PHRASAL VERBS

A phrasal verb is a verb plus a preposition or adverb which creates a meaning different from the original verb.

Example:

- I ran into my teacher at the movies last night. run + into = meet
- He ran away when he was 15. run + away = leave home

Phrasal verbs can be:

- **intransitive** (no direct object)
- **transitive** (direct object)

Here are some examples of phrasal verbs:

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**Intransitive Phrasal verbs**

Since they have no objects of any kind, intransitive phrasal verbs do not exhibit the characteristic of “separability.” Their identity as phrasal verbs is established by the fact that they are verb-particle combinations which have unitary meanings. Like other types of phrasal verb, they exhibit varying degrees of idiomaticity and informality.

Here are some examples:
• grow up: Jane grew up in India, but she moved to Canada after graduation from university.

• take off: Harry’s plane took off at noon after a long delay.

• turn up: Jill was surprised but pleased when Tom turned up half an hour early.

1. Carry/go/walk/drive on: continue
Don't stop working, carry on!
Turn left and then drive on.

2. Come on: be quick
• Come on, everybody is waiting for you!
• Hurry up, come on!

3. Get on: manage (in a job, exam, at school...)
• How did you get on in your exam?
• How was it today at school? How did you get on?

4. Hold on: wait
• Can you hold on a minute?
• Don't go, hold on! I forgot something!
OFF

1. Take off: leave the ground (for planes)
   - The plane is taking off in 5 minutes?
   - When did you take off?

2. Go off: explode, ring or expire
   - A bomb went off and cause a lot of damage
   - A car alarm goes off if someone tries to break into the car.

UP

1. Give up: stop trying
   • I know it’s difficult, but don’t give up.
   • I’m going to give up, I’m really tired.

2. Grow up: become an adult
   • What do you want to be when you grow up?
   • Wow! You’ve grown up a lot!
3. **Hurry up: do something more quickly**
   - Hurry up! We haven’t got much time.
   - Go quickly! Hurry up!

4. **Speak up: speak more loudly**
   - I can’t hear you, can you please speak up?
   - If they don’t speak up I won’t hear anything.

5. **Wake up: stop sleeping**
   - Wake up! It’s late!
   - I woke up at 6 this morning.

6. **Wash up: wash the plates after a meal**
   - Do you want me to wash up?
   - Can you do the washing up, please?
DOWN

1. **Slow down: go more slowly**
   • You are driving too fast, slow down!
   • Slow down, we are almost there.

2. **Break down: stop working**
   • Sue was very late today because her car broke down.
   • I’m having a break down...

OVER

1. **Fall over: lose your balance**
   • I fell over because my shoes were too big.
   • Watch out, you can fall over.

2. **Get over: forget about someone**
   • We broke up, but I finally got over him
   • Did you get over her?
Transitive Phrasal verbs

The two most important characteristics of transitive phrasal verbs:

1. a unitary meaning (i.e. some degree of idiomaticity)

2. obligatory insertion of personal-pronoun object between verb and particle and optional insertion of noun-phrase object in that position (i.e. Jill tried the sweater on, or Jill tried on the sweater, or Jill tried it on, but not Jill tried on it.)

These two characteristics work together to distinguish transitive phrasal verbs. Neither one is sufficient on its own: there are several other types of multi-word verb (including prepositional verbs such as look after) which also exhibit idiomaticity; and optional/obligatory object insertion is also exhibited by non-idiomatic “free-combinations” which are not considered to be phrasal verbs (e.g. There is no phrasal verb in the sentence, After washing the dishes Jill took out the garbage: both take and out are used in an ordinary, literal way and in addition, various substitutions are possible (Jill took the garbage down or Jill took the garbage up.) Optional noun-phrase insertion is still possible however.

Here are some examples:

- turn down: Two days later, Tom took Harry to lunch and told him he had decided to turn the offer down.

- try on: Jill didn’t think the sweater would fit but she tried it on to make sure.

- put off: Finally, Harry decided to put the meeting off for a week.
1. Get in: to arrive
   • You got in very late last night!
   • The London train gets in at 10.05.

2. Fill in: complete a form
   • Can you fill in this form?
   • Is it already filled in?

1. Put out a fire: stop it
   • The fire fighters put out the fire.
   • Can you put out the cigarette, please?

2. Cross out a mistake: put a cross
   • Can you fill in this form?
   • Is it already filled in?
ON

1. Try on clothes: put on clothes to see if they fit
   • This is a nice jacket, try it on if you want.
   • Do you want to try it on?

2. Turn on: to switch on
   • Max was bored so he turned the TV on.
   • Can you turn the radio on?

UP

1. Give up something: stop doing it
   • Sue gave up her job.
   • I gave up learning Italian.

2. Look up in the dictionary: look for a word
   • Can you look it up in the dictionary?
   • I just looked that up in an encyclopaedia.
3. Turn up the TV: make it louder
   • Can you turn up the radio?
   • Turn up the TV now!

4. Wake up somebody who is sleeping
   • I’m going to wake him up.
   • Can you wake me up tomorrow?

1. Knock down a building: demolish it
   • They are going to knock down the house
   • Don’t knock it down, be careful!

2. Turn down the volume
   • Can you please turn down the TV?
   • I’m going to turn down the music.
OVER

1. Knock over: a glass, a person...
   • Don’t knock your tea over.
   • Careful! You are going to knock me over!

2. Take something over: take control of something.
   • His real intention was to take over the company.
   • Can you please take over from here?

AWAY

1. Throw away: get rid of rubbish
   • Shall we throw these apples away?
   • Let’s throw the papers away.

2. Put it away: put it where it normally is
   • Put those toys away, please.
   • Would you mind putting the bags away?
1. Complete with one of these phrasal verbs: get over, go on, fill in, take off, stay out, speak up.

1. Could you ............................................................ this application form, please?

2. I´ll never talk to you again. I want to ................................................................. you!

3. If you don´t .............................................................., we can´t hear you.

4. I´m tired but I want to ................................................................. tonight.

5. The planes ................................................................. late because of the bad weather.

Answers: fill in, get over, speak up, stay out, take off
2. Complete with one of these phrasal verbs: go off, put off, hold on, take off, turn off

1. “Let´s go to the airport right now”. “..............................................................! I’m not ready”

2. The plane doesn´t .............................................................. till 5 o´clock.

3. He is usually sleeping when the alarm clock ..............................................

4. How did you.............................................................. in the meeting?

5. Don´t forget to .............................................................. all the lights when you leave.

Answers: hold on, take off, goes off, get on, turn off

3. Complete with: carry on, come on, hold on, put on, try on

1. “Hi! Is Mr. Knight in?” “.............................................................., I´ll call him.”

2. Excuse me, could I .............................................................. this dress, please?

3. We have to go quickly, I don´t want to be late, ..............................................!

4. Do you still .............................................................. with your tennis lessons?

5. It was a bit chilly, so she .............................................................. her jacket.

Answers: hold on, try on, come on, carry on, put on

4. Complete with: give up, hang up, look up, wake up, wash up

1. I love cooking, but the thing I hate the most is when I have to

..............................................................

2. If he rings back, just ..............................................................
3. I don’t know that word, so I will .................................. it ................................ in a dictionary.

4. Don’t ................................................................. You can do it if you try hard.

5. When I ....................................................... in the middle of the night, I had a fever.

Answers: wash up, hang up, look it up, give up, woke up

5. Complete the sentences with a suitable verb.

1. Do you mind if I ____________________ on the telly? I want to watch the news.

2. Excuse me. Where can I ____________________ on the shirt?

3. Can I ____________________ on reading now?

4. Jane and I want to ____________________ up smoking.

5. Could you ____________________ me up at 6 o’clock?

6. We must ____________________ up or we will miss the bus.

7. In many countries, the pupils have to ____________________ up when the teacher enters the class-room.

8. Could you (do not leave it on) ______________________________ listen to the radio?

9. Where can I (see if it fits) ______________________________ check the sweater?

10. (be quick) ______________________________ .
6. Complete the sentences with a suitable preposition.

1. You must wake _______________ now or you will be late for school.

2. Sit, _______________ please. I'll be with you in a minute.

3. Don't give _______________ singing. You are very talented.

4. Where is the fitting room? I'd like to try _______________ these trousers.

5. My little sister woke me _______________ in the middle of the night.

6. Fill the form _______________, please.

7. Turn _______________ the lights when you go to bed.

8. Do you mind if I switch _______________ the telly? I'd like to watch the news.

9. If you don't know this word, you can look it _______________ in a dictionary.

10. I'm too tired, I don't want to study anymore, I give _______________.

Answers: turn/ try/ carry/ give/ wake/ hurry/ stand/ turn off/ try/ hurry