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ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE

Sentences For Anki | Lesson 22

FRONT

The boxer knocked his opponent out in the first round with a fast right.

BACK

knock out = to make someone unconscious or to cause him/her to sleep

The first example is taken from a boxing match. The boxer knocked out his opponent, made him unconscious, with a fast punch of his right hand. When a boxer cannot get to his feet and continue fighting for ten seconds he is considered to have been knocked out.

FRONT

My dad tried to fix some roof tiles but knocked himself out when he lost his footing and fell off the roof.

BACK

knock out = to make someone unconscious or to cause him/her to sleep

This dad fell and lost his consciousness - knocked himself out. If a person causes him-/herself to lose consciousness, we use the reflexive pronoun: I knocked myself out/He knocked himself out/She knocked herself out.

FRONT

The pain medication knocked me out for several hours.

BACK

knock out = to make someone unconscious or to cause him/her to sleep

In this case the medication caused the person to sleep for a few hours.

FRONT

In the 2016 French Open Djokovic knocked out Austria's rising tennis star Dominic Thiem in a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 victory.

BACK

knock out = to defeat a person or a team in a competition so they can no longer compete

So Djokovic defeated his Austrian opponent. Djokovic could go on to the final but Thiem could not.

FRONT

Our one-act play made it through to the semi-final round of the Amateurs' Play Festival but then we were knocked out.

BACK

knock out = to defeat a person or a team in a competition so they can no longer compete

So, these actors did not get a chance to take part in the final of the festival because they were knocked out in the semi-finals.

FRONT

Massive solar flares could knock out power grids and leave communities without electricity for weeks.

BACK

knock out = to damage or destroy

A solar flare is a brief eruption of intense high-energy radiation from the sun's surface. Such flares have the potential to knock out - to damage - power grids if they are big enough.

FRONT

The rebels knocked out communication systems between main cities so that government forces could not communicate effectively with one another.

BACK

knock out = to damage or destroy

In this case the communication systems are knocked out - destroyed - in order to gain a strategic advantage.

FRONT

Eat and drink as much as you like and dance the night away. Knock yourself out!

BACK

knock out = (informal meaning) do something with great energy/to go for it

"Knock yourself out" carries a sense of abandon - doing whatever you like, to your heart's content. Notice that "knock yourself out" also uses the reflexive pronoun.

FRONT

Wow, that band knocked me out. Their music is awesome.

BACK

knock out = to be impressed by something

This use of "knock out" is often associated with a sense of surprise - something surprises you because it is so good. It knocks you out!

FRONT

Geez, that girl knocked me out! She is so hot.

BACK

knock out = to be impressed by something

This guy is obviously impressed. He could also use the noun "knockout" (one word) to describe the girl: "That girl is a knockout!" So if she knocks you out, she is a knockout.

FRONT

Brush off your coat before you leave the house.

BACK

brush off = take something off with a brush

This is the literal meaning of "brush off". Take a brush and brush off whatever unwanted thing is sticking to whatever surface.

FRONT

Brush off the dandruff from your collar.

BACK

brush off = take something off with a brush

In this case the thing you want to get rid of is dandruff - those little white, dead pieces of skin from your scalp, and the surface from which you want to remove it is your shirt collar.

FRONT

There is some dust on your shoes. Please brush it off before you go to church.

BACK

brush off = take something off with a brush

Dust is the culprit in this sentence!

FRONT

After we had gone out and kissed a few times, he suddenly brushed me off. I don't understand what is going on.

BACK

brush off = to ignore someone's attempts to establish a relationship

This is the first figurative meaning of the phrasal verb "brush off". This is not about literally using a brush to get rid of something. It is about ignoring someone because you do not want to get to know him or her better or to continue a relationship with him or her.

FRONT

The engineering student desperately tried to date the drama student. He texted her, asked her to the movies and invited her to have a drink with him but she kept brushing him off.

BACK

brush off = to ignore someone's attempts to establish a relationship

The message is clear. This girl does not want to be friends with the guy so she is brushing him off - ignoring his attempts to befriend her.

FRONT

Don't brush off my attempts to help you.

BACK

brush off = to dismiss

"Brush off" in this sentence means "dismiss". When you dismiss something, you reject it.

FRONT

He brushed off my proposal for implementing energy saving measures in the office.

BACK

brush off = to refuse to listen to someone or his/her ideas

This second figurative use of "brush off" refers to the rejection or dismissal of someone or his/her ideas. If someone brushes you off, he treats you or your ideas as unimportant.

FRONT

The President brushed off the criticism that he had used state funds to renovate his own home.

BACK

brush off = to refuse to listen to someone or his/her ideas

This president refuses to listen to criticism. He ignores it.

FRONT

He brushed me off disdainfully when I suggested we travel economy class to save the company money.

BACK

brush off = to refuse to listen to someone or his/her ideas

A brush-off is often accompanied by a disdainful, disrespectful attitude.

FRONT

If you brush off my suggestions about changing our business model, you run the risk of bankrupting this company within the next ten years. The future is fast catching up with us.

BACK

brush off = to refuse to listen to someone or his/her ideas

This person wants to change the company's business model because he realizes that the way in which they currently do business will have to change. The boss brushes him off though, to the company's detriment.

FRONT

After they had found the hungry, wasted child, they built up his strength by giving him healthy food and lots of love.

BACK

build up = to increase and intensify something

In this sentence the child's strength increases because he is given good food and much love.

FRONT

One could feel the tension before the match building up.

BACK

build up = to increase and intensify something

The tension increases; the tension becomes more intense.

FRONT

One of the most intense storms seen in years is building up here in the west of Brazil.

BACK

build up = to increase and intensify something

We all know what it feels like when a storm is approaching. The clouds build, the wind increases, the tension mounts. As the storm approaches all the weather elements increase in intensity. The clouds become larger and darker and more ominous. The wind speed increases and the electrostatic energy in the air increases.

FRONT

Whenever his father and mother discuss finances, the resentment between them builds up.

BACK

build up = to increase and intensify something

The resentment - the bitter feeling of being treated unfairly - builds up, intensifies, between these two people.

FRONT

If you build up your children's confidence, they will become adults who feel secure within themselves.

BACK

build up = to increase and intensify something

You increase children's confidence not by giving them undeserved praise but by praising worthy deeds and achievements for which they have worked hard.

FRONT

My father built up a small empire over forty years and left us a great legacy. I only hope we can be as successful as he was.

BACK

build up = to develop

The father developed and expanded his business.

FRONT

It is often the case that the first generation builds up wealth through hard work and determination, the second generation builds on the wealth and the third generation wastes what the previous two generations have built up.

BACK

build up = to develop

The trick is not to spoil your children, to encourage them to build up their own businesses.

The world's richest man will not leave the bulk of his massive fortune to his children. He explained this decision:

"They need to have a sense that their own work is meaningful and important. You've got to make sure they have a sense of their own ability and what they're going to go and do."

FRONT

I gradually built up a relationship of trust with the spirited mare.

BACK

build up = to develop

Gaining and developing trust can take a while when you are working with spirited horses.

FRONT

Always build up other people with kind words. Do not break them down with criticism.

BACK

build up = to improve through a positive attitude

My dad used to say, "Never make a negative joke at someone's expense. Always joke positively." That is one of the best pieces of advice he ever gave me.

FRONT

Coach Sean knows how to build up his players. That is why his teams are so successful.

BACK

build up = to improve through a positive attitude

This coach helps his players to become better players. He improves their skills and their attitudes through his positive attitude.