

## A Talking about relationships

Dear Auntie Jo,

I think I've **fallen for**<sup>1</sup> the new guy who's just started work in our office. He **fitted in**<sup>2</sup> at once. He and I **get along**<sup>3</sup> really well, but he hasn't asked me **out**<sup>4</sup> yet. What should I do?

Miranda Buxton

- <sup>1</sup> (informal) become very attracted to
- <sup>2</sup> felt happy in a group of people because he was similar to them
- <sup>3</sup> like each other and are friendly
- <sup>4</sup> invited someone to go to a place like a cinema or a restaurant, usually to start a romantic relationship

Dear Auntie Jo,

I've been **going out with**<sup>1</sup> my boyfriend for ten months now and we're planning to get married next year. But last week we **fell out**<sup>2</sup> over something really stupid. He heard a male friend of mine tell me my hair looked nice and he thought it was a **chat-up**<sup>3</sup> line. He got so jealous and wouldn't speak to me. Do you think a minor **falling-out**<sup>4</sup> like this is a bad sign for our future marriage, or am I worrying too much?

Tanya Wilson

- <sup>1</sup> having a romantic relationship with
- <sup>2</sup> had an argument that damaged our relationship
- <sup>3</sup> (noun, informal) a way of talking which suggests you are sexually attracted to someone and want them to be attracted to you (from the verb **chat up**)
- <sup>4</sup> (noun) argument (from the verb **fall out**)

## B Being attracted to someone

If you ...	then you ...
<b>hit it off</b> with someone	immediately <b>like</b> and become friendly with them (informal)
<b>pair off</b> with someone	start a romantic relationship with them
<b>chat</b> someone <b>up</b>	talk in a way that shows them that you are sexually attracted to them and you try to make them attracted to you
<b>go for</b> a particular type of person or thing	like that type of person or thing
<b>turn</b> someone <b>on</b>	make them interested, often sexually

## TIP

There are a lot of phrasal verbs which deal with relationships and how people get on with each other. Look occasionally at a problem page in a newspaper or magazine and note down any new ones that you find.

## Exercises

**52.1** Auntie Jo, the agony aunt, is replying to some of the letters she gets. Fill the gaps in her replies.

Dear Tanya,

You say you're worried because you and your fiancé have

(1) ..... out.

Well, take my advice, a temporary

(2) .....

with someone you love is not the

end of the world. And your

boyfriend shouldn't worry

even if another man does try a

(3) .....-up

line with you; if you love each

other such silly things will never

threaten your marriage.

Dear Lisa,

Your letter about your office

party is typical of many I get.

Everybody tries to

(4) ..... off

with somebody and a lot of

the evening is spent in

(5) .....

people up in the hope of

starting something with them.

But be careful. By accepting the

first guy who asks you, you

could end up with a reputation

for always flirting and never

being serious, and then the

really nice guys won't go

(6) .....

you, and nothing you do or

say will ever turn them

(7) ..... !

Dear Jody,

You say you've

(8) .....

for the new student on your

course, but that you're

afraid he won't

(9) .....

in with your gang of friends.

I suggest you

(10) .....

him out and then meet up

with your friends later in

the evening. If they don't

(11) .....

, then the choice is simple:

either you lose him and keep

your friends, or you keep him

and perhaps lose 'friends' who

aren't really true friends.

**52.2** Correct the mistakes with the phrasal verbs in these sentences.

- 1 My friend and I fell away last week because she thinks I'm in love with her boyfriend.
- 2 The new student was finding it difficult to fit on, as he was older than the other students.
- 3 When George met his new colleague he really fell to her and now he talks about her all the time.
- 4 Barry and David hit it off immediately when they were introduced.
- 5 That horrible man over there was trying to talk me up. Ugh!

**52.3** Rewrite the underlined parts of this private diary, using phrasal verbs from the opposite page.

5 MON

Met a really beautiful girl at the disco - talked to her to try to attract her but didn't invite her to go out. I'm useless!

6 TUE

Have become very attracted to the new girl in my maths class. She's adapted well to the group.

7 WED

Nigel started a romantic relationship with Kari at the party last night. Why am I jealous?

8 THU

Sally likes really makes me feel sexually attracted. She's gorgeous!

9 FRI

No success with the girl in the maths class. Don't think I'm the type she likes or feels attracted to!

10 SAT

Been having a romantic relationship with Angela for six months now, but still can't stop chasing other girls!

11 SUN

Greg and Clare seem to be enjoying a very friendly relationship these days. They think no one has noticed! Ha-ha!



## Relationships: problems

Here are some more letters to Auntie Jo, the agony aunt from Unit 52. Read these letters from a popular young people's magazine along with Jo's replies on the right.

Dear Auntie Jo,

My boyfriend and I have just **split up**<sup>1</sup> after a year together. For the first six months everything was great, but then we just seemed to **drift apart**<sup>2</sup>. I didn't really want to **finish with**<sup>3</sup> him, but he wanted to **break off**<sup>4</sup> our relationship. Should I ask him if we can start again and try to rediscover the magic of those first six months?

Linda (aged 19)

When two people **grow apart**<sup>5</sup>, it's usually because they are basically different. The fact that he **broke off with**<sup>6</sup> you means he recognises that you don't really have a lot in common. You're young. Let him go!

- <sup>1</sup> ended a relationship or marriage
- <sup>2</sup> gradually become less friendly and the relationship ends
- <sup>3</sup> end a romantic relationship (informal)
- <sup>4</sup> end a relationship
- <sup>5</sup> gradually become less friendly, often because you do not have the same interests and opinions any more
- <sup>6</sup> ended a romantic relationship with someone

Dear Auntie Jo,

My parents **broke up**<sup>1</sup> last year and I've been depressed ever since. I see each of them regularly, and I love them, but I feel they have **let me down**<sup>2</sup>. Is there anything I can do to persuade them to **make up**<sup>3</sup> and live together again so that my sister and I can have a normal life like other kids?

Brian (aged 16)

Brian, a marriage **break-up**<sup>4</sup> is always very sad, but there's not much you can do. They are adults and they have made their own choices. You feel you're **missing out**<sup>5</sup> on a normal young person's life, but you're not alone. A third of all marriages in Britain end in divorce. Be brave and talk to your friends about it.

- <sup>1</sup> their marriage or relationship ended
- <sup>2</sup> disappointed me by failing to do what they agreed or what I expected them to do
- <sup>3</sup> forgive each other and become friendly again
- <sup>4</sup> (noun) the act or event of breaking up
- <sup>5</sup> not doing or getting something you would enjoy or that would be good for you, or not having something other people have

Dear Auntie Jo,

A couple of years ago my uncle **ran off with**<sup>1</sup> another woman. She was much younger than him, in fact she was only 20 and he was 52. It ended in disaster. He left her last year and returned to his wife. But the neighbours all stare at him and laugh at him; it seems he'll never **live it down**<sup>2</sup>. He's doing his best to **settle down**<sup>3</sup> and be a good husband and uncle again, but I feel so unhappy for him. What can I do?

Iona (aged 17)

People can be very cruel, Iona, and your uncle may have to **settle for**<sup>4</sup> a lot more embarrassment before the neighbours forget what happened. The best thing you can do is to show your uncle that you love him and support him and show him that you accept him, and all his faults.

- <sup>1</sup> secretly left a place with someone in order to live with them or marry them, especially when other people think this is wrong
- <sup>2</sup> stop feeling embarrassed about something you did by waiting until people forget about it
- <sup>3</sup> start living in a place where you intend to stay for a long time
- <sup>4</sup> accept something, often something that is not exactly what you want, or is not the best



## Exercises

### 53.1 Match the problems 1–6 with the responses a–f.

1 My husband and I are so busy at work that we seem to be drifting apart. What should I do?

2 How can I finish with my boyfriend without hurting his feelings too much?

3 What can I do to get over the break-up of my marriage? I still love my wife.

4 I always seem to pick boyfriends who let me down. What can I do?

5 I'm 35. Isn't it time I was thinking of settling down?

6 I've decided never to get married. Do you agree with my friends that I will be missing out on a lot?

- Become friends first – then you should know what he is really like before you take things any further.
- The right time can arrive at any age – when you meet the right person.
- Why not take up some new hobby together?
- Why make such a major decision about your future now? You may feel very differently in a few years' time.
- Time should slowly make things better for you.
- Could you try to make him want to split up with you first?

### 53.2 Rewrite these sentences replacing the phrasal verbs with another phrasal verb from the opposite page, so that the sentences keep the same meanings.

- My sister and her husband broke up last year.
- Milly was very upset when her boyfriend broke off with her.
- We had been drifting apart for a long time, so it was better to separate properly.

### 53.3 Complete these sentences using appropriate phrasal verbs from the opposite page.

- Whenever I quarrel with my girlfriend I can't wait to ..... again.
- We were all very shocked when Emily left her husband and ..... her boss.
- After leaving school my best friend got a glamorous job travelling all over the world, but now all she wants to do is get married and ..... somewhere.
- I am absolutely sure that I can trust him and that he will never ..... me .....
- It was so embarrassing when I spilt tomato soup all over my boss – I'm sure I'll never ..... it .....
- I think that children who are educated at home ..... on the opportunity to make friends of their own age.
- Sally is determined to marry someone who is both handsome and rich and she'll never ..... less.
- I can't understand why my girlfriend decided to ..... our relationship.

**FOLLOW UP**

Look at the problem pages in an English language magazine. Copy down any sentences that you find containing phrasal verbs.