

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.

to in out up onto

- I couldn't **work** *out* why I felt so tired.
- It suddenly **occurred** me that Amy might be in danger.
- I didn't **latch** the fact he was lying.
- It's so exciting! The reality is only just starting to **sink**
- Restaurants have to **wise** or they will lose vegetarian customers.

5 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?
2	It's just occurred to me that Max might want to come.	b	I think it says 'John'. Or is it 'Joan'?
3	I can't believe that I'll never see him again.	c	Yes, it will probably take a while to sink in .
4	I'm still trying to work out how I've offended him.	d	Oh yes, I'd forgotten about him! Let's invite him.
5	If he wants to succeed in business, he needs to learn English.	e	Yes, I suppose he'll wise up soon enough.

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