

PHRASAL VERBS

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about using phrasal verbs
Key Goals	<p>Here is an outline of what you will learn today:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Types of phrasal verbs 2. Meanings of Phrasal Verbs 3. How to correctly form phrasal verbs in a sentence or question

1. Types of Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal Verbs are a key part of using English naturally, and informally.

Some important points to remember before you start:

- There are thousands of Phrasal Verbs in English, and you may begin to use them before you even realise.
- Phrasal Verbs consist of either 2 words or 3 words are formed grammatically in three ways:

1. Verb + Preposition (“look after” – “Who is looking after your cat?”)

2. Verb + Adverb (“look up” – “If you are not sure, look up the word in a dictionary”)

3. Verb + Adverb + Preposition (“look out for” – “Look out for the taxi!”)

2. Meanings of Phrasal Verbs

Adding Adverbs or Prepositions to a Verb to create a Phrasal Verb changes the meaning.

Look at the table below for one example:

Form	Verb/Phrasal Verb	Meaning
Single Verb	(to) look	to direct your eyes to a specific place
Verb + Preposition	(to) look after	to take care of something/someone
Verb + Adverb	(to) look up	to research something in a book or online
Verb + Adverb + Preposition	(to) look out for	to keep your eyes open for a specific thing or person

Exercise:

Rewrite the following sentence:

- **so that you use the phrasal verb in brackets**
- **keep the meaning of the sentences the same**
- **keep the tenses of the sentences the same**

1. He entered the car. (get into)

_____.

2. Please carry out the rubbish. (take out)

_____.

3. I have to switch off the television. (turn of)

_____.

4. Remove your coat, it is very hot here. (take off)

_____.

5. I am really excited about meeting his mother (look forward to)

_____.

Answers:

1. He got into the car.
2. Please take out the rubbish.
3. I have to turn off the television.
4. Take off your coat, it is very hot here.
5. I really look forward to meeting his mother.

3. How to form Phrasal Verbs in a sentence

To understand the rules about Phrasal Verbs, we must look at how they are made. We learned about the three grammatical forms of Phrasal Verbs earlier. There are four categories of Phrasal Verbs:

1. Transitive Phrasal Verbs

These phrasal verbs require an object in the sentence. Without an object, they do not make sense.

For Example: “Please turn off the computer” – in this sentence, ‘turn off’ in the phrasal verb, and ‘the computer’ is the object.

2. Intransitive Phrasal Verbs

These phrasal verbs do not require an object in the sentence. They make sense, even without an object.

For Example: “The computer was turned off” – in this sentence, ‘The computer’ is the subject, and ‘turned off’ is the phrasal verb. There is no object.

3. Separable Phrasal Verbs

These phrasal verbs can be separated to change the position of the object in the sentence. For Example: “Please turn the computer off” – in this sentence, the object (‘the computer’) is placed in between the separable phrasal verb ‘turn off’. The meaning is the same, but we have a choice of where to use the object.

4. Non-Separable Phrasal Verbs

These phrasal verbs cannot be separated otherwise they do not make sense. The two or three words making up the phrasal verb, must always stay together.

For Example: “I’m looking forward to our holiday”. The phrasal verb ‘looking forward to’ must stay together, or the sentence loses its meaning.

Exercise:

Look at the following phrasal verbs.

Try to work out which type they are.

Circle whether they are transitive or intransitive, separable or inseparable.

1. to get into	transitive / intransitive	separable / inseparable
2. to take out	transitive / intransitive	separable / inseparable
3. to get up	transitive / intransitive	separable / inseparable
4. to sit down	transitive / intransitive	separable / inseparable
5. to take off	transitive / intransitive	separable / inseparable
6. to get along with	transitive / intransitive	separable / inseparable

Answers:

1. transitive, inseparable
2. transitive, separable
3. intransitive, inseparable
4. intransitive, inseparable
5. transitive, separable
6. transitive, inseparable

Phrasal Verbs are exactly the same as regular verbs when it comes to affirmative sentences, negative sentences and questions.

They make use of the auxiliary verbs: **do**, **does** and **did**.

Look at the table below which shows the conjugation of the phrasal verb 'to get up' in the different English tenses, in affirmative, negative and question form.

	Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Question Form
Present Simple	You get up at 7 o'clock.	You don't get up at 7 o'clock.	Do you get up at 7 o'clock?
Present Continuous	You are getting up.	You aren't getting up.	Are you getting up?
Present Perfect	You have got up at 7 o'clock every day this week.	You haven't got up at 7 o'clock every day this week.	Have you got up at 7 o'clock every day this week?
Present Perfect Continuous	You have been getting up at 7 o'clock.	You haven't been getting up at 7 o'clock.	Have you been getting up at 7 o'clock?
Past Simple	You got up at 7 o'clock.	You didn't get up at 7 o'clock.	Did you get up at 7 o'clock?
Past Continuous	You were getting up at 7 o'clock.	You weren't getting up at 7 o'clock.	Were you getting up at 7 o'clock?
Past Perfect	You had got up at 7 o'clock.	You hadn't got up at 7 o'clock.	Had you got up at 7 o'clock?
Past Perfect Continuous	You had been getting up at 7 o'clock.	You hadn't been getting up at 7 o'clock.	Had you been getting up at 7 o'clock?
Future Simple	You will get up at 7 o'clock.	You won't get up at 7 o'clock.	Will you get up at 7 o'clock?

	Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Question Form
Future Continuous	You will be getting up at 7 o'clock.	You won't be getting up at 7 o'clock.	Will you be getting up at 7 o'clock?
Future Perfect	You will have got up at 7 o'clock.	You won't have got up at 7 o'clock.	Will you have got up at 7 o'clock.
Future Perfect Continuous	You will have been getting up at 7 o'clock.	You won't have been getting up at 7 o'clock.	Will you have been getting up at 7 o'clock?

If you can conjugate regular verbs, that means you can conjugate phrasal verbs!

Exercise:

Look at the following phrasal verbs and conjugate them to the correct tense.

Example: to get into (past simple): **I got into my car at 8 o'clock.**

1. to take out the rubbish (present continuous):

_____.

2. to sit down in class (past perfect continuous):

_____.

3. to take off your jacket (present simple):

_____.

4. to get along with your sister (future simple):

_____.

Answers:

1. I am taking out the rubbish.
2. I had been sitting down in class.
3. I take off my jacket.
4. I will get along with my sister.

Learn More:

<http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/phrasals.htm>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/multi-word-verbs>

<https://www.inlingua-edinburgh.co.uk/200-common-phrasal-verbs-with-meanings-and-example-sentences/>