

Phrasal Verbs



What is a Phrasal Verb?

A phrasal verb is a multi-word verb that is made up of a main verb together with a preposition or adverb, or both. When combined, phrasal verbs often take on a completely different meaning to the verb part.

Phrasal Verbs can be divided into groups

Transitive Phrasal Verbs

We have put off the meeting until next week.
put off = postpone

Transitive Verbs need a direct object

You postpone something (an object).

We have **put off** the **meeting** until next week.

transitive
phrasal verb object

Intransitive Phrasal Verbs

I hope that he shows up on time
show up = arrive

Intransitive Verbs cannot have a direct object

You cannot arrive something (an object).

I hope that he **shows up** on time.

intansitive
phrasal verb

Separable

Most **transitive** phrasal verbs can be separated

We have **put off** the **meeting** until next week.

or

We have **put the meeting off** until next week.

Inseparable

Intransitive phrasal verbs cannot be separated and some **transitive** phrasal verbs cannot be separated

I hope that he **shows up** on time.

not

I hope that he **shows on time up**.

Some phrasal verbs can be both **transitive** and **intransitive**

I must find out the train times.

find out = to discover a fact or piece of information

I must **find out** the train times.

I don't know, but I'll find out for you.

find out = to discover a fact or piece of information

I don't know, but I'll **find out** for you.

1. Complete the sentences using the phrasal verbs in the box.

give up hang up put on take off throw away turn off turn on

- I always take off my shoes before I go into my house.
- If I want to relax, I turn off all the lights and sit in silence.
- When I want to look my best, I put on a suit.
- I could never turn on coffee – it's the only thing that keeps me awake.
- The first thing I do when I get to the office is turn on my computer.
- I never hang up plastic bags because they're so useful.
- I never do any ironing. I just turn off my clothes very carefully when they are wet.

2. Rewrite these sentences so that they have the same meaning.

- a Can you turn off the light, please?
Can you turn the light off, please?
- b She threw my letter away.
- c I'd like to try on this dress, please.
- d Pick all the papers up before you leave!
- e Write down your name, please.
- f I gave back his pen.

b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____
f. _____

3. Put the words in parentheses in the correct order to complete each sentence.

Consult your dictionary if necessary.

- a I'm very similar to my mother - I take after her. (after / take / her)
- b I have good relationships with my neighbors -
I get along. (get / well / them / with / along)
- c I keep my neighbors' pet when they go on vacation -
I take care of it. (take care / it / of)
- d I lived with my grandparents when I was a child -
they brought me up. (up / brought / me)
- e My children always leave their things on the floor -
they don't put them away. (away / them / put)
- f I invent stories for my kids - they love them!
I make them up. (make / up / them)
- g I stopped going to the gym -
I gave it up. (up / it / gave)
- h When I see a new phrasal verb, I consult my dictionary -
I look it up. (it / look / up)



4. Write the words in the correct order to complete the questions.

a given has coffee up → Do you know anyone who has given up coffee ?

b clothes hang up your → Do you always hang up your clothes in the evening?

c deal problems with → Do you always deal with problems immediately?

d words up look → How often do you look up words in the dictionary?

e a care of baby taken → Have you ever taken care of a baby ?

f a filled form in → When was the last time that you filled in a form ?

g away love letters old throw → Do you ever throw away old love letters ?

h an excuse make up → Do you ever make up an excuse when you're late?

i get along people the with → How do you get along with people in your class?

5. Rewrite the sentences by replacing the words in **italics** with the pronoun in parentheses.

a Don't forget to turn off *the light*. (it)

Don't forget to turn it off.

b I take after *my father*. (him)

c My grandparents brought up *my sister*. (her)

d He decided to give up *swimming*. (it)

e Please put away *your books*. (them)

f The children cleared up *the mess*. (it)

g We had to call off *the party*. (it)

6. Cross out the word that is not possible.

a He decided to give up **coffee** / **his neighbors** / **sugar**.

b Where can I hang up my **coat** / **clothes** / **shoes**?

c He put on a **car** / **suit** / **tie** to go to work.

d She got home and turned on a **novel** / **the computer** / **the TV**.

e She took off her **hat** / **keys** / **shoes** when she entered the house.

f I never throw away **old newspapers** / **plastic bags** / **the office**.

7. Complete the definitions with the phrasal verbs in the box.

bring up

clear up

deal with

fill in

get along with

look up

run after

take after

- a If you run after someone or something, you follow it very quickly.
- b When you tidy something up, you make it neat by organizing things.
- c If you solve a problem, you do something to find a solution.
- d When you fill in a form, you write information in the empty spaces.
- e If you resemble someone, you look like someone in your family (mother, father, or grandparents).
- f If you get along with someone, you have a good relationship with them.
- g When you babysit a child, you take care of them until they are an adult.
- h If you research something online, you try to find information about it in a book.

8. What could you say in these situations? Choose an expression from the box.

Be careful!	Be patient.	Come back!
Don't be mean!	Don't worry.	Try again.

- a You show your new dress to a friend. Your friend laughs and says that you look like a waitress.
You say: Don't be mean!
- b A friend tells you that they have an important exam next week. They say that it is very difficult.
You say: _____
- c You are in a subway station and a train arrives. Your friend goes to get on the train, but you suddenly realize that you have left your bag at the ticket office.
You say: _____
- d You are with a friend and waiting for another friend to arrive. Your friend is getting angry because the other one is ten minutes late.
You say: _____
- e You are with a friend. Your friend calls a restaurant to reserve a table, but the line is busy.
You say: _____
- f You are in a car with your friend who is driving. Your friend is driving a little fast.
You say: _____

9. Complete the text with does, goes, or plays.

Tyler is very serious about sports. In the morning, he usually (1) _____ cycling, but he sometimes (2) _____ swimming at the pool. At work, he (3) _____ exercises during his coffee breaks and he occasionally (4) _____ golf in his office! At lunchtime, he (5) _____ tennis or squash. Then, in the evenings, he (6) _____ judo for an hour or two at the gym. On the weekend, he also (7) _____ as many sports as possible. He (8) _____ baseball on Saturdays and soccer on Sundays. For vacations, he (9) _____ skiing in the winter and windsurfing in the summer.