

Match the following phrasal verbs with their meanings:

Back out	Take control of a business, etc.
bring out	stop operating (for companies)
close down	to deal with
see through (to)	to increase speed
see to	to produce and start to sell a new product
set to	to start (a business, an organisation, a company)
set out	to start working on smth in order to achieve an aim
set up	not accept (an offer, a request, etc)
slow down	to start doing smth in a determined or enthusiastic way
speed up	to continue (or help to continue) to the end of smth unpleasant or difficult
stand in for	to decide not to do smth you agreed to do
take on	to decrease speed
take over	to start to employ; accept (work or responsibility)
turn down	to do smb's job for them while they are not available

C Write one word in each gap.

It just takes hard work and commitment

Entrepreneur Jane Dickson describes how she got started

I was working as an IT Manager for a small publishing company (in fact, I was standing (1) for the actual manager while she was away on maternity leave) when the company was taken (2) by a large multinational media organisation. It was in the depths of the recession, and initially our new owners promised to see our small company (3) the hard times. Things got worse, though, and they finally backed (4) of their agreement. Our company closed (5) We were all made redundant – it was horrible!

I wasn't sure what I wanted to do next. I (6) down several offers of work as I didn't want to rush into anything. Then, one day, I woke up and thought: 'I'm going to set (7) my own business!' At first it was tough. I had to (8) to everything myself – I was the only employee! – but I set (9) it with dedication and refused to give up, whatever happened. Over the last five years, as the company's grown, I've taken (10) more and more staff. Dickson's now employs over five hundred people! I set (11) to be successful, and I've managed it. I feel very lucky, although, to be honest, luck has nothing to do with it. It just takes hard work and commitment. I don't feel satisfied yet, though. We're bringing (12) new products all the time, and I want to continue doing that. I also want to speed (13) our production process to make it more efficient. I'm not planning to slow (14) any time soon!

Topic vocabulary in contrast

A Circle the correct word.

- 1 The **charity / union** I'm a member of is calling for a nationwide strike next week.
- 2 It's **company / firm / business** policy not to allow the use of phones for personal calls during working hours.
- 3 The recent **raise / rise** in the cost of petrol has affected loads of small businesses round here.
- 4 In some professions, you have to **retire / resign** when you're 60 or 65 years old.
- 5 My grandfather gets a **pension / promotion** from the company he used to work for.
- 6 Not only did we all have to work **overtime / promotion** this weekend, but we didn't get paid for it!
- 7 Have you had any news about that **work / job / career** you applied for yet?
- 8 The starting **salary / wage** is €20 000 per year.
- 9 You'll get a weekly **pay / wage** of about €300 before deductions.
- 10 She became a full-time member of **employees / staff / employers** last year.

B Complete using the correct form of the words in the box.

commute • deliver • earn • gain • make • sack • win

- 1 No sooner had Denzil the lottery than he decided to quit his job.
- 2 How long does it take you to to work every day?
- 3 How much does a state school teacher each year?
- 4 Over a hundred workers were redundant when the factory closed.
- 5 Our next-door neighbour was for stealing company property.
- 6 Does your local supermarket ?
- 7 Rarely have I so much valuable experience in such a short space of time.