

Phrasal verbs

Professional Communication – 2TIN

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What are phrasal verbs?

- We often use verbs with the following words

in	on	up	away	by	about	over
round/around	out	off	down	back	through	
along	forward					

- These verbs are called **phrasal verbs**

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What are phrasal verbs?

- We often use on/off/out etc. with verbs of movement

Get on	The bus was full. We couldn't get on .
Drive off	A woman got into the car and drove off .
Come back	Sarah is leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday.
Turn round	When I touched him on the shoulder, he turned round .

- But often the second word (on/off/out etc.) gives a special meaning to the verb:

Break down	Sorry I'm late. The car broke down . (=the engine stopped working)
Look out	Look out! There's a car coming. (=be careful)
Take off	It was my first flight. I was nervous as the plane took off . (=went into the air)
Get on	How was the exam? How did you get on ? (=how did you do?)
Get by	My French isn't very good, but it's enough to get by . (=manage)

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What are phrasal verbs?

- Sometimes a phrasal verb is followed by a preposition

Run away	from	Why did you run away from me?
Keep up	with	You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
Look up	at	We looked up at the plane as it flew above us.
Look forward	to	Are you looking forward to your trip?

- Sometimes a phrasal verb has an object. Usually there are two possible positions for the **object**.
 - I turned on **the light**. OR I turned **the light** on.
- If the **object is a pronoun** (it/them/me/him etc.), only one option is possible.
 - I turned **it** on.

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Phrasal verbs -> in & out

In	Out
= <i>into a room, a building, a car, etc.</i>	= <i>out of a room, a building, a car, etc.</i>
How did the thieves get in ?	He just stood up and walked out .
I've got a new apartment. I'm moving in on Friday.	Andy opened the window and looked out .

- Other verbs + in

Drop in	= visit sb for a short time without arranging to do this	I dropped in to see Chris on my way home.
Join in	= to take part in an activity that is already going on	They were playing card, so I joined in .
Plug in	= connect a machine to the electricity supply	The fridge isn't working because you haven't plugged it in .
Fill in	= fill in a form e.g. = write the necessary information on a form (you can also say to fill out)	Please fill in the application form and send it to us by 28 February.

Phrasal verbs -> in & out

- Other verbs + out

Eat out	= eat at a restaurant, not at home	There wasn't anything to eat at home, so we decided to eat out .
Drop out	= of college, university, a course, a race = stop before you have completely finished it	Gary went to university but dropped out after a year.
Get out	= of something that you arranged to do = avoiding it	I promised to go to the wedding. I don't want to go, but I can't get out of it now.
Leave sth out	= omit it, not include it	In the sentence 'She said that she was ill', you can leave out the word 'that'.
Cross sth out/rub sth out		Some of the names on the list had been crossed out .

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Phrasal verbs -> out

- Out = not burning, not shining

Go out		Suddenly all the lights in the building went out .
Put out	= a fire/a cigarette/a light	We managed to put the fire out .
Turn out	= a light	I turned the lights out before leaving.
Blow out	= a candle	We don't need the candle. You can blow it out .

- Work out

Do physical exercises	Rachel works out at the gym three times a week.
Develop, progress	Good luck for the future. I hope everything works out well for you.
For mathematical calculations	The total bill for three is £84.60. That works out at £28.20 each.
Calculate, think about a problem	345x60? I need to do this on paper. I can't work it out in my head.

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Phrasal verbs -> out

- Other verbs + out

Carry out	= an order/an experiment/...	Soldier are expected to carry out orders.
Fall out	= (with sb) = stop being friends	David fell out with his father and left home.
Find out	= that/what/when = get information	The police never found out who committed the murder.
Give/hand things out	= give to each person	At the end of the lecture, the speaker gave out information sheets to the audience.
Point sth out to sb	= draw attention to sth	As we drove through the city, our guide pointed out all the sights.
Run out of sth	= used all of it	We ran out of petrol on the motorway.
Sort sth out	= find a solution to, put in order	There are a few problems we need to sort out .
Turn out to be	= it became clear in the end	Nobody believed Paul at first, but he turned out to be right.
Try out	= test to see if it's OK	The company is trying out a new computer system at the moment.

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Phrasal verbs -> on/off

On and **off** for lights, machines, etc.

- We say:

The light is **on** – **put** the light **on** – **leave** the light **on** etc.

Turn the light **on/off** OR **switch** the light **on/off**

- Also put on some music/a CD etc.
 - I haven't listened to this CD yet. Shall I **put** it **on**?

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Phrasal verbs -> on/off

- On and off for events

Go on	= happen	What's all that noise? What's going on ?
Call sth off	= cancel it	The open air concert had to be called off because of the weather.
Put sth off	= delay it	The wedding has been put off until January.

- On and off for clothes

Put on	= clothes/glasses/...	My hands were cold, so I put my gloves on .
Put on	= weight (get heavier)	I've put on two kilograms in the last month.
Try on	= clothes (see if they fit)	I tried on a jacket in the shop, but it didn't fit me very well.
Take off	= clothes/glasses	It was warm, so I took off my jacket.

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Phrasal verbs -> on/off

- Off = away from a person or place

Be off	To a place	Tomorrow I'm off to Berlin.
Walk off/run off/drive off/ride off/go off	Similar to 'walk away', 'run away'	Diane got on her bike and rode off .
Set off	Start a journey	We set off very early to avoid the traffic.
Take off	Leave the ground (for planes)	After a long delay the plane finally took off .
See sb off	Go with them to the airport/station to say goodbye	Helen was going away. We went to the station to see her off .

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Phrasal verbs -> on/off

- Verb + on = continue doing sth

Drive on/walk on/play on	= continue driving/walking/playing/etc.	Shall we stop at this petrol station or shall we drive on to the next one?
Go on	= continue	The party went on until 4 o'clock in the morning.
Go on/carry on doing sth	= continue doing sth	We can't go on spending money like this.
Go on with/carry on with	= continue doing sth	Don't let me disturb you. Please carry on with what you're doing.
Keep on doing sth	= do it continuously or repeatedly	He keeps on criticising me. I'm fed up with it!

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Phrasal verbs -> on/off

- Get on

Get on	= progress	How are you getting on in your new job?
Get on (with sb)	= have a good relationship	Joanne and Karen don't get on . They're always arguing.
Get on (with something)	= continue doing something you have to do, usually after an interruption	I must get on with my work. I have a lot to do.

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Phrasal verbs -> on/off

- Verb + off

Doze off/drop off/nod off	= fall asleep	The lecture wasn't very interesting. In fact I dozed off in the middle of it.
Finish sth off	= do the last part of sth	'Have you finished painting the kitchen?' 'Nearly, I'll finish it off in the morning.'
Go off	= explode = ring	A bomb went off in the city centre. Did you hear the alarm go off ?
Put sb off (doing sth)	= cause sb not to want sth or to do sth	We wanted to go to the amusement park, but we were put off by the long queue.
Rip sb off	= cheat sb (informal)	Did you really pay £2,000 for that painting? I think you were ripped off .
Show off	= try to impress people with your ability, your knowledge	Look at that boy on the bike riding with no hands. He's just showing off .
Tell sb off	= speak angrily to sb because they did sth wrong	Clare's mother told her off for wearing dirty shoes in the house.

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Phrasal verbs -> up/down

- Up and down

Put sth up	I put a picture up on the wall.
Take sth down	I didn't like the picture, so I took it down .
Pick sth up	There was a letter on the floor. I picked it up and looked at it.
Put sth down	I stopped writing and put down my pen.
Stand up	Alan stood up and walked out.
Sit down/bend down/lie down	I bent down to tie my shoelace.
Turn sth up	I can't hear the TV. Can you turn it up a bit?
Turn sth down	The oven is too hot. Turn it down to 150 degrees.

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Phrasal verbs -> up/down

- Knock down, cut down etc.

Knock down/blow sth down, cut sth down	Some old houses were knocked down to make way for the new shopping centre.
Be knocked down	A man was knocked down by a car and taken to hospital.
Burn down (be destroyed by a fire)	They were able to put out the fire before the house burnt down.

- Down = getting less

Slow down (go more slowly)	You're driving too fast. Slow down .
Calm sb down (make sb calmer)	Calm down . There's no point in getting angry.
Cut down on sth (eat, drink or do sth less often)	I'm trying to cut down on coffee. I drink too much of it.

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Phrasal verbs -> up/down

- Other verbs + down

Break down	= stop working (for machines, cars, ...)	The car broke down and I had to phone for help.
Close down/shut down	= stop doing business	There used to be a shop at the end of the street; it closed down a few years ago.
Let sb down	= disappoint them because you didn't do what they hoped	You can always rely on Paul. He'll never let you down .
Turn sb/sth down	= refuse an application, an offer etc.	I applied for several jobs, but I was turned down for all of them.
Write sth down	= write sth on paper because you may need the information later	I can't remember Tim's address. I wrote it down , but I can't find it.

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Phrasal verbs -> up

Go up/come up/walk up (to...)	Approach	A man came up to me in the street and asked me for money.
Catch up (with sb)	Move faster than sb in front of you so that you reach them	I'm not ready to go yet. You go on and I'll catch up with you.
Keep up (with sb)	Continue at the same speed or level	You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
Set up (an organization, a company, a business)	Start it	The government has set up a committee to investigate the problem.
Take up (a hobby, a sport, an activity)	Start doing it	Laura took up photography a few years ago. She takes really good pictures.
Fix up (a meeting)	Arrange it	We've fixed up a meeting for next Monday.

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Phrasal verbs -> up

Grow up	Become an adult	Ann was born in Hong Kong but grew up in Australia.
Bring up (a child)	Raise, look after a child	Her parents died when she was a child and she was brought up by her grandparents.
Clean up/clear up/tidy up sth	Make it clean, tidy etc.	Look at this mess! Who's going to tidy up ?
Wash up	Wash the plates, dishes etc. after a meal	I hate washing up .
End up (somewhere/doing sth)	That's what happened in the end	I couldn't find a hotel and ended up sleeping on a bench at the station.
Give up	Stop trying	Don't give up . Keep trying!
Make up sth		Children under 16 make up half of the population of the city.
Take up space or time	Use space or time	Most of the space in the room was taken up by a large table.
Turn up/show up	Arrive, appear	We arranged to meet David last night, but he didn't show up .

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Phrasal verbs -> up

Bring up (a topic)	Introduce it in a conversation	I don't want to hear about it anymore. Please don't bring it up again.
Come up	Be introduced in a conversation	Some interesting points came up in our discussion yesterday.
Come up with (an idea/a suggestion)	Produce an idea	Sarah is very creative. She's always coming up with new ideas.
Make sth up	Invent sth that is not true	What Kevin told you about himself wasn't true. He made it all up .
Cheer up	Be happier	You look so sad! Cheer up !
Save up (for sth/to do sth)	Save money to buy sth	Dan is saving up for a trip round the world.
Clear up	Become bright (for weather)	It was raining when I got up, but it cleared up later.
Blow up	Explode	The engine caught fire and blew up .
Tear sth up	Tear it into pieces	I didn't read the letter. I just tore it up and threw it away.
Beat sb up	Hit someone repeatedly so that they are badly hurt	A friend of mine was attacked and beaten up a few days ago.

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Phrasal verbs -> up

Break up/split up	Separate	I'm surprised to hear that Sue and Paul have split up .
Do up (a coat, a shoelace, buttons)	Fasten, tie, etc.	I's quite cold. Do up your coat before you go out.
Do up (a building, a room, etc.)	Repair and improve it	The kitchen looks great now that it has been done up .
Look sth up in a dictionary		If you don't know the meaning of a word, you can look it up in a dictionary.
Put up with sth	Tolerate it	We live on a busy road, so we have to put up with a lot of noise from traffic.
Hold up (a person, a plan)	Delay	Don't wait for me. I don't want to hold you up .
Mix up (people/things)	You think one is the other	The two brothers look very similar. Many people mix them up .

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Phrasal verbs -> away/back

- Compare 'away' and 'back'

Away = away from home	Back = back home
We're going away on holiday today.	We'll be back in three weeks.
Away = away from a place/person	Back = back to a place/person
The woman got into her car, started the engine and drove away .	What time will you be back ?
I tried to take a picture of the bird, but it flew away .	After eating at a restaurant, we walked back to our hotel.
I dropped the ticket and it blew away in the wind.	I've still got Jane's keys. I forgot to give them back to her.
The police searched the house and took away a computer.	When you've finished with that book, can you put it back on the shelf?

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Phrasal verbs -> away/back

- Other verbs + **away**

Get away	Escape, leave with difficulty	We tried to catch the thief, but she managed to get away .
Get away with sth	Do sth wrong without being caught	I parked in a no-parking zone, but I got away with it. I didn't have to pay a fine.
Keep away (from)	Don't go near	Keep away from the edge of the pool. You might fall in.
Give sth away	Give it to somebody else because you don't want it anymore	'Did you sell your old computer?' 'No, I gave it away .'
Put sth away	Put it in the place where it is kept, usually out of sight	When the children had finished playing with their toys, they put them away .
Throw sth away	Put it in the rubbish	I kept the letter, but I threw away the envelope.

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Phrasal verbs -> away/back

- Other verbs + **back**

Wave back/smile back/shout back/write back/hit somebody back		I waved to her and she waved back .
Call/phone/ring (sb) back	Return a phone call	I can't talk to you now. I'll call you back in ten minutes.
Get back to sb	Reply to them by phone etc.	I sent him an email, but he never got back to me.
Look back (on something)	Think about what happened in the past	My first job was in a travel agency. I didn't like it very much at the time but, looking back on it, I learnt a lot and it was a very useful experience.
Pay back money, pay sb back		If you borrow money, you have to pay it back . Thanks for lending me the money. I'll pay you back next week.

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