

Appendix D: Phrasal Verbs

I. What is a phrasal verb?

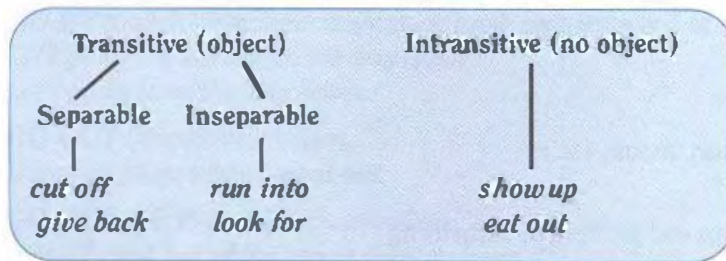
A phrasal verb is a verb + a particle.

*I wonder when Luisa will **show up**.*
(verb)(particle)

*The thief **ripped me off**.*
(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 *rip off* means “steal.”

II. Phrasal verbs fall into different categories.



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

Transitive phrasal verbs take a direct object.

I cut off my hair. *I ran into Sylvia today.*
He gave back my bike. *I'm looking for my cat.*

Intransitive phrasal verbs do not take an object.

*Jaime plans to come but isn't sure when he'll **show up**.*
*Do you want to **eat out**?*

- 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
<u>help out</u> <i>I helped out my neighbor.</i> <i>I helped my neighbor out.</i> <i>I helped her out.</i>	<u>run into</u> <i>I ran into Sylvia today.</i> <i>I ran into her today.</i>
<u>give back</u> <i>He gave back my bike.</i> <i>He gave my bike back.</i> <i>He gave it back.</i>	<u>look for</u> <i>I'm looking for my cat.</i> <i>I'm looking for it.</i>

When a phrasal verb is **separable**, you can put a noun either between the verb and the particle or after the particle. If you use a pronoun (*he, she, it, me, we, you, they*), the pronoun **must** go between the verb and the particle. If a phrasal verb is **inseparable**, the noun and pronoun always come after the particle.

III. Phrasal verbs from this book

BACK OFF (intransitive): move in reverse; stop threatening

The angry dog made us back off.

BACK OFF FROM (transitive, inseparable): move in reverse; stop threatening someone or something

Duane didn't want to fight, so he *backed off from* Pietro.

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

That bike is not mine; it belongs to Fernando.

That bike is not mine; it belongs to him.

BURN DOWN (transitive, separable): destroy something by fire

The man carelessly tossed his cigarette and burned down the shed.

The man carelessly tossed his cigarette and burned the shed down.

The man carelessly tossed his cigarette and burned it down.

CHECK IN (intransitive): register at a hotel, a convention, a hospital, etc.

When I arrived at the conference last night, I immediately checked in.

CHOP DOWN (transitive, separable): cut something down, usually a tree

Let's chop down the tree. It's dead!

Let's chop the tree down. It's dead!

Let's chop it down. It's dead!

COME UP (intransitive): rise (referring to the sun, moon, etc.)

I always get up when the sun comes up.

DO AWAY WITH (transitive, inseparable): put an end to; destroy something

The mayor is trying to do away with drugs.

The mayor is trying to do away with them.

DREAM OF (transitive, inseparable): think about something that you wish for the future

Do you dream of being a basketball star?

Do you often dream of it?

DRIVE AWAY (transitive, separable): force someone to leave

The bad smells outside the restaurant drove away customers.

The bad smells outside the restaurant drove customers away.

The bad smells outside the restaurant drove them away.

DRY OFF (intransitive): become dry

I'd like to sit in the sun and dry off.

EAT OUT (intransitive): eat in a restaurant

Hilda hates to cook, so she often eats out.

FIND OUT (transitive, separable): learn or discover something

Did you find out their plan?

Did you find it out?

Note: This verb is only separated when *it* is used.

FORCE BACK (transitive, separable): make someone go back

The bad weather forced back the mountaineers.

The bad weather forced the mountaineers back.

The bad weather forced them back.

GET AWAY (intransitive): leave one's daily routine; go on vacation

Maria has worked hard for the last six months and needs to get away.

GIVE BACK (transitive, separable): return something (to someone)

Please give back my pencil.

Please give my pencil back.

Please give it back.

GIVE UP (transitive, separable): stop or quit (doing) something

She should give up smoking.

She should give smoking up.

She should give it up.

GO BACK (intransitive): return

Marissa loved her trip to Mexico; she wants to go back.

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

Marissa wants to go back to Mexico.

Note: We usually don't say *go back to it*, but rather *go back there*.

GO BY (intransitive): pass; move past

Let's watch the parade go by.

GO BY (transitive, inseparable): pass; move past someone or something

Let's go by the library on the way home.

Let's go by it on the way home.

GO OUT (intransitive): leave

It was very late when I went out.

GO OUT OF (transitive, inseparable): leave a place

When I went out of the movie theater, I was still laughing.

GO OUT WITH (transitive, inseparable): go somewhere with a friend; have a romance with someone

Joseph would like to go out with Ludmilla on Saturday night.

Josh would like to go out with Lilly.

HAND OUT (transitive, separable): distribute something

They're handing out free cookies over there.

They're handing free cookies out over there.

They're handing them out over there.

HEAR FROM (transitive, inseparable): receive a phone call, letter, or e-mail from someone

I heard from my brother in China last week.

I heard from him last week.

HELP OUT (intransitive): be helpful

I see you're very busy. Please let me know if I can help out.

HELP OUT (transitive, separable): be helpful to someone

I helped out my cousin when she needed money.

I helped my cousin out when she needed money.

I helped her out when she needed money.

KEEP AWAY (transitive, separable): make someone or something stay at a distance

Please keep away that dog.

Please keep that dog away.

Please keep it away.

KEEP OUT (transitive, separable): not allow someone or something to enter

We like to close the door to keep out the mosquitoes.

We need to keep the mosquitoes out.

We need to keep them out.

KEEP UP (intransitive): maintain the pace

*You walk so fast; it's hard to **keep up**!*

KEEP UP WITH (transitive, inseparable): maintain the pace of someone or something

*It's hard to **keep up with** fashion; it changes so fast.*

*It's hard to **keep up with it**; it changes so fast.*

LAY OUT (transitive, separable): arrange; organize something

*Before I pack, I'll **lay out** my clothes on the bed.*

*Before I pack, I'll **lay my clothes out** on the bed.*

*Before I pack, I'll **lay them out** on the bed.*

LET GO OF (transitive, inseparable): release someone or something

*Please **let go of** my arm.*

*Please **let go of it**.*

LIVE THROUGH (transitive, inseparable): survive something

*Herve didn't think he would **live through** the hurricane.*

*Herve didn't think he would **live through it**.*

LOOK AT (transitive, inseparable): direct your eyes to someone or something

Look at the balloon in the sky!

Look at it!

LOOK FOR (transitive, inseparable): try to find someone or something

I looked for the cat, but he was gone!

I looked for him, but he was gone!

Note: The verb can only be separated by an adverb, not an object:

*I looked everywhere **for** the cat, but he was gone!*

*I looked everywhere **for** him, but he was gone!*

LOOK FORWARD TO (transitive, inseparable): anticipate (doing) something with pleasure

I always look forward to my birthday.

I always look forward to it.

PASS OUT (intransitive): lose consciousness; faint

*The sun was so hot that I almost **passed out**.*

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.*

PLAN ON (transitive, inseparable): expect (to do) something in the future

*I didn't **plan on** a big party, but 50 people came.*

*I didn't **plan on it**, but 50 people came.*

POINT OUT (transitive, separable): explain something; show something

*Our nature guide **pointed out** the many flowers to us.*

*Our nature guide **pointed the many flowers out** to us.*

*Our nature guide **pointed them out** to us.*

PULL INTO (transitive, inseparable): arrive at a place by car, bus, or train

*Tonia **pulled into** the parking lot and turned off the car.*

*Tonia **pulled into it** and turned off the car.*

PUT UP WITH (transitive, inseparable): endure or tolerate someone or something

*He doesn't **put up with** dishonesty.*

*He doesn't **put up with it**.*

RIP OFF (transitive, separable): steal something; steal from someone

The thief ripped off my car.

The thief ripped my car off.

The thief ripped it off.

RUN INTO (transitive, inseparable): meet someone or something unexpectedly

I ran into my aunt at the supermarket.

I ran into her at the supermarket.

SEARCH FOR (transitive, inseparable): look everywhere for someone or something

Nina searched for her diamond ring.

Nina searched for it.

Note: The verb can only be separated by an adverb, not by an object:

Nina searched everywhere for her diamond ring.

Nina searched everywhere for it.

SET OUT (intransitive): begin a hike, a walk, a trip, an adventure, etc.

What time are you planning to set out?

SET OUT ON (transitive, inseparable): begin a hike, a walk, a trip, an adventure, etc.

We're going to set out on our hike at 2 P.M.

SETTLE DOWN (intransitive): begin to live a stable life in one place

At age 40, Natasha finally decided to get married and settle down.

SHOW UP (intransitive): arrive somewhere; appear

The party starts at 9 P.M. What time will you show up?

TAKE OFF (transitive, separable): remove clothing, jewelry, makeup, a cover from a jar, etc.

Do you want to take off your coat?

Do you want to take your coat off?

Do you want to take it off?

TAKE OUT (transitive, separable): remove something

Igor took out the garbage.

Igor took the garbage out.

Igor took it out.

THINK ABOUT (transitive, inseparable): remember; consider someone or something

I often think about leaving this crazy city.

I often think about it.

WAKE UP (intransitive): awaken from sleep

It's always hard for me to wake up.

WAKE UP (transitive, separable): awaken someone from sleep

Quiet! Don't wake up the baby!

Quiet! Don't wake the baby up!

Quiet! Don't wake her up!