

The IT Crowd (Channel 4, UK), Series 1, Episode 1

Introduction

- 1) Have you ever lied about or exaggerated anything on a CV in order to get a job?
- 2) Do you boast about your computer skills on your CV?
- 3) What sort of things might you look forward to on your first day in a new job?
- 4) How do you normally feel on your first day of a job?

Video

You are going to watch an episode of a comedy series set in the IT department of a big company. Does your company have an IT department? What is the stereotype about people who work in IT?

Scenes 1, 2 & 3

First match the difficult vocabulary to its meaning:

a long hard stare

to make up your mind

to get to grips with

to know your stuff

nerd

to glow

it's been all go

drudgeons

pally-wally

affair

basement

perfect a new skill

an insignificant person (uncommon)

friendly (v. colloquial)

decide

part of a building which is underground

a fixed look

a cheating romantic relationship

to know a lot about something

emit light

someone who is intelligent but not cool

very busy

Like a lot of normal speech, this episode uses a lot of *phrasal verbs*. As you watch the first three scenes, try to fill in the gaps in the sentences below. All the gaps are the verb part of phrasal verbs, be careful not to look at the answers in the exercise which follows!

"Hope this doesn't embarrass you Jen, but I find the best thing to do with a new employee is **to**

_____ **them up** with a long hard stare."

"Yes, **really** _____ **forward to** getting to grips with..."

"I have a lot of experience with the whole computer thing you know, emails, sending emails, receiving emails, deleting emails, I could _____ **on**."

"Have you tried _____ **it off and on** again?"

"I just heard it _____ **on**. No, that's the music you hear when it _____ **on**."

"You don't want to _____ **up** in the middle of invalid memory..."

"Did you and her, _____ **it off**?"

"They _____ **us away** like yesterday's jam..."

Now use the context from the video to decide what the phrasal verbs mean:

to size someone up

to form an estimate of / to take note of weakness

to look forward to

to learn about / to anticipate

to go on

to stop / to continue

to turn on

to start up an appliance / to move to a different place

to come on

to be excited / to start (an appliance)

to end up

to get to the final circumstance / to fall

to hit it off with someone

to have an argument / to form a good relationship

to toss or throw away

to discard / to forget

1. What do you think of the presentation of IT guys as social recluses who cannot talk to women? Is it fair? Is it true?
2. How do you think Roy and Moss (the IT guys) feel in their job? Have you ever had similar feelings?
3. Do you think Jen needs to know about computers to be the manager of an IT department?

Scenes 4, 5 & 6

Match the difficult vocabulary to its meaning:

I won't be a tick	A TV programme from the 80s
never mind	rubbish (slang, offensive)
a (head) wound	attack by indirect means
to deal with	lose your job
damage	I am certain
scheme	an injury usually with blood
bollocks	it's not important
to undermine someone	programme of action
without a shadow of a doubt	injury or harm affecting the condition of something
fired	take action with respect to someone/thing
The A Team	not long (time)

As you watch the next three scenes, try to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.

" _____ **out of the lift.** _____ **out of the lift...**"

"I'm sorry, myself and Maurice were just engaged in quite a serious discussion about books and such.

And didn't hear you _____ **in.**"

"What are you talking about. Who comes down? What people? Why are you giving me the secret signal to _____ **up?**"

"Roy, it's one of us. It's certainly not her. I'm going to _____ **this out.**"

"No, and we are perfectly fine down here thank you very much. We are more than capable of

_____ **care of ourselves.**"

"I suppose I'll get it. No, that is not a phone. I'm going to have a little _____ **down**."

"Yeah, Denholm. Yeah, yeah, no n-n-n-no, no they've been fine so far. Yeah, I think we're going to _____ **on** great."

"Okay, we definitely want to _____ **rid of** her"

"I _____ **up** a lot of bollocks about computers..."

"_____ **on** guys. How can I help?"

"We _____ **up** a voice activation system on your computer. Err I think you're gonna enjoy it"

Now use the context from the video to decide what the phrasal verbs mean:

to get out of	to enter / to leave
to come in	to enter / to leave
to shut up	to laugh / to be quiet
to sort something out	to organise something / to resolve a problem
to take care of someone	to work for someone / to care for someone
to lie down	to relax on your back / to ignore someone
to get on with someone	to have a good relationship / to fight someone
to get rid of someone/something	to hide / to eliminate
to make something up	to shout / to invent
to hang on	to speak louder / to wait
to set something up	to establish / to make better

1. "Team. Team. Team. Team. Team. Team", is working as a team important in your profession? Have you ever been on team building training days?
2. Would you feel motivated if your boss knew nothing about your industry?

Scenes 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10

Match the difficult vocabulary to its meaning:

a bargain	a mobile amusement park
a beating	a person who is generally avoided
a people person	a rollercoaster, big wheel etc.
a felt tipped pen	a violent attack
a fair	something which is a good buy
a ride	a coloured marker pen for colouring
a social pariah	someone with good social skills

As you watch the next three scenes, try to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.

"No. But okay. But I can learn. You know, I mean. For example, Moss, you could _____ **me through** what you're doing right now."

"What would you say Roy? Roy's _____ **out**. Okay, I need a felt tipped pen, and some paper."

"I don't know why we don't _____ **out with** you IT guys more often. You're hilarious! "

to take someone through something	to guide someone / to do a favour for someone
to pass out	to lose consciousness / to fall asleep
to go out with someone	to do an activity with someone / to eat with someone

1. Has anyone ever told an inappropriate story at your work? Did they get into trouble?
2. Are you a "people person"? Do think this is an important skill to have in the work place?
3. Do you agree with the stereotype that all women are obsessed with shoes?
4. Is this episode realistic? Do people sometimes get jobs that they aren't qualified for? What's the consequence?

Here is a list of all the phrasal verbs used on this worksheet, can you remember what they mean?

to come in

to come on

to end up

to get on with someone

to get out of

to get rid of someone/something

to go on

to go out with someone

to hang on

to hit it off with someone

to lie down

to look forward to

to make something up

to pass out

to set something up

to shut up

to size someone up

to sort something out

to take care of someone

to take someone through something

to toss or throw away

to turn on

Grammar - Phrasal Verbs

The following conversation questions are missing part of their phrasal verb. See if you can remember the correct word then discuss your answer to the question.

1. Are you looking _____ to the weekend? What are you looking _____ to doing? What aren't you looking _____ to?
2. Have you ever passed _____ in a public place? Why did it happen? Did anybody come to help you?
3. When you ring a call centre or helpline and the line is busy do you hold _____ and wait for your call to be answered or do you decide to ring back another time?
4. If someone invites you to do something and you are too tired, do you tell them the truth or do you try to make _____ a better excuse? What excuse could you use?
5. Did you instantly hit it _____ with your best friend or did it take longer?
6. Are you planning on going _____ with your friends or colleagues soon? Where do you normally go _____?
7. How long does it take for your computer to come _____? What can you do to make the start up procedure faster?
8. Would you ever consider setting _____ your own business? What sort of business would it be?
9. Do you ever take _____ of other people's children? Who would you let take _____ of your children?
10. What are the first things you did when you came _____ this room?
11. What are you going to do when you get _____ of work on Friday afternoon?
12. What do you do with old clothes you don't want anymore? Do you throw them _____ or give them to charity?
13. Do you turn your mobile phone _____ at night?
14. Will you go _____ learning English after this course is over?
15. What job did you think you'd end _____ doing when you were younger?
16. Are there any problems with your house that you need to sort _____?
17. Do you get _____ with your siblings?