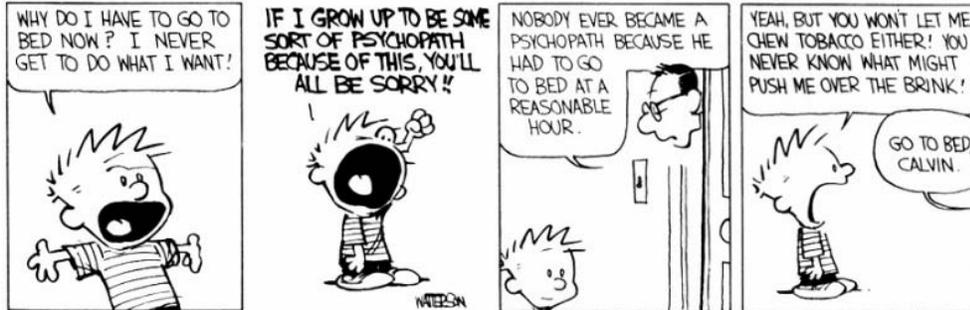


"If I grow up to be..."

Grow up:



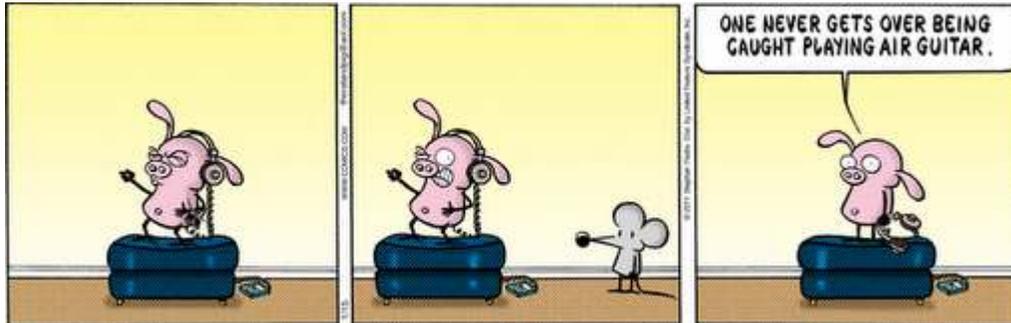
Most of you already know what "grow up" means: It's the process of becoming an adult - both physically and in terms of maturity... or simply to get older. What some of you don't know is that its use is limited. For example, it is incorrect to say, "My business is growing up". Similarly it is not possible to say, "I am growing up in knowledge". In both cases, just omit the preposition "up".

1. Some people are surprised to find out that Hugh Laurie grew up in England. Even though he speaks with an American accent in the TV series *Doctor House*, he's British and he lives in London.
2. Many young boys want to be astronauts when they grow up.
3. Some grownups (adults) have forgotten how to have fun. Have you?
4. Normally when we grow up, we learn to appreciate our parents more than when we were teenagers.
5. You need to grow up and stop being so immature! You're a grown man and you need to learn to deal with your own problems.

Push someone over the brink or push someone over the edge:

If a situation or circumstance pushes someone over the edge (or over the brink), it makes them start to behave in a crazy way. They have been pushed to the limit of their endurance/ patience.

Get over something/ someone:



There are many meanings for this phrasal verb - but in this context it means to recover from something or feel better. Here the pig is saying that he will not recover from feeling humiliated or embarrassed.

1. If a friend of yours is having difficulty getting over a relationship that has just ended, you could give him/ her this advice: "There are plenty of fish in the sea!"
2. Some people just can't get over the death of Michael Jackson, especially his look-a-likes and extreme fans. It was totally unexpected.
3. When Brazil or Argentina lose a game in the world cup soccer, the players (and the fans) take weeks to get over the disappointment.
4. If you are the victim of a robbery or assault, it may take a while to get over that fear caused by the incident.
5. When I got dengue fever (West Nile Virus), it took me a few weeks to get over it and fully recover.

Look (something) up/

Look it up:



If you look someone or something up, you are looking for information from a reference source such as: the internet, the yellow pages, any kind of dictionary, an encyclopedia (or wikipedia), a telephone directory... facebook, Google Maps etc.

1. I wonder (ask myself) how many people actually use encyclopedias these days to look up facts, especially when the internet is so easily accessible.
2. In Brazil Orkut is so popular that everyone uses it to look up services and businesses as well as people.
3. Wikipedia is an incredible worldwide collaboration - a digital encyclopedia where you can look up almost any information you might be curious about.
4. If you want to look up just about any movie, you can use the site: Internet Movie Database at www.imdb.com. You can find reviews and plot summaries amongst other things.
5. If you're interested in learning English slang, an excellent reference site where you can look up modern-day slang is:
www.urbandictionary.com/

Lug (something) around/ We've been lugging (this dumb microwave) around:



To pull or carry something that's heavy or cumbersome (big) with great difficulty.

1. I've been lugging this huge umbrella around all day and it hasn't even rained!
2. Nomads who live in the desert need to lug all of their possessions around as they move from one place to another - or at least their camels do!
3. Over the last 8 years I have lived in 5 different countries... I used to lug some of my favorite books around (They were super heavy!), but then the maximum weight allowance for luggage on airplanes was decreased to about 20kg, so I had to *get rid of* (eliminate/ throw away/ give away) most of them.
4. When we go on vacation usually we have to lug around most of my daughter's toys. She cannot live without them!
5. Backpackers need to lug a big backpack around wherever they travel... and some even lug a surfboard around - even on buses.

Take up something/ “I'm... taking up golf”:



If you take up something, you are starting a new hobby or activity.

1. Millions of people around the world are taking up blogging every year.
2. I decided that at some point this year I'm going to take up Capoeira - it looks like a lot of fun and it keeps you fit.
3. Everyone should take up a hobby that helps them to relax.
4. I took up playing the harmonica about 14 years ago when I heard Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee.
5. Why don't you take up an outdoor hobby? I don't think it's good for you to play video games 24/7.

Fill out (something)/ Fill out (your own battle report):

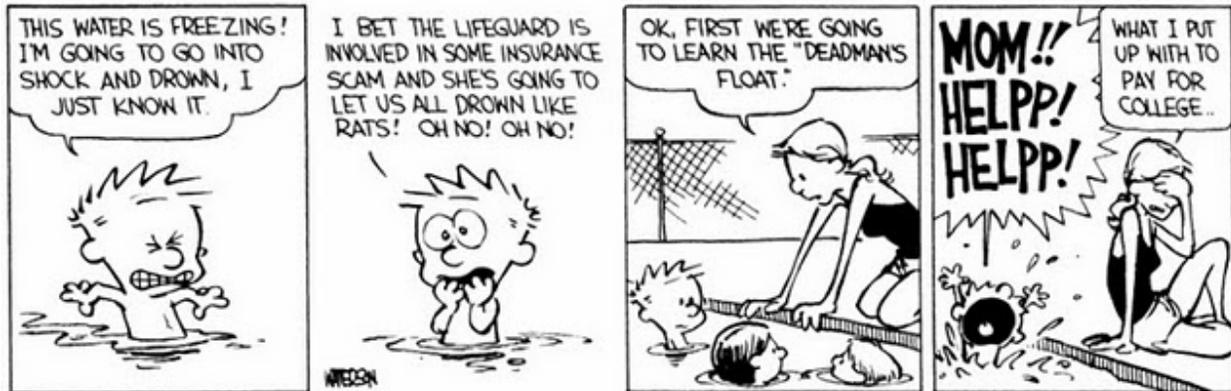


Usually you can fill out a form/ a document/ a questionnaire/ a report or any kind of legal or official form. It is the same as saying "to complete in writing". Curiously, the phrasal verb "Fill in" is exactly the same as "Fill out"... they are synonyms!

1. When you open a bank account you need to fill out a form with all of your personal details, such as ID, telephone, address etc.
2. I opened a Gmail account the other day and I had to fill in some basic information online, including my cell phone number so that I could receive a confirmation code via text message.
3. In your Facebook/ Orkut/ CouchSurfing profile you can fill out as much or as little information as you want.
4. Usually on international flights you need to fill in a customs declaration and immigration form before you land at your final destination.

5. I hate filling out job application forms... they take so long!

Put up with:



If you put up with someone or something, you tolerate something that you don't like or something that irritates you.

1. Everyone had to put up with the noise from the Vuvuzelas during the 2010 soccer world cup in South Africa.
2. I can't put up with being stuck in heavy traffic every day, so I decided to start working from home.
3. I can't put up with our neighbors who always play loud music until very late.
4. Thank God that my wife puts up with me when I'm difficult with her.

5. How do you put up with your boss? He's always shouting at you.

Be up to (something)/ what you're up to:



In this context, if you are up to something it simply means that you are doing something... you could also be scheming (secret plan).

1. - Hey Frank what are you up to? - Nothing much... I'm just surfing the internet.
2. - What have you been up to these days? - I'm on vacation so I've been watching a lot of my favorite TV series.
3. I wonder (I'm curious about) what Steven is up to these days. I haven't heard from him in a while (long time).
4. I don't know what you're up to, but you've got some explaining to do.

Another meaning (it doesn't apply to this comic strip) is if you are up to something then you feel like doing something... it expresses that you want to do something.

- What are you doing this weekend? Are you up to having a barbeque? - I'm definitely up to it!

Stay away from:



If you need to stay away from something or someone, you should avoid it or them because it might be dangerous, risky or bad for you.

1. My New Year's resolution is to stay far away from pizza this year.
2. Stay away from that girl... she's pretty but she's a lot of trouble.
3. Stay away from that section of the beach - the surfers there are very territorial.
4. Don't even think about it. Stay away from the casino if you're not lucky... the odds are statistically against you.