

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. *ˈaftershave, ˈcheck-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 _____ -off! | <i>rip</i> |
| 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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