

Explanations

Verbs with one particle: transitive and separable

These phrasal verbs take an object. This object can come after the particle or between the verb and the particle (so the verbs are separable).

We brought up this child. We brought her up.

In general, as in the examples above, object phrases tend to be put after the particle while pronouns are often put between the verb and the particle.

Two exceptions in the list below are *call back* and *show around* where the object is always put between the verb and the particle.

Verbs marked with an asterisk * have a second meaning. With this meaning they have an intransitive form.

Bring up

We brought up this child. (look after until adult)

Carry out

You haven't carried out my instructions. (act upon)

Call off

We have decided to call off the match. (cancel)

Clear up*

Could you clear up your room please? (make tidy)

The weather is clearing up.* (improve)

Fill in*

Can you fill in this form please? (complete by writing)

Our teacher was ill, so Mrs Frost filled in.* (take someone's place)

Find out

I want to find out what happened. (learn about, discover)

Give away

The millionaire gave all his money away. (make a gift of)

Jill asked me not to give her secret away. (make something known)

Give up*

I've decided to give up eating meat. (stop doing something)

Jorge finally gave up teaching me Portuguese.* (stop trying to do something)

Hold up

Two masked men held up the bank. (rob)

Knock out

The blow on the head knocked me out. (make unconscious)

Leave out

I always leave out the difficult exercises. (not include)

Look up*

I have to look this word up in my dictionary. (find information)

Things are looking up.* (appear better)

Make up*	<i>I think you made this story up.</i>	(invent)
	<i>The couple quarrelled but then made up*</i> .	(become friends again)
Pick up	<i>I'll pick you up at six.</i>	(collect)
Put aside	<i>Harry puts money aside every week for his holiday.</i>	(save)
Put off	<i>They put the meeting off until Thursday.</i>	(postpone)
	<i>The smell of fish put me off my tea.</i>	(make someone not want to do something)
Put up	<i>If you come to Florence I can put you up.</i>	(provide accommodation)
Show around	<i>Let me show you around the new building.</i>	(give a guided tour)
Take over*	<i>A German company took us over last year.</i>	(buy a company)
	<i>If you are tired, I'll take over*</i> .	(take someone's place)
Take up	<i>I've decided to take up tennis.</i>	(start a hobby)
Tear up	<i>Wendy tore up Alan's letters.</i>	(tear into pieces)
Think over	<i>Please think over our offer.</i>	(consider)
Try out	<i>Have you tried out the new computer?</i>	(use for the first time)
Turn down	<i>Paul was offered the job but he turned it down.</i>	(refuse an offer)
Wear out	<i>All this work has worn me out.</i>	(make tired)
Work out	<i>This is a difficult problem. I can't work it out.</i>	(find a solution)

Verbs with one particle: intransitive

These phrasal verbs have no object.

Verbs marked with an asterisk * have a second meaning. With this meaning they have a transitive form. There are other meanings not included here.

Break down	<i>The car broke down on the motorway.</i>	(stop working)
Break out	<i>The war broke out unexpectedly.</i>	(begin suddenly)
Come out	<i>Her new book came out last week.</i>	(be published)

Draw up*	<i>Suddenly an ambulance drew up outside.</i>	(come to a stop)
	<i>My lawyer is drawing up a contract for us*.</i>	(write a legal document)
Fall out	<i>Charles and Emily have fallen out again.</i>	(quarrel)
Get away	<i>The bank robbers got away in a stolen van.</i>	(escape)
Give in	<i>She pleaded with me, and I finally gave in.</i>	(stop fighting against)
Go off	<i>Everyone panicked when the bomb went off.</i>	(explode)
Look out	<i>Look out! There's a car coming!</i>	(beware)
Set in	<i>I think the rain has set in for the day.</i>	(to arrive and stay)
Show off	<i>You always show off at parties.</i>	(behave to attract attention)
Take off	<i>Your plane takes off at 6.00.</i>	(leave the ground)
Turn up*	<i>Guess who turned up at our party?</i>	(arrive, often unexpectedly)
	<i>Can you turn up the sound*?</i>	(increase)
Wear off	<i>When the drug wears off you may feel pain.</i>	(become less strong or disappear)

Practice

1 Rewrite each sentence using a verb from the box so that the meaning stays the same. You may have to change the form.

call off draw up give in look up put aside put up
 turn down ~~turn up~~ wear off work out

- a) Jack always arrives late for work.
 *Jack always turns up late for work.*
- b) See if their number is in the phone directory.

- c) I'm saving up to buy a new bike.

- d) After a few days the pain in Dave's leg went away.

- e) I'm afraid the match has been cancelled.

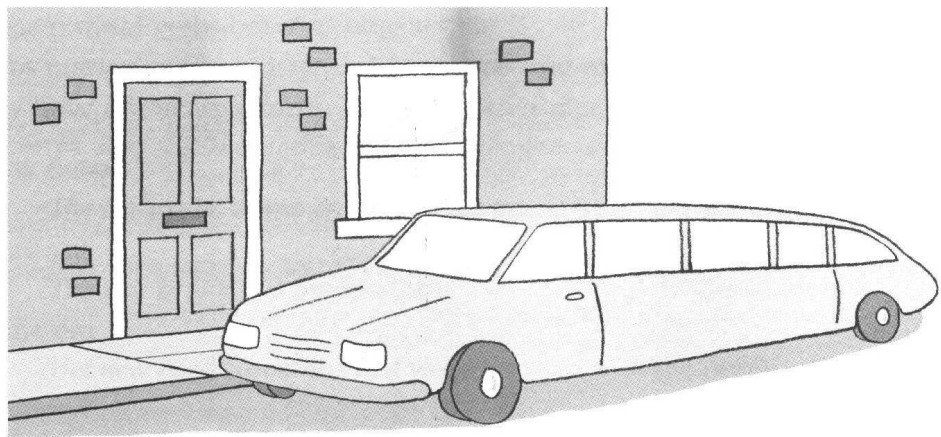
- f) The government refused to yield to the demands of the terrorists.

- g) We offered them £250,000 for the house but they refused our offer.

- h) You can stay with us if you come to Cambridge.

- i) I can't calculate how much the whole trip will cost.

- j) A large silver limousine stopped outside the house.



2 Put one word in each space.

- a) Why don't you let me show you *round* London?
 b) Jane is coming to pick us after work.
 c) Have you found what time the train leaves?
 d) We had to wait for an hour before the plane took
 e) Harry was brought by his grandparents.
 f) A shelf fell on my head and knocked me
 g) I was so angry when I saw the parking ticket that I tore it
 h) A fire has broken in an office block in central London.
 i) Julian always talks loudly and shows
 j) If you don't like this part you can leave it

3 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

- a) I think it's going to rain all day.
in
 I think the *rain has set in for* the day.
- b) I don't know what to write on this form.
in
 I don't know this form.
- c) I started doing this job when Janet left.
over
 I when Janet left.
- d) This story of yours isn't true!
up
 You story!
- e) We believe that it was you who robbed the post office.
up
 We believe that the post office.
- f) Tina's car stopped working on the way to Scotland.
down
 Tina's car on the way to Scotland.
- g) It would be a good idea to stop drinking coffee.
up
 It would be a good idea coffee.
- h) Ruth's party has been postponed until next month.
off
 Ruth's party next month.

4 Put one suitable word in each space.

- a) In the army, all orders have to be*carried*..... out!
- b) Why don't you up golf? It's a good pastime.
- c) If I won a lot of money, I would some of it away.
- d) Let's out the new food processor.
- e) This room is a mess. Why don't you it up?
- f) Joe is very quarrelsome, he out with everyone.
- g) Where were you exactly when the bomb off?
- h) Can you in for me while I go to the bank?

5 Complete each sentence with the most suitable word or phrase.

- a) Brian*C*..... at our dinner party wearing a pink bow tie.
A) wore out B) showed off C) turned up D) tried out
- b) You don't have to decide now, you can
A) put it aside B) call it off C) tear it up D) think it over
- c) Pat was caught by the police, but Martin
A) gave in B) gave up C) got away D) held up
- d) After the quarrel, we kissed and
A) cleared up B) looked up C) made up D) put up
- e) Why exactly did war between the two countries?
A) break out B) set in C) go off D) call off
- f) After a long day at work most people feel
A) broken down B) worn out C) knocked out D) turned down
- g) I've just been offered a new job! Things are
A) turning up B) clearing up C) making up D) looking up
- h) In the end I the form in disgust, and threw it away.
A) filled in B) worked out C) tore up D) put off

6 Replace the words in *italics* with a suitable phrasal verb.

- a) I think that you *invented* this story. ...*made up*...
- b) When do you think your book will *be published*?
- c) I think that the weather is *improving*.
- d) I can't *find an answer* to this problem.
- e) *Be careful!* You're going to fall!
- f) I'm afraid William tends to *stop trying*.
- g) The plane is going to *leave the ground*.
- h) I think that Sue and Neil have *quarrelled*.

- 7** Choose the best meaning for the words in *italics*. Note that some of the phrasal verbs have a different meaning to the one given in the Explanations section.



- a) At half past six, the alarm clock *went off*. ^B.....
 A) exploded B) rang C) disappeared
- b) Jim is very good at *taking off his teacher*.
 A) flying with his teacher B) getting rid of his teacher
 C) imitating his teacher
- c) Please don't *bring up that subject* again!
 A) start shouting about it B) mention it C) talk about it for hours on end
- d) There is one small matter I would like to *clear up*.
 A) find an explanation for B) make clean and tidy
 C) get rid of once and for all
- e) Jean is really good at *picking up languages*.
 A) choosing languages B) learning languages by being in a country
 C) learning languages by heart
- f) All my old clothes need *taking up*.
 A) taking to the cleaners B) to be replaced C) to be made shorter
- g) The whole cost of the equipment *works out at* £450.
 A) comes to B) can be reduced to C) will involve an extra
- h) Jackie *broke down* and everyone felt sorry for her.
 A) injured herself B) caused an accident C) started crying

Key points

- 1 Check any new phrasal verb in a dictionary, to see how it is used.
- 2 Remember that many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning.
- 3 Phrasal verbs are common in spoken and informal written language.

→ SEE ALSO

Grammar 30: Consolidation 6