80 Phrasal verbs 2: grammar and style

A Phrasal verbs with no object

Some phrasal verbs don't have an object. We cannot put other words between the parts of the verb.

When does your train **get in** [arrive]?
Hold on [wait a moment], I just need to get my coat.
The car **broke down** on my way to work. [stopped working]
I'll **call for** them at 8 o'clock. [go to collect them]
We **set off** [started the journey] about 7.30.

B Phrasal verbs with an object

Many phrasal verbs need an object. We can usually put the object in different positions.

Put on your shoes.	**Turn on** the TV.	**Take off** your coat.
Put your shoes **on.**	**Turn** the TV **on.**	**Take** your coat **off.**

These are separable phrasal verbs, but if the object is a long phrase, it usually goes at the end, e.g. I **turned off** the lights in the living room. If the object is a pronoun, it must go in the middle, e.g. **Turn** it **off**.

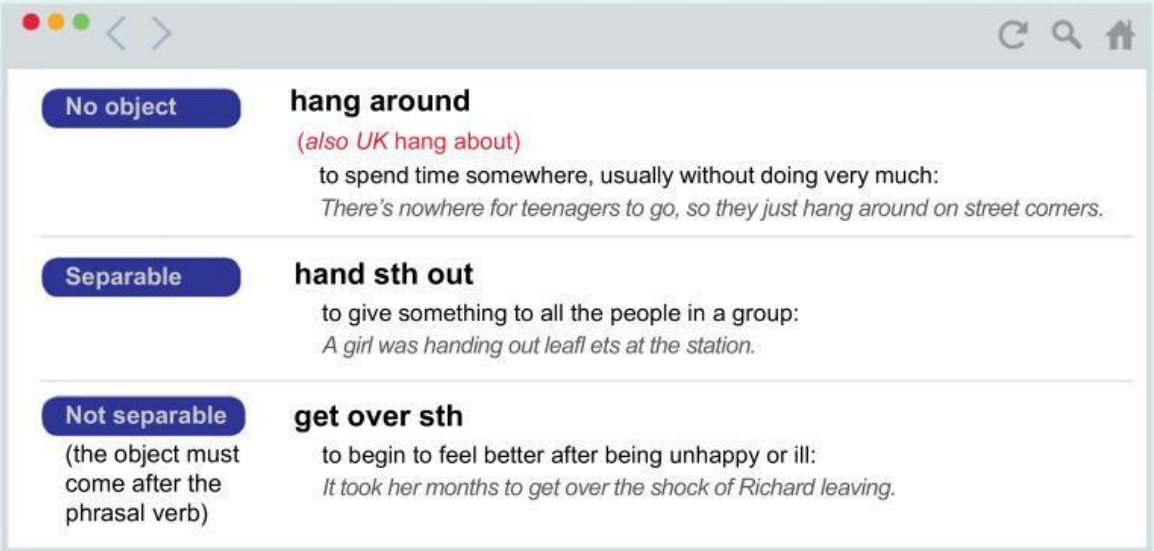
Common mistakes

Put them **on**. (NOT Put ~~on them~~.); **Take** it **off**. (NOT Take ~~off it~~.)

There are some phrasal verbs where the object must come after the phrasal verb.
I will **look after** the children for you. [take care of them]
How did the two men **break into** the shop? [enter the shop using force, e.g. breaking a window]

C In dictionaries

Dictionaries usually show the grammar of a phrasal verb like this:



D Style

Phrasal verbs are commonly used in spoken and written English. Many phrasal verbs are quite informal, and sometimes there is a single word with the same meaning as a phrasal verb, which sounds more formal. We use this word instead of the phrasal verb in more formal situations.

leave sb/sth out [not include sb/sth; *syn* **omit**], e.g. He made a list of people but left me out.
make sth up [create sth from your imagination; *syn* **invent**], e.g. We had to make up a story.
put sth off [put sth back to a later date; *syn* **postpone**], e.g. They put the game off till Friday.
turn sth/sb down [refuse an off er or request; *syn* **reject**], e.g. I off ered her a job but she turned it down.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

80.1 **Correct any mistakes with word order in the sentences. Be careful: some are correct.**

1 She asked me to hand ~~out them~~. *hand them out*
2 I've got some boots but I'll put on them later.
3 Could you turn the light on?
4 My boots were tight and I couldn't take off them.
5 We set off very early this morning.
6 Why did they turn down it?
7 The boys were hanging the station around.

80.2 **Replace the underlined word with a phrasal verb that makes the sentence more informal.**

1 Could you wait a minute, please? *hold on*
2 As so many people are ill, I've had to postpone the meeting till next week. .....
3 The teacher told us to invent a story to go with the picture in our books. .....
4 They omitted a number of the names from my list. .....
5 I don't know why he rejected my offer of help. .....
6 The train should arrive by ten o'clock. .....

80.3 **Write a sentence to describe what is happening or what has happened in the pictures.**







1 *He's putting on his jacket.*

3 .....

5 .....







2 .....

4 .....

6 .....

80.4 **Complete the phrasal verbs.**

1 I'm not stopping, so I won't take *off* my coat.
2 We didn't think Mike was good enough, so we left him ..... .
3 He told me he was 25, but I don't believe him. I think he's making that ..... .
4 We'll get there by seven if we set ..... now.
5 I'll call ..... you a bit later. I should be at your house by 7 o'clock.
6 They offered him the job but he turned it ..... .

80.5 **Complete these sentences in a suitable way.**

1 It was cold so I put on *my gloves/coat/scarf.*
2 Inma is still getting over .....
3 I'm not very good at making up .....
4 She asked me to turn on .....
5 Two men tried to break into .....
6 She's going out, so I said I'd look after .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS