

Phrasal Verbs (*get up / break down / fill in, etc.*)

A

We often use verbs with the following words:

in	on	up	away	around	about	over	by
out	off	down	back	through	along	forward	

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

We often use *out/off/up, 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 ■ Sally is leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday.
- turn around ■ When I touched him on the shoulder, he turned around.

But often the second word (*out/off/up, 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 up ■ I was very tired this morning. I couldn't get up. (= get out of bed)
- get by ■ My Japanese isn't very good, but it's enough to get by. (= to manage)

B

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

phrasal verb *preposition*

- | | | |
|--------------|------|--|
| run away | from | ■ Why did you run away from me? |
| keep up | with | ■ You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you. |
| look forward | to | ■ Are you looking forward to your vacation? |

C

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

- I turned off the light *object* or I turned the light *object* off.

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

- I turned it off. (*not* I turned off it)

Some more examples:

- Could you { fill out this form?
fill this form out?
- but They gave me a form and told me to fill it out. (*not* fill out it)
- The police got into the house by { breaking down the door.
breaking the door down.
- but The door wasn't locked. Why did the police break it down? (*not* break down it)
- I think I'll { throw away these newspapers.
throw these newspapers away.
- but Do you want these newspapers, or should I throw them away? (*not* throw away 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)

Exercises

133.1 Complete the sentences using one of these phrasal verbs in the correct form:

- | | |
|--|---|
| break down | drop out (= stop taking part in something) |
| clear up (= get better) | move in (= start living in a house, etc.) |
| close down (= go out of business) | show up (= appear/arrive) |
| doze off (= fall asleep) | |

1. Sorry I'm late. The car *broke down* on the way here.
2. I arranged to meet Jane after work last night, but she didn't _____.
3. "We've bought a new house." "Oh, you have? When are you _____?"
4. There used to be a store on the corner, but it _____ a year ago.
5. I ran in a marathon last week but _____ after 15 miles.
6. I was very sleepy. I was sitting in an armchair and _____.
7. The weather is terrible outside, isn't it? I hope it _____ later.

133.2 Complete the sentences using a word from List A and a word from List B. You need to use some words more than once.

- A:** along away back forward out up **B:** at of to with

1. You're walking too fast. I can't keep *up with* _____ you.
2. My vacation is almost over. Next week I'll be _____ work.
3. We've nearly run _____ money. We hardly have any left.
4. Martin isn't very happy in his job because he doesn't get _____ his boss.
5. I love to look _____ the stars in the sky at night.
6. Are you looking _____ the party next week?
7. There was a bank robbery last week. The robbers got _____ \$30,000.

133.3 Complete the sentences using one of these verbs in the correct form + *it/them/her/you*:

- cross out** **give away** **make up** **see off** (= see somebody leave)
fill out **give back** **show around** **turn down** (= refuse)

1. They gave me a form and told me to *fill it out* _____.
2. If you make a mistake on the form, just _____.
3. The story she told you wasn't true. She _____.
4. I don't like people who borrow things and don't _____.
5. Kathy is going to Australia tomorrow. I'm going to the airport to _____.
6. I had a lot of books that I didn't want to keep, so I _____ to a friend.
7. Would you like to see the factory? Would you like me to _____?
8. Sue was offered a job as a translator, but she _____.

133.4 Complete the sentences. Use the word in parentheses (*away/up*, etc.) with one of the following:

- ~~that box~~ your cigarette a jacket the television a word ~~it~~ ~~it~~ ~~them~~ ~~him~~

1. Don't throw *away that box / that box away* _____. I want to keep it. (away)
2. "Do you want this box?" "No, you can throw *it away* _____." (away)
3. Shh! The children are asleep. Don't wake ______. (up)
4. We can turn ______. Nobody is watching it. (off)
5. Tom got very angry and started shouting. I tried to calm ______. (down)
6. I tried _____ in the store, but I didn't buy it. (on)
7. Please put ______. This is a no-smoking area. (out)
8. It was only a small fire. I was able to put _____ quite easily. (out)
9. You can look _____ in a dictionary if you don't know what it means. (up)