

Phrasal verbs

A phrasal verb is a verb followed by a particle, which is either an adverb or a preposition. An important feature of phrasal verbs is that the whole meaning of a phrasal verb cannot be understood by simply putting together the meanings of its individual parts. In other words, phrasal verbs are typically idiomatic. For example, the meaning of *put up* (= tolerate) in the sentence *She put up with his lies for years.* is not related to the meaning of the individual words, *put* and *up*. Below you will find some other examples.

TAKE AFTER = look like a family member
GIVE UP = stop trying
LOOK FOR = search
LOOK UP = find the meaning of a word in a dictionary
DO UP = fasten clothes or shoes

Some phrasal verbs can take an object. Sometimes that object comes after the phrasal verb, sometimes it comes between the verb and the particle, and with some phrasal verbs the position of the object can vary. For example, you can say: *They're giving away free tickets to ensure a good crowd.* or *They're giving free tickets away to ensure a good crowd.*

Some phrasal verbs can have more than one meaning.

pass out = become unconscious: It was so hot in the room that an elderly woman passed out.
= distribute: The teacher passed the tests out.
turn up = appear: They turned up at the party although they weren't invited.
= increase the volume: Can you turn the radio up? Grandma can't hear anything.
make up = invent: He made up a story about why he was late for the train.
= put make-up onto the face: She was made up to look like an old woman.
open up = start a business: A number of expensive clubs have opened in the centre.
= do a medical operation: They had to open her up and remove the damaged tissue.
break up = end a relationship: Tom and Carrie broke up last week.
= start laughing: The audience broke up as soon as the comedian started talking.

A. Complete the sentences with one of the following phrasal verbs: *look forward to, made up, cuts in, do without, carried away, called off, brought up, break out, run out, put up with*

1. It's not allowed to smoke in the forest. Fires _____ easily at this time of the year.
2. One of my colleagues always _____ when I start talking.
3. She just cannot _____ her mobile phone. She always carries it with her.
4. She walked out of the room as soon as he _____ cooking.
5. Our boss cannot _____ her being late all the time.
6. I'm afraid we have _____ of paper for the printer.
7. We got _____ by the preacher's words.
8. I _____ seeing my hometown again.
9. As an excuse for being late for the meeting, she _____ a whole story.
10. A friend of my has _____ her wedding.

Key: 1. break out, 2. cuts in, 3. do without, 4. brought up, 5. put up with, 6. run out, 7. carried away, 8. look forward to, 9. made up, 10. called off

B. Complete the phrasal verbs with the correct particle.

1. I don't know where my glasses are. I must look ___ them.
2. The company is keen to pin ___ some of the problem areas.
3. If you don't know this word, you can look it ___ in a dictionary.
4. You need to fill ___ this form in order to get our loyalty card.
5. Make sure you turn all the lights ___ when you leave the office.
6. We used ___ all our money in the first week of the holiday.
7. The TV is too loud. Could you turn ___ the volume, please?
8. Do you mind if I switch ___ the TV? I'd like to hear the weather forecast.
9. The computer was ruined. I had to throw it ___.
10. Could you write your name on this list and then pass it ___.

Key: 1. for, 2. down, 3. up, 4. in, 5. off, 6. up, 7. down, 8. on, 9. away, 10. round