

GRAMMAR

# Introduction to advanced phrasal verbs

**LEVEL**

Upper-Intermediate  
(B2)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B2\_3062G

**LANGUAGE**

English

A photograph of three young people (two women and one man) smiling and high-fiving each other in a classroom or office setting. The woman on the left is wearing a denim jacket, the man in the middle is wearing a red hoodie and a denim jacket, and the woman on the right is wearing a yellow and black jacket. A large white comma is in the top left corner of the blue sidebar.

## Learning outcomes

- I can identify and explain the meanings of a wide range of advanced phrasal and prepositional verbs.
- I can accurately use these phrasal verbs in a variety of contexts.



# Warm-up

You are really starting to figure out the fundamentals of phrasal verbs. You should look back on your work so far with pride. Learning these phrases will really pay off! Are you ready to follow up? There are still plenty more to deal with.



1. Identify the phrasal verbs in the text above.
2. Take one minute. **Write down** as many phrasal verbs as possible from previous lessons.
3. Share your list with the class.



# Sentences with phrasal verbs

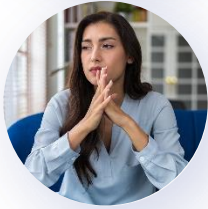
**Read** the sentences. Do you know what the highlighted verbs mean in this context?

1



I hope she doesn't **break out** in a rash again.

2



I really need to **break it off** with Emma.

3



If you aren't feeling well you should **call in** sick.

4



**Call off** the meeting – we will have to reschedule for next week.



# Phrasal verbs with different meanings

**Complete** the definitions. What does the phrasal verb mean in these example sentences?



I used to **break out** a lot as a teenager, but it only happens now when I'm stressed.

Did you hear that Sarah **broke it off** with Ella? I don't think she took it too well.

**break** \_\_\_\_ : when a violent situation begins suddenly; when red marks/spots appear on skin suddenly; to escape

**break** \_\_\_\_ : to separate or remove a piece; to end a relationship; to suddenly stop speaking



**call in**

**call off**

**call \_\_\_\_**: to phone a radio show to express an opinion; to phone a workplace and communicate an illness.

**call \_\_\_\_**: to cancel something





# Identify the phrasal verbs in these sentences

**Complete** the sentences with the correct phrasal verb.

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | We are asking our listeners to _____ with their stories!          | > | We are asking our listeners to <b>call in</b> with their stories! |
| 2 | Will you _____ a piece for me? It looks delicious.                | > |   |
| 3 | Jamie is going to _____ the concert – the band's drummer is sick. | > |   |
| 4 | She _____ mid-sentence, unsure of what to say.                    | > |   |
| 5 | Violence started to _____ on the streets after the rally.         | > |   |
| 6 | Eleanor _____ it _____ with Lucy last night.                      | > |   |



# Fill in the correct phrasal verb

**Complete** the sentences using the correct phrasal verb.

1 **go ahead**

a She is ready to \_\_\_\_\_ to university.

2 **go on**

b Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ of your argument, please?

3 **go off**

c I let Alison \_\_\_\_\_ with her project, though I think she'll need some help making it work.

4 **hurry up**

d Can you \_\_\_\_\_, Dave?

5 **look at**

e We can't \_\_\_\_\_ like this for much longer. We need to find a better solution.

6 **leave out**

f Let me \_\_\_\_\_ the problem for a couple of hours.





# Fill in the correct phrasal verb

**Complete** the sentences using the correct phrasal verb.

1 **live on**

a David really started to \_\_\_\_\_ after I mentioned my father.

2 **open up**

b I need to \_\_\_\_\_ with Daisy after our fight last night.

3 **make up**

c Families cannot \_\_\_\_\_ that much per week.

4 **pay off**

d I saw her car \_\_\_\_\_ outside the neighbour's house.

5 **pull up**

e Her preparation for the interview looks as though it will \_\_\_\_\_.





# Fill in the gaps

**Complete** the sentences with the correct phrasal verb.

- 1 His memory will \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts.
- 2 Your dedication to this company is really starting to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Expect a promotion in the near future.
- 3 I'm tired of fighting – let's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Good writing is just as much about what you \_\_\_\_\_ as put in.
- 5 I don't know if it's wise to \_\_\_\_\_ with the project, considering the most recent budget cuts.

go ahead  
leave out  
pay off  
make up  
live on



# Same verb, different context

**Write** a sentence using the same phrasal verb, but in a different context.

**Compare** the different meanings of the verb in the sentences.

1 I **live on** fish and chips. It's my favourite dish!



My grandmother will **live on** in my memory.

2 In the film, the grocer had to **pay off** the gangsters with protection money.



3 I like to **look at** pictures in the gallery on Sundays.



4 We have decided to **break out** of here.



5 I'm sorry Joan, but I really must **break off** the engagement.



6 You will have to **make up** the hours another time.



transitive

intransitive



**Transitive** phrasal verbs  
have a **direct object**.  
**Intransitive** phrasal verbs  
have **no direct object**.

*He **gave up drinking** last  
week.*  
(transitive)

*Don't worry Daisy, your  
purse will **turn up** soon!*  
(intransitive)

## Phrasal-prepositional verbs

When a phrasal verb is combined with a particle and a preposition it creates a phrasal-prepositional verb, a phrasal verb with its own distinct meaning. Phrasal-prepositional verbs are always **transitive** (they always have a direct object). They are always **inseparable**.

Take the example of **come up with**. The second example below is incorrect; when the phrasal-prepositional verb is split up it loses its meaning.



Dr. Smith **came up with** a remedy for Mrs Jones.

Dr. Smith ~~came~~ a remedy ~~up with~~ for Mrs Jones.

# Phrasal-prepositional verbs

**Discuss** the meaning of the highlighted phrasal-prepositional verbs in the sentences below.

1



Would you like to **look in on** our manufacturing process to see how it works?

2



How did you **get away with** that behaviour?

3



My parents told me to **watch out for** people like you.

4



I can't **put up with** this behaviour anymore.





# Phrasal-prepositional verbs

**Discuss** the meaning of the highlighted phrasal-prepositional verbs in the sentences below.

5



James realised it was time to **face up to** the consequences.

6



Be sure to **look out for** the potholes in the road.

7



Try to **listen out for** the rising sound of the engine.

8



You clearly **look down on** people who earn less money than you.



# Choose the correct preposition

1 I looked in \_\_\_\_\_ the reading event. It seemed to be going smoothly.

- a. on                      b. over                      c. for                      d. with

2 You can't get away \_\_\_\_\_ that kind of behaviour any more.

- a. at                      b. over                      c. in                      d. with

3 Watch \_\_\_\_\_ for the snakes!

- a. out                      b. in                      c. over                      d. at

4 I realised it was time for me to face \_\_\_\_\_ to my fears.

- a. out                      b. up                      c. over                      d. with

5 I've been listening out \_\_\_\_\_ that bird but I haven't heard it yet.

- a. for                      b. to                      c. at                      d. in



**Describe a time when...**

**...something you were  
looking forward to was  
called off**

**...you faced up to a  
challenge**

**...you made up an  
excuse because you  
didn't want to do  
something**

**...went ahead with  
something despite  
difficulties**



# End of the lesson

Idiom

***a walking encyclopaedia***

**Meaning:** A person who knows a lot about a lot of different subjects

**Example:** My friend is a walking encyclopaedia – ask her any question and she has an informed answer!



# Additional practice





# Game

**Read** the phrasal verbs below and the instructions in the red box.

open up

live on

pay off

devoted to

run into

go on

1. **Write** as many sentences as you can using the phrasal verbs. You have 3 minutes. Use each phrasal verb **at least once**. You get one point for each correct sentence!



Some verbs can have different meanings depending on the context!



# Write about a recent trip

**Write** a message to your friend about a recent trip. Include some or all of the phrasal verbs below, as well as any others you can think of!

look out for

face up to

go ahead

pay off

call off

break out

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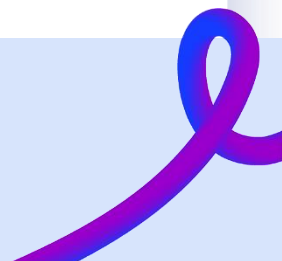
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# Discuss

**Have you ever taken a risk that paid off?**



**Have you ever given up something that you really enjoyed?**





## Answer key

**P.7:** 2. break off 3. call off 4. broke off 5. break out 6. called (it) off

**P.8:** 1. (c) 2. (e) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (f) 6. (b)

**P.9:** 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (e) 5. (d)

**P.10:** 1. live on 2. pay off 3. make up 4. leave out 5. go ahead

**P.16:** 1. a 2. d 3. a 4. b 5. a



# Summary

## Phrasal verbs with different meanings:

- *to break out; to break off; to call in; to call off*
- *I hope she doesn't **break out** in a rash again.*
- *I really need to **break it off** with Emma.*

## Phrasal verbs:

- *to go ahead; to go on; to go off; to hurry up; to look at; to leave out*
- *to live on; to open up; to make up; to pay off; to pull up*
- *My alarm **goes off** at 6 am every morning.*
- *She finally **opened up** to me about her troubles.*

## Transitive and intransitive phrasal verbs:

- **Transitive** phrasal verbs have a **direct object**. **Intransitive** phrasal verbs have **no direct object**.
- *He **gave up drinking** last week. (transitive)*
- *Don't worry Daisy, your purse will **turn up** soon! (intransitive)*

## Phrasal prepositional verbs:

- When a phrasal verb is combined with a particle and a preposition it creates a phrasal-prepositional verb. They are always transitive and **inseparable**.
- *to look in on; to get away with; to watch out for; to put up with; to face up to; to look out for; to listen out for; to look down on*



# Vocabulary

to break out

to break off

to call in

to call off

to leave out

to live on

to open up

to make up

to pay off

to pull up

to look in on

to get away with

to watch out for

to put up with

to face up to

to look out for

to listen out for

to look down on



