

## 2 be up to somebody

**Study** Read these sentences carefully.

- ▶ It was **up to** Roger to make sure all the doors and windows were locked.
- ▶ It's **up to** you to fix this situation.
- ▶ The decision's not **up to** her, it's **up to** her manager.
- ▶ It's your birthday, so what we do tonight **is up to** you.
- ▶ 'Can I borrow the car tonight?' 'That's **up to** your father.'

**Check** Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

### MEANING

The verb *be up to somebody* has two related meanings. What does it mean in the following examples? Choose a) or b) in each case.

1 It was up to her to cook dinner on Mondays.

- a It was her decision.
- b It was her responsibility.

2 'Shall we go out?' 'It's up to you.'

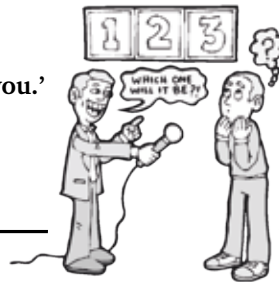
- a It is your decision.
- b It is your responsibility.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

### GRAMMAR

Which of these are grammatically possible?

- a It's up to the boss.
- b Who is it up to?
- c What is it up to?
- d It's up to her.



### Practise

1 Complete the following with the correct form of *be up to* and one of the objects below.

- you students me her the prosecution lawyer
- a It \_\_\_\_\_ to find their own accommodation.
  - b It \_\_\_\_\_ to prove that somebody is guilty in court.
  - c I don't mind where we go – it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d Jenny can go to the party if she likes – it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e If it \_\_\_\_\_, I'd let you stay.

2 Answer the following questions in an appropriate way, using *be up to* in each answer and any other words you need.

- a Can you have time off work next week?  
*That's up to* \_\_\_\_\_.
- b Does your mother clean your room for you?  
*No, it's* \_\_\_\_\_.
- c Will he go to jail?  
*That's* \_\_\_\_\_.

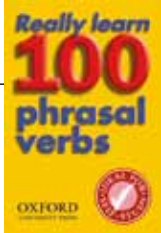
→ Now check your answers in the key.

### Build your vocabulary

#### SYNONYMS

**Be down to somebody** can mean the same:

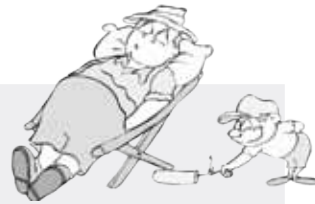
- ▶ *It's down to you to check your insurance cover.*



### 3 be up to something

**Study** Read these sentences carefully.

- ▶ He looks very guilty. What do you think he's **been up to**?
- ▶ The kids are very quiet. **Are they up to** something?
- ▶ She didn't really want to know what he'd **been up to**.
- ▶ **Have you been up to** anything interesting since I last saw you?



**Check** Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

#### MEANING

- 1** Which of the choices a–d mean the same as the sentence below?

*What are you up to?*

- a What is your job?                      c What is the matter?  
b What are you doing?                  d What do you think?

- 2** If you *are up to something*, is it usually something good, something bad or something important?

→ Now check your answers in the key.

#### GRAMMAR

Which of these are grammatically possible?

- a He's up to something.  
b He's up to.  
c What is he up to?  
d Something was up to him.

### Practise

- 1** Match the two halves to make complete sentences.

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a I'm going to tell his parents | i What have you been up to?      |
| b We have to find out           | ii what he's been up to.         |
| c I haven't seen you for weeks. | iii what these people are up to. |
| d He's gone out again.          | iv I think he's up to something. |

- 2** Write an appropriate question for each of the following, including a form of *be up to* in each:

- a Your friend is very tired this morning. Ask what he/she did last night.  
So, \_\_\_\_\_?
- b A little boy is covered in mud. Ask his mother what he has been doing.  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- c Your boss is behaving very strangely. Ask your colleague if they know why.  
*Do you know* \_\_\_\_\_?

→ Now check your answers in the key.

### Build your vocabulary

**OTHER MEANINGS** This verb can also mean 'to be able to do something':

- ▶ *In her condition, she **wasn't** really **up to** walking a long way.*
- ▶ *Are you sure you're **up to** this?*

**SIMILAR VERBS**

You can sometimes use the verb **get** instead of **be**:

- ▶ *What did you **get up to** last night?*

**What's up?** can be used to ask somebody if there is something wrong:

- ▶ *You look worried. **What's up?***



## 29 finish something off; finish off

**Study** Read these sentences carefully.

- ▶ Will you **finish off** the last two jobs?
- ▶ He has fixed the last bug and has **finished** the program **off**.
- ▶ They worked so hard on the project that they **finished it off** last night.
- ▶ The meeting **was finished off** with a short discussion.
- ▶ I'd like to **finish off** by thanking you for coming.



**Check** Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

### MEANING

Choose the word which best completes this meaning of *finish something off*:

partly politely completely badly  
to finish something \_\_\_\_\_

### GRAMMAR

One of these sentences is incorrect. Find it and correct the mistake.

- a Let's finish off tomorrow.
- b The report was finished off by the boss.
- c I haven't finished off them yet.
- d We're going to finish it off later.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

### Practise

**1** Replace the underlined words with an appropriate form of *finish off* and any other words you need.

a Ursula has to go home now. Can you do the final jobs for her?

\_\_\_\_\_

b I have written almost all of my presentation but I'm not sure how to end it.

\_\_\_\_\_

c When do you think we are going to complete the job?

\_\_\_\_\_

d The plumbers left after four days and they never completed the work.

\_\_\_\_\_

**2** You have invited some friends for a meal and are planning the menu. You are not sure about dessert. Write some suggestions, using *finish off*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Menu

Starter: Caesar salad  
Main course: Moussaka  
Dessert: ??

→ Now check your answers in the key.

### Build your vocabulary

#### SYNONYMS

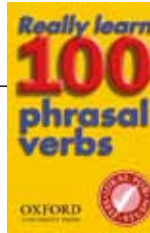
You can use **finish something** with the same meaning:

- ▶ We **finished** the project last night.
- ▶ I'd like to **finish** with some suggestions.

#### OTHER MEANINGS

**Finish off** can also mean 'eat the last part of something':

- ▶ There's a little piece of the cake left – do you want to **finish it off**?



## 39 give up; give up something (1)

**Study** Read these sentences carefully.

- ▶ I **give up** – tell me the answer.
- ▶ I tried running, but I **gave up** after about ten minutes.
- ▶ Nick tried to fix the car, but **gave up** the attempt after an hour.
- ▶ It was so difficult that she was tempted to **give it all up**.
- ▶ In the end he **gave up** trying to explain it all to me.



**Check** Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

### MEANING

Use the words below to complete this meaning of *give up, give up something*:

difficult stop trying usually  
 to \_\_\_\_\_  
 to do something, \_\_\_\_\_  
 because it is too \_\_\_\_\_

### GRAMMAR

Which of these are grammatically possible?

- a He gave up and went to bed.
- b He gave up the attempt and went home.
- c He gave it up and went home.
- d He gave up it and went to bed.
- e He gave up to try and went home.
- f He gave up trying and went home.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

### Practise

**1** Match the two halves to make complete sentences.

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| a They gave up the search     | i until the solution is found.            |
| b We will not give up         | ii when it got dark.                      |
| c I was tempted to give it up | iii unless you're sure you won't succeed. |
| d Don't give up trying        | iv and go home.                           |

**2** Rewrite the following so that the meaning stays the same, using a form of *give up, give up something*.

- a Don't stop trying – I know you can do it!  
 Don't \_\_\_\_\_!
- b I couldn't find him, and in the end I abandoned the search.  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- c He was exhausted, but he was determined to continue.  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

### Build your vocabulary

#### SIMILAR VERBS

The verb **give in (to somebody)** means 'to accept that you have been defeated or persuaded by somebody':

- ▶ *I give in—you'll have to tell me the answer.*

This verb is in *Really Learn 100 More Phrasal Verbs*.