

Form and meaning of phrasal nouns

Phrasal nouns are a common feature of English. They are often used in more formal contexts, and convey meaning in a concise way.

- We form many phrasal nouns using a particle (*after, in, under, etc.*) + a verb, with the particle going either before, e.g. *aftershave*, or after, e.g. *check-in*. When the particle comes before the verb, the phrasal noun is not usually hyphenated. The stress is always on the first word, e.g. *aftershave*, *check-in*.
- Sometimes the phrasal noun form is different:
bring up (phr v) – *upbringing* (phr n)
NOT *upbring*
- The meaning of a phrasal noun can relate to the literal meaning of the verb + particle:
wear sth under sth else = to have one article of clothing under another
underwear = clothes that you wear under others
- Phrasal nouns can have more than one meaning, often reflecting different meanings of the verb, e.g. *the break-up of the marriage* (= ending), *the break-up of a company* (= division into smaller parts).



1 PARTICLE FIRST

- a Complete the phrasal nouns in **bold** with a particle from the list. Write the particle in the column on the right.

after down in out up

	Particle
1 His parents were actors, so his bringing was rather unusual.	<u>up</u>
2 We need to offer more financial support to people on low comes .	
3 Both teams are on top form – it's impossible to predict the come of the match.	
4 Just as we left the cinema, there was a sudden pour , and we got soaked.	
5 I like that brand of sweeteners – they don't leave any nasty taste .	
6 When changes to immigration policy were announced, there was a public cry .	
7 A series of political misjudgements eventually led to the fall of the president.	
8 Her bad back is an unfortunate -effect of her car accident.	
9 It will be sunny today, but the look for the weekend is rain.	
10 We were supposed to be working as a team, but I had almost no put .	
11 Could you give us an date on the progress of our house sale?	
12 After an emotional burst , she ran into her bedroom, crying.	
13 People felt the shocks many days after the earthquake.	
14 Our initial lay was high, but eventually we made a success of the business.	
15 The documentary is about the events leading up to the break of World War I.	
16 There has been a very high take of the free courses we advertised.	
17 As a result of a turn in sales, several stores have been closed.	
18 The entrance fee helps with the keep of the house and gardens.	
19 Your recommended daily take of sugar is about six teaspoons.	

- b 1.16 Listen and check. Which has the main stress, the verb or the particle?

ACTIVATION Cover the **Particle** column. Say the sentences with the correct phrasal nouns.

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2 VERB FIRST

- a Complete the phrasal nouns in **bold** with a verb from the list. Write the verb in the column on the right.

back break (x2) climb come let mix rip set turn write

- | | Verb |
|--|------------|
| 1 £150 for a T-shirt? That's a complete rip -off! | <u>rip</u> |
| 2 After insisting he could negotiate a new deal, he was forced into a down . | _____ |
| 3 After ten years out of the sport, he's made an amazing back and reached the final. | _____ |
| 4 After years of research into a cure for the disease, they have finally had a through . | _____ |
| 5 Family ups increase the risk of childhood depression. | _____ |
| 6 I find musicals a bit of a off . They're just not my cup of tea. | _____ |
| 7 I'm afraid there's been a bit of a up . I think I've got your case and you've got mine. | _____ |
| 8 I've only been in the job a couple of weeks, so I still don't really know the up . | _____ |
| 9 It was a bit of a down when my friends cancelled at the last minute. | _____ |
| 10 Nobody was hurt in the accident, but my car's a complete off . | _____ |
| 11 The police called for up when they were unable to cope with the violent crowd. | _____ |

break give go hold make melt set stand turn write

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 12 She pretended she liked her present, but her expression was a real away . | _____ |
| 13 Sorry, we're going to be about 20 minutes late. There's a up on the motorway. | _____ |
| 14 There was a really good out for the march – over 50,000 people. | _____ |
| 15 The shop's had a over and it's now much more modern. | _____ |
| 16 The team suffered a major back when their captain was injured. | _____ |
| 17 There has been a down in communication between the government and the unions. | _____ |
| 18 We chose the restaurant because it had a really good up on Tripadvisor. | _____ |
| 19 We're just waiting to be given the ahead before we start working on the new project. | _____ |
| 20 We're on by for the evening flight – let's hope there are some free seats. | _____ |
| 21 When my boss saw the sales figures, she had a complete down and started shouting at us. | _____ |

- b 1.17 Listen and check. Which has the main stress, the verb or the particle?

ACTIVATION Cover the **Verb** column. Say the sentences with the correct phrasal nouns.



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