



# PHRASAL VERBS

Unit 1

# WHAT ARE THEY?

- ❖ Phrasal verbs are mainly used in spoken English and informal texts. (The more formal a conversation or text, the less phrasal verbs are found.)
- ❖ Phrasal verbs consist of a verb + a particle (preposition, adverb). The particle can change the meaning of the verb completely, e.g.:

look up – consult a reference book (look a word up in a dictionary)

look for – seek (look for her ring)

look forward – anticipate with pleasure (look forward to meeting someone)

Note: In the example we are using the same verb, but with a different particle it gets a different meaning.

# SEPARABLE AND NON-SEPARABLE PHRASAL VERBS

**Separable:** the **object** can be between the verb and the preposition or adverb.

E.g. The waiter added the bill up. **or** The waiter added up the bill.

**Non-separable:** the **object** must be after the phrasal verb.

E.g. I'm too busy to deal with the client right now.

# PHRASAL VERBS

## WORK

### carry out

do a particular piece of work,  
research etc

The building work was carried  
out by a local contractor.

### take over

take control of  
something

Toshiba is taking over the  
smaller company.

### take on

employ someone

We're taking on new staff at  
the moment.

### lay off

dismiss, usually for economic reasons

They had to lay off workers.

### knuckle down

start working harder

It's time we knuckled down .



### hand in

give something to a person  
in authority

He's already handed  
in his report.

### burn out

be extremely  
tired

I burned out  
from work stress.

### knock off

stop working

Let's knock off early  
tonight.

### call off

cancel

She's called off the meeting.

### slack off

work less hard

Workers usually slack off  
on Fridays.



# PHRASAL VERBS

## SHOPPING

### sell out

sell all of the supply that you  
have of something

The first issue of the magazine  
SOLD OUT within two days.

### try on

put on a piece of clothing  
to see if it fits

TRY ON the shoes to see  
if they fit.

### try out

test something

Lanny is TRYING OUT her new  
bicycle.

### put on

start wearing something

Dorothy PUT ON her coat.

### pay for

give money in order to buy something

I PAID good money FOR those shoes.

### ring up

record an amount of money by  
pressing buttons on a cash register

She RANG UP our purchases quickly  
and we left.

### queue up / line up

wait in a line  
behind people

We QUEUED UP/ LINED UP  
for tickets.

### shop around

compare prices before buying

I'm SHOPPING AROUND for  
a new winter coat.

### take off

remove a piece of clothing

I'd better TAKE my shoes OFF.

### turn down

refuse something

She TURNED DOWN my proposal.



# PHRASAL VERBS RELATIONSHIPS

## check out

look at someone or something  
to see whether you like them

Wow check out that good  
looking guy over there.

## hit on

flirt with someone;  
make a pass at someone.

He was hitting on me,  
with steaming looks.

## chat up

talking flirtatiously to someone.  
He spent all evening chatting her up.

## ask out

invite someone to go out with you  
Jack asked me out to the movies on Friday.

## fall for

have strong romantic feelings  
about someone

She always falls for older men.



## make up

forgive each other after  
an argument

They kissed and made up,  
as usual.

## cheat on

be unfaithful to  
your partner

She found out that he'd  
been cheating on her.

## break up

end a romantic relationship  
Jenny and George have broken up.

## split up

end a romantic relationship

Her parents split up a few months ago.

## get back together

re-start a relationship with  
an ex-lover

I kept hoping we would get back together.



# PHRASAL VERBS

## EDUCATION

### be into

be interested in sth

ARE you INTO literature?

### take up

start doing a new activity

Chris has TAKEN UP jogging.

### fall behind

make less progress than others

My daughter is FALLING  
BEHIND with her school work.

### catch up with

improve and reach the same  
standard as other people

I need to CATCH UP WITH Jane.

### go over

1. check something
2. practise and repeat something  
in order to learn it

Could you GO OVER this report?  
Let's GO OVER our lines for the play.



### read up on

study or learn sth by reading

I need to READ UP ON Malawi.

### hand in / turn in

give your finished work to a teacher

She HANDED IN / TURNED IN her  
essay.

### hand out

give sth to each person in a group

The teacher HANDED OUT the  
worksheets.

### copy out

write sth again exactly as it was  
written

We always COPY OUT sentences from a book.

### drop out

stop going to a school before  
finishing it

She DROPPED OUT of college  
and went straight into a job.

## TRAVEL ✈️



### get away

leave to go on holiday

I need to **GET AWAY** for a few days.

### set off

start a journey

We **SET OFF** early the next morning.



### take off

leave the ground, begin to fly

The plane **TOOK OFF** at 8.30 a.m.

### check in



arrive and register at an airport or hotel

Please **CHECK IN** 2 hours before the flight.

### check out

leave the hotel after paying

We **CHECKED OUT** (of/from our hotel) at 5 a.m.



### drop off

take someone somewhere by car

Can I **DROP** you **OFF** somewhere on my way home?

### speed up



go faster

The car suddenly **SPED UP** and went through a red light.



### get on / get off

enter / leave a bus, train, plane

A lot of people usually **GET ON / GET OFF** the train at Cambridge.

### see off



go to the airport or station with sb in order to say goodbye to them

Anne **SAW** Terry **OFF** at the station.

### hold up

cause a delay for someone

Sorry I'm late, but my train was **HELD UP**.

