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ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE

Sentences for Anki | Lesson 09

Front:

My Aunt Sherry spent three months planning her wedding, but called it off at the last minute because she got cold feet.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or decide that something in the future will not happen
When someone decides not to go through with the wedding because they're having doubts, we call it getting cold feet. Sherry canceled the wedding because at the last minute she was having serious doubts about getting married.

Front:

If we get the thunderstorms tonight that the National Weather Service is predicting, we will have to call off the baseball game.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or decide that something in the future will not happen
Baseball is a very popular sport in the United States, but it is a game that can't be played while it is raining or if there is thunder or lightning in the vicinity. It is very common for baseball games to be canceled because of inclement weather.

Front:

We had to call off our fishing trip down on the Gulf Coast because a hurricane was threatening the coastline that weekend.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or decide that something in the future will not happen
Hurricanes are not an uncommon occurrence along the Gulf Coast of the United States. Obviously a fishing trip cannot occur when a hurricane is in progress, so in this instance the fishing trip had to be canceled.

Front:

When the dictator realized that the voters were against him, he decided to call off the elections.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or decide that something in the future will not happen

In this instance this despot is going to thwart the will of the people by not allowing elections to happen.

Front:

I would hate to have to call off my trip for lack of funds, because I have spent so much time dreaming about it and planning for it.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or decide that something in the future will not happen

To be lacking for funds means to not have enough money. It's always a bummer to have to cancel a trip that you have been contemplating for so long because you can't afford it.

Front:

There were so many bomb threats being called into the soccer stadium that they decided to call off the match in the middle of the game for the safety of the fans.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or stop something that is already in progress

Safe is priority one at any public event. When bomb threats are called in, they have to be taken seriously. In this case they decided to cancel the game and send everybody home for the safety of everyone involved.

Front:

After the ship sunk, they searched the waters extensively for survivors, but had to call off the search after a week had passed.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or stop something that is already in progress

Unfortunately, anytime there is a search for survivors or fatalities after an accident, there comes a time when the search can no longer continue. When that moment arrives they cancel, or call off the search. In this case a week had passed and there was no point in continuing because they had already conducted an extensive search.

Front:

I had to call off my son's party because too many of his friends were getting drunk and acting foolishly.

Back:

Call off = to cancel or stop something that is already in progress

There is no point in continuing a party that has become out-of-control or dangerous. My son's friends were out of control and therefore I had to wrap the party up and send everyone home.

Front:

When the mailman entered the yard and the dogs started surrounding him, he yelled at the homeowner to call off the dogs.

Back:

Call off = to tell an animal or a person or a group to stop attacking someone

The mailman was feeling threatened and needed the owner of the dogs to intervene so that they would no longer continue harassing and terrifying him. So the mailman asked the owner to shout a command to his dogs to make them stop barking at and intimidating the mailman.

Front:

The military decided to call off the riot police because they didn't want scenes of protesters being attacked on the nightly news.

Back:

Call off = to tell an animal or a person or a group to stop attacking someone

Most governments don't want to appear to be repressive. It is never good public relations to have common citizens being attacked by armed force, so in this case the government decided to tell the riot police to stop using aggressive means to control the protests.

Front:

Kids nowadays are so inundated with technology and electronic devices that it often makes it really difficult for them not to put off doing their homework.

Back:

Put off = to delay doing something, especially because you don't feel like doing it.

21st-century children are overwhelmed, flooded, and completely surrounded with electronic distractions, such as video games and smart phones and computers. These distractions often cause them to delay, forget about, and have a hard time doing their homework.

Front:

One of the bits of advice my mother always used to give me was "don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today".

Back:

Put off = to delay doing something, especially because you don't feel like doing it.

The advice my mom gave me basically was to not delay or set aside my responsibilities, that it's important to get things done right away, and not to be constantly coming up with excuses for procrastinating.

Front:

A procrastinator is someone who puts off doing the things that they don't want to do until the last minute.

Back:

Put off = to delay doing something, especially because you don't feel like doing it.

A procrastinator is someone who is always thinking of excuses and coming up with reasons why they should not do now what they think they will have time to do later. And procrastination generally has a negative connotation, because work accomplished at the last minute is rarely the best quality work.

Front:

If you continue to put off mastering phrasal verbs, you'll never become truly fluent in English.

Back:

Put off = to delay doing something, especially because you don't feel like doing it.

Phrasal verbs or any other difficult grammar or language task are things that are best confronted now, because delaying dealing with them or learning them will just prolong the amount of time it takes for us to master a language.

Front:

Tom and Sally were planning a wedding for next June, but they had to put it off until the following year when they discovered that Tom was being deployed to Afghanistan.

Back:

Put off = to change the time or date of something so that it happens later than it was originally planned, especially due to a problem or some unforeseen factor

To be deployed means for somebody who is enlisted in the military to be sent on an overseas mission. Tom just found out that he is going to be sent to Afghanistan, so they are going to have to cancel the plans they have already made for their June wedding and have to come up with a new date in the future.

Front:

Renan is going to have to put off his trip to the United States until he can save up more money.

Back:

Put off = to change the time or date of something so that it happens later than it was originally planned, especially due to a problem or some unforeseen factor

Traveling is expensive and Renan has realized that he doesn't have enough for his upcoming trip to the United States, so he is going to have to make this trip at a later time.

Front:

As a single parent I feel like it's important that I put off dating until I am done raising my kids because they need my undivided attention at this point in their life.

Back:

Put off = to change the time or date of something so that it happens later than it was originally planned, especially due to a problem or some unforeseen factor

Parents often have to put their needs behind the needs of their kids, so I'm saying that I don't feel that dating is appropriate during this period of my life and therefore I'm going to have to wait to do it until all the kids have grown up, because they need 100% of my focus.

Front:

Many voters are put off by a politician who can't seem to give a direct answer to a simple question.

Back:

Put off = To make someone not want to do something or to make someone not like something or someone

The inability of a politician to give honest and direct answers is something that upsets, irritates, infuriates, and repels voters. This causes voters to lose respect and affection for a politician.

Front:

Many girls are put off by guys who come on a little too strong at the beginning.

Back:

Put off = To make someone not want to do something or to make someone not like something or someone

If a boy who is interested in a girl and is too aggressive or too forward when he tries to initiate conversation with her, it causes many girls to lose interest or even be afraid of this guy. It can decrease his chances of convincing her to go out with him.

Front:

Honey, I'm really put off by the fact that you have such poor table manners at dinner time and you're always burping without covering your mouth or apologizing.

Back:

Put off = To make someone not want to do something or to make someone not like something or someone

This woman is tired of the fact that her husband acts in a gross manner at the dinner table. It causes her to feel less attracted to him that he is not polite and that he doesn't hide his bodily functions when they are having a meal together.

Front:

If you have told somebody that you have forgiven them for a past offense, it's really best never to bring it up again in the future.

Back:

Bring up = to mention something or start a conversation about something

If a bank forgave you a debt, they would no longer send you a bill. Likewise, if you forgive somebody for something that they have done to you, if you have truly let go of it, it's not something you should ever mention again in the future.

Front:

I hate to bring this up, but you still owe me \$100!

Back:

Bring up = to mention something or start a conversation about something

It's often awkward to ask somebody for money, so understandably the person who loaned the money may feel uncomfortable about broaching the subject of the \$100.

Front:

Grandma, next time you visit the doctor, don't forget to bring up all the heartburn you've been suffering.

Back:

Bring up = to mention something or start a conversation about something

In this case the grandmother is being reminded not to forget to mention this chronic problem with heartburn she's having at her next routine checkup.

Front:

I know that you think employees here don't get enough breaks, so don't forget to bring that up when the owner shows up at our next meeting.

Back:

Bring up = to mention something or start a conversation about something

Workers at any business often have concerns or complaints and it's important for them to remember to discuss these issues when they have a chance to speak with the business owner. To show up means to make an appearance or arrive somewhere.

Front:

As a father of four I can tell you that bringing up children is not for the faint of heart.

Back:

Bring up = to raise or be the primary caregiver for a child

Someone who is faint of heart is someone who doesn't have the strength of character or the grit to handle adversity well. Being a good parent and rearing children requires being able to deal with these sometimes challenging situations.

Front:

Many people don't realize that Barack Obama spent many years of his childhood being brought up by his grandparents.

Back:

Bring up = to raise or be the primary caregiver for a child

President Obama's grandparents played a significant role in taking care of him and raising him when he was a minor.

Front:

Billy I'm so ashamed of you for robbing that store. That's not how I brought you up!

Back:

Bring up = to raise a child with a certain set of morals or standards

Billy's parents are expressing disappointment. They specifically mention what he did and remind him that this crime does not reflect the morals and standards that they tried to inculcate in him.

Front:

My parents brought me up to work hard, play by the rules, and show respect to other people.

Back:

Bring up = to raise a child with a certain set of morals or standards

These are the values and the qualities that my parents tried to instill in me when I was younger: diligence, respect for the proper way of doing things, and the proper way of treating people.

Front:

Kelly would you please go down into the basement and bring up my box full of Christmas ornaments?

Back:

Bring up = to bring something or someone from a lower place to a higher place

When we are bringing something from a lower level to a higher level we are bringing it up. If we were taking something from an upstairs level down into the basement we would be taking it down into the basement. The basement is the lowest level of the house and is generally beneath the ground level.

Front:

Every year I drive to Kansas to pick up my wife's grandmother and bring her up here to Omaha to spend Christmas with the family.

Back:

Bring up = to bring something or someone from a lower place to a higher place

Because most maps have north at the top and south at the bottom, many English speakers refer to people who live further south as living "down there". So in this sentence, grandmother lives in Kansas which is to the south of Omaha. So when she comes to Omaha, she's coming up to Omaha. If we were heading from Omaha down to Kansas we would be heading down to Kansas. In short, north is up and south is down.