

Making suggestions



A phrasal verb is a combination of words (a verb + a preposition or verb + adverb) that when used together, usually take on a different meaning to that of the original verb.

Literal meaning

Some phrasal verbs have a literal meaning. They can be easily understood.

*You **twist** the cap **off** this; you release the winds from the four corners of the world.*

Idiomatic meaning

Phrasal verbs can also have a figurative or idiomatic meaning which makes them difficult to understand.

*I just one thing I've learned you can't **give up** on family.*

The phrasal verb '*give up*' means to abandon.

A further way of considering phrasal verbs is whether they are separable or inseparable. In inseparable verbs, the object comes after the particle.

Separable verbs have several ways of separating verb, particle and object. Usually, the object comes between verb and particle.

For example:-

*You **twist** the cap **off** this; you release the winds from the four corners of the world.*

However, with some separable verbs, the object can come before or after the particle.

For example:-

- "Twist the cap off."
- "Twist off the cap."
- "Twist it off."

Note - There is usually no way of telling whether they are separable, inseparable, transitive or intransitive. In most cases you have to develop a feel for the correct use.

