Why do we fall in love?
✓ fall in love
✗ rise in love
✗ fly in love
✔ fall in love

✖ fall to love

✖ fall with love
…some of the fundamental principles underlying why particular words, phrases, phrasal verbs, idioms etc are used in English, and how recognising the patterns and principles behind them can help our students make sense of some of the weirder and/or seemingly random aspects of lexis.
Humans are extremely good at making comparisons.
metaphor

• Literary device used to create images
• The image relies on comparison
• The aim is to suggest similarity
• Used by writers
• Used consciously

Her eyes were jewels, sparkling in the moonlight.
simile

- Literary device used to create images
- Similar to metaphor
- Uses ‘like’ or ‘as’

She’s like a caged bird.
### Metaphor

An argument is like a **fight** or **war**, with people attacking each other’s opinions and defending their own.

She tried to **defend** herself against his **attacks** on her ideas.  ♦  She **shot down** his argument.  ♦  That is an **indefensible** point of view.  ♦  I decided to pursue another **line of attack**.  ♦  We **had** a big **fight** last night, and I went home early.  ♦  There was a lot of **conflict** over what to do next.  ♦  They **clashed** over who to appoint.  ♦  It was a real **battle of wits**.  ♦  We **did battle with** the council about the plans.  ♦  I’ve **crossed swords with** them before.  ♦  Tom is always the first to leap to her **defence**.

⇒ ANGRY, CRITICIZE, IDEA

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### Metaphor

Being very busy at work is like being **covered with things** or **surrounded by** something such as water or the ground, so that you cannot move easily.

They keep piling more work on me.  ♦  I’m up to my eyes/ears/eyeballs/neck in work.  ♦  I’m drowning in paperwork.  ♦  I have got a lot of work to wade through.  ♦  I’m snowed under with work.  ♦  I don’t have time to turn around.  ♦  We’re absolutely swamped at the moment.  ♦  We’ve been inundated with phone calls.  ♦  They buried/immersed themselves in their work.

⇒ RESPONSIBILITY
metaphor

- Not just a literary device
- Not just used by writers
- Most often used unconsciously
- Absolutely fundamental to all communication
metaphor

We use the language of one situation to describe a different situation that's in some ways comparable.
in the sea / in water
out of the sea / out of the water
in danger / in trouble
out of danger / out of trouble
We use the language of the physical world to describe an abstract or emotional situation that's in some ways comparable.
the physical world

up       across
down     above
in       below
out      around
on       forward
off      behind
ahead    under
behind   over
etc
UP

• Physical world:
  go up a tree/mountain
  look up in the air

• Metaphorically:
  prices go up
up = more
down = more
up = more (e.g. speed up, cheer up)

down = less (e.g. slow down, turn down the volume)
up = more (e.g. overspend, above average)

down = less (e.g. underpay, low rent)
up = happier / better

over the moon
uplifting
feel as high as a kite
do up a house
down = less happy / worse

feel down (in the dumps)
depressed
feel low
feel under the weather
up = more

power
prestige
importance

down = less
up = more power/prestige

look up to someone
at the height of your powers
going up in the world
live the highlife
your royal highness
down = less power/prestige

look down on someone
under someone’s thumb
down and out
downtrodden
a lowlife
fall from grace
fall into poverty
fall in love
in = surroundings

real, physical
in the sea
in a cave
in a forest

metaphorical
in trouble
in luck
in love
A hole has appeared in the middle of the town centre.
Police are looking into it.
Wherever my aunt is now, I'm sure she's looking down on me.
She isn't dead – just very condescending.
What training do you need to become a rubbish collector?
None. You pick it up as you go along.
Why can't ghosts tell lies?
Because you can always see through them.
• idioms/expressions: too many cooks spoil the broth
• verbs: dissect (a problem)
• nouns: the problem was a real headache
• adjectives: he’s got green fingers
• adverbs: she spoke to me sharply
• phrasal verbs: build up (e.g. support)
• collocations / fixed phrases: one-track mind, couch potato
• prepositions: in light of
I decided to throw so much at the media that they wouldn't quite know what to make of it all, and I gave them three stories at once: I would fight the third election but not the fourth; I had bought a house; I was having a heart operation. It was the only way to do it and I was highly amused by the spluttering and reeling as they tried to work out the 'true' significance of the stories being released simultaneously, since of course it wouldn't do simply to report these things as they were. David Hill handled it brilliantly. I had my operation. The house was bought. And so was some time.
What does that have to do with ELT?

Should an understanding of this metaphorical use of language affect/determine how we present and practise vocabulary?
App Store
We’re very good at remembering broad concepts – we’re not so good at remembering detail.
Phrasal verbs

How do your students generally cope with learning and using phrasal verbs?

a They fall behind. 😞
b They just about get by.
c They storm ahead. 😊
Phrasal verbs

Particles seem random

So many phrasal verbs – so few particles – phrasal verbs all so similar

Many coursebooks and vocabulary books don’t help
Phrasal verbs

✗ Present by main verb
  (take out, take in, take off, etc)

✔ Present within topic vocabulary
  (planes land, planes take off)

✔ Present by particle where the particles share the same meaning
  (speed up, turn up the volume, etc)
What are the meanings of these particles?

across:

I came across a really interesting book.
She stumbled across some old photos.
I finally ran across someone who could help.

find, discover (by chance)
What are the meanings of these particles?

on:

Turn on the TV!
Switch on the computer.
Bring it on!
Log on using your user name and password.
How did we get on to talking about this?
Do you think it will catch on?

start (to work, operate)
What are the meanings of these particles?

out:

Let’s pick out some nice shoes for you.
I need to find out.
How do we work out the answer?
I couldn’t make out what it was.
She looked out her old photo album.
They wormed the information out of him.

search, find (to select, obtain)
What are the meanings of these particles?

about:
mess about
goof about
lounge about
hang about

have a lack of purpose
What are the meanings of these particles?

down:
burn down
chop down
tear down
smash down

destroy
What are the meanings of these particles?

off:
brick off
close off
fence off
rope off
cordon off
block off

separate
What are the meanings of these particles?

out:
print out documents
carry out a plan
fill out a form
set out your ideas
thrash out an argument
turn out to be better than expected

complete, end up
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.
When we talk about abstract ideas, we sometimes use the language of the physical, concrete world.

a difficult problem: a headache
the central issue: the root of the problem
an opinion: a view
a vague idea: at the back of my mind
When we talk about emotions / psychological effects, we sometimes use the language of the physical, concrete world.

**anger:** heat and combustion

He exploded.

He was hot under the collar.

It’s difficult to let off steam.

I lost my cool.
When we talk about intelligence, we sometimes use the language of knives and blades:

- a stab in the dark
- a razor-sharp mind
- She’s very sharp.
- Let’s dissect the problem.
- That was an incisive comment.
- a cutting remark
When we talk about intelligence, we sometimes use the language of light:

a bright child
She’s brilliant.
She shines at languages.
She outshone everyone else in the class.
a flash of inspiration
Enlighten me!
He’s a bit dim.
When we talk about learning, we sometimes use the language of travelling and movement:

I started out believing...
the first step was to realise...
I approached the subject...
I explored the subject...
It served as a good guide to...
It gave me some pointers...
in unchartered territory
I reached / came to the conclusion that...
When we talk about **time**, we sometimes use the language of **money**:

- save time
- spend time
- waste time
- buy time
- run out of time
- a profitable / valuable use of time
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1 intelligence
2 mistakes
3 language / words
4 opportunity
5 being busy
6 searching
7 illness

a food and flavours
b light
c being covered
d doors and entrances
e digging in the ground
f walking (badly)
g war and battles
h hunting
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1 intelligence
2 mistakes
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- a food and flavours
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When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1 intelligence
2 mistakes
3 language / words
4 opportunity
5 being busy
6 searching
7 illness

f food and flavors
g light
h being covered
d doors and entrances
e digging in the ground
f walking (badly)
g war and battles
h hunting

stumble over your words
fall flat on your face
slip of the tongue
not put a foot wrong
put your foot in it
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1. intelligence
2. mistakes
3. language / words
4. opportunity
5. being busy
6. searching
7. illness

- a food and flavours
- b light
- eat your words
- digest the news
- a bit of a mouthful
- speak bitterly
- unpalatable
- h hunting
When we talk about **X**, we sometimes use the language of **Y**.

1 intelligence
2 mistakes
3 language / words
4 opportunity
5 being busy
6 searching
7 illness

- a food and flavours
- b light
- c being covered
- d doors and entrances
- e digging in the ground
- f walking (badly)
- g war and battles
- h hunting

**the key to**…

**opportunity knocks**

**an opening**

**on the threshold of**…

**it unlocked**…
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1. intelligence
2. mistakes
3. language / words
4. opportunity
5. being busy
6. searching
7. illness

a. food and flavours
b. light
c. being covered
d. doors and entrances
e. digging in the ground
f. walking (badly)
g. war and battles
h. hunting
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1 intelligence
2 mistakes
3 language / words
4 opportunity
5 being busy
6 searching
7 illness

- up to your eyes/neck/etc in work
- pile work on somebody
- wade through
- snowed under
- drowning in
- swamped with
- flooded with
- h hunting
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1 intelligence
2 mistakes
3 language / words
4 opportunity
5 being busy
6 searching
7 illness

a food and flavours
b light
c being covered
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f walking (badly)
g war and battles
h hunting
When we talk about X, we sometimes use the language of Y.

1. intelligence
2. mistakes
3. language / words
4. opportunity
5. being busy
6. searching
7. illness

- food and flavours
- light
- being covered
- doors and entrances
- digging in the ground
- walking (badly)
- hunting
- track down
- on somebody’s trail
- hounded by
- trawl through
- sniff around
- throw off scent
When we talk about **X**, we sometimes use the language of **Y**.

1. intelligence
2. mistakes
3. language / words
4. opportunity
5. being busy
6. searching
7. illness

---

fight/battle/combat disease
disease
virus attacks…
a battle with an illness
fight off a cold
resistance to
guard against

g war and battles
h hunting
Translate into L1 – are they used metaphorically?

a difficult problem: a headache
the central issue: the root of the problem
an opinion: a view
a vague idea: at the back of my mind

He exploded.
He was hot under the collar.
It’s difficult to let off steam.
I lost my cool.
human universals

• location and position
  stand your ground / be in a difficult position / on the horizon / in the distant future
human universals

• location and position

• movement along the horizontal (travelling) a way to do something / quickly run over those points / walk me through the plans / that leads me to…
human universals

• location and position

• movement along the horizontal (travelling)

• movement along the vertical (up and down)
  things (e.g. prices) rise and fall / look down on or look up to / feel down (in the dumps) / feel high (as a kite)
domains = areas of specific activity

e.g. sailing / war / driving / cooking /
    gambling / hunting / fashion / etc etc etc

Domains produce their own vocabulary.

Certain domains have such a cultural resonance that their specific language often starts to be used (metaphorically) outside of their domain.
domains = areas of specific activity

e.g. sailing / war / driving / cooking / gambling / hunting / fashion / etc etc etc

If the domain is one of universal experience (e.g. war), then the metaphors are often cross-cultural.

If the domain is culturally specific, then the metaphors are often not cross-cultural.
What’s the domain?

What was your part in the coup?
They staged a coup.
It was a difficult act to follow.
Her painting took centre stage at the event.
Running a company is a difficult balancing act.
Don’t be such a clown.
The media circus following them...
Plots were going on behind the scenes.
What’s the domain?

What was your part in the coup?
They staged a coup.
It was a difficult act to follow.
Her painting took centre stage at the event.
Running a company is a difficult balancing act.
Don’t be such a clown.
The media circus following them...
Plots were going on behind the scenes.
What’s the domain?

She doesn’t miss a trick, does she?
I think I’ll follow suit.
Keep your cards close to your chest.
raise/up the ante
hedge your bets
bet over the odds
poker face
What’s the domain?

a leading light
neck and neck
It’s in the bag!
hook, line and sinker
lock, stock and barrel
below the belt
steer clear of
to be taken aback

= to be shocked or surprised

From: British seafaring

On a sailing ship, the wind would sometimes blow on the wrong side of the sails, and they were pushed backwards or ‘taken aback’.

to be taken aback

= to be shocked or surprised

From: Crime and punishment

British prisoners were often transported to Australia. Usually, they would spend the rest of their lives there. Occasionally, they were returned to the UK. This was described as being ‘taken aback’, and always came as a surprise.

Useful phrases:
It comes from… / It all started when… / Imagine you’re…
Call my bluff!

A last-ditch attempt
= a final attempt

From: Flood prevention
In low-lying areas that often flooded, ditches were sometimes dug around a town to take away the rainfall. The ‘last ditch’ was the one nearest the town. If that failed, they all got wet!

A last-ditch attempt
= a final attempt

From: War
The ‘last ditch’ was the last line of defence for the army, i.e. the ditch closest to the soldiers. If you were fighting in the last ditch, the enemy were nearly on top of you.
Non-random elements

He spent his forties out and down in London.

The situation is dried and cut.

The problem is buried and dead.
Non-random elements

• (chrono)logical progression
down and out / cut and dried / dead and buried
Non-random elements

It’s dusted and done.

I’ve learnt it verse and chapter.
Non-random elements

• from the more general to the more specific
done and dusted / chapter and verse
Non-random elements

Tourism is the country’s bread and margarine.

It’s a tried and checked way of doing it.

He’s going to fall flat on his head.
Non-random elements

• alliteration
  bread and butter / tried and tested / fall flat on your face
Non-random elements

That’s the name of the sport.

You’re an eager otter!

I’m happy to go with the current.
Non-random elements

• rhyme
  name of the game / eager beaver / go with the flow
Rebus: 38 years ago…

If the B m t, put more:

If the grate be empty, put more coal on.
Rebus: 38 years ago...

Too wise you are, too wise you be, I see you are too wise for me.
Rebus

• Graphic or visual depiction of language
• Broad concept shown visually – detail often has to be worked out from the concept
• Because of this, they can help reinforce the metaphorical concepts behind what we say
• A number of different kinds
Rebus Puzzles (Pictogram Puzzles) - Fun With Words
www.fun-with-words.com/rebus_puzzles.html
Contains pictures as additional elements to the letters and numbers.
Rebus Puzzles 1-4 of 100 - Rebus Puzzles - Malapropisms

Rebus Puzzles Brainteasers - NIEHS Kids Pages
kids.niehs.nih.gov › Fun & Games › Riddles & Brainteasers
A REBUS is a picture representation of a name, work, or phrase. Each "rebus" puzzle box below portrays a common word or phrase. Can you guess what it is?

Rebus - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebus
Lewis Carroll wrote the children he befriended picture-puzzle rebus letters, nonsense letters, and looking-glass letters, which had to be held in front of a mirror to ...

Rebus Puzzles - IQ Test Experts
www.iqtestexperts.com/rebus-puzzles.php
Puzzles made with letters and words, which cryptically represent a word, phrase, or saying.
You visited this page on 6/18/15.

Rebus Puzzles
www2.stetson.edu/~efriedma/rebus/
Rebus Puzzles. Each of the pictures below represents a common phrase. All puzzles copyright Erich Friedman, 2008. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

Picture & Rebus Puzzles - Brain Teasers
brainden.com/picture-rebus-puzzles.htm
Puzzle championship examples and rebuses where you have to decipher pictures to find some well known expression.

Squigly's Rebus Puzzles
www.squiglysplayhouse.com/BrainTeasers/Rebus.php
These brain teasers have been submitted by our visitors from all around the world. These quiz questions are fun for the brain and will puzzle you for some time.

Rebus Puzzles - Puzzles to Print
www.puzzles-to-print.com/rebus-puzzles/rebus-puzzles-page-1.shtml
Rebus puzzles can help stretch your mind and stimulate creativity. Print these out and see how many your friends can guess.

How To Solve A Rebus Puzzle | Free Rebus Puzzles Are A ...
www.rebusco.com/how-to-solve-a-rebus-puzzle/
Here is a quick introduction to explain all you need to know on solving a Rebus puzzle. Rebus are pictures often made with letters, numbers or images, which ...
AID AID AID AID
OPPORTUNITY
bee-leaf: belief

Pronunciation problems?

eye-saw: eyesore

Pronunciation problems?

seal-ant: sealant

Pronunciation problems?

tree-sun: treason

Pronunciation problems?
control
the situation
I’m the moon
arrest
you’re
act

character
mind

matter
the weather
feeling
cut

cut cut cut cut cut cut cut cut cut cut
RISE
ADVERSITY
chance
in
a chance
read
THE MORNING
TURN THE COMPUTER
TURN THE PAGE
TAKE
A COMPANY
THE KIDS LOOK
TONLET’SSTAYIGHT
TON LET’S STAY IGH
FALL

DON’T
SHY

RISK
DO A HOUSE
DON’T REWSNA
2 B
SNOWED WORK
multi-word verbs

- Phrasal verbs
- Prepositional verbs
- Phrasal prepositional verbs
- Verb + noun (+ preposition) *take place, take part (in)*
- Verb + prepositional phrase *take into account*
- Verb + verb *make do, let go*
Phrasal verbs

verb + adverbial particle

- transitive (takes an object):
  ✓ I'll turn the TV on.
  ✓ I'll turn on the TV.
  ✓ I'll turn it on.
  X I'll turn on it.

- intransitive (doesn't take an object):
  Winter is setting in.
Phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between?:

*hang out* (eg after school)
*hang out* (eg washing)
Phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between?:

*hang out* (eg after school)
*hang out* (eg washing)

✔ Mum hung out the washing.
✔ Mum hung the washing out.

✔ The kids usually *hang out* after school.
X The kids usually *hang* after school *out*.
Prepositional verbs

verb + preposition

She looked at the book.
The wild dog almost went for me.
I came across a really interesting article.

No particle movement
X I came a really interesting article across.
Prepositional verbs vs phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between?:

*get over* (= recover from, eg an illness)
*get over* (= make sb understand, eg a message)
Prepositional verbs vs phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between?

*get over* (= recover from, eg an illness)
*get over* (= make sb understand, eg a message)

✓ *It took me ages to get over her betrayal.*
X *It took me ages to get her betrayal over.*

✓ *We need to get over the message that…*
✓ *We need to get the message over that…*
Prepositional verbs vs phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between?:

*make up* (= comprise)
*make up* (= invent, eg a story)
Prepositional verbs vs phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between?:

*make up* (= comprise)
*make up* (= invent, eg a story)

✓ Women make up 50% of the workforce.
X Women make 50% of the workforce up.

✓ You made up that story.
✓ You made that story up.
Prepositional verbs vs phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between:

*turn on* (= activate, eg a TV)
*turn on* (= start to attack)
Prepositional verbs vs phrasal verbs

What’s the difference grammatically between?:

*turn on* (= activate, eg a TV)

*turn on* (= start to attack)

✓ I turned on the TV.
✓ I turned the TV on.

✓ The young lion turned on the antelope.
X The young lion turned the antelope on.
Phrasal prepositional verbs

phraseal verb + prepositional phrase

get away ?
get away with ?
Phrasal prepositional verbs

phrasal verb + prepositional phrase

get away ?
get away with ?

He got away. = escaped
He got away with the diamonds. = escaped
He got away on a motorbike. = escaped

He got away with murder. = escaped punishment for
Students need to understand there are different types (whatever we call them).
Students need to learn their grammar as well as their meaning.
Some verbs (e.g., make up, turn on, get over) are more than one type, depending on their meaning.

**Prepositional verbs and phrasal prepositional verbs:** no particle movement

**Transitive phrasal verbs when object is a pronoun:** no particle movement

**Transitive phrasal verbs when object is a noun (phrase):** particle movement