

The metaphorical meaning of particles

It is often possible to understand what a phrasal verb means by looking at its particle. When you come across a phrasal verb, try to notice patterns of meaning and build up lists or mind maps based on these patterns. Although it is not always possible to find a pattern, thinking about the meaning of a particle will help you to understand and remember the phrasal verbs you encounter.

Below you will see some of the meanings of the most common particles used with phrasal verbs. We have already discussed some of these meanings in class. Others will be completely new.

Match these meanings to the corresponding particles by looking at the examples provided. Write examples for the meanings already provided.

A DOWNWARD MOVEMENT – EXCLUDING - COMPLETING, ENDING – AN OUTWARD MOVEMENT, NOT BEING INSIDE - PREVENTING ENTRY, SEPARATING, NOT INCLUDING – TOUCHING, ATTACHING – AN UPWARD MOVEMENT – COMPLETING, ENDING, STOPPING – COMPLETING, DOING THOROUGHLY	
UP	
Approaching	Example:
Improve, an improvement	Example:
	Example: <i>We left early, just as the sun was coming up.</i> <i>Sales have gone up in the past year.</i>
	Example: <i>We used up all the eggs when we made the cake.</i>
DOWN	
Reducing, a decrease	Example:
	Example: <i>The teacher told the pupils to sit down</i>
	Example: <i>Business was so bad that the shop had to close down</i>
OUT	
	Example: <i>Let's eat out this evening</i>
	Example: <i>The double glazing helps to shut out the noise</i>
	Example: <i>It took me hours to clean out that room.</i>
Disappearing	Example:
Solving, searching	Example:
OFF	
Movement away, detaching, departing	Example:
Ending	Example:
	Example: <i>They've fenced off their garden to keep dogs out.</i>
ON	
Continuing	Example:
Attacking	Example:
	Example: <i>I wish you wouldn't put on so much lipstick!</i>
OVER	
Considering, examining	Example:
Visiting	Example:

Verbs with UP – 2

1 Match one half of the dialogue on the left with the other half on the right. Write your answers in the boxes.

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Why are they so tired this morning?</p> <p>2. Why have you set your alarm for five o'clock?</p> <p>3. Joe's missed a lot of lessons.</p> <p>4. Lucy's very polite, isn't she?</p> <p>5. Look at the mess all over the floor!</p> <p>6. Can I wear jeans this evening?</p> <p>7. Will you support me if I complain about the food?</p> <p>8. Is there any milk left?</p> | <p>A Well, I didn't make it, so don't expect me to clear it up!</p> <p>B Of course! I'll back you up. Let's go and see the manager.</p> <p>C I'm afraid not. I've used it all up.</p> <p>D Of course not. You'll have to dress up.</p> <p>E Yes. It'll be very hard for him to catch up.</p> <p>F Because I have to get up early.</p> <p>G Because they stayed up late watching television.</p> <p>H Yes. She's been very well brought up.</p> |
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2 Now do the same with these dialogues:

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| <p>1. I don't know which one is which. Do you?</p> <p>2. Can I have an ice-cream?</p> <p>3. I can't understand this word.</p> <p>4. My French isn't very good.</p> <p>5. Have you heard about the terrorist attack?</p> <p>6. What shall I do about this letter asking for money?</p> <p>7. Shall we have another drink?</p> <p>8. Would you like me to cook the meal this evening?</p> | <p>A No, drink up! It's time to go.</p> <p>B Yes. They've blown up the Central Bank.</p> <p>C Only if you eat up all your vegetables.</p> <p>D All right. And I'll wash up afterwards.</p> <p>E Why don't you go to evening classes to brush up?</p> <p>F No. It's very easy to mix them up, isn't it?</p> <p>G Well look it up!</p> <p>H I'd tear it up if I were you.</p> |
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Now go through the sentences on the right and underline the phrasal verbs.