

THEME 1:



Do you know how to use verbs in phrases like pick the kids up, turn the music down and look after my cat?

Look at these examples to see how phrasal verbs are used.

- This is the form. Please, can you **fill it in**?
- Why are you **bringing** that argument **up** now?
- Police are **looking into** connections between the two crimes.
- We need to **come up** with a solution.

Phrasal verbs are very common in English, especially in more informal contexts. They are made up of a verb and a particle or, sometimes, two particles. The particle often changes the meaning of the verb.

- I **called** Jen to see how she was. (**call** = to telephone)
- They've **called off** the meeting. (**call off** = to cancel)

In terms of word order, there are two main types of phrasal verb: separable and inseparable.

Separable

With separable phrasal verbs, the verb and particle can be apart or together.

- They've **called** the meeting **off**. OR They've **called off** the meeting.

However, separable phrasal verbs must be separated when you use a pronoun.

- The meeting? They've **called it off**.

Here are some common separable phrasal verbs:

- I didn't want to **bring** the situation **up** at the meeting. (*bring up* = start talking about a particular subject)
- Please can you **fill** this form **in**? (*fill in* = write information in a form or document)
- I'll **pick** you **up** from the station at 8 p.m. (*pick up* = collect someone in a car or other vehicle)
- She **turned** the job **down**. She didn't want to move to Glasgow. (*turn down* = to not accept an offer)

Non-separable

Some phrasal verbs cannot be separated.

- Who **looks after** the baby when you're at work?

Even when there is a pronoun, the verb and particle remain together.

- Who **looks after** her when you're at work?

Here are some common non-separable phrasal verbs:

- I **came across** your email when I was clearing my inbox. (*come across = to find something by chance*)
- The caterpillar **turned into** a beautiful butterfly. (*turn into = become*)
- We are aware of the problem and we are **looking into** it. (*look into = investigate*)

Some multi-word verbs are **inseparable** simply because they don't take an object.

- I **get up** at 7 a.m.

With two particles

Phrasal verbs with two particles are also inseparable. Even if you use a pronoun, you put it after the particles.

- Who **came up with** that idea? (*come up with* = think of an idea or plan)
- Let's **get rid of** these old magazines. (*get rid of* = remove or become free of something that you don't want)
- I didn't **get on with** my stepbrother when younger. (*get on with* = like and be friendly with someone)
- I'm really **looking forward to** the concert on Friday. (*look forward to* = expect something to happen)

Source: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/phrasal-verbs>

♥ To see some examples of phrasal verbs in real contexts, click on this button:



Exercise 1: Order the following sentences. Pay attention to phrasal verbs.

1.	up	pick	Caty called to ask if	you can	at 6 p.m.	her
2.	for Mika's birthday?	with	up	Has anyone	come	a good idea
3.	it	The invitation to their wedding?	I	turned	politely	down.
4.	When	on holiday, I	look	the cat.	after	my parents are
5.	I'm really	looking	you.	to	forward	seeing
6.	into	The holiday	started well but	a nightmare.	it	turned

