

PHRASAL VERBS

INTRODUCTION

Phrasal verbs have two parts: a verb (e.g.: put, take, get, give, go, etc) and one or sometimes two "small words" (e.g.: on, up, out, in, etc) which go with the verb.

Compare:

Normal Verbs

Take I took an aspirin because I had a terrible headache.

Break He broke his arm during the game.

Catch She managed to catch the last train.

Phrasal Verbs

Take off Take off your coat! It's too hot here.

Break up Jenny broke up with her boyfriend yesterday.

Catch up with You go ahead - I'll catch up with you later.

The "small words" in phrasal verbs are important, because they completely change the meaning. For example:

Get up = get out of bed

Get away = escape

Get on with someone = like being with them

PRACTICE

A - The following sentences have phrasal verbs. Can you guess what they mean? Match them with their meanings in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary.

* stop doing something * care for, be responsible for someone * try to find
* find the meaning of a word * have a view of * arrive unexpectedly

- 1) If you don't understand the meaning of a word, *look it up* in the dictionary.
- 2) That window *looks out* on a park.
- 3) I *gave up* smoking. It was bad for my health.
- 4) Babysitters *look after* young children.
- 5) I'm *looking for* a comfortable flat in the centre of the city.
- 6) I was having lunch when John *turned up*. He surprised me.

B - Can you answer the following questions using one of the phrasal verbs in the box?

* put down * put on * put up * take off

- 1) What do women with long hair sometimes do to their hair when they play sports?
- 2) What do you say to a child who has just picked up a piece of broken glass?
- 3) What do people do when they go out in cold weather?
- 4) What do you do with a sweater when you come into a warm house?

C - 1 - Match the phrasal verbs with their meaning.

Carry on
Find out
Get on
Grow up
Turn up
Settle down
Set off

arrive unexpectedly
start a journey
continue
like being with
learn, discover
live in one place
become adult

C-2 - Now read the following text and complete it using the phrasal verbs in C - 1 .

I recently read my grandfather's diaries, and I (discovered) _____ a lot of interesting things about his life. Apparently, he (spent his childhood) _____ in San Francisco. He and his parents didn't (like being together) _____ at all, and when he was 18 he decided to see America. He (started on his journey) _____ with very little money and travelled east. He (continued) _____ until he reached New York, where he got a job washing up in a restaurant.

He fell in love with one of the waitresses, and one day he (appeared) _____ at her flat with a bunch of roses and asked her to marry him. Surprisingly, she agreed, and he (went to live) _____ with her in New York, where they had 3 children.

D - Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the verbs in the box.

* carry on	* set off	* get on	* find out
* settle down	* turn up	* grow up	

- 1) The party _____ till 4 a.m.
- 2) My 10-year-old daughter wants to be a nurse when she _____.
- 3) We've got a long way to drive, so we ought to _____ as early as possible.
- 4) Oh dear - I've just _____ that I've only got \$10 in the bank.
- 5) She was late. She _____ at 9 o'clock.
- 6) Don't ask me to share an office with Richard - we don't _____ at all.
- 7) Now, you're 30 it's time you _____ and got a good, steady job.

MORE EXERCISES !!!

A) Complete the following sentences using it, them or me and the correct form of the phrasal verb in brackets.

- 1) I m too hot with this coat on. Do you mind if I _____? (take off)
- 2) I need to get up early tomorrow. Could you _____ at half past six? (wake up)
- 3) I like these shoes. Can I _____, please? (try on)
- 4) Here s a jacket. Why don t you _____ if you re cold? (put on)
- 5) My hair is very untidy. I think I ll _____ for the interview. (wash up)

B) Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box.

* turn off	* take off	* look up	* ring up
* throw away	* turn up	* try on	* switch off

- 1) Could you _____ the TV _____? I can t hear.
- 2) Don t forget to _____ the lights _____ when you go out.
- 3) I ll have to _____ it _____ in the dictionary —I m not sure what it means.
- 4) Don t _____ that old painting _____. It might be valuable.
- 5) Let s _____ them _____ and see if they want to come with us.
- 6) I d better _____ these trousers _____ - they are soaking wet.
- 7) _____ it _____ - the water is overflowing.
- 8) If you like those jeans, why don t you _____ them _____ and see if they suit you?

C) Complete the dialogues using the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box.

* make up * take up * think over * give up * put off * work out

- 1) A: What's 43 times 79? I can't _____ it _____ in my head.
B: Why don't you use a calculator?
- 2) A: Are you coming or not?
B: I'm not sure yet.
A: Well, you don't have to tell me now. Why don't you _____ it _____ and tell me tomorrow?
- 3) A: We couldn't get enough people to play in the match on Sunday.
B: Don't worry. We'll _____ it _____ till next week.
- 4) A: That's a lovely song. Who's it by?
B: Me—I _____ it _____ myself.
- 5) A: Do you still play the piano?
B: No, I _____ the piano two years ago. I play the guitar now.
- 6) A: I didn't know you went jogging.
B: Yes, I _____ it _____ a few months ago—I feel myself much better.

D) Replace the phrases in brackets with phrasal verbs. Use each of the following verbs once: carry on, look up to, give up, put up, tell off, look forward to, look up, get on with

I'll never forget my English teacher at school. I never (liked being with) _____ her. If there was a word I didn't understand, she used to make me (find the meaning) _____ it _____ in the dictionary.

I never dared to (raise) _____ my hand because I was afraid she'd (talk angrily to) _____ me _____. And if I (stopped) _____ doing the exercises she gave us for any reason, she got furious.

I (was always excited about) _____ always _____ the end of the lesson. That's why I always (admire) _____ my brother George, because he (continued) _____ studying English until he left school.

E) Complete the sentences with the phrasal verbs in the box.

* look up to	* get over	* bring up	* turn down	* do with
* do without	* put up	* look down on	* let down	* pick up

- 1) I trusted her, but then she _____ me _____.
- 2) His parents _____ him _____ much too strictly.
- 3) I'll _____ you _____ at 6:30 and we'll go to the airport together.
- 4) They offered him a job, but he _____ it _____.
- 5) You don't need to stay in a hotel. We can _____ you _____ for the night.
- 6) I couldn't possibly _____ my computer - I use it all the time.
- 7) I'm dying of thirst - I could really _____ a long, cold drink.
- 8) She's taking a long time to _____ her mother's death - they were very close to each other.
- 9) He was a great leader and the whole country _____ him.
- 10) Just because he hasn't got a job is no reason to _____ him.