Unit 137

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	11000

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.

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

- look out Look out! There's a car coming. (= be careful)
- get on
 get by

 How was the exam? How did you get on? (= How did you do?)
 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:

phrasal verb preposition

- run away from Why did you run away from me?
- look forward to

 Are you looking forward to your holiday?

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.

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 { fill in this form? fill this form in?

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)

Exercises Unit 137

	fly	get	go	look	sit	speak	C	B	way	by	down	on	out	round
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								n goir	g to				fo	r a bit.
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6 .	Do you	u spea	ak G	erman?	" 'N	ot very	well, I	out I c	an	,				
7 1	House	prices	s are	very hi	gh. T	hey've					a lot in	the la	st few	years.
8 1	thoug	ht the	ere w	as som	ebody	y behin	d me, l	but wh	nen I				, I	there was
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