



Phrasal verbs



There is a large number of **PHRASAL VERBS** and **PREPOSITIONAL VERBS** in the English language.

They are often, but not always, **less formal** than a single word with the same meaning.

ex.: We need to **sort** the problem **out**. x We need to **solve** the problem.

PHRASAL VERBS have two parts: a main **verb** and an **adverb** particle. They can be separated by an object.

go on – put up – go away – take off – hand out

PREPOSITIONAL VERBS have two parts: a **verb** and a **preposition**. They cannot be separated from each other.

listen to – look after – deal with – depend on

This union specifies the meaning of the verb, or it may change its meaning completely.

The structure of the sentence

There is no doubt that with the **PREPOSITIONAL** verbs the two parts (verb and preposition) cannot be separated.

These verbs **ALWAYS HAVE AN OBJECT**, which comes **IMMEDIATELY AFTER** the preposition.

ex.: I won't **listen to** John anymore./ Look at the sky, it's full of stars tonight!

PHRASAL verbs **MAY AND MAY NOT TAKE AN OBJECT**.

In most cases, the particle may come **AFTER** or **BEFORE** the object.

ex.: Can you **take off** your shoes, please?/Can you **take** your shoes off, please?

If the **OBJECT** is a **PERSONAL PRONOUN** (me, you, him, us, etc.), we always put the object before the particle:

ex.: Pick it **up**! NOT: Pick **up it**! /Don't throw it **away**. Don't throw **away it**.

Of course, as always in grammar, there are some exceptions you just have to learn by heart:

! I am **looking forward to it**. NOT: I am looking **forward it to**.

I **get along** very well **with** my boss. I **get along** very well **with him**.

I am **looking for Jane**. NOT: I am looking **her for**.

She **came across** an old friend while she was shopping. NOT: She **came her across**.

Some phrasal verbs can have more than one meaning:

! I **looked up** and watched the stars. If you don't know the correct spelling, **look** the word **up** in a dictionary. (search for it)

1. Match the two corresponding verbs.

SORT OUT	COME OUT	CARRY ON	MAKE OUT	BRING UP	GET ON
HANG ON	SET OFF	LOOK UP	PUT UP WITH	GET ON	LOOK INTO

be published	understand, see	raise a child	organize, plan	search

Wait a moment	support, tolerate	begin a journey



investigate	be friends	make progress	continue
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2. Choose the correct phrasal verb.

1/ The teacher told us to work with the exercise even during the breaktime.

2/ I don't know this company, I better search for information on the internet.

3/ I won't **tolerate** your bad manners anymore.

4/ I can't **see** the sign from this far away. Can you read it?

5/ I don't know what to do, but I will do something.



6/ The newest Star Wars comics tomorrow, wow!

7/ We really **got along** with my new colleague, we became quite friends.

8/ Are you **busy** with your project? Will you finish soon?



9/ As a child, I was **encouraged** to always tell the truth.

10/ please, I'll be with you in a couple of minutes.

11/ We don't know who made the mistake, we have to

12/ I advise you to get to the airport very early to avoid the rush-hour traffic.