

A

Formation

A phrasal verb is a verb + adverb or preposition, and sometimes a verb + adverb *and* preposition.

He **fell over** [fell to the ground] and hurt his knee.

I'll try to **find out** [learn/discover] the quickest way to get there.

He didn't like his coat, so he **gave it away** [gave it to someone for no money].

If you don't understand the meaning, **look it up** [find the meaning in a book/dictionary].

Who's going to **sort out** the problem? [deal with it successfully; solve it]

He doesn't **get on with** [have a good relationship with] his parents. (verb + adv. + prep.)

B

Meaning

The adverb or preposition does not always change the meaning of the verb, and is not always used.

I didn't **wake (up)** until 7 o'clock.

She's **saving (up)** for a new computer.

Hurry (up) or we'll be late.

I went to **lie (down)** on the bed.

Sometimes an adverb adds a particular meaning to the verb. For example, **back** can mean *return*.

I bought this jacket yesterday, but I'm going to **take it back** to the shop; it's too small.

You can look at the books, but remember to **put them back** on the shelf.

They liked Greece so much they want to **go back** next year.

Often, the adverb or preposition changes the meaning of the verb: *give up* doesn't mean the same as *give*, and *carry on* doesn't mean the same as *carry*.

My wife has decided to **give up** [stop] smoking.

We'll take a short break and then **carry on** [continue] with the meeting.

The shops are going to **put up** [increase] the price of bread.

When the hotel gets busy, we have to **take on** [employ] more staff.

C

Multiple meanings

Many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning.

go away

I was busy, so I told him to **go away** [leave].

We try to **go away** in August. [go on holiday]

Pick something /someone up

I **picked up** most of the rubbish. [lifted it from the floor]

I'm going to **pick Jane up** at the station. [collect someone, usually in a car]

Put something on

Could you **put the light on** [make a piece of equipment work by pressing a switch; *syn* **switch sth on**]?

I **put on** my best suit. [put clothes on your body]



Exercises

79.1 Choose the correct adverb or preposition to complete the sentence.

- | | | | |
|---|--------|-------------|--------|
| 1 I can't see. Could you put the light | a in | b on | c out |
| 2 If he doesn't want it, he can give it | a out | b away | c up |
| 3 Have they sorted it | a out | b over | c up |
| 4 It was broken, so I had to take it | a over | b on | c back |
| 5 I went to the airport to pick her | a up | b down | c over |
| 6 What time did you wake | a to | b up | c for |
| 7 I get married next year. I need to start saving | a out | b on | c up |
| 8 Could you switch the TV | a down | b on | c in |

79.2 Replace the underlined word(s) with a phrasal verb that keeps a similar meaning.

- We never discovered what it means. *found out*
- I'd like to return next year.
- We collected Mia from the station.
- We'll have to increase the price this year.
- I've decided to stop eating chocolate.
- Is Hana going to continue with her English course?
- I told them to leave.
- I have a good relationship with my parents.
- We are planning to employ ten new drivers next year.

79.3 Look at the dictionary entry for **go off** and match the meanings with the sentences below.

- When the light goes off, the machine has finished. ³
- My alarm clock went off early this morning.
- I think this meat has gone off.
- The bomb went off without any warning.
- Beatriz went off early; she had to meet a friend.

79.4 Complete the dialogues.

- A: Can you afford that bike?
B: No, I'll have to *save up* for it.
- A: Is there still a problem?
B: Don't worry. I'll it
- A: Can we look at some books?
B: Yes, but them afterwards.
- A: Did you feel unwell?
B: Yes, I had to on the bed.
- A: What's the matter?
B: I and cut my knee.
- A: I don't know what this means.
B: Well, ... it in a dictionary.
- A: Does he look smart?
B: Yes. He's his suit.
- A: or we'll be late.
B: OK, I'm coming.

go off

1 Leave

to leave a place and go somewhere else

She's gone off to the cafe with Tony.

2 Food UK informal

If food goes off it is not good to eat anymore because it is too old.

3 Stop

If a light or machine goes off, it stops working.

The heating goes off at 10 o'clock.

4 Explode

If a bomb or gun goes off, it explodes or fires.

5 Make noise

If something that makes a noise goes off, it suddenly starts making a noise.

His car alarm goes off every time it rains.