

PHRASAL VERBS *in context*

English phrasal verbs are notoriously difficult to learn, but this colourful, entertaining book contextualises them in a memorable and supportive way. **Phrasal Verbs in Context** presents over 300 phrasal verbs in the context of a humorous story in cartoon form which sustains the reader's interest and concentration. Learning is promoted and reinforced by a series of vocabulary and preposition exercises that practise and recycle individual items.

The book contains:

- the full cartoon story with accompanying exercises and detailed grammar notes;
- the text reworked as an extended blank-filling exercise;
- an answer key;
- an alphabetical listing of the phrasal verbs covered in the book, cross-referenced to the original text.

The cartoon story has been recorded on cassette, and can also be bought as a book/cassette package.

Phrasal Verbs in Context is recommended as supplementary material for Peter Dainty's **Passport to Cambridge First Certificate** course, or for any other coursebook at First Certificate level.

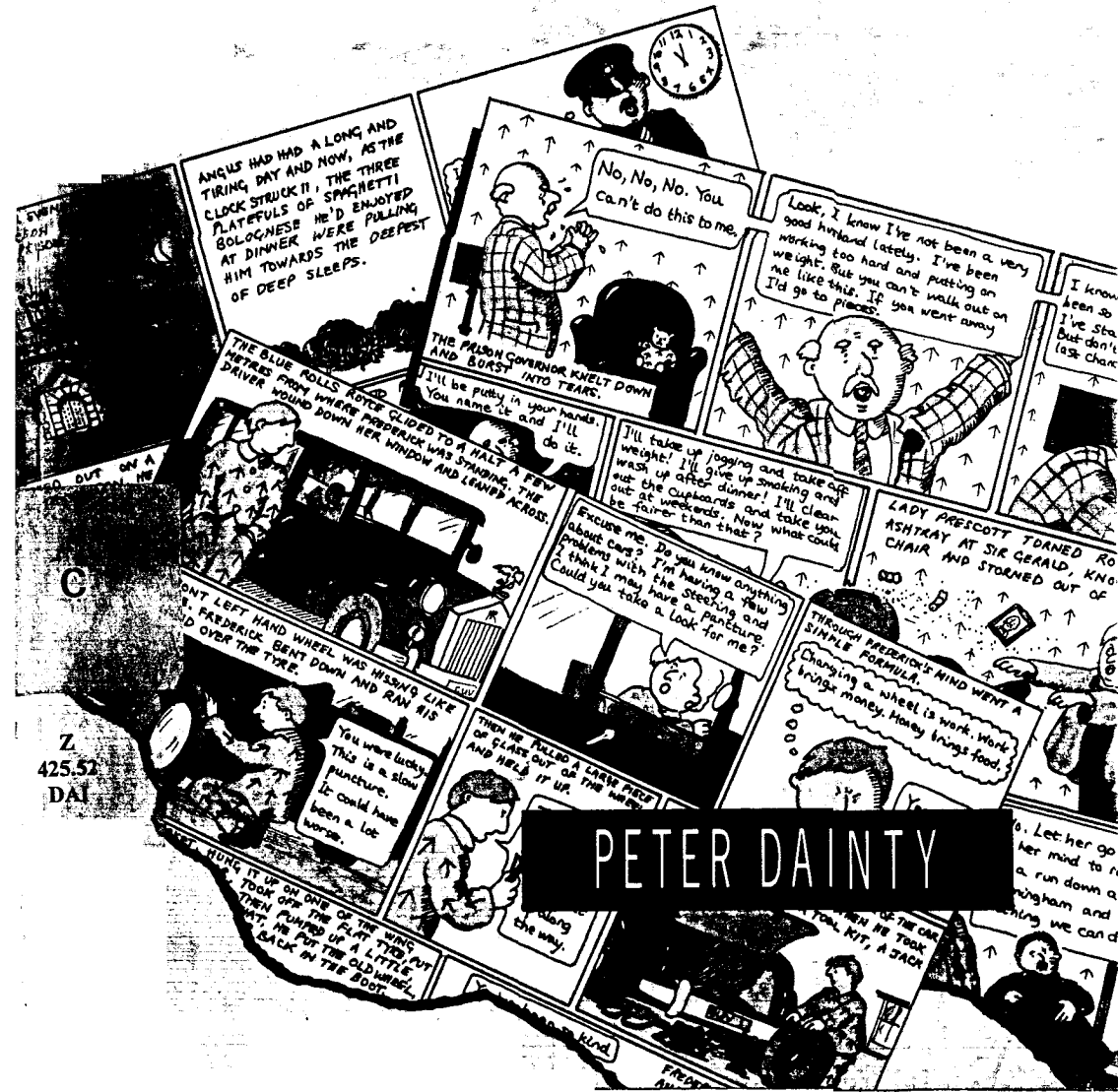
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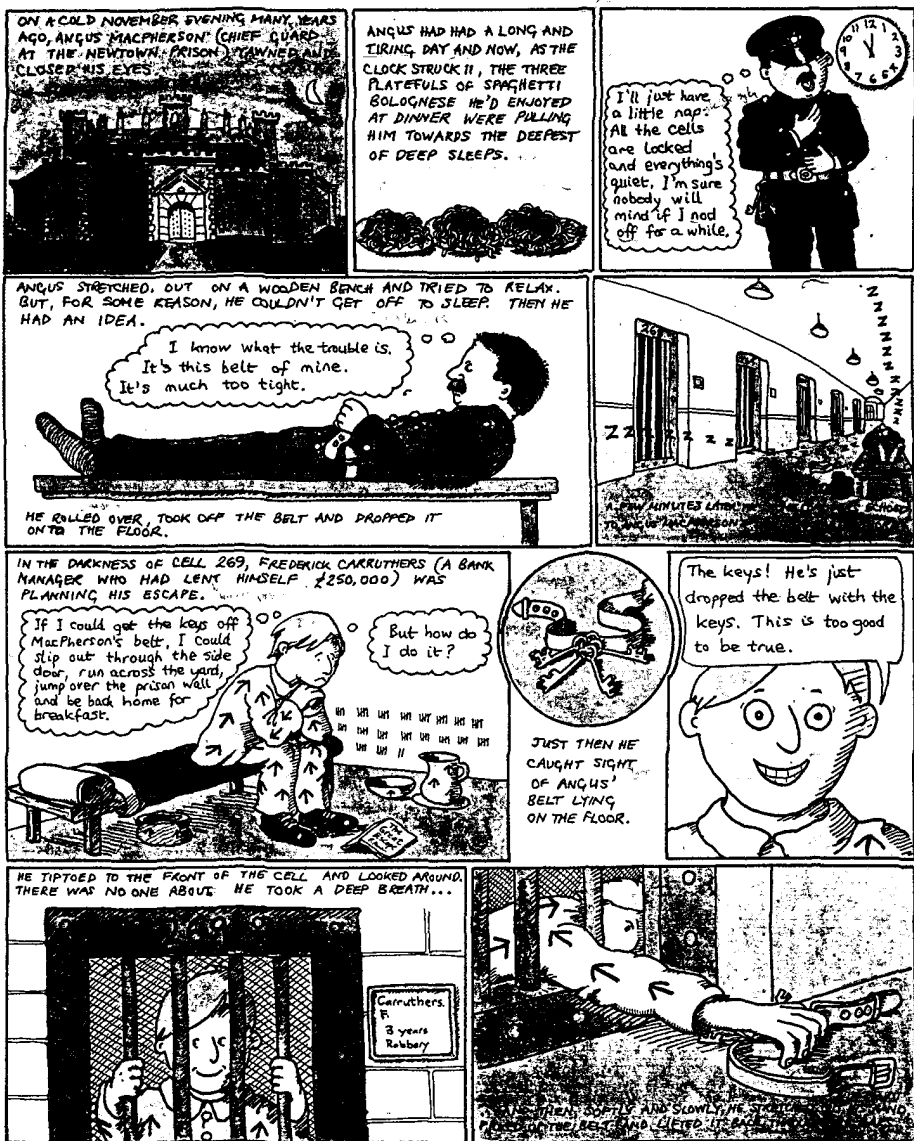
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CHAPTER ONE



Practice

1 Complete the following sentences using one of the words below.

breakfast	floor	keys	belt	door
bars	wall	cell	breath	yard

- 1 He rolled over, took off the belt.
- 2 ...and dropped it onto the floor.
- 3 If I could get the keys off Macpherson's belt,
- 4 ...I could slip out through the side door.
- 5 ...run across the yard.
- 6 ...jump over the prison wall.
- 7 ...and be back home for breakfast.
- 8 He tiptoed to the front of the cell and looked around.
- 9 There was no one about. He took a deep breath.
- 10 ...picked up the belt and lifted it back through the bars.

2 Complete the following sentences using one of the prepositions below.

off	out	up	off	over
about	around	across	over	to

- 1 For some reason, he couldn't get off to sleep.
- 2 He rolled over, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.
- 3 A few minutes later, the stone corridors echoed with the sound of Angus Macpherson's unmistakable snore.
- 4 If I could get the keys off Macpherson's belt,
- 5 I could slip out through the side door,
- 6 ...run across the yard,
- 7 ...jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.
- 8 He tiptoed to the front of the cell and looked around.
- 9 There was no one about.
- 10 He picked up the belt and lifted it back through the bars.

Notes

- 1 a nap = a short, light sleep
- 2 to nod off = to fall asleep gradually
- 3 When talking about clothes, to take off is the opposite of to put on.
'Angus...took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.' (Chapter One)
'She put on her coat.' (Chapter Three)

CHAPTER TWO

4 Two common meanings of *slip* are...

- a to move quietly or secretly, trying not to be seen
'I could slip out through the side door...' (Chapter One)

'But whenever my father's back was turned, I would slip out of the house and go and meet Gerald secretly.' (Chapter Eight)

and

- b to fall or nearly fall

◆ She slipped on a banana skin and sprained her ankle.

5 Notice the difference between *to jump over*, *to jump onto* and *to jump off*...

- a 'I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.' (Chapter One)

and

- b 'Frederick had...jumped onto a train that was slowing down in front of a set of signals, run down the corridor to avoid the ticket collector and then jumped off again as the train pulled into a station.' (Chapter Five)

6 'There was no one about' = Nobody else was there

Compare ...

'Lady Prescott got out of the car and looked around. There was no one else about.' (Chapter Fourteen)

and

'Frederick turned his face and looked out at Crawford Street. There were now lots of people about. It was half past three and the local school had just broken up for the day.' (Chapter Twelve)

Note that *to look around* generally has the idea of looking on all sides, while *to look round* suggests that the person turns to look at something they couldn't see before.

round can also be an informal word for *around*.



Practice

3 Complete the following sentences using one of the words below.

lunchbreak	door	desk	tears	cell
handkerchief	keys	Times	belt	minutes

- 1 He stood up and looked for his belt.
- 2 Sir Gerald Prescott was sitting at his _____ reading *The Times*.
- 3 He's broken out of his _____ and run away.
- 4 I nodded off for a few _____.
- 5 Carruthers picked up the belt and took off one of the _____.
- 6 He opened his cell and slipped out through the side _____.
- 7 Sir Gerald tore up his _____.
- 8 ...and burst into _____.
- 9 Angus took a _____ out of his pocket.
- 10 I'll give up my _____ and go out and look for him and find out where he is...

4 Complete the following sentences using one of the prepositions below.

out	away	off	with	at
to	off	up	out	for

- 1 He stood up and looked for his belt.
- 2 Sir Gerald was sitting _____ his desk reading *The Times*.
- 3 Angus rushed in, his red face covered _____ sweat.
- 4 He's broken _____ of his cell
- 5 ...and run _____!
- 6 I nodded _____ for a few minutes.
- 7 Sir Gerald tore _____ his *Times* and burst into tears.
- 8 Angus took a handkerchief _____ of his pocket
- 9 ...and handed it _____ Sir Gerald.
- 10 I shouldn't have taken _____ my belt and nodded off like that.

Notes

- 1 *dawn* can be a noun ('Dawn broke over Newtown Prison') and a verb ('the...truth dawned on him').
- 2 There are many phrasal verbs with *look*. Among the most common are...
to look for = to try to find
to look at = to see; to examine
to look after = to take care of

'He stood up and looked for his belt.' (Chapter Two)

'I looked at the cheque. My head was spinning.' (Chapter Eleven)

'She looks after sick children.' (Chapter Ten)

- 3 *to work (something) out* = to solve (a problem, puzzle, mystery, etc.)
- 4 *to let in* (= to allow to enter) is the opposite of *to let out* (= to allow to leave).
 'Governor! Governor! Let me in! Let me in!' (Chapter Two)
 'When he came to the prison gates, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.' (Chapter Fifteen)
 'There was no need for you to run off like that. They were going to let you out anyway.' (Chapter Thirteen)
- 5 Note the difference between *to sit at*, *to sit back*, *to sit down*, *to sit in* and *to sit up*.
 'Sir Gerald was sitting at his desk reading *The Times*.' (Chapter Two)
 'Frederick sat back and just watched the volcano erupt.' (Chapter Seven)
 'Angus sat down and took a deep breath.' (Chapter Two)
 'Here he was, sitting in a Rolls Royce driven by the wife of the governor of the prison he'd just escaped from.' (Chapter Seven)
 'He was so ill that he couldn't sit up in bed properly.' (Chapter Ten)
- 6 *to calm down* = to relax
 'Now calm down. And go through the whole story right from the start.' (Chapter Two)
 'By the time they arrived at the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed down a little and Frederick was feeling a bit more relaxed.' (Chapter Eight)
- 7 *to make up for (something)* = to compensate for (something)
 'I'll make up for it. I'll give up my lunchbreak and go out and look for him and find out where he is.' (Chapter Two)
 'And, now, there was so much to say, so much to do. So much lost time to make up for.' (Chapter Fourteen)

CHAPTER THREE



Practice

- 5
- | | | | | |
|-------|------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| coat | door | pounds | patience | marriage |
| tears | coat | prisoners | breakdown | nonsense |

- Lady Prescott took off her _____.
- Yet another of my _____ has run away.
- And with that he burst into _____ again.
- I've had enough of all this _____.
- I'm leaving you, Gerald! I'm going to break up our _____ and run away.
- She put on her _____.
- I'll have a nervous _____.
- I'm going to walk out of that _____.
- The cost of repairing the damage could run into hundreds of _____.
- I've run out of _____, Gerald.

- 6
- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|-------|
| up | with | up | out | on |
| into | of | away | off | about |

- She took _____ her coat.
- Why don't you grow _____?
- I can't help it. Yet another of my prisoners has run _____.
- And with that he burst _____ tears again.
- I've had enough _____ all this nonsense.
- I'm not going to put up _____ it any longer.
- I'm leaving you, Gerald! I'm going to break _____ our marriage.
- She put _____ her coat.
- Money! Money! Money! That's all you care _____!
- I've run _____ of patience, Gerald.

Notes

- Grow up! = Stop behaving like a child!
- to put up with = to tolerate
'I'm not going to put up with it any longer.' (Chapter Three)
'...and you've put up with all my complaints about Sir Gerald.' (Chapter Nine)
- A run-down area is poor, dirty and in decline.

CHAPTER FOUR

4 *to break up* (= to finish) can be used to describe the end of a relationship, a marriage, a school day and a school term.

'I'm going to break up our marriage and run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.' (Chapter Three)

'There were now lots of people about. It was half past three and the local school had just broken up for the day.' (Chapter Twelve)

5 The noun *breakdown* and the phrasal verb *to break down* can be used to describe people or machines.

'I'll have a nervous breakdown.' (Chapter Three)

'The bus broke down and all the passengers had to get off and walk.' (Chapter Nine)

6 You can also *run out of* time, money, food and ideas.



Practice

- 7
- | | | | | |
|--------|------|--------------|-------|---------|
| chair | room | smoking | tears | jogging |
| weight | tie | handkerchief | women | dinner |

- The prison governor knelt down and burst into _____.
- I've been working too hard and putting on _____.
- I'll take up _____ and take off weight!
- I'll give up _____.
- ...and wash up after _____!
- Lady Prescott knocked over a _____.
- ...and stormed out of the _____.
- The prison governor sat down and straightened his _____.
- I can't understand _____, Angus. I just can't make them out.
- Sir Gerald took a _____ out of his pocket.

- 8
- | | | | | |
|------|-------|------|-----|-------|
| out | down | up | out | round |
| away | after | over | out | on |

- I've been working too hard and putting _____ weight.
- You can't walk _____ on me like this.
- If you went _____ I'd go to pieces.
- Lady Prescott turned _____.
- ...knocked _____ a chair.
- ...and stormed _____ of the room.
- Shall I go _____ her?
- The prison governor sat _____ and straightened his tie.
- She blows _____ all the time.
- I can't understand women, Angus. I just can't make them _____.

Notes

- 1 *down* often means 'to the ground' or 'to the floor'.

'The prison governor knelt down and burst into tears.' (Chapter Four)

'They promise to pull down the terraced housing and build some new flats.' (Chapter Eight)

'I don't want them tearing down my childhood. They should leave my home alone.' (Chapter Eight)

- ◆ He fell down the stairs and twisted his ankle.
- ◆ The boxer was knocked down in the fourth round.
- ◆ They shot down three enemy planes.

- 2 When talking about weight, a handbrake or a seat belt, *to put on* is the opposite of *to take off*.

'I've been working too hard and putting on weight.' (Chapter Four)

◆ That new diet is amazing! I've taken off six kilos in three days.

'Lady Prescott put on the handbrake...' (Chapter Eight)

'The woman got in, put on her seat belt, took off the handbrake...' (Chapter Six)

'Frederick took off his seat belt and tried to get out of the car.' (Chapter Twelve)

- 3 *to walk out on* = to abandon

- 4 *to take up* = to start to do (a new job, a new sport, etc.)

'I'll take up jogging and take off weight!' (Chapter Four)

"And if I was to take up this new challenge," Frederick said, "you'd expect me to keep quiet about the events of two years ago." (Chapter Thirteen)

- 5 'Storming out of a room' is more dramatic than 'walking out of a room'.

- 6 *to go after* = to run after = to follow

'Shall I go after her?' (Chapter Four)

'If you run away, I'll run after you.' (Chapter Three)

- 7 *to make up your mind* = to make a decision

'She's made up her mind to run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.' (Chapter Four)

'It didn't take me long to make up my mind!' (Chapter Eight)

- 8 'I don't know what's got into her' = I don't understand why she is acting so strangely

- 9 *to blow up* = to lose your temper, to get angry suddenly

- 10 *to make (someone) out* = to understand (someone); to appreciate what drives or motivates another person

CHAPTER FIVE



Practice

9 Revision Exercise

In Chapters One to Five, who...

ANGUS	SIR GERALD	LADY PRESCOTT	FREDERICK CARRUTHERS

- 1 ...noddod off?
- 2 ...took off his belt?
- 3 ...was sitting at his desk?
- 4 ...rushed in?
- 5 ...sat down?
- 6 ...slipped out through the side door?
- 7 ...tore up his Times?
- 8 ...burst into tears?
- 9 ...took off her coat?
- 10 ...ran out of patience?
- 11 ...knelt down?
- 12 ...turned round?
- 13 ...blows up all the time?
- 14 ...can't make women out?
- 15 ...crawled through a field of turnips?
- 16 ...jumped off a train?
- 17 ...ran across six kilometres of open countryside?
- 18 ...elbowed his way through a group of tourists?
- 19 ...ended up standing outside a café?
- 20 ...pulled into a lay-by?

Notes

- 1 In this sense, *to run off* and *to run away* have the same meaning.
- 2 *to crawl* = to move on all fours
- 3 The literal meaning of *to wade through* is 'to walk through water or mud that is knee or chest high'.
For this reason, storks and flamingoes are known as *wading birds*.
to wade through can also be used metaphorically with the sense of 'having to read lots of boring information'.
 - ◆ I had to wade through 500 pages of detailed text before I found what I was looking for.
- 4 *to slow down* = to reduce your speed gradually

- 5 For buses, trains and planes, *to get on* is the opposite of *to get off*.
 'While the other passengers were getting off the train...' (Chapter Five)
 'The bus broke down and all the passengers had to get off and walk.'
 (Chapter Nine)
- 6 Compare...
 'Frederick ended up standing outside a café at a lay-by near Junction 34 of the M1 motorway.' (Chapter Five)
 'If she found out that he was a convict on the run, perhaps she'd turn him in and then he might end up in cell 269 again.' (Chapter Ten)
 'How could a good man end up like this?' (Chapter Twelve)
- 7 *out* can mean 'loudly', 'openly', 'publicly', 'noisily' or 'angrily'.
 'His stomach was crying out for food.' (Chapter Five)
 ♦ They shouted out the names...
 ♦ He spoke out against injustice...
 ♦ They called out the winning numbers...
- 8 Compare *to go through* and *to go through with*.
 a *to go through* = to suffer
 'For the next few minutes, he went through a dreadful torture.'
 (Chapter Five)
 'For the next few months, we went through a really bad patch.'
 (Chapter Nine)
- b *to go through with (something)* = to do (something) even though you know it will be difficult, frustrating or painful
 'I've decided to go through with the trial.' (Chapter Eleven)
- 9 Compare...
 'These were the thoughts running through Frederick Carruthers' troubled mind as a blue Rolls Royce pulled into the lay-by and glided to a halt.'
 (Chapter Five)
 and
 'Through Frederick's mind went a simple formula – changing a wheel is work. Work brings money. Money brings food.'
 (Chapter Six)

CHAPTER SIX



Practice

- 10 window mirror handbrake cloth lay-by
jacket hand tyre glass seat belt

- The driver wound down her _____ and leaned across.
- Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the _____.
- He pulled a large piece of _____ out of the wheel and held it up.
- He took off his _____.
- Frederick nodded, smiled and held out his _____.
- He wiped his hands on a _____.
- The woman put on her _____.
- ...took off the _____.
- ...looked in the rear-view _____.
- ...and pulled gently out of the _____.

- 11 out out on on up
off off in over onto

- Frederick bent down and ran his hand _____ the tyre.
- Then he pulled a large piece of glass _____ of the wheel
- ...and held it _____.
- Frederick nodded, smiled and held _____ his hand.
- Perhaps I can drop you _____ somewhere along the way.
- But then it suddenly dawned _____ Frederick that the offer of a free ride in a Rolls Royce far away from Newtown might be quite a good idea.
- The woman got _____.
- ...put _____ her seat belt.
- ...took _____ the handbrake.
- ...and then – with a sudden burst of speed – they roared _____ the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.

Notes

- Compare *to hold up* (= vertical) and *to hold out* (= horizontal).
'Then he pulled a large piece of glass out of the wheel and held it up.'
(Chapter Six)
'I held up my hand and the man from the bank stopped talking.'
(Chapter Eleven)
'Frederick nodded, smiled and held out his hand.'
(Chapter Six)

2 up can mean...

- a higher
'He...jacked up the car...' (Chapter Six)
'She picked up the phone again.' (Chapter Twelve)
- b to the end
'By that summer, I'd managed to save up a quarter of a million pounds.'
(Chapter Eleven)
'Frederick drank up his coffee...' (Chapter Twelve)

and

- c thinking creatively or imaginatively
'At first, I couldn't think what to do. But then – all of a sudden – I came up with an idea.'
(Chapter Ten)
'But – each week – I made up some new story to explain the cheques away.'
(Chapter Eleven)

- 3 *to drop (someone) off* is the opposite of *to pick (someone) up*.
'Perhaps I could drop you off somewhere along the way.'
(Chapter Nine)
'...he'd come and pick me up when the classes were over.'
(Chapter Eight)

- 4 *to let (someone) down* = to disappoint (someone), to break a promise
'Frederick's face dropped. He'd been expecting money or food and he felt a bit let down.'
(Chapter Six)
'I can't let the children down.'
(Chapter Eleven)

- 5 'it suddenly dawned on him that' = he suddenly realised that
- 6 When talking about cars, vans or lorries, *to get into* is the opposite of *to get out of*.

'He wiped his hands on a cloth and got into the car.'
(Chapter Six)
'Frederick took off his seat belt and tried to get out of the car.'
(Chapter Twelve)

- 7 *to pull out of* (= to leave) a lay-by, station, etc. is the opposite of *to pull into* (= to enter) a lay-by, station, etc.
'The woman got in, put on her seat belt, took off the handbrake, put the car into first gear, looked in the rear-view mirror, and pulled gently out of the lay-by.'
(Chapter Six)
'...and then jumped off again as the train pulled into a station.'
(Chapter Five)

- 8 *roar* (the noun) and *to roar* (the verb) are used to describe the sound made by crowds, lions, cars, trains and planes.
'And then – with a sudden burst of speed – they roared onto the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.'
(Chapter Six)
'The driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared on.'
(Chapter Seven)

CHAPTER SEVEN



Practice

- 12 kitten sounds wall subject name
volcano Rolls Royce prison reputation spine

- Now that _____ rings a bell. I'm sure I've come across it somewhere before.
- A cold shiver ran down his _____.
- I know of him. He has quite a _____ in my field.
- When I first met him, he was a tiger, but he's turned into a _____.
- He drives me up the _____.
- None of the _____ came out right.
- So - recognising defeat - he gave up trying to change the _____.
- ...sat back and just watched the _____ erupt.
- Here he was sitting in a _____.
- ...driven by the wife of the governor of the _____ he'd just escaped from.

- 13 in through out up on
back for across to of

- I'm very grateful _____ you, Mr... er...
- Now that name rings a bell. I'm sure I've come _____ it somewhere before.
- I know _____ him. He has quite a reputation in my field.
- I'm sure it's a reputation _____ childish, incompetent stupidity!
- Frederick sat _____ a state of shock.
- ...trying to squeeze words _____ his frozen lips.
- None of the sounds came _____ right.
- So - recognising defeat - he gave _____ trying to change the subject.
- ...sat _____ and just watched the volcano erupt.
- The driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared _____.

Notes

- on often means 'to continue'.
'The blue Rolls Royce sped on down the M1.' (Chapter Seven)
'The driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared on.' (Chapter Seven)
'He kept on proposing and I kept on saying "no".' (Chapter Nine)
'"Go on," Lady Prescott said gently.' (Chapter Ten)
'Karen Blackstone carried on talking, ignoring that last remark.' (Chapter Thirteen)

- 2 'That name rings a bell' = I've heard that name before
- 3 to come across (something) = to come into contact with (something) unexpectedly or by chance
- 4 Well I never! = That's incredible! What a surprise!
- 5 'Perhaps you've heard of him' = Perhaps his name is familiar to you
- 6 'I know of him' = I've heard of him
- 7 A *grunt* (the noun) and *to grunt* (the verb) can also describe the sounds made by a pig and a tennis player.
- 8 to give up (= to stop or to abandon) can be used with a gerund or a noun.
 - 'So - recognising defeat - he gave up trying to change the subject, sat back and just watched the volcano erupt.' (Chapter Seven)
 - 'Frederick had given up trying to work out what was going on.' (Chapter Thirteen)
 - 'I knew that I couldn't give Gerald up.' (Chapter Eight)
- 9 A few years ago, it was considered 'bad style' to put a preposition at the end of a sentence. Grammar books would tell you that 'To whom did you send the letter?' was better than 'Who did you send the letter to?'
 - But fashions and conventions change and these days it is quite acceptable to end a sentence with a preposition...
 - 'Here he was, sitting in a Rolls Royce driven by the wife of the governor of the prison he'd just escaped from.' (Chapter Seven)
 - 'I knew that I couldn't give Gerald up.' (Chapter Eight)
 - 'I needed more time to think things through.' (Chapter Nine)
 - '...I suppose I needed someone to talk to.' (Chapter Ten)
 - 'I can't let the children down.' (Chapter Eleven)
 - 'They might even have let you off.' (Chapter Twelve)
 - 'But where shall I send the papers to?' (Chapter Thirteen)

CHAPTER EIGHT

BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVED AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF BIRMINGHAM LADY PRESCOTT HAD CALMED DOWN A LITTLE AND FREDERICK WAS FEELING A BIT MORE RELAXED. AND AS WE PICK UP THE STORY AGAIN (AT 1.23 P.M.) OUR TWO CHARACTERS HAVE STARTED TO GET ON SURPRISINGLY WELL...

THE BLUE ROLLS ROYCE SLOWED DOWN AND THEY DREW UP IN FRONT OF A ROW OF SHABBY TERRACED HOUSES.

Do you see number 42, the one with the pale green door? I was born there. And this little run down street on the edge of the city is where I grew up. Whenever I feel down I come back here. This will always be my home. It's dirty and messy and some of the shops are boarded up. But as far as I'm concerned this is the best place in the world.

LADY PRESCOTT PUT ON THE HANDBRAKE, TOOK OFF HER SEATBELT AND STEPPED OUT OF THE CAR.

And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk. Would you like me to show you around?

That would be very kind of you. But I don't want to put you to any trouble.

It would be no trouble at all. In fact you'd be doing me a favour. I've got a lot of things on my mind at the moment and I need someone to talk to. So I'd be very grateful if you came and walked with me.

LADY PRESCOTT LOCKED THE CAR.

THEY SET OFF ACROSS THE MARKET SQUARE ON A TOUR OF THE TOWN.

THEY CAME OVER THE NARROW STONE BRIDGE THAT CROSSED THE CANAL.

Has it changed much over the years?

No not really. They've done up some of the houses ... like these ones here ... but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.

And - anyway - I'd be a bit sad if they knocked everything down and put up one of those ugly tower blocks. Perhaps it's better to keep it the way it is. I don't want them tearing down my childhood. They should leave my home alone.

You say this is your home. But then why did you go away?

Whenever there's an election, the politicians come round and knock on the door. They promise to pull down the terraced housing and build some new flats. But after the votes are counted, they never seem to get round to it. It's strange that, isn't it?

The story continues...

'Oh, that's simple,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I fell in love. Strange though it may seem, I left Birmingham to be with Gerald Prescott – the gutless, brainless, spineless fool who is now governor of Newtown Prison. You look a bit surprised, Mr Carruthers. Then perhaps I should explain.'

There was a time when my husband was a bright, tender young man. It's only recently that he's turned into a workaholic who eats, drinks and sleeps prison life.

I met him when I was just eighteen. I was in my last term at school and Gerald was studying at the local technical college. He was absolutely broke and so he'd taken a part-time job at a take-away restaurant called The Birmingham Big Burger Bar. The take-away was in Crawford Street. It was on my way home from school. One day, I went in to get some chips. Gerald was serving behind the counter. He smiled at me and I felt a cold shiver run down my spine.

After that I went to the take-away every day. I wasn't hungry. I just wanted to see Gerald. Anyway, one afternoon he asked me out and we went for a walk in the park. We got on really well and I started seeing him all the time. He used to walk me to school in the morning and he'd come and pick me up when the classes were over. And then – all of a sudden – I fell in love with him. I don't know why. It just happened that way.

When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy. He didn't want his only daughter going out with someone who cooked hamburgers in a take-away. He told me that I had to stop seeing Gerald straightaway.

I had to make a choice. Should I obey my father and split up with the person I loved? Or should I defy my parents and go on seeing him? It didn't take me long to make up my mind! I knew that I couldn't give Gerald up. And so I had to work out some way of deceiving my parents.

The plan was simple. I pretended that I'd obeyed my father. I said that I'd broken up with Gerald. I cried for two or three days and went through ten packets of tissues. I stopped eating and slammed lots of doors. I put on a really good show. My parents were completely taken in.

But whenever my father's back was turned, I would slip out of the house and go and meet Gerald secretly, in the park or at the take-away. When I came home, I made up some story or other to explain where I'd been. "I was at a friend's house playing records" or "I was visiting a museum in the centre of the town".

My father seemed happy that I'd suddenly made lots of new friends who had money in their pockets and didn't cook burgers. But he didn't know what I was really up to...

Lady Prescott suddenly broke off and – for the next minute or so – they walked on in silence. Frederick looked straight ahead. He said nothing. There was no need to talk. They crossed a main road and walked past a school. And then, as they turned down a narrow side street, Lady Prescott picked up the story again...

Practice

- 14 love childhood houses spine street
handbrake seat belt mind workaholic Gerald

- This little run-down _____ on the edge of the city is where I grew up.
- Lady Prescott put on the _____
- ...and took off her _____.
- They've done up some of the _____.
- I don't want them tearing down my _____.
- There was a time when my husband was a bright, tender young man. It's only recently that he's turned into a _____.
- I felt a cold shiver run down my _____.
- And then – all of a sudden – I fell in _____ with him.
- It didn't take me long to make up my _____!
- I knew that I couldn't give _____ up.

- 15 out out out on on
up up around round at

- By the time they arrived _____ the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed down a little.
- And as we pick up the story again, our two characters have started to get _____ surprisingly well.
- This little run-down street on the edge of the city is where I grew _____.
- And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk. Would you like me to show you _____?
- They've done _____ some of the houses...like these ones here...but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.
- But after the votes are counted, they never seem to get _____ to it. It's strange that, isn't it?
- One afternoon, he asked me _____ and we went for a walk in the park.
- When my father found _____ what
- ...was going _____, he went crazy.
- He didn't want his only daughter going _____ with someone who cooked hamburgers in a take-away.

Notes

- 1 to calm down = to relax

'By the time they arrived at the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed down a little...' (Chapter Eight)

'Now calm down. And go through the whole story right from the start.'
(Chapter Two)

2 to get on with (someone) = to have a good relationship with (someone)

'...our two characters have started to get on surprisingly well.' (Chapter Eight)

'We got on really well and I started seeing him all the time.' (Chapter Eight)

3 to feel down = to feel depressed

'Whenever I feel down, I come back here.' (Chapter Eight)

'Frederick was staring deep into his coffee. Telling the story of the kidney machines had brought back some painful memories. And he suddenly felt very down.' (Chapter Twelve)

4 to have something on your mind = to be worried about something

'Lady Prescott paused. There was something on her mind.' (Chapter Ten)

'I've got a lot of things on my mind at the moment and I need someone to talk to.' (Chapter Eight)

5 Compare...

'And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk. Would you like me to show you around?' (Chapter Eight)

and

'The woman showed them into the Managing Director's office and sniffed again.' (Chapter Twelve)

6 to do up (a flat, house, building, etc.) = to renovate, to repaint, to redecorate, etc.

'They've done up some of the houses...like these ones here...but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.' (Chapter Eight)

♦ They did up the flat and then sold it.

7 to come round (here) = to go round (there) = to visit

'The politicians come round and knock on the door.' (Chapter Eight)

'Gerald went round to see my father. They had a long talk and - somehow - they sorted the whole thing out.' (Chapter Nine)

8 to get round to (= to find the time to do something) is often used in a slightly negative sense, suggesting that someone is too lazy, too uncaring or too selfish to bother to do something...

'But after the votes are counted, they never seem to get round to it. It's strange that, isn't it?' (Chapter Eight)

(Lady Prescott is suggesting that once the politicians are elected, they no longer care about the people who voted for them.)

9 going on = happening

'When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy.' (Chapter Eight)

'He'd realised what had been going on behind his back.' (Chapter Nine)

CHAPTER NINE

The story continues...

Lady Prescott broke off and – once again – they walked on in silence.

It was now mid-afternoon and the streets were empty. There was a stillness in the cool summer air, as if the world had paused for thought. No birds sang. No cows mooed. No ducks quacked. No sheep baaed. No dogs woofed. No cats miaowed. In fact, on that bright, soft, tranquil day, there was only one sound to be heard – the low, continuous rumbling of Frederick's empty stomach, for twenty-four hours starved of food.

They walked down a couple of alleyways and then, as they turned into the main road, they came upon a postman riding a bicycle. The bicycle was very old and it had no springs. And so, as he rode across the cobblestones, he seemed to be nodding his head and shaking his head all at the same time.

Lady Prescott was talking again: 'Do you know where we are, Mr Carruthers? This is Crawford Street. And at the end of this row of shops, there's The Birmingham Big Burger Bar – where I met Gerald all those years ago. Look, I don't know about you, but I'm starving. Why don't we pop in there and have a late lunch? They serve the best beefburgers in town!'

Frederick seemed a little agitated. 'I could do with a meal too,' he said. 'But I'm afraid I don't have a penny on me. You see, I went out in rather a hurry last night.'

Lady Prescott smiled. 'But you must be my guest, Mr Carruthers. You've gone out of your way to help me and you've put up with all my complaints about Sir Gerald. Paying for lunch will be my way of paying you back for all your kindness. Come on, I insist. I've had a long and difficult day. I'm tired out and very worked up about my husband. I need a good meal to calm me down and I don't want to eat alone.'

Practice

16	penny	cheek	key	proposing	husband
	way	complaints	phone	money	back

- 1 He kept on _____ and I kept on saying 'no'.
- 2 I took out my _____ and let myself in.
- 3 At that moment, he'd realised what had been going on behind his _____.
- 4 He lost his temper and slammed down the _____.
- 5 When Gerald was younger, he wasn't exactly rolling in _____.
- 6 Lady Prescott sighed and smiled. A single tear ran down her _____.
- 7 I'm afraid I don't have a _____ on me.
- 8 You've gone out of your _____ to help me.
- 9 You've put up with all my _____ about Sir Gerald.
- 10 I'm tired out and very worked up about my _____.

17	out	out	to	to	with
	on	on	through	at	at

- 1 On my last day _____ school, Gerald asked me to marry him.
- 2 I needed more time to think things _____.
- 3 He kept _____ proposing.
- 4 I told my father I was going _____ a poetry reading in the local Town Hall.
- 5 I took _____ my key and let myself in.
- 6 He'd realised what had been going _____ behind his back.
- 7 He shouted _____ me.
- 8 We eloped _____ Newtown and got married in the local church.
- 9 They had a long talk and – somehow – they sorted the whole thing _____.
- 10 You've put up _____ all my complaints about Sir Gerald.

Notes

- 1 to *turn (someone or something) down* = to say 'no' to (an offer, proposal, suggestion or application)
- 2 to *settle down* can mean 'to start to live in one place or situation permanently'.
'I was just too young to settle down.' (Chapter Nine)
But notice a slightly different meaning in Chapter Fifteen:
'The prisoners had settled down for the night and the jail was locked and still.'
- 3 to *think (something) through* = to think (something) over
= to consider (a proposal, plan, situation, etc.) very carefully
'I needed more time to think things through.' (Chapter Nine)
'"We're going to give you twenty-four hours to think it over," he said.' (Chapter Eleven)
- 4 'I let myself in' = I opened the door with a key
- 5 *it ended up...* = the result was...
- 6 a *pregnant pause* = an embarrassing silence
- 7 to *sort (something) out* = to solve (a problem, issue, argument, dispute, etc.)
'Gerald went round to see my father...and – somehow – they sorted the whole thing out.' (Chapter Nine)
'We had a long talk on the phone and we sorted a few things out.' (Chapter Thirteen)
- 8 to *make it up with (someone)* = to re-establish a friendship or a loving relationship
- 9 *rolling in money* = very rich
- 10 *hard up* = very poor

CHAPTER TEN



The story continues...

Frederick sighed. 'Perhaps you're right,' he said. 'And, after all, what have I got to lose? Well, the truth is that up until two years ago, I was leading a very simple and predictable life. I had a steady job, a beautiful home and a loving family. Then, all of a sudden, something happened that changed everything. My whole world just fell apart.'

Frederick broke off. He seemed a little uneasy.

'Go on,' Lady Prescott said gently.

'Well, it's a very long story,' Frederick replied. 'And I don't really know where to begin.'

'Try the beginning,' said Lady Prescott, putting a straw into her milkshake. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm going to drink this very, very slowly.'

Frederick took a deep breath and picked up the story again. 'My mother is a nurse in a small hospital,' he said. 'She looks after sick children. She's a wonderful, extraordinary woman and she works incredibly hard.'

One day, I drove down to the hospital to pick my mother up after work. We were going out to dinner. I parked the car and, as I was walking through one of the wards, I could hear a child crying very softly. I looked across and saw a little boy. He must have been about eight or nine. He was so ill that he couldn't sit up in bed properly. He had to lie against pillows all day long. It was terrible. He was pale, lifeless, too weak to move.

The next day, I rang up the manager of the hospital and asked about the little boy. She told me that all the children in that ward had problems with their kidneys.

"And is there nothing you can do?" I asked.

"I'm afraid not," she said. "What we really need is half a dozen kidney machines. Then the children would be able to get out of bed and walk around the ward. But, unfortunately, the hospital is very short of money. We're so hard up that we can't afford to buy one machine, let alone six. So, I'm afraid the children will just have to suffer."

When I put down the phone, I felt terribly disturbed. It was so sad, so shocking, so unfair. I decided that I had to find a way to help the children. I couldn't stand by and do nothing.

At first, I couldn't think what to do. But then - all of a sudden - I came up with an idea. I was a bank manager and a lot of money passed through my hands. During a normal working day, I would write out ten, maybe twelve, official cheques for different things - stationery, coffee, furniture, stamps and so on. I'd worked at the bank for thirty years, so everybody knew me. And nobody ever checked up on what I was doing. I suppose I had an honest face and they just trusted me!

One afternoon - it was a Wednesday - I called my secretary into the office and told her to cancel my appointments. When she'd left the room, I took the phone off the hook and drew the curtains. Then I took the official cheque book out of the safe and wrote a cheque to myself!

Pay Mr F. Carruthers,
£100.00 only
Signed Frederick Carruthers.

It was breathtakingly, outrageously simple. A bank manager stealing money from his own bank!

Practice

	FREDERICK	LADY PRESCOTT	SIR GERALD	LADY PRESCOTT'S FATHER
18 Revision Exercise				
In Chapters Five to Ten, who...				
1 ...held out his hand?				
2 ...felt a bit let down?				
3 ...took off the handbrake?				
4 ...was like a dragon breathing fire?				
5 ...sat back?				
6 ...put her foot down?				
7 ...calmed down?				
8 ...grew up at number 42?				
9 ...showed Frederick around?				
10 ...had a lot of things on her mind?				
11 ...worked in a take-away?				
12 ...kept on proposing?				
13 ...kept on saying 'no'?				
14 ...took out a key?				
15 ...stayed up?				
16 ...stormed out of the house?				
17 ...eloped to Newtown?				
18 ...slammed down the phone?				
19 ...rabbited on?				
20 ...came up with an idea?				

Notes

- 1 to rabbit on = to talk on and on and on and on...
- 2 a bust-up = an argument
- 3 to bottle (something) up inside you is the opposite of 'to get (something) off your chest'.
- 4 Compare...
 - 'My whole world just fell apart.' (Chapter Ten)
 - 'But most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.' (Chapter Eight)
 and
 - 'How could a good man end up like this? He's falling apart.' (Chapter Twelve)
- 5 to break off = to pause; to stop talking
- 6 out often means 'outside the house'.
 - 'Anyway, one afternoon, he asked me out and we went for a walk in the park.' (Chapter Eight)
 - 'We were going out to dinner.' (Chapter Ten)
 - 'And that night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined out in style.' (Chapter Fourteen)

CHAPTER ELEVEN

At the age of 45 I was about to commit my first crime. I looked at the cheque. My head was spinning. This was robbery. Was I doing the right thing? Could I get away with it? Should I just tear up the cheque and throw it away? Perhaps I should forget about the whole thing.

But then I thought about the children in the hospital. They needed the money more than the bank. I was stealing it for them.

So, I took a deep breath, folded the cheque up and put it into my pocket.

I left the office and took a taxi to another branch of the bank. I knew one of the cashiers there. We chatted for a while. And then, with my heart pounding, I paid the cheque into my current account. Three days later the payment cleared. I had stolen my first £100. The following week I did the whole thing again. Another cheque. The same branch. The same cashier. The same fear. The same excitement when the money was cleared into my account.

And so it went on. Week after week I stole money from the bank and each cheque was a little bigger than the last.

You've no idea how I felt. I was risking everything I had - my career, my family life, my reputation. But, nothing was going to stop me now. The image of the little boy crying on his pillow haunted me. I couldn't get it out of my mind. And I had to do something to help.

I think the next few weeks were the most exciting of my life. In some strange way I'd suddenly come alive. I was sharp, human, burning with anger. And I suppose I got a bit carried away. I was soon writing cheques for five and ten thousand pounds. It was crazy. Sometimes, the cashier seemed a bit suspicious. She couldn't work out what the payments were for. But - each week - I made up some new story to explain the cheques away. And she fell for it every time.

I suppose it never occurred to her that Frederick Carruthers - her punctual, conscientious friend - could have turned into a common thief, an embezzler, a liar, a man obsessed.

By that summer I'd managed to save up a quarter of a million pounds.

One morning I didn't go into work. I walked into the hospital and wrote out a cheque for every penny I had. The manager went straight out and bought six new kidney machines.

A few days later we had a small ceremony in the ward. It was a bit like launching a ship, or opening a bridge! I unwrapped the machines, plugged them in and switched them on. And then as the lights flashed the children gave me a round of applause that seemed to go on forever. I felt very proud. It was the best moment of my life.

The story continues...

But then – inevitably, I suppose – my luck failed.

Someone at Head Office became suspicious. How could a branch manager afford to donate £250,000 to a hospital?

The Head of Finance went to the central computer and started going through my account. She noticed that I'd been building up large amounts of cash. But how could I save up so much money on the salary I earned? She smelt a rat and, when she looked into the strange dealings on the branch account, she knew that something was wrong.

Anyway, it wasn't long before she'd put two and two together and worked out what I'd been up to. She tipped off the police and, when I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my office. They took me down to the police station and that was it. I was charged with theft and my world just fell apart. The trial was fixed for December 18th – just one week before Christmas!

Two days before I was due in court, a director of the bank came to see me. He came straight to the point. He offered me a deal. He said they would drop all the charges if I paid the money back.

"But how can I do that?" I asked. "The hospital have spent it all."

"That's simple," the man said. "Tell the hospital that you've changed your mind. Tell them it was all a mistake. Just tell them to send the machines back."

"But what about the children?" I said.

The man shrugged his shoulders. "Our bank is a business, Mr Carruthers. It's not a charity. And if you don't get our money back, you'll end up in jail. It's as simple as that. It's up to you. But you can't have it both ways."

He stood up. "We're going to give you twenty-four hours to think it over," he said. "You don't have to decide right away. You can sleep on it. I'll come back tomorrow and you can tell me what you've decided. But just remember one thing, Mr Carruthers. You can't rip the bank off and expect to get away with it. Life's not like that. And we will hunt you down until we get every penny of our money back. I trust I've made myself clear. Good afternoon."

That night, I lay awake in my cell and thought the whole thing through. Was I being stupid? Should I save my own skin? Was it all worth fighting for? I went over it again and again.

The man from the bank came back the next day. He walked into my cell with a stupid smirk on his face. He was so sure of himself. So confident. He thought I was going to give in without a fight. He sat down and grinned at me. And at that moment, I noticed he had false teeth.

"So, Mr Carruthers," he began. "I trust that you've come to your senses. I've prepared this letter for you to sign. It instructs the hospital to send the items in question back to the factory and..."

I held up my hand and the man from the bank stopped talking.

"You can save your breath," I said. "Put the letter away. I've got no intention of signing it. I've decided to go through with the trial. I can't let the children down. I promised them six kidney machines and I'm not going back on my word."

The man from the bank gaped at me and his false teeth fell out. They crashed noisily onto the floor and rolled under my bed. I bent down, picked them up and handed them back to him.

"I believe these are yours," I said. You should have seen his face!

And so the trial went ahead. I pleaded guilty, the judge sentenced me to three years in jail and that's how I ended up in... Frederick paused and took a

deep breath, '...in Newtown Prison...from where I escaped at eleven o'clock last night.'

Lady Prescott blinked twice. She didn't seem at all shocked or upset by the fact that Frederick was a convict on the run from her husband's jail. In fact, her one and only concern was for the children in the ward.

Practice

19	account	hand	jail	story	cheque
	payments	trial	police	bank	office

- I looked at the _____. My head was spinning.
- She couldn't work out what the _____ were for.
- But – each week – I made up some new _____ to explain the cheques away.
- The Head of Finance went to the central computer and started going through my _____.
- She tipped off the _____.
- ...and when I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my _____.
- If you don't get our money back, you'll end up in _____.
- You can't rip the _____ off and expect to get away with it.
- I held up my _____ and the man from the bank stopped talking.
- I've decided to go through with the _____.

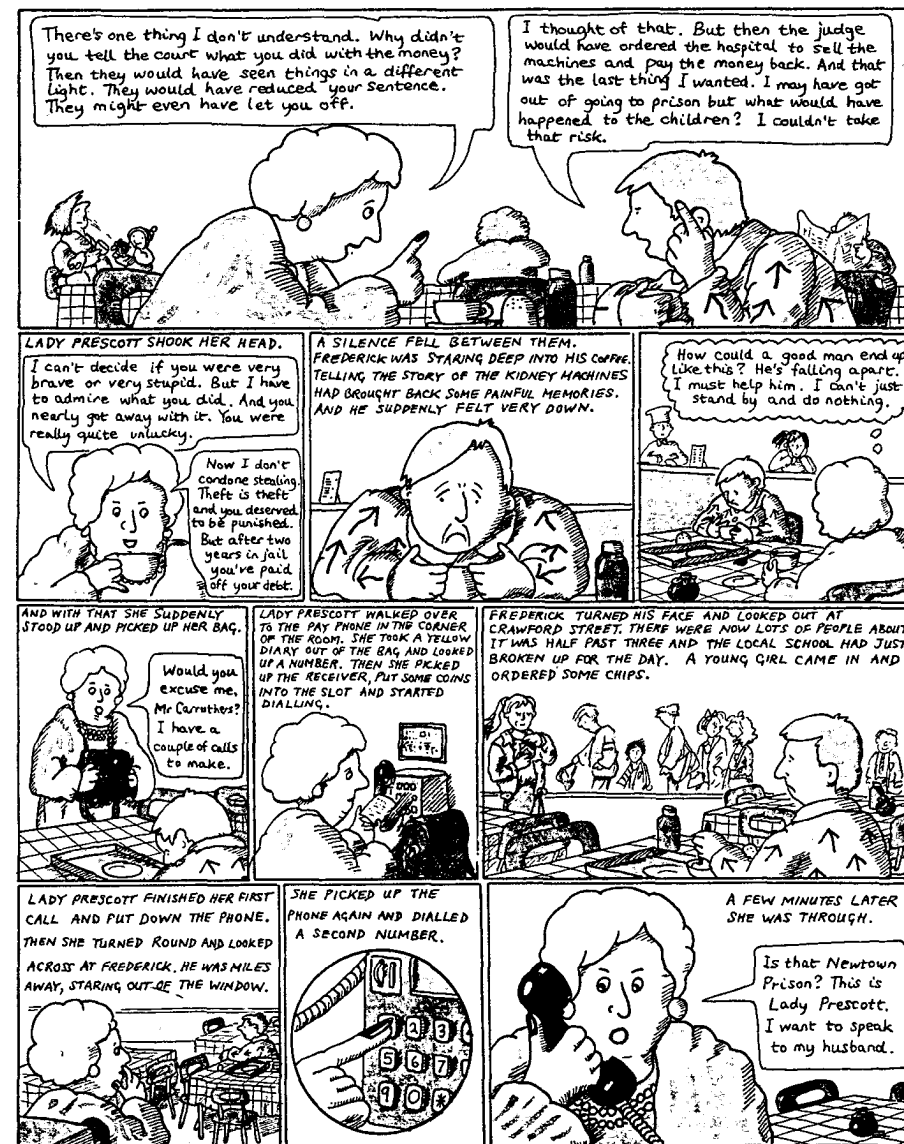
20	through	in	in	to	with
	up	of	of	for	for

- It's up _____ you.
- That night, I lay awake _____ my cell.
- ...and thought the whole thing _____.
- Was it all worth fighting _____?
- He was so sure _____ himself.
- He thought I was going to give _____ without a fight.
- I've prepared this letter _____ you to sign.
- I've got no intention _____ signing it.
- I've decided to go through _____ the trial.
- And that's how I ended _____ in Newtown Prison.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Notes

- 1 'It was a bit like launching a ship...' (Chapter Eleven)
You can also launch a rocket, a campaign, a new product and an attack.
- 2 'she smelt a rat' = she became suspicious; she realised that something was wrong
- 3 to be up to (something) = to be acting secretly, suspiciously or conspiratorially
- 4 Compare...
'...a director of the bank came to see me.' (Chapter Eleven)
'He came straight to the point.' (Chapter Eleven)
and
'I trust that you've come to your senses.' (Chapter Eleven)
You can also come to an agreement and to a conclusion.
- 5 'It's up to you' = It's your decision
- 6 to rip (someone) off = to cheat (someone); to trick (someone); to take unfair advantage of (someone)
'You can't rip the bank off and expect to get away with it.' (Chapter Eleven)
'And Karen Blackstone got a promise that the Head of Charity Donations would never let on how to rip off the bank.' (Chapter Thirteen)
- 7 to give in = to surrender; to stop fighting



The story continues...

Lady Prescott came back to the table and sat down. 'I made a call to a friend of mine, Mr Carruthers. She'd like to meet you. I said we'd be in her office just after five. So why don't you drink up your coffee and eat up your cheeseburger and finish off the French fries, and then we can set off.'

'But where are we going?' Frederick said. 'And who is your friend?'

'For the moment, that must remain a secret,' Lady Prescott replied. 'But she's an important woman and I think she can help you. Oh, and do cheer up, Mr Carruthers. You mustn't worry so much. It'll all work out in the end.'

Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.

They walked back to the car – along Crawford Street, down a couple of side alleys, over the stone bridge that crossed the canal. And a few minutes later, the blue Rolls Royce was on the road again.

Frederick was exhausted. The last twenty-four hours were beginning to catch up with him. And, as the car sped on down the motorway, he closed his eyes and gently nodded off, falling ever deeper into sleep.



A couple of hours later, Frederick felt someone tapping on his shoulder.

'Come along, Mr Carruthers,' Lady Prescott said. 'Wake up. We're nearly there.'

Frederick woke up with a start. And at first he thought he was still dreaming. Because there – right ahead of them – was a vast glass and metal building that he knew all too well. But this was no dream. And their car was heading straight for the main entrance.

'Where are you taking me?' Frederick shouted. 'This is the Head Office of my old bank. You've set me up, haven't you? You're going to turn me in! I should never have trusted you. Stop the car right now! Let me out!'

Frederick took off his seat belt and tried to get out of the car. But Lady Prescott turned round and dragged him back inside.

'For goodness' sake, calm down, Mr Carruthers,' she said. 'I haven't set you up and I'm not going to turn you in. And don't get so worked up. You're as bad as my husband. Now just listen to me. When we were in the take-away, I rang up your Head Office and fixed up an appointment with Karen Blackstone. She's a good friend of mine. We went to school together.'

'Karen Blackstone?' Frederick said. 'But she's the Managing Director of the bank.'

'Exactly, Mr Carruthers. And we're on our way to her office. She's going to give you a new job.'

'You must be joking,' said Frederick. 'The bank would never dream of taking me on again. I've got a criminal record for stealing their money.'

'Well, just you wait and see,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I think you're in for a surprise.'

The blue Rolls Royce pulled up in front of a huge skyscraper that seemed to pierce the clouds. They got out of the car and walked through into the main lobby. Then they made their way to the Managing Director's penthouse suite. As the lift rose smoothly to the eighty-ninth floor, Frederick broke out into a cold sweat.

A thousand thoughts were running through his mind. Could he really trust Lady Prescott? Was he walking into a trap? Would the police be there to arrest him again? And what would Karen Blackstone make of his clothes? He stared at himself in the mirror. He wasn't exactly dressed up for the occasion. In the past twenty-four hours, he'd crawled through mud, swum across lakes, climbed up

trees, jumped onto trains, rolled down hills and put a spare wheel onto the blue Rolls Royce. And now, after all that, he looked like a scarecrow in a thunderstorm. The stains on his shirt and his crumpled prison trousers didn't quite fit in with the thick-pile carpet and the soft leather chairs.

When the lift doors opened, they were met by a tall, angular secretary who took one look at Frederick's bedraggled appearance and gave a shrill sniff of disapproval. The woman showed them into the Managing Director's office and sniffed again. Then she turned and closed the door behind her.

Practice

- 21
- | | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| clothes | hours | people | prison | number |
| office | surprise | start | mind | diary |

- I may have got out of going to _____, but what would have happened to the children?
- She took a yellow _____ out of the bag
- ...and looked up a _____.
- There were now lots of _____ about.
- Frederick was exhausted. The last twenty-four _____ were beginning to catch up with him.
- Frederick woke up with a _____.
- I think you're in for a _____.
- A thousand thoughts were running through his _____.
- And what would Karen Blackstone make of his _____?
- The woman showed them into the Managing Director's _____ and sniffed again.

- 22
- | | | | | |
|-----|----|------|-------|-----|
| of | of | off | up | up |
| out | to | with | apart | for |

- They would have reduced your sentence. They might even have let you _____.
- I may have got out _____ going to prison, but what would have happened to the children?
- You nearly got away _____ it. You were really quite unlucky.
- How could a good man end up like this? He's falling _____.
- This is the Head Office of the bank. You've set me _____, haven't you?
- Stop the car right now! Let me _____!
- And don't get so worked _____, You're as bad as my husband.
- Now just listen _____ me.
- I've got a criminal record _____ stealing their money.
- And what would Karen Blackstone make _____ his clothes?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Notes

1 Note the use of...

- a to let (someone) off
- b to get away with (something)
- c to get out of (doing something)

These three phrasal verbs are used when talking about crime and punishment.

a to let (someone) off = to choose not to punish (someone) for a mistake, sin, error or crime

'They would have reduced your sentence. They might even have let you off.' (Chapter Twelve)

b to get away with (something) = not to be punished for a mistake, sin, error or crime

'But I have to admire what you did. And you nearly got away with it.' (Chapter Twelve)

c to get out of (doing something) = to avoid doing something you dislike or fear

'I may have got out of going to prison, but what would have happened to the children?' (Chapter Twelve)

2 to look up (something) = to look (something) up

= to find information in a diary, timetable, reference book, etc.

'She took a yellow diary out of the bag and looked up a number.' (Chapter Twelve)

3 he was miles away = he was daydreaming; he wasn't concentrating

4 Cheer up! = Don't be so sad!

5 to get worked up = to become excited, anxious, tense, nervous, etc. (You can also say to be worked up.)

WITH THE INTRODUCTIONS OVER, KAREN BLACKSTONE SAT DOWN AND PICKED UP A PENCIL.

Right, let's get down to business. I've been going through your file, Mr Carruthers. As far as I can see you were a model employee - punctual, industrious, conscientious, loyal. Then came the incident with the kidney machines and you threw away thirty years of hard work. But there are two things in your favour. You know the bank inside out and you're obviously committed to charity work. And that makes you just the person we're looking for.

What do you mean? I don't understand.

Then let me explain. Over the past few months the bank has run into some problems. For some reason we've been losing a lot of business.

It's a worrying trend. And so last week we carried out a survey to find out what's wrong. We discovered, Mr Carruthers, that the Bank is not universally loved.

It seems that because we don't sponsor operas or football teams or dog shows people think we're mean. The public sees us as selfish, ruthless and greedy. To put it bluntly, our image puts people off.

But this can't go on. And so something has to change. I want the Bank to come across in a more human, caring way. I want people to look on us as a friend, not as an enemy. I want people to come to us with their problems...

...and with their cash!

KAREN BLACKSTONE CARRIED ON TALKING, IGNORING THAT LAST REMARK.

Now when I heard the story of you and the kidney machines it set me thinking. We make a solid return on our capital. And it wouldn't do us any harm to give away some of these profits to worthy causes in the community... hospitals, voluntary groups, youth clubs and so on. Just think of it, Mr Carruthers. Just think of all the good we could do!

And just think of it, Mrs Blackstone. Just think of all that tax-deductible, cheap publicity.

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR SMILED AND THEN PICKED UP HER PENCIL AGAIN.

And this is where you come in, Mr Carruthers. I'd like you to come back to the Bank and set the whole thing up. I'm offering you a new job - Head of Charity Donations.

The story continues...

'And if I was to take up this new challenge,' Frederick said, 'you'd expect me to keep quiet about the events of two years ago. You wouldn't want me to reveal how I showed up the flaws in your security system. In other words, you want to buy my silence.'

Karen Blackstone was drumming her pencil on the table. 'Let's be practical, Mr Carruthers. Not every convict can leave prison and walk straight back into a job. It's very simple. I need you and you need me. It's a case of you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. I think we understand each other perfectly!'

And so a deal was struck. Frederick got a new job. And Karen Blackstone got a promise that the Head of Charity Donations would never let on how to rip off the bank.

'You'll have your new contract in the morning,' Karen Blackstone said. 'But where shall I send the papers to?'

The question hung in the air like a vulture. It suddenly dawned on Frederick that he couldn't take up a new job until he'd served out his term in jail. And he just didn't know what to say.

Lady Prescott leaned forward. 'If I could just butt in here,' she said. 'I think I've sorted out that problem, too. I made two phone calls from the take-away, Mr Carruthers. The first was to Karen, as you know. The second was to my husband. And you'll be leaving prison much sooner than you think.'



It was now 5.35 and the blue Rolls Royce was coming home.

'Could you tell me what's going on?' Frederick said. 'I'm getting a bit confused.'

'Well, it's all quite simple,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I'm going back to my husband. We had a long talk on the phone and we sorted a few things out.'

'But where does that leave me?' Frederick asked. 'Are you going to turn me in?'

'Not exactly,' Lady Prescott smiled. 'I'm going to smuggle you back into the prison and then the governor's going to let you out.'

Frederick seemed a bit confused. 'I'm not with you,' he said.

Lady Prescott took a deep breath. 'Gerald tells me that you've served two thirds of your sentence. And since you've been a model prisoner, you're now due for parole. There was no need for you to run off like that. They were going to let you out anyway.'

Frederick was getting lost again.

'Let me put it another way,' Lady Prescott said. 'If you'd stayed in, instead of breaking out, the governor would have let you off the last twelve months of your sentence and let you out one year early!'

Frederick's eyebrows collided with each other. The demented goldfish had returned.

Lady Prescott pulled in and stopped the car. 'We'll be there in a few minutes,' she said. 'I've taken a blanket out of the boot. I think it's time for you to hide.'

Frederick had given up trying to work out what was going on. So, rather sulkily, he climbed over onto the back seat and covered himself up. A few moments later, the blue Rolls Royce moved off again and headed for Newtown.

By the time they arrived at the prison gates, night was falling. Lady Prescott slowed down and stopped the car. Then she wound down her window and leaned across.

Practice

23	profits	problem	friend	jail	job
	image	survey	Frederick	file	pencil

- Karen Blackstone sat down and picked up a _____.
- I've been going through your _____, Mr Carruthers.
- We carried out a _____ to find out what's wrong.
- To put it bluntly, our _____ puts people off.
- I want people to look on us as a _____.
- It wouldn't do us any harm to give away some of those _____ to worthy causes in the community.
- It suddenly dawned on _____ that _____.
- ...he couldn't take up a new _____.
- ...until he'd served out his term in _____.
- I think I've sorted out that _____, too.

24	out	out	out	out	as
	off	to	up	through	on

- I've been going _____ your file, Mr Carruthers.
- We carried _____ a survey.
- ...to find _____ what's wrong.
- The public sees us _____ selfish, ruthless and greedy.
- To put it bluntly, our image puts people _____.
- But where shall I send the papers _____?
- I think I've sorted _____ that problem, too.
- Frederick had given _____.
- ...trying to work _____.
- ...what was going _____.

Notes

- to go through* = to check
- '...we carried out a survey...' (Chapter Thirteen)
You can also carry out an investigation, an attack and a threat.
- 'The public sees us as selfish, ruthless and greedy.' (Chapter Thirteen)
'I want people to look on us as a friend, not as an enemy.' (Chapter Thirteen)

Notice how...

- to see (someone or something) as =*
to look on (someone or something) as =
to consider (someone or something) to be

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

4 Notice how *to go on*, *to carry on* and *to keep on* are followed by a gerund...

'Karen Blackstone carried on talking, ignoring that last remark.' (Chapter Thirteen)

'He kept on proposing and I kept on saying "no".' (Chapter Nine)

'Or should I defy my parents and go on seeing him?' (Chapter Eight)

5 Compare...

to show up (something) = to reveal (something) that was previously hidden

'You wouldn't want me to reveal how I showed up the flaws in your security system.' (Chapter Thirteen)

and

to show (someone) up = to embarrass (someone) in public

6 a *flaw* = a weakness

Note also: 'a flawless diamond' and 'a flawless performance'.

7 *to let on* = to reveal (a secret)

'And Karen Blackstone got a promise that the Head of Charity Donations would never let on how to rip off the bank.' (Chapter Thirteen)

'But don't let on that you managed to break out.' (Chapter Fourteen)

8 *to butt in* = to interrupt

Good evening, Mr. Thomas. And how are you tonight?

I'm fine thanks mate. We're very glad to see you again.

THE GUARD SALUTED, PRESSED A BUTTON AND WAVED THE CAR THROUGH.

THE MAIN GATES SWUNG OPEN AND LADY PRESCOTT DROVE THROUGH INTO THE MAIN PRISON SQUARE. THEN SHE TURNED DOWN A DARK ALLEY WHERE SHE SLOWED DOWN AND PARKED THE CAR.

SHE FLASHED HER HEADLIGHTS AND ANGUS - FOR SOME REASON WEARING A FALSE MOUSTACHE AND A PAIR OF DARK GLASSES - CAME OUT FROM BEHIND A LARGE GREY DUSTBIN AND WAVED.

LADY PRESCOTT GOT OUT OF THE CAR AND LOOKED AROUND. THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE ABOUT.

FREDERICK SLIPPED OUT OF THE CAR AND RAN DOWN THE ALLEY.

You can come out now Mr Carruthers. The coast is clear. And Mr Macpherson is waiting for you.

Welcome back Sir. I'm so glad to see you again. I thought I was going to lose my job when you disappeared. I shouldn't have nodded off you see. It was all my fault.

FREDERICK SMILED AND THEY SLIPPED THROUGH A SIDE GATE INTO THE MAIN WING OF THE PRISON.

FREDERICK WALKED INTO THE CELL AND SAT DOWN.

ANGUS TOOK THE KEYS OFF HIS BELT AND UNLOCKED CELL 269. THEN HE PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR AND STEPPED BACK.

After you Mr Carruthers. After you.

It feels so strange to be back here. Six hours ago I was in the Birmingham Big Burger Bar eating a cheeseburger and french fries. Three hours later I was in the Head Office of the bank. And now I'm here in the darkness of a prison cell. It's been quite a day, Angus. I'll be glad when this whole thing is over and I can get back to my old routine.

LADY PRESCOTT IN THE MEANTIME HAD CLIMBED THE STEPS TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. SIR GERALD WAS WAITING NERVOUSLY BY THE DOOR.

HE'D OBVIOUSLY DRESSED UP FOR THE OCCASION, COMbing HIS HAIR, POLISHING HIS SHOES AND PUTTING ON THE SPOTTED FROCK THAT LADY PRESCOTT HAD GIVEN HIM ON THEIR SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

HISTORY DOES NOT RECORD WHAT ISSUES OF DOMESTIC IMPORTANCE WERE DISCUSSED THAT EVENING IN THE PRESCOTT HOUSEHOLD. BUT THERE IS A RUMOUR THAT THE NEXT MORNING SIR GERALD WENT OUT AND BOUGHT A NEW PAIR OF RUBBER WASHING UP GLOVES AND A BOOK CALLED 'HOW TO FLATTEN YOUR STOMACH AND LOSE YOUR DOUBLE CHIN'.

The story continues...

That weekend, the governor brought the parole forms down to Frederick's cell.

'I owe you a great deal, Mr Carruthers,' he said. 'Your escape was a blessing in disguise. The events of the last twenty-four hours have taught me a lot. I've come to appreciate just how good my life is. Oh, and by the way, my wife has told me all about the kidney machines and the children in the ward. I think you were very brave. I rang up the Home Office last night and we've fixed up your parole. We're going to give you twelve months off for good behaviour! That means we'll be letting you out on Monday.'

Now, there's just one more thing that we have to sort out. The other prisoners don't know that you escaped. Angus and I hushed the whole thing up. So, if anyone asks you where you've been for the past twenty-four hours, just say that we thought you'd gone down with German measles. We took you up to the hospital wing and called in a doctor, but it turned out that you had a rash, or an allergy or something, which cleared up overnight. You can make up any story you like. But don't let on that you managed to break out. Otherwise Angus and I will be out of a job.'

Frederick began to laugh. 'Your secret is safe with me, Governor,' he said. 'And anyway, if anyone found out that I ran away, I couldn't get parole. So it's in my interests to hush everything up too!'



Dawn broke over Newtown Prison. It was Monday, and Frederick Carruthers was going home. Sir Gerald, Lady Prescott and Angus stood by the front gates to see him off. They shook hands and talked for a few minutes. Then the huge iron gates swung open and Frederick walked out onto the street.

It was a strange feeling to be truly free again – like having a canvas and a brush and not knowing what to paint. But Frederick was looking forward to doing the simple things again – walking the dogs after Sunday lunch, browsing in bookshops, fishing in the canal.

The family were there to meet him. They'd stood by him through all the ups and downs of the past two years. And, now, there was so much to say, so much to do. So much lost time to make up for.



A few days later, a table was reserved at the best Italian restaurant in Newtown. And that night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined out in style.

There was only one topic of conversation – but that's often the way at the best parties. Frederick told the story of the night of his escape – how he had swum across a river, crawled through a field of turnips and jumped on and off trains. Angus described how he'd broken out in a cold sweat when he'd woken up and found out that Frederick had managed to break out and run off. Sir Gerald explained how they'd made up a story that Frederick had gone down with a particularly contagious form of German measles in an attempt to hush up news of the breakout. And Lady Prescott recounted the story of driving into a lay-by and coming across a shabby down-and-out with such a kindly, honest face.

Practice

25	parole life	breakout coast	rash river	trains belt	Frederick behaviour
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- The _____ is clear. And Mr Macpherson is waiting for you.
- Angus took the keys off his _____.
- I've come to appreciate just how good my _____ is.
- We're going to give you twelve months off for good _____.
- But it turned out that you had a _____ or an allergy.
- If anyone found out that I ran away, I couldn't get _____.
- Frederick told the story of the night of his escape – how he had swum across a _____
- ...and jumped on and off _____.
- Angus had woken up and found out that _____ had managed to break out and run off.
- Sir Gerald had tried to hush up news of the _____.

26	across out	away out	off out	- of on	up on
----	---------------	-------------	------------	---------------	----------

- Angus took the keys _____ his belt and unlocked cell 269.
- Don't let _____
- ...that you managed to break _____.
- And anyway, if anyone found _____ that
- ...I ran _____, I couldn't get parole.
- So it's in my interests to hush everything _____ too!
- That night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined _____ in style.
- Frederick told the story _____ the night of his escape –
- ...how he had swum _____ a river
- ...and jumped _____ and off trains.

Notes

- to dress up = to make yourself look as smart as possible
You dress up for an interview, meeting, party, etc.
- Note these three common patterns:
 - go out and...
 - go out to...
 - go out for...

'Sir Gerald went out and bought a new pair of rubber washing-up gloves...'
(Chapter Fourteen)

 - ◆ She went out to get some fruit...
 - ◆ They went out for a meal...

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

- 3 'I owe you a great deal...'
Notice similar collocations such as...
- ♦ I owe you an apology.
 - ♦ I owe you £100.
 - ♦ I owe you an explanation.
- 4 *Hush!* = Be quiet!
to hush (something) up = to keep (something) quiet
= to keep (information) secret

- 5 In the following sentences, *off* = free.
- 'Frederick had run across the prison yard, climbed over a wall and run off into the night.' (Chapter Five)
- '...the governor would have let you off the last twelve months of your sentence...' (Chapter Thirteen)
- 'We're going to give you twelve months off for good behaviour!' (Chapter Fourteen)

Note also:

- ♦ We get an hour off for lunch.
 - ♦ a day off, a week off, a month off, etc.
- 6 'We...called in a doctor.' (Chapter Fourteen)
You can also call in a plumber, an engineer or an expert.
- 7 'We thought you'd gone down with German measles...' (Chapter Fourteen)
You can also go down with flu, mumps, measles and malaria.
- 8 Note the similarity between *to end up* and *to turn out* – phrasal verbs used when the result is surprising, shocking or unexpected.
- 'How could a good man end up like this?' (Chapter Twelve)
- 'But it turned out that you had a rash or something...' (Chapter Fourteen)

AT 10.30, JUST AFTER THE FOURTH COURSE, BUT SOME TIME BEFORE THE FIFTH, ANGUS LOOKED AT HIS WATCH AND SIGHED.

I'll have to go now. I'm on duty in half an hour.

HE STOOD UP AND SAID GOODBYE TO MRS CARUTHERS, THE CHILDREN, SIR GERALD AND LADY PRESCOTT. THEN HE TURNED AND THANKED FREDERICK FOR THE MEAL.

Thank YOU Angus. None of this would have been possible if you hadn't let me escape. You've changed my life. I owe you a lot.

ANGUS BLUSHED A DEEP SHADE OF RED AND LOOKED DOWN AT THE FLOOR. HE DID UP HIS COAT. FREDERICK SMILED AND PATTED HIM ON THE SHOULDER.

All's well that ends well.

ANGUS LEFT THE RESTAURANT AND WALKED BACK ALONG THE PEEFUL STREETS OF NEWTOWN.

WHEN HE CAME TO THE PRISON GATES HE KNOCKED ON THE FRONT DOOR AND THE NIGHT GUARD LET HIM IN.

PUT ON HIS UNIFORM, AND THEN WENT THROUGH THE CORRIDORS CHECKING THE CELLS AND TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS.

EVERYTHING WAS IN ORDER. THE PRISONERS HAD SETTLED DOWN FOR THE NIGHT AND THE JAIL WAS LOCKED AND STILL.

ANGUS YAWNED AND SAT DOWN ON A SMALL WOODEN BENCH. HE WAS TIRED. AND NOW - AS THE CLOCK STRUCK 11 - THE FRENCH FRIES, THE WELSH RABBIT MADE WITH BLUE CHEESE, THE SCOTCH EGG COVERED WITH FRENCH DRESSING, THE STEAK (WELL DONE) AND THE THREE PLATEFULS OF SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE HE'D ENJOYED AT DINNER WERE PULLING HIM TOWARDS THE DEEPEST OF DEEP SLEEPS.

I'll just have a little nap. I'm sure nobody will mind if I nod off for a while.

MEANWHILE, IN THE DARKNESS OF CELL 269, ANGELA RICHARDSON (AN ATHLETE WHO HAD RUN OFF WITH THE MEMBERSHIP FEES OF HER LOCAL SPORTS CLUB) WAS PLANNING HER ESCAPE.

BUT THAT - AS THEY SAY - IS ANOTHER STORY...

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE STONE CORRIDORS ECHOED TO ANGUS MACPHERSON'S UNMISTAKABLE SNORES.

CHAPTER TWO

Practice

Dawn broke over Newtown Prison. Angus stretched, yawned and half opened his eyes. 'I feel much better now,' he said to himself. 'I think that little nap did me good.'

He stood 15 and looked 16 his belt. But, for some reason, it wasn't on the floor where he'd dropped it. He yawned again and thought about going back to sleep. But then, to his surprise, he suddenly saw his belt hanging on a key which was in the lock of the open door of cell 269.

Angus blinked twice. 'Something's wrong here!' he said to himself. 'But what is it?'

Gradually, shockingly, horrifyingly, the awful truth dawned on him.

When Angus had at last worked 17 what had happened, he rushed down the corridor and ran 18 the steps to the prison governor's office. With his heart pounding, he banged on the door. 'Governor, Governor!' he shouted. 'Let me in! Let me in!'

Sir Gerald Prescott was sitting 19 his desk, reading *The Times*.

'Come 20,' he said. 'The door's open.'

Angus rushed 21, his red face covered with sweat.

'What's the matter, Macpherson?' the prison governor asked. 'You look a bit upset.'

'It's Frederick Carruthers,' Angus shouted. 'He's broken out of his cell and run away, and it was all my fault!'

'Now calm 22,' Sir Gerald said. 'And go 23 the whole story very slowly right from the start.'

Angus sat down and took a deep breath. 'Well, Sir,' he began. 'Last night I stretched 24 on a wooden bench near cell 269. I took 25 my belt and dropped it onto the floor. Then I nodded 26 for a few minutes.'

While I was asleep, Carruthers stretched out his hand, picked 27 the belt and took off one of the keys. He opened his cell and slipped out through the side door.'

'But that's terrible!' the prison governor screamed, tearing 28 his *Times* and bursting 29 tears.

Angus took a handkerchief out of his pocket and handed it to Sir Gerald.

'Now, now, Sir,' he said. 'There's no need to cry. It wasn't your fault that Carruthers escaped. I shouldn't have taken 30 my belt and nodded 31 like that. But don't worry, Governor! I'll make up 32 it. I'll give 33 my lunchbreak and go out and look 34 him and find 35 where he is.'

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

CHAPTER THREE

Practice

At that moment, Lady Prescott, the wife of the prison governor, arrived.

'For goodness sake stop crying, Gerald,' she said, taking 36 her coat. 'Pull yourself together man! What's wrong with you? Why don't you grow 37 ?'

'I can't help it,' the governor replied. 'Yet another of my prisoners has run away. That's the fifth one this week. Why don't they like it here? Is it the prison food? Or the colour of the walls? Or my after-shave? I wish I knew.' And with that he burst 38 tears again.

'That's it,' Lady Prescott said, putting 39 her coat. 'I've had enough of all this nonsense. I hate to see a grown man cry and I'm not going to put up 40 it any longer. I'm leaving you, Gerald! I'm going to break up our marriage and run 41 to a run-down area of Birmingham.'

'But you can't do that!' the prison governor cried. 'If you run away to a run-42 area of Birmingham, I'll have a nervous breakdown.'

'That's your problem, not mine,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I'm going to walk out of that door and you'll never see me again!'

'But I won't let you go!' Sir Gerald shouted. 'If you run away, I'll run 43 you.'

'If I run away to a run-44 area and you run 45 me,' Lady Prescott replied, 'I'll run over you in my car.'

'OUR car,' the governor corrected her. 'You should remember that we bought it together. But you must be careful, my dear. If you run away to a run-46 area of Birmingham and I run 47 you and you run 48 me in the car, you might then run into a tree, and the cost of repairing the damage could run 49 hundreds of pounds.'

'Money! Money! Money! That's all you care about!' Lady Prescott screamed.

'Here am I threatening to break 50 our marriage and run 51 to a run-52 area of Birmingham, and all you can think 53 is the cost of repairing the car - OUR car - if you run 54 me and I run 55 you and then run 56 a tree! That's so typical of you! Self! Self! Self! Me! Me! Me! I've had enough. I've run 57 of patience, Gerald. I'm off.'

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

CHAPTER SIX

Practice

The blue Rolls Royce glided to a halt a few metres from where Frederick was standing. The driver wound down her window and leaned 91.

'Excuse me,' she said. 'Do you know anything about cars? I'm having a few problems with the steering and I think I may have a puncture. Could you take a look for me?'

'Yes, of course,' Frederick said, and through his mind went the simple formula: 'Changing a wheel is work. Work brings money. Money brings food.'

The front left-hand wheel was hissing like a snake. Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the tyre. 'You were lucky,' he said. 'This is a slow puncture. It could have been a lot worse.'

Then he pulled a large piece of glass 92 of the wheel and held it up. 'That's what caused the problem,' he said. 'You must have picked it up along the way.'

Frederick walked to the back of the car and opened up the boot. Then he took 93 the spare wheel, a tool kit, a jack and a pump. He took 94 his jacket, hung it up on one of the wing mirrors, jacked up the car, took 95 the flat tyre, put 96 the spare wheel which he then pumped up a little, and finally, having done all that, he put the old wheel, the tool kit, the jack and the pump back in the boot.

'You've been so kind,' the lady said.

Frederick nodded, smiled and held 97 his hand.

'Now, can I give you a lift anywhere? I'm on my way to Birmingham. Would that be any good for you? Perhaps I can drop you off somewhere along the way.'

Frederick's face dropped. He'd been expecting money or food and he felt a bit let down. But then it suddenly dawned 98 him that the offer of a free ride in a Rolls Royce far away from Newtown might be quite a good idea.

'That's very kind of you,' he said, wiping his hands on a cloth and getting into the car. 'Birmingham would be just fine.'

The woman got in, put 99 her seat belt, took off the handbrake, put the car into first gear, looked in the rear-view mirror, and pulled gently 100 of the lay-by. And then – with a sudden burst of speed – they roared 101 the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

CHAPTER SEVEN

Practice

'The steering's fine now,' the lady said, as the blue Rolls Royce sped 102 down the M1. 'I'm very grateful to you, Mr...er...'

'Carruthers, Frederick Carruthers.'

'Now that name rings a bell,' the woman said. 'I'm sure I've come 103 it somewhere before. But I can't quite place it. And so, tell me, Mr Carruthers, what do you do?'

Frederick paused. He looked 104 of the window and waved his hand in a rather vague way. 'I... er... I'm in prisons,' he said.

'Well I never! Isn't that a coincidence!' the woman replied. 'So is my husband. Perhaps you've heard 105 him. His name is Sir Gerald Prescott.'

Frederick sank lower in his seat. 'Your husband?' he said, as a cold shiver ran 106 his spine. 'Your husband is Sir Gerald Prescott? The governor of Newtown Jail?'

'That's right!' the woman replied. 'Do you know him?'

'Er... not personally,' Frederick said. 'But I... er... know 107 him... He has quite a reputation in my field.'

'Does he? Does he indeed?' the driver said, with a soft and bitter laugh. 'Well, I'm sure it's a reputation for childish, incompetent stupidity! My husband has the intelligence of a pineapple and the imagination of a do-nut.'

Lady Prescott's voice grew louder as she warmed to her subject. 'Sir Gerald is the weakest, the stupidest, the meanest and the most selfish man to walk this earth.'

Frederick wanted to move on to another topic like the weather or the price of cauliflowers, but it was no good. Lady Prescott was getting carried away and there was just no stopping her now.

'Sir Gerald's nickname is Niagara because he keeps bursting 108 tears,' she screamed, like a dragon breathing fire. 'When I first met him he was a tiger, but he's turned 109 a kitten. He's a stubborn, ignorant jelly and he drives me 110 the wall.'

Frederick sat in a state of shock, trying to squeeze words through his frozen lips. But it was just no good. His mouth opened and closed like a demented goldfish. And although he did manage a few incoherent grunts, none of the sounds came out right. So – recognising defeat – he gave up trying to change the subject, sat 111 and just watched the volcano erupt.

Frederick's mind was not at peace. Here he was sitting 112 a Rolls Royce driven by the wife of the governor of the prison he'd just escaped 113. He was mumbling, his stomach was rumbling, his confidence was crumbling, and Lady Prescott was grumbling.

'Perhaps I should have stayed in my cell,' he thought, as the driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared 114.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

CHAPTER EIGHT

Practice

By the time they arrived at the outskirts of Birmingham, Lady Prescott had calmed 115 a little and Frederick was feeling a bit more relaxed.

And, as we pick 116 the story again (at 1.23 p.m.), our two characters have started to get 117 surprisingly well...



The blue Rolls Royce slowed 118 and they drew 119 in front of a row of shabby terraced houses.

'Do you see number 42, the one with the pale green door?' Lady Prescott said. 'I was born there. And this little run-120 street on the edge of the city is where I grew 121. Whenever I feel 122, I come 123 here. This will always be my home. It's dirty and messy and some of the shops are boarded 124. But as far as I'm concerned, this is the best place in the world.'

Lady Prescott put 125 the handbrake, took 126 her seat belt and stepped 127 of the car. 'And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk,' she said. 'Would you like me to show 128 ?'

'That would be very kind of you,' Frederick replied. 'But I don't want to put you to any trouble.'

'It would be no trouble at all,' Lady Prescott said. 'In fact, you'd be doing me a favour. I've got a lot of things on my mind at the moment and I need someone to talk to. So I'd be very grateful if you came and walked with me.'

Lady Prescott locked the car and they set 129 across the market square on a tour of the town.

'Has it changed much over the years?' Frederick asked, as they came 130 the narrow stone bridge that crossed the canal.

'No, not really,' Lady Prescott replied. 'They've done 131 some of the houses...like these ones here... but most of the properties are falling 132 or falling 133. Whenever there's an election, the politicians come 134 and knock 135 the door. They promise to pull 136 the terraced housing and build some new flats. But after the votes are counted, they never seem to get 137 to it. It's strange that, isn't it?'

And – anyway – I'd be a bit sad if they knocked everything 138 and put 139 one of those ugly tower blocks. Perhaps it's better to keep it the way it is. I don't want them tearing 140 my childhood. They should leave my home alone.'

'You say this is your home,' Frederick said. 'But then why did you go 141 ?'

'Oh, that's simple,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I fell in love. Strange though it may seem, I left Birmingham to be with Gerald Prescott – the gutless, brainless, spineless fool who is now governor of Newtown Prison. You look a bit surprised, Mr Carruthers. Then perhaps I should explain.'

There was a time when my husband was a bright, tender young man. It's only recently that he's turned 142 a workaholic who eats, drinks and sleeps prison life.

I met him when I was just eighteen. I was in my last term at school and Gerald was studying at the local technical college. He was absolutely broke and so he'd

taken a part-time job at a take-away restaurant called The Birmingham Big Burger Bar. The take-away was in Crawford Street. It was on my way home from school. One day, I went 143 to get some chips. Gerald was serving behind the counter. He smiled 144 me and I felt a cold shiver run 145 my spine.

After that, I went to the take-away every day. I wasn't hungry. I just wanted to see Gerald. Anyway, one afternoon he asked me 146 and we went for a walk in the park. We got 147 really well and I started seeing him all the time. He used to walk me 148 school in the morning and he'd come and pick me 149 when the classes were over. And then – all of a sudden – I fell 150 love with him. I don't know why. It just happened that way.

When my father found 151 what was going 152, he went crazy. He didn't want his only daughter going 153 with someone who cooked hamburgers in a take-away. He told me that I had to stop seeing Gerald straightaway.

I had to make a choice. Should I obey my father and split 154 with the person I loved? Or should I defy my parents and go 155 seeing him? It didn't take me long to make 156 my mind! I knew that I couldn't give Gerald 157. And so I had to work 158 some way of deceiving my parents.

The plan was simple. I pretended that I'd obeyed my father. I said that I'd broken 159 with Gerald. I cried for two or three days and went 160 ten packets of tissues. I stopped eating and slammed lots of doors. I put 161 a really good show. My parents were completely taken 162.

But whenever my father's back was turned, I would slip 163 of the house and go and meet Gerald secretly, in the park or at the take-away. When I came home, I made 164 some story or other to explain where I'd been. "I was at a friend's house playing records" or "I was visiting a museum in the centre of the town".

My father seemed happy that I'd suddenly made lots of new friends who had money in their pockets and didn't cook burgers. But he didn't know what I was really 165 to...

Lady Prescott suddenly broke 166 and – for the next minute or so – they walked 167 in silence. Frederick looked straight ahead. He said nothing. There was no need to talk. They crossed a main road and walked past a school. And then, as they turned 168 a narrow side street, Lady Prescott picked 169 the story again...



CHAPTER NINE

Practice

On my last day at school, Gerald asked me to marry him. As you can imagine, I felt tremendously flattered. But I turned him 170. I told him I was just too young to settle 171. I needed more time to think things 172. For the next few months we played a sort of game. He kept 173 proposing and I kept 174 saying “no”.

But then one night – it was May 10th – everything changed. I told my father I was going to a poetry reading in the local Town Hall. In fact, I slipped 175 of the side door and went to the cinema with Gerald. When the film was over, we caught the last bus home but – along the way – the bus broke 176 and all the passengers had to get 177 and walk.

It was four miles from the city centre 178 my house and by the time we got home, it was very late. Gerald saw me to the door, kissed me on the cheek and then said goodnight.

It was now two o'clock in the morning. I took 179 my key and let myself 180 as quietly as I could. My father was waiting for me in the hall. He normally went to bed at about eleven but – that night – he'd decided to stay 181 until I got 182.

He was furious. He'd seen Gerald bringing me to the door and – at that moment – he'd realised what had been going 183 behind his back. I'd never seen my father so angry. I thought he was going to hit me! So, I ran past him and went straight up to bed.

The next morning at breakfast, we had a huge row. He shouted at me. I shouted at him. And it ended up with me packing a suitcase and storming 184 of the house. I went straight round to Gerald's flat and we decided to run 185. Can you imagine it? Me and Gerald running 186!

Anyway, to cut a long story short, we eloped to Newtown and got married in the local church. It was a very quiet wedding. Just me, Gerald, the vicar and a couple of witnesses. All very romantic!

As soon as the service was over, I rang up my parents to tell them what we'd done. My father was stunned and hurt. He lost his temper and slammed down the phone. For the next few months, we went 187 a really bad patch. I didn't go back to the house and whenever I rang home there were long pregnant pauses. It was all very awkward.

But then one day, Gerald went 188 to see my father. They had a long talk and – somehow – they sorted the whole thing 189. I made it 190 with my parents, and since then, we've been very close.

And I suppose that now – looking back – I can appreciate what my mother and father were going 191. I was their only daughter and they didn't think my husband was good enough for me. After all, when Gerald was younger, he wasn't exactly rolling in money. He was so hard 192 that he'd use the same tea bag for a week. He owned three socks and they all had holes in them. His shirt sleeves were frayed and his trousers were held 193 with string.'

Lady Prescott sighed and smiled. A single tear ran down her cheek. 'Ah, those were happy days,' she said.

Lady Prescott broke off and – once again – they walked on in silence.

It was now mid-afternoon and the streets were empty. There was a stillness in

the cool summer air, as if the world had paused for thought. No birds sang. No cows mooed. No ducks quacked. No sheep baaed. No dogs woofed. No cats miaowed. In fact, on that bright, soft, tranquil day there was only one sound to be heard – the low, continuous rumbling of Frederick's empty stomach, for twenty-four hours starved of food.

They walked down a couple of alleyways and then, as they turned 194 the main road, they came upon a postman riding a bicycle. The bicycle was very old and it had no springs. And so as he rode across the cobblestones, he seemed to be nodding his head and shaking his head all at the same time.

Lady Prescott was talking again: 'Do you know where we are, Mr Carruthers? This is Crawford Street. And at the end of this row of shops, there's The Birmingham Big Burger Bar – where I met Gerald all those years ago. Look, I don't know about you, but I'm starving. Why don't we pop in there and have a late lunch? They serve the best beefburgers in town!'

Frederick seemed a little agitated. 'I could do with a meal too,' he said. 'But I'm afraid I don't have a penny 195 me. You see, I went out in rather a hurry last night.'

Lady Prescott smiled. 'But you must be my guest, Mr Carruthers. You've gone out of your way to help me and you've put 196 with all my complaints about Sir Gerald. Paying 197 lunch will be my way of paying you back for all your kindness. Come 198, I insist. I've had a long and difficult day. I'm tired 199 and very worked 200 about my husband. I need a good meal to calm me down and I don't want to eat alone.'



CHAPTER TEN

Practice

Lady Prescott was right about the food. It was definitely the best burger that Frederick had ever tasted. But that was hardly surprising. He was so hungry that he could have eaten the serviettes and the cheap blue plastic tray.

Lady Prescott looked 201 her watch. 'It's three o'clock,' she said. 'I've been rabbiting 202 about my problems for over an hour now. Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to burden you. It's just that after my bust-up with Sir Gerald, I suppose I needed someone to talk to.'

She paused. There was something on her mind. 'Mr Carruthers, I want to ask you a question,' she began, her voice now somewhat colder than before. 'When I drove into that lay-by, you were standing 203 with your hands in your pockets looking like a down-and-out. But you have an honest, kindly face and you're obviously an intelligent man. So how did you end 204 like that? There must be something wrong. And I think it's time for you to tell me the truth. Why were you wandering 205 near the motorway with no money in your pocket and those very strange clothes?'

Frederick said nothing. He looked down at the table and stirred his coffee with a spoon. He didn't know what to do. He wanted to explain things, but he wasn't sure whether he could trust Lady Prescott. After all, she was the wife of the governor of the prison he'd just escaped from. If she found 206 that he was a convict on the run, perhaps she'd turn him 207. And then he might end up in cell 269 again.

Frederick looked up. 'You're right of course,' he said, breaking the silence. 'It is strange that I should be drifting 208 with nowhere to go. And yes, I am in trouble. But if I told you what I've gone through in the past few months, you might get angry. And that would make things worse.'

Lady Prescott finished 209 her French fries and smiled. 'You've no reason to be afraid,' she said. 'If you're in trouble, then you need help. And if there's something on your mind, you shouldn't just bottle it 210 inside you. You should tell me about it and get it 211 your chest. Then you'd feel a lot better. And I give you my word that I won't get angry, whatever you say.'

Frederick sighed. 'Perhaps you're right,' he said. 'And, after all, what have I got to lose? Well, the truth is that up until two years ago, I was leading a very simple and predictable life. I had a steady job, a beautiful home and a loving family. Then, all of a sudden, something happened that changed everything. My whole world just fell apart.'

Frederick broke off. He seemed a little uneasy.

'Go on,' Lady Prescott said gently.

'Well, it's a very long story,' Frederick replied. 'And I don't really know where to begin.'

'Try the beginning,' said Lady Prescott, putting a straw into her milkshake. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm going to drink this very, very slowly.'

Frederick took a deep breath and picked up the story again. 'My mother is a nurse in a small hospital,' he said. 'She looks 212 sick children. She's a wonderful, extraordinary woman and she works incredibly hard.

One day, I drove down to the hospital to pick my mother up after work. We

were going out to dinner. I parked the car and, as I was walking 213 one of the wards, I could hear a child crying very softly. I looked 214 and saw a little boy. He must have been about eight or nine. He was so ill that he couldn't sit 215 in bed properly. He had to lie against pillows all day long. It was terrible. He was pale, lifeless, too weak to move.

The next day, I rang up the manager of the hospital and asked about the little boy. She told me that all the children in that ward had problems with their kidneys.

'And is there nothing you can do?' I asked.

'I'm afraid not,' she said. 'What we really need is half a dozen kidney machines. Then the children would be able to get 216 of bed and walk 217 the ward. But, unfortunately, the hospital is very short of money. We're so hard 218 that we can't afford to buy one machine, let alone six. So, I'm afraid the children will just have to suffer.'

When I put down the phone, I felt terribly disturbed. It was so sad, so shocking, so unfair. I decided that I had to find a way to help the children. I couldn't stand by and do nothing.

At first, I couldn't think what to do. But then – all of a sudden – I came 219 with an idea. I was a bank manager and a lot of money passed 220 my hands. During a normal working day, I would write out ten, maybe twelve, official cheques for different things – stationery, coffee, furniture, stamps, and so on. I'd worked at the bank for thirty years, so everybody knew me. And nobody ever checked 221 on what I was doing. I suppose I had an honest face and they just trusted me!

One afternoon – it was a Wednesday – I called my secretary into the office and told her to cancel my appointments. When she'd left the room, I took the phone off the hook and drew the curtains. Then I took the official cheque book out of the safe and wrote a cheque to myself!

Pay Mr F. Carruthers,

£100.00 only

Signed Frederick Carruthers.

It was breathtakingly, outrageously simple. A bank manager stealing money from his own bank!

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CHAPTER TWELVE

Practice

'There's one thing I don't understand,' Lady Prescott said. 'Why didn't you tell the court what you did with the money? Then they would have seen things in a different light. They would have reduced your sentence. They might even have let you off.'

'I thought of that,' Frederick replied. 'But then the judge would have ordered the hospital to sell the machines and pay the money back. And that was the last thing I wanted. I may have got 245 of going to prison, but what would have happened to the children? I couldn't take that risk.'

Lady Prescott shook her head. 'I can't decide if you were very brave or very stupid,' she said. 'But I have to admire what you did. And you nearly got away with it. You were really quite unlucky. Now I don't condone stealing. Theft is theft and you deserve to be punished. But after two years in jail, you've paid 246 your debt.'

A silence fell between them. Frederick was staring deep into his coffee. Telling the story of the kidney machines had brought back some painful memories. And he suddenly felt very down.

'How could a good man end up like this?' Lady Prescott thought. 'He's falling 247. I must help him. I can't just stand by and do nothing.'

And with that, she suddenly stood 248 and picked 249 her bag. 'Would you excuse me, Mr Carruthers?' she said. 'I have a couple of calls to make.'

Lady Prescott walked over to the pay-phone in the corner of the room. She took a yellow diary out of the bag and looked up a number. Then she picked 250 the receiver, put some coins into the slot and started dialling.

Frederick turned his face and looked 251 at Crawford Street. There were now lots of people about. It was half past three and the local school had just broken 252 for the day. A young girl came in and ordered some chips.

Lady Prescott finished her first call and put down the phone. Then she turned 253 and looked across at Frederick. He was miles away, staring out of the window. She picked 254 the phone again and dialled a second number.

A few minutes later, she was 255. 'Is that Newtown Prison?' she whispered. 'This is Lady Prescott. I want to speak to my husband.'



Lady Prescott came 256 to the table and sat down. 'I made a call to a friend of mine, Mr Carruthers. She'd like to meet you. I said we'd be in her office just after five. So why don't you drink 257 your coffee and eat 258 your cheeseburger and finish 259 the French fries and then we can set off.'

'But where are we going?' Frederick said. 'And who is your friend?'

'For the moment, that must remain a secret,' Lady Prescott replied. 'But she's an important woman and I think she can help you. Oh, and do cheer 260, Mr Carruthers. You mustn't worry so much. It'll all work 261 in the end.'

Frederick drank 262 his coffee, ate 263 his cheeseburger, finished 264 his French fries and then stood up.

They walked back to the car – along Crawford Street, down a couple of side alleys, over the stone bridge that crossed the canal. And a few minutes later,

blue Rolls Royce was on the road again.

Frederick was exhausted. The last twenty-four hours were beginning to catch up with him. And as the car sped 265 down the motorway, he closed his eyes and gently nodded 266, falling ever deeper into sleep.



A couple of hours later, Frederick felt someone tapping on his shoulder. 'Come along, Mr Carruthers,' Lady Prescott said. 'Wake up. We're nearly there.'

Frederick woke 267 with a start. And at first he thought he was still dreaming. Because there – right ahead of them – was a vast glass and metal building that he knew all too well. But this was no dream. And their car was heading straight for the main entrance.

'Where are you taking me?' Frederick shouted. 'This is the Head Office of my old bank. You've set me 268, haven't you? You're going to turn me in! I should never have trusted you. Stop the car right now! Let me 269!'

Frederick took 270 his seat belt and tried to get out of the car. But Lady Prescott turned round and dragged him back inside.

'For goodness sake, calm down, Mr Carruthers,' she said. 'I haven't set you 271 and I'm not going to turn you in. And don't get so worked 272.

You're as bad as my husband. Now, just listen to me. When we were in the take-away, I rang up your Head Office and fixed up an appointment with Karen Blackstone. She's a good friend of mine. We went to school together.'

'Karen Blackstone?' Frederick said. 'But she's the Managing Director of the bank.'

'Exactly, Mr Carruthers. And we're on our way to her office. She's going to give you a new job.'

'You must be joking,' said Frederick. 'The bank would never dream of taking me on again. I've got a criminal record for stealing their money.'

'Well, just you wait and see,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I think you're in for a surprise.'

The blue Rolls Royce pulled 273 in front of a huge skyscraper that seemed to pierce the clouds. They got out of the car and walked through into the main lobby. Then they made their way to the Managing Director's penthouse suite. As the lift rose smoothly to the eighty-ninth floor, Frederick broke out into a cold sweat.

A thousand thoughts were running 274 his mind. Could he really trust Lady Prescott? Was he walking into a trap? Would the police be there to arrest him again? And what would Karen Blackstone make 275 his clothes? He stared at himself in the mirror. He wasn't exactly dressed 276 for the occasion. In the past twenty-four hours, he'd crawled 277 mud, swum 278 lakes, climbed 279 trees, jumped onto trains, rolled down hills and put a spare wheel onto the blue Rolls Royce. And now, after all that, he looked like a scarecrow in a thunderstorm. The stains on his shirt and his crumpled prison trousers didn't quite fit in with the thick-pile carpet and the soft leather chairs.

When the lift doors opened, they were met by a tall, angular secretary who took one look at Frederick's bedraggled appearance and gave a shrill sniff of disapproval. The woman showed them into the Managing Director's office and sniffed again. Then she turned and closed the door behind her.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Practice

With the introductions over, Karen Blackstone sat down and picked 280 a pencil.

'Right, let's get down to business,' she said. 'I've been going 281 your file, Mr Carruthers. As far as I can see, you were a model employee – punctual, industrious, conscientious, loyal. Then came the incident with the kidney machines and you threw away thirty years of hard work. But there are two things in your favour. You know the bank inside out and you're obviously committed to charity work. And that makes you just the person we're looking for.'

'What do you mean?' asked Frederick. 'I don't understand.'

'Then let me explain,' Karen Blackstone said. 'Over the past few months, the bank has run into some problems. For some reason, we've been losing a lot of business. It's a worrying trend. And so – last week – we carried out a survey to find out what's wrong. We discovered, Mr Carruthers, that the bank is not universally loved. It seems that because we don't sponsor operas or football teams or dog shows, people think we're mean. The public sees us as selfish, ruthless and greedy. To put it bluntly, our image puts people 282

But this can't go 283. And so something has to change. I want the bank to come across in a more human, caring way. I want people to look on us as a friend, not as an enemy. I want people to come to us with their problems...'

'... and with their cash!' Frederick said.

Karen Blackstone carried 284 talking, ignoring that last remark. 'Now, when I heard the story of you and the kidney machines, it set me thinking. We make a solid return on our capital. And it wouldn't do us any harm to give 285 some of those profits to worthy causes in the community... hospitals, voluntary groups, youth clubs, and so on.

Just think of it, Mr Carruthers. Just think of all the good we could do!

'And just think of it, Mrs Blackstone,' Frederick said. 'Just think of all that tax-deductible, cheap publicity.'

The Managing Director smiled and then picked 286 her theme again.

'And this is where you come in, Mr Carruthers. I'd like you to come back to the bank and set the whole thing 287. I'm offering you a new job – Head of Charity Donations.'

'And if I was to take up this new challenge,' Frederick said, 'you'd expect me to keep quiet about the events of two years ago. You wouldn't want me to reveal how I showed 288 the flaws in your security system. In other words, you want to buy my silence.'

Karen Blackstone was drumming her pencil on the table. 'Let's be practical, Mr Carruthers. Not every convict can leave prison and walk straight back into a job. It's very simple. I need you and you need me. It's a case of you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. I think we understand each other perfectly!'

And so a deal was struck. Frederick got a new job. And Karen Blackstone got a promise that the Head of Charity Donations would never let 289 how to rip 290 the bank.

'You'll have your new contract in the morning,' Karen Blackstone said. 'But where shall I send the papers to?'

The question hung in the air like a vulture. It suddenly dawned on Frederick that he couldn't take 291 a new job until he'd served 292 his term in jail. And he just didn't know what to say.

Lady Prescott leaned forward. 'If I could just butt in here,' she said. 'I think I've sorted 293 that problem too. I made two phone calls from the take-away, Mr Carruthers. The first was to Karen, as you know. The second was to my husband. And you'll be leaving prison much sooner than you think.'



It was now 5.35 and the blue Rolls Royce was coming home.

'Could you tell me what's going 294?' Frederick said. 'I'm getting a bit confused.'

'Well, it's all quite simple,' Lady Prescott replied. 'I'm going back to my husband. We had a long talk on the phone and we sorted a few things 295.'

'But where does that leave me?' Frederick asked. 'Are you going to turn me in?'

'Not exactly,' Lady Prescott smiled. 'I'm going to smuggle you back into the prison and then the governor's going to let you 296.'

Frederick seemed a bit confused. 'I'm not with you,' he said.

Lady Prescott took a deep breath. 'Gerald tells me that you've served two thirds of your sentence. And since you've been a model prisoner, you're now due for parole. There was no need for you to run off like that. They were going to let you 297 anyway.'

Frederick was getting lost again.

'Let me put it another way,' Lady Prescott said. 'If you'd stayed in, instead of breaking 298, the governor would have let you off the last twelve months of your sentence and let you 299 one year early!'

Frederick's eyebrows collided with each other. The demented goldfish had returned.

Lady Prescott pulled in and stopped the car. 'We'll be there in a few minutes,' she said. 'I've taken a blanket out of the boot. I think it's time for you to hide.'

Frederick had given up trying to work 300 what was going 301. So, rather sulkily, he climbed over onto the back seat and covered himself up. A few moments later, the blue Rolls Royce moved 302 again and headed for Newtown.

By the time they arrived at the prison gates, night was falling. Lady Prescott slowed down and stopped the car. Then she wound down her window and leaned 303.



CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Practice

'Good evening, Mr Thomas,' she said. 'And how are you tonight?'

The guard smiled. 'I'm fine thanks, Ma'am. We're very glad to see you again.'

He saluted, pressed a button and waved the car through.

The huge iron gates swung open and Lady Prescott drove through into the main prison square. Then she turned down a dimly-lit alley, where she slowed down and parked the car.

She flashed her headlights and Angus – for some reason wearing a false moustache and a pair of dark glasses – came 304 from behind a large grey dustbin and waved.

Lady Prescott got out of the car and looked 305. There was no one else about. 'You can come out now, Mr Carruthers,' she whispered. 'The coast is clear. And Mr Macpherson is waiting for you.'

Frederick slipped 306 of the car and ran down the alley.

'Welcome back, Sir,' Angus said. 'I'm so glad to see you again. I thought I was going to lose my job when you disappeared. I shouldn't have nodded 307, you see. It was all my fault.'

Frederick smiled and they slipped 308 a side gate into the main wing of the prison. Angus took the keys off his belt and unlocked cell 269. Then he pushed open the door and stepped back.

'After you, Mr Carruthers,' he said. 'After you.'

Frederick walked into the cell and sat down. 'It feels so strange to be back here,' he said. 'Six hours ago, I was in The Birmingham Big Burger Bar eating a cheeseburger and French fries. Three hours later, I was in the Head Office of the bank. And now I'm here in the darkness of a prison cell. It's been quite a day, Angus. I'll be glad when this whole thing is over and I can get back to my old routine.'

Lady Prescott in the meantime had climbed the steps to the governor's office. Sir Gerald was waiting nervously by the door.

He'd obviously dressed 309 for the occasion, combing his hair, polishing his shoes and putting 310 the spotted pink tie that Lady Prescott had given him on their silver wedding anniversary.

History does not record what issues of domestic importance were discussed that evening in the Prescott household. But there is a rumour that the next morning Sir Gerald went out and bought a new pair of rubber washing-

311 gloves and a book called *How to Flatten Your Stomach and Lose Your Double Chin*.



That weekend the governor brought the parole forms down to Frederick's cell.

'I owe you a great deal, Mr Carruthers,' he said. 'Your escape was a blessing in disguise. The events of the last twenty-four hours have taught me a lot. I've come to appreciate just how good my life is. Oh, and by the way, my wife has told me all about the kidney machines and the children in the ward. I think you were very brave. I rang up the Home Office last night and we've fixed 312 your parole. We're going to give you twelve months off for good behaviour!

That means we'll be letting you 313 on Monday.

Now, there's just one more thing that we have to sort out. The other prisoners don't know that you escaped. Angus and I hushed the whole thing 314. So, if anyone asks you where you've been for the past twenty-four hours, just say that we thought you'd gone down with German measles. We took you up to the hospital wing and called in a doctor, but it turned 315 that you had a rash, or an allergy or something, which cleared 316 overnight. You can make 317 any story you like. But don't let on that you managed to break 318. Otherwise Angus and I will be out of a job.'

Frederick began to laugh. 'Your secret is safe with me, Governor,' he said. 'And anyway, if anyone found 319 that I ran 320, I couldn't get parole. So it's in my interests to hush everything 321 too!'



Dawn broke over Newtown Prison. It was Monday and Frederick Carruthers was going home. Sir Gerald, Lady Prescott and Angus stood by the front gates to see him off. They shook hands and talked for a few minutes. Then the huge iron gates swung open and Frederick walked out onto the street.

It was a strange feeling to be truly free again – like having a canvas and a brush and not knowing what to paint. But Frederick was looking forward to doing the simple things again – walking the dogs after Sunday lunch, browsing in bookshops, fishing in the canal.

The family were there to meet him. They'd stood by him through all the ups and downs of the past two years. And, now, there was so much to say, so much to do. So much lost time to make up 322.



A few days later, a table was reserved at the best Italian restaurant in Newtown. And that night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined out in style.

There was only one topic of conversation – but that's often the way at the best parties. Frederick told the story of the night of his escape – how he had swum 323 a river, crawled 324 a field of turnips and jumped on and 325 trains. Angus described how he'd broken out into a cold sweat when he'd woken 326 and found 327 that Frederick had managed to break 328 and run 329. Sir Gerald explained how they'd made 330 a story that Frederick had gone down with a particularly contagious form of German measles in an attempt to hush 331 news of the breakout. And Lady Prescott recounted the story of driving into a lay-by and coming 332 a shabby down-and-out with such a kindly, honest face.



CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Practice

At 10.30, just after the fourth course, but some time before the fifth, Angus looked 333 his watch and sighed.

'I'll have to go now,' he said. 'I'm on duty in half an hour.'

He stood 334 and said goodbye to Mrs Carruthers, the children, Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott. Then he turned and thanked Frederick for the meal.

'Thank you, Angus,' Frederick replied. 'None of this would have been possible if you hadn't let me escape. You've changed my life. I owe you a lot.'

Angus blushed a deep shade of red and looked down at the floor. 'All's well that ends well,' he said, doing 335 his coat. Frederick smiled and patted him on the shoulder.

Angus left the restaurant and walked back along the peaceful streets of Newtown. When he came to the prison gates, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in. Angus clocked on, put on his uniform, and then went through the corridors checking the cells and turning off the lights.

Everything was in order. The prisoners had settled down for the night and the jail was locked and still.

Angus yawned and sat down on a small wooden bench. He was tired. And now – as the clock struck eleven – the French fries, the Welsh rabbit made with blue cheese, the Scotch egg covered with French dressing, the steak (well done) and the three platefuls of spaghetti bolognese he'd enjoyed at dinner were pulling him towards the deepest of deep sleeps.

'I'll just have a little nap,' he thought to himself. 'I'm sure nobody will mind if I nod off for a while.'

He stretched out, took off his belt and dropped it onto the floor.

A few minutes later, the stone corridors echoed to Angus Macpherson's unmistakable snores.

Meanwhile, in the darkness of cell 269, Angela Richardson, (an athlete who had run off with the membership fees of her local sports club) was planning her escape.

But that – as they say – is another story...



ANSWERS

Vocabulary Exercises

Exercise 1

- 1 belt
- 2 floor
- 3 keys
- 4 door
- 5 yard
- 6 wall
- 7 breakfast
- 8 cell
- 9 breath
- 10 bars

Exercise 2

- 1 off
- 2 over
- 3 to
- 4 off
- 5 out
- 6 across
- 7 over
- 8 around
- 9 about
- 10 up

Exercise 3

- 1 belt
- 2 desk
- 3 cell
- 4 minutes
- 5 keys
- 6 door
- 7 Times
- 8 tears
- 9 handkerchief
- 10 lunchbreak

Exercise 4

- 1 for
- 2 at
- 3 with
- 4 out
- 5 away
- 6 off
- 7 up
- 8 out
- 9 to
- 10 off

Exercise 5

- 1 coat
- 2 prisoners
- 3 tears
- 4 nonsense
- 5 marriage
- 6 coat
- 7 breakdown
- 8 door
- 9 pounds
- 10 patience

Exercise 6

- 1 off
- 2 up
- 3 away
- 4 into
- 5 of
- 6 with
- 7 up
- 8 on
- 9 about
- 10 out

Exercise 7

- 1 tears
- 2 weight
- 3 jogging
- 4 smoking
- 5 dinner
- 6 chair
- 7 room
- 8 tie
- 9 women
- 10 handkerchief

Exercise 8

- 1 on
- 2 out
- 3 away
- 4 round
- 5 over
- 6 out
- 7 after
- 8 down
- 9 up
- 10 out

Exercise 9 (Revision)

- 1 Angus
- 2 Angus
- 3 Sir Gerald
- 4 Angus
- 5 Angus (Chapter Two),
Sir Gerald (Chapter Four)
- 6 Frederick
- 7 Sir Gerald
- 8 Sir Gerald
- 9 Lady Prescott
- 10 Lady Prescott
- 11 Sir Gerald
- 12 Lady Prescott
- 13 Lady Prescott
- 14 Sir Gerald
- 15 Frederick
- 16 Frederick
- 17 Frederick
- 18 Frederick
- 19 Frederick
- 20 Lady Prescott

Exercise 10

- 1 window
- 2 tyre
- 3 glass
- 4 jacket
- 5 hand
- 6 cloth
- 7 seat belt
- 8 handbrake
- 9 mirror
- 10 lay-by

Exercise 11

- 1 over
- 2 out
- 3 up
- 4 out
- 5 off
- 6 on
- 7 in
- 8 on
- 9 off
- 10 onto

Exercise 12

- 1 name
- 2 spine
- 3 reputation
- 4 kitten
- 5 wall
- 6 sounds

- 7 subject
- 8 volcano
- 9 Rolls Royce
- 10 prison

Exercise 13

- 1 to
- 2 across
- 3 of
- 4 for
- 5 in
- 6 through
- 7 out
- 8 up
- 9 back
- 10 on

Exercise 14

- 1 street
- 2 handbrake
- 3 seat belt
- 4 houses
- 5 childhood
- 6 workaholic
- 7 spine
- 8 love
- 9 mind
- 10 Gerald

Exercise 15

- 1 at
- 2 on
- 3 up
- 4 around
- 5 up
- 6 round
- 7 out
- 8 out
- 9 on
- 10 out

Exercise 16

- 1 proposing
- 2 key
- 3 back
- 4 phone
- 5 money
- 6 cheek
- 7 penny
- 8 way
- 9 complaints
- 10 husband

Exercise 17

- 1 at
- 2 through
- 3 on
- 4 to
- 5 out
- 6 on
- 7 at
- 8 to
- 9 out
- 10 with

Exercise 18 (Revision)

- 1 Frederick
- 2 Frederick
- 3 Lady Prescott
- 4 Lady Prescott
- 5 Frederick
- 6 Lady Prescott
- 7 Lady Prescott
- 8 Lady Prescott
- 9 Lady Prescott
- 10 Lady Prescott
- 11 Sir Gerald
- 12 Sir Gerald
- 13 Lady Prescott
- 14 Lady Prescott
- 15 Lady Prescott's father
- 16 Lady Prescott
- 17 Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott
- 18 Lady Prescott's father
- 19 Lady Prescott
- 20 Frederick

Exercise 19

- 1 cheque
- 2 payments
- 3 story
- 4 account
- 5 police
- 6 office
- 7 jail
- 8 bank
- 9 hand
- 10 trial

Exercise 20

- 1 to
- 2 in
- 3 through
- 4 for
- 5 of
- 6 in

- 7 for
- 8 of
- 9 with
- 10 up

Exercise 21

- 1 prison
- 2 diary
- 3 number
- 4 people
- 5 hours
- 6 start
- 7 surprise
- 8 mind
- 9 clothes
- 10 office

Exercise 22

- 1 off
- 2 of
- 3 with
- 4 apart
- 5 up
- 6 out
- 7 up
- 8 to
- 9 for
- 10 of

Exercise 23

- 1 pencil
- 2 file
- 3 survey
- 4 image
- 5 friend
- 6 profits
- 7 Frederick
- 8 job
- 9 jail
- 10 problem

Exercise 24

- 1 through
- 2 out
- 3 out
- 4 as
- 5 off
- 6 to
- 7 out
- 8 up
- 9 out
- 10 on

Exercise 25

- 1 coast
- 2 belt
- 3 life
- 4 behaviour
- 5 rash
- 6 parole
- 7 river
- 8 trains
- 9 Frederick
- 10 breakout

Exercise 26

- 1 off
- 2 on
- 3 out
- 4 out
- 5 away
- 6 up
- 7 out
- 8 of
- 9 across
- 10 on

Exercise 27 (Revision)

- 1 Frederick
- 2 Lady Prescott
- 3 Frederick
- 4 Frederick
- 5 Frederick
- 6 Karen Blackstone
- 7 Frederick
- 8 Frederick
- 9 Lady Prescott
- 10 Frederick
- 11 Angus
- 12 Angus
- 13 Frederick (Chapter Fourteen),
Angus (Chapter Fifteen)
- 14 Sir Gerald
- 15 Angus
- 16 Angus
- 17 Angus
- 18 Angus
- 19 Angus
- 20 Angus

Cloze Test

Chapter One

- 1 off
- 2 out
- 3 over
- 4 off
- 5 onto
- 6 off
- 7 out
- 8 across
- 9 over
- 10 on
- 11 around
- 12 about
- 13 out
- 14 up

Chapter Two

- 15 up
- 16 for
- 17 out
- 18 up
- 19 at
- 20 in
- 21 in
- 22 down
- 23 through
- 24 out
- 25 off
- 26 off
- 27 up
- 28 up
- 29 into
- 30 off
- 31 off
- 32 for
- 33 up
- 34 for
- 35 out

Chapter Three

- 36 off
- 37 up
- 38 into
- 39 on
- 40 with
- 41 away
- 42 down
- 43 after
- 44 down
- 45 after
- 46 down
- 47 after

- 48 over
- 49 into
- 50 up
- 51 away
- 52 down
- 53 about
- 54 after
- 55 over
- 56 into
- 57 out

Chapter Four

- 58 into
- 59 on
- 60 up
- 61 off
- 62 up
- 63 up
- 64 round
- 65 at
- 66 over
- 67 out
- 68 up
- 69 up
- 70 away
- 71 down
- 72 down
- 73 into
- 74 up
- 75 out
- 76 into

Chapter Five

- 77 out
- 78 out
- 79 across
- 80 through
- 81 through
- 82 across
- 83 off
- 84 off
- 85 through
- 86 through
- 87 through
- 88 out
- 89 on
- 90 through

Chapter Six

- 91 across
- 92 out
- 93 out
- 94 off
- 95 off

- 96 on
- 97 out
- 98 on
- 99 on
- 100 out
- 101 onto

Chapter Seven

- 102 on
- 103 across
- 104 out
- 105 of
- 106 down
- 107 of
- 108 into
- 109 into
- 110 up
- 111 back
- 112 in
- 113 from
- 114 on

Chapter Eight

- 115 down
- 116 up
- 117 on
- 118 down
- 119 up
- 120 down
- 121 up
- 122 down
- 123 back
- 124 up
- 125 on
- 126 off
- 127 out
- 128 around
- 129 off
- 130 over
- 131 up
- 132 down
- 133 apart
- 134 round
- 135 on
- 136 down
- 137 round
- 138 down
- 139 up
- 140 down
- 141 away
- 142 into
- 143 in
- 144 at
- 145 down

146 out
147 on
148 to
149 up
150 in
151 out
152 on
153 out
154 up
155 on
156 up
157 up
158 out
159 up
160 through
161 on
162 in
163 out
164 up
165 up
166 off
167 on
168 down
169 up

Chapter Nine

170 down
171 down
172 through
173 on
174 on
175 out
176 down
177 off
178 to
179 out
180 in
181 up
182 in
183 on
184 out
185 away
186 away
187 through
188 round
189 out
190 up
191 through
192 up
193 up
194 into
195 on
196 up
197 for
198 on

199 out
200 up

Chapter Ten

201 at
202 on
203 around
204 up
205 around
206 out
207 in
208 around
209 off
210 up
211 off
212 after
213 through
214 across
215 up
216 out
217 around
218 up
219 up
220 through
221 up

Chapter Eleven

222 at
223 up
224 about
225 up
226 on
227 out
228 up
229 up
230 on
231 through
232 up
233 out
234 up
235 off
236 apart
237 over
238 off
239 through
240 at
241 up
242 through
243 up
244 up

Chapter Twelve

245 out
246 off

247 apart
248 up
249 up
250 up
251 out
252 up
253 round
254 up
255 through
256 back
257 up
258 up
259 off
260 up
261 out
262 up
263 up
264 off
265 on
266 off
267 up
268 up
269 out
270 off
271 up
272 up
273 up
274 through
275 of
276 up
277 through
278 across
279 up

Chapter Thirteen

280 up
281 through
282 off
283 on
284 on
285 away
286 up
287 up
288 up
289 on
290 off
291 up
292 out
293 out
294 on
295 out
296 out
297 out
298 out
299 out

300 out
301 on
302 off
303 across

Chapter Fourteen

304 out
305 around
306 out
307 off
308 through
309 up
310 on
311 up
312 up
313 out
314 up
315 out
316 up
317 up
318 out
319 out
320 away
321 up
322 for
323 across
324 through
325 off
326 up
327 out
328 out
329 away
330 up
331 up
332 across

Chapter Fifteen

333 at
334 up
335 up

PHRASAL VERB LIST

<i>ask about</i>	The next morning, I rang up the hospital to ask about the little boy.	10	<i>call into</i>	One afternoon, I called my secretary into the office.	10
<i>ask out</i>	One afternoon, he asked me out and we went for a walk in the park.	8	<i>calm down</i>	'Now calm down,' Sir Gerald said. 'And go through the whole story very slowly right from the start.'	2
<i>bang on</i>	With his heart pounding, he banged on the door.	2	<i>care about</i>	Money! Money! Money! That's all you care about.	3
<i>be about</i>	There were now lots of people about.	12	<i>carry away</i>	Lady Prescott was getting carried away and there was just no stopping her now.	7
<i>be back</i>	I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.	1	<i>carry out</i>	We carried out a survey.	13
<i>be in for</i>	I think you are in for a surprise.	12	<i>catch up with</i>	The last twenty-four hours were beginning to catch up with him.	12
<i>be off</i>	I've run out of patience. I'm off.	3	<i>check up on</i>	Nobody checked up on what I was doing.	10
<i>be over</i>	When the film was over, we caught the last bus home.	9	<i>cheer up</i>	Oh, and do cheer up, Mr Carruthers. You mustn't worry so much.	12
<i>be up to</i>	My father seemed happy, but he didn't know what I was really up to.	8	<i>clear out</i>	I'll clear out the cupboards and take you out at the weekends.	4
<i>be with</i>	Frederick seemed a bit confused. 'I'm not with you,' he said.	13	<i>clear up</i>	It turned out that you had a rash, or an allergy or something, which cleared up overnight.	14
<i>bend down</i>	Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the tyre.	6	<i>climb up</i>	Frederick...climbed up a hill.	5
<i>blow up</i>	She blows up all the time.	4	<i>climb over</i>	He had climbed over a couple of gates.	5
<i>board up</i>	It's dirty and messy and some of the shops are boarded up.	8	<i>clock on</i>	Angus clocked on, put on his uniform and then went through the corridors, checking the cells and turning off the lights.	15
<i>bottle up</i>	You shouldn't just bottle it up inside you.	10	<i>come across</i>	I'm sure I've come across it somewhere before.	7
<i>breakdown</i>	If you run away to a run-down area of Birmingham, I'll have a nervous breakdown.	3	<i>come along</i>	'Come along, Mr Carruthers!' Lady Prescott said. 'Wake up. We're nearly there.'	12
<i>break down</i>	The bus broke down and all the passengers had to get off and walk.	9	<i>come back</i>	Whenever I feel down, I come back here.	8
<i>break off</i>	Lady Prescott broke off and – once again – they walked on in silence.	9	<i>come in</i>	'Come in,' he shouted. 'The door's open.'	2
<i>break out into</i>	Frederick broke out into a cold sweat.	12	<i>come in</i>	And this is where you come in, Mr Carruthers.	13
<i>break out of</i>	He's broken out of his cell and run away.	2	<i>come out</i>	'You can come out now, Mr Carruthers,' she whispered. 'The coast is clear.'	14
<i>break up</i>	It was half past three and the local school had just broken up for the day.	12	<i>come out</i>	He did manage a few incoherent grunts, but none of the sounds came out right.	7
<i>break up</i>	I'm going to break up our marriage and run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.	3	<i>come out from</i>	Angus came out from behind a large, grey dustbin and waved.	14
<i>break up with</i>	I said that I'd broken up with Gerald.	8	<i>come round</i>	Whenever there's an election, the politicians come round and knock on the door.	8
<i>bring back</i>	Telling the story of the kidney machines had brought back some painful memories.	12	<i>come to</i>	When he came to the prison gates, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.	15
<i>build up</i>	She noticed that I'd been building up large amounts of cash.	11	<i>come to</i>	I trust you've come to your senses.	11
<i>burst into</i>	Sir Gerald took a handkerchief out of his pocket, blew his nose and, not for the first time, burst into tears.	4	<i>come up with</i>	Then – all of a sudden – I came up with an idea.	10
<i>bust-up</i>	After my bust-up with Sir Gerald, I just needed someone to talk to.	10	<i>come upon</i>	They came upon a postman riding a bicycle.	9
<i>butt in</i>	Lady Prescott leaned forward. 'If I could just butt in here,' she said.	13	<i>crash onto</i>	They crashed noisily onto the floor and rolled under my bed.	11
<i>call in</i>	We took you up to the hospital wing and called in a doctor.	14	<i>crawl through</i>	Frederick...crawled through a field full of turnips.	5
			<i>cry out</i>	His stomach was crying out for food and his throat felt like sandpaper.	5

<i>dawn on</i>	Gradually, shockingly, horrifyingly, the awful truth dawned on him.	2	<i>finish off</i>	Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.	12
<i>dine out</i>	And that night, the Carruthers family, Angus Macpherson and Sir Gerald and Lady Prescott dined out in style.	14	<i>fit in with</i>	The stains on his shirt and his crumpled prison trousers didn't quite fit in with the thick-pile carpet and the soft leather chairs.	12
<i>dive into</i>	Frederick had dived into a stream and swum across to the opposite bank.	5	<i>fix up</i>	When we were in the take-away, I rang up your Head Office and fixed up an appointment with Karen Blackstone.	12
<i>do up</i>	'All's well that ends well,' he said, doing up his coat.	15	<i>fold up</i>	I took a deep breath, folded up the cheque and put it into my pocket.	11
<i>do up</i>	They've done up some of the houses, but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.	8	<i>get away with</i>	Could I get away with it?	11
<i>down-and-out</i>	You were standing around with your hands in your pockets looking like a down-and-out.	10	<i>get back to</i>	I'll be glad when this whole thing is over and I can get back to my old routine.	14
<i>drag back</i>	Lady Prescott turned round and dragged him back inside.	12	<i>get carried away</i>	And I suppose I got a bit carried away.	11
<i>draw up</i>	The blue Rolls Royce slowed down and they drew up in front of a row of shabby, terraced houses.	8	<i>get down to</i>	'Right, let's get down to business,' she said.	13
<i>dress up</i>	Sir Gerald...had obviously dressed up for the occasion, combing his hair, polishing his shoes and putting on the spotted pink tie that Lady Prescott had given him on their silver wedding anniversary.	14	<i>get in</i>	The woman got in, put on her seat belt and looked in the rear-view mirror.	6
<i>drift around</i>	It is strange that I was drifting around with nowhere to go.	10	<i>get in</i>	That night, he'd decided to stay up until I got in.	9
<i>drink up</i>	Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.	12	<i>get into</i>	'That's very kind of you,' he said, wiping his hands on a cloth and getting into the car.	6
<i>drive down to</i>	One day I drove down to the hospital to pick my mother up after work.	10	<i>get into</i>	I don't know what's got into her lately.	4
<i>drive into</i>	When I drove into that lay-by, you were standing around with your hands in your pockets.	10	<i>get into</i>	How did I get into this mess?	5
<i>drop off</i>	I'm going to Birmingham. Perhaps I can drop you off somewhere along the way.	6	<i>get off</i>	...the other passengers were getting off the train.	5
<i>drop onto</i>	He rolled over, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.	1	<i>get off</i>	If I could get the keys off Macpherson's belt...	1
<i>eat up</i>	Frederick drank up his coffee, ate up his cheeseburger, finished off his French fries and then stood up.	12	<i>get off to sleep</i>	But, for some reason, he couldn't get off to sleep.	1
<i>echo to</i>	A few minutes later, the stone corridors echoed to Angus Macpherson's unmistakable snore.	1	<i>get on</i>	We got on really well and I started seeing him all the time.	8
<i>end up</i>	He ended up standing outside a cafe in a lay-by near junction 34 of the M1 motorway.	5	<i>get out of</i>	How do I get out of this mess?	5
<i>explain away</i>	I made up some new story to explain the cheques away.	11	<i>get out of</i>	I might have got out of going to prison, but what would have happened to the children?	12
<i>fall apart</i>	They've done up some of the houses, but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.	8	<i>get out of</i>	Lady Prescott got out of the car and looked around.	14
<i>fall down</i>	They've done up some of the houses, but most of the properties are falling down or falling apart.	8	<i>get round to</i>	But when the votes are counted, they never seem to get round to it.	8
<i>fall out</i>	The man from the bank gaped at me and his false teeth fell out.	11	<i>give away</i>	...it wouldn't do us any harm to give away some of those profits to worthy causes in the community.	13
<i>fall for</i>	She fell for it every time.	11	<i>give in</i>	He thought I was going to give in without a fight.	11
<i>feel down</i>	Whenever I feel down, I come back here.	8	<i>give up</i>	I'll give up smoking and wash up after dinner.	4
<i>find out</i>	When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy.	8	<i>give up</i>	I knew that I couldn't give Gerald up.	8
			<i>go after</i>	'Shall I go after her?' Angus asked, from somewhere behind the armchair.	4
			<i>go ahead</i>	And so the trial went ahead.	11
			<i>go away</i>	If you went away, I'd go to pieces.	4
			<i>go back on</i>	I'm not going back on my word.	11
			<i>go down with</i>	We thought you'd gone down with German measles.	14
			<i>go for</i>	He asked me out and we went for a walk in the park.	8
			<i>go in</i>	One day, I went in to get some chips.	8
			<i>go into</i>	One morning, I didn't go into work.	11

<i>go on</i>	Or should I defy my parents and go on seeing him?	8	<i>hush up</i>	Angus and I hushed the whole thing up.	14
<i>go on</i>	She went on like a dragon breathing fire.	7	<i>jack up</i>	Frederick took off his jacket, jacked up the car, took off the flat tyre and put on the spare wheel.	6
<i>go on</i>	When my father found out what was going on, he went crazy.	8	<i>jump off</i>	Frederick jumped off as the train pulled into a station.	5
<i>go on</i>	'Go on,' Lady Prescott said gently.	10	<i>jump onto</i>	Frederick jumped onto a train that was slowing down in front of a set of signals.	5
<i>go on</i>	And so it went on.	11	<i>jump over</i>	I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.	1
<i>go out</i>	I went out in rather a hurry last night.	9	<i>keep on</i>	Gerald kept on proposing and I kept on saying 'no'.	9
<i>go out of</i>	You've gone out of your way to help me.	9	<i>kneel down</i>	'You can't do this to me,' the prison governor shouted, kneeling down and bursting into tears.	4
<i>go out to</i>	Then one night, we went out to the cinema.	9	<i>knock down</i>	I'd be a bit sad if they knocked everything down and put up one of those ugly tower blocks.	8
<i>go out with</i>	He didn't want his only daughter going out with someone who cooked hamburgers in a take-away.	8	<i>knock on</i>	When he came to the prison, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.	15
<i>go over</i>	I went over it again and again.	11	<i>knock over</i>	Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.	4
<i>go round to</i>	I went straight round to Gerald's flat and we decided to run away.	9	<i>know about</i>	Do you know anything about cars?	6
<i>go through</i>	'Now calm down,' Sir Gerald said. 'And go through the whole story very slowly right from the start.'	2	<i>know of</i>	I know of him... He has quite a reputation in my field.	7
<i>go through</i>	For the next few months, we went through a really bad patch.	9	<i>lay-by</i>	He ended up standing outside a café in a lay-by near junction 34 of the M1 motorway.	5
<i>go through</i>	They went through my account.	11	<i>lean across</i>	The driver wound down her window and leaned across.	6
<i>go through</i>	Angus clocked on, put on his uniform and then went through the corridors, checking the cells and turning off the lights.	15	<i>let down</i>	I can't let the children down.	11
<i>go through</i>	I cried for two or three days and went through ten packets of tissues.	8	<i>let in</i>	When he came to the prison, he knocked on the front door and the night guard let him in.	15
<i>go through with</i>	I've decided to go through with the trial.	11	<i>let on</i>	...but just don't let on that you managed to break out.	14
<i>go to</i>	I went to the hospital to pick my mother up after work.	10	<i>let off</i>	They might even have let you off.	12
<i>grow up</i>	And this little run-down street on the edge of the city is where I grew up.	8	<i>let out</i>	Stop the car right now. Let me out!	12
<i>hand back</i>	I bent down, picked them up and handed them back to him.	11	<i>let through</i>	I'm a train engineer. Let me through.	5
<i>hand to</i>	Angus took a handkerchief out of his pocket and handed it to Sir Gerald.	2	<i>lie against</i>	He had to lie against pillows all day long.	10
<i>hang up</i>	Frederick took off his jacket and hung it up on one of the wing mirrors.	6	<i>look across</i>	I looked across and saw a little boy.	10
<i>hard up</i>	He was so hard up that he'd use the same tea bag for a week.	9	<i>look after</i>	She looks after sick children.	10
<i>have on</i>	I'm afraid I don't have any money on me.	9	<i>look around</i>	Lady Prescott got out of the car and looked around.	14
<i>head for</i>	But this was no dream. And their car was heading straight for the main entrance.	12	<i>look at</i>	I looked at the cheque. My head was spinning.	11
<i>hear of</i>	Perhaps you've heard of him. His name is Sir Gerald Prescott.	7	<i>look back</i>	I suppose that now – looking back – I can appreciate what my parents were going through.	9
<i>hold out</i>	Frederick nodded, smiled and held out his hand.	6	<i>look down</i>	Angus blushed a deep shade of red and looked down at the floor.	15
<i>hold up</i>	His trousers were held up with string.	9	<i>look for</i>	Angus stood up and looked for his belt.	2
<i>hold up</i>	Then he pulled a large piece of glass out of the tyre and held it up.	6	<i>look in</i>	The woman got in, put on her seat belt and looked in the rear-view mirror.	6
<i>hunt down</i>	And we will hunt you down until we get every penny of our money back.	11	<i>look on as</i>	I want people to look on us as a friend, not an enemy.	13
			<i>look out of</i>	Frederick looked out of the window and waved his hand in a rather vague way.	7
			<i>look through</i>	Frederick looked through the windows of the café.	5

<i>look up</i>	Frederick looked up. 'You're right, of course,' he said, breaking the silence.	10
<i>look up</i>	She took a yellow diary out of the bag and looked up a number.	12
<i>make out</i>	I can't understand women, Angus. I just can't make them out.	4
<i>make up</i>	She's made up her mind to run away to a run-down area of Birmingham and there's nothing we can do.	4
<i>make up your mind</i>	I made up some story or other to explain where I'd been.	8
<i>make up</i>	I made it up with my parents.	9
<i>make up for</i>	Give me one last chance. I'll make up for it.	4
<i>move off</i>	The blue Rolls Royce moved off and headed for Newtown.	13
<i>move on to</i>	Frederick wanted to move on to another topic like the weather or the price of cauliflowers.	7
<i>nod off</i>	I'm sure nobody will mind if I nod off for a while.	1
<i>open up</i>	He walked to the back of the car and opened up the boot.	6
<i>pass through</i>	I was a bank manager and a lot of money passed through my hands.	10
<i>pay back</i>	Paying for lunch will be my way of paying you back for all your kindness.	9
<i>pay for</i>	Paying for lunch will be my way of paying you back for all your kindness.	9
<i>pay off</i>	After two years in jail, you've paid off your debt.	12
<i>pick up</i>	He stretched out his hand, picked up the belt and lifted it back through the bars.	1
<i>pick up</i>	I went to the hospital to pick my mother up after work.	10
<i>pick up</i>	Frederick took a deep breath and picked up the story again.	10
<i>pick up</i>	You must have picked it up along the way.	6
<i>plug in</i>	I unwrapped the machines, plugged them in and switched them on.	11
<i>pop in</i>	Why don't we pop in here and have a late lunch?	9
<i>pull down</i>	They promise to pull down the terraced housing and build some new flats.	8
<i>pull in</i>	Lady Prescott pulled in and stopped the car.	13
<i>pull into</i>	Frederick jumped off as the train pulled into a station.	5
<i>pull into</i>	...a blue Rolls Royce pulled into the lay-by and glided to a halt.	5
<i>pull out</i>	Then he pulled a large piece of glass out of the tyre and held it up.	6
<i>pull out</i>	She pulled gently out of the lay-by.	6
<i>pull up</i>	The blue Rolls Royce slowed down and they pulled up in front of a shabby terraced house.	8
<i>pump up</i>	Frederick put on the spare wheel and pumped it up a little.	6
<i>put away</i>	Put the letter away. I've got no intention of signing it.	11

<i>put back</i>	'No,' Sir Gerald replied softly, picking up the ashtray and putting it back on the table.	4
<i>put down</i>	When I put down the phone, I felt terribly disturbed.	10
<i>put down</i>	...the driver put her foot down and the blue Rolls Royce roared on,	7
<i>put into</i>	The woman took off the handbrake, looked in the rear-view mirror and put the car into first gear.	6
<i>put into</i>	'Try the beginning,' said Lady Prescott, putting a straw into her milkshake.	10
<i>put off</i>	To put it bluntly, our image puts people off.	13
<i>put on</i>	'That's it,' Lady Prescott said, putting on her coat. 'I've had enough of all this nonsense.'	3
<i>put on</i>	...put on her seat belt...	6
<i>put on</i>	...put on the spare wheel...	6
<i>put on</i>	Lady Prescott put on the handbrake, took off her seat belt and stepped out of the car.	8
<i>put on</i>	I've been working too hard and putting on weight.	4
<i>put on</i>	I put on a really good show.	8
<i>put up</i>	I'd be a bit sad if they...put up one of those ugly tower blocks.	8
<i>put up with</i>	I hate to see a grown man cry and I'm not going to put up with it any longer.	3
<i>rabbit on</i>	I've been rabbiting on about my problems for over an hour now.	10
<i>ride across</i>	And as he rode across the cobblestones, he seemed to be nodding his head and shaking his head at the same time.	9
<i>ring up</i>	The next morning, I rang up the hospital to ask about the little boy.	10
<i>rip off</i>	You can't rip the bank off and expect to get away with it.	11
<i>roar onto</i>	She pulled gently out of the lay-by and then – with a sudden burst of speed – roared onto the M1 motorway like a bullet from a gun.	6
<i>roll down</i>	Frederick...rolled down a hill.	5
<i>roll over</i>	He rolled over, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.	1
<i>run across</i>	I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.	1
<i>run after</i>	If you run away, I'll run after you.	3
<i>run away</i>	I'm going to break up our marriage and run away to a run-down area of Birmingham.	3
<i>run-down</i>	She's made up her mind to run off to a run-down area of Birmingham and there's nothing we can do.	4
<i>run down</i>	He smiled at me and I felt a cold shiver run down my spine.	8
<i>run down</i>	Frederick had...run down the corridor to avoid the ticket collector.	5

<i>run into</i>	The bank has run into some problems.	13	<i>slip through</i>	Frederick slipped through the ticket barrier by showing his prison identification badge.	5
<i>run into</i>	If you run away to a run-down area and I run after you and you run over me in our car, you might then run into a tree and the cost of repairing the damage might run into hundreds of pounds.	3	<i>slow down</i>	Frederick jumped onto a train that was slowing down in front of a set of signals.	5
<i>run off</i>	She's made up her mind to run off to a run-down area of Birmingham and there's nothing we can do.	4	<i>sort out</i>	There's just one more thing that we have to sort out.	14
<i>run out of</i>	I've run out of patience. I'm off.	3	<i>split up</i>	Should I obey my father and split up with the person I loved?	8
<i>run over</i>	Frederick bent down and ran his hand over the tyre.	6	<i>speed on</i>	The blue Rolls Royce sped on towards Birmingham.	7
<i>run over</i>	If you run away to a run-down area and I run after you and you run over me in our car, you might then run into a tree...	3	<i>stand around</i>	When I drove into that lay-by, you were standing around with your hands in your pockets.	10
<i>run through</i>	These were the thoughts running through Frederick Carruthers' troubled mind as a blue Rolls Royce pulled into the lay-by and glided to a halt.	5	<i>stand by</i>	I couldn't stand by and do nothing.	10
<i>run up</i>	Angus ran up the steps to the prison governor's office.	2	<i>stand by</i>	They'd stood by him through all the ups and downs of the past two years.	14
<i>rush down</i>	Angus...rushed down the corridor.	2	<i>stand up</i>	Angus stood up and looked for his belt.	2
<i>rush in</i>	Angus rushed in, his red face covered with sweat.	2	<i>stay in</i>	If you'd stayed in instead of breaking out, the governor would have...let you out one year early!	13
<i>save up</i>	By that summer, I'd managed to save up a quarter of a million pounds.	11	<i>stay up</i>	He normally went to bed at about eleven, but that night he had decided to stay up until I got in.	9
<i>see as</i>	The public sees us as selfish, ruthless and greedy.	13	<i>step back</i>	Then he pushed open the door and stepped back.	14
<i>see off</i>	Sir Gerald, Lady Prescott and Angus stood by the front gate to see him off.	14	<i>step out of</i>	Lady Prescott put on the handbrake, took off her seat belt and stepped out of the car.	8
<i>send back</i>	Just tell them to send the machines back.	11	<i>stretch out</i>	Angus stretched out on a wooden bench and tried to relax.	1
<i>serve out</i>	It suddenly dawned on Frederick that he couldn't take up a new job until he'd served out his term in jail.	13	<i>storm out of</i>	Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.	4
<i>set off</i>	Lady Prescott locked the car and they set off across the market square.	8	<i>swim across</i>	Frederick had...swum across to the opposite bank.	5
<i>set up</i>	This is the Head Office of the bank. You've set me up, haven't you?	12	<i>switch on</i>	...plugged them in and switched them on...	11
<i>set up</i>	I'd like you to come back to the bank and set the whole thing up.	13	<i>take-away</i>	He'd taken a part-time job at a take-away restaurant called The Birmingham Big Burger Bar.	8
<i>settle down</i>	I told him I was just too young to settle down.	9	<i>take in</i>	My parents were completely taken in.	8
<i>settle down</i>	The prisoners had settled down for the night and the jail was locked and still.	15	<i>take off</i>	He rolled over, took off the belt and dropped it onto the floor.	1
<i>show around</i>	And now, Mr Carruthers, I'm going for a walk. Would you like me to show you around?	8	<i>take off</i>	I'll take up jogging and take off weight.	4
<i>show up</i>	I showed up the flaws in your security system.	13	<i>take on</i>	The bank would never dream of taking me on again.	12
<i>sit at</i>	Sir Gerald was sitting at his desk reading <i>The Times</i> .	2	<i>take out</i>	I'll clear out the cupboards and take you out at weekends.	4
<i>sit back</i>	Frederick sat back and watched the volcano erupt.	7	<i>take out</i>	Sir Gerald took a handkerchief out of his pocket, blew his nose and, not for the first time, burst into tears.	4
<i>sit down</i>	Angus sat down and took a deep breath.	2	<i>take up</i>	I'll take up jogging and take off weight.	4
<i>sit in</i>	Frederick was sitting in a Rolls Royce driven by the wife of the governor of the prison he had just escaped from.	7	<i>take up</i>	And if I was to take up this new challenge...	13
<i>sit up</i>	He was so ill that he couldn't sit up in bed properly.	10	<i>talk to</i>	I needed someone to talk to.	10
<i>slam down</i>	He lost his temper and slammed down the phone.	9	<i>tear down</i>	I don't want them tearing down my childhood.	8
<i>slip out</i>	I could slip out through the side door, run across the yard, jump over the prison wall and be back home for breakfast.	1	<i>tear up</i>	'But that's terrible,' the prison governor screamed, tearing up his <i>Times</i> and bursting into tears.	2
			<i>think over</i>	We're going to give you twenty-four hours to think it over.	11
			<i>think through</i>	He had to give me more time to think things through.	9



<i>throw at</i>	Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.	4
<i>throw away</i>	Should I just tear up the cheque and throw it away?	11
<i>tip off</i>	She tipped off the police, and when I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my office.	11
<i>tire out</i>	I'm tired out and very worked up about my husband.	9
<i>turn round</i>	Lady Prescott turned round, threw an ashtray at Sir Gerald, knocked over a chair and stormed out of the room.	4
<i>turn down</i>	I felt very flattered, but at first I always turned him down.	9
<i>turn down</i>	...as they turned down a narrow side street, Lady Prescott picked up the story again.	8
<i>turn in</i>	If she found out that he was a convict on the run, perhaps she would turn him in.	10
<i>turn into</i>	...as they turned into the main road...	9
<i>turn into</i>	It's only recently that he's turned into a workaholic who eats, drinks and sleeps prisons.	8
<i>turn out</i>	...but it turned out that you had a rash, or an allergy or something, which cleared up overnight.	14
<i>turn off*</i>	Angus clocked on, put on his uniform and then went through the corridors checking the cells and turning off the lights.	15
<i>turn out*</i>	... Angus had turned out the light in his cell.	5
<i>turn up</i>	When I turned up for work the next morning, there were three detectives waiting in my office.	11
<i>wade through</i>	Frederick had...waded through a swamp...	5
<i>wait for</i>	My father was waiting for me in the hall.	9
<i>wake up</i>	Frederick woke up with a start.	12
<i>walk around</i>	Then the children would be able to get out of bed and walk around the ward.	10
<i>walk into</i>	I walked into the hospital and wrote out a cheque for £250,000.	11
<i>walk into</i>	Was I walking into a trap?	12
<i>walk on</i>	They walked on in silence.	9
<i>walk out of</i>	I'm going to walk out of that door and you'll never see me again.	3
<i>walk out on</i>	You can't walk out on me like this.	4
<i>walk over to</i>	Lady Prescott walked over to the pay-phone in the corner of the room.	12
<i>walk through</i>	As I was walking through one of the wards, I could hear a child crying very softly.	10
<i>wander around</i>	Why were you wandering around near the motorway with no money in your pocket and those very strange clothes?	10

* In these two sentences, *turn out* and *turn off* have the same meaning.

<i>warm to</i>	Lady Prescott's voice grew louder as she warmed to her subject.	7
<i>wash up</i>	I'll give up smoking and wash up after dinner.	4
<i>wave through</i>	The guard saluted, pressed a button and waved the car through.	14
<i>wind down</i>	The driver wound down her window and leaned across.	6
<i>work out</i>	When Angus had at last worked out what had happened, he rushed down the corridor and ran up the steps to the prison governor's office.	2
<i>wrap up in</i>	I've been so wrapped up in my work that I've started to take you for granted.	4