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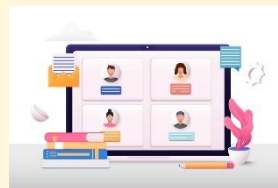Advanced English course

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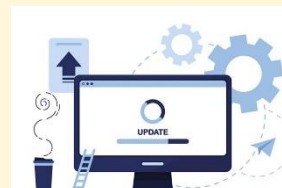Watch video lessons, do exercises & quizzes online

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6 Phrasal verbs to talk about problems & solutions

What is a phrasal verb?

verb + preposition

1) to talk something over

= To talk about a problem with another person in order to know their opinion or ask for advice

Example:

I would like to talk it over with my wife first.

Employees had 2 weeks to talk the proposal over with their families before making a decision.

2) to sort something out

= to successfully solve a problem

Example:

My laptop has a problem and I have to sort it out.

We had a productive meeting, I felt we sorted out a lot of problems!

3) to deal with somebody / something

= to do something to try to solve a problem

Example:

It it a very difficult situation, but I have to deal with it!

Don't worry about Jake, I will deal with him myself!

4) to face up to something (a problem / a problematic situation)

= to accept that there is a problem

Example:

She has to face up to the fact that he is guilty.

They will never offer you another job. You might as well face up to it.

5) to come up with something (an idea / a solution)

= to think of an idea / a solution, to try to find or introduce a solution to a problem

Example:

We have been asked to come up with some new ideas.

Is that the best you can do? You have to come up with a better solution.

6) to narrow something down

= to try to make a list smaller and smaller by crossing out the unnecessary or worse options on the list

Example:

Well, 20? that's a lot of solutions! You have to narrow it down to less than 5.

That is quite a long list. You have to narrow it down.