

## Phrasal Verbs

A phrasal verb is a combination of a standard verb such as *make* or *put*. It is a combination of the first form of the verb with a preposition (V1 + preposition / adverb). It can completely change the meaning of the Verb. A phrasal verb makes the language quick and crisp.

Phrasal verb	Meaning	Example
look for (V + Preposition)	search/seek	He is looking for his keys
look forward to (V + Preposition + Adverb)	await eagerly/anticipate with pleasure	She is looking forward to visiting Paris.
look up (V + Adverb)	to try to find a piece of information by looking in a book or on a computer:	She didn't understand the word. So, she looked it up in her dictionary

### **Literal meaning**

Some phrasal verbs have a literal meaning. They can be easily understood.

- She opened the door and *looked outside*.
- She was *walking across* the street when she heard the sound of an explosion.

### **Idiomatic meaning**

Phrasal verbs can also have a figurative or idiomatic meaning which makes them difficult to understand.

- Can you *put me up* for tonight?  
The phrasal verb '*put up*' here does not mean to build (as in *putting a fence up*). It has, however, an idiomatic/figurative meaning. It means to let someone stay in your house.

### **Separable or inseparable?**

1. Sometimes, the preposition/adverb is placed either after the verb or after the object.

Examples:

- Mary ***made up*** a really entertaining story.
- Mary ***made*** the story ***up***.

2. If the object is a pronoun, however, the preposition/adverb has to be placed after the pronoun (object).

Examples:

- She ***made*** it ***up***.

- **Put it down.**
- **Take it off.**

3. Some phrasal verbs are always inseparable.

Example:

- I **came across** some old photos in a drawer.
- ~~I **came** some old photos **across** in a drawer.~~

### Important Phrasal Verbs

Important Phrasal Verbs	Meaning	Example
Account for	To explain the reason for	The government should <i>account for</i> everything that is happening in the country.
Ask after	To make inquiries about the health of someone	Riya <i>asked after</i> Shyam, who had met with an accident the previous week.
Back out	To withdraw from something before completion/to fail to keep a promise	She <i>backed out</i> of studying <b>Important Phrasal Verbs</b> at the last minute.
Break down	To stop working	My computer <i>broke down</i> yesterday night.
Break out	To start suddenly (disease, war, taken up to, etc)	The fire <i>broke out</i> in the kitchen.
Bring on	To cause to happen	Gandhi <i>brought on</i> a major change in the method of protest against the British.
Bring up	To raise/ to rear/ to increase	I was <i>brought up</i> by my grandparents.
Call on	To visit a person	Varna <i>called on</i> her yesterday.

Call off	To cancel	They are thinking about <i>calling off</i> the wedding.
Come across	To find (unexpectedly) or meet by chance	I <i>came across</i> the book yesterday at the store.
Count on	To depend on, to rely on	Ravi was <i>counting on</i> <b>Important Phrasal Verbs</b> questions of the exam to score some marks.
Deal with	To handle	I cannot <i>deal with</i> the office work right now.
Die out	To get extinct	The fire <i>died out</i> after some time.
Figure out	To understand	I couldn't <i>figure out</i> what was happening.
Get away with	To do something wrong or illegal without getting caught or punished	He <i>got away with</i> the murder so easily.
Give away	To distribute, to reveal, to betray	I heard that the president is <i>giving away</i> the prizes.
Give up	To leave, to stop doing something/to yield	<i>Giving up</i> is not an option in a competition.
Keep up	To maintain	<i>Keeping up with</i> the news is difficult to do.
Let someone down	To disappoint someone	I do not want to <i>let down</i> my parents.
Live upto	To live or act in accordance with	I want to <i>live up to</i> the expectations of my parents.
Look after	Take care of	I can <i>look after</i> the baby for a short while.

Look forward to	Expect with pleasure	I <i>look forward to</i> meeting your parents.
Look into	Investigate	I will <i>look into</i> who drew the graffiti on the wall.
Makeover	Convert, redo, renovate	Riya needs a complete <i>makeover</i> .
Move on	To concentrate one's other matter in recovering from a setback or difficulty	I need to <i>move on</i> from the last term marks.
Pass away	To die	My grandmother <i>passed away</i> in March.
Put off	To postpone/ to repel ( as from bad manners)	I want to <i>put off</i> the exams as much as possible.
Run into	Transform into/amount upto/to face/to meet by chance	I <i>ran into</i> an old friend at the market yesterday.
See off	To take leave of	I will <i>see you off</i> at the gate.
Send for	To call, summon	The headmaster has <i>sent for</i> Vinaya.
Step down	To resign from a high post	Vimal decided to <i>step down</i> from the post of CEO.
Step in	To intervene	I think I will have to <i>step in</i> for Madhur.
Taken aback	To be surprised	I was <i>taken aback</i> by Neha's sudden change of mood.
Take after	To resemble a close, older relative	I <i>take after</i> my mother.

Take over	To take responsibility for or control of	Raghu <i>took over</i> the post of CEO after Vimal stepped down.
Turn down	To refuse or reject	I <i>turned down</i> his offer to give me a lift.

Some examples:

1. The company checks out all new employees.

- a) stares at
- b) examines**
- c) ignores
- d) pays

2. The thief \_\_\_\_\_ with the ornaments.

- a) made away
- b) made out
- c) made off**
- d) made up

3. Priya \_\_\_\_\_ us yesterday.

- a) called in
- b) called on**
- c) called out
- d) called off