



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.
(raise your head)

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



2. Choose the correct phrasal verb.

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

2/ I don't know this company, I better _____ on the internet.

3/ I won't _____ your bad manners anymore.

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

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

6/ The newest Star Wars comics _____ tomorrow, wow!

7/ We really _____ with my new colleague, we became quite friends.

8/ Are you _____ with your project? Will you finish soon?

9/ As a child, I was _____ 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 _____ it.

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

