

# 126 Prepositional verbs (wait for)

Verbs with prepositions and adverbs

## 1 Introduction

A prepositional verb is a verb + preposition.

*I'm **waiting for** you. The dog **belongs to** our neighbours.*

The preposition always goes before the object.

NOT ~~*I'm waiting you for.*~~

In questions the preposition usually goes at the end of the sentence (see Unit 38).

*Who are you **waiting for**?*

Some verbs can go with a number of different prepositions.

*I'm **looking at** these photos. They're really good. I'm **looking for** my ticket. I can't find it anywhere.*

*I'm **looking after** the children while their parents are out. The police are **looking into** the matter.*

## 2 Some common prepositional verbs

Here are some more examples.

*Yes, I **agree with** you. Tom's neighbours **apologized for** the noise.*

*I **approve of** the new scheme. I think it's a good idea.*

*Have you **applied for** the job? The patient **asked for** a glass of water.*

*Do you **believe in** God? I'm sorry, but I don't **care about** your problems.*

*Lots of people **care for** elderly relatives. (= look after)*

*I didn't **care for** the film. (= like) Please **concentrate on** your work.*

*The US **consists of** fifty states. I can **deal with** any enquiries.*

*Claire finally **decided on** a holiday in Turkey.*

*Whether we go out will **depend on** the weather. I **feel like** a drink. (= want)*

*Everyone **laughed at** the joke. I was **listening to** the radio.*

*Did you **pay for** the coffee? You can't **rely on** the weather forecast.*

*I'll **see to** the matter at once. Vicky **suffers from** headaches.*

We do not normally use a preposition after these verbs:

answer, approach, control, demand, enter, expect, leave, reach, request

*The President is **entering** the building. NOT ~~*He is entering into the building.*~~*

## 3 About, of and to

We can use **about** after many verbs. Here are some of them:

ask, complain, dream, enquire, hear, know, learn, protest, speak, talk, think, wonder

*Did you **hear about** the accident? Mark was **talking about** golf.*

We do not use **about** after discuss.

*We **discussed** the problem. NOT ~~*We discussed about the problem.*~~*

Note the meaning of dream of, hear of and think of.

*I'd never tell you a lie. I wouldn't **dream of** it.*

*Who's Ron Mason? ~ I don't know. I've never **heard of** him.*

*Did you like the play? What did you **think of** it?*

We can apologize to, complain to, talk to and write to a person.

*I'm **writing to** my sister. We **talked to** Natasha about classical music.*

We do not use to after phone.

*I'm **phoning** the office. NOT ~~*I'm phoning to the office.*~~*

▷ 70 Verb + preposition + -ing form

# Practice

## A Prepositions with look (1)

Complete the conversation between Laura and her friend Olivia. Put in *after, at, for* and *into*.

Laura: Did you say you were looking (▶) *for* an au pair?

Olivia: Yes, I was just looking (1) ..... this advertisement. We need someone to look (2) ..... our children.

Laura: Do you have to pay an au pair?

Olivia: I'm not sure. I'll have to look (3) ..... how it all works.

## B Some common prepositional verbs (2)

This is some news that Melanie has received from an old friend. Put in these verbs and add a preposition after each one: *agree, applied, ask, care, caring, concentrate, decided, pay, suffering*

I'm working in a hospital now. I (▶) *applied for* a nurse's job last July and started in August.

I don't earn much money, and I even had to (1) ..... my uniform out of

my own money. Perhaps I should (2) ..... a pay rise. But I don't really

(3) ..... the money. The work is the important thing. Of course it's very hard

work (4) ..... the patients, and at the moment I'm (5) ..... backache. But I knew it would be like this when I (6) ..... a career in nursing.

I just try to forget all the problems and (7) ..... the job. I think it's a worthwhile

thing to do, and I'm sure you (8) ..... me.

## C Some common prepositional verbs (2)

Put in the verbs and add a preposition if necessary.

Mark and Sarah had accepted an invitation to Mike and Harriet's party. Sarah had to stay late at work

to (▶) *see to* (see) one or two things. Her boss really (1) ..... (relies) her. It's

usually Sarah who (2) ..... (deals) all the little problems. Sarah didn't really

(3) ..... (feel) going to a party but thought she ought to keep Mark company.

She decided to go straight to the party instead of going home first. She (4) ..... (reached) the house just after nine. Mark was sitting in his car outside waiting for her. He was

(5) ..... (listening) the radio. Sarah (6) ..... (apologized)

being late. At the party Mark talked to a strange woman who (7) ..... (believed)

ghosts. Sarah met a man who kept (8) ..... (laughing) his own jokes.

She managed to get away from him but couldn't avoid a woman who wanted to

(9) ..... (discuss) house prices. Mark and Sarah (10) ..... (left) the party early and drove home feeling exhausted.

## D About, of and to (3)

Complete the conversation. Put in *about, of* or *to*.

David: Did you hear about my experience at the Quick Burger café?

Harriet: No. And I've never heard (▶) *of* the Quick Burger café.

David: Oh, it's near the station. I was just talking (1) ..... Melanie about it.

They took at least twenty minutes to bring me a burger. I don't call that quick. I complained

(2) ..... the waitress, and she poured a can of cola over me.

Harriet: Really? She must have had a bad day.

David: The manager wasn't there, so I've written (3) ..... him to complain (4) ..... the service. It was terrible. I wouldn't go there if I were you.

Harriet: I wouldn't dream (5) ..... going there. I hate those burger places.



# 127 Verb + object + preposition

## 1 Introduction

We can use some verbs in the structure: verb + object + preposition.

	VERB	OBJECT	PREPOSITION	
People	<b>admired</b>	Cleopatra	<b>for</b>	her beauty.
The trees	<b>protect</b>	the garden	<b>from</b>	the wind.

In the passive, the preposition comes after the verb.

Cleopatra was **admired for** her beauty. The garden is **protected from** the wind.

## 2 Verb + object + preposition

Here are some more examples.

Tom **accused** Nick **of** cheating at cards. Can I **add** something **to** your list?  
 You should never **aim/point** a gun **at** someone.  
 The player was **arrested/punished for** hitting an opponent. Let's **ask** someone **for** directions.  
 The passengers **blamed/criticized** the airline **for** the delay.  
 I'll have to **borrow** the money **from** my parents.  
 If you **compare** these figures **with/to** last year, you can see the improvement.  
 I **congratulated** Andrew **on** his excellent exam results.  
 Melanie **cut/divided/split** the pudding **into** four portions.  
 The cameras **discourage/prevent** motorists **from** speeding.  
 You should **insure** your camera **against** theft. It might get stolen.  
 Harriet has **invited** us **to** a party. I **prefer** hot weather **to** cold. I hate the cold.  
 The hotel **provided/supplied** us **with** a packed lunch. Most people **regard** Picasso **as** a great artist.  
 The two men **robbed** the woman **of** her savings. They stole £2,000 **from** her.  
 The restaurant was full. We **shared** a table **with** a young Swedish couple.  
 Mike doesn't **spend** much money **on** clothes.  
 Zedco **suspected** one of their managers **of** selling commercial secrets.  
 Don't forget to **thank** Tom **for** his help. Victor **translated** the letter **into** English.

## 3 About, of and to

We can use about with tell and ask.

Did I **tell** you **about** my operation? Ask your travel agent **about** cheap flights.

With inform we can use about or of.

You should **inform** everyone **about/of** the decision.

Look at these examples with warn.

A sign **warned** motorists **about/of** the danger. (warn about/of a danger)

A sign **warned** motorists **about** the hole in the road. (warn about something that might be dangerous)

With remind, there is a difference in meaning between about and of.

Emma **reminded** me **about** my appointment. (= Emma told me not to forget.)

Emma **reminds** me **of** my sister. (= Emma is like my sister.)

We can write, describe or explain something to a person.

I've **written** several letters **to** the company. The woman **described** her attacker **to** the police.

▷ 3 Give something to someone ▷ 126 Wait for, belong to, etc.

# Practice

## A Verb + object + preposition (2)

This is a sports commentary at the Olympic Games.

Put in the correct prepositions, e.g. *for*, *from*.

So Australia's Steve Brearley wins the gold medal ahead of Germany's Klaus Schliemann and Ivan Podorosky of Bulgaria. They're just congratulating Brearley (▶) **on** his victory. His speed over the first kilometre split the runners (1) ..... two groups, and in the end it was a race between the three leaders. Brearley prevented Schliemann (2) ..... overtaking him in a sprint finish. I've always regarded Brearley (3) ..... a great athlete, and look how well he's done today. I would even compare him (4) ..... the great Emil Kristo himself. There's no doubt now that Brearley will be invited (5) ..... Oslo for the next World Championships. So the Australian runner adds another medal (6) ..... his collection. And Australia are doing really well in the medals table. In fact, they share second place (7) ..... the United States.

## B Verb + object + preposition (2)

People are saying some surprising things.

Complete the replies using a verb + object + preposition.

- ▶ Andrew: I've bought a lot of books. I've spent £300.
- Emma: What? Have you really **spent £300 on books?**
- 1 Jessica: I don't like wine. I prefer water.
- Daniel: I don't believe that. Do you really .....
- 2 Melanie: You heard about David's accident. Well, he's blaming Tom.
- Rita: But why? Why is he .....
- 3 Henry: I gave Claire a present, but she didn't thank me.
- Sarah: Did you say she didn't .....
- 4 Tom: The police say it's murder. They're accusing the head teacher.
- Rita: What evidence do they have? How can they .....
- 5 Vicky: We had no towels. The hotel didn't provide them.
- Rachel: Really? Why didn't they .....
- 6 Natasha: It's my sister's wedding today, but she didn't invite me.
- Emma: What! Do you mean she didn't .....
- 7 Nick: The team won a great victory, but no one congratulated them.
- Trevor: Oh? And why didn't anyone .....
- 8 David: A man pointed a gun. Melanie was terrified.
- Harriet: You mean someone .....

## C About, of and to (3)

Put in *about*, *of* or *to*.

- ▶ The interviewer asked Mrs Miles **about** her parachute jump.
- 1 I've told the police ..... people throwing stones at our windows.
- 2 That man over there reminds me ..... someone I know.
- 3 The man explained ..... the court that he had some personal problems.
- 4 Vicky is writing a letter ..... her friends in Toronto.
- 5 There was a poster warning young people ..... the dangers of drugs.
- 6 Melanie had to remind Nick ..... the money he owed her.
- 7 We would like to inform our customers ..... a number of improvements in the service we offer.



# 128 Phrasal verbs (1)

## 1 Introduction

A phrasal verb is a verb + adverb, e.g. come in, sit down, take off. There are very many phrasal verbs in English.

Here are some adverbs which are used in phrasal verbs: about, along, around, away, back, behind, by, down, forward, in, off, on, out, over, round, through, up

Some of these words can also be prepositions. For prepositional verbs see Unit 126.



## 2 Understanding phrasal verbs

Some phrasal verbs are easy to understand.

Tom asked Melanie to **come in**. The man in front **turned round** and stared at me. The meanings are clear if you know the words come, in, turn and round.

But many phrasal verbs are idiomatic. The verb + adverb has a special meaning.

Fortunately the plan **came off**. (= succeeded)

Why did you **turn down** such a good offer? (= refuse)

I can't **make out** if it's a man or a woman over there. (= see clearly)

Sometimes a phrasal verb has the same meaning as a one-word verb.

find out = discover	leave out = omit	send out = distribute
go back = return	make up = invent (a story)	throw away = discard
go on = continue	put off = postpone	turn up = arrive

The phrasal verb is usually more informal than the one-word verb.

## 3 Word order with phrasal verbs

When a phrasal verb has an object, the object can go either before or after the adverb.

	VERB	OBJECT	ADVERB	OR	VERB	ADVERB	OBJECT
Melanie	took	her coat	off.	OR	Melanie	took off	her coat.
I	wrote	the number	down.	OR	I	wrote down	the number.
Who	let	the cat	out?	OR	Who	let out	the cat?

A long object goes after the adverb.

The gang have **carried out a number of bank raids** in the last few months.

Why don't you **try on that dress** in the window?

A pronoun (e.g. it, them) always goes before the adverb.

Melanie felt hot in her coat, so she **took it off**.

NOT ~~She took off it.~~

There have been a number of raids. The police know who **carried them out**.

NOT ~~The police know who carried out them.~~

# Practice

## A Understanding phrasal verbs (1-2)

Work out the meaning of these phrasal verbs and put them in the right sentences: **come back, come in, cut out, fall over, get on, give away, go away, let in, lie down, pay back, stay in, take back.** (Use a dictionary if you need to.)

- ▶ Hello. Nice to see you. **Come in** and sit down.
- ▶ I didn't have a key, but luckily someone was there to **let** me **in**.
- 1 Can't we go out somewhere? I don't want to ..... all evening.
- 2 Could you lend me ten pounds? I'll ..... you ..... on Friday.
- 3 The pavement is very icy. Be careful you don't .....
- 4 I was feeling so tired I had to ..... on the bed for a while.
- 5 There was an article in the newspaper that I wanted to ..... and keep.
- 6 Mark's gone out, and I don't know when he's going to .....
- 7 The driver unlocked the coach so that the passengers were able to .....
- 8 I'll have to ..... these books ..... to the library.
- 9 Your brother was being a nuisance, so I told him to .....
- 10 In order to get publicity, the company decided to ..... some of the new sweets free to children.

## B One-word verb and phrasal verb (2)

Put in a phrasal verb that means the same as the verb in brackets. Use the correct form of the phrasal verb.

Rachel: I've (▶) **found out** (discovered) what the problem is with the exam.

Vicky: Oh, good. Tell me.

Rachel: When they printed the papers, they (1) ..... (omitted) a page. No one noticed until the papers had all been (2) ..... (distributed). Now they'll have to (3) ..... (discard) all the papers and (4) ..... (postpone) the exam.

Vicky: Are you sure you haven't (5) ..... (invented) this whole story?

Rachel: It's true, I tell you. And isn't it good news?

Vicky: I don't know about that. It means we'll have to (6) ..... (continue) revising.

## C Word order with phrasal verbs (3)

Complete the sentences by putting in the phrasal verbs. Some of the spaces you have to leave empty. Sometimes more than one answer is correct.

- ▶ The sweater was full of holes, so I **threw it away** (threw away).
- ▶ I've **put up** (put up) that picture we bought last week.
- 1 There's always litter here. No one ever ..... it ..... (pick up).
- 2 It's quite cold now. I think I'll ..... my coat ..... (put on).
- 3 I haven't heard from Rita lately. I might ..... her ..... (ring up).
- 4 Daniel has to go into college to ..... his project ..... (hand in).
- 5 I can't remember the address. I wish I'd ..... it ..... (write down).
- 6 Nick is trying to ..... all the money he's just lost ..... (win back).
- 7 I'm not going to have time to ..... these dishes ..... (wash up).
- 8 If you don't know the number, you can ..... it ..... (look up) in the phone book.
- 9 There was an accident which ..... all the traffic coming into town ..... (held up).
- 10 The words 'expect' and 'except' are so similar that I keep ..... them ..... (mix up).

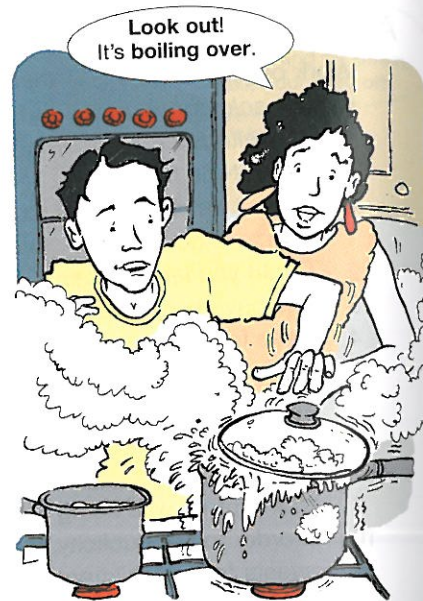


# 129 Phrasal verbs (2)

## 1 Everyday situations

Here are some phrasal verbs in everyday situations.

- Come on, we're going now.*
- Trevor dug up an old coin in the garden.*
- You have to fill in your name and address.*
- How did you get on in the test?*
- I usually get up late on Sundays.*
- I'm going out for the evening.*
- Melanie poured tea for the guests and handed the cakes round.*
- Hurry up. We haven't got much time.*
- David hit his head on a lamppost and knocked himself out.*
- Mark picked up the cassette and put it in the player.*
- You have to plug the machine in first.*
- I'm going to throw these old clothes away.*
- We were too tired to wash up after the meal.*
- Sarah woke up suddenly in the night.*



## 2 Phrasal verbs and one-word verbs

Here are some phrasal verbs with the same meaning as a one-word verb (see also Unit 128.2).

- They're going to bring in a new law against drinking and driving. (= introduce)*
- How did the argument come about? (= happen)*
- Emma isn't speaking to Matthew. They've fallen out. (= quarrelled)*
- We've fixed up a meeting for next Tuesday. (= arranged)*
- Trevor gave up playing football years ago. (= stopped)*
- I had a pain in my arm, but it's gone away. (= disappeared)*
- We heard the bomb go off five miles away. (= explode)*
- The traffic was held up by road works. (= delayed)*
- The United Nations was set up to settle conflicts peacefully. (= established)*
- I'm trying to work out how much money I've spent. (= calculate)*

## 3 Business situations

Here are some examples of phrasal verbs in business situations.

- If we're spending too much money, we'll have to cut back. (= spend less)*
- Our lawyers will draw up a new contract. (= write)*
- We mustn't fall behind in the race to develop new products. (= be slower than others)*
- The two sides were close to an agreement, but it fell through. (= didn't happen)*
- The company fought off a takeover by ICM Computers. (= managed to stop)*
- I tried to ring Santiago, but I couldn't get through. (= make contact)*
- The company has laid off two hundred workers because of a lack of new orders. (= dismissed)*
- The computer will print out the details.*
- The consultants put forward a proposal to reorganize the company. (= suggested)*
- I'll get the information for you. Can I ring you back in half an hour? (= phone again)*
- Sarah paid a visit to the client to try to sort out the difficulties. (= put right)*
- The company boss has stepped down after ten years in charge. (= left the job)*
- We are taking on the challenge of expanding overseas. (= accepting)*
- Large companies sometimes take over smaller ones. (= take control of)*

# Practice

## A Phrasal verbs in everyday situations (1)

Look at the pictures and say what is happening.

Use these phrasal verbs: *dig up, pick up, plug in, throw away, wash up*

Use these objects: *the armchair, litter, the plates, the road, the television*



▶ They're throwing the armchair away.

- |   |       |   |       |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1 | ..... | 3 | ..... |
| 2 | ..... | 4 | ..... |

## B Phrasal verbs and one-word verbs (2)

Rewrite the sentences replacing each underlined verb with a phrasal verb.

▶ We're trying to arrange a holiday together.  
 We're trying to fix up a holiday together.

- 1 Nick says he's stopped smoking.  
.....
- 2 How did the accident happen?  
.....
- 3 I think Matthew and Emma have quarrelled.  
.....
- 4 The problem isn't going to just disappear.  
.....
- 5 The government is introducing a new tax on computers.  
.....
- 6 Zedco want to establish a new sales office in Germany.  
.....

## C Business situations (3)

Complete the news article about Zedco. Put in these words: *fallen behind, fell through, fight off, laying off, put forward, sort out, step down, taking over, taken on*

Zedco Chief Executive Barry Douglas has (▶) put forward a new plan designed to (1) ..... the company's problems. It is only twelve months since Zedco tried to strengthen its position by (2) ..... Alpha Plastics. But the deal (3) ....., and Alpha managed to (4) ..... Zedco's attempts to take control. Since then Zedco has performed poorly and has (5) ..... in the race for market share. Managing Director James Ironside has had to (6) ....., and Barry Douglas has (7) ..... the task of rescuing the company. There are fears that the new plan will mean (8) ..... staff in order to reduce expenditure.





1 Introduction

Look at the two adverbs in the two phrasal verbs **push up** and **switch on**. Here **up** has the sense of 'increasing', and **on** has the sense of 'connected'. The same meanings can be used with other verbs: for example, sales can **go up**, or a company can **put up** prices. But remember that an adverb can have more than one meaning; **up** can also mean 'completely': *Aren't you going to **eat up** your cornflakes?* There are some examples of adverb meanings in 2.

2 Adverb meanings

- down = becoming less  
*turn down the music*  
*bring down the cost of living*
- down = completely to the ground  
*knock a house down*  
*cut down a tree*
- down = stopping completely  
*the car broke down*  
*a factory closing down*
- down = on paper  
*copy down the words*  
*write down the message*  
*note down the details*
- off = away, departing  
*set off on a journey*  
*jump in the car and drive off*  
*see Emma off at the station*  
*the plane took off*  
*the pain is wearing off*
- off = disconnected  
*switch off the heater*  
*cut off our electricity*  
*the caller rang off*
- on = connected  
*switch on the kettle*  
*turn on the TV*  
*leave the lights on all night*
- on = wearing  
*put a coat on*  
*try the sweater on*

Some phrasal verbs have more than one meaning:  
Can you **turn down** the radio? (= make less loud)  
I **turned down** the offer. (= refused)  
How do we **get around** this problem? (= deal with)  
The news will soon **get around**. (= be widely communicated)

- on = continuing  
*carry on working*  
*drive on a bit further*  
*hang on/hold on a minute*
- out = away, disappearing  
*wash out the dirt*  
*cross out a mistake*  
*blow out the candle*
- out = to different people  
*hand out free tickets*  
*share out the winnings*
- out = aloud  
*read out the article*  
*call out anxiously*
- out = from start to finish  
*write out the whole list*  
*work out the answer*
- over = from start to finish  
*check your work over*  
*think the problem over*
- up = increasing  
*prices are going up*  
*put up taxes*  
*speak up so we can hear*
- up = completely  
*eat up these chocolates*  
*fill up with petrol*  
*count up the money*  
*tear up the paper*

Practice

A Adverb meanings (2)

Look back at B and then write the meaning of the underlined words in these sentences.

- ▶ I must get these ideas down in writing. on paper
- 1 Daniel finished all the cake up.
- 2 I'm writing in pencil so I can rub out my mistakes.
- 3 Vicky didn't answer. She just went on reading.
- 4 I'll just read over what I've written.
- 5 A woman in the audience shouted something out.
- 6 The water was turned off for about an hour today.
- 7 Nick's aggressive manner frightens people off.
- 8 The company wants to keep its costs down.
- 9 The embassy was burnt down by terrorists.
- 10 Someone will have to type all these figures out.
- 11 Social workers were giving out soup to the hungry.
- 12 Luckily Zedco's sales figures are moving up again.
- 13 The man was tall and dark. He had a blue jacket on.
- 14 Business is so bad that many firms have shut down.

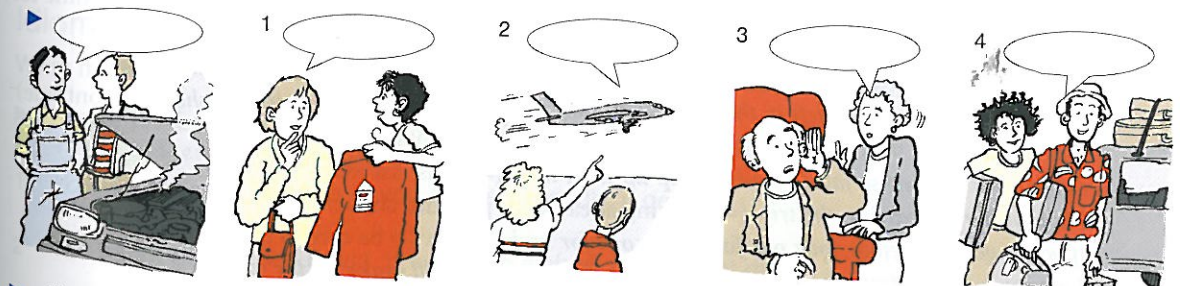
B Adverb meanings (2)

Put in the correct adverb.

- ▶ Melanie: Everything is so expensive. Prices seem to be going up all the time.  
David: Yes, and the government is supposed to be bringing inflation down.
- 1 Laura: You shouldn't leave the television ..... all night.  
Trevor: Sorry, I forgot. I usually turn it .....
- 2 Vicky: I've written the wrong word here.  
Rachel: Well, rub it .....
- 3 Vicky: I can't. It's in biro. I'll have to write the whole thing ..... again.  
Sarah: They're going to pull ..... this beautiful old building.  
Mark: I know. Some protesters were handing ..... leaflets about it.
- 4 Emma: Hold ..... a minute. I thought I heard someone call .....  
Matthew: I think you must have imagined it.

C Adverb meanings (2)

What are they saying? Put in the phrasal verbs.



- ▶ I'm afraid the car has broken down.
- 1 Why don't you ..... this coat? 3 I can't hear. Please .....
- 2 Look, the plane is ..... 4 We're just ..... on holiday.



# 131 Verb + adverb + preposition

## 1 Simple meanings

Look at these examples.

	VERB	ADVERB	PREPOSITION	
So you've	<b>come</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>from</b>	<i>the cold.</i>
The old man	<b>fell</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>on</b>	<i>the pavement.</i>
I couldn't	<b>get</b>	<b>through</b>	<b>to</b>	<i>directory enquiries.</i>
David decided to	<b>get</b>	<b>up</b>	<b>onto</b>	<i>the roof.</i>
It was nice to	<b>go</b>	<b>out</b>	<b>into</b>	<i>the fresh air.</i>
We	<b>look</b>	<b>out</b>	<b>over</b>	<i>the sea.</i>
Everyone	<b>looked</b>	<b>up</b>	<b>at</b>	<i>the aeroplane.</i>
Vicky	<b>ran</b>	<b>away</b>	<b>from</b>	<i>the fire.</i>

## 2 Idiomatic meanings

A verb + adverb + preposition often has a special, idiomatic meaning which isn't clear from the individual words. Look at these examples.

- Tom often **calls in on/drops in on** us without warning. (= pays short visits)
- You go **on ahead**. I'll soon **catch up with** you. (= reach the same place as)
- The police are going to **clamp down on** drug dealers. (= take strong action against)
- I'm afraid we've **come up against** another difficulty. (= be stopped by)
- Did Claire's trip **come up to/live up to** her expectations? (= Was it as good as she expected?)
- The country is **crying out for** a new leader. (= in great need of)
- We need to **cut back on** our spending. (= reduce)
- I'm trying to lose weight. I have to **cut down on** puddings. (= reduce)
- They should **do away with** these useless traditions. (= abolish)
- You've got to **face up to** your responsibilities. You can't just ignore them. (= not avoid)
- If plan A doesn't work, we've got plan B to **fall back on**. (= use if necessary)
- I'm tired, Mark. I don't really **feel up to** going out. (= have enough energy for)
- We can't go on holiday together if your dates don't **fit in with** mine. (= go together with)
- The thief managed to **get away with** about £2,000 in cash. (= steal and take away)
- The goods are damaged. We'll have to **get on to** our suppliers. (= contact)
- You haven't packed your suitcase yet. You'd better **get on with** it. (= start, continue)
- Mark doesn't really **get on with** Alan. They're always arguing. (= have a good relationship with)
- I have lots of little jobs to do, but I can never **get round to** actually doing them. (= find the right time for)
- I can't make a promise and then **go back on** it, can I? (= break, fail to keep)
- Matthew has decided to **go in for** the ten-mile 'Fun Run' this year. (= enter, compete in)
- Most of the audience had left in the interval, but the actors decided to **go on with** the show. (= continue)
- If you **hold on to** the rope, you'll be perfectly safe. (= keep your hands around)
- Daniel was walking so fast I couldn't **keep up with** him. (= go as fast as)
- I'm **looking forward to** the trip. (= thinking ahead with pleasure about)
- If you're going barefoot, **look out for/watch out for** broken glass. (= be careful about)
- I got some money from the insurance company, but nothing could **make up for** losing my wedding ring. (= compensate for)
- I'm not going to **put up with** this nonsense. (= tolerate)
- We've **run out of** milk, I'm afraid. (= We have none left.)
- Are you going to **send away for** your free gift? (= write to ask for)

## Practice

### A Simple meanings (1)

Put in these words: *away from, down on, in from, out into, through to, up at, up onto*

- ▶ To reach the light bulb, Trevor had to get up onto the table.
- 1 Nick hurt himself when he was skating. He fell ..... the ice.
- 2 It was a very long tunnel, but we finally came ..... the sunshine.
- 3 Wondering if it was going to rain, Vicky looked ..... the clouds.
- 4 People were running ..... the gunman as fast as they could.
- 5 I'm trying to phone my secretary, but I can't get ..... the office.
- 6 When I've come ..... the cold, I just want to sit by the fire.

### B Idiomatic meanings (2)

Put in a verb + adverb + preposition which means the same as the expression in brackets.

- ▶ I'm afraid this product doesn't live up to (be as good as) the claims made in the advertisement.
- 1 I'll just call at the garage. I don't want to ..... (have none left) petrol.
- 2 If you want a catalogue, I'll ..... (write to ask for) one.
- 3 We'd better ..... (be careful about) sheep in the road.
- 4 I ..... (think ahead with pleasure about) seeing you again soon, Emma.
- 5 The teacher was dictating so fast we couldn't ..... (go as fast as) her.
- 6 Why should we have to ..... (tolerate) this awful noise?
- 7 It's half past twelve. I'd better ..... (start) making lunch.
- 8 Do you think the committee will ..... (change) their earlier decision?
- 9 There was a problem with the cheque, so I decided to ..... (contact) my bank immediately.
- 10 I always like to ..... (enter) quiz competitions.
- 11 I'm trying to ..... (reduce) the amount of coffee I drink.
- 12 I might lose my job. And I haven't got any savings to ..... (use if necessary).
- 13 I've been meaning to reply to Rachel's email, but I haven't managed to ..... (find the right time for) it yet.
- 14 An apology alone cannot ..... (compensate for) all the inconvenience.

### C Idiomatic meanings (2)

What might you say in these situations? Use the words in brackets.

- ▶ You're tired. You can't go jogging. (don't feel up)  
I don't feel up to jogging.
- 1 You like Melanie. The two of you are very friendly. (I get) .....
- 2 You might go and see David. It would be a short visit. (might drop) .....
- 3 You don't mind what you do. You'll do the same as everyone else. (I'll fit) .....
- 4 You are too slow. Matthew is too far ahead of you. (can't catch up) .....
- 5 The sunny weather is nice. Last week was terrible. (is making up) .....



# 131 Verb + adverb + preposition

## 1 Simple meanings

Look at these examples.

	VERB	ADVERB	PREPOSITION	
So you've	come	in	from	the cold.
The old man	fell	down	on	the pavement.
I couldn't	get	through	to	directory enquiries.
David decided to	get	up	onto	the roof.
It was nice to	go	out	into	the fresh air.
We	look	out	over	the sea.
Everyone	looked	up	at	the aeroplane.
Vicky	ran	away	from	the fire.

## 2 Idiomatic meanings

A verb + adverb + preposition often has a special, idiomatic meaning which isn't clear from the individual words. Look at these examples.

- Tom often **calls in on/drops in on** us without warning. (= pays short visits)
- You **go on ahead**. I'll soon **catch up with** you. (= reach the same place as)
- The police are going to **clamp down on** drug dealers. (= take strong action against)
- I'm afraid we've **come up against** another difficulty. (= be stopped by)
- Did Claire's trip **come up to/live up to** her expectations? (= Was it as good as she expected?)
- The country is **crying out for** a new leader. (= in great need of)
- We need to **cut back on** our spending. (= reduce)
- I'm trying to lose weight. I have to **cut down on** puddings. (= reduce)
- They should **do away with** these useless traditions. (= abolish)
- You've got to **face up to** your responsibilities. You can't just ignore them. (= not avoid)
- If plan A doesn't work, we've got plan B to **fall back on**. (= use if necessary)
- I'm tired, Mark. I don't really **feel up to** going out. (= have enough energy for)
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