



Presentation

A phrasal verb is a verb + a particle (preposition or adverb). The same verb may be used with a number of different particles. The meaning of the verb changes each time:

Look out! (= be careful)

*I've been **looking for** you all morning!* (= trying to find)

*I'll **look it up** on the computer.* (= try to find information)

Intransitive phrasal verbs

Intransitive phrasal verbs don't have objects. They can describe actions or states:

Shut up!

*I **got up** late.*

*He **slept on** through all the noise.*

Separable phrasal verbs

Many phrasal verbs are transitive and they need an object. Transitive verbs can be separable or inseparable.

With separable phrasal verbs, the object can come either before or after the particle:

***Look up** 'bonsai' on the computer.*

***Look** 'bonsai' **up** on the computer.*

If the object is a pronoun, it must go before the particle:

***Look it up** on the computer.* (don't say ~~*Look up it on the computer.*~~)

Common separable phrasal verbs include: *bring out, call off, drop off, give up, look up, make up, pass around, pick up, put across, put out.*

With a few separable phrasal verbs, the object can only come between the verb and the particle:

*I'll **call the customer back** later.* (don't say ~~*I'll call back the customer later.*~~)

Other verbs like this include: *bring round, call (someone) over, invite out, talk (someone) round, tell (two or more things) apart.*

Inseparable phrasal verbs

With inseparable phrasal verbs, the object must go after the particle. It cannot go between the verb and the particle.

Common inseparable phrasal verbs include: *call for, come after, count on, get over, go into, look after, look for, look through, make of, run after, side with.*

Exercises

1 Choose the correct options. Then listen and check.

- A: Have you had a chance to look ¹*through this report / this report through* yet?
 B: No, I haven't. Dave dropped ²*it off / off it* on my desk this morning, but I honestly haven't had the chance to pick ³*it up / up it* yet. I've been too busy.
 A: Janet wants to know what you make ⁴*it of / of it*. She's asked me to find ⁵*it out / out* what you think. She wants me to call ⁶*her back / back her* as soon as I have.
 B: Why's it so urgent?
 A: Well, apparently it's calling ⁷*massive cuts for / for massive cuts* in spending – it could even mean some people losing their jobs. Janet wants to fight it if she can, but she needs to know she can count ⁸*everyone's support on / on everyone's support* – and that, of course, includes you.
 B: Mmm, I'd better get ⁹*it down / down* to reading it then! Or maybe we should call ¹⁰*the boss over / over the boss* to explain it to us in person.

2 Write the words in the correct order. In some cases two different orders are possible. Write both possible word orders.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 album new bringing They're out a .
They're bringing out a new album. / They've
bringing a new album out. | 5 around the world She her job gave to travel up . |
| 2 wedding called They've the off. | 6 acting Amy has go decided to into . |
| 3 the police after knew come him would He . | 7 the road to you'll Keep or lost get . |
| 4 managed away She finally to get . | 8 his message put He very across clearly . |

3 Rewrite the sentences substituting a pronoun for the words in bold.

- He made up **a story** and everyone believed him.
He made it up and everyone believed him.
- They passed around **the photos** for everyone to see.
They for everyone to see.
- We looked after **their three cats** for our neighbours.
We for our neighbours.
- They quickly put out **the fire**.
They
- He ran after **the woman**, but he couldn't catch up with her.
He, but he couldn't catch up with her.
- My mother always sided with **my brother**, no matter what he'd done.
My mother, no matter what he'd done.

