

## Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are combinations of **verbs + adverbs/prepositions**. They are “idiomatic phrases”, which means that they don't always have a literal meaning. The phrasal verbs which are used in general English tend to be more idiomatic and less formal than their academic counterparts. Generally, phrasal verbs that are used in academic texts are the more formal ones that lack idiomaticity, because academic writing is about being as unambiguous as possible.

## One-word synonyms of phrasal verbs

While the phrasal verb was evolving naturally in the English language, occupation of England in 1066 caused English to evolve along two parallel paths. It became laden with **foreign terms** that vied with native English words to express the same idea. As a result, hundreds of native English phrasal verbs have **French, Latin, or Classical greek** counterparts. (*E.g. blow up / explode*)

It is a good practice to use both phrasal verbs as they are, as well as their one-word synonyms, however, in formal written communication people tend to use English verbs derived from French, Latin and Classical Greek, as they sound more professional. When writing academic work, it's key to use a dictionary which tells you not only that the phrasal verb exists, but more importantly how to use the given phrasal verb.

## Transitive and Intransitive phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs can be divided into two groups: **transitive** and **intransitive**. The main difference between them is that the transitive phrasal verbs have a direct object, meaning that the phrasal verb is directly related to the object. For example: *You need to fill out the form to register for the course.* - The substance of this sentence is that the *form needs to be filled out*. On the other hand, the intransitive phrasal verbs do not have a direct object.

## Separable and inseparable phrasal verbs

Transitive phrasal verbs can be further divided into **separable** and **inseparable** phrasal verbs. If a phrasal verb is separable, you can separate the two words and put the direct object in the middle. However, if it is inseparable you can't.

## Examples:

### Separable phrasal verbs

They **called off** the attack.  
I have **asked her out**.  
The nurse **cut** his leg **off**.  
I had to **try** these jeans **on** before I bought them.  
I will **turn in** for some gas now.  
I had to **throw out** my PC.  
I had to **do** my homework **over** because I made a mistake.  
I have to **clean** my room **up**.  
**Pick it up!**  
I **figure it out**.

### Inseparable phrasal verbs

I **called for** help.

Before this semester ends I'll **drop out** of school.

I **got back from** school quite early.

He **got on** the bus and left the town.

I will **get through** this.

I have to **look after** my younger brother.

We **run out of** time.

I **showed up** an hour late.

I **ran across** my friend in the store.

My friend needs to **get over** a tough breakup.

I **get along well with** my classmates.