

## Phrasal verbs 1    General points

A

We often use verbs with the following words:

in	on	up	away	by	about	over	round <i>or</i> around
out	off	down	back	through	along	forward	

So you can say **look out** / **get on** / **take off** / **run away** etc. These are *phrasal verbs*.

We often use **on/off/out** etc. with verbs of movement. For example:

- get on** ☐ The bus was full. We couldn't **get on**.
- drive off** ☐ A woman got into the car and **drove off**.
- come back** ☐ Sarah is leaving tomorrow and **coming back** on Saturday.
- turn round** ☐ When I touched him on the shoulder, he **turned round**.

But often the second word (**on/off/out** etc.) gives a special meaning to the verb. For example:

- break down** ☐ Sorry I'm late. The car **broke down**. (= the engine stopped working)
- look out** ☐ **Look out!** There's a car coming. (= be careful)
- take off** ☐ It was my first flight. I was nervous as the plane **took off**. (= went into the air)
- get on** ☐ How was the exam? How did you **get on**? (= How did you do?)
- get by** ☐ My French isn't very good, but it's enough to **get by**. (= manage)

For more phrasal verbs, see Units 138–145.

B

Sometimes a phrasal verb is followed by a *preposition*. For example:

<i>phrasal verb</i>	<i>preposition</i>	
<b>run away</b>	<b>from</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Why did you <b>run away from</b> me?
<b>keep up</b>	<b>with</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> You're walking too fast. I can't <b>keep up with</b> you.
<b>look up</b>	<b>at</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> We <b>looked up at</b> the plane as it flew above us.
<b>look forward</b>	<b>to</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are you <b>looking forward to</b> your trip?

C

Sometimes a phrasal verb has an *object*. Usually there are two possible positions for the object. So you can say:

I turned on the light.    or    I turned the light on.

*object*                      *object*

If the object is a *pronoun* (**it/them/me/him** etc.), only one position is possible:

I turned it on. (not I turned on it)

Some more examples:

- ☐ Can you { **fill** this form? **fill** this form **in**?  
*but* They gave me a form and told me to **fill it in**. (*not fill in it*)
- ☐ Don't { **throw away** this box. **throw** this box **away**.  
*but* I want to keep this box, so don't **throw it away**. (*not throw away it*)
- ☐ I'm going to { **take off** my shoes. **take** my shoes **off**.  
*but* These shoes are uncomfortable. I'm going to **take them off**. (*not take off them*)
- ☐ Don't { **wake up** the baby. **wake** the baby **up**.  
*but* The baby is asleep. Don't **wake her up**. (*not wake up her*)



**137.1** Complete each sentence using a verb from A (in the correct form) + a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A fly get go  
look sit speak

B away by down on  
out round up

- The bus was full. We couldn't get on.
- I've been standing for the last two hours. I'm going to ..... for a bit.
- A cat tried to catch the bird, but it ..... just in time.
- We were trapped in the building. We couldn't .....
- I can't hear you very well. Can you ..... a little?
- 'Do you speak German?' 'Not very well, but I can .....
- Everything has got so expensive. Prices have ..... a lot.
- I thought there was somebody behind me, but when I ....., there was nobody there.

**137.2** Complete the sentences using a word from A and a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A away back forward in up

B at through to with

- You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
- My holidays are nearly over. Next week I'll be ..... work.
- We went ..... the top floor of the building to admire the view.
- The meeting tomorrow is going to be difficult. I'm not looking ..... it.
- There was a bank robbery last week. The robbers got ..... £50,000.
- I love to look ..... the stars in the sky at night.
- I was sitting in the kitchen when a bird flew ..... the open window.

**137.3** Complete the sentences using these phrasal verbs + it/them/me:

fill in

get out

give back

switch on

take off

wake up

- They gave me a form and told me to fill it in.
- I'm going to bed now. Can you ..... at 6.30?
- I've got something in my eye and I can't .....
- I don't like it when people borrow things and don't .....
- I want to use the hair dryer. How do I ..... ?
- My shoes are dirty. I'd better ..... before going into the house.

**137.4** Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Use a noun (this box etc.) or a pronoun (it/them etc.) + the word in brackets (away/up etc.).

- Don't throw away this box. I want to keep it. (away)
- I don't want this newspaper. You can throw it away. (away)
- I borrowed these books from the library. I have to take ..... tomorrow. (back)
- We can turn ..... Nobody is watching it. (off)
- A: How did the vase get broken?  
B: I'm afraid I knocked ..... while I was cleaning. (over)
- Shh! My mother is asleep. I don't want to wake ..... (up)
- It's cold today. You should put ..... if you're going out. (on)
- It was only a small fire. I was able to put ..... easily. (out)
- A: Is this hotel more expensive than when we stayed here last year?  
B: Yes, they've put ..... (up)
- It's a bit dark in this room. Shall I turn ..... ? (on)