

Phrasal verbs 1 Introduction

A

We often use verbs with the following words:

in	on	up	away	round	about	over	by
out	off	down	back	through	along	forward	

So you can say **look out** / **get on** / **take off** / **run away** etc. These are *phrasal verbs*.

We often use on/off/out etc. with verbs of movement. For example:

- get on □ The bus was full. We couldn't get on.
drive off □ A woman got into the car and drove off.
come back □ Sally is leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday.
turn round □ When I touched him on the shoulder, he turned round.

But often the second word (*on/off/out* etc.) gives a special meaning to the verb. For example:

- break down ☐ Sorry I'm late. The car **broke down**. (= the engine stopped working)
- look out ☐ **Look out!** There's a car coming. (= be careful)
- take off ☐ It was my first flight. I was nervous as the plane **took off**. (= went into the air)
- get on ☐ How was the exam? How did you **get on**? (= How did you do?)
- get by ☐ My French isn't very good, but it's enough to **get by**. (= manage)

For more phrasal verbs, see Units 138–145.

B

Sometimes a phrasal verb is followed by a *preposition*. For example:

<i>phrasal verb</i>	<i>preposition</i>	
run away	from	<input type="checkbox"/> Why did you run away from me?
keep up	with	<input type="checkbox"/> You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
look up	at	<input type="checkbox"/> We looked up at the plane as it flew above us.
look forward	to	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking forward to your holiday?

C

Sometimes a phrasal verb has an *object*. Usually there are two possible positions for the object. So you can say:

I turned on the light. or I turned the light on.

object *object*

If the object is a *pronoun* (it/them/me/him etc.), only one position is possible:

I turned it on. (*not* I turned on it)

Some more examples:

- Could you $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{fill in this form?} \\ \text{fill this form in?} \end{array} \right.$

but They gave me a form and told me to **fill it in**. (*not fill in it*)

- Don't { throw away this postcard.
throw this postcard away.

but I want to keep this postcard, so don't **throw it away**. (*not throw away it*)

- I'm going to { take off my shoes.
take my shoes off.

but These shoes are uncomfortable. I'm going to take them off. (not take off them)

- Don't { wake up the baby.
wake the baby up.

but The baby is asleep. Don't **wake her up**. (*not wake up her*)

137.1 Complete each sentence using a verb from A (in the correct form) + a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A fly get go look sit speak

B away by down on out round up

- The bus was full. We couldn't get on.
- I've been standing for the last two hours. I'm going to for a bit.
- A cat tried to catch the bird, but it just in time.
- We were trapped in the building. We couldn't
- I can't hear you very well. Can you a little?
- 'Do you speak German?' 'Not very well, but I can
- House prices are very high. They've a lot in the last few years.
- I thought there was somebody behind me, but when I, there was nobody there.

137.2 Complete the sentences using a word from A and a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A away back forward in up

B at through to with

- You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
- My holidays are nearly over. Next week I'll be work.
- We went the top floor of the building to admire the view.
- Are you looking the party next week?
- There was a bank robbery last week. The robbers got £50,000.
- I love to look the stars in the sky at night.
- I was sitting in the kitchen when suddenly a bird flew the open window.

137.3 Complete the sentences using the following verbs + it/them/me:

~~fill in~~ get out give back switch on take off wake up

- They gave me a form and told me to fill it in.
- I'm going to bed now. Can you at 6.30?
- I've got something in my eye and I can't
- I don't like it when people borrow things and don't
- I want to use the kettle. How do I ?
- My shoes are dirty. I'd better before going into the house.

137.4 Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Use a noun (this newspaper etc.) or a pronoun (it/them etc.) + the word in brackets (away/up etc.).

- Don't throw away this newspaper. I want to keep it. (away)
- 'Do you want this postcard?' 'No, you can throw it away.' (away)
- I borrowed these books from the library. I have to take tomorrow. (back)
- We can turn Nobody is watching it. (off)
- A: How did the vase get broken?
B: I'm afraid I knocked while I was cleaning. (over)
- Shh! My mother is asleep. I don't want to wake (up)
- It's quite cold. You should put if you're going out. (on)
- It was only a small fire. I was able to put quite easily. (out)
- A: Is this hotel more expensive than when we stayed here last year?
B: Yes, they've put (up)
- It's a bit dark in this room. Shall I turn ? (on)