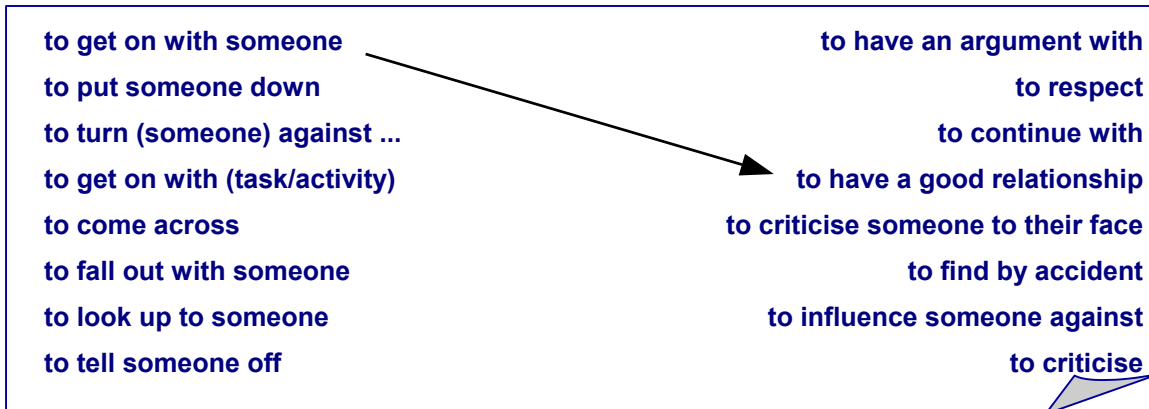


Dear Liz ...

<p>1. I hope you can help me - I'm at my wits' end. I met and <u>fell for</u> my current boyfriend about 2 years ago, when he was at university. We've been living together for 6 months, and I've just discovered that I'm pregnant.</p> <p>The problem is that my boyfriend is in the Army reserves, which I didn't realise when I met him. Now, because of the war in Turkmenia, the army has <u>called him up</u> to come and fight.</p> <p>My boyfriend says he can't <u>get out of</u> carrying out his duty, but as the time comes nearer to <u>seeing him off</u> I really can't see how he can <u>go through with</u> it.</p> <p>How can I persuade him to <u>stand up to</u> the Army and convince them to <u>let him go</u> so that we can <u>get back to</u> leading a normal life again?</p>	<p>2. Please help me. My sister is driving me up the wall! I feel like strangling her. She's much older than me and acts as if she's my mother. She's always _____ me _____ and criticising my clothes.</p> <p>What's more, she's recently started _____ me _____ in front of my friends. It's so embarrassing. She's also trying to _____ my parents _____ me by telling them stories about what I'm supposed to have done.</p> <p>I used to _____ her when I was young. I always used to _____ her then, but now the situation is absolutely intolerable and it's causing me a lot of sleepless nights. I don't think I can stand it much longer, but what on earth can I do?</p>	<p>3. I hope you can advise me. I'm in a terrible mess. In a nutshell, my new TV is stolen property. I found out when I checked the serial number after hearing a newsflash about a robbery.</p> <p>The TV was given to me by my uncle who I _____ really well _____, and I don't want to risk _____ him, especially as he tends to lose his temper easily!</p> <p>Apparently, he got the TV from a very good friend of his who said he had just _____ it in a junk shop. Now, I realise that he wasn't telling the truth. I've got no idea what to do next, and I'm dreading the thought of a policeman knocking at the door.</p>
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EXPLANATION

- 'at my wits' end' (letter 1) _____
- 'driving me up the wall' (letter 2) _____
- 'in a nutshell' (letter 3) _____
- 'to lose your temper' (letter 3) _____
- 'What on earth!' (letter 2) _____

- You (really) ought to ...
- You should ...
- You could always ...
- Why (on earth) don't you?
- If I were you I'd ...

TEACHERS NOTES

- AIM**
- To learn and practice certain phrasal verbs
 - Giving opinions

LEVEL Intermediate

TIME 1 ½ hours

PROCEDURE

- Introduce the idea of an Agony Aunt – who they are, what they do etc.
- Sts read problem letter 1 and try to work out the meaning of the phrases underlined.
- Sts connect the phrasal verbs on the left with their explanations on the right (exercise below the three letters), and then complete problem letters 2 and 3 using the phrasal verbs.
- Sts work out the meaning of the idiomatic phrases. They should locate each one in the letters in order to help them.
- Teacher highlights the ways of giving advice given, making sure Sts can produce examples with each.
- Sts work in pairs, choose one of the problem letters and write a reply using the expressions for advice.