

83 Phrasal verbs: grammatical patterns

Inseparable phrasal verbs

With inseparable phrasal verbs, you cannot put other words between the different parts of the phrasal verb. These include phrasal verbs that don't take an object.

Verb	Example	Meaning
pull up	<i>The driver pulled up in front of the hospital.</i>	(of a car or its driver) stop
drop by	<i>Please drop by if you're in the area.</i>	go to sb's house on an informal visit or without telling them that you are coming
stay up	<i>We stayed up late to watch the match last night.</i>	go to bed later than usual
go off	<i>I woke up when the alarm clock went off.</i>	make a sudden loud noise



I broke down in the countryside.



I woke up at 7 o'clock.



Look out! The floor's wet.

Some phrasal verbs take an object, which can only go after the phrasal verb. All phrasal verbs with three parts belong to this group.

get into sth	<i>Mina wants to get into teaching when she finishes university.</i>	start a career in a particular profession
run into sb SYN bump into sb	<i>I ran into Daisy in the sports centre – what a surprise!</i>	meet sb by chance
take up sth	<i>Sport takes up all my time.</i>	use or fill time or space
go off sth	<i>I've gone off coffee – it keeps me awake.</i>	stop liking or being interested in sth
get out of sth/ doing sth	<i>I've got a meeting this afternoon, but I'll try and get out of it.</i>	avoid a duty or doing sth that you have said you will do
come up with sth	<i>Max came up with a great way of saving money.</i>	find an answer or solution to sth

Separable phrasal verbs



I turned the volume up.



I threw the papers away.



I switched the light on.
(OPP switch sth off)

fill sth in	<i>I received the form, so I filled it in.</i>	complete a form, etc. by writing information on it
check sth out	<i>We're going to check out the restaurants in the area.</i>	find out more information about sth
put sth out	<i>They put the fire out very quickly.</i>	make sth stop burning, e.g. a fire, cigarette, etc.

SPOTLIGHT separable phrasal verbs

With separable phrasal verbs, the object can go (1) after the verb and particle, (2) or between the verb and the particle, but (3) a pronoun must go between the verb and particle.

1 *He put on his jacket.* ✓

2 *He put his jacket on.* ✓

3 *He put it on.* ✓ (NOT *He put on it.*)

1 Can you put another word between the different parts of these phrasal verbs?

► get into	No (get into sth)	► throw away	Yes (throw sth away)
1 go off	.....	4 bump into	.....
2 switch on	.....	5 fill in	.....
3 get out of	.....	6 put on	.....

2 Do these sentences need an object? If so, add a possible ending. If not, write -.

► Then I woke up. -	► I want to get out of <u>cleaning the house</u> .
1 Several cars broke down.	5 He said he'd drop by.
2 I'd like to get into.	6 The alarm went off.
3 She pulled up.	7 I ran into.
4 The bed takes up.	8 Look out.

3 Right or wrong? Write R or W. Correct the wrong answers.

► She threw away it. <u>W</u> - She threw it away.	5 I ran Tina into today in town.
1 I've gone tea off.	6 She can't switch off it.
2 Put your coat on.	7 I wasn't expecting Sara - she just dropped by.
3 How do I get out of going to the concert?	8 Did you fill in it?
4 Why did they stay so late up?	

4 Circle the correct answer.

► She put <u>on</u> <u>in</u> her shoes.	4 I got <u>in</u> / <u>into</u> journalism about twenty years ago. It's changed a lot.
1 I always try to get out <u>of</u> / <u>from</u> doing the washing up.	5 I <u>switched</u> off / <u>out</u> the TV.
2 Who came <u>down</u> / <u>up</u> with that idea?	6 Did they put <u>out</u> / <u>off</u> the fire?
3 Don't stay <u>up</u> / <u>down</u> too late - you've got school tomorrow.	7 The bed takes <u>on</u> / <u>up</u> most of the room.
	8 Look <u>over</u> / <u>out</u> , there's a big hole in the road.

5 Complete the phrasal verbs in the questions.

1 What time do you usually <u>wake</u> <u>up</u> ?	ABOUT YOU
2 Have you ever had to <u>p</u> <u>o</u> a fire?	.....
3 What was the last form you <u>f</u> <u>i</u>?	.....
4 Is there any food, drink or activity you've <u>g</u> <u>o</u> recently?	.....
5 When was the last time you <u>t</u> <u>s</u> some clothes <u>a</u>?	.....
6 Have you ever <u>b</u> <u>d</u> in a car?	.....
7 Have you ever <u>s</u> <u>u</u> all night?	.....
8 Do you ever <u>r</u> <u>i</u> other people in your class in the street?	.....

6 Complete the sentences with a suitable phrasal verb.

► I didn't hear my alarm clock and didn't <u>wake up</u> until 9 o'clock.	
1 We didn't need the files any longer, so I <u>l</u> <u>them</u> .	
2 You can't smoke in here. You'll have to <u>g</u> <u>that cigarette</u> .	
3 It was getting dark, so I <u>l</u> <u>the light</u> .	
4 She didn't expect to see Ellie; she just <u>s</u> <u>her</u> in the street.	
5 My niece wants to <u>g</u> <u>politics</u> as a career.	
6 I had to <u>g</u> <u>a form</u> to get a new passport.	
7 The car <u>h</u> <u>and I had to phone for help.</u>	
8 I asked the driver to stop, and he <u>h</u> <u>outside the police station.</u>	
9 I'm looking for an English course, so I need to <u>g</u> <u>a few schools.</u>	
10 I can't hear the radio very well. Could you <u>r</u> <u>it</u> , please?	

7 ABOUT YOU Write answers to the questions in Exercise 5, or talk to another student.

