

3 Language work: phrasal verbs

A Look at the HELP box. Do you have the equivalent of phrasal verbs in your language? How do you say the phrasal verbs in the HELP box?

HELP box

Phrasal verbs

- The meaning of some verbs with particle (often called phrasal verbs) can be easily understood from its two parts.

Look at the photos.

A network **consists of** two or more...

Separate networks are **linked over** a public network, the Internet.

- However, many phrasal verbs have an idiomatic meaning, not predictable from the meaning of its parts.

carry (= transport); **carry out** (= execute)

Computers **carry out** the programs.

- Certain particles have similar meanings, regardless of the verb (**on/off/in/out**, etc.).

turn on / switch on

(= start the operation of something)

turn off / switch off

(= stop the operation of something)

- Other common phrasal verbs in computing include:

plug into (= connect)

Plug one end of the phone cord **into** the phone jack.

set up (= establish)

What do I need to **set up** a wireless LAN?

sign up (= register, enrol in a service)

Once connected, you can **sign up** for RSS feeds, newsletters, etc.

try out (= test or use experimentally)

You can **try out** new software on their site.

find out (= learn, discover)

Search the Web to **find out** more information about WIMAX.

take up (= occupy)

Fibre optic cables **take up** less space than copper cables.

make up (= constitute, form)

Several LANs connected together **make up** a WAN.

fill in (= write the necessary information)

You need to **fill in** this online form.

- When the verb has a preposition associated with it, the preposition must precede the object.

You can **look for** information on the Web. (**not: look information for**)

Hackers might **break into** your PC.

(**not: break your PC into**)

When the particle is an adverb, it can precede or follow the direct object:

You need to **type in** your username /

type your username **in**.

You can **look up** words in a dictionary /

look words **up** in a dictionary.

Turn on the computer. /

Turn the computer **on**.

If the direct object is a pronoun, the particle must follow it.

You need to **type it in**.

(**not: type in it**)

B Complete these sentences with the correct form of a phrasal verb from the HELP box.

- To join the club, _____ this form and send it to our office.
- The CPU _____ all the basic operations on the data.
- Digital music _____ a lot of space – about 10 MB for every minute of stereo sound.
- Thousands of networks _____ the Internet.
- You can use newsgroups to _____ about the latest trends, customer needs, etc.