

9.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Question a text ■ Use phrasal verbs

Reading questioning a text

- 1 Look at the title and photos from a recent blog, and in one sentence answer the question:
What do you think the text is about?
- 2 Look at some of the key words from the blog in the box below, and change your sentence from exercise 1 if you need to.

faces houses laugh meaning museum scientists
teapots website

- 3 Read paragraph 1 of the blog and think about the question:
What do you want to find out from the text?

Use the photos, key words and the start of the blog to write a question you want the text to answer. For example:

Which 'silly things' will the text talk about?

- 4 Read paragraphs 2–4 of the blog and see if you are able to answer your question.
- 5 Read the information in the Unlock the code box about questioning a text.



UNLOCK THE CODE

questioning a text

If you ask questions about a text before and while you read it, you will be more likely to understand it.

Sometimes the questions will be quite general:

Do I want to read this text?

What is the text about?

Is the text going to give me useful information for my job/study/research?

At other times, they will be more specific:

What is the author writing about?

What is the main point he/she is making?

Where is the museum/gallery/city ...?

- 6a Look at paragraphs 5–6 of the blog. Which of questions 1–4 do you expect to be answered?
 - 1 Which other websites has the writer visited?
 - 2 How does the human eye work?
 - 3 Why do humans like to see faces where they don't actually exist?
 - 4 How do websites attract visitors?
- b Discuss with a partner. How did you choose? Write two more questions you would like the text to answer.
- c Read the paragraphs and check if your questions have been answered.

myblog

POSTS ABOUT FOLLOW ARCHIVE

Seeing faces

SEARCH

- 1 Nowadays, all aspects of human behaviour are the subject of scientific research and enquiry. And sometimes we can learn about ourselves from even the seemingly silliest things.
- 2 One example comes to mind from my recent surfing on the internet. I'm an architect, and like most people, I often use the internet for professional research. The other day, I was looking for pictures of interesting houses for an article that a magazine had asked me to write, and I came across a website called 'Houses that look like Faces'.
- 3 The website interested me, (and really made me laugh) not only because the houses looked like faces, as you might expect, but because they seemed to express emotions as well. Some looked happy, some looked a bit irritated, and several looked really sad! I noticed that the website had a huge number of visitors, and I wondered why this might be.
- 4 I talked to some of my colleagues about this, and found out that, in fact, there are websites devoted to all kinds of objects that resemble faces. Taps, teapots, tape recorders – it seems as if we can't help making out faces where there aren't any. And once we have seen them, it is impossible 'not' to see them.
- 5 Of course, in some cases, the photos are fakes, but they started me thinking about why this happens. I did some research and found out that this phenomenon is called pareidolia¹. Scientists have come up with various ideas to explain it. One is that humans are 'programmed' to see faces, perhaps because it helped us to survive many thousands of years ago, or because we simply try to find meaning and patterns in chance lines, blobs, and colours. Another idea is that we want to see faces, so we do.
- 6 The study of pareidolia is a serious business. A German design studio is making a database of such faces. And interestingly, images of some of these houses were put up on a wall at Exploratorium, a museum of 'science, art and human perception' in San Francisco as an example of how we find patterns in everyday objects.

¹ – pronounced /pæri'douliə/



- 7 Work with a partner and answer these questions.
- Did any part of the blog answer your questions?
 - Do you think asking questions before and while you read helped you to understand the text better?

Vocabulary & Speaking phrasal verbs

- 8 Match the phrasal verbs in bold from the blog to their meanings.
- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 I came across a website ... | a consider |
| 2 we can't help making out faces where there aren't any ... | b fix and display |
| 3 they started me thinking about why this happens ... | c find an answer |
| 4 Scientists have come up with various ideas to explain it. | d find by chance |
| 5 images were put up on a wall ... | e manage to see |
- 9a True (T) or false (F)? Discuss the rules with a partner.
- Phrasal verbs contain a main verb and one or two particles (like *up* or *out*).
 - They are very rare.
 - Some phrasal verbs can be separated by another word or words.

- b Check your answers in the Vocabulary focus box. Make a note of whether a phrasal verb is separable or inseparable when you learn a new one.

VOCABULARY FOCUS phrasal verbs

- There are many common phrasal verbs in English. The meaning is often very different from the two separate words. They contain a main verb and one or two particles (prepositions or adverbs).
*The plane **took off** at 6.30 a.m.*
*I'm **looking forward to** the party.*
- These verbs are often separable. An object pronoun like *it*, *her* or *us* must come between the verb and the particle.
*We **looked up** the word.* OR *We **looked** the word **up** ...*
But
*We **looked it up** in the dictionary.* NOT ~~*We looked up it ...*~~
- With an inseparable verb, the object always comes after the particle.
*We **looked after** the baby.* *We **looked after** him.*

- 10a 9.6))) It is important to be able to hear phrasal verbs. Listen to the eight sentences and write down the phrasal verbs.

- _____ *on* _____
- give* _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- b 9.6))) Listen to the sentences again and decide what the phrasal verbs mean. Check your answers with a partner.

- c When could you use the verbs in exercise 10a? Match them to the situations.

When you want to ...

- invite somebody to your house. _____
- talk about a future event that you are excited about.

- talk about somebody starting a new hobby. _____
- describe your relationship to somebody older in your family. _____
- move an event until a later time. _____
- talk about your relationship with somebody. _____
- say that something is continuing. _____
- talk about something you had to stop doing because it was too difficult. _____

- 11 **TASK** Write four questions using a phrasal verb from exercise 10a. They must be real questions! Ask your partner the questions. Tell the class the most interesting thing you found out.

