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ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE

Sentences for Anki | Lesson 33

FRONT

It took time for his words to sink in.

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

The word "sink" means to go down below the surface of something, especially of a liquid, for example water. A body floats when it remains on the water's surface and sinks when it goes below the surface.

The phrasal verb "sink in" has a metaphorical meaning. Imagine your brain. Then imagine the concepts "understanding" and "realization". At first your understanding or realization is on the surface. It is superficial. Then slowly the understanding and realization sink into your brain. They penetrate right to the bottom. Now your whole brain is filled with understanding.

FRONT

She started riding at the age of 49. During the first lesson the realization sank in - she was no longer 25! Every muscle in her body ached!

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

This person realized that she was no longer as fit and strong as when she was twenty-five.

FRONT

The news slowly sank in. I had won the lotto!

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

The following words are often used with the phrasal verb "sink in": news, thought, idea, meaning, message, concept, fact and information. The news sinks in. The idea sinks in. The message sinks in. And so on...

FRONT

The horror of the Nice killings sank in as we watched the news. A truck driver had driven a large white 19-tonne truck into a crowd, zig-zagging as he sped forward to hit the maximum number of people.

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

In this case the abstract noun "horror" is used with the phrasal verb "sink in" to indicate the gradual realization of how terrible the deed was. As more gruesome facts become known, the understanding of the brutality of the deed becomes more complete.

FRONT

The realization that she has made it to the Rio Olympics sinks in as she stands in Maracanã stadium and sees the torch being lit.

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

This athlete takes in the magnitude of the moment as she watches the Olympic flame being lit. Very often we imagine great moments to which we look forward, but then the actual event has a far more powerful effect than we could have imagined. I think participating at the Olympics is like that. Only when it actually takes place, can you fully comprehend what a great experience it is.

FRONT

Don't panic! The work you have covered in class will gradually sink in. By the end of the semester the idea of having to build a circuit board will no longer seem so daunting.

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

*Sometimes **time** is all you need to understand a concept fully. You need to study a concept several times and then understanding slowly dawns. The concepts sink in.*

FRONT

The thought that he would probably never see his family again sank in as he took his place in the immigration line.

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

This man realizes that he may never see his family again if he moves to another country.

FRONT

The thought that I have just moved into my dream home has not sunk in yet! It seems like a dream!

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

Notice the past participle form of the verb sink. It is "sunk". Sink is what we call an irregular verb in English. You do not add the suffix -ed to form the past tense and past participle forms of irregular verbs in English. You change their vowels. Sink - sank - sunk. For example, you use the past participle form "sunk" when you form perfect tenses. Present perfect tense: The thought has sunk in. Past perfect: The thought had sunk in. Future perfect: The thought will have sunk in.

FRONT

The threat of the Zika virus sank in as the doctors discussed several scenarios.

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear

The doctors realized how dangerous the Zika virus could be, especially for pregnant women.

FRONT

The realization that he had finally graduated and was about to enter the adult world had not sunk in yet.

BACK

sink in = to be understood completely, to be realized, to be taken in, to become clear
For many young adults that first step into the world of work and economic responsibility is quite scary! The thought that you have to be a grown-up now takes a while to sink in.

FRONT

What does being a good rider come down to? Riding comes down to good core strength, a good relationship with your horse and balance.

BACK

come down to = be recognized as the most important thing
This sentence identifies the most important characteristics of a good rider.

FRONT

Lasting relationships come down to three things: kindness, generosity and respect.

BACK

come down to = be recognized as the most important thing
In other words these three characteristics (kindness, generosity and respect) are the essence of lasting relationships.

FRONT

Financial discipline comes down to this: do not spend more than you earn.

BACK

come down to = be recognized as the most important thing
The ability to spend less than you earn is identified as the most important aspect of financial discipline.

FRONT

Mastering phrasal verbs successfully comes down to this: practice and more practice.

BACK

come down to = be recognized as the most important thing
Yes, mastering the correct use of phrasal verbs is not different from mastering anything else. It takes practice.

FRONT

Success in life comes down to three things: passion, perseverance and purpose.

BACK

come down to = be recognized as the most important thing
The three Ps are recognized as the most important features of achieving success.

FRONT

It comes down to this: you either clean up your room or I will take away your pocket money.

BACK

come down to = explained or described in the simplest way

The mother and her son have been arguing endlessly about the state of the son's room and now she has reached a point at which she explains his choices as simply (and bluntly) as possible.

FRONT

It comes down to this: keep your nose out of other people's business because it's none of your business.

BACK

come down to = explained or described in the simplest way

This person explains his understanding of respect for the privacy of others as simply as he can.

FRONT

His Okapi knife came down to him from his grandfather, who bought it in 1935.

BACK

come down to = to be passed on, inherited

When something comes down to you it has been passed on to you. This use of this phrasal verb usually carries a sense of history.

FRONT

The beautiful teapot came down to me from my great-grandmother.

BACK

come down to = to be passed on, inherited

The speaker in the sentence above inherited the teapot from her great-grandmother.

FRONT

It is not just earthly belongings that come down to use from our ancestors. We also inherit genes from them.

BACK

come down to = to be passed on, inherited

The genes might not be as visible to us as the grandfather clock in the corner, the teapot or the knife, but they influence who and what we are.

FRONT

Her stories always wind up with a moral lesson.

BACK

wind up = conclude an activity

In other words, she always ends her stories with a message or a lesson about what is right and good.

FRONT

We wound up the riding lesson by going for a trot amongst the lemon orchards.

BACK

wind up = conclude an activity

The activity - a horse riding lesson - was concluded with a trot. A trot is a two-beat gait, which is slower than a canter, which is a three-beat gait.

FRONT

I am afraid we have to wind up this meeting now.

BACK

wind up = conclude an activity

The term "wind up" is often used in conjunction with the words "meeting" or "campaign". When you "wind up" a meeting, you end it.

FRONT

She wound up her affairs before she emigrated from her home country.

BACK

wind up = to set in order

Before you move to another country you have to do a lot of administration in your home country. For example, you have to close bank accounts and pay outstanding debts. "To wind up your affairs" is an idiomatic expression often used in English. It means to put all your affairs in order.

FRONT

My attorney helped me to wind up my mother's estate more quickly than I expected.

BACK

wind up = to set in order and to conclude an activity

The sentence above carries two of the meanings of "wind up". When someone dies, a great deal of administration has to be done before the beneficiaries can receive their inheritance. In the sample sentence the estate lawyer managed to conclude this process very quickly.

FRONT

I wound up in the hospital with pneumonia.

BACK

wind up = to arrive or end up in a specified state, situation or place that is often unpleasant

You don't want to end up with pneumonia. It is extremely unpleasant. Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs characterized by coughing, fever, chest pain and extreme shortage of breath. According to the World Health Organization pneumonia is the single largest infectious cause of death in children worldwide.

FRONT

You could wind up with a cracked skull or a broken back if you attempt to jump hurdles that are too high.

BACK

wind up = to arrive or end up in a specified state, situation, or place that is often unpleasant
Show jumping is exciting but it can be dangerous. The chance of crashing into a fence and flying through the air are good. One should never take chances by attempting to jump over hurdles that are too high for the horse or for your skills level.

FRONT

They wound up the business when it became clear that they would never be able to pay all their debts.

BACK

wind up = to close a business or cease to operate a business

An economic term that means to sell the assets of a business, pay the creditors, distribute the remaining assets (if there are any) amongst partners or shareholders and dissolve the business. This process is also called liquidation. Liquidation may be voluntary or compulsory. It usually happens when a company can no longer pay its debts.

FRONT

Being with that selfish man always winds me up. I am never relaxed in his company.

BACK

wind up = make someone angry or bring that person to a state of great tension

We all know people like that who push all the wrong buttons and leave us feeling very tense. The opposite of "wind up" is "wind down", which means to relax.

FRONT

The day before the competition I was really wound up.

BACK

wind up = make someone angry or bring that person to a state of great tension

This figurative use of the terms "wind up" comes from literal activity - to wind up a clock or a watch. Mechanical clocks or watches have springs that tighten when you wind them up. Can you see the similarity between a spring becoming tighter and tighter and a person feeling more and more tense?