

# 102 Phrasal verbs

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In Japan visitors usually remove their shoes before they enter a house.

## 1 Verb + adverb

A phrasal verb is a verb + an adverb/preposition, e.g. *take + off* (= *take off*).

It usually has a different meaning from the verb alone:

*It's cold. You should take a jumper with you.*

*It's warm. I'm going to take off my jumper.* (*take off* = remove)

In formal English we often use a different verb with the same meaning as the phrasal verb  
*Why don't you take off your shoes?* (informal) = *Please remove your shoes.* (formal)

## 2 Phrasal verbs with an object

Many phrasal verbs have an object:

*Please take off your shoes.*

**put on** (put something on) to put clothes on your body:

Put your coat on – it's cold outside! | Let me put on my glasses – I can't read this. > opposite **TAKE OFF**

If the object is a noun, we can put it before or after the adverb/preposition:  
*Please put your jacket on.* *Please put on your jacket.*



But we always put pronoun objects (e.g. *it, him, them*) between the verb and adverb/preposition:

*X Put on it.* *✓ Put it on.*

Here are some common phrasal verbs that have an object:

*bring/give/put something back*  
*fill something in* (= complete a form)  
*find something out* (= get information)  
*give something up*  
(= stop a habit, activity or job)  
*let somebody in*  
*look something up*  
(= find in a book, etc.)  
*pick something up*

*pick somebody up*  
(= collect somebody and take them somewhere)  
*put something down*  
*put something on*  
*switch/turn something on/off*  
*take something away*  
*take something off*  
*turn something down* (= reduce the sound)  
*write something down*

*It's dark in here. Can you turn on the lights?*

*I'll take your computer away today and I'll bring it back on Friday.*

*Liz is on a diet so she's giving up chocolate.*

## 3 Phrasal verbs without an object

Some phrasal verbs have no object:

*come back* *come in* *get out* *get up* *go away* *go back* *go in* *go out* *grow up* *hurry up*  
*lie down* *look round* *look out* (= be careful) *sit down* *stand up* *turn around* *wake up*

*Hurry up!* We're late. I usually *wake up* early. *Look out!* A car's coming.

## Practice

### 1 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 0 It's dark in here. You should turn *I* .....  
1 Your TV is too loud, please turn *it* .....  
2 It's hot in here – why don't you take *off* .....  
3 Here's the application form – please fill *in* .....  
4 It's a formal meeting, you should put *on* .....  
5 I'm quite tired. I think I'm going to lie *down* .....

- A a jacket on.
- B it in.
- C on the lights.
- D your jacket off?
- E down.
- F it down.

### 2 Match the sentences with similar meanings. Then decide which sentences are formal (F) and informal (I).

- 0 I can find that out for you. *I* .....  
1 Our representative will collect you from the airport. .....  
2 You have to bring them back. .....  
3 Please be careful. .....  
4 Don't take it off. .....  
5 Please ask your parents to complete the form. .....

- A Do not remove the book's cover. ....
- B Look out! .....
- C I can get the information you need. *F*....
- D They have to fill it in. ....
- E Readers must return all the books. .....
- F We'll pick you up. .....

### 3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation. Use one word only for each question.

JACKIE Hurry (0) ...*up*..., you two! You'll be late for school.  
It's cold – you should both put (1) ..... your coats.

EMMA Where's my coat, Jackie?

JACKIE I (2) ..... it back in the hall cupboard yesterday.

EMMA Are you picking us (3) ..... from school today?

JACKIE No, Emma. Mrs Stevens is going to bring (4) .....  
back. Now what's that on Harry's coat? (5) .....  
around, Harry. Oh, it's only a piece of paper.

HARRY Jackie, can I borrow your camera for my geography trip?

JACKIE All right. But be careful with it. Don't forget to give it  
(6) ..... to me later.

HARRY OK. I'll (7) ..... it back this afternoon. Oh, how do you turn (8) ..... on?

JACKIE You press the red button. And to turn it (9) ..... you press the black one.

HARRY I see. Are we going swimming on Saturday?

JACKIE I don't know but I'll find (10) ..... for you. Now come on, we're late ...



### 4 Complete the sentences. Use a verb from A and a pronoun from B.

A give back let in look up put on take away turn down      B him it (x 3) me them

0 My grandmother wears glasses – she ....*puts them on*.... when she's reading.

1 If you don't want your old fridge, I'll .....

2 John's at the door – can you .....?

3 Please ..... my dictionary – I need it.

4 I don't know the answer but I'll ..... on the Internet.

5 Your music's too loud! Can you .....?