

Name (in Romaji):	→
Student Number:	→
Class Day + Period (examples: Monday 2, Friday 3):	→

Phrasal Verbs in Reading

Reporting the Facts

- Should you believe what you read or hear in the media? What is presented as fact is not always so. Sometimes errors occur because the reporters and editors did not check the facts properly. Sometimes news reporters misreport or misrepresent information in an effort to make a story more newsworthy. Changing the facts a little can make the story either more serious or more sensational.

Failing to Check the Facts

- There have been some embarrassing examples where major newspapers and TV networks have published false information because reporters have not checked it for accuracy. One such example was the publication of a report of the death of the elderly comedian, Bob Hope. A U.S. Congressman apparently misheard someone talking about Bob Hope. He stood up in Congress and announced the death of the comedian. This was then picked up and published widely in the media. When reporters called Mr. Hope's home to follow up the story, his daughter was very surprised and assured them that he was at that moment happily eating his breakfast.

Misreporting

- Research into the accuracy of media reporting has revealed some interesting findings. One media researcher (Bell, 1991) collected and studied newspaper articles about climate change. His study revealed a number of examples of errors in the way that units of measurement were reported in the media. In one article about the rise in sea level, it was reported that the sea level was rising at 1 to 2 *centimeters* per year when the interviewee had (correctly) said *millimeters*. Another story predicted that the annual rainfall would increase 8 *centimeters* rather than



millimeters. The researcher argues that these mistakes did not occur at random. If they were random we would expect to find units of measure that were both smaller and larger than the correct ones. But all these incorrect measurements made the figures larger, not smaller. The exaggerations helped to build up the news values of the stories.

Misquoting

- 4 Misquotation of sources is a common complaint about news stories. In the study mentioned above (Bell, 1991), 34 percent of sources believed they had been misquoted, that is, the sources did not really say what was reported in the news story. When you read a direct quotation in a news story, you probably think you are reading someone's exact words. But often the part of the text in quotation marks is actually a summary of what was said, put together by the reporter (van Dijk, in Bell, 1991). In some cases, sources that are quoted in media stories have never even spoken to the reporters.
- 5 A well-known case of misquotation occurred in the U.S. media in 1999. Al Gore, the U.S. vice president at the time, was speaking to a group of secondary school students about efforts to clean up toxic waste. He was referring to a community where the issue had been taken up by local residents and said, "...that was the one that started it all." One prominent newspaper reported his words as "I was the one that started it all." As this misquotation was re-reported by other newspapers around the country, Al Gore faced enormous criticism for trying to claim credit for things he had not done.
- 6 Misquotation is also possible in broadcasting. Technology makes it possible to edit what someone says so that it sounds like continuous speech, when in fact some phrases or sentences have been removed. Broadcasters argue that this is sometimes necessary. They say that if they are quoting someone who is not a very skilled speaker, they have to edit the talk. Another issue is the rearranging of questions and answers, so that a question receives an answer that was originally given to another, though similar, question.

Rumors on the Internet

- 7 The Internet is the source of many rumors. Rumors are generally spread from one person to another by word of mouth, and the story evolves or changes in the process. But the Internet has allowed rumors to spread much further and faster than ever before. In fact, the Internet has begun to be used as a deliberate strategy to circulate rumors, often for political purposes and often with serious impact. In 1998, false reports of riots in Malaysia sparked panic and prompted people to stock up on food and lock themselves indoors (*South China Morning Post*, 1998).



Step 1: Collocations

When learning English in general and phrasal verbs specifically, it is a good idea to be aware of collocations. Collocations are combinations of words that **often and naturally occur together**. Above learning words, and even word families, it is important to learn collocations. For example, some verbs are often followed by certain nouns. The more collocations you are aware of, the easier reading becomes.

Example: to make right to make money to make enemies to make do

Complete collocations for the following words.

to deny _____

to pass _____

to deny _____

to pass _____

to enter _____

to take _____

to enter _____

to take _____

to hold _____

to solve _____

to hold _____

to solve _____

to fight for _____

to pursue _____

to fight for _____

to pursue _____



The nouns below are from “Reporting the Facts.”

criticism information complaint impact words strategy

Decide which nouns can make collocations with the adjectives in the chart. In some cases, it is possible to use more than one noun with the same adjective.

Collocations					
common	false	enormous	deliberate	serious	exact

Check back in the text. Find the actual collocations used.

Phrasal verbs are often made with collocations. For example, “take off” can be used with clothes (ex: “Take off your shoes.”) or with airplanes (ex: “We take off in 20 minutes.”). What comes after phrasal verbs can be nouns or prepositional phrases.

Make a list of 9 phrasal verbs. Make sentences using those phrasal verbs (try to use both nouns and prepositional phrases after the phrasal verbs). Consider any patterns you discover.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

