

## Unit 4 – vocabulary and expressions

### Phrasal verbs

**Let down** – disappoint/ fail (IT) -> scoraggiare, deludere

*Let someone down* always has a subject between the verb and the preposition.

Ex. She had let him down.

**Pay off** – give benefits -> ricompensare, ripagare, beneficiare

**Take off** – become successful very fast -> decollare

**Pick up** – learn easily

Ex. I picked Greek up Greek when I was there last year.

**Take up** – start doing something (e.g. a new activity) IT -> iniziare a fare/ darsi a

I took up gardening when I was ten

I took up painting as a hobby

**Keep up with** – make as much progress as others. IT -> stare al passo/ alla pari

**Fall behind** – make less progress than other people IT -> rimanere indietro

**Get by** – survive IT -> sopravvivere, farcela a stento

Ex. I can get by in French.

**Catch on** – understand IT -> stare al passo

You can put a noun/  
pronoun between verb  
and preposition

**Non- separable**  
You cannot separate  
verb + preposition

### Money idioms in British and American English

**PASS THE BUCK** - make someone else responsible for something that you should deal with. IT -> fare da scarica barile, lavarsene le mani.

Ex. It's easy to pass the buck and blame someone else for your failure.

**BROKE** – if you are a broke, you don't have money. IT -> squattrinato, al verde.

Ex. I can't spend all this money on video games; I am broke.

**TO LOOK/FEEL LIKE A MILION DOLLARS** – to look wonderful. IT -> stare da dio, sentirsi alla grande.

Ex. I have just passed my exam and I feel like a million dollars.

**CHEAPSKATE** – a person who spends as little money as possible (used to show disapproval). IT -> taccagno, turchio.

Ex. Don't be such a cheapskate - it's your turn to buy lunch.

**TO GO ON A SPENDING SPREE** – to spend a lot of money in a short time. IT -> fare shopping compulsive.

**SPLASH OUT ON SOMETHING** – to spend a lot of money on something. IT -> non badare a spese, scialacquare, sperperare.

Ex. Last year Roberts splashed out more than £1 million to buy a new home.

**TIGHTEN ONE'S BELT** - to try to spend less money than you used to. IT -> stringere la cinghia.

Ex. Governments and companies are forced to tighten their belts during a recession.

**RIP SOMEONE OFF** – when someone pays an unreasonable amount of money. IT -> spennare.

Ex. The agency really ripped us off.

### Difference between adjectives expressed in participle tense

**Present participle** -> active -ING

Embarrassing – active adjective -> it creates embarrassment, imbarazzante

Shocking – Ex. The president’s words were shocking.

**Past participle** -> passive -ED

Embarrassed – passive form -> it is subjected to embarrassment, imbarazzato

Shocked – Ex. I was shocked by the president’s words.

#### Tips to avoid mistakes online

- Watch your language
- Use safe passwords
- Don’t share personal information
- Use wisely privacy settings
- Pay attention with tagged photos
- Do not include everyone when you reply to group emails

#### Further vocabulary

Abusive language on social media – linguaggio violento/ ingiurioso nei social media

Apply for a job – candidarsi per un lavoro

Job application – candidatura per un lavoro

Reject an application – rifiutare una candidature

Needless to say – inutile dire