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**Phrasal Verbs In English**

**What Are Phrasal Verbs?**

Phrasal verbs are verbs with two or three words:  
**main verb + particle (preposition or adverb)**

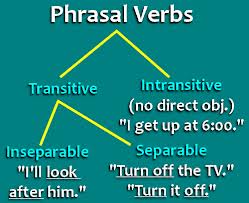
Examples:

* I **wake up** at 7:30 every day.
* Please **turn off** the TV.
* My brother and I don’t **get along.** We fight all the time.
* She**came up with** a good idea.

There are **4 types of phrasal verbs:**

Phrasal verbs can be **transitive or intransitive.**

Transitive phrasal verbs can be **separable or inseparable.**



Phrasal verbs in English are transitive or intransitive. The transitive phrasal verbs can be separable or inseparable, but the Intransitive phrasal verbs cannot be separated.

**Intransitive Phrasal Verbs**

Intransitive phrasal verbs have **no direct object.**(A direct object is “acted upon” by the verb).

Examples of intransitive phrasal verbs:

* I **woke up** at 10:30 AM.
* You can **come over**to my house after school.
* He’s **going back**to Russia next month.

**Transitive Phrasal Verbs**

Transitive phrasal verbs **have a direct object.**

Examples of transitive phrasal verbs (direct object is in **blue**):

* You need to **fill out this form** to register for the course.  
  *(fill out = complete)*
* I’m going to **cut down on fast food**this year.  
  *(cut down on = reduce)*
* **Check out that website** – it’s really great!  
  *(check out = look at, go to)*

**Separable & Inseparable Phrasal Verbs**

Transitive phrasal verbs can be **separable**or **inseparable.**If a phrasal verb is **separable,**it means you can separate the two words and put the direct object in the middle. If it is **inseparable,**then you can’t do this.

Separable Phrasal Verb Example: TURN OFF

* Please **turn off the TV.**
* Please **turn the TV off.**

Inseparable Phrasal Verb Example: LOOK AFTER

* I’ll **look after your dog** while you’re on vacation.
* I’ll **look your dog after** while you’re on vacation – **INCORRECT**

**Word Order For Separable Phrasal Verbs**

When the direct object is the specific name of a thing or person, it can be located after the phrasal verb or in the middle:

* I **threw away the old pizza.**
* = I**threw the old pizza away.**

However, when the direct object is a **pronoun (me, you, him, her, us, them, it),**then it **MUST**go in the middle:

* I**threw it away.**
* I **threw away it.** – **INCORRECT**

Here’s an example with a person:

* They’ll **pick up John** from the airport.
* = They’ll **pick John up** from the airport.
* = They’ll **pick him up** from the airport.
* They’ll **pick up him** from the airport. –**INCORRECT**

**How Do You Know If A Phrasal Verb Is Transitive Or Intransitive And Separable Or Inseparable?**

Unfortunately, there’s no “rule” for looking at a phrasal verbs and knowing what type it is! The best way is just to study each phrasal verb in context with lots of examples.

Some examples:

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| **Phrasal Verb** | **Separable or Inseparable** | **Meaning** |
| Ask out | Separable | To ask someone to go out on a date. |
| Bring about, bring on | Separable | To make something happen |
| Bring up | Separable | 1) To raise children 2) To raise a topic |
| Call back | Separable | Return someone’s telephone call |
| Call in | Separable | Ask someone into an official place or office |
| Call off | Separable | Cancel |
| Call on | **Inseparable** | 1) Ask someone to do something 2) Visit |
| Call up | Separable | Call someone on the telephone |
| Catch up | **Inseparable** | To become equal or reach the same level |
| Check in, check into | **Inseparable** | Register at a hotel or travel counter |
| Check out | **Inseparable** | Leave a hotel |
| Check out of | **Inseparable** | Leave a hotel |
| Cheer up | Separable | Make someone happy |
| Clean up | Separable | Tidy, make clean |
| Come across | **Inseparable** | To find |
| Cross out | Separable | Eliminate |
| Cut out | Separable | Remove something or stop doing something annoying |
| Do over | Separable | Repeat |
| Drop by | **Inseparable** | Visit unexpectedly |
| Drop in | **Inseparable** | Visit unexpectedly |
| Drop off | Separable | Leave something somewhere |
| Drop out | **Inseparable** | Stop attending a class |
| Figure out | Separable | Understand |
| Fill out | Separable | Complete a form |
| Fill in | Separable | Complete spaces on a form |
| Get along with | **Inseparable** | Have a good relationship with |
| Get back from | 1) **Inseparable** 2) Separable | 1) Return from somewhere 2) Receive something originally lent to another person |
| Get in | **Inseparable** | Enter |
| Get off | **Inseparable** | Leave a bus, train, airplane |
| Get on | **Inseparable** | Enter a bus, train, airplane |
| Get out of | **Inseparable** | Leave a car |
| Get over | **Inseparable** | Recover |
| Get through | **Inseparable** | Survive |
| Get up | **Inseparable** | Stand up |
| Give back | Separable | Return |
| Give up | Separable | Stop trying |
| Go over | **Inseparable** | Review |
| Grow up | **Inseparable** | Become an adult |
| Hand in | Separable | Give an assignment or project to a teacher |
| Hang up | Separable | Replace the telephone in the receiver |
| Have on | Separable | Wear |
| Keep out | Separable | Not enter |
| Keep up with | **Inseparable** | Stay at the same level |
| Kick out | Separable | Ask to leave |
| Look after | **Inseparable** | Take care of |
| Look into | **Inseparable** | Investigate |
| Look out for | **Inseparable** | Watch for |
| Look over | Separable | Review |
| Look up | Separable | Try to find information |
| Make up | Separable | Invent |
| Pass away | **Inseparable** | Die |
| Pass out | **1) Inseparable** 2) Separable | 1) Faint 2) Distribute |
| Pick up | Separable | Lift |
| Pick out | Separable | Choose |
| Point out | Separable | Identify |
| Put away | Separable | Put in the proper place |
| Put back | Separable | Return |
| Put off | Separable | Delay |
| Put on | Separable | Get dressed or dress someone |
| Put out | Separable | Extinguish |
| Put up with | **Inseparable** | Tolerate |
| Run into | **Inseparable** | Find or meet |
| Run across | **Inseparable** | Find or meet |
| Run out of | **Inseparable** | Come to the end of something |
| Show up | **Inseparable** | Appear |
| Show off | Separable | Demonstrate something of envy |
| Shut off | Separable | Stop something from running |
| Take after | **Inseparable** | Be like someone |
| Take off | Separable | Remove |
| Take out | Separable | 1) Remove 2) Go on a date with someone |
| Take over | Separable | Take control |
| Take up | **Inseparable** | Begin |
| Tear down | Separable | Demolish or destroy |
| Tear up | Separable | Rip into pieces |
| Think over | Separable | Consider, ponder |
| Throw away | Separable | Discard |
| Throw out | Separable | Discard |
| Throw up | **Inseparable** | Vomit |
| Try on | Separable | Test |
| Turn down | Separable | Reduce |
| Turn in | Separable | Go to bed |
| Turn off | Separable | Stop a machine |
| Turn on | Separable | Start a machine |
| Turn out | Separable | Put out a light |
| Turn up | Separable | Increase |