

UNIT 132 Phrasal verbs (1)

Phrasal verbs are very common in spoken English. They consist of a verb and one or more adverbial particles or prepositions that modify the meaning of the verb.

In some cases, we can work out the meaning of a phrasal verb by knowing the meaning of its parts. However, in many other cases, the verb adopts a meaning that isn't obvious to someone whose mother tongue isn't English.

Phrasal verbs consisting of a verb + adverbial particle can be:

- intransitive, when they aren't followed by a direct object.

Why don't you sit down? Stand up, please.

- transitive, when they are followed by a direct object.

- If the direct object is a noun, the noun can be placed either before or after the adverbial particle.

*Switch on the light. / Switch the light on.
Cut out the pictures. / Cut the pictures out.*

- If the direct object is a pronoun, the pronoun always precedes the adverbial particle.

Switch it on. (not: ~~Switch on it.~~) Cut them out.

Phrasal verbs consisting of verb + adverbial particle + preposition are followed by an indirect object: *I can't put up with his smoking.*

The table below shows a few of the most common phrasal verbs, in alphabetical order.

be	off	<i>I'm off now.</i>
	on	<i>What's on at the cinema?</i>
	over	<i>The lesson is over.</i>
	up to	<i>What are you up to?</i>
break	down	<i>His car broke down on the way to work. She broke down when she heard the bad news.</i>
	out	<i>The Great Fire of London broke out in a baker's shop.</i>
	up	<i>Mandy and Bob have broken up.</i>
bring	about	<i>What has brought about this misunderstanding?</i>
	back	<i>Bring the newspaper back!</i>
	round	<i>We managed to bring the principal round to our point of view. This medicine should bring her round.</i>
	up	<i>One of my cousins has brought up eight children. We decided to bring up the matter at the next meeting.</i>
call	in	<i>Helen called in to see me the other day.</i>
	off	<i>The match was called off.</i>
catch	up with	<i>You were absent for some time, so you have to catch up with the work we've been doing.</i>
carry	on	<i>Carry on like that, and you'll pass your exam.</i>
	out	<i>Why didn't you carry out the experiment?</i>

Student's notes

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EXERCISES

Phrasal verbs (1) UNIT 132

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

132.1 Complete the second sentence with a verb from the box so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.

be off ~~be on~~ be on be over be up to (x2)

- 1 What's showing at the theatre next week?
What..... at the theatre next week?
- 2 What did you do at the seaside last Saturday?
What at the seaside last Saturday?
- 3 I think John's going to leave in a moment.
I think John in a moment.
- 4 You fell asleep! The film finished an hour ago!
You fell asleep! The film for an hour!
- 5 The man behaved in a suspicious way. He was certainly doing something illegal.
The man behaved in a suspicious way. He certainly something illegal.
- 6 They are showing a good documentary film this afternoon.
A good documentary film this afternoon.

132.2 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Do you know what has brought **about / along** his depression?
- 2 Bring **on / back** free bus passes for students!
- 3 She's fainted, but these smelling salts will bring her **up / round**.
- 4 We brought **up / in** the issue of payment with our boss.
- 5 When he heard about the accident, he broke **up / down** in tears.
- 6 It was some time after the fire broke **in / out** that the fire engine arrived.
- 7 I was saddened when I heard that Andy and Liz had broken **up / down**.
- 8 Both my parents were brought **up / about** in the country.

132.3 Complete the sentences using the verbs in the box.

~~call~~ call catch carry (x2)

- 1 I'm going to in at my mother's on the way home.
- 2 He ran so fast that I couldn't up with him.
- 3 The soldiers didn't out the mission as they could have done.
- 4 On the day before her big party, Sally decided to it off.
- 5 I had to take a rest – I was just too tired to on.

132.4 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

- 1 Ben's acting strangely. I wonder what he's ?
- 2 Mandy has brought by her grandparents.
- 3 Why don't you call and see us tomorrow?
- 4 The 1st World war broke in 1914.
- 5 Joe just carried talking even when Grandpa went to sleep!
- 6 I missed a class so I have to catch next week.

Teacher's observations