

Read Stories



Learn English

Phrasal verb booklet



by Karen Kovacs

Learn more than **50** phrasal verbs

on *useful topics* such as Relationships,
Technology and Health.

Exercises on each worksheet help you
practise what you have learnt.

All the phrasal verbs are useful and
frequently used in British English.

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or sharing it with other people. Thank you.



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by Karen Kovacs

WHAT IS A PHRASAL VERB?

A phrasal verb combines: **a verb** + **a particle** (or sometimes two particles)

A particle can be a preposition or an adverb, or both. The particle often changes the meaning of the verb.

For example, **look** means *use your eyes and see* but one meaning of **look up** is *find information in a dictionary, on a website etc.* Phrasal verbs can also have **many meanings**.

WHY ARE THEY USEFUL?

Phrasal verbs are useful because they are **very common**, especially in informal English. If you don't use them, you will probably sound too formal. Learning to use phrasal verbs will help your comprehension, as well as your speaking and writing skills.

TYPES OF PHRASAL VERB

Literal meanings

Some phrasal verbs are easy to understand – their meanings are literal or basic. For example:

*She **sat down** in a chair.*

*He **put on** his coat.*

Idiomatic meanings

Other phrasal verbs are idiomatic or abstract – their meaning is not literal. For example:

*We've **run out of** butter. [There is none left.]*

*The train is **pulling in**. [It is arriving at the station and stopping.]*

In this booklet, you will learn idiomatic phrasal verbs, with meanings that are more difficult to guess.

Phrasal verbs can be separated into different **types**.

TRANSITIVE

A transitive phrasal verb has **an object**. For example:

*I **put on** my shoes. [Shoes is the object.]*

~~*I **put on**.*~~

INTRANSITIVE

An intransitive phrasal verb has **no direct object**. Here are some examples:

*I **get up** at 6.45am every morning. (Or simply: I **get up**.)*

***Come over** to my house after work. (Or simply: **Come over**.)*

SEPARABLE

If a phrasal verb is separable, you can **separate the two parts or not**. The two parts are the verb and the particle. For example:

TIP!

The (objective) personal pronouns are:

me	you	him	her
it	us	them	

*Can you **switch on** the light?*

*Can you **switch** the light **on**?*

However, when you use a **personal pronoun** with a separable phrasal verb, you **must separate** it:

*Can you **switch it on**?*

~~*Can you **switch on** it?*~~

INSEPARABLE

An inseparable phrasal verb has an object but you **can't separate** it, even when you use a personal pronoun. For example:

*Look at my car! Someone **broke into** it and stole my phone.*

~~*Look at my car! Someone **broke it into** and stole my phone.*~~

TWO PARTICLES

Phrasal verbs of this type can be either transitive or intransitive. They have **two particles** and generally you **cannot separate** them, even with personal pronouns. For example:

*I don't **get on with** my brother.*

~~*I don't **get on** my brother **with**.*~~

NOTE!

After the definition of each phrasal verb on the worksheets, I'll tell you what type the verb is:

tran. (transitive)

intran. (intransitive)

sep. (separable)

insep. (inseparable)

There is usually **no way of telling** whether a phrasal verb is separable, inseparable, transitive or intransitive. The best way to remember how to use them is to learn them and then **practise** using them!

MEANINGS

Phrasal verbs can have **more than one meaning**, and some have many meanings.

REMEMBER!

Some phrasal verbs can be of a different type, depending on their meaning. For example, *take off*:

She took off her coat. (transitive, separable)

The plane took off. (intransitive)

Each worksheet in this booklet introduces you to a **set of phrasal verbs** and then gives you a chance to **practise** them.

The **answers** to the questions in this booklet are at the back.

WORKSHEET 1

CAN YOU GUESS THE MEANING?

Sometimes, you can guess the meaning of an idiomatic/abstract phrasal verb from the meaning of the main verb on its own (e.g. *weigh*) or the basic (non-idiomatic) meaning of the phrasal verb (e.g. *switch off*). Try to do that here – explain what each phrasal verb means.

1.

Literal meaning

I didn't feel like watching TV so I **switched it off**.
(*intran./tran. sep.*)

Idiomatic meaning

She kept talking and talking! I got so bored that I **switched off**.
(*intran.*)

2.

Literal meaning

Wrap up her presents. Her birthday's tomorrow!
(*tran. sep.*)

Idiomatic meaning

Let's **wrap** this meeting **up** now. We've discussed everything.
(*intran./tran. sep.*)

3.

Literal meaning

I **turned to** Emilia but she was gone! I didn't see her leave.
(*tran. insep.*)

Idiomatic meaning

He always **turns to** me when he's in trouble and wants to talk.
(*tran. insep.*)

4.

Literal meaning

Those bags **weigh** too much – we can't take them on the plane.

Idiomatic meaning

Their money problems are really **weighing** them **down**.
(*tran. sep.*)

5.

Literal meaning

You say snowboarding is difficult but you don't know until you **try**!

Idiomatic meaning

Why don't you **try out** your Spanish on Manuel?
(*tran. sep.*)

WORKSHEET 2

LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Read these dialogues and look at the meanings of the phrasal verbs below.

Evie: Have you heard? Tom and Kerry have **split up**¹.
Lucy: Really? But they've only been **going out**² for two weeks!
Evie: I know. Apparently, she **cheated on**³ him.
Lucy: That's terrible. I don't think she'll ever **settle down**⁴.

1. end a relationship/marriage (intran.)

2. have a romantic relationship (intran.)

3. secretly have sex with someone who isn't your husband/wife/partner (tran. insep.)

4. begin to live a quieter life, e.g. get married and have kids (intran.)

Freddie: I really want to **ask** Laura **out**¹. I chatted to her at the party last night and we **got on**² really well.

Max: Are you sure she's not just **leading** you **on**³? I thought she liked Franky.

Freddie: I don't know but I'm **falling for**⁴ her big time so I'm going to invite her to the cinema.

1. invite someone to the cinema, a restaurant etc because you want a romantic relationship with them (tran. sep.)

2. like each other, be friendly to each other (intran.)

3. encourage someone to like you so they expect you want a relationship when you don't (tran. sep.)

4. be attracted to someone and to start to love them (tran. insep.)



Complete these sentences in any way that makes sense.

1. I'm going to **ask** him **out** because ...
2. I'm **falling for** him even though ...
3. He ... so do you think he's just **leading** you **on**?
4. I want to **settle down** so ...
5. They **split up** last year and now ...
6. We **get on** well - we have the same ...
7. He **cheated on** his wife with a woman ...
8. We started **going out** ...

WORKSHEET 3

WORK

Read these quotes from business people then read the meanings of the phrasal verbs below.

I'm **working on**¹ the report. It'll be ready by the end of the day.

Can I **run** some ideas **by**² you?

That won't work. Let's **come up with**³ a better solution.

I'm going to **knock off**⁴ early today.

Can you **call off**⁵ the meeting? I'm not feeling well.

Can you **fill in for**⁶ Lilly while she's on holiday?

Please **draw up**⁷ a quick agenda for today's meeting.

Pencil me in⁸ for Wednesday and I'll call you later to confirm.

1. spend time producing or improving something (tran. insep.)

3. think of something such as an idea or a plan (tran. insep.)

5. cancel (tran. sep.)

7. prepare and write something, e.g. a document or plan (tran. sep.)

2. tell someone your ideas so they can give you their opinion (tran. must separate it)

4. stop working for the day (intran./tran. insep.)

6. do someone's job for them while they are away (tran. insep.)

8. set an appointment but not confirm it as final (tran. sep.)

Complete the sentences with the phrasal verbs above in the correct form.

1. I've _____ the staff party for 12 December but I need to check if the director can come.
2. Why has she _____ the meeting again? I need to discuss the project with her urgently.
3. The boss wants us to _____ a list of proposals.
4. You'd better _____ the idea _____ Gemma first. He's her clients, not yours.
5. I'm _____ the final details this week.
6. Can you _____ a list of the people you want at the meeting?
7. We usually _____ at around 5.30pm.
8. I've been _____ Matt for two weeks and I'm tired of doing two people's jobs!

WORKSHEET 4

LEARNING

Read this introductory presentation by a teacher to his students.

Hello everyone and welcome to my biology class. Thanks for **signing up**¹! Jo, could you **hand out**² the worksheets? Thanks. Don't worry if some of what we learn today seems complex because we'll **go over**³ everything in the next lesson. **Look up**⁴ any new words in a dictionary and **read up on**⁵ the topic tonight at home. I'd like you to **hand** your homework **in**⁶ every Monday – don't be late with it or I'll give you a zero! If you feel you're **falling behind**⁷, come and talk to me. I'll try and help you – after all, it's better if you don't **drop out**⁸.

1. agree to join a course (intran.)
3. study something again (tran. insep.)

5. study something by reading a lot about it (tran. insep.)

7. make less progress than other people (intran./tran. insep.)

2. give things to the members of a class (tran. sep.)
4. try to find a particular piece of information in a dictionary, online etc (tran. sep.)

6. give your finished work to a teacher (tran. sep.)

8. leave school without finishing your studies (intran.)






Answer the questions so the answers are true for you. Try to use the phrasal verbs in your answers.

1. What's the last course you **signed up** for?
2. At school, did your teacher **hand out** worksheets or did the students do it?
3. Do you **go over** your notes from class when you get home?
4. Where do you **look up** new vocabulary?
5. What was the last topic you **read up on**?
6. Do/Did you ever **hand** homework **in** late?
7. Have you ever felt like you were **falling behind** in your studies?
8. Have you ever **dropped out** of a course?

WORKSHEET 5

FREE TIME

Read the example sentences then read the meanings of the phrasal verbs below.

He came round ¹ to my house after work.		What are you getting up to ² this weekend?	
	I can't to catch up ³ with you!		He's taken up ⁴ surfing.
You have to warm up ⁵ before exercising.		Do you work out ⁶ ?	
	I eat out ⁷ about once a week.		I prefer to stay in ⁸ on Friday nights.

1. go to someone's house (intran.)

3. meet and get someone's latest news (intran.)

5. prepare for a sport or activity by doing gentle exercises (intran./tran. sep.)

7. eat in a restaurant, not at home (intran.)

2. do (tran. insep.)

4. start a new hobby (tran. sep.)

6. do physical exercise, especially in the gym (intran.)

8. remain at home, not go out (intran.)

Match the two parts of each sentence (or the two sentences).

1. You hurt yourself because ...

2. She **works out** ...

3. What did you ...

4. Can I **come round** ...

5. I'm so tired ...

6. They spend a lot of money on ...

7. I'm **catching up** with Joe tonight...

8. Did you know she'd ...

a. every day at the local gym.

b. tonight and we can talk about it?

c. Why can't we just **stay in**?

d. **eating out**.

e. you didn't **warm up** properly.

f. **taken up** tennis?

g. It's been too long!

h. **get up to** last night?

WORKSHEET 6

HEALTH

Read these dialogues and look at the meanings of the phrasal verbs below.

- Simon: I don't feel well. I think I'm **coming down with**¹ something.
Ahmed: Oh no! I've heard there's a bad virus **going around**.²
Simon: I hope I can **shake it off**³ before this weekend. I've been invited to wedding.
Ahmed: Let's hope you do. Do you know, my little sister is ill at the moment, too. She says she nearly **passed out**⁴ last night. She **came round**⁵ straight away but then she **threw up**⁶ this morning.
Simon: Ahmed?
Ahmed: Yeah?
Simon: Your face is **swelling up**⁷! Quick – call the doctor!
Ahmed: Don't be silly – I'll be fine. I'll just **dose myself up**⁸ with anti-histamine.

1. begin to feel ill (tran. insep.)

2. a lot of people are getting that illness (intran./tran. insep.)

3. get rid of an illness (tran. sep.)

4. become unconscious (intran.)

5. become conscious again (intran.)

6. vomit (intran./tran. sep.)

7. when a part of your body gets larger than normal (intran.)

8. take a medicine (intran./tran. sep.)



Write the correct particle to complete each phrasal verb.

1. Her arm was beginning to swell _____ so took her to the hospital.
2. Are you going to pass _____? You look really pale.
3. Oh no, I've caught that cold that's going _____.
4. Pass me a bucket! I think I'm going to throw _____!
5. You look awful. Go home and dose _____ on paracetamol.
6. He's been ill for a week. He's just not shaking it _____.
7. I've come _____ with something – and just before that really important presentation.
8. Your mother hasn't come _____ from the anaesthetic yet, I'm afraid.

WORKSHEET 7

TECHNOLOGY

Read this email from a director of IT (computers).

Dear staff,

I'm the head of IT. Please read this email carefully. As you all know, someone **hacked into**¹ our old system so we've **set up**² a new one.

If you have any problems **logging in**³ to the new system, give us a call and we'll help. If any warning messages **pop up**⁴ on the screen, just ignore them.

Please **back up**⁵ all your work now or it might be lost. And **shut down**⁶ your computers for one hour so the new system can install properly.

If you need to get in touch, **scroll down**⁷ to the bottom of this email and you'll find my contact details.

Can I also just remind you, when you want to **print** something **out**⁸, please print in black and white if possible.

Thanks,

Connor

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>secretly find a way of getting information from someone else's computer (tran. insep.)</i> | 2. <i>make a piece of equipment, software etc ready for use (intran./tran. sep.)</i> |
| 3. <i>enter your username and password (intran./tran. sep.)</i> | 4. <i>appear very suddenly (intran.)</i> |
| 5. <i>make a copy of information on your computer, online etc (intran./tran. sep.)</i> | 6. <i>make a computer stop operating (intran./tran. sep.)</i> |
| 7. <i>move down the screen (intran./tran. insep.)</i> | 8. <i>make a copy of a computer document using a printer (tran. sep.)</i> |

Choose the correct phrasal verb for each sentence.

1. Shall I **scroll down** / **print out** that document now? How many copies do you want?
2. I recommend you **shut down** / **back up** all your files on the cloud or a storage device.
3. A teenager has **hacked into** / **popped up** the government's website!
4. I can't **set up** / **log in** because I've forgotten my password.
5. **Scroll down** / **Print out** until you get the image of the tree.
6. My computer just **shut down** / **backed up**. Why did it do that?
7. The IT department have **set us up** / **logged us in** with new laptops.
8. Adverts keeping **hacking into** / **popping up**, which is really annoying. What can I do?

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ANSWERS

WORKSHEET 1: CAN YOU GUESS THE MEANING?

1. Literal: switch off = make a machine (e.g. a TV) stop working

Idiomatic: switch off = stop listening to someone, switch off your brain!

2. Literal: wrap up = cover a present by putting paper on it

Idiomatic: wrap up = finish (it is now complete, like a present when you've wrapped it up)

3. Literal: turn to = turn your head to look towards someone or something

Idiomatic: turn to = go to someone when you need help

4. Literal: weigh = if something weighs a lot, it's heavy

Idiomatic: weigh down = make someone worried, their problems are 'heavy'

5. Literal: try = attempt

Idiomatic: try out = attempt something to see whether it's suitable or effective

WORKSHEET 2: LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Example answers

1. ... he's so gorgeous!

2. ... he already has a girlfriend.

3. ... has told you many times he doesn't want a relationship ...

4. ... I'm going to start looking for a house to buy.

5. ... they're each going out with someone else.

6. ... interests and hobbies.

7. ... he met at work.

8. ... three weeks ago.

WORKSHEET 3: WORK

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. pencilled in | 2. called off | 3. come up with | 4. run ... by |
| 5. working on (or <i>drawing up</i>) | | 6. draw up (or <i>work on</i>) | |
| 7. knock off | 8. filling in for | | |

WORKSHEET 4: LEARNING

Example answers

1. The last course I signed up for was a Spanish course to improve my language skills.
2. The teachers handed out the worksheets when I was at school but I think things have changed since then.
3. I do usually go over my notes from class but only if I have enough time or I'm not too tired.
4. I look up new vocabulary using an online dictionary.
5. I read up on British history last night. I find it fascinating.
6. I never once handed a piece of homework in late, I'm proud to say!
7. Yes. I started studying Russian years ago and I quickly started falling behind because it was so challenging and others in the class had already learnt some of the language.
8. Yes, I dropped out of my Russian class, which I regret now.

WORKSHEET 5: FREE TIME

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. e | 2. a | 3. h | 4. b |
| 5. c | 6. d | 7. g | 8. f |

WORKSHEET 6: HEALTH

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| 1. up | 2. out | 3. around | 4. up |
| 5. (yourself) up | 6. off | 7. down | 8. round |

WORKSHEET 7: TECHNOLOGY

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. print out | 2. back up | 3. hacked into | 4. log in |
| 5. Scroll down | 6. shut down | 7. set ... up | 8. popping up |