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ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE

Sentences for Anki | Lesson 26

FRONT

Today I hang up my clothes on the washing line. Yesterday I hung up my clothes.

BACK

hang up = to fasten an item in an elevated position so that it hangs down unsupported at the bottom

Notice that the past tense of hang up is "hung up". Imagine a T-shirt fastened to a washing line with pegs. The neck of the T-shirt is u-shaped. This image will help you to remember that the past tense of "hang up" is hung up - with a "u".

FRONT

They hung up colorful flags all around the square just before they hanged the man in the middle of the square. How bizarre is that?

BACK

hang up = to fasten an item in an elevated position so that it hangs down

It is important to notice the difference between the verbs "hung" and "hanged". The past tense verb "hanged" is used when you refer to killing a man by putting a rope around his neck and removing the support beneath his feet. So, even though the man is "fastened" at the top and hangs down unsupported at the bottom, like washing, we say he was hanged, not hung. It is one of those quirks of English you just have to remember. "Hanged" for death and "hung" for washing and flags ... and other things!

FRONT

Hang up your towels before you leave the bathroom. You have no idea how towels on the floor irritate me!

BACK

hang up = to fasten an item in an elevated position so that it hangs down unsupported at the bottom

Towels should be up, not down! Towels on the floor are unhygienic. (See if you can convince a teenager of that!)

FRONT

Have you hung up the new painting?

BACK

hang up = to fasten an item in an elevated position so that it hangs down

The painting is suspended from a nail or a picture hook.

FRONT

Hang up the receiver once the conversation is finished.

BACK

hang up = to end a conversation

In this sentence "hang up" means to put the telephone receiver down. We refer to hanging up a receiver because in the old days telephones were wall-mounted and the receivers hung in a vertical position.

FRONT

She hung up after she had completed the cell phone conversation.

BACK

hang up = to end a conversation

When you speak on a cell phone, you may also use the term "hang up" when you end the conversation, even though there is nothing to hang up! You are in actual fact disconnecting or switching off.

FRONT

Please don't hang up before we have sorted this problem out.

BACK

hang up = to end a conversation

This person asks that the conversation be continued. She does not want the conversation to end before the problem has been sorted out.

FRONT

I wish we did not have to hang up now. I miss you so much. Will you call me again tomorrow night?

BACK

hang up = to end a conversation

This woman misses her man and would like the telephone conversation to continue.

FRONT

I hung up when the woman started shouting at me on the telephone.

BACK

hang up = to end a conversation abruptly

If someone is rude or aggressive to you on the phone, you also "hang" up. In this sentence there is the added sense of abrupt disconnection.

FRONT

I will not stand your rudeness one moment longer. I am going to hang up now.

BACK

hang up = to end a conversation abruptly

Once again there is the sense that the conversation will be ended abruptly before it has come to a natural end. The person will hang up to show her resistance to or rejection of the other person's rudeness.

FRONT

My husband came up with the brilliant idea of a holiday in Mauritius.

BACK

come up = to think of a plan or idea

The husband thought of the idea of a holiday in Mauritius. The woman obviously approves of his idea/plan.

FRONT

The resort manager came up with the idea of sunset performances at the pool.

BACK

come up = to think of a plan or idea

The resort manager wanted to create interesting experiences for guests at the resort. He considered various options. Then he thought of a good plan to combine the beauty of the pool, the magnificence of the sunset and the sensual allure of saxophone music.

FRONT

If we did not come up with a plan soon, we would be stuck on the mountain the whole night.

BACK

come up = to think of a plan or idea

These poor tourists went hiking in the mountains and got lost. They were stuck on a high cliff with no safe place to descend. They had to think of a plan or an idea, or else they would be stuck on the mountain the whole night. Their ability to come up with a plan, to think of a plan, could save them a lot of discomfort.

FRONT

Hey, Rudy, that was my idea! I came up with it. Please give credit where it is due.

BACK

come up = to think of a plan or idea

The woman is upset because Rudy is passing off her idea as his own. She wants him to acknowledge that the idea was hers.

FRONT

The man came up to me to offer me a coconut drink.

BACK

come up = to approach

"Come up" suggests that someone moves towards you. There is the sense that the person who is approaching is taking the initiative.

FRONT

The man who came up to me in spice market looked suspicious. He had been following me for some time

BACK

come up = to approach

This is the kind of person whose approach is not welcome. When a suspicious person comes up to you in a crowded place, make sure you hold your bag close to your body.

FRONT

If you come up to a guest, always smile politely and introduce yourself.

BACK

come up = to approach

This sentence could be from a resort training manual: when you approach a guest, always follow a certain protocol.

FRONT

Something came up, so unfortunately, my husband could not join me at the beach.

BACK

come up = to happen (sometimes unexpectedly)

In this sentence "came up" means to happen. Something happened that prevented the husband from joining his wife on the beach.

FRONT

Something came up at work so the CEO had to cancel her holiday to Croatia.

BACK

come up = to happen (sometimes unexpectedly)

There is a wide range of things that can come up (happen) at work that can prevent a person from going on holiday. Very often the person who uses the term "something came up" does not want to say exactly what happened.

FRONT

She said, "Why did you miss our appointment last night?" He answered, "Something came up."

BACK

come up = to happen (sometimes unexpectedly)

In this sample sentence there is definitely a sense of evasion. The man does not want to specify what exactly prevented him from turning up for the appointment.

FRONT

Hold on tightly when you water ski.

BACK

hold on = to hold or grip something tightly with your hands

If you don't hold on when you water ski, you fall. You need to hold onto the bar, to grip it tightly, so the ski boat can pull you out of the water. If you manage to do this, you have a chance of experiencing the exhilaration of "sliding on water"!

FRONT

Hold on with straight arms when you ski. If you bend your arms, you will lose your balance

and fall.

BACK

hold on = to hold or grip something tightly with your hands

So when you ski, it is not just a matter of holding on. You have to hold on with straight arms! That's not as easy as it sounds. Our human instinct is to pull our arms closer to our bodies when we start losing balance.

FRONT

I held on for dear life even though the abseil rope hurt my hands terribly.

BACK

hold on = to hold or grip something tightly with your hands

You don't want to let go of the rope when you are thirty meters above the ground. So you hold on, despite the pain. Notice that the past tense of "hold" is "held".

FRONT

Hold on to your shares. Selling them now because you are panicking is not a good idea.

BACK

hold on = to keep possession

The literal meaning of "hold on" has a metaphorical counterpart. In this case the person is advised to keep possession of his shares. Just as someone grips an object tightly, that person can "hold on" to other material thing such as shares or money. The person will not be gripping these things physically, but will be keeping possession of them determinedly.

FRONT

You cannot hold on to your riches when you die.

BACK

hold on = to keep possession

Another example of the figurative use of the literal meaning "to grip something tightly". You cannot keep possession of you wealth after your death.

FRONT

I said to my guide, "Please hold on while I photograph these beautiful water lilies."

BACK

hold on = to wait

We use this phrase when we ask someone to give us time to do something, to complete something or to be ready to do something. In other words, we ask someone to wait when we use the phrase "hold on" in this sense.

FRONT

Hold on! I am not ready yet. Right, now you can accelerate and pull me out of the water.

BACK

hold on = to wait

The sentence contains a clear instruction to wait until the skier is ready.

FRONT

Would you please hold on for Mr Murray?

BACK

hold on = to wait to be connected via telephone

This polite phrase is usually uttered by a secretary who is about to connect you to another person on the telephone.

FRONT

Hold! That is not what we agreed upon! You said the trip would be 5000 Mauritian Rupees. Now you are charging me Rs7000?

BACK

hold on = to express surprise or confusion or to ask for clarification

This person expresses a mixture of confusion and dismay because she thinks she is being charged too much. In a way the sentence is also a request for clarification.

FRONT

Hold on, isn't that the Picasso triggerfish we saw under water yesterday.

BACK

hold on = to express surprise or confusion or to ask for clarification

This sentence expresses surprise but also asks for clarification. The woman is surprised to see a photo of the beautiful fish she had spotted the previous day but she also wants to make sure that she is identifying the fish correctly.