

## 79

## Phrasal verbs 1: form and meaning

## A Formation

A phrasal verb is a verb + adverb or preposition, and sometimes a verb + adverb *and* preposition.

He **fell over** [fell to the ground] and hurt his knee.

I'll try to **find out** [learn/discover] the quickest way to get there.

He didn't like his coat, so he **gave it away**. [gave it to someone for no money]

If you don't understand the meaning, **look it up**. [find the meaning in a book/dictionary]

Who's going to **sort out** the problem? [deal with it successfully; solve it]

He doesn't **get on with** [have a good relationship with] his parents. (verb + adv. + prep.)

## B Meaning

The adverb or preposition does not always change the meaning of the verb, and is not always used.

I didn't **wake (up)** until 7 o'clock.

She's **saving (up)** for a new computer.

**Hurry (up)** or we'll be late.

I went to **lie (down)** on the bed.

Sometimes an adverb adds a particular meaning to the verb. For example, **back** can mean *return*.

I bought this jacket yesterday, but I'm going to **take it back** to the shop; it's too small.

You can look at the books, but remember to **put them back** on the shelf.

They liked Greece so much they want to **go back** next year.

Often, the adverb or preposition changes the meaning of the verb: *give up* doesn't mean the same as *give*, and *carry on* doesn't mean the same as *carry*.

My wife has decided to **give up** [stop] smoking.

We'll take a short break and then **carry on** [continue] with the meeting.

The shops are going to **put up** [increase] the price of bread.

When the hotel gets busy, we have to **take on** [employ] more staff.

## C Multiple meanings

Many phrasal verbs have more than one meaning.

**go away**

I was busy, so I told him to **go away**. [leave]

We try to **go away** in August. [go on holiday]

**Pick something / someone up**

I **picked up** most of the rubbish. [lifted it from the floor]

I'm going to **pick Jane up** at the station. [collect someone, usually in a car]

**Put something on**

Could you **put the light on**? [make a piece of equipment work by pressing a switch; *syn* **switch sth on**]

I **put on** my best suit. [put clothes on your body]



## Exercises

### 79.1 Choose the correct adverb or preposition to complete the sentence.

- |   |        |             |        |
|---|--------|-------------|--------|
| 1 I can't see. Could you put the light .....            | a in   | <b>b on</b> | c out  |
| 2 If he doesn't want it, he can give it .....           | a out  | b away      | c up   |
| 3 Have they sorted it .....                             | a out  | b over      | c up   |
| 4 It was broken, so I had to take it .....              | a over | b on        | c back |
| 5 I went to the airport to pick her .....               | a up   | b down      | c over |
| 6 What time did you wake .....                          | a to   | b up        | c for  |
| 7 I get married next year. I need to start saving ..... | a out  | b on        | c up   |
| 8 Could you switch the TV .....                         | a down | b on        | c in   |

### 79.2 Replace the underlined word(s) with a phrasal verb that keeps a similar meaning.

- We never discovered what it means. *found out*
- I'd like to return next year.
- We collected Kelly from the station.
- We'll have to increase the price this year.
- I've decided to stop eating chocolate.
- Is Hana going to continue with her English course?
- I told them to leave.
- I have a good relationship with my parents.
- We are planning to employ ten new drivers next year.

### 79.3 Look at the dictionary entry for *go off* and match the meanings with the sentences below.

- When the light goes off, the machine has finished. ...3...
- My alarm clock went off early this morning. ....
- I think this meat has gone off. ....
- The bomb went off without any warning. ....
- Faye went off early; she had to meet a friend. ....

**go off** **1** [LEAVE] to leave a place and go somewhere else *She's gone off to the pub with Tony.* **2** [FOOD] UK informal If food goes off it is not good to eat anymore because it is too old. **3** [STOP] If a light or machine goes off, it stops working. *The heating goes off at 10 o'clock.* **4** [EXPLODE] If a bomb or gun goes off, it explodes or fires. **5** [MAKE NOISE] If something that makes a noise goes off, it suddenly starts making a noise. *His car alarm goes off every time it rains.*

### 79.4 Complete the dialogues.

- A: Can you afford that bike?  
B: No, I'll have to *save up* for it.
- A: Is there still a problem?  
B: Don't worry. I'll ..... it .....
- A: Can we look at some books?  
B: Yes, but ..... them ..... afterwards.
- A: Did you feel unwell?  
B: Yes, I had to ..... on the bed.
- A: What's the matter?  
B: I ..... and cut my knee.
- A: I don't know what this means.  
B: Well, ..... it ..... in a dictionary.
- A: Does he look smart?  
B: Yes. He's ..... his suit.
- A: ..... or we'll be late.  
B: OK, I'm coming.

## 77

## Verb or adjective + preposition

## A Verb + preposition

Pay special attention to prepositions that are different in your language.

Paul doesn't like the manager's decision and I **agree with** him. [have the same opinion as]

Don't **worry about** your exam. [be nervous about]

His teachers were **satisfied with** his progress. [pleased with]

Many people **spend** a lot of money **on** clothes.

I'm **thinking of** going to China. [it's my plan to go] (used in the continuous form)

This land **belongs to** the company. [it is the company's land]

I **translated** the letter **into** French. [changed from one language into another]

She **complained to** the manager **about** the food. [said she wasn't happy/satisfied with]

I can't **concentrate on** [think about] my work when the radio is playing.

We can **rely on** this photocopier. [trust it; it will not go wrong]

I may go but it **depends on** the weather. [used to say you are not sure about something]

## Language help

**Depend (on)** has other meanings:

Martha **depends on** her son for money. [she needs his money]

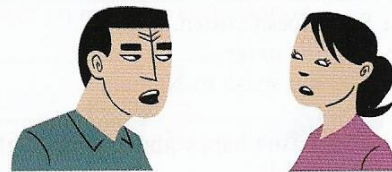
We can **depend on** the others for support. [we can trust the others to support us]

Remember: it **depends on** something or someone (NOT it depends of something or someone)

## B Prepositions that change the meaning



She **shouted to** me. [spoke in a loud voice to be heard]



He **shouted at** me. [spoke in a loud voice because he was angry]



He **threw the ball to** me. [for me to catch it]



He **threw the ball at** me. [in order to hit me]

## C Adjective + preposition

I've never been very **good at** maths. (*opp* bad at)

She's **afraid of** flying. [frightened of]

The neighbours **are fond of** the children. [like]

She's **similar to** her sister [the same as her in some ways], but very **different from** her brother.

He's very **interested in** photography.

I think she's **aware of** the problem. [knows about]

I'm **tired of** people telling me what to do. [bored or a bit angry about]

Katya is **mad about** Brad Pitt. [likes him very much; *informal*]

We're **short of** coffee at the moment. [we don't have much]

There's **something wrong with** this TV. [the TV is not working correctly]

# Exercises

## 80.1 Correct any mistakes with word order in the sentences. Be careful: some are correct.

- 1 She asked me to hand ~~out~~ them. *hand them out*
- 2 I've got some boots but I'll put on them later.
- 3 Could you turn the light on?
- 4 My boots were tight and I couldn't take off them.
- 5 We set off very early this morning.
- 6 Why did they turn down it?
- 7 The boys were hanging the station around.

## 80.2 Replace the underlined word with a phrasal verb that makes the sentence more informal.

- 1 Could you wait a minute, please? *hold on*
- 2 As so many people are ill, I've had to postpone the meeting till next week. ....
- 3 The teacher told us to invent a story to go with the picture in our books. ....
- 4 They omitted a number of the names from my list. ....
- 5 I don't know why he rejected my offer of help. ....
- 6 The train should arrive by ten o'clock. ....

## 80.3 Write a sentence to describe what is happening or what has happened in the pictures.



1 He's putting on his jacket.



3 .....



5 .....



2 .....



4 .....



6 .....

## 80.4 Complete the phrasal verbs.

- 1 I'm not stopping, so I won't take *off* ..... my coat.
- 2 We didn't think Mike was good enough, so we left him .....
- 3 He told me he was 25, but I don't believe him. I think he's making that .....
- 4 We'll get there by seven if we set ..... now.
- 5 I'll call ..... you a bit later. I should be at your house by 7 o'clock.
- 6 They offered him the job but he turned it .....

## 80.5 Complete these sentences in a suitable way.

- 1 It was cold so I put on *my gloves/coat/scarf* .....
- 2 Monica is still getting over .....
- 3 I'm not very good at making up .....
- 4 She asked me to turn on .....
- 5 Two men tried to break into .....
- 6 She's going out, so I said I'd look after .....