

## Academic Phrasal Verbs in Action

### Activity Type

Vocabulary and Speaking Activity: gap-fill, asking and answering questions from prompts, controlled and freer practice (group and pair work)

### Focus

Academic phrasal verbs

### Aim

To complete, ask and answer conversation questions with academic phrasal verbs.

### Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

### Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

### Time

30 minutes

### Introduction

In this academic phrasal verbs speaking activity, students complete, ask and answer conversation questions with study-related phrasal verbs.

### Procedure

Divide the students into two groups (A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

First, students complete conversation questions with academic phrasal verbs from a box, changing the verb form as needed.

Afterwards, go through the questions with each group.

Answer key

Student A

1. take up
2. handed in
3. drop out
4. looking up
5. putting off
6. catch on
7. catching up
8. figuring out
9. go over
10. get through

Student B

1. sign up
2. turn up
3. taking on
4. worked out
5. fill out
6. turn in
7. break down
8. back up
9. finding out
10. keep up

Next, students pair up with someone from the other group.

Students then take turns asking the conversation questions to their partner, who responds accordingly.

For the first question in each set, students include the corresponding phrasal verb in their response.

Afterwards, students share what they found out about their partner with the class.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

**Student A**

**A. Complete each conversation question with a phrasal verb from the box, changing the verb form as required.**

put off	take up	catch up	get through	figure out
hand in	catch on	go over	drop out	look up

1. Why did you decide to ..... your major or field of study?

What can students do if they are unsure about what to start studying?

2. How do you ensure your assignments are ..... on time?

What are the penalties for submitting work late?

3. What factors contribute to students deciding to ..... of university?

How can universities support students who are considering quitting?

4. What are your favourite websites for ..... information related to your studies?

What are some important things to consider when searching for information online?

5. How do you avoid ..... important assignments or study sessions?

What are some factors that cause students to delay their work?

6. How quickly do you usually ..... to new concepts introduced in your classes?

What can make gaining an understanding of a new concept difficult?

7. Can you share a strategy for ..... when you fall behind in your studies?

Why is it important to stay up to date with your coursework?

8. How do you approach ..... difficult problems or concepts in your studies?

What do you do if you still can't understand a problem or concept?

9. How often do you ..... your notes after class to reinforce your learning?

What are some effective strategies for reviewing course content?

10. What strategies do you use to ..... challenging courses or semesters?

Which course have you found the most difficult to complete? Why?



**B. Now, take turns asking and answering the questions with your partner.**

**Student B**

**A. Complete each conversation question with a phrasal verb from the box, changing the verb form as required.**

fill out	break down	sign up	work out	take on
find out	turn up	back up	keep up	turn in

1. How do you decide which courses to ..... for each semester?

What is the most useful course you have enrolled in?

2. Have you ever failed to ..... for an important exam?

What should you do if you cannot attend an exam due to illness?

3. What do you need to consider before ..... a part-time job while studying?

What are the benefits of performing part-time work as a student?

4. Have you ..... a plan for what you are going to do when you finish studying?

How important is planning for a future career?

5. How do you ensure you ..... academic forms accurately and completely?

Do you find completing forms in English difficult? Why or why not?

6. Can you share a time when you almost forgot to ..... an assignment?

What happened?

7. How do you ..... complex academic tasks into smaller and manageable steps?

How does dividing a task into smaller steps make it easier?

8. Why is it important to ..... your arguments in an essay with credible sources?

What are the challenges of supporting an argument in classroom discussions?

9. How do you go about ..... more about a topic for an assignment?

What recent discovery about a topic surprised you? Why?

10. How do you manage to ..... with the workload of your classes?

What are the risks of falling behind in your studies?

**B. Now, take turns asking and answering the questions with your partner.**

