Advanced Phrasal Verbs – Test 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 30

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Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Choosing the right phrasal verb

Choose the phrasal verb that best completes each sentence.

1. The negotiations were going well until the other company _____ at the last minute, refusing to sign the contract.
   A backed down **B** backed onto **C** backed out **D** backed up
2. It took her months to _____ the shock of losing her job, but she eventually found a better one.
   A get by **B** get over **C** get across **D** get through to
3. The committee has _____ a set of new guidelines for staff who work from home.
   A drawn on **B** drawn in **C** drawn out **D** drawn up
4. I'd rather not _____ the subject of money at dinner; it always causes tension.
   A bring up **B** bring about **C** bring round **D** bring off
5. Because of the storm, the match has been _____ until next week.
   A put out **B** put up **C** put off **D** put across
6. After years of rising costs, the factory finally had to _____ two hundred workers.
   A lay out **B** lay off **C** lay down **D** lay into
7. Despite strong criticism, the director refused to _____ and stood by her decision.
   A give off **B** back up **C** give out **D** back down
8. Could you _____ these figures for me before the meeting? I want to be sure they're accurate.
   A go over **B** go off **C** go along **D** go without
9. The new software was supposed to make things easier, but it hasn't really _____ as we'd hoped.
   A pointed out **B** played up **C** propped up **D** panned out
10. The journalist's article _____ a fierce public debate about privacy online.
    A held up **B** sparked off **C** set back **D** wore off

Part 2: Meaning, form and usage

Choose the closest meaning, the correct sentence, the incorrect part or the best completion, as indicated.

11. "I can't make out what the sign says from here." What does 'make out' mean in this sentence?
    A invent **B** write down
    C read or see clearly **D** understand someone's character

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12. "The effects of the painkiller began to wear off after a few hours." What does 'wear off' mean?
    A become stronger
    B gradually become weaker
    C cause side effects
    D become noticeable

13. "She came across as rather shy at the interview, but she's actually very outgoing." What does 'came across as' mean?
    A accidentally discovered that she was
    B admitted to being
    C gave the impression of being
    D pretended to be

14. "The company is phasing out its paper-based records." What does 'phasing out' mean?
    A gradually stopping using
    B suddenly destroying
    C gradually introducing
    D temporarily storing

15. Which sentence is correct?
    A Could you look up it in the dictionary?
    B Could you look the word up in the dictionary?
    C Could you look after the word in the dictionary?
    D Could you look the word into the dictionary?

16. Which sentence is correct?
    A I came her old letters across while tidying the attic.
    B I came them across while tidying the attic.
    C I came across with her old letters while tidying the attic.
    D I came across her old letters while tidying the attic.

17. Which part of the sentence is incorrect? "The manager turned up my proposal because it was too expensive."
    A turned up **B** my proposal **C** because **D** too expensive

18. Which part of the sentence is incorrect? "We've run out from milk, so I'll pop to the shop."
    A We've **B** run out from **C** so I'll **D** pop to the shop

19. A: "Are you still taking part in the quiz night on Saturday?" B: "Sorry, I'm going to have to _____ — I've got far too much work to catch up on."
    A pull through **B** pull out **C** pull over **D** pull up

20. "Our plans for a summer trip fell through at the last minute." What does 'fell through' mean?
    A were approved
    B became public
    C failed to happen
    D were changed slightly

Part 3: Nouns formed from phrasal verbs

Choose the correct noun to complete each sentence.

21. The _____ for the charity run was much higher than expected; over two thousand people took part.
    A turnover **B** turnout **C** outturn **D** upturn

22. One major _____ of living in the city centre is the noise at night.
    A drawback **B** backdraw **C** withdrawal **D** drawout

23. The team suffered a serious _____ when their lead researcher left the project.
    A outset **B** offset **C** backset **D** setback

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24. There was a _____ in communication between the two departments, and the order was never sent.

A breakup **B** breakdown **C** breakout **D** outbreak

25. Her strict _____ in a small village shaped her attitude to hard work.

A upbrought **B** outbringing **C** upbringing **D** bringup

Part 4: Phrasal verbs in a reading text

Read the text and choose the best option for each numbered gap.

When Amara Osei decided to set up her own catering business, friends warned her that the first year would be tough. They turned out to be right. Within weeks, her main supplier went bankrupt, and she had to (26) ___ a replacement at very short notice.

Money was tight, so Amara (27) ___ her savings to keep the business running. She also had to (28) ___ several large orders because she simply did not have enough staff. 'It was painful to say no,' she admits, 'but I couldn't risk letting people down.'

Slowly, however, things began to (29) ___. Word spread about the quality of her food, and by the end of the second year she had taken on four employees. Looking back, Amara believes the difficult start taught her valuable lessons. 'If you're going to run a business, you have to be prepared to (30) ___ creative solutions to problems you never expected.'

26. (26) ... she had to _____ a replacement at very short notice.

A turn down **B** track down **C** take down **D** tear down

27. (27) Money was tight, so Amara _____ her savings to keep the business running.

A dipped into **B** dug up **C** dropped off **D** dealt out

28. (28) She also had to _____ several large orders because she simply did not have enough staff.

A turn over **B** turn in **C** turn out **D** turn down

29. (29) Slowly, however, things began to _____.

A look on **B** look up **C** look into **D** look through

30. (30) ... you have to be prepared to _____ creative solutions to problems you never expected.

A come down with **B** come round to **C** come up with **D** come in for

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Answer key – Advanced Phrasal Verbs – Test 1

1 C	2 B	3 D	4 A	5 C	6 B	7 D	8 A	9 D	10 B
11 C	12 B	13 C	14 A	15 B	16 D	17 A	18 B	19 B	20 C
21 B	22 A	23 D	24 B	25 C	26 B	27 A	28 D	29 B	30 C

Explanations

1. **C** – 'Back out' means to withdraw from an agreement you had made.
2. **B** – 'Get over' means to recover from a shock, illness or disappointment.
3. **D** – 'Draw up' means to prepare and write a formal document such as a plan or guidelines.
4. **A** – 'Bring up' a subject means to mention it or start talking about it.
5. **C** – 'Put off' means to postpone something to a later time.
6. **B** – 'Lay off' means to stop employing workers, usually because there is not enough work or money.
7. **D** – 'Back down' means to stop insisting on a position or demand; refusing to do so fits 'stood by her decision'.
8. **A** – 'Go over' means to examine or check something carefully.
9. **D** – 'Pan out' means to develop or turn out in a particular way, often used about plans and expectations.
10. **B** – 'Spark off' means to cause something, such as a debate or reaction, to start suddenly.
11. **C** – Here 'make out' means to manage to see or read something with difficulty.
12. **B** – 'Wear off' means that an effect or feeling gradually disappears.
13. **C** – 'Come across as' means to give other people a particular impression.
14. **A** – 'Phase out' means to stop using something gradually, in stages.
15. **B** – 'Look up' is separable, so the noun can go between verb and particle; a pronoun must go in the middle (look it up).
16. **D** – 'Come across' (find by chance) is inseparable and takes a direct object without 'with'.
17. **A** – To reject a proposal is 'turn down', not 'turn up'.
18. **B** – The correct form is 'run out of' something.
19. **B** – 'Pull out' means to withdraw from an event or activity you had agreed to take part in.
20. **C** – If a plan 'falls through', it fails and does not happen.
21. **B** – 'Turnout' is the number of people who attend an event.
22. **A** – A 'drawback' is a disadvantage or problem.
23. **D** – A 'setback' is a problem that delays progress.
24. **B** – A 'breakdown' in communication is a failure of communication.
25. **C** – 'Upbringing' (from 'bring up') is the way a child is raised.
26. **B** – 'Track down' means to find something or someone after searching.
27. **A** – 'Dip into' your savings means to use some of the money you have saved.
28. **D** – 'Turn down' means to refuse or reject, which matches 'It was painful to say no'.
29. **B** – When things 'look up', a situation starts to improve.
30. **C** – 'Come up with' means to think of or produce an idea or solution.

Notes for teachers: Use this test as a diagnostic or review after a unit on phrasal verbs at C1 level. It targets common errors: confusing particles with the same base verb (back down / back out), pronoun placement with separable verbs, wrong prepositions after multi-word verbs (run out of), and confusion between similar compound nouns (turnout / turnover). As follow-up, ask learners to write their own sentences with the verbs they got wrong, or to retell the reading text using as many phrasal verbs as possible.

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