

PHRASAL VERBS


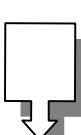
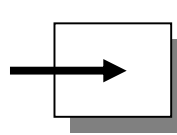
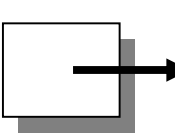
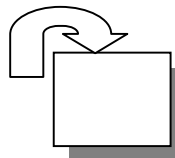
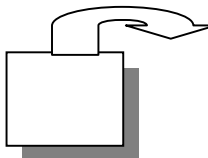
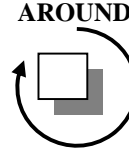
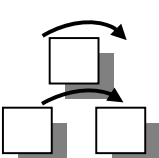
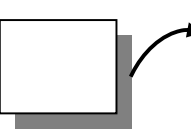
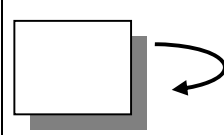

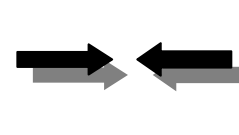
Before saying what the most common **phrasal verbs** are, it is important to talk a little bit about them. In TEFL this is one of the most troublesome aspects. Phrasal verbs represent a headache for students who can not understand their nature and form. So, as English teachers, we need to have an understanding of what these verbs are made of, the way they behave. It is also important to be able to recognize why students have problems with them and how to solve these problems.

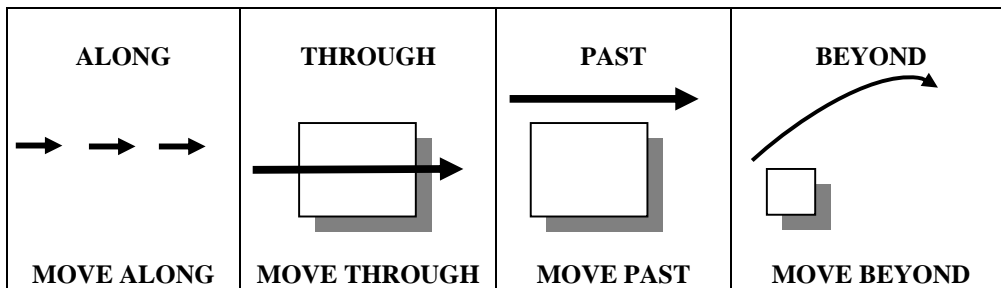
To start with, we will give a definition to clarify what phrasal verbs really are. McArthur (1979) defines phrasal verbs as follows:

“A phrasal verb is formed by combining a simple verb and one of a number of particles. The result is called ‘phrasal’ because it looks like a phrase rather than a single word. Although it looks like a phrase, it functions as a single word. It is a unit”.

Many grammarians would not agree with this definition because they think a phrasal verb is made of a verb and a ‘preposition.’ Analyzing the verb and its component we could say they are right. However, we need to understand that the form of words do not determine their use, it is their position and function within the sentence (in context) what actually say what words are and how they work. For this reason we can not say that what goes with the phrasal verb is a preposition just because it looks like one, but a particle that will give the verb a different function a meaning in a given context.

The following illustration will show the most common phrasal verb particles and their basic meanings.

<p>UP</p>  <p>MOVE UP</p>	<p>DOWN</p>  <p>MOVE DOWN</p>	<p>IN</p>  <p>MOVE IN</p>	<p>OUT</p>  <p>MOVE OUT</p>
<p>ON</p>  <p>MOVE ON</p>	<p>OFF</p>  <p>MOVE OFF</p>	<p>ABOUT AROUND</p>  <p>MOVE ABOUT MOVE AROUND</p>	<p>OVER</p>  <p>MOVE OVER</p>
<p>AWAY</p>  <p>MOVE AWAY</p>	<p>BACK</p>  <p>MOVE BACK</p>	<p>APART</p>  <p>MOVE APART</p>	<p>TOGETHER</p>  <p>MOVE TOGETHER</p>



GENERAL USE OF PHRASAL VERBS

Movement and Direction

To understand the way phrasal verbs work it is necessary to know the verb we are using and the particle we are adding to the verb. Let us take a look at the following verbs:

move go walk climb come

- *Peter moves very fast when he is dancing.*
- *Clark goes to the movies every weekend.*
- *Mary walks have a kilometer every day to school.*
- *The hikers finally climbed the mountain.*
- *Janet comes to class everyday.*

In previous sentences these verbs are behaving like ordinary verbs that give meaning to the sentences. If we add particles to these verbs they will become phrasal verbs and will have a particular use denoting a slight change:

move up move down go up go down
walk up walk down climb up climb down

- *Peter moves up and down very fast when he is dancing.*
- *The price of the dollar goes up every month.*
- *Kelly walked down the street.*
- *The hikers saw the mountain in the distance and said: "We can climb up."*

As we can see in the previous examples the same verbs now have a different connotation because of the use of the particle. Examples 1, 3 and 4 keep the idea of movement, but now they also indicate direction: *up* and *down*. Example 2, changes the meaning of the verb, denoting direction: *up*, but becoming a synonym of the verb *rise*. The chart on page 2 shows the use of directions.

The particles of the phrasal verbs work adverbially, that is, they say *where to* (they talk about place) complementing somehow the action verb.

Word Order

Phrasal verbs, like ordinary verbs, can be *transitive* or *intransitive*. If the verb is transitive we can place the particle after or before the object of the sentence.

- *Peter picked up the box.*
- *Peter picked the box up.*

Both sentences are correct. Those phrasal verbs in which we can place the particle between the verb and the object are called "separable." This use is very common in short sentences.

Those phrasal verbs which are intransitive only allow the particle immediately after the verb. No separation is possible in this case. These verbs are called "inseparable."

- *Luke ran up very fast.*

- *He was tired of sitting, so he stood up.*

In the previous examples we can see that the verb *run* is an intransitive verb, so there is no object in the sentence, *very fast* is just an adverbial phrase that says how Luke performed the action. Since there is no object then there is nothing to be placed in between. Here the verb becomes inseparable. The third sentence simply ends up with the particle *up* indicating the direction of the action. Once again there is nothing to separate.

Word Order and Pronouns

When we use a transitive verb there is normally an object and we can separate the verb from the particle:

- *Larry lifted the box up.*
- *Larry lifted up the box.*

Both forms are correct. This direct object in the sentence can be substituted by a pronoun, in this case "it." So we can say:

- *Larry lifted the box up.*
- *Larry lifted it up.*

But we can never say:

- ~~*Larry lifted up it.*~~

Omitting Nouns

Most of phrasal verbs are related to the idea of movement and direction. However, a phrasal verb is not the only way to show direction. Adverbs and adverbial phrases can also show these characteristics.

Let us analyze the following sentence and see how it is possible:

- *Terry carried the box up the stairs.*

This sentence does not contain any phrasal verb. In this case the verb *carry* is behaving like an ordinary verb. Why so? Because the complement *the stairs* gives us the idea that something is in a higher position. *Up* relates more to the place *the stairs* than to the verb *carry*. So *up* then is working as a preposition creating what is best known in grammar as a *prepositional phrase.

- *(Terry carried the box)(up the stairs)*

If we want to change the situation and use a phrasal verb, then the sentence has to lose the article and noun.

- *Terry carried the box up.*

This time the sentence contains the phrasal verb *carry up* denoting upward direction, because there is no article and noun that tell the reader or listener or even speaker that the box was taken somewhere up to a higher place. When the speaker does not include the complement (in this case the prepositional phrase denoting place) in the sentence, s/he becomes less exact.

When omitting nouns we have to be careful. Sometimes eliminating the prepositional phrase is not that simple. Some verbs, in order to be phrasal, need a different particle than the preposition used in the previous sentence. See the following examples:

- *Mike carried the box **down** the stairs.*

It can be easily changed into:

- *Mike carried the box **down**.*

However this rule does not seem to apply for the following sentences:

- *Mike carried the box **into** the house.*
- *Mike carried the box **out of** the house.*

- *Mike carried the box **onto the stage**.*

They are changed into:

- *Mike carried the box **in**.*
- *Mike carried the box **out**.*
- *Mike carried the box **on**.*

When there is nothing to omit, the particle works adverbially and has no connection to any prepositional phrase that could possibly be added:

- Mike carried the box down the stairs to the cellar.
(Mike carried the box) (down the stairs) (to the cellar.)

In this sentence *down the stairs* can be separated.

- Mike carried the box down to the cellar.
(Mike carried the box down) (to the cellar.)

In this case, there is nothing to omit so the sentence always had a phrasal verb.

Of course, omitting nouns is not the only way phrasal verbs can be made. We can have sentences in which there is nothing to omit and use a phrasal verb:

- *Boris lifted the box up and put it on the table.*
- *(Boris lifted the box up) (and put it on the table.)*

Placing Adverbs

Adverbs can also be used in a sentence containing a phrasal verb. This use will depend on the function of the verb in the sentence.

If the verb is intransitive, the adverb can be placed between the verb and the particle, or after the particle.

- *Danny ran away **happily**.*
- *Danny ran **happily** away.*

If the verb is transitive or ditransitive, the adverb can be placed either before the verb, or after the object or particle, whichever comes last.

- *Lucy **eagerly** picked the letter up.*
- *Lucy picked up the letter **eagerly**.*
- *Lucy picked the letter up **eagerly**.*

OTHER USES OF PARTICLES IN PHRASAL VERBS

The basic meanings particles have in phrasal verbs are not the only ones. As the particles that go with phrasal verbs behave in many different and sometimes unpredictable ways, we will try to clarify the possible uses the most common ones have.

Particles Up and Down

The Particle UP

- **Upward Direction:** it is the most common use of this particle.
 - *The smoke started to **rise up** into the air.*
 - *Sparks **flew up** when the burning building collapsed.*
- **Approaching Direction:** *up* may also mean “getting close to.” The meaning is from a farther point to a nearer point.
 - *The child came up and spoke to us.*

- *The boy went up to the man and introduced himself.*
 - **Completion:** *up* is used to show that something has been completed.
- *Bob used the coal until there was nothing left.*
- *He used up the coal.*
 - **Emphasis:** it also has an emphatic use.
- *Tony and Darrel asked the man to speak louder.*
- *They asked the man to speak up.*

The Particle Down

- **Downward Direction:** it is the most common use of this particle.
 - *The smoke drifted down from the volcano.*
 - *The water flowed down from a lake high in the hills.*
- **Writing and Cleaning:** it is used for the specific direction of writing and cleaning. This is a downward direction, but also suggests completion and sometimes emphasis.
 - *Albert wrote the message down in his notebook.*
 - *Dorothy cleaned down the walls with a mop.*
- **Completion (and Destruction):** it is used to express that something has been done. In many cases such use suggests the destruction of something.
 - *The workers knocked the old house down, to make room for a new road.*
 - *The wind was terrible last night; it blew the old oak tree down.*

Particles In and Out

The Particle In

- **From Exterior to Interior:**
 - *The man came in.*
- **From a Distance to a Nearer Point:**
 - *The line curved in.*
- **In or within a Particular Place:**
 - *The family dined in last night.*
- **Restricting Someone or Something to a Particular Place:**
 - *The village was snowed in for a week.*

The Particle Out

- **From Interior to Exterior:**
 - *The man went out.*
- **Extension, Projection:**
 - *Paul held his hand out.*
 - *The stones stuck out.*
- **Distribution:**
 - *The teacher gave the papers out.*
- **Emphasis, Enlargement:**
 - *The children shouted out.*
- **Fulfilment of a Definite End:**
 - *Mr. Dickens reasoned the matter out.*
 - *Jenny copied the work out.*
- **Disappearance, Elimination:**

- Lily wiped the marks out.

The Particles On and Off

The Particle On

- **To fasten, join or insert:**
 - Alice pinned the brooch on.
- **Indefinite Continuation:**
 - Philip hurried on. (without stopping)
 - Billy worked on. (and on...)

The Particle Off

- **In an Outward and Downward Direction:**
 - The bus stopped and we got off.
- **In a Generally Outward Direction:**
 - The car drove off.
 - The airplane took off.
- **In an Outward but Unspecified Direction:**
 - The boy wandered off somewhere.
 - Brenda went off on her own.
- **Separation:**
 - Jenny cut some slices off (the sausage, etc.)
- **Delineation, Demarcation:**
 - The police marked the place off with white paint.
- **Termination, Elimination:**
 - The boss called the meeting off.

The Particles About and Around

About and Around: generally these particles are used in the same way.

- **Aimless or undirected movement in the area:**
 - Robert wandered about for hours. Or
 - Robert wandered around for hours.

The Particles Over and Away

The Particle Over

- **Direction above a Place:**
 - The airplane flew over.
- **Direction from A to B:**
 - Tim took the boxes over.
- **Completion (Thoroughness)**
 - Mel read the book over carefully.

The Particle Away

- **Movement from Given Place:**
 - Taylor got up and walked away.
- **Continuous Action (For an Indefinite Time):**
 - Luke works away for hours in his room.

- **Removal (Towards Absence):**
- *Dolly washed the dirt away.*

The Particle Back

The Particle Back

- **Return (Usually to the Point of Origin):**
- *The students came back.*
- *Tom brought the book back.*
- **Reciprocal Action, Action in Return:**
- *Rose said she would phone me back.*
- **To the Side, Out of a Direct Line:**
- *My father pulled the curtains back.*

VERBS OF INVITATIONS AND ORDERS

Some phrasal verbs are used to show acts of will, usually invitations and directions. They normally take particles of direction. See the following chart:

VERBS OF INVITATIONS AND ORDERS	COMMON PARTICLES	EXAMPLES
INVITE	UP	- <i>Kathy invited us up for coffee.</i>
ORDER	DOWN	- <i>Mrs. Morris ordered them down from the roof.</i>
SUMMON	IN	- <i>The Captain summoned the men in to see him.</i>
ALLOW	OUT	- <i>The children are not allowed out after their evening meal.</i>
LET	OFF	- <i>His mother let Martin off from doing the work.</i>
PERMIT	BACK	- <i>The kids will be permitted back if they behave properly.</i>

OTHER USES OF PHRASAL VERBS

Sometimes phrasal verbs are used to express ideas that are not necessarily related to the meaning of the verb and its particle. Let us see the following cases.

PHRASAL VERB	MEANING / USE	EXAMPLE
bring back *(sth)	Reintroduce	- <i>They are going to bring back the old system</i>
bring up **(sb)	raise children	- <i>Are you bringing your children up as Christians?</i>
carry on (doing sth)	Continue	- <i>Are you going to carry on making that horrible noise?</i>
fall behind (with sth)	fail to produce something at the right time	- <i>Luke is falling behind with his payments.</i>
get on (in life)	advance, make progress	- <i>Pete is new here, but he'll get on fine, I'm sure.</i>
get on with (sb)	have a friendly relationship with sb	- <i>I don't get on well with my father-in-law.</i>

get down to (sth)	finally start doing sth	- <i>Isn't it time you got down to marking those papers?</i>
give up (doing sth)	Stop doing sth (often bad)	- <i>Nancy gave up smoking.</i>
go ahead (with sth)	begin to do sth planned or promised	- <i>Ted decided to go ahead with his plans in spite of people's objections.</i>
go through (sth)	experience a difficult time	- <i>After all the Brown Family has gone through, they can still smile.</i>
Grow up	develop from child to adult	- <i>I grew up on a farm.</i>
Hold on	Wait	- <i>Hold on a minute, I won't be long.</i>
Hold (sth / sb) up	delay sth / sb	- <i>The building work has been held up by bad weather.</i>
Keep (sb) up	delay sb from going to bed	- <i>I won't keep you up long.</i>
put (sth) off	Postpone	- <i>If it rains, they will have to put off the match.</i>
set off	Start a journey	<i>Are we setting off in the morning?</i>
stay up	go to bed later than usual	- <i>We stayed up to watch the late film on TV.</i>
Take (sth) up	to start learning sth	- <i>Mandy has taken up tennis.</i>

PHRASAL VERBS WITH GET, PUT, DO AND MAKE

Because of their versatility we are going to pay special attention to these four verbs separately. We will show a chart with all the possible particles that can be used with *get*, *put*, *do* and *make*.

THE VERB GET

PHRASAL VERB	MEANING / USE	EXAMPLE
get across (sth)	Explain	- <i>How can I get across (to you) how I feel?</i>
get around	travel a lot	- <i>In my job I get around very much.</i>
get around to	finally do	- <i>I'll get around to your request later.</i>
get away	Escape	- <i>The three men got away in a stolen car.</i>
get away with	escape punishment	- <i>I don't know how they manage to get away with treating their workers like that.</i>
get back to (sb)	phone someone later	- <i>I'm a bit busy at the moment – can I get back to you?</i>
get by	have just enough money to buy the things you need	- <i>Mrs. Benton can just about get by on her pension.</i>
get (sb) down	make someone feel sad or unhappy	- <i>All this delay and waiting is getting Molly down.</i>
get into (somewhere)	manage to enter (a country, university, etc.)	- <i>How many of your student got into university?</i>

get off	leave (a bus, train, plane)	- <i>the bus driver will tell you where to get off.</i>
get over (sth)	get well after an illness; recover from the shock of something	- <i>Lynn is still trying to get over that cold.</i> - <i>Parents never really get over the death of a child.</i>
get on with (sth)	continue to do sth	- <i>Get on with your work!</i>
get (sth) over	Succeed in communicating	- <i>There's no point in having brilliant ideas unless you can get them over.</i>
get together	meet for a talk, to practice, etc.	- <i>Let's get together next week and discuss it.</i>
get together	meet for a talk, to practice, etc.	- <i>Let's get together next week and discuss it.</i>
get around (sth)	find a solution to a problem	- <i>Your mother can't stay here – we'll have to get around the problem somehow.</i>
get through to (sb)	Succeed in reaching sb by phone	- <i>At last, I managed to get through to one of the managers.</i>

THE VERB PUT

put across (sth)	explain ideas clearly	- <i>The union representative was able to put across her argument effectively.</i>
put (sth) over	explain ideas clearly	- <i>The course will help put over your ideas more clearly.</i>
put away (sth)	place something where it is usually kept	- <i>Let me put these books away.</i>
put (sth) back	postpone, arrange to do something later	- <i>They've put back the meeting till next Thursday.</i>
put (sth) down	write on a piece of paper	- <i>I'll put your name down on the list.</i>
put (sb) down	criticise somebody	- <i>Dolly puts me down all the time.</i>
put forward (sth)	suggest a proposal, offer an idea for consideration	- <i>Professor Kaplan has put forward a theory.</i>
put on	to put clothing on your body; switch on a light, electrical equipment	- <i>Put your coat on before you go outside.</i> - <i>It's freezing. Put the heater on.</i>
put out (sth)	make a flame or fire stop burning	- <i>Put that cigarette out immediately.</i>
put through (sb)	connect someone on the phone	- <i>Hold on; I'll try to put you through.</i>
put (sth) up	build / increase	- <i>They are putting up some new office blocks.</i> - <i>Our landlord put the rent up.</i>
put (sb) up	let somebody stay over night	- <i>We can put you up on the sofa.</i>
put up with (sb / sth)	accept an unpleasant situation	- <i>How do you put up with all this noise?</i>

THE VERB DO

do away with (sb/sth)	abolish, get rid of sb/sth	- <i>Europe has done away with duty-shopping.</i>
do (sb) out of (sth)	cheat sb	- <i>The sale assistant did me out of 5 euros.</i>
do without (sth)	manage to live without sb/sth	- <i>I can't afford a car so I'll just have to do without.</i>
do (sth) up	fasten, tie something	- <i>I can't do my laces up.</i>
do up (sth)	repair, redecorate sth	- <i>The Burtons did up the house and sold it.</i>
do with (sth)	have a connection with sth	- <i>The problem has nothing to do with me.</i>

THE VERB MAKE

make away with (sth)	steal sth	- <i>Thieves made away with her jewellery.</i>
make for somewhere	move towards somewhere	- <i>Two thieves made for the window.</i>
make of (sth)	understand, interpret sth	- <i>What do you make of their proposal?</i>
make off with (sth)	(steal sth and) leave quickly	- <i>The attacked him and made off with his watch.</i>
make out (sth)	be only just able to hear, see, understand sth	- <i>I can't make out her handwriting.</i>
make up of (sth)	combine together, form	- <i>Tourism makes up 70% of their income.</i>
make up (sth)	invent an excuse, etc.	- <i>Diana made up a silly story about the past being late.</i>

All the information on Phrasal Verbs presented in this hand-out was taken from *Using Phrasal Verbs* by Tom McArthur; and *Grammar and Vocabulary for First Certificate* by Luke Prodromou.

Prepared and compiled by Prof. Chinger Zapata, Med