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Chapter Nine

Phrasal Verbs

A phrasal verb is a verb followed by a preposition or an adverb; the combination creates a meaning different from the original verb alone.

Example- To **get**=to obtain but To **get together**=to meet

- I need **to get** a new battery for my camera.
- Why don't we all **get together** for lunch one day?

Phrasal verbs are an important part of the English language.

However, they are mainly used in spoken English and informal texts.

They should be avoided in academic writing where it is preferable to use a formal verb such as “to postpone” rather than “to put off”. So that everybody can understand easily.

Separable or inseparable phrasal verbs :

Some transitive phrasal verbs are **separable**.

(The object is *between the verb and the preposition*.)

- I **looked** the word **up** in the dictionary.
(look up=to search information in the book)

Some transitive phrasal verbs are **inseparable**.

(The object is placed *after the preposition*.)

- I will **look into** the matter as soon as possible.

Some transitive phrasal verbs **can take an object in both places**.

- I **picked up** the book. / I **picked** the book **up**.

However, if the object is a **pronoun**, it *must be placed between the verb and the preposition*.

- I picked **it up**. (correct) I picked up it (wrong)

Phrasal verbs - examples

find out = discover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My sister <u>found out</u> that her husband was planning a party for her.
get rid of = eliminate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The citizens tried to <u>get rid of</u> their corrupt mayor in the recent election.
look forward to = anticipate with pleasure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I always <u>look forward to</u> the beginning of a new semester.
break down = stop functioning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That old Jeep had a tendency to <u>break down</u> just when I needed it.
come back = return to a place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Father promised that we would never <u>come back</u> to this horrible place.
get up = arise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grandmother tried to <u>get up</u>, but the couch was too low, and she couldn't make it on her own.
go back = return to a place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's hard to imagine that we will ever <u>go back</u> to Lithuania.
go on = continue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He would finish one Dickens novel and then just <u>go on</u> to the next.
grow up = get older e.g. Charles <u>grew up</u> to be a lot like his father.
come across = meet or find by chance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I <u>came across</u> these old photos recently"
bring up = To take care of and teach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Their grandparents <u>brought</u> the child <u>up</u> because their parents were always travelling"
carry on = To continue to do what you have been doing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sorry I interrupted, <u>carry on</u> talking!"
watch out = To be aware of something dangerous.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "<u>Watch out</u> in the mountain, there are bears there !"
blow up = To fill something with air or gas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Please could you <u>blow up</u> those balloons?"

Some common phrasal verbs

➔ BELIEVE IN

1. When you believe in something or somebody you are sure that something or somebody exists. Examples of use:
 - Do you believe in God?
2. To believe in something is to have a strong belief that something is good or right. Examples of use:
 - My grandparents believed in working hard and helping others.
 - We don't believe in living together before marriage.
3. When you believe in somebody, you have confidence that they are a good trustworthy person, or that they can do something well.
 - Don't worry about your exams. We believe in you. You will do well.

➔ BREAK DOWN

1. If a vehicle or machine breaks down it stops working.
 - My washing machine has broken down.
 - Sorry I'm late. The train broke down.
2. If you break down you are unable to control your feelings and you start to cry.
 - She broke down when she heard the sad news.
 - He misses his mother very much, and he often breaks down when he talks about her.
3. To break down is also to become mentally or physically ill because of difficult or traumatic experiences.
breakdown (noun)– a physical or mental collapse.
 - She had a nervous breakdown after her son was kidnapped.

→ CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

Check in means to arrive or register at a hotel, airport, etc. so that they know you have arrived. **Check out** means to leave a hotel etc.

- We have to check in at 8 o'clock.
- Please check in at least one hour before your flight leaves.

The check-in (noun) is the place at the airport where you show your ticket and let the airline know that you have arrived.

→ GIVE UP

1. If you give up something (or give something up) that is harmful to you (for example, alcohol, smoking, and eating fatty foods) you stop doing it or having it.
 - Eric gave up smoking two years ago.
 - He had to give up drinking alcohol because it made him ill.
2. To give up something (or give something up) is to stop doing a job, or something else you do regularly.
 - He gave up project to look after his children.

→ GROW UP

1. To grow up is to become older or to become an adult.
 - When I grow up I want to be a doctor.
 - He grew up in Thailand. / She's growing up fast.
2. Grow up is something you say to someone who is behaving in a childish or immature way. Examples of use:
 - You're being stupid. Why don't you just grow up?
 - Oh grow up! I've heard enough of your silly jokes.

→ CALL BACK

If you call back somebody you telephone someone who rang you earlier, or you telephone someone for a second time.

- Mr.Evans telephoned while you were out: he wants you to call him back

➔ **HURRY UP-** When you hurry up you do something more quickly.

- Can you hurry up and put your coat on, please?
- It's nearly time for bed so hurry up and finish your homework.
- Hurry up. Our taxi is here.
- If you don't hurry up we'll miss the train.

➔ **LOOK AFTER**

If you look after somebody or something, you do whatever is needed to keep them healthy and well, or in good condition.

- Eric looks after his family very well.
- Look after yourself while I'm away.
- Can you look after your sister while I'm busy with the housework, please?

➔ **RELY ON / UPON**

1. To rely on (or rely upon) somebody or something is to trust someone or something to do what you need or expect them to do.

- We need someone we can rely on to manage the business for us.

2. To rely on (or rely upon) somebody or something is to need or depend on someone or something in order to work correctly, to succeed, or to survive.

- We rely on our son to do our food shopping for us.
- The English students relied on their teachers to help them pass their English exams.
- Our business relies on government contracts.

➔ **SETTLE DOWN-**

To settle down is to start living in a place where you plan to stay for a long time, especially after living in many different places or travelling a lot.

Example of use:

- I worked in many different countries when I was younger, but I came back to the UK in 2005 and settled down and got married.

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➔ **SELL OUT**- To sell out of something is to sell all of it and have no more left for people to buy.

- Their designer shoes are beautiful, but they have sold out in my size.
- We're selling out of i Phones very fast. We must order some more.
- He sells out of his homemade cakes every day.

➔ **SORT OUT**

1. To sort out something (or sort something out) is to organize or arrange things which are untidy.

- My bookcase is in a mess. I need to sort out my books.

2. To sort out something (or sort something out) is also to resolve a problem or misunderstanding. Examples of use:

- I had a problem with my car brakes but my brother sorted them out.
- Will you two stop arguing and sort out your disagreements

3. To sort out something (or sort something out) is to discuss it with someone and make a decision about what to do.

- We need to sort out the arrangements for our holiday.
- Let's sit down and sort out the guest-list for the wedding.

➔ **TAKE UP**

To take up something (or take something up) is to start doing a particular, activity, job or hobby etc.

- My grandmother has taken up knitting.
- I've recently taken up photography.

➔ **THROW AWAY**

To throw away something (or throw something away) is to dispose of something you don't want by putting in a rubbish bin, waste-paper basket, waste-disposal unit, etc.

- He has thrown away all of his rusty tools and bought new ones.
- My mum threw my English essay away by mistake.

phrasal verbs

➔ TRY ON

To try on something (or try something on) is to put an item of clothing on to find out whether it fits you or whether you like it, especially before buying it.

- This shirt is too small: I should have tried it on before I bought it.
- School starts again next week so you must try on your new school uniform.

➔ TURN OFF

To turn off something (or turn something off) is to stop it from working or flowing with a switch or a tap. Turn off is the opposite of turn on.

- This switch turns off the kitchen light.
- Turn the TV off now– it's time for bed.

➔ WRITE DOWN

To write down something (or write something down) is to write something on a piece of paper so that you do not forget it.

- They wrote down everything their teacher said about learning phrasal verbs.
- I wrote his telephone number down.
- Can you write down a list of things we need to take on holiday?
- Can you write that down, please?