



Phrasal verb puns

This activity can be done in a number of ways depending on your class.

Step 1

Read the first question out and encourage group discussion on possible answers. Encourage them to think about the double layer of meaning in a phrasal verb they need to find (in this case *fall out*).

Option 1 You can then hand out the list of eight questions and ask them to find the eight answers.

Option 2 Cut the questions and answers into strips and give one or two to each student. Encourage them to mingle offering their question or answer to different students. The aim is to find the pairs.

Option 3 Hand out a list of answers. Give individual students one question to read out and ask the others to note down the answer from the list supplied. Don't have any discussion until all eight have been read out.

Questions

1. Why do birds in a nest always agree?
2. Why are traffic police so strong?
3. Waiter, why is my food all squashed?
4. Doctor, doctor: I feel like a pair of curtains.
5. Doctor, doctor: I can't sleep at night.
6. Why are ghosts so bad at telling lies?
7. What training do you need as a rubbish collector?
8. When is a deep-sea diver annoyed with his colleagues?

And the punchlines:

- A. Sleep on the edge of the bed and you'll soon drop off.
- B. None; you just pick it up.
- C. Pull yourself together.
- D. because they don't want to fall out
- E. because they hold up cars with one hand
- F. because you can always see through them
- G. when they let him down
- H. You asked me to step on it, sir.

Key: 1D; 2E; 3H; 4C; 5A; 6F; 7B; 8G