

# Appendix D: Phrasal Verbs

## I. What is a phrasal verb?

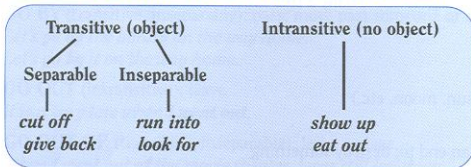
A phrasal verb is a verb + a particle.

*I wonder when Luisa will **show up**.*  
(verb)(particle)

*The thief **ripped me off**.*  
(verb) (particle)

In English, many phrasal verbs are idiomatic; you cannot understand the meaning of the whole from the parts. *Show up* means “arrive,” and *rip off* means “steal.”

## II. Phrasal verbs fall into different categories.



- a. Some phrasal verbs are *transitive*; others are *intransitive*.

*Transitive* phrasal verbs take a direct object.

*I cut off my hair. I ran into Sylvia today.*  
*He gave back my bike. I'm looking for my cat.*

*Intransitive* phrasal verbs do not take an object.

*Jaime plans to come but isn't sure when he'll show up.*  
*Do you want to eat out?*

- b. Some transitive phrasal verbs are *separable* (that is, the object can come between the two parts of the verb); others are *inseparable*.

Separable phrasal verbs	Inseparable phrasal verbs
<i>help out</i> <i>I helped out my neighbor.</i> <i>I helped my neighbor out.</i> <i>I helped her out.</i>	<i>run into</i> <i>I ran into Sylvia today.</i> <i>I ran into her today.</i>
<i>give back</i> <i>He gave back my bike.</i> <i>He gave my bike back.</i> <i>He gave it back.</i>	<i>look for</i> <i>I'm looking for my cat.</i> <i>I'm looking for it.</i>

When a phrasal verb is **separable**, you can put a noun either between the verb and the particle or after the particle. If you use a pronoun (*he, she, it, me, we, you, they*), the pronoun **must** go between the verb and the particle. If a phrasal verb is **inseparable**, the noun and pronoun always come after the particle.

### III. Phrasal verbs from this book

**BACK OFF** (intransitive): move in reverse; stop threatening

*The angry dog made us **back off**.*

**BACK OFF FROM** (transitive, inseparable): move in reverse; stop threatening someone or something

Duane didn't want to fight, so he **backed off from** Pietro.

**BELONG TO** (transitive, inseparable): be the property of someone

*That bike is not mine; it **belongs to** Fernando.*

*That bike is not mine; it **belongs to** him.*

**BURN DOWN** (transitive, separable): destroy something by fire

*The man carelessly tossed his cigarette and **burned down** the shed.*

*The man carelessly tossed his cigarette and **burned the shed down**.*

*The man carelessly tossed his cigarette and **burned it down**.*

**CHECK IN** (intransitive): register at a hotel, a convention, a hospital, etc.

*When I arrived at the conference last night, I immediately **checked in**.*

**CHOP DOWN** (transitive, separable): cut something down, usually a tree

*Let's **chop down** the tree. It's dead!*

*Let's **chop the tree down**. It's dead!*

*Let's **chop it down**. It's dead!*

**COME UP** (intransitive): rise (referring to the sun, moon, etc.)

*I always get up when the sun **comes up**.*

**DO AWAY WITH** (transitive, inseparable): put an end to; destroy something

*The mayor is trying to **do away with** drugs.*

*The mayor is trying to **do away with** them.*

**DREAM OF** (transitive, inseparable): think about something that you wish for the future

*Do you **dream of** being a basketball star?*

*Do you often **dream of** it?*

**DRIVE AWAY** (transitive, separable): force someone to leave

*The bad smells outside the restaurant **drove away** customers.*

*The bad smells outside the restaurant **drove** customers **away**.*

*The bad smells outside the restaurant **drove** them **away**.*

**DRY OFF** (intransitive): become dry

*I'd like to sit in the sun and **dry off**.*

**EAT OUT** (intransitive): eat in a restaurant

*Hilda hates to cook, so she often **eats out**.*

**FIND OUT** (transitive, separable): learn or discover something

*Did you **find out** their plan?*

*Did you **find it out**?*

**Note:** This verb is only separated when *it* is used.

**FORCE BACK** (transitive, separable): make someone go back

*The bad weather **forced back** the mountaineers.*

*The bad weather **forced** the mountaineers **back**.*

*The bad weather **forced** them **back**.*

**GET AWAY** (intransitive): leave one's daily routine; go on vacation

*Maria has worked hard for the last six months and needs to **get away**.*

**GIVE BACK** (transitive, separable): return something (to someone)

Please **give back** my pencil.

Please **give** my pencil **back**.

Please **give** it **back**.

**GIVE UP** (transitive, separable): stop or quit (doing) something

She should **give up** smoking.

She should **give** smoking **up**.

She should **give** it **up**.

**GO BACK** (intransitive): return

Marissa loved her trip to Mexico; she wants to **go back**.

**GO BACK TO** (transitive, inseparable): return to a place

Marissa wants to **go back to** Mexico.

**Note:** We usually don't say *go back to it*, but rather *go back there*.

**GO BY** (intransitive): pass; move past

Let's watch the parade **go by**.

**GO BY** (transitive, inseparable): pass; move past someone or something

Let's **go by** the library on the way home.

Let's **go by** it on the way home.

**GO OUT** (intransitive): leave

It was very late when I **went out**.

**GO OUT OF** (transitive, inseparable): leave a place

When I **went out of** the movie theater, I was still laughing.

**GO OUT WITH** (transitive, inseparable): go somewhere with a friend; have a romance with someone

Joseph would like to **go out with** Ludmilla on Saturday night.

Josh would like to **go out with** Lilly.

**HAND OUT** (transitive, separable): distribute something

They're **handing out** free cookies over there.

They're **handing** free cookies **out** over there.

They're **handing** them **out** over there.

**HEAR FROM** (transitive, inseparable): receive a phone call, letter, or e-mail from someone

I **heard from** my brother in China last week.

I **heard from** him last week.

**HELP OUT** (intransitive): be helpful

I see you're very busy. Please let me know if I can **help out**.

**HELP OUT** (transitive, separable): be helpful to someone

I **helped out** my cousin when she needed money.

I **helped** my cousin **out** when she needed money.

I **helped** her **out** when she needed money.

**KEEP AWAY** (transitive, separable): make someone or something stay at a distance

Please **keep away** that dog.

Please **keep** that dog **away**.

Please **keep** it **away**.

**KEEP OUT** (transitive, separable): not allow someone or something to enter

We like to close the door to **keep out** the mosquitoes.

We need to **keep** the mosquitoes **out**.

We need to **keep** them **out**.

**KEEP UP** (intransitive): maintain the pace

*You walk so fast; it's hard to **keep up**!*

**KEEP UP WITH** (transitive, inseparable): maintain the pace of someone or something

*It's hard to **keep up with** fashion; it changes so fast.*

*It's hard to **keep up with** it; it changes so fast.*

**LAY OUT** (transitive, separable): arrange; organize something

*Before I pack, I'll **lay out** my clothes on the bed.*

*Before I pack, I'll **lay** my clothes **out** on the bed.*

*Before I pack, I'll **lay** them **out** on the bed.*

**LET GO OF** (transitive, inseparable): release someone or something

*Please **let go of** my arm.*

*Please **let go of** it.*

**LIVE THROUGH** (transitive, inseparable): survive something

*Herve didn't think he would **live through** the hurricane.*

*Herve didn't think he would **live through** it.*

**LOOK AT** (transitive, inseparable): direct your eyes to someone or something

***Look at** the balloon in the sky!*

***Look at** it!*

**LOOK FOR** (transitive, inseparable): try to find someone or something

*I **looked for** the cat, but he was gone!*

*I **looked for** him, but he was gone!*

**Note:** The verb can only be separated by an adverb, not an object:

*I **looked everywhere for** the cat, but he was gone!*

*I **looked everywhere for** him, but he was gone!*

**LOOK FORWARD TO** (transitive, inseparable): anticipate (doing) something with pleasure

*I always **look forward to** my birthday.*

*I always **look forward to** it.*

**PASS OUT** (intransitive): lose consciousness; faint

*The sun was so hot that I almost **passed out**.*

**PAY FOR** (transitive, inseparable): give money for something

*I **paid for** the gas.*

*I **paid for** it.*

**Note:** The verb can only be separated by a phrase that tells how much:

*I **paid a lot for** the gas.*

*I **paid \$25.00 for** it.*

**PLAN ON** (transitive, inseparable): expect (to do) something in the future

*I didn't **plan on** a big party, but 50 people came.*

*I didn't **plan on** it, but 50 people came.*

**POINT OUT** (transitive, separable): explain something; show something

*Our nature guide **pointed out** the many flowers to us.*

*Our nature guide **pointed** the many flowers **out** to us.*

*Our nature guide **pointed** them **out** to us.*

**PULL INTO** (transitive, inseparable): arrive at a place by car, bus, or train

*Tonia **pulled into** the parking lot and turned off the car.*

*Tonia **pulled into** it and turned off the car.*

**PUT UP WITH** (transitive, inseparable): endure or tolerate someone or something

*He doesn't **put up with** dishonesty.*

*He doesn't **put up with** it.*

**RIP OFF** (transitive, separable): steal something; steal from someone

The **thief ripped off** my car.

The **thief ripped** my car **off**.

The **thief ripped** it **off**.

**RUN INTO** (transitive, inseparable): meet someone or something unexpectedly

I **ran into** my aunt at the supermarket.

I **ran into** her at the supermarket.

**SEARCH FOR** (transitive, inseparable): look everywhere for someone or something

Nina **searched for** her diamond ring.

Nina **searched** for it.

**Note:** The verb can only be separated by an adverb, not by an object:

Nina **searched everywhere for** her diamond ring.

Nina **searched everywhere for** it.

**SET OUT** (intransitive): begin a hike, a walk, a trip, an adventure, etc.

What time are you **planning to set out**?

**SET OUT ON** (transitive, inseparable): begin a hike, a walk, a trip, an adventure, etc.

We're going to **set out on** our hike at 2 P.M.

**SETTLE DOWN** (intransitive): begin to live a stable life in one place

At age 40, Natasha finally decided to get married and **settle down**.

**SHOW UP** (intransitive): arrive somewhere; appear

The party starts at 9 P.M. What time will you **show up**?

**TAKE OFF** (transitive, separable): remove clothing, jewelry, makeup, a cover from a jar, etc.

Do you want to **take off** your coat?

Do you want to **take** your coat **off**?

Do you want to **take** it **off**?

**TAKE OUT** (transitive, separable): remove something

Igor **took out** the garbage.

Igor **took** the garbage **out**.

Igor **took** it **out**.

**THINK ABOUT** (transitive, inseparable): remember; consider someone or something

I often **think about** leaving this crazy city.

I often **think about** it.

**WAKE UP** (intransitive): awaken from sleep

It's always hard for me to **wake up**.

**WAKE UP** (transitive, separable): awaken someone from sleep

Quiet! Don't **wake up** the baby!

Quiet! Don't **wake** the baby **up**!

Quiet! Don't **wake** her **up**!