

84 Phrasal verbs: meaning

A Meaning

Sometimes the meaning of a phrasal verb is very similar to the meaning of the base verb, e.g. **sit down, stand up, lie down, wake up, save up (for sth), hurry up, hang sth up**:

*I'm **saving up** for a new computer.*

***Hang** your coat **up** behind the door.*

More often, the meaning of a phrasal verb is different from the meaning of the base verb:

*We **set off** for the coast at about 7.30.*

*I **picked up** a bit of Greek when I was on holiday.*

*Greg **turned up** late again, so the boss gave him a warning.*

*She told me she was leaving but I couldn't **take it in**.*

*The boys **take after** their father: they're all very practical.*

*The neighbour is so noisy. I can't **put up with** it any longer.*

*They offered me a trip to Paris, but I **turned it down**.*

I'm too busy.

GLOSSARY

set off	start a journey SYN set out
pick sth up	learn sth without formal lessons
turn up	arrive, appear
take sth in	understand what you hear, see or read
take after sb	look or behave like an older member of your family
put up with sth/sb	suffer sth/sb unpleasant and not complain about it
turn sth/sb down	refuse an offer, etc. or the person who makes it

SPOTLIGHT different meanings

Some phrasal verbs may have more than one meaning, sometimes with a different grammatical pattern.

- The plane couldn't **take off** because of bad weather. (= leave the ground)
- Jonah's business has really **taken off**. (= suddenly start being successful)
- It was hot so I **took** my jacket **off**. (= remove)

1 Change the base verb to a phrasal verb.

- I asked them to stand. up
- I sat on the bed. _____
 - They woke late this morning. _____
 - I'm saving for my holiday. _____

- He asked me to lie over there. _____
- I told them to hurry. _____
- Where shall I hang my jacket? _____

2 Circle the correct answer(s). Be careful: both answers may be correct.

- The plane took up / off an hour late.
- The flat they offered me looked rather dirty so I turned it out / down.
 - I don't know how you put up / out with my brother.
 - We want to set out / off before the traffic gets bad.
 - It was hot, so I took / put off my tie.
 - The lesson was difficult. I couldn't take it all after / in.
 - The children didn't take / turn up until midnight.
 - I didn't actually study French. I just picked / took it up.
 - She decided to lie / lie down on the floor.

3 Complete the dialogues.

- The children's behaviour is terrible.
- ~ I know. I can't put up with it much longer.
- ~ Yes, we _____ at about seven.
- ~ Yes, so _____!
- ~ I _____ it _____ because it was wet.
- ~ Yes, it's really _____.
- ~ He was late and finally _____ at 11.00.
- ~ She _____ her father. He's a maths professor.
- ~ I _____ it _____ watching YouTube videos.
- ~ Yes, but he's going to _____ it _____. The salary is terrible.
- Did you start early?
 - Do we have to leave now?
 - Why haven't you kept your coat on?
 - Is his career going well?
 - What time did the builder arrive?
 - Alice is so good at maths.
 - How did you learn to play the guitar?
 - Did they offer Ned the job?



TEST YOURSELF

B In the classroom

TEACHER How are you **getting on**, Suki?
STUDENT I can't **work out** question seven.
TEACHER OK. **Leave it out** and **go on** to the next one.
STUDENT Fine, thank you.

TEACHER OK, I'm afraid we've **run out of** time. Please **tidy up** before you go.

STUDENT Shall I **give out** the dictionaries?
TEACHER Yes, but could you **put them back** when you've finished.

TEACHER Could you **pick up** those bits of paper and put them in the bin?

TEACHER If we **get through** the exercises today, we can **go over** the answers tomorrow.

GLOSSARY

get on (with sth)	make progress with sth you are doing	tidy up	make sth tidy; put everything in the correct place
work sth out	find an answer to an exercise, a problem, etc.	give sth out	give one of sth to each person in a group SYN hand sth out
leave sth out	not include sth SYN omit formal	put sth back	return sth to its place
go on (to sth)	continue (with sth) SYN move on (to sth)	get through sth	complete a task or activity
pick sth up	take hold of sth and lift it to a higher place OPP put sth down	go over sth	look at, think about or discuss sth carefully from beginning to end SYN go through sth
run out (of sth)	finish your supply of sth: I've run out of coffee.		

4 Make sentences from the words.

- go / can / later / we / it / over
 1 out / bread / afraid / run / we've / of / I'm
 2 chairs / before / put / the / go / back / you
 3 you / out / them / could / hand ?
 4 work / get / with / I / on / must / my
 5 it / difficult / out / if / it's / leave
 6 tried / out / couldn't / it / I / work / but / I

We can go over it later.

5 Replace the underlined words with a phrasal verb with the same meaning.

- We put everything in order before we left.
 1 Do you want us to omit the next exercise?
 2 Do you think we'll complete the book by the end of term?
 3 I couldn't find an answer to the last question.
 4 Do the exercise for homework and we'll check it on Thursday.
 5 I asked her about her course yesterday. She's not doing very well.
 6 Let's finish this first, then we can continue with Exercise 6.

We tidied up before we left.

6 Complete the sentences with a suitable phrasal verb.

- If you don't want to do it, you can leave it out.
 1 Could you _____ the books to the other students, Claude?
 2 I'd like to _____ Unit 5 by Friday, then start Unit 6 on Monday.
 3 I don't know why the dictionaries aren't on the shelf. I _____ them _____ yesterday.
 4 You all did the homework last night, didn't you? How did you _____ ?
 5 Marcel, you've got stuff everywhere. Make sure you _____ before you leave.
 6 I can't write any more: I've _____ of paper.
 7 We couldn't _____ the answer until the teacher gave us some help.
 8 My bag was very heavy. I had to keep _____ it _____ and putting it down.



TEST YOURSELF