79 Phrasal verbs 1: form and meaning

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.
Hurry (**up**) or we'll be late.
She's **saving** (**up**) for a new computer.
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]



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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.**

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

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

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

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.

79.4 **Complete the dialogues.**

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

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