



World Grammar Day – Phrasal Verb tic-tac-toe

Level (CEFR)	B1+ (Teens and adult learners)
GSE Learning Objectives	Can use phrasal verbs with two particles (GSE 51)
Time	15–20 minutes

Preparation for the activity

Draw a 3x3 tic-tac-toe board on the board and number the squares 1–9.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

Activity

Part one

Divide the class into two teams - team X and team O. Tell the students that the teams are going to play phrasal verb tic-tac-toe (noughts and crosses) with each other. Explain that teams must take it in turns to write an X or an O in an empty square of their choice and that the first team to make a line of three Xs or Os will win the game (vertical, horizontal or diagonal lines are acceptable). If necessary, demonstrate the original game on the board so that students understand the aim.

Then explain that each square has a phrasal verb with two particles. Teams will be able to place an X or an O in any square, but they must first answer the corresponding question correctly.

Nominate the first team to choose a square. Read the corresponding definition and allow the team to confer; if they are able to give the correct phrasal verb they win a point and can place an X or an O. The first team to successfully make a line of three in the grid on the board is the winner.

Questions and answer key

1. to be excited about something which is going to happen (*look forward to*)
2. to have a good relationship with a friend or family member (*get on with*)
3. to defend a person or idea when it is being criticized or attacked (*stand up for*)
4. to use all the supply of something so there is nothing left (*run out of*)
5. to accept a bad situation without complaining (*put up with*)
6. to think you are better than someone else (*look down on*)
7. to do something you have not yet had time to do (*catch up on*)
8. to stop doing something as you become older (*grow out of*)
9. to admire and respect someone (*look up to*)

Part two

Divide the class into group A and group B and give each group a separate list of phrasal verbs (below).

Allow students in each group five minutes to work together and write the definition for each phrasal verb in their notebooks. Let students check their definitions with a dictionary and monitor and support students as they work.

Next, put four students from group A and four from group B together.

Group A will first act as quizmasters and read their clues, whilst two pairs of group B students must play against each other.

Then swap roles so group B become quizmasters and two pairs of group A play against each other.

GROUP A
1. take care of
2. meet up with
3. live up to
4. come up against
5. keep up with
6. fall out with
7. face up to
8. look back on
9. creep up on

GROUP B
1. break up with
2. come up with
3. get up to
4. come down with
5. do away with
6. cut down on
7. listen out for
8. catch up with
9. put down to