

What are C2 Phrasal Verbs?

Worksheet

C2 phrasal verbs are rare, sophisticated combinations—'put paid to', 'come to grips with', 'make a hash of'—used in formal writing and speech. They often have multiple meanings, require contextual mastery, and distinguish native proficiency from near-native fluency.

Questions

1. 'Put paid to' most closely means...

- A) to pay for something
- B) to end decisively
- C) to delay a decision
- D) to accept a payment

2. Which sentence uses 'come to grips with' correctly?

- A) She came to grips with the loss and moved on.
- B) He came to grips with the abstract concept.
- C) They came to grips and shook hands.
- D) The team came to grips about the rules.

3. What does 'make a hash of' imply?

- A) to create food
- B) to organize well
- C) to do something badly
- D) to plan carefully

4. C2 phrasal verbs differ from B1 because they...

- A) are easier to learn
- B) have more common meanings
- C) are rare and context-dependent
- D) are only British English

5. Use 'put paid to' in a sentence.

6. Explain 'come to grips with' in context.

7. What does 'make a hash of' mean? Give an example.

8. Define: What does 'put paid to' mean?

9. Define: Difference between 'come to terms with' and 'come to grips with'?

10. Define: When is 'make a hash of' used?

Answer Key

1. B) to end decisively — 'Put paid to' means to conclusively end or settle something, formal and literary.
2. B) He came to grips with the abstract concept. — 'Come to grips with' means to understand or master something intellectually, not merely accept emotionally.
3. C) to do something badly — 'Make a hash of' means to bungle or do something very poorly.
4. C) are rare and context-dependent — C2 phrasal verbs are sophisticated, rare, and require understanding context and subtle nuances.
5. Meaning: to end decisively or conclusively. Sentence: 'The court ruling put paid to years of speculation.' Note: formal, literary, means 'brought to an end definitively.'
6. Meaning: to understand or master something difficult. Sentence: 'She finally came to grips with the complex theory.' Alternative: to engage seriously with a problem.
7. Meaning: to do something very badly; to bungle. Sentence: 'The government made a hash of the policy implementation.' Compare: make a mess of, mess up (more informal).
8. To end or conclude something decisively: 'The evidence put paid to their claims.'
9. 'Come to terms with' = accept emotionally. 'Come to grips with' = understand or master intellectually.
10. When someone does something very badly or clumsily: 'He made a hash of the presentation.'

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