

Explain what is happening in these sentences. Then make a sentence with the underlined idiom.

1. She set a plate of ribs in front of him and said, "Dig in".
2. The troops dug in knowing the cannons would start firing at daybreak.
3. I hate to dig up the past, but weren't you married before?
4. She always dishes out unwanted advice.
5. He can dish out criticism, but he can't take it.
6. Most countries have done away with the death penalty.
7. I think it was the late hours more than the alcohol that did me in.
8. My wife got all dolled up for anniversary expecting me to take her out.
9. The speech dragged on until most had dozed off.
10. The attorney drew up the contracts for us to sign.
11. The principal drew up to the table and started the meeting.
12. As we drew up to the house we could see the family was leaving.
13. It was a long, drawn out meeting.
14. Don't get drawn in to one of his poker games or you'll be there all night.
15. He drew himself up and raised his hand to signal he had something important to say.
16. It's better not to dredge up the past.
17. The prime minister is trying to drum up support for his policies.
18. Stop acting so strange. You are weirding me out.
19. After ten years at the top of the organization, she bowed out to give younger members a chance to lead.
20. He has been cast out of several volunteer organizations because of his unwanted advances to women.

What's the difference between...

1. drop in, drop off and drop by?
2. cast off and cast out?
3. clean out and clean up?
4. cross off and cross out?
5. cut off, cut across, cut out or cut up?
6. grow up on and grow out of? (Hint: We grew up on Saturday morning cartoons, but as we got older we grew out of cartoons.)
7. head for, head off, head out and head up?
8. throw off, throw out or throw up?

Make sentences with each phrasal verb above.

GIVE OUT is a phrasal verb with many meanings. Read these sentences and explain how the meanings are different.

1. My old car finally gave out this weekend. Guess it's time to trade it in for a new one.
2. After wandering for days in the desert, our water gave out.

3. They gave out the names of the winners.
4. The fumes that factory gives out are deadly.
5. She gave out a final moan and expired.

Discuss:

1. When I was young, I always tried to keep up with my big brother. He liked to ride his bikes through the fields behind our house. I would get on my bike and try to follow, but he was bigger and stronger. Before long, he would leave me behind. Who did you try to keep up with when you were a child?
2. I am a little shy. Sometimes in a crowd or at a party, I like to keep to myself. Do you like to keep to yourself when you are in a crowd or do you go out and introduce yourself?
3. As a child one of our favorite games was "Keep Away". One person would be in the middle. Everyone else would try to keep the ball away from them. If the person in the middle caught the ball, whoever threw it had to be in the middle. Did you ever play keep away as a child? What games did you play?
4. I missed out on participating in athletics when I was in school. In those days, there were very few girls sports teams. In my school, we only had girl's volleyball. I wasn't very good at volleyball, so couldn't make the team. But I was a very fast runner and could even beat several of the boys. I would have loved to be on a track team. Sadly, there was no girls track team. What was something you missed out on as a youth?
5. When I was young, several of us sneaked out of our houses one night. We all met at another friend's house where the parents were not home. We had a late night party. We got a little loud and someone called the police. I ran out the back door and all the way home. Fortunately, I never got caught. Did you ever sneak out?