

GRAMMAR

# More on upper-intermediate phrasal verbs

**LEVEL**

Upper-Intermediate  
(B2)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B2\_2102G

**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can identify and compare a variety of phrasal and prepositional verbs.
- I can accurately use a wide range of phrasal and prepositional verbs in various contexts.

## Warm-up

1. **Make** as many phrasal verbs as you can from the words below.
2. **Type** your answers in the chat.

stand  
get up  
clear back fall  
apart  
for put  
keep

# Review: phrasal verbs

1. **Read** the sentences.
2. Then **review** the information in the blue boxes below.

Thanks for **backing me up** during that argument with my sister.

I'd like to **clear up** something we talked about yesterday.

- **Phrasal verbs** are multi-word verbs or phrases which perform the role of a verb.
  - They usually consist of a **verb** and a **particle**, or sometimes even **two particles**.
  - Like idioms, they can be tricky as they have many different meanings.
- There are many phrasal verbs in English, and their potential meanings are vast—as such we are going to spend some time in today's lesson going over different meanings in different contexts.



# Matching

**Match** the phrasal verbs to their different definitions.

1 **clear up**

2 **back up**

3 **fall apart**

4 **get away**

5 **stand for**

6 **keep up**

**a** To break to pieces; to stop working effectively; to experience serious emotional problems

**b** To progress at the same rate; to remain at an equal level to; be informed about

**c** To clarify or correct a misconception; for stormy weather to become calm; to tidy up

**d** to be a nominee or candidate; to value; to represent

**e** To support someone; to reverse a motor vehicle; to recap a point; to make a copy of digital files; to ask for physical space

**f** To leave or escape from a place; to go somewhere on holiday



# Multiple choice

**Choose** the correct answer to complete the sentences.

- 1 1. Can you slow down? I can't \_\_\_\_\_ up with you!  
a. fall                      b. keep                      c. get                      d. clear
- 2 These cheap shoes are already starting to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. get away                      b. stand for                      c. fall apart                      d. keep up
- 3 Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the van so I can load it?  
a. back up                      b. keep up                      c. get away                      d. stand for
- 4 It looks like the thunderclouds are about to \_\_\_\_\_. I can see some sun!  
a. get away                      b. clear up                      c. stand for                      d. keep up
- 5 Richard forgot to \_\_\_\_\_ his files, and now he has to write the report again.  
a. clear up                      b. fall apart                      c. get away                      d. back up

# Review: *separable* and *inseparable* phrasal verbs

**Review** the information below.

**Separable phrasal verbs:** the verb does not have to be followed by the attached preposition immediately.

- The meaning remains **clear**, even when the verb is detached from its preposition.
- Take the phrasal verb **write down**. This is a separable phrasal verb as the verb and preposition can be separated without the sentence losing its meaning:

Jarvis **wrote down** the information.

Jarvis **wrote** the information **down**.



**Inseparable phrasal verbs:** the verb must be followed directly by its preposition or adverb, otherwise the meaning is lost.

- Joshua **came down with** a fever and missed the meeting as a result.

✗ Joshua ~~came with~~ a fever ~~down~~ and missed the meeting as a result.

The first example is correct. In this context, came down with is an **inseparable phrasal verb**.



# Review

1. **Review** the **separable** and **inseparable** phrasal verbs listed below.
2. **Discuss** with your teacher which phrasal verbs can be either **separable** or **inseparable**, depending on the context.

clear up

stand out

take off

break up

pick up

get on

give away

settle on

take away

look after







# Complete the sentences

**Complete** the sentences using a verb from **A** (*in the correct form*) + a word from **B**.

1 They want to \_\_\_\_\_ the actress  
\_\_\_\_\_ the talk show.

2 Did you hear? They \_\_\_\_\_ after  
having been together for nearly 14 years!

3 I \_\_\_\_\_ my best friend's dog while  
she was on holiday.

4 I \_\_\_\_\_ the children \_\_\_\_\_  
from school yesterday.

5 His bright orange t-shirt made him  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the crowd.

6 He \_\_\_\_\_ the train and had no  
trouble finding his seat.

**A**

look  
get  
stand  
get  
break  
pick

**B**

after  
on  
up  
out  
up  
on



# Create sentences with phrasal verbs

Create sentences with a similar meaning using the **phrasal verbs in parentheses**.

1 Please remove your hat (**take off**)



Please **take** your hat **off**.

Please **take off** your hat.

2 I will transport the robbers to the jail. (**take away**)



3 Your application is memorable. (**stands out**)



4 I am going to end my relationship with Henry tonight. (**break up**)



5 We will board the train at noon. (**get on**)



6 I fetched Lily from the airport. (**picked up**)



# Phrasal verbs with two particles

- Some phrasal verbs contain **two particles**. Generally, these phrasal verbs cannot be separated.
- Verbs that are combined with an adverb and a preposition are **called phrasal-prepositional verbs**.
- Like the other forms of multiword verbs, **phrasal-prepositional verbs** carry their own unique meanings. They follow the structure: **verb + particle + preposition**.

phrasal verb with two particles	example
get + away + with	Do you think you will <b>get away with</b> it?
cut + down + on	You really have to <b>cut down on</b> caffeine.
come + up + with	Please <b>come up with</b> a few ideas for the meeting.
get + on + with	It's time to <b>get on with</b> your work.



# Discuss

Answer the questions below.

**Is there anything you ought to cut down on?**



**Do you get on with your neighbours?**



# Review

**Review** the phrasal-prepositional phrases below. Are any of them new to you?





# Matching

**Match** the parts of the sentences together.

**1** We look forward to...

**2** We slowed down so that Ken could...

**3** It will be difficult, but he needs to face up to...

**4** I plan to look in on...

**5** They listened out for...

**a** ...catch up with us.

**b** ...my grandmother when I'm in town next month.

**c** ...meeting you next week.

**d** ...the intruder's footsteps.

**e** ...his problems, otherwise they'll only get worse.



Their lies are starting  
to **catch up with**  
them.

He likes **catching up**  
**with** friends over the  
phone.

Phrasal verbs can have several different meanings.

Look at the examples above. In which sentence does **catch up with** mean to *begin to affect someone, usually in a bad way*?





# Discuss

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **answer** the questions below.



Are you able to put up with someone who is not nice to you?

What is something you are looking forward to this week?

What should someone moving to a new city look out for?

Think of a close friend. Why do you think you get on so well with this person?



# End of the lesson

Idiom

***to miss the boat***

**Meaning:** to miss an opportunity by being slow to act

**Example:** Though Sheila knew about the contest for weeks, she didn't make the deadline and missed the boat.



# Additional practice



# Context and phrasal verbs

**Choose** the correct meaning of the phrasal verb based on the context.

- 1 1. Wait a second, could you **back up**? I didn't quite catch what you said.  
a. to support someone      b. to recap a point      c. to reverse a motor vehicle
- 2 The cookies were so dry and crumbly. They **fell apart** in my hands!  
a. break into pieces      b. to stop working effectively      c. serious emotional problems
- 3 I wouldn't **stand for** that kind of behaviour. It's simply unacceptable!  
a. to tolerate      b. to represent      c. what someone values
- 4 I'll **keep you up** to date!  
a. to progress at the same time      b. to remain at an equal level to      c. be informed about
- 5 Can we **clear up** what we talked about yesterday?  
a. to clarify or correct a misunderstanding      b. stormy weather becoming calm      c. tidy something up



# Complete the sentences

**Complete** the sentences using a verb from **A** (*in the correct form*) + a word from **B**.

- 1 I've been standing a long time. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ for a bit.
- 2 The airport was busy. A new plane was \_\_\_\_\_ every two minutes.
- 3 The gingerbread house wasn't well made. By the time we got home, it had completely \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Lucy called me from her work. She missed the bus and asked if I could \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ an answer, so I decided to sleep on it and decide in the morning.
- 6 Sheila was happy when she \_\_\_\_\_ her shoes \_\_\_\_\_. They were too small and pinched her toes!

## A

take  
take  
pick  
fell  
sit  
settle

## B

down  
up  
on  
off  
apart  
off



# Discuss

**Answer** the questions below.

**How do you face up to difficult situations?**



**How often do you catch up with your good friends?**





# Answer key

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

**P.6:** 1.) b 2.) c 3.) a 4.) b 5.) d

**P.9:** 1.) get the actress on 2.) broke up 3.) looked after 4.) picked the children up 5.) stand out 6.) got on

**P.10:**

2.) I will take the robbers away to jail

3.) Your application stands out.

4.) I am going to break up with Henry tonight.

5.) We will get on the train at noon.

6.) I picked Lily up from the airport.

**P.14:** 1.) c 2.) a 3.) e 4.) b 5.) d

**P.20:** 1.) b 2.) a 3.) a 4.) c 5.) a

**P.21:** 1.) sit down 2.) taking off 3.) fallen apart 4.) pick her up 5.) settle on 6.) took off her shoes



# Summary

## Phrasal verbs review

- **Phrasal verbs** are multi-word verbs or phrases which perform the role of a verb. They usually consist of a **verb** and a **particle**, or sometimes **two particles**. They have many different meanings.
- *Thanks for **backing** me **up** during that argument; I'd like to **clear up** something we discussed yesterday.*

## Separable phrasal verbs

- The verb does not have to be immediately followed by the attached preposition.
- The meaning remains **clear**, even when the verb is detached from its preposition.
- *John **wrote down** the information.; John **wrote** the information **down**.*

## Inseparable phrasal verbs

- The verb must be followed **directly** by its preposition or adverb, otherwise the meaning is lost.
- *Joshua **came down with** a fever and missed the meeting as a result.*

## Phrasal verbs with two particles

- Phrasal verbs with **two particles** generally cannot be separated.
- Verbs that are combined with an adverb and a preposition are called **phrasal-prepositional verbs**. They follow the structure: **verb + particle + preposition**.
- *Do you think you will **get away with** it?; You really have to **cut down on** caffeine.*



# Vocabulary

to clear up

to back up

to fall apart

to get away

to stand for

to keep up

to get away with

to cut down on

to come up with

to get on with

to catch up with

