

Phrasal Verbs: Communication & Conflict

Intermediate (B1-B2)



WARM UP

Part 1. Discuss the following questions.

1. When was the last time you felt you needed to **speak up** about something important?
2. How do you decide whether to **bring up** a sensitive topic with a friend?
3. Have you ever had to **walk away** from an argument? Why?
4. What helps you **open up** when you're feeling upset or stressed?

READING ACTIVITY

Part 1. Read the following text carefully.

During the meeting, Sarah wanted to **bring up** the budget issue, but John **cut in** before she could finish. After the discussion, Maria encouraged Sarah to **speak up** next time. Later, the team needed to **clear up** some misunderstandings about responsibilities. Although Tom initially refused to change his stance, he eventually **backed down** when presented with new data. In a one-on-one, Alex decided to **open up** about his concerns, and Lisa was able to **back up** his points with examples. When tensions rose, Emma chose to **walk away** from the heated debate rather than make it worse.

Part 2. Answer the comprehension questions.

1. Which phrasal verb describes an interruption in the meeting?
2. Why did Tom finally back down?
3. How did Lisa support Alex's concerns?
4. What did Emma do when the debate became too heated?

DEFINITION MATCHING

Part 1. Match each phrasal verb to its correct definition. Can you guess any before looking at the options?

Bring up

Speak up

Open up

Back up

Cut in

Back down

Clear up

Walk away

1. _____ to interrupt someone while they are talking
2. _____ to stop arguing and accept you are wrong
3. _____ to begin talking about a subject
4. _____ to support a statement or person with evidence
5. _____ to talk more honestly about your feelings
6. _____ to resolve confusion or misunderstandings
7. _____ to choose to leave a difficult situation rather than continue
8. _____ to say something more loudly so people will hear



COLLOCATION MATCHING

Part 1. Match the phrasal verbs with what they often collocate with.

Bring up	Speak up	Open up	Back up
Cut in	Back down	Clear up	Walk away

1. _____ with evidence to support your argument
2. _____ a misunderstanding with a co-worker
3. _____ when the discussion becomes too hostile
4. _____ a point in the meeting
5. _____ from a serious disagreement
6. _____ to a friend/colleague
7. _____ when someone else is still talking
8. _____ about an important issue

SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

Part 1. Rewrite the following sentences using the target phrasal verbs so that the meaning stays the same.

1. Under pressure, she changed her position on the proposal.
2. The data confirms her argument with solid figures.
3. We need to resolve the confusion about the deadline.
4. Instead of arguing, I left the room.
5. Nobody could hear me, so I raised my voice.
6. She started talking about her recent promotion during the meeting.
7. He decided to share his personal worries with his manager.
8. He interrupted the discussion before we finished.

SENTENCE GAP-FILL

Part 1. Use the correct form of the phrasal verb in brackets to complete each sentence.

1. By the end of the meeting, someone _____ (bring up) the budget issue.
2. I _____ (speak up) whenever I've felt uncomfortable.
3. She _____ (open up) about her concerns at yesterday's meeting.
4. We _____ (back up) our proposal with more research.
5. He _____ (cut in) twice before she finished her point.
6. If you _____ (back down) too soon, they might not take you seriously.
7. They _____ (clear up) all the misunderstandings regarding roles.
8. When things got too tense, I _____ (walk away) from the debate.

SPEAKING

Part 1. Answer the questions using the target phrasal verbs.

1. What topic would you find difficult to **bring up** at work?
2. When do you feel obligated to **speak up** even if it's uncomfortable?
3. Have you ever had someone **cut in** on your conversation? How did you react?
4. Describe a situation where you had to **back down** in a debate.
5. Who do you trust enough to **open up** to about personal issues?
6. How can you **back up** your opinions in a team meeting?
7. What steps do you take to **clear up** misunderstandings with friends?
8. Can you recall a time you had to **walk away** from an argument? What happened?

