

Appendix D: Phrasal Verbs

I. What is a phrasal verb?

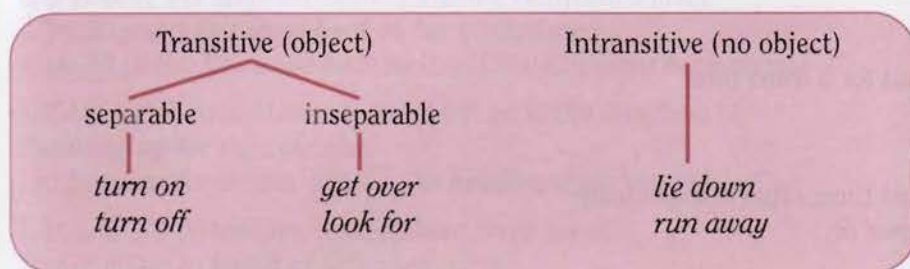
A phrasal verb is a verb + a particle.

What time did you **show up**?
(verb) (particle)

The woman **gave** 1 million dollars **away**.
(verb) (particle)

In English, many phrasal verbs are idiomatic; you cannot understand the meaning of the whole from the parts. *Show up* means *arrive* and *give away* means *give something as a gift*.

II. Phrasal verbs fall into different categories.



a. Some phrasal verbs are *transitive*; others are *intransitive*.

Transitive phrasal verbs take a direct object.

I'll **turn on** the TV.

She can't **get over** her cold.

He **turned off** the water.

I'm **looking for** my cat.

Intransitive phrasal verbs do not take an object.

I want to **lie down**.

My dog **ran away**.

b. Some transitive phrasal verbs are *separable* (that is, the object can come between the two parts of the verb); others are *inseparable*.

Separable phrasal verbs	Inseparable phrasal verbs
turn on I'll turn on the TV. I'll turn the TV on . I'll turn it on .	get over She can't get over her cold. She can't get over it .
give away He turned off the water. He turned the water off . He turned it off .	look for I'm looking for my cat. I'm looking for it .

When a phrasal verb is **separable**, you can put a noun between the verb and the particle or after the particle. If you use a pronoun (*me, you, it, him, her, them*), the pronoun **must** go between the verb and particle. If a phrasal verb is **inseparable**, the noun and pronoun always come after the particle.

III. Phrasal verbs from this book

BELONG TO (transitive, inseparable): be the property of

*That bag is not mine; it **belongs to** Maria.*

*That bag is not mine; it **belongs to** her.*

BREAK INTO (transitive, inseparable): enter illegally by force

*Someone **broke into** my car last week.*

*Someone **broke into** it last week.*

CALM DOWN (intransitive): become calm and quiet

*I'm nervous; I need to **calm down**.*

CHEER (SOMEONE) UP (transitive, separable): make a sad person happier

*The movie was funny, and it **cheered up** Bob.*

*The movie was funny, and it **cheered** Bob **up**.*

*The movie was funny, and it **cheered** him **up**.*

COME ACROSS (transitive, inseparable): find by chance

*Did you **come across** my keys?*

*Did you **come across** them?*

DROP BY (transitive, inseparable): visit for a short time

*Let's **drop by** the library this evening.*

*Let's **drop by** it this evening.*

DROP IN (intransitive): visit for a short time, often unexpectedly

*I was out of the office when Jorge **dropped in**.*

DROP IN TO (transitive, inseparable): visit for a short time, often unexpectedly

*Jorge **dropped in to** the office today.*

(The pronoun is not normally used with this phrasal verb.)

DROP OUT (intransitive): quit

*He went to school until the age of 16; then he **dropped out**.*

DROP OUT OF (transitive, inseparable): quit (school, a competition, a race, etc.)

*Sandra got tired and **dropped out of** the race after an hour.*

*Sandra got tired and **dropped out of** it after an hour.*

FREAK OUT (intransitive): lose your self control

*When I won \$5,000 in the lottery, I **freaked out**.*

GET ALONG WITH (transitive, inseparable): have a good relationship with

*Selma **gets along with** her classmates.*

*Selma **gets along with** them.*

GET IN (transitive, inseparable): enter (a car, bed, bath, or small boat)

*Hurry and **get in** the taxi.*

*Hurry and **get in** it.*

*The taxi is waiting! **Get in!***

GET ON (transitive, inseparable): enter (an elevator, a plane, a train, a bus, or a ship)

*They **got on** the train at Grand Central.*

*They **got on** it at Grand Central.*

*They **got on** at Grand Central.*

GET OUT (OF) (transitive, inseparable): leave (a bed, a car, a bath, work, class, school)

*I **got out of** the bus quickly and fell.*

*I **got out of** it quickly and fell.*

GET OVER (transitive, inseparable): recover from an illness

*I hope you **get over** the flu soon.*

*I hope you **get over** it soon.*

GET RID OF (transitive, inseparable): remove something

*Will you please **get rid of** this junk?*

*Will you please **get rid of** it?*

GET UP (intransitive): rise from a sitting or lying position

*Erhan is very comfortable in bed; he doesn't want to **get up**.*

GIVE AWAY (transitive, separable): give as a gift

*I'm going to **give away** my bicycle; I don't ride it anymore.*

*I'm going to **give my bicycle away**; I don't ride it anymore.*

*I'm going to **give it away**; I don't ride it anymore.*

GO AFTER (transitive, inseparable): try to get or catch

*The police **went after** the bank robber, but they didn't get him.*

*The police **went after** him, but they didn't get him.*

GO BACK (intransitive): return

*We've walked a long time; let's **go back**.*

GO BACK TO (transitive, inseparable): return to a place

*After 30 years Eva **went back to** her birthplace.*

*After 30 years, Eva **went back to** it. (ALSO: Eva **went back** there.)*

HEAD FOR (transitive, inseparable): go in the direction of

*I'm **heading for** the cafe now.*

*I'm **heading for** it now. (ALSO: I'm **heading** there now.)*

LAUGH AT (transitive, inseparable): show joy at

*You're going to **laugh at** this photo of me.*

*You're going to **laugh at** it.*

LET OUT (transitive, separable): allow to leave

*Will you **let out** the dog?*

*Will you **let the dog out**?*

*Will you **let him out**?*

LIE DOWN (intransitive): rest in a horizontal position

*Maybe I won't sleep, but I need to **lie down**.*

LISTEN TO (transitive, inseparable): use your ears carefully to hear something

*Did you **listen to** that song?*

*Did you **listen to** it?*

LOOK FOR (transitive, inseparable): try to find

*She's **looking for** her glasses.*

*She's **looking for** them.*

LOOK INTO (transitive, inseparable): investigate; examine

*The police **are looking into** the bus accident.*

*The police **are looking into** it.*

PAY FOR (transitive, inseparable): give money for something

*I **paid for** the gas.*

*I **paid for** it.*

NOTE: The verb can only be separated by a phrase that tells *how much*:

*I **paid a lot for** the gas.*

*I **paid \$25.00 for** it.*

PICK UP (transitive, separable): take or lift off the floor (or a chair, etc.)

*I cleaned my room and **picked up** my clothes.*

*I cleaned my room and **picked my clothes up**.*

*I cleaned my room and **picked them up**.*

PUT ON (transitive, separable): wear clothes

*It's cold; you should **put on** a sweater.*

*It's cold; you should **put** a sweater **on**.*

*It's cold; you should **put it on**.*

RUN AWAY (intransitive): leave quickly; escape

*Jane's dog **ran away**.*

SHOW UP (intransitive): arrive; appear

*The party starts at 9 PM. What time do you plan to **show up**?*

SIT DOWN (intransitive): sit; be seated

*There's a bench. Do you want to **sit down**?*

SLOW DOWN (intransitive): go more slowly

*There's ice on the road. **Slow down!***

SPEED UP (intransitive): go faster

*This is a dangerous road. Don't **speed up**.*

STARE AT (transitive, inseparable): look at with wide eyes

*I'm **staring at** that woman because I think I know her.*

*I'm **staring at** her because I think I know her.*

TAKE AWAY (transitive, separable): remove

*Tim never returned books, so they **took away** his library card.*

*Tim never returned books, so they **took** his library card **away**.*

*Tim never returned books, so they **took it away**.*

TAKE OFF (intransitive): leave (by car, on foot, or by plane)

*The plane **took off** at 12:30.*

TAKE OUT (transitive, separable): remove

*I'll **take out** the garbage.*

*I'll **take** the garbage **out**.*

*I'll **take it out**.*

THINK ABOUT (transitive, inseparable): consider; anticipate; form a mental image of

*I often **think about** leaving this crazy city.*

*I often **think about it**.*

TURN DOWN (transitive, separable): make something less loud or less strong

*Will you please **turn down** the volume?*

*Will you please **turn** the volume **down**?*

*Will you please **turn it down**?*

TURN OFF (transitive, separable): stop a machine or the flow of water, electricity, etc.

*Please **turn off** the computer when you finish.*

*Please **turn** the computer **off** when you finish.*

*Please **turn it off** when you finish.*

TURN ON (transitive, separable): start a machine or the flow of water, electricity, etc.

*I'll **turn on** the lights so you can see.*

*I'll **turn** the lights **on** so you can see.*

*I'll **turn them on** so you can see.*

TURN OVER (intransitive): turn to the other side

*The car was going too fast, and it **turned over**.*

TURN OVER (transitive, separable): turn to the other side

***Turn over** the plate so I can see where it was made.*

***Turn** the plate **over** so I can see where it was made.*

***Turn it over** so I can see where it was made.*

WALK OFF (intransitive): walk away; walk in the other direction

*Hilda got angry and she just **walked off**.*