PHRASAL VERBS

A phrasal verb is exactly like it sounds. It is a phrase of at least two words that acts like a verb, so it is the action of your sentence. Phrasal verbs can be misleading because they do not always translate well and sometimes the meaning is not very obvious.

An example of a not very obvious phrasal verb is ‘pass away’. ‘Pass’ in Spanish translates to ‘pasar’, and ‘away’ translates to ‘lejos’ or ‘fuera’. However when you use ‘pass away’ together as a phrasal verb, the phrase translates to ‘fallecer’ in Spanish. When you think of phrasal verbs as new vocabulary, there are many new vocabulary words available to you in English.

Ex. I am sad because the veterinarian said my dog is going to **pass away.**

A standard phrasal verb consists of a Verb part + a Preposition part. A Preposition tells Position. Common prepositions you will see used in phrasal verbs are **up, down, on, off, in, out, away, over**. Sometimes the preposition part can help you to translate the meaning of the phrasal verb.

Phrasal verbs are great to practice your English tenses! They are very versatile; you can change them into any tense you like. When conjugating a phrasal verb, only change the Verb part of the phrase, and not the Preposition part

Ex. GOOD = My dog pass**ed** away.

Some common prasal verb.

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| **Call off** **/ Call** (something) **off –** *to cancel*  Ex. We need to **call off** the meeting due to the weather.  Ex. We need to **call** the meeting **off** because it is going to rain. |
| **Calm down –** *relax after being angry*  Ex. You can sit with us after you have **calmed down.** |
| **Catch up –** *get to the same point as another person.*  Ex. After my week of vacation, it’s going to take me forever to **catch up!** |
| **Eat out –** *eat at a restaurant*  Ex. Let’s make spaghetti tonight, I’m tired of **eating out.** |
| **Give up / Give** (something) **up –** *stop trying, quit*  Ex. I **gave up** smoking last year. |
| **Hang out –** *spend time relaxing (informal)*  Ex. I don’t have any money, let’s just **hang out** at my place. |
| **Look for / Look for** (something or somebody) **–** *search for, or try to find*  Ex. I was **looking for** a computer, but I got a tablet instead. |
| **Put off / Put** (something) **off –** *postpone*  Ex. I think we should **put** the trip **off** until we save more money. |
| **Wake up –** *stop sleeping*  Ex. She was so loud, that she **woke up** the baby. |
| **Work out –** *exercise*  Ex. I prefer to **work out** in the mornings. |

1. Read the story and try to fins as much phrasal verbs as you can. Then, make a list and translate it.

Sarah had a problem

For a long time Sarah wanted to go out with a very handsome man called James, and then one day he turned up at her door. Just like that! She asked him in. James took his coat off and sat down. Then he explained that while driving past her house his car broke down. It was outside.

Sarah said James could call out a mechanic and she looked up the nearest garage in the phone book. She offered him a cup of tea. He accepted. But then she realized there was no milk. “We’ve run out of milk” she said and popped out to buy some more.

While Sarah was away the mechanic turned up. He got on with mending the car and James watched. When it was mended James got in his car and drove away. In the shop Sarah suddenly remembered her little baby sister who she was looking after was at home. She ran back to the house and saw that James had left. Her little sister was crying inside, and she had no keys!

Taken by Phrasal verb stories – Try - Activities © BBC | British Council 2004

**Go Out With:**

Salir con

Apareció

Preguntó

Se sentó

Dejar de operar, dejar de operar (romperse)

Gritar

Miró hacia arriba

Quedarse sin

Se salió

Conseguido con

Ahuyentaba

Cuidando

Volvió corriendo

**Turned Up:**

**Asked:**

**Sat Down:**

**Broke Down:**

**Call Out:**

**Looked Up:**

**Run Out Of:**

**Popped Out:**

**Got On With:**

**Drove Away:**

**Looking After:**

**Ran Back:**

1. Choose the correct preposition.

a) for

b) after

c) at

a) for

b) to

c) at

a) at

b) out

c) down

a) on

b) off

c) for

a) on

b) about

c) to



forget



look



pay



write



ask

a) of

b) off

c) on

a) for

b) at

c) with

a) down

b) for

c) up

a) out to

b) out with

c) out for

a) up

b) down

c) over



agree



catch



go



give



dream

3) Imagine you are in a vacation with your friends, write an e-mail to your family using the phrasal verb from the explanation.

16/06

Miami, United States

Dear family

I am in miami city i have traveled with my friends, I am very happy to be in this city that is very beautiful, The flight was a bit long because we had problems taking off.

We are in a hotel near the sea, tomorrow I want to go swim with the fish

and eat away from the hotel. I want to know many places in this city and enjoy these holidays to the fullest . I wish they could be with me right now I miss them and I hope to see you soon