



Presentation

A phrasal verb is a verb + a particle (preposition or adverb). The same verb may be used with a number of different particles. The meaning of the verb changes each time:

Look out! (= be careful)

*I've been **looking for** you all morning!* (= trying to find)

*I'll **look it up** on the computer.* (= try to find information)

Intransitive phrasal verbs

Intransitive phrasal verbs don't have objects. They can describe actions or states:

Shut up!

*I **got up** late.*

*He **slept on** through all the noise.*

Separable phrasal verbs

Many phrasal verbs are transitive and they need an object. Transitive verbs can be separable or inseparable.

With separable phrasal verbs, the object can come either before or after the particle:

***Look up** 'bonsai' on the computer.*

***Look** 'bonsai' **up** on the computer.*

If the object is a pronoun, it must go before the particle:

***Look it up** on the computer.* (don't say *Look up it on the computer.*)

Common separable phrasal verbs include: *bring out, call off, drop off, give up, look up, make up, pass around, pick up, put across, put out.*

With a few separable phrasal verbs, the object can only come between the verb and the particle:

*I'll **call the customer back** later.* (don't say *I'll ~~call back the customer~~ later.*)

Other verbs like this include: *bring round, call (someone) over, invite out, talk (someone) round, tell (two or more things) apart.*

Inseparable phrasal verbs

With inseparable phrasal verbs, the object must go after the particle. It cannot go between the verb and the particle.

Common inseparable phrasal verbs include: *call for, come after, count on, get over, go into, look after, look for, look through, make of, run after, side with.*

Exercises

1 Choose the correct options. Then listen and check.

- A: Have you had a chance to look ¹through this report / this report through yet?
 B: No, I haven't. Dave dropped ²it off / off it on my desk this morning, but I honestly haven't had the chance to pick ³it up / up it yet. I've been too busy.
 A: Janet wants to know what you make ⁴it of / of it. She's asked me to find ⁵it out / out what you think. She wants me to call ⁶her back / back her as soon as I have.
 B: Why's it so urgent?
 A: Well, apparently it's calling ⁷massive cuts for / for massive cuts in spending – it could even mean some people losing their jobs. Janet wants to fight it if she can, but she needs to know she can count ⁸everyone's support on / on everyone's support – and that, of course, includes you.
 B: Mmm, I'd better get ⁹it down / down to reading it then! Or maybe we should call ¹⁰the boss over / over the boss to explain it to us in person.

2 Write the words in the correct order. In some cases two different orders are possible. Write both possible word orders.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 album new bringing They're out a .
They're bringing out a new album. / They're bringing a new album out. | 5 around the world She her job gave to travel up . |
| 2 wedding called They've the off . | 6 acting Amy has go decided to into . |
| 3 the police after knew come him would He . | 7 the road to you'll Keep or lost get . |
| 4 managed away She finally to get . | 8 his message put He very across clearly . |

3 Rewrite the sentences substituting a pronoun for the words in bold.

- 1 He made up a **story** and everyone believed him.
He made it up and everyone believed him.
- 2 They passed around **the photos** for everyone to see.
They for everyone to see.
- 3 We looked after **their three cats** for our neighbours.
We for our neighbours.
- 4 They quickly put out **the fire**.
They
- 5 He ran after **the woman**, but he couldn't catch up with her.
He, but he couldn't catch up with her.
- 6 My mother always sided with **my brother**, no matter what he'd done.
My mother, no matter what he'd done.

