

Intermediate 3
Unit 3, Grammar
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Phrasal Verbs

A phrasal verb is a combination of a verb and one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs) that together create a new meaning different from the original verb. For example:

- **Take off:** The plane will take off soon.
- **Look after:** She looks after her little brother.
- **Give up:** He decided to give up smoking.

These combinations are common in English and can sometimes be tricky because their meanings can be quite different from the individual words.

Phrasal Verb = Two-Word Verb

Phrasal Verb = Main Verb + Particle

Point:

The particle of a phrasal verb is usually a preposition such as "up", "down", "in", "out", "for", "at", "on", "off", "through", or an adverb such as "away", "back", "around".

Some phrasal verbs are intransitive which means they don't need an object. But some phrasal verbs are transitive and require an object.

1) Intransitive Phrasal Verbs:

Intransitive = not needing an object

Examples:

They usually **get up** early.

The bomb didn't **blow up**.

The airplane **took off**.

2) Transitive Phrasal Verbs

Transitive = needing an object

There are two types of transitive phrasal verbs: some transitive phrasal verbs are inseparable and some are separable.

2. A) Inseparable Transitive Phrasal Verbs

When a transitive phrasal verb is inseparable, you cannot separate the particle from the main verb.

Examples:

✓ Tom is **looking for his keys**.

X Tom is **looking his keys for**.

✓ Tom is **looking for them**.

X Tom is **looking them for**.

2. B) Separable Transitive Phrasal Verbs

When a transitive phrasal verb is separable, it is possible to separate the particle from the main verb.

Examples:

- ✓ He put on his shirt.
- ✓ He put his shirt on.
- ✓ He put it on.
- X He put on it.

Point:

When a transitive phrasal verb is separable, the object pronoun is used only between the main verb and the particle.

Example:

Don't Say: I called up him last night.

Say: I called him up last night.

call somebody up = telephone somebody

call somebody up ⇒ a separable transitive phrasal verb

him ⇒ object pronoun

Point: When a transitive phrasal verb is inseparable, the object pronoun is used only after the particle.

Example:

Don't Say: I ran her into on the street.

Say: I ran into her on the street.

run into somebody/something = meet somebody/something

run into somebody/something ⇒ an inseparable transitive phrasal verb

her ⇒ object pronoun

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call on

go over

laugh at

listen to

look at

look into

refer to

talk about

think of

wait for

get over

keep on

learn about

look after

look for

point to

run into

talk to

1. **Call on:** We decided to call on our grandparents this weekend to see how they are doing.
2. **Go over:** Let's go over the report one more time before submitting.
3. **Laugh at:** They laughed at his funny joke.
4. **Listen to:** I love to listen to jazz music when I'm relaxing.
5. **Look at:** She asked him to look at the painting on the wall.
6. **Look into:** The detective decided to look into the mysterious disappearance.
7. **Refer to:** Please refer to the manual for detailed instructions.
8. **Talk about:** We need to talk about the new project.
9. **Think of:** Whenever I think of Paris, I remember our amazing trip.
10. **Wait for:** They decided to wait for the bus rather than walk.

11. **Get over:** It took him a while to get over his fear of heights.
12. **Keep on:** Despite the difficulties, she decided to keep on trying.
13. **Learn about:** He went to the museum to learn about ancient civilizations.
14. **Look after:** She looks after her younger brother while their parents are at work.
15. **Look for:** I'm going to look for my keys; I can't find them anywhere.
16. **Point to:** She pointed to the spot where she last saw her wallet.
17. **Run into:** I ran into an old friend at the store yesterday.
18. **Talk to:** He needs to talk to his manager about his work schedule.

Page 48 ⇒ a list of separable phrasal verbs

bring up	look for	throw away
call off	look up	try on
call up	pass out	turn off
do over	pick out	turn on
fill out	pick up	wake up
find out	put off	
leave out	take up	

1. **Bring up:** My parents brought me up according to their own standards.
2. **Call off:** They had to call off the picnic due to rain.
3. **Call up:** I need to call up my friend to confirm the plans.
4. **Do over:** If you make a mistake, you can do it over.
5. **Fill out:** Please fill out this form completely.
6. **Find out:** She wants to find out more about the new project.
7. **Leave out:** Don't leave out any important details in your report.
8. **Look for:** I always look for new opportunities to learn.
9. **Look up:** Can you look up the definition of that word?
10. **Pass out:** He will pass out the test papers to the class.
11. **Pick out:** She took time to pick out the perfect dress.
12. **Pick up:** Don't forget to pick up groceries on your way home.
13. **Put off:** They decided to put off the meeting until next week.
14. **Take up:** She wants to take up a new hobby this year.
15. **Throw away:** It's time to throw away those old magazines.
16. **Try on:** She will try on the dress before buying it.
17. **Turn off:** Please turn off the lights when you leave.
18. **Turn on:** Can you turn on the TV for me?
19. **Wake up:** I usually wake them up at 7 AM every day.

Source:

<https://www.anglophone.ir>