

Phrasal verbs 9 away/back

A

Compare away and back:

away = away from home

- ☐ We're going away on holiday today.

away = away from a place, a person etc.

- ☐ The woman got into her car and drove away.
- ☐ I tried to take a picture of the bird, but it flew away.
- ☐ I dropped the ticket and it blew away in the wind.
- ☐ The police searched the house and took away a computer.

In the same way you can say:

walk away, run away, look away etc.

back = back home

- ☐ We'll be back in three weeks.

back = back to a place, a person etc.

- ☐ A: I'm going out now.
B: What time will you be back?
- ☐ After eating at a restaurant, we walked back to our hotel.
- ☐ I've still got Jane's keys. I forgot to give them back to her.
- ☐ When you've finished with that book, can you put it back on the shelf?

In the same way you can say:

go back, come back, get back, take something back etc.

B

Other verbs + away

get away = escape, leave with difficulty

- ☐ We tried to catch the thief, but he managed to get away.

get away with something = do something wrong without being caught

- ☐ I parked in a no-parking zone, but I got away with it.

keep away (from ...) = don't go near

- ☐ Keep away from the edge of the pool. You might fall in.

give something away = give it to somebody else because you don't want it any more

- ☐ 'Did you sell your old computer?' 'No, I gave it away.'

put something away = put it in the place where it is kept, usually out of sight

- ☐ When the children had finished playing with their toys, they put them away.

throw something away = put it in the rubbish

- ☐ I kept the letter, but I threw away the envelope.

C

Other verbs + back

wave back / smile back / shout back / write back / hit somebody back

- ☐ I waved to her and she waved back.

call/phone/ring (somebody) back = return a phone call

- ☐ I can't talk to you now. I'll call you back in ten minutes.

get back to somebody = reply to them by phone etc.

- ☐ I sent him an email, but he never got back to me.

look back (on something) = think about what happened in the past

- ☐ My first job was in a travel agency. I didn't like it very much at the time but, looking back on it, I learnt a lot and it was a very useful experience.

pay back money, pay somebody back

- ☐ If you borrow money, you have to pay it back.
- ☐ Thanks for lending me the money. I'll pay you back next week.

Exercises

Unit 145







145.1 Complete each sentence using a verb in the correct form.

- The woman got into her car and drove away.
- Here's the money you need. me back when you can.
- Don't that box away. It could be useful.
- Jane doesn't do anything at work. I don't know how she away with it.
- I'm going out now. I'll back at about 10.30.
- You should think more about the future; don't back all the time.
- Gary is very generous. He won some money in the lottery and it all away.
- I'll back to you as soon as I have the information you need.

145.2 Complete the sentences. Each time use a verb + away or back.

- I was away all day yesterday. I got back very late.
- I haven't seen our neighbours for a while. I think they must
- 'I'm going out now.' 'OK. What time will you ?'
- A man was trying to break into a car. When he saw me, he
- I smiled at him, but he didn't
- If you cheat in the exam, you might with it. But you might get caught.
- Be careful! That's an electric fence. from it.

145.3 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.

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| <p>1</p>  <p>She waved to him and he <u>waved back</u>.</p> | <p>2</p>  <p>It was windy. I dropped a twenty-pound note and it</p> | <p>3</p>  <p>Sue opened the letter, read it and in the envelope.</p> |
| <p>4</p>  <p>He tried to talk to her, but she just</p> | <p>5</p>  <p>Ellie threw the ball to Ben and he</p> | <p>6</p>  <p>His shoes were worn out, so he</p> |

145.4 Complete the sentences. Use the verb in brackets + away or back.

- A: Do you still have my keys?
B: No. Don't you remember? I gave them back to you yesterday? (give)
- A: Do you want this magazine?
B: No, I've finished with it. You can (throw)
- A: How are your new jeans? Do they fit you OK?
B: No, I'm going to to the shop. (take)
- A: Here's the money you asked me to lend you.
B: Thanks. I'll as soon as I can. (pay)
- A: What happened to all the books you used to have?
B: I didn't want them any more, so I (give)
- A: Did you phone Sarah?
B: She wasn't there. I left a message asking her to (call)