Understanding

These phrasal verbs are all about understanding and being aware of things and people.

1 Match the definitions with these phrasal verbs.

- grapple with
- take in
- figure out
- dawn on
- wake up to

1 to understand and remember facts fully ............................................................ take in

2 to struggle to understand something that is difficult, trying many different ways to think of it .................................................................

3 to become aware of a problem or a dangerous situation, having ignored it for too long .................................................................

4 to understand the solution to a problem or the reason for something by thinking about it .................................................................

5 (of a fact) to start to be understood by someone .................................................................
2 Circle the correct verb (a, b or c).

1 I’ve finally ................ out what’s causing the problem.
   a realized
   b figured
   c made

2 It slowly ................ on me that Jane hadn’t told Sandy the news.
   a dawned
   b settled
   c rose

3 There was so much to learn that I couldn’t .................. it all in.
   a get
   b take
   c put

4 We spent the morning ................ with some very complex theories.
   a grappling
   b grasping
   c grabbing

5 People are only just .................. up to how dangerous this situation is.
   a hearing
   b sitting
   c waking
3 Match the sentence halves.

1 They need to **wake up** __a__ **dawned on** me.
2 I can’t **figure out** __b__ **to** the fact that the world is changing.
3 I gave her all the information but I’m not sure __c__ **the concept, and I still don’t fully understand** it.
4 It was ages before the truth **d** **why the printer isn’t working**.
5 I’ve been **grappling with** __e__ she **took** it all **in**.

4 Complete the sentences with these prepositions.

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<th>to</th>
<th>in</th>
<th>out</th>
<th>up</th>
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1 I couldn’t **work** __out__ why I felt so tired.
2 It suddenly **occurred** __to__ me that Amy might be in danger.
3 I didn’t **latch** __the fact he was lying.
4 It’s so exciting! The reality is only just starting to **sink** __. .__
5 Restaurants have to **wise** __or they will lose vegetarian customers.
Match the statements (1–5) with the responses (a–e).

1. I can't make out the name on the envelope.
   a. Perhaps you upset him when you criticized his children?
   b. I think it says 'John'. Or is it 'Joan'?

2. It's just occurred to me that Max might want to come.
   c. Yes, it will probably take a while to sink in.

3. I can't believe that I'll never see him again.
   d. Oh yes, I'd forgotten about him! Let's invite him.

4. I'm still trying to work out how I've offended him.
   e. Yes, I suppose he'll wise up soon enough.

5. If he wants to succeed in business, he needs to learn English.
### Understanding – Answer key

#### Exercise 1
1. take in  
2. grapple with  
3. wake up to  
4. figure out  
5. dawn on

#### Exercise 2
1. b  
2. a  
3. b  
4. a  
5. c

#### Exercise 3
1. b  
2. d  
3. e  
4. a  
5. c

#### Exercise 4
1. out  
2. to  
3. onto  
4. in  
5. up

#### Exercise 5
1. b  
2. d  
3. c  
4. a  
5. e