

21

GRAMMAR

Phrasal verbs 1

Understanding phrasal words

- Verbs are often followed by particles like *back*, *off*, *through*, *up*, etc (the word *particle* means adverb or preposition). Sometimes both verb and particle have their normal meaning. At other times there is a new meaning when they are put together. Compare:

*Can you **bring up** the radio from downstairs?* (normal meaning)

*She has **brought up** two children on her own.*

(new meaning = *look after until adult*)

The term 'phrasal verb' is used for the second case, where the verb + particle together has a special meaning. Phrasal verbs are common in informal English.

- Often one phrasal verb can have several different meanings and the correct one is only clear from the context.
- There are four types of phrasal verbs. These are covered in Grammar 21 and 22.
It is unusual to use *all* as a single-word subject or object. Instead we use *everything* to mean *all the things*.

Grammar 21: • phrasal verbs with two particles.

- phrasal verbs with one particle; there must be an object; the particle is inseparable.

Grammar 22: • phrasal verbs with one particle; there must be an object; the particle can be separated from the verb.

- phrasal verbs with one particle; there is no object.

Verbs with two particles

A selection of phrasal verbs is listed here with examples. Others, and other meanings of those listed here, are included in the practice section.

Most of the verbs in the list need an object, and the object can only come at the end (so the verbs are inseparable).

*I'm **looking forward to** my holidays.*

But some verbs are marked with an asterisk *. With these verbs there is another form: there is no object, and the final particle is not used.

*I've decided to **cut down on** smoking. I've decided to **cut down**.*

Cut down on*

*I've decided to **cut down on** smoking.* (reduce the amount of)

Catch up with*

*They are too far ahead for us to **catch up with** them.* (reach the same place as)

Come up against

*I'm afraid we've **come up against** a problem we can't solve.* (meet, find)

Come up with

*Have you **come up with** an answer yet?* (think of)

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Drop in on*

*I **dropped in on** Bill and Sheila on my way home.* (visit for a short time)

Face up to

*You must **face up to** reality!* (accept, deal with)

Feel up to

*I don't **feel up to** going to work.* (have the strength and energy to do)

Get away with

*Jack stole the money and **got away with** it.* (do something bad and not be punished)

Get along / on with*

*Do you **get along / on with** your new boss?* (have good relations with)

Get on with

*Stop talking and **get on with** your work!* (continue with)

Get out of

*I managed to **get out of** working late.* (avoid a responsibility)

Get round to

*I haven't **got round to** decorating yet.* (find time to do)

Get up to

*What has young Bill been **getting up to**?* (do something bad)

Go in for

*Do you **go in for** sailing?* (have as a hobby)

Grow out of

*Julie has **grown out of** playing with dolls.* (become too old for)

Keep up with*

*You're going too fast! I can't **keep up with** you!* (go at the same speed as)

Look down on

*Our neighbours **look down on** anyone without a car.* (feel superior to)

Look up to

*I really **look up to** my teacher.* (respect)

Look forward to

*We are **looking forward to** our holiday.* (think we will enjoy)

Make up for

*This wonderful dinner **made up for** the bad service.* (compensate for)

Put up with

*I can't **put up with** these screaming children!* (accept without complaining)

Run out of*

*Oh dear, we've **run out of** petrol!* (have no more of)

Stand up for

*You must learn to **stand up for** yourself!* (defend)

Verbs with one particle: transitive and inseparable

These phrasal verbs take an object, and the object must come after the particle. It cannot go between the verb and the particle.

*I love coffee. I can't **do without it** in the morning!* (NOT ~~do it without~~)

Ask after

*Jim **asked after** you yesterday.* (ask for news of)

Call for

*I'll **call for** you at six.* (come to your house and collect you)

GRAMMAR 21 PHRASAL VERBS 1

Call on

*I **called on** some friends in Plymouth.* (visit for a short time)

Come across

*Joe **came across** this old painting in the attic.* (find by chance)

Come into

*Sue **came into** a large sum of money.* (inherit)

Count on

*I'm **counting on** you to help me.* (depend on)

Deal with

*How can we **deal with** the traffic problem?* (take action to solve a problem)

Do without

*We'll have to **do without** a holiday this year.* (manage without having)

Get at

*What are you **getting at**?* (suggest)

Get over

*Barry has **got over** his illness now.* (recover from)

Go over

*Let's **go over** our plan once more.* (discuss the details)

Join in

*Try to **join in** the lesson as much as you can.* (take part in, contribute to)

Live on

*They **live on** the money her father gives them.* (have as income)

Look into

*The government is **looking into** the problem.* (investigate)

Look round

*Let's **look round** the town today.* (look at everything)

Make for

*Where are you **making for** exactly?* (go in the direction of)

Pick on

*My teacher is always **picking on** me.* (choose a person to punish)

Run into

*I **ran into** Steve in the supermarket yesterday.* (meet by chance)

See about

*We'll have to **see about** getting you an office.* (make arrangements)

See to

*Can you **see to** the dog's food?* (attend to, take care of)

Stand for

*I won't **stand for** such rudeness!* (tolerate)

*Andrew is **standing for** parliament.* (be a candidate for)

Take after

*Helen **takes after** her mother.* (have the same characteristics as)

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

1 Underline the most suitable word or phrase.

- 1 I'm really looking forward to / going in for the party on Saturday.
- 2 Maria has made up for / come up with an idea which will solve the problem.
- 3 We had to end our holiday because we did without / ran out of money.
- 4 I think we should go over / face up to the instructions once more.
- 5 Carl called on / made for his friend Steve while he was in Glasgow.
- 6 In some countries, people live on / deal with less than one euro per day.
- 7 Slow down! I can't run out of / keep up with you!
- 8 One day you will have to stand up for / face up to the truth about yourself!
- 9 Richard came across / looked into a valuable painting in a street market.
- 10 Why don't you drop in / call on the next time you are in Geneva?

2 Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the phrasal verb in bold. You may have to change the form.

- 1 Sorry, but I haven't found time to fix your bike yet.
get round to
Sorry, but I haven't got round to fixing your bike yet.
- 2 Oh bother, we don't have any milk left.
run out of
.....
- 3 It took me a long time to recover from my illness.
get over
.....
- 4 Julie must be too old to bite her nails.
grow out of
.....
- 5 I think we've found an answer to the problem.
come up with
.....
- 6 I don't think I'm well enough to play football today.
feel up to
.....
- 7 Ann is someone I really respect.
look up to
.....
- 8 I must arrange to have the kitchen painted.
see about
.....
- 9 Please help me. I'm relying on you.
count on
.....
- 10 Peter is just like his father!
take after
.....

GRAMMAR 21 PHRASAL VERBS 1

- 3** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1 Quite by chance, Brenda met Philip at the station.

ran

Brenda ~~ran into Philip~~ at the station.

2 You'll just have to learn to accept the facts!

face

You'll just the facts.

3 How can you bear so much traffic noise?

put

How can you traffic noise?

4 Charles cheated in his exams, and didn't get caught.

got

Charles cheated in his exams, and it.

5 I visited a few friends while I was in Manchester.

called

I while I was in Manchester.

6 What are you trying to say?

getting

What at?

7 I must go to the dentist, and get my teeth taken care of.

seen

I must go to the dentist to.

- 4** Complete each sentence with one of the words from the box.

across	against	for	in	into	on	round	to	up	with
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- 1 I'll send someone to call~~for~~..... the parcel on Thursday.
- 2 You'll have to work hard to keep with the rest of the class.
- 3 Jean didn't expect to come up such difficulties.
- 4 It's not fair. You're always picking me.
- 5 Terry sang the first verse and then everyone joined
- 6 I came one of your novels in a second-hand bookshop.
- 7 I'm not interested in buying anything. I'm just looking
- 8 Don't you think the manager should deal this problem?
- 9 George came a lot of money when his uncle died.
- 10 You look very guilty! What have you been getting up ?

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

5 Complete the phrasal verb using one word or two words.

- 1 I'm afraid that my brother and I don't really get
- 2 What have you been getting lately? Anything interesting?
- 3 George doesn't get with his new colleagues.
- 4 Helen couldn't understand what the customer was getting
- 5 Sorry, but I haven't got finishing the report yet.
- 6 Ann had to attend the meeting, because she couldn't get it.
- 7 Nobody saw Jeff steal the money, and he thought he had got it.
- 8 There was so much noise that the students couldn't get their exam.
- 9 Kate doesn't really go team sports. She prefers golf and tennis.
- 10 Losing the race was a great shock to Lewis, but he has got it now.

6 Choose the most suitable ending for each sentence. Note that some of the phrasal verbs have a different meaning to the one given in the Explanations section.

- 1 I can't put up with
A you if you should come to London. **B** people who smoke all the time.
C the plates onto the top shelf.
- 2 The chairperson of the committee then called on Tony
A but his line was engaged. **B** to make a speech in reply.
C so that his voice could be heard above the crowd.
- 3 Mary has been chosen to stand for
A the bad behaviour of her colleagues. **B** herself in future.
C Parliament in the next election.
- 4 After my holidays it takes me a few days to catch up with
A the people running in front of me. **B** all the news I've missed.
C a really bad cold.
- 5 Small children soon grow out of
A their shoes. **B** all the good food they eat.
C the habits they have when they get older.
- 6 I've decided to go in for
A eating fruit for breakfast. **B** a few days rest in the country.
C a photography competition in Photographer's Weekly.
- 7 I'm afraid that our plans to open a new factory have run into
A some old friends. **B** a tree by the side of the road.
C a few unexpected difficulties.
- 8 We find that this type of tyre makes for
A safer driving in wet weather. **B** the first place it can stop.
C all smaller types of cars.
- 9 I saw my old friend John last week. I couldn't get over
A my cold before I saw him, though. **B** near enough to talk to him though.
C how young he looked.
- 10 Here people are only worried about keeping up with
A others who are faster. **B** late-night television programmes.
C the Joneses.

GRAMMAR 21 PHRASAL VERBS 1

7 Complete each sentence with the most suitable word or phrase.

- 1 The weather was fine, and everyone was the coast.
A going in for *B* making for *C* joining in *D* seeing about
- 2 How much money do you manage to ?
A come into *B* go in for *C* deal with *D* live on
- 3 There isn't any sugar, I'm afraid. You'll have to
A run out *B* put up with *C* do without *D* make for
- 4 I was passing their house, so I Claire and Michael.
A dropped in on *B* came up with *C* got on with *D* ran into
- 5 I don't really winter sports very much.
A deal with *B* face up to *C* go in for *D* get round to
- 6 Losing my job was a great shock, but I think I'm it.
A seeing to *B* putting up with *C* standing for *D* getting over
- 7 Sheila's gone to having a new phone installed.
A see about *B* deal with *C* get round to *D* ask after
- 8 I've had to a lot of insulting behaviour from you!
A look down on *B* put up with *C* stand up for *D* get on with
- 9 The hotel was terrible, but the wonderful beach our disappointment.
A got over *B* faced up to *C* saw to *D* made up for
- 10 Jack has decided to the time he spends watching television.
A run out of *B* see to *C* cut down on *D* come up with

Key points

- 1 Check any new phrasal verb in a dictionary, to see how it is used.
- 2 Remember that many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning.
- 3 Phrasal verbs tend to be more common in spoken language and informal written language.

→ SEE ALSO

Consolidation 6: Units 21–24

Phrasal verbs 2

Verbs with one particle: transitive and separable

These phrasal verbs take an object. This object can come after the particle or between the verb and the particle (so the verbs are separable).

We **brought up** this child. We **brought her up**.

In general, as in the examples above, object phrases tend to be put after the particle while pronouns are often put between the verb and the particle.

Two exceptions in the list below are *call back* and *show around* where the object is always put between the verb and the particle.

Verbs marked with an asterisk * have a second meaning. With this meaning they have an intransitive form.

Bring up

We **brought up** this child. (look after until adult)

Carry out

You haven't **carried out** my instructions. (act upon)

Call off

We have decided to **call off** the match. (cancel)

Clear up*

Could you **clear up** your room please? (make tidy)

The weather is **clearing up***. (improve)

Fill in*

Can you **fill in** this form please? (complete by writing)

Our teacher was ill, so Mrs Frost **filled in***. (take someone's place)

Find out

I want to **find out** what happened. (learn about, discover)

Give away

The millionaire **gave** all his money **away**. (make a gift of)

Jill asked me not to **give** her secret **away**. (make something known)

Give up*

I've decided to **give up** eating meat. (stop doing something)

Jorge finally **gave up** teaching me Portuguese*. (stop trying to do something)

Hold up

Two masked men **held up** the bank. (rob)

Knock out

The blow on the head **knocked** me **out**. (make unconscious)

Leave out

I always **leave out** the difficult exercises. (not include)

Look up*

I have to **look** this word **up** in my dictionary. (find information)

Things are **looking up***. (appear better)

Make up*

*I think you **made** this story **up**.* (invent)

*The couple quarrelled but then **made up***.* (become friends again)

Pick up

*I'll **pick** you **up** at six.* (collect)

Put aside

*Harry **puts** money **aside** every week for his holiday.* (save)

Put off

*They **put** the meeting **off** until Thursday.* (postpone)

*The smell of fish **put** me **off** my tea.* (make someone not want to do something)

Put up

*If you come to Florence I can **put** you **up**.* (provide accommodation)

Show around

*Let me **show** you **around** the new building.* (give a guided tour)

Take over*

*A German company **took** us **over** last year.* (buy a company)

*If you are tired, I'll **take over***.* (take someone's place)

Take up

*I've decided to **take up** tennis.* (start a hobby)

Tear up

*Wendy **tore up** Alan's letters.* (tear into pieces)

Think over

*Please **think over** our offer.* (consider)

Try out

*Have you **tried out** the new computer?* (use for the first time)

Turn down

*Paul was offered the job but he **turned** it **down**.* (refuse an offer)

Wear out

*All this work has **worn** me **out**.* (make tired)

Work out

*This is a difficult problem. I can't **work** it **out**.* (find a solution)

Verbs with one particle: intransitive

These phrasal verbs have no object.

Verbs marked with an asterisk * have a second meaning. With this meaning they have a transitive form. There are other meanings not included here.

Break down

*The car **broke down** on the motorway.* (stop working)

Break out

*The war **broke out** unexpectedly.* (begin suddenly)

Come out

*Her new book **came out** last week.* (be published)

Draw up*

*Suddenly an ambulance **drew up** outside.* (come to a stop)

*My lawyer is **drawing up** a contract for us*.* (write a legal document)

Fall out

*Charles and Emily have **fallen out** again.* (quarrel)

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Get away

*The bank robbers **got away** in a stolen van. (escape)*

Give in

*She pleaded with me, and I finally **gave in**. (stop fighting against)*

Go off

*Everyone panicked when the bomb **went off**. (explode)*

Look out

***Look out!** There's a car coming! (beware)*

Set in

*I think the rain has **set in** for the day. (to arrive and stay)*

Show off

*You always **show off** at parties. (behave to attract attention)*

Take off

*Your plane **takes off** at 6.00. (leave the ground)*

Turn up*

*Guess who **turned up** at our party? (arrive, often unexpectedly)*

*Can you **turn up** the sound*? (increase)*

Wear off

*When the drug **wears off** you may feel pain. (become less strong or disappear)*

GRAMMAR 22 PHRASAL VERBS 2

1 Complete each sentence with the most suitable word or phrase.

- 1 Brian at our dinner party wearing a pink bow tie.
A wore out B showed off C turned up D tried out
- 2 You don't have to decide now, you can
A put it aside B call it off C tear it up D think it over
- 3 Pat was caught by the police, but Martin
A gave in B gave up C got away D held up
- 4 After the quarrel, we kissed and
A cleared up B looked up C made up D put up
- 5 Why exactly did war between the two countries?
A break out B set in C go off D call off
- 6 After a long day at work most people feel
A broken down B worn out C knocked out D turned down
- 7 I've just been offered a new job! Things are
A turning up B clearing up C making up D looking up
- 8 In the end I the form in disgust, and threw it away.
A filled in B worked out C tore up D put off
- 9 The detective is bound to the truth sooner or later.
A find out B come out C make up D give up
- 10 I was interested in buying a folding bike but a friend
A turned me down B put me off C showed me round D gave me away

2 Put one suitable word in each space.

- 1 In the army, all orders have to be *carried* out!
- 2 Why don't you up golf? It's a good pastime.
- 3 If I won a lot of money, I would some of it away.
- 4 Let's out the new food processor.
- 5 This room is a mess. Why don't you it up?
- 6 Joe is very quarrelsome, he out with everyone.
- 7 Where were you exactly when the bomb off?
- 8 Can you in for me while I go to the bank?
- 9 I've been walking all day. I feel out.
- 10 The police thought Jeff had up the whole story.
- 11 James up the letter and put the pieces in a litter bin.
- 12 When does Pete's new CD out?

3 Replace the words in *italics* with a suitable phrasal verb.

- 1 I think that you *invented* this story. ...*made up*...
- 2 When do you think your book will *be published*?
- 3 I think that the weather is *improving*.
- 4 I can't *find an answer* to this problem.
- 5 *Be careful!* You're going to fall!
- 6 I'm afraid William tends to *stop trying*.
- 7 The plane is going to *leave the ground*.
- 8 I think that Sue and Neil have *quarrelled*.

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

- 4** Rewrite each sentence using a verb from the box so that the meaning stays the same. You may have to change the form.

call off	draw up	give in	look up	put aside
put up	turn down	turn up	wear off	work out

- 1 Jack always arrives late for work.
Jack always turns up late for work.
- 2 See if their number is in the phone directory.
.....
- 3 I'm saving up to buy a new bike.
.....
- 4 After a few days the pain in Dave's leg went away.
.....
- 5 I'm afraid the match has been cancelled.
.....
- 6 The government refused to yield to the demands of the terrorists.
.....
- 7 We offered them £250,000 for the house but they refused our offer.
.....
- 8 You can stay with us if you come to Cambridge.
.....
- 9 I can't calculate how much the whole trip will cost.
.....
- 10 A large silver limousine stopped outside the house.
.....

- 5** Put one word in each space.

- 1 Why don't you let me show you *round* London?
- 2 Jane is coming to pick us after work.
- 3 Have you found what time the train leaves?
- 4 We had to wait for an hour before the plane took
- 5 Harry was brought by his grandparents.
- 6 A shelf fell on my head and knocked me
- 7 I was so angry when I saw the parking ticket that I tore it
- 8 A fire has broken in an office block in central London.
- 9 Julian always talks loudly and shows
- 10 If you don't like this part you can leave it

GRAMMAR 22 PHRASAL VERBS 2

- 6 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use a phrasal verb form of the verb given, and add any other necessary words. You can use between two and five words.
- 1 I think it's going to rain all day.
set
I think the*rain has set in for*..... the day.
 - 2 I don't know what to write on this form.
fill
I don't know this form.
 - 3 I started doing this job when Janet left.
take
I when Janet left.
 - 4 This story of yours isn't true!
make
You story!
 - 5 We believe that it was you who robbed the post office.
hold
We believe that the post office.
 - 6 Tina's car stopped working on the way to Scotland.
break
Tina's car on the way to Scotland.
 - 7 It would be a good idea to stop drinking coffee.
give
It would be a good idea coffee.
 - 8 Ruth's party has been postponed until next month.
put
Ruth's party next month.
 - 9 I haven't made a decision – I'm still considering it at the moment.
think
I haven't made a decision, I'm still at the moment.
 - 10 A very large black car stopped outside the theatre and Janet got out.
draw
A very large black car outside the theatre and Janet got out.



FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

7 Choose the best meaning for the words in *italics*. Note that some of the phrasal verbs have a different meaning to the one given in the explanation section.

- 1 At half past six, the alarm clock *went off*.**B**.....
A exploded B rang C disappeared
- 2 Jim is very good at *taking off* his teacher.
A flying with his teacher B getting rid of his teacher
C imitating his teacher
- 3 Please don't *bring up* that subject again!
A start shouting about it B mention it C talk about it for hours on end
- 4 There is one small matter I would like to *clear up*.
A find an explanation for B make clean and tidy
C get rid of once and for all
- 5 Jean is really good at *picking up* languages.
A choosing languages B learning languages by being in a country
C learning languages by heart
- 6 All my old clothes need *taking up*.
A taking to the cleaners B to be replaced C to be made shorter
- 7 The whole cost of the equipment *works out at* £450.
A comes to B can be reduced to C will involve an extra
- 8 Jackie *broke down* and everyone felt sorry for her.
A injured herself B caused an accident C started crying

Key points

- 1 Check any new phrasal verb in a dictionary, to see how it is used.
- 2 Remember that many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning.
- 3 Phrasal verbs are common in spoken and informal written language.

→ SEE ALSO

Consolidation 6: Units 21–24