8 I won't go there again on / in / at future.

78.3	Complete the miss	ing noun in these	prepositional	phrases.

- 5 I'm sure she broke that vase on .....; she never liked it.

- 11 The manager can't speak to you at the .....; I'm afraid she's on the .......

### 78.4 Replace the underlined word(s) with a prepositional phrase.

- 1 The meeting was planned for 11 am and we got there at 11 am. on time
- 2 Did you get to the cinema before the film started?
- 3 Most of the factory is burning.
- 4 I had great difficulty finding the camera I wanted, so finally I bought one on the Internet.
- 5 He gets killed in the last scene of the film.
- 6 I'm afraid I'm very busy right now.
- 7 I saw her yesterday but we didn't plan to meet.
- 8 I'm writing an email, but I'll be with you very soon.
- 9 Most of these books are old and the information is wrong.
- 10 I explained the system with all the important information.

# 79

# Phrasal verbs 1: form and meaning

### A

### Formation

A phrasal verb is a verb + adverb <u>or</u> preposition, and sometimes a verb + adverb *and* preposition.

He fell over [fell to the ground] and hurt his knee.

I'll try to find out [learn/discover] the quickest way to get there.

He didn't like his coat, so he gave it away. [gave it to someone for no money]

If you don't understand the meaning, look it up. [find the meaning in a book/dictionary]

Who's going to sort out the problem? [deal with it successfully; solve it]

He doesn't get on with [have a good relationship with] his parents. (verb + adv. + prep.)

В

### Meaning

The adverb or preposition does not always change the meaning of the verb, and is not always used.

I didn't wake (up) until 7 o'clock. She's saving (up) for a new computer. Hurry (up) or we'll be late. I went to lie (down) on the bed.

Sometimes an adverb adds a particular meaning to the verb. For example, back can mean *return*.

I bought this jacket yesterday, but I'm going to take it back to the shop; it's too small.

You can look at the books, but remember to put them back on the shelf.

They liked Greece so much they want to go back next year.

Often, the adverb or preposition changes the meaning of the verb: *give up* doesn't mean the same as *give*, and *carry* on doesn't mean the same as *carry*.

My wife has decided to give up [stop] smoking.

We'll take a short break and then carry on [continue] with the meeting.

The shops are going to put up [increase] the price of bread.

When the hotel gets busy, we have to take on [employ] more staff.

C

### Multiple meanings

Many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning.

go away

I was busy, so I told him to go away. [leave]

We try to go away in August. [go on holiday]

Pick something / someone up

I picked up most of the rubbish. [lifted it from the floor]

I'm going to pick Jane up at the station. [collect someone, usually in a car]

Put something on

Could you put the light on? [make a piece of equipment work by pressing a switch; syn switch sth on]

I put on my best suit. [put clothes on your body]



79.1	Choose the correct adverb or preposition to complete the	sentence.
	1 I can't see. Could you put the light?	a in (b)
	2 If he doesn't want it, he can give it	a out b
	3 Have they sorted it?	a out b
	4 It was broken, so I had to take it	a over b
	5 I went to the airport to pick her	a up b
	6 What time did you wake?	a to b
	7 I get married next year. I need to start saving	a out b
	8 Could you switch the TV?	a down b
79.2	Replace the underlined word(s) with a phrasal verb that ke	eeps a similar meaning.
	1 We never <u>discovered</u> what it means. <u>found out</u>	
	2 I'd like to return next year.	
	3 We <u>collected</u> Kelly from the station	
	4 We'll have to <u>increase</u> the price this year	
	5 I've decided to stop eating chocolate	
	6 Is Hana going to continue with her English course?	
	7 I told them to <u>leave</u>	
	8 I have a good relationship with my parents.	
	9 We are planning to employ ten new drivers next year.	
79.3	Look at the dictionary entry for go off and match the meanings with the sentences below.	go off 1 LEAVE to leave
	a When the light goes off, the machine has finished3	somewhere else She's
	b My alarm clock went off early this morning	Tony. 2 FOOD UK infor
	c I think this meat has gone off	is not good to eat anym
	d The bomb went off without any warning	3 STOP If a light or ma
	e Faye went off early; she had to meet a friend	working. The heating a
		EXPLODE If a bomb or go or fires. <b>5</b> MAKE NOISE If
79,4	Complete the dialogues.	
	-	noise goes off, it sudde His car alarm goes off
	1 A: Can you afford that bike?	This car diarm goes off
	B: No, I'll have to save up for it.	The Assistance of the Control of the
	2 A: Is there still a problem? B: Don't worry. I'llitititit	
	3 A: Can we look at some books?	
	B: Yes, but them afterward	ds.
	4 A: Did you feel unwell?	
	B: Yes, I had to on the bed.	
	5 A: What's the matter?	
	B: I and cut my knee.	
	6 A: I don't know what this means.	
	B: Well, it in a dictionary.	
	7 A: Does he look smart?	
	B: Yes. He'shis suit.	
	8 A: or we'll be late.	
	B: OK, I'm coming.	

1 LEAVE to leave a place and go there else She's gone off to the pub with **2** FOOD *UK informal* If food goes off it good to eat anymore because it is to old. If a light or machine goes off, it stops ng. The heating goes off at 10 o'clock. 4 If a bomb or gun goes off, it explodes s. 5 MAKE NOISE If something that makes a goes off, it suddenly starts making a noise. r alarm goes off every time it rains.

(bon

b away

b over

b down

b on

b up

b on

b on

c out

c up

c up

c back

c over c for

c up

c in