

A

We often use verbs with the following words:

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

So you can say **look out** / **get on** / **take off** / **run away** etc. These are *phrasal verbs*.

We often use **on/off/out** etc. with verbs of movement. For example:

- 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. For example:

- 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)

For more phrasal verbs, see Units 138–145.

B

Sometimes a phrasal verb is followed by a *preposition*. For example:

- | <i>phrasal verb</i> | <i>preposition</i> | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| run away | from | <input type="checkbox"/> Why did you run away from me? |
| keep up | with | <input type="checkbox"/> You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you. |
| look up | at | <input type="checkbox"/> We looked up at the plane as it flew above us. |
| look forward | to | <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking forward to your trip? |

C

Sometimes a phrasal verb has an *object*. Usually there are two possible positions for the object. So you can say:

I **turned on** the light. *object* or I **turned** the light **on**. *object*

If the object is a *pronoun* (**it/them/me/him** etc.), only one position is possible:

I **turned it on**. (*not* I turned on it)

Some more examples:

- ☐ Can you **fill in** this form?
☐ **fill** this form **in**?
but They gave me a form and told me to **fill it in**. (*not* fill in it)
- ☐ Don't **throw away** this box.
☐ **throw** this box **away**.
but I want to keep this box, so don't **throw it away**. (*not* throw away it)
- ☐ I'm going to **take off** my shoes.
☐ **take** my shoes **off**.
but These shoes are uncomfortable. I'm going to **take them off**. (*not* take off them)
- ☐ Don't **wake up** the baby.
☐ **wake** the baby **up**.
but The baby is asleep. Don't **wake her up**. (*not* wake up her)