



Business English

Phrasal Verbs for Mistakes

I. Match the phrasal verbs to their definitions.

BEAT yourself UP

a) to say that you did something wrong and accept responsibility for it

OWN UP TO something

b) to make a small or careless mistake

MESS UP

c) to do something wrong or make a mistake

SLIP UP

d) to try to hide a mistake or problem instead of fixing it

COVER UP

e) to be very hard on yourself when you make a mistake

MAKE UP FOR something

f) to do something good to correct a mistake

II. Fill in the blanks with a phrasal verb from the box. Use the correct form.

SLIP UP

OWN UP

COVER UP

MESS UP

MAKE UP FOR

BEAT YOURSELF UP

- I accidentally _____ during the presentation and showed the old sales figures, which confused the client.
- She worked through the weekend to _____ the delays earlier in the project.
- The team tried to _____ the mistake in the financial report by adjusting a few numbers, but the auditors quickly spotted the discrepancy.
- Don't _____ over the missed call — we can easily reschedule, and the client said they weren't upset.
- The manager had to _____ to giving the wrong instructions to the team after everyone started following the incorrect process.
- We completely _____ the delivery schedule and had to apologize to the customer, who was expecting the shipment two days earlier.

III. Answer the question using 1-2 phrasal verbs from Part I.



What's a recent mistake you made, and how did you fix it?



- I.
beat yourself up e)
own up to smth a)
mess up c)
slip up b)
cover up d)
make up for smth f)

- II.
1. I accidentally **slipped up** during the presentation and showed the old sales figures, which confused the client.
 2. She worked through the weekend to **make up for** the delays earlier in the project.
 3. The team tried to **cover up** the mistake in the financial report by adjusting a few numbers, but the auditors quickly spotted the discrepancy.
 4. Don't **beat yourself up** over the missed call — we can easily reschedule, and the client said they weren't upset.
 5. The manager had to **own up** to giving the wrong instructions to the team after everyone started following the incorrect process.
 6. We completely **messed up** the delivery schedule and had to apologize to the customer, who was expecting the shipment two days earlier.

For more practice, check out the links below:

[7 Business English Expressions for Problems at Work – Quiz with Examples](#)

[10 Essential Business English Phrases for Managers to Lead and Motivate Teams](#)

[6 Common Business English Phrases for Problems and Delays at Work](#)

[7 Business English Idioms About Innovation and Creativity \(With Easy Definitions & Quiz\)](#)

[7 Phrasal Verbs to Describe Achievements in Business English](#)

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