

## What Are Phrasal Verbs?

**Phrasal verbs** are verbs that consist of two or more parts. These verbs have one verb and two or more **particles**.

A particle is usually an **adverb**. It can also be a **preposition**, added to a verb to form a phrasal verb.

## Particles Are Not Independent

Main verbs in phrasal verbs can have new meanings in addition to their own meanings.

Marcus showed the class his turtle.

After three months, he showed up at the dormitory.

In this example, the words 'show' and 'up' have separate meanings and together they create a phrasal verb meaning 'to arrive where you have arranged to meet somebody or do something'.

## Phrasal Verbs Can Have Many Meanings

When we say that phrasal verbs have one meaning, that does not mean they have only a single meaning. Many phrasal verbs have two or three or even more meanings. For example 'show up' (together, verb + particle) can have three meanings according to Oxford Learner's Dictionary.

After three months, he showed up at the dormitory.

Here, 'show up' means 'to arrive where you have arranged to meet somebody or do something'.

The moonlight showed up a beautiful lake in the forest.

Here, 'show up' means 'to make something start to be able to be seen'.

Kelly showed her mother up by crying out loud in the middle of the supermarket.

Here, 'show up' means 'to make somebody feel embarrassed by behaving badly.'

## Phrasal Verbs Are Mostly Informal

Phrasal verbs are commonly used in **informal** situations, which is why many of them have a one-word verb equivalent. For example, 'show up' can be substituted with 'arrive', and 'run out' can be substituted with 'finish'. Although they have a one-word equivalent, that does not mean they can be used in the same situations. We cannot replace a phrasal verb with its one-word equivalent all the time.

## Types of Phrasal Verbs

There are **four** types of phrasal verbs:

1. **Transitive** Separable Phrasal Verbs
2. Transitive Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

### 3. **Intransitive** Phrasal Verbs

### 4. Phrasal Verbs with More Than One Particles



**I took off my shoes.**

using the Phrasal Verb 'Take off' in a Sentence

## 1. Transitive Separable Phrasal Verbs

Transitive phrasal verbs must have an **object**. Otherwise, their meaning cannot be complete.

With transitive separable phrasal verbs, you can put the object between the verb and the particle, or place it afterward. Its meaning will be the same.

I took off my shoes.

I took my shoes off.

But if our object, is an **object pronoun** like 'it', 'me' or 'them', you cannot put the object after the particle. It must be put between the verb and the particle.

I took them off. (Not 'I ~~took off~~ them.')

## 2. Transitive Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

Inseparable phrasal verbs are **transitive**, but you cannot insert that direct object into the middle of the phrasal verb. In other words, they cannot be separated.

He picked on her because of her size. (Not 'He ~~picked~~ her ~~on~~ because of her size.')

## 3. Intransitive Phrasal Verbs

Intransitive phrasal verbs do not need an object to have a wholesome meaning.

He gets up at 7 every morning.

'Get up' is an intransitive phrasal verb which does not take an object.

## 4. Phrasal Verbs with More Than One Particles

Phrasal verbs can be **both** transitive and intransitive. They are a type of phrasal verb that has more than one particle, such as 'come up with'. With these phrasal verbs, you cannot generally separate the particles. So we say 'come up with something' and not, '~~come up something with~~'.

She's never really got on with her sister.

## Meaning of the Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs can have **two** types of meaning:

- **Literal Meaning**
- **Idiomatic Meaning**

He looked up at the sky and saw two birds flying.

Here, the phrasal verb 'look up' have a literal meaning and the particle 'up' means 'upward'.

He looked up the word 'sacrilegious' in the dictionary.

Here, the phrasal verb 'look up' have an idiomatic meaning and 'up' does not have an independent meaning.

## Review

**Phrasal verbs** are verbs with *two or more* parts. These verbs have **one** verb and *two or more* particles.

## Note

'Phrasal verbs' can have **more than one** meaning.

Transitive Separable Phrasal Verbs	Transitive Inseparable Phrasal Verbs	Intransitive Phrasal Verbs	Phrasal Verbs with More Than One Particles
Different types of phrasal verbs	I took off my shoes.	He picked on her because of her size.	He gets up at 7 every morning. He never comes up with good ideas.

## Spotlight

If your object is a **pronoun**, we can never bring them *at the end* of the sentence we should bring them *between* the verb and the particles.

### Meanings of Phrasal verbs

1. Literal Meaning
2. Idiomatic Meaning