

Phrasal verbs 2

Adapted from "First Certificate Language Practice" by Michael Vince

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* (invent)

*I think you **made** this story **up**.*

*The couple quarrelled but then **made up***.* (become friends again)

Pick up (collect)

*I'll **pick** you **up** at six.* (collect)

Put aside

*Harry **puts** money **aside** every week for his holiday.* (save)

Put off

*They **put** the meeting **off** until Thursday.* (postpone)

*The smell of fish **put** me **off** my tea.* (make someone not want to do something)

Put up

*If you come to Florence I can **put** you **up**.* (provide accommodation)

Show around

*Let me **show** you **around** the new building.* (give a guided tour)

Take over*

A German company **took us over** last year. (buy a company)
If you are tired, I'll **take over***. (take someone's place)

Take up

I've decided to **take up** tennis. (start a hobby)

Tear up

Wendy **tore up** Alan's letters. (tear into pieces)

Think over

Please **think over** our offer. (consider)

Try out

Have you **tried out** the new computer? (use for the first time)

Turn down

Paul was offered the job but he **turned it down**. (refuse an offer)

Wear out

All this work has **worn me out**. (make tired)

Work out

This is a difficult problem. I can't **work it out**. (find a solution)

Verbs with one particle: These phrasal verbs have no object. Verbs marked with an asterisk * have a second meaning. With this **intransitive** meaning they have a transitive form. There are other meanings not included here.

Break down

The car **broke down** on the motorway. (stop working)

Break out

The war **broke out** unexpectedly. (begin suddenly)

Come out

Her new book **came out** last week. (be published)

Draw up*

Suddenly an ambulance **drew up** outside. (come to a stop)

*My lawyer is **drawing up** a contract for us*. (write a legal document)*

Fall out

*Charles and Emily have **fallen out** again. (quarrel)*

Get away

*The bank robbers **got away** in a stolen van. (escape)*

Give in

*She pleaded with me, and I finally **gave in**. (stop fighting against)*

Go off

*Everyone panicked when the bomb **went off**. (explode)*

Look out

***Look out!** There's a car coming! (beware)*

Set in

*I think the rain has **set in** for the day. (to arrive and stay)*

Show off

You always show off at parties. (behave to attract attention)

Take off

Your plane takes off at 6.00. (leave the ground)

Turn up*

*Guess who **turned up** at our party? (arrive, often unexpectedly)
Can you **turn up** the sound*? (increase)*

Wear off

*When the drug **wears off** you may feel pain. (become less strong or disappear)*