

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

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.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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2 Now do the same with these dialogues:

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Now go through the sentences on the right and underline the phrasal verbs.