English Phrasal Verbs in Use

70 units of vocabulary reference and practice

Self-study and classroom use

Michael McCarthy
Felicity O'Dell
Contents

Acknowledgements 3
Using this book 4

Learning about phrasal verbs
1 Phrasal verbs: the basics
2 Phrasal verbs: what they mean
3 Particles in phrasal verbs
4 Nouns and adjectives based on phrasal verbs
5 Metaphor and register

Key verbs
6 Come
7 Get
8 Go
9 Look
10 Make
11 Put
12 Take

Key particles
13 Up
14 Out
15 Off
16 On and in
17 Down and over
18 Around and about
19 For and with
20 Through and back
21 Into and away

Concepts
22 Time: spending time
23 Time: passing of time
24 Location
25 Cause and effect
26 Change
27 Success and failure
28 Starting and finishing
29 Actions and movement
30 Destroying and reacting to destruction
31 Communication

Functions
32 Describing people and places
33 Describing public events
34 Describing situations
35 Giving and getting information
36 Solving problems
37 Decisions and plans
38 Disagreeing
39 Persuading
40 Praising and criticising
41 Exclamations and warnings

Work, study and finance
42 The classroom and learning
43 Student life: courses and exams
44 Student life: reading and writing
45 Work: jobs and career
46 Work: being busy
47 Money: salaries, bills, payments
48 Money: buying and selling
49 Business
50 Telephoning

Personal life
51 Feelings
52 Relationships
53 Relationships: problems
54 Secrets and conversations
55 Stages through life
56 Health
57 Sport
58 Homes and daily routines
59 Socialising
60 Food and drink

The world around us
61 Weather
62 Travel
63 Driving
64 Technology
65 Computers
66 News
67 Crime
68 Power and authority
69 American and Australian phrasal verbs
70 New phrasal verbs

Key 146

Mini dictionary 183
What are phrasal verbs?

Phrasal verbs are verbs that consist of a verb and a particle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>particle</th>
<th>example</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>look</td>
<td>up</td>
<td>You can look up any new words in your dictionary.</td>
<td>You can find the meaning of any new words in your dictionary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get</td>
<td>through</td>
<td>I tried to phone her but I couldn’t get through.</td>
<td>I tried to phone her but I couldn’t get a connection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>I just can’t make Jim out at all.</td>
<td>I just can’t understand Jim’s behaviour.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Particles are small words which you already know as prepositions or adverbs. Here are some of the most common phrasal verb particles: about (a)round at away back down for in into off on out over through to up

What do I need to know about phrasal verbs?

First you need to know the meaning of the whole phrasal verb as a unit. The Mini dictionary in this book will help you. For example, look means to use your eyes and up means the opposite of down, but the phrasal verb look up can have several different meanings: Look the word up in the dictionary. [look up = search for information in a book/computer] I’ll look you up next time I’m in London. [look up = visit someone you have not seen for a long time] Things are looking up. [look up = improve]

Next you need to know the grammar patterns of phrasal verbs, e.g. whether the verb takes an object. The table shows the way the grammar patterns are shown in this book and in many dictionaries. Note that sth means something; sb means someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>grammar pattern</th>
<th>comment</th>
<th>example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eat out</td>
<td>the verb is used without an object</td>
<td>We were too tired to cook at home so we decided to eat out. [eat in a restaurant] Not: We decided to eat out a meal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring back sth or bring sth back</td>
<td>the verb must have a non-human object</td>
<td>This photograph brings back happy memories. [makes me remember or think about something from the past] Not: This photograph brings back my sister.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ask out sb or ask sb out</td>
<td>the verb must have a human object</td>
<td>I’d love to ask Sally out. [invite Sally to go to a place like a cinema or a restaurant] Not: I’d love to ask my dog out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look after sb/sth</td>
<td>the object can be either human or non-human</td>
<td>I’ll look after the baby while you’re cooking. Will you look after my bike while I’m away?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ring sb back</td>
<td>the object must come before the particle</td>
<td>I’ll ring you back later. [phone you again] Not: I’ll ring back you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look after sb/sth</td>
<td>the object must come after the particle</td>
<td>Can you look after the dog while I’m away? Not: Can you look the dog after while I’m away?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drop off sb/sth or drop sb/sth off</td>
<td>the object can be before or after the particle</td>
<td>I dropped off the package at her house. [delivered/left] I dropped the package off at her house.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Exercises**

1.1 Underline the twelve phrasal verbs in these sentences.
1. I sent off the order last week but the goods haven’t turned up yet.
2. I came across an interesting book in the library. I took down the title. Here it is.
3. We asked some friends around to watch a film, but the video was playing up and it eventually broke down.
4. I brought up this problem at the last meeting. It’s really time to sort out the problem.
5. I wish he’d stop messing us about! He’s put the meeting off three times and now he wants to call it off altogether.

1.2 Match the twelve phrasal verbs from sentences 1–5 in exercise 1.1 above with their meanings from the box below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cause inconvenience</th>
<th>deal with</th>
<th>stop working</th>
<th>find</th>
<th>invite home</th>
<th>arrive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>post</td>
<td>cancel</td>
<td>write</td>
<td>postpone</td>
<td>not work properly</td>
<td>mention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Decide which of these sentences contain errors. Explain why they are wrong and suggest a correct answer. Use the table in B to help you.
1. That song you just sang brings back memories of my days at college.
2. She looked the children after when their mother was in hospital.
3. I promised to ring my brother back. He called earlier when I was busy.
4. We ate out a wonderful dinner last night.
5. It was a beautiful summer evening so I asked the cat out for a drink.

1.4 Sometimes phrasal verbs are followed by a particular preposition to make three-part verbs. Try to learn these prepositions with the phrasal verbs. Look at these examples of three-part verbs, then complete the sentences below with a preposition from the box. Use a dictionary or the Mini dictionary at the back of this book if necessary.

**EXAMPLES**

I’m **looking forward** to the weekend.
She’s been **going out** **with** him for six months now.

1. She seems to **look down** _____________ people who are less intelligent than her.
2. The school decided to **do away** _____________ the language lab as no-one was using it.
3. I **came up** _____________ a serious problem when I tried to save my work onto a disk.
4. How can some students **get away** _____________ doing no work and yet pass the exams?
5. Her son is so horrible. I don’t know how she **puts up** _____________ him.

That’s not what I meant when I said, ‘Can you drop me off at the beach, please’!