

Phrasal verbs

A verb (sit, stand, get, etc.) + A particle (up, on, off, etc.)





lie down



fall over



sit down



stand up

Phrasal verb	Example	Meaning
give something up	<i>He had to give up football.</i>	stop doing something
get on with someone	<i>I like Sue; we get on well.</i>	have a good relationship
take off	<i>The plane couldn't take off.</i>	leave the ground and start flying
grow up	<i>When Ben grows up, he wants to be a vet.</i>	change from a child to an adult
find out something	<i>I must find out the times of the trains to Southampton.</i>	find a fact or piece of information you need/want
go out	<i>Let's go out this evening.</i>	leave your home to do a social activity, e.g. cinema, disco, etc.

spotlight

Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are very common in spoken English. We don't use them as often in formal written English. Be careful: some have more than one meaning:

*The plane couldn't **take off**.*

*You can **take off** your jacket.*

1 Circle the correct particle.

- ▶ I'd like to lie up/down for a few minutes.
- 1 Can we find out/over the cost of the tickets?
- 2 Where did she grow out/up?
- 3 He fell over/on when he ran down the road.
- 4 Do you want to go out/off this evening?
- 5 Pearl wants to give on/up her job.
- 6 Do you get in/on well with your parents?

2 Complete the sentences with the correct particle.

► Pasha doesn't want to go out this evening; she's tired.

1 I don't know the name of the hotel, but I can find out.

2 Everyone stood up when he came into the room.

3 Maciej doesn't spend much time with his sister; they don't get on very well.

4 She sat down at the table and started eating.

5 The doctor told me to lie down on the bed.

6 I told my brother to give up smoking.

7 The plane took off half an hour late because of the bad weather.

8 She fell over in the street, but several people helped her.

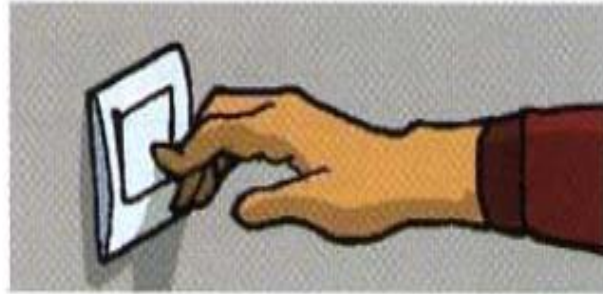
Some phrasal verbs don't have an object.

Phrasal verb	Example	Meaning
go up	<i>The price of petrol will go up soon.</i>	increase, become more
carry on with something	<i>Can we carry on with the exercise?</i>	continue with something
go back	<i>She wants to go back to London.</i>	return to a place
wake up	<i>I always wake up at 7.00 a.m.</i>	stop sleeping

Other phrasal verbs need an object. It can go before or after the particle.



Take off your jacket.
Take your jacket **off**.



Could you **turn on** the light?
Could you **turn** the light **on**?



Put on your shoes.
Put your shoes **on**.

When the object is a pronoun (e.g. *it*, *them*) it must go before the particle.

Take it **off**. (NOT ~~Take off it.~~)

Can I **try** them **on**? (NOT ... ~~try on them.~~)

Could you **turn** it **on**? (NOT ... ~~turn on it.~~)

Look it **up** in that dictionary. (NOT ... ~~Look up it.~~)

4

Change the **bold** words to *it* or *them*. Put the pronoun in the correct place.

▶ Look up **the word**. Look it up.

▶ Look up **both words**. Look them up.

1 Take off **your jacket**. Take it off.

2 Try on **these trousers**. Try them on.

3 Turn on **the TV**. Turn it on.

4 Put **those socks** on. Put them on.

5 Take off **your shoes**. Take them off.

6 Try on **this shirt**. Try it on.

7 Turn on **the lights**. Turn them on.

8 Put **your coat** on. Put it on.

5 Are the sentences correct or do they need the pronoun *it*? Where? Look at the examples.

▶ Could you turn on, please? *Could you turn it on, please?*

▶ Please sit down. *correct*

1 Could I try on? *Could I try it on?*

2 Do you want to go back? *Correct*

3 You can take off if you're hot. *You can take it off if you're hot.*

4 Look up in the dictionary. *Look it up in the dictionary.*

5 His salary will go up soon. *Correct*

6 Do they want to stop or carry on? *Correct*

7 Did you put on? *Did you put it on?*

8 What time do you usually wake up? *Correct*

