

ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

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What are Phrasal Verbs?

2-word and 3-word verbs

2-word verbs:

cut up

cut off

turn on

turn off

put up

put off

3-word verbs:

look up to

put up with

come up with

catch up with

Why do phrasal verbs exist?

Phrasal verbs (separable verbs) are prevalent in Germanic languages: German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, and English.

Phrasal verbs are not very prevalent in Latin languages: Castilian, Portuguese, Italian, French, Catalan, Romanian, etc.

Latin languages use 'reflexive verbs' to a great extent to express the same ideas and concepts that we do in English with Phrasal Verbs.



Modern-day English is a combination of:

Germanic dialects, as far back as the 5th century a.d.

Viking words (invasions) from 700 to 1000 a.d.

French of the Middle Ages, thanks to the Norman Invasion of 1066 and the Battle of Hastings.

Latin words, thanks to authors like Chaucer and Shakespeare of the 14th and 16th centuries.

How do Phrasal Verbs work?

A phrasal verb consists of the following:

VERB + PARTICLE(S), a second or third word

Example: I eat (verb) + up (particle)

I fell (verb) + off (particle)

I put (verb) + on (particle)

The 'PARTICLE' is the MOST important word. The particle can affect, increment, enhance, reduce and/or change drastically the meaning of the base verb.

Separable vs Non-separable 2- Word Verbs

Separable phrasal verbs have an OBJECT:

Example: I will pick **up** the children.

I will pick the children **up**.

I will pick them **up**.

He puts **on** his shirt.

He puts his shirt **on**.

He puts it **on**.

Some 2 word verbs with objects are NOT separable...

Examples:

Correct: I am looking **for** my keys.

Incorrect: I am looking my keys **for**.

Correct: He is looking **at** me funny.

Incorrect: He is looking me **at** funny.

Correct: The water wears **through** the wall.

Incorrect: The water wears the wall **through**.

There are 30 to 35 particles that can be used, we are going to look at the 9 MOST important.

Examples:

UP BACK OFF OVER OUT

AWAY IN DOWN ON

1) UP

To complete or finish an action, totally, to increase, to enhance, to increment

speak

cut

drink

eat

get

goo

turnn

look

2) OFF

to separate, finish, stop, disconnect, reduce, decrease

call

cut

get

turn

fall

go

put

take

3) OUT

to remove or exclude, to leave, to terminate

cut

put

get

take

throw

go

check

look

4) BACK

to return, repeat

call

turn

pay

get

come

go

give

look

5) OVER

inspect, examine, review, repeat, on top of

look

check

do

go

get

turn

run

read

6) AWAY

to put distance, continuous activity, to separate, leave, or disappear

get

go

turn

eat

look

take

give

send

7) DOWN

to reduce, lower

turn

fall

get

break

sit

lie

shoot

go

8) IN

to enter

call

get

come

give

hand

plug

put

close

9) ON

to place, touch

call

keep

put

take

turn

add

get

live

THREE-WORD PHRASALS

'Memorize'

Get along with	have a relationship with	Keep up with	maintain up to date
Look forward to	want to do something	Catch up to	reach same place
Cut back (down) on	reduce, lower	Break into	entering to steal/rob
Look up to	admire	Look down on	condescend
Put up with	tolerate	Walk out on	abandon
Run out of	finish, use completely	Add up to	to mean, signify
Back out of	withdraw support	Feel up to	have a desire to
Run away from	escape from	Look out for	be careful of
Do away with	dispose, eliminate	Read up on	study, review
Drop out of	quit, stop	Brush up on	study, review
Face up to	confront		

Literal, Figurative and Idiomatic Meanings

Literal

Figurative

Idiomatic

Put on	shirt	act, a play	put me on
Burn up	house	money	oneself
Get over	come here	cross	feel better
Pick up	shoes	a cold	traffic
Put away	store	hide	kill
Break down	not working	lack of	nerves
Hang up	the phone	obstacle	complexes
Get into	enter	begin	trouble
Boil over	kitchen	tensions	trouble

Phrasal Verbs and equivalent Single-word verbs

Ask out -	invite	Grow up -	mature
Break in -	rob, steal	Keep on -	continue
Call off -	cancel	Hold back -	prevent
Carry on -	continue	Leave out -	omit
Check in -	register	Look at -	observe
Check over -	review	Look for -	search
Clean up -	organize	Look over -	inspect, study
Come back -	return (here)	Pass away -	die
Come in -	enter	Pick out -	choose, select
Figure out -	solve	Pick up -	take
Find out -	discover, realize	Put away -	store
Fix up -	repair, restore	Put out -	produce
Go back -	return (there)	Put together -	assemble
Go down -	decrease	Show up -	appear
Go up -	increase	Take out -	remove

Phrasal Verb “Get” and equivalent Single Verbs

Get ahead - advance	Get away - escape
Get back - return	Get to - arrive
Get better - improve	Get by - manage
Get down - descend	Get into - involve
Get in - enter	Get old - age
Get off - finish (work)	Get out - leave
Get up - rise	Get well - improve
Get over - recuperate	

IN SUMMARY

Phrasal verbs make life a lot more interesting and fun when you speak English, and a lot more expressive.

So, next time you speak English, use a Phrasal Verb...

Brush up on Them!

They will 'SPICE UP' your life!

References

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