

Phrasal verbs 1 General points

A

in on up away by about over round *or* around
out off down back through along forward

So you can say **look out** / **get on** / **take off** / **run away** etc. These are *phrasal verbs*.

We often use **on/off/out** etc. with verbs of movement. For example:

- get on** ☐ The bus was full. We couldn't **get on**.
- drive off** ☐ A woman got into the car and **drove off**.
- come back** ☐ Sarah is leaving tomorrow and **coming back** on Saturday.
- turn round** ☐ When I touched him on the shoulder, he **turned round**.

But often the second word (**on/off/out** etc.) gives a special meaning to the verb. For example:

- break down** ☐ Sorry I'm late. The car **broke down**. (= the engine stopped working)
- look out** ☐ **Look out!** There's a car coming. (= be careful)
- take off** ☐ It was my first flight. I was nervous as the plane **took off**. (= went into the air)
- get on** ☐ How was the exam? How did you **get on**? (= How did you do?)
- get by** ☐ My French isn't very good, but it's enough to **get by**. (= manage)

For more phrasal verbs, see **Units 138–145**.

B

phrasal verb preposition

- | | | |
|--------------|------|--|
| run away | from | <input type="checkbox"/> Why did you run away from me? |
| keep up | with | <input type="checkbox"/> You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you. |
| look up | at | <input type="checkbox"/> We looked up at the plane as it flew above us. |
| look forward | to | <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking forward to your trip? |

C

I **turned on** the light. or I **turned** the light **on**.
 object *object*

If the object is a *pronoun* (**it/them/me/him** etc.), only one position is possible:

I **turned** it **on**. (*not* I turned on it)

Some more examples:

- Can you { **fill in** this form?
fill this form **in**?
- but They gave me a form and told me to **fill it in**. (*not fill in it*)
- Don't { **throw away** this box.
throw this box **away**.
- but I want to keep this box, so don't **throw it away**. (*not throw away it*)
- I'm going to { **take off** my shoes.
take my shoes **off**.
- but These shoes are uncomfortable. I'm going to **take them off**. (*not take off them*)
- Don't { **wake up** the baby.
wake the baby **up**.
- but The baby is asleep. Don't **wake her up**. (*not wake up her*)

Exercises

Unit
137

137.1 Complete each sentence using a verb from A (in the correct form) + a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A fly
look get
sit go
speak

B away
out by
round down
up

- 1 The bus was full. We couldn't get on.
- 2 I've been standing for the last two hours. I'm going to for a bit.
- 3 A cat tried to catch the bird, but it just in time.
- 4 We were trapped in the building. We couldn't
- 5 I can't hear you very well. Can you a little?
- 6 'Do you speak German?' 'Not very well, but I can
- 7 Everything has got so expensive. Prices have a lot.
- 8 I thought there was somebody behind me, but when I, there was nobody there.

137.2 Complete the sentences using a word from A and a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A away back forward in up

B at through to with

- 1 You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
- 2 My holidays are nearly over. Next week I'll be work.
- 3 We went the top floor of the building to admire the view.
- 4 The meeting tomorrow is going to be difficult. I'm not looking
- 5 There was a bank robbery last week. The robbers got £50,000.
- 6 I love to look the stars in the sky at night.
- 7 I was sitting in the kitchen when a bird flew the open window.

137.3 Complete the sentences using these phrasal verbs + it/them/me:

fill in

get out

give back

switch on

take off

wake up

- 1 They gave me a form and told me to fill it in.
- 2 I'm going to bed now. Can you at 6.30?
- 3 I've got something in my eye and I can't
- 4 I don't like it when people borrow things and don't
- 5 I want to use the hair dryer. How do I ?
- 6 My shoes are dirty. I'd better before going into the house.

137.4 Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Use a noun (this box etc.) or a pronoun (it/them etc.) + the word in brackets (away/up etc.).

- 1 Don't throw away this box. I want to keep it. (away)
- 2 I don't want this newspaper. You can throw it away. (away)
- 3 I borrowed these books from the library. I have to take tomorrow. (back)
- 4 We can turn Nobody is watching it. (off)
- 5 A: How did the vase get broken?
B: I'm afraid I knocked while I was cleaning. (over)
- 6 Shh! My mother is asleep. I don't want to wake (up)
- 7 It's cold today. You should put if you're going out. (on)
- 8 It was only a small fire. I was able to put easily. (out)
- 9 A: Is this hotel more expensive than when we stayed here last year?
B: Yes, they've put (up)
- 10 It's a bit dark in this room. Shall I turn ? (on)