

**I. Short Phrases:**

Choose a partner and read the conversations to your group. Explain to the group what the phrase means. Teachers make corrections and ask students to use the phrase in a sentence to check for understanding.

tear down

A: I hope they don't tear down that old theatre. It is a historic building.

B: I think they might. They tore the old hotel next to it down.

*Note: Tear down is what is called a separable phrasal verb. In other words, it is OK to separate the verb (tear) from the adverb (down) as is done in the second speech. I have marked the remaining phrasal verbs as separable or non-separable (meaning they can't be separated)*

take down (separable phrasal verb)

C: We took down our decorations the day after Christmas. When do you take yours down?

D: I don't take our decorations down until mid-January at least. I enjoy having them up.

upside down (this phrase is an adverb not a phrasal verb and should not be separated)

A: Load the cups in the dishwasher upside down. If you don't turn them upside down they will fill with water.

B: Should I turn the silverware upside down as well?

let down (separable phrasal verb)

C: I didn't want to let Mother down, but I had to drop out of school.

D: I know what you mean. I let down the whole family when I dropped out. I was the first in my family to go to college and they were hoping I would get my degree

*Note: letdown (written with no space between the words) is a noun and means a disappointment. EX: The latest Star Wars movie was a letdown. It wasn't nearly as good as the earlier ones.*

look down on (non-separable phrasal verb)

A: The older students in the school tend to look down on the younger ones.

B: I guess it's human nature to look down on people we don't think are like us.

mark down (separable phrasal verb)

C: On Mondays the stores usually mark down their prices. I saw a dress this weekend that I really wanted. But it was priced too high. I'm hoping they will mark it down today.

D: I always shop on Mondays. It is a good time to look for markdowns.

*Note: Markdowns is, like letdowns, a noun. It means items that have had the price reduced.*

far from (separable adverb which can't be separated by a noun or pronoun, only another adverb)

A: His wife is far from perfect, but he seems to love her anyway.

B: Yes, but the marriage does seem far from ideal. He lives in a separate apartment quite far away from hers.

**II. Common American Words and Phrases**

Students read a phrase and guess at what it means. Teachers encourage several people to guess before giving the correct answer. Then ask the students to use the saying in a sentence.

1.off-color remark

2.on again-off again relationship

3. take a swig
4. jack up the prices
5. short on cash
6. jump ship
7. rubber necking
8. go with the flow
9. doze off
10. sounds fishy
11. geek
12. gawk
13. lickety split
14. It's a doozy.
15. lollygag
16. hiatus
17. gobbledygook
18. I'm flummoxed
19. cantankerous
20. I'm all in.

### **III. What's your opinion of...?**

Read these items and discuss in your group. Teachers make sure EVERYONE gets a chance to express their opinion.

1. Recently the military agreed to allow women to serve in combat roles. Some men feel this is wrong. Some women are happy to have combat roles open to them because it makes them feel equal to the men. What do you think? Talk about women in the military in your country. If you are a woman, would you want to serve in the military? ...in a combat role? If you are a man, would you mind serving with a woman in a combat role?
2. Should military service be compulsory?
3. In a compulsory military service, should women be required to serve?
4. Does a strong military cause or prevent wars?