**What are phrasal verbs?**

**Verb + Preposition**

* **The meaning of Phrasal verbs may vary across contexts depending on the preposition it pairs up with.**
* **Phrasal verbs can take tense/ past /present /continuous etc**

**Break down vs Break up vs Break out**

**Broke down vs Broke up vs Broke out**

**Break down – Vehicle / an emotional break down**

**Break up - in a relationship /**

**Break out - A prisoner breaking out from =(escaping)prison /Acne/pimples**

**Break through – Some kinds revelation/ finding**

**Break off-**

**Break in – Eg. Thieves/ burglars who may break into the house**

**Break open - Thieves broke opened the cupboard/**

**Break away – to split from a group**

**Switch off vs Switch on**

**I switched off the light**

**I switched the light off**

**I switched it off**

Phrasal verbs are phrases that indicate actions. They are generally used in spoken English and informal texts. Examples of such verbs include: *turn down, come across* and *run into*.

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb and a preposition or an adverb:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Verb** | **Preposition/adverb** |
| get | up |
| go | through |
| write | down |
| take | after |

Sometimes phrasal verbs consist of three elements:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Verb** | **Preposition / adverb 1** | **Preposition / adverb 2** |
| look | forward | to |
| put | up | with |
| sit | in | for |

Get away with

When added to the verb the preposition or adverb may change completely the meaning of the verb. Here are some examples:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Phrasal verb** | **Meaning** | **Example** |
| look for | search/seek | He is looking for his keys |
| look up to | have a great deal of respect for a person  search for something | His father is his role model. He is the person he looks up to. |
| look forward to | await eagerly/anticipate with pleasure | She is looking forward to visiting Paris. |
| look up | 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 |

**The meaning of phrasal verbs**

Sometimes, it is difficult to understand the meaning of phrasal verbs. Before looking them up in a dictionary, it would be helpful to use the context to understand them.

**Denotative/ literal = dictionary meaning**

**Connotative**

**Literal meaning**

Some phrasal verbs have a literal meaning. They can be easily understood. Look past look into look outside look after

* 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.

Put up – to put up a fence/ to build a fence

* 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.

Count on

**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.= make up
* Mary ***made*** the story /it ***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.***

Mary ***made up*** a really entertaining story= Mary fabricated a story

3. Some phrasal verbs are always inseparable.

Example:

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

= found

not

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

https://www.myenglishpages.com/site\_php\_files/grammar-lesson-phrasal-verbs.php