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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The Grammar Gameshow

### Phrasal verbs and highlights

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**Leslie**

Hello and welcome to the Grammar Gameshow! I'm your host, Leslie! Tonight we're going to talk to you about phrasal verbs, and show you some highlights. So here are some hidden scenes and bloopers from the show that you didn't see.

**Will**

Oh, I'm excited!

**Leslie**

We know that our game show looks polished and smooth. But, even the most professional actors occasionally get caught out and let down by the most unexpected problems.

**Will**

And the winner is Mike with 58 points, and Jay you've lost your thingy. There you go! It's gone again! It's my birthday and I'll cry if I want to. Oh no!

**Leslie**

The phrasal verb caught out can mean 'be put in a difficult situation'. For example: I got caught out by the sudden shower of rain. The phrasal verb let down can mean 'disappoint by not meeting expectations'. For example: We were let down by the weather when we wanted to go to the beach. After working with Will for a very short time, it became clear that he would often come out with some very odd noises from time to time. Either from a mistake, or just for fun.

**Will**

At least it would have been if she hadn't been quite obviously blatant... Like many 'vodal' verbs... Next question!

**Leslie**

The phrasal verb come out with means 'suddenly and unexpectedly speak or say something'. But of course, he's not the only one who makes mistakes. There are always up to two other actors on the set at any one time. And they regularly slip up as much as he does.

**Sal**

I've got a line! And I don't know what it is!

**Clarence**

Hold it right there Will! This is a sting! Agent Clarence Articulates from the Bureau of Invisible Know-it-all Grammarians...

**Bill**

He said, he was here then. No, there then!

**Didactica**

Or just wha... sorry!

**Nana Will**

Don't test me young man, or I'll give you a 'smashk'... Sorry.

**Leslie**

The phrasal verb slip up means 'make a mistake'. We could also say mess up, foul up or screw up. It's always a pleasure working with actors. All that creative energy often means there's quite a lot of clowning around.

**Felicia**

What?

**Bill**

Well, it's... it's wonderful to be standing next to this gorgeous creature. I wonder if she'll go out for a cup of tea with me after the show.

**Leslie**

The phrasal verb clown around means 'behave in a silly or foolish way'. We could also say muck about, mess around, monkey about or goof off. And last but not least is Will in one of his less intelligent moments. Despite being a native speaker, and no matter how hard we tried, he just couldn't catch on to what we meant. Even though he was quite willing to keep plugging away.

**Will**

I'll give you the sentence, And you give me the question tag, won't you?

**Dan**

Try and go down at the end, mate. I'll give you the sentence, and you'll give me the question tag, won't you?

**Will**

I'll give you the sentence, and you'll give me the question tag, won't you?

**Dan**

Won't you!

**Will**

What? And you'll give me the question, won't you?

**Dan**

No!

**Dan**

You'll give me the question, won't you? No!

**Will**

I don't think I pronounce these right in real life! And you'll give me the question tag, won't you? You'll do it, won't you? Won't you?

**Catherine**

No! Won't you!

**Will**

You'll give me the question tag, won't you? Won't you? You'll do it, won't you?

**Leslie**

The phrasal verb catch on can mean 'understand or comprehend'. As for plug away, it can mean to 'keep trying hard to do something' - especially something difficult or boring. And so we've reached the end of this series of the Grammar Gameshow.

**Will**

This is old milk!

**Leslie**

Thanks for joining us. And from all of us here, it's a big good bye, see ya, adios, ciao, toodle-oo, goodbye everyone!