Unit 137

Phrasal verbs 1 General points

A

We often use verbs with the following words:

in	**on**	**up**	**away**	**by**	**about**	**over**	**round** *or* **around**
out	**off**	**down**	**back**	**through**	**along**	**forward**	

So you can say **look out / get on / take off / run away** etc. These are *phrasal verbs*.

We often use **on/off/out** etc. with verbs of movement. For example:

- **get on** — The bus was full. We couldn't **get on**.
- **drive off** — A woman got into the car and **drove off**.
- **come back** — Sarah is leaving tomorrow and **coming back** on Saturday.
- **turn round** — When I touched him on the shoulder, he **turned round**.

But often the second word (**on/off/out** etc.) gives a special meaning to the verb. For example:

- **break down** — Sorry I'm late. The car **broke down**. (= the engine stopped working)
- **look out** — **Look out**! There's a car coming. (= be careful)
- **take off** — It was my first flight. I was nervous as the plane **took off**. (= went into the air)
- **get on** — How was the exam? How did you **get on**? (= How did you do?)
- **get by** — My French isn't very good, but it's enough to **get by**. (= manage)

For more phrasal verbs, see Units 138–145.

B

Sometimes a phrasal verb is followed by a *preposition*. For example:

phrasal verb	*preposition*	
run away	**from**	Why did you **run away from** me?
keep up	**with**	You're walking too fast. I can't **keep up with** you.
look up	**at**	We **looked up at** the plane as it flew above us.
look forward	**to**	Are you **looking forward to** your trip?

C

Sometimes a phrasal verb has an *object*. Usually there are two possible positions for the object. So you can say:

I **turned on** the light. (*object*) *or* I **turned** the light **on**. (*object*)

If the object is a *pronoun* (**it/them/me/him** etc.), only one position is possible:

I **turned** it **on**. (*not* I turned on it)

Some more examples:

- Can you **fill in** this form? / **fill** this form **in**?

but They gave me a form and told me to **fill it in**. (*not* fill in it)

- Don't **throw away** this box. / **throw** this box **away**.

but I want to keep this box, so don't **throw it away**. (*not* throw away it)

- I'm going to **take off** my shoes. / **take** my shoes **off**.

but These shoes are uncomfortable. I'm going to **take them off**. (*not* take off them)

- Don't **wake up** the baby. / **wake** the baby **up**.

but The baby is asleep. Don't **wake her up**. (*not* wake up her)

Phrasal verbs 2–9 → **Units 138–145** American English → **Appendix 7**

Unit 138

Phrasal verbs 2 in/out

A

Compare **in** and **out**:

in = into a room, a building, a car etc.

- How did the thieves **get in**?
- Here's a key, so you can **let yourself in**.
- Lisa walked up to the edge of the pool and **dived in**. (= into the water)
- I've got a new apartment. I'm **moving in** on Friday.
- As soon as I got to the airport, I **checked in**.

In the same way you can say **go in**, **come in**, **walk in**, **break in** etc.

Compare **in** and **into**:

- I'm moving **in** next week.
- I'm moving **into my new flat** on Friday.

out = out of a room, building, a car etc.

- He just stood up and **walked out**.
- I had no key, so I was **locked out**.
- She swam up and down the pool, and then **climbed out**.
- Andy opened the window and **looked out**.
- *(at a hotel)* What time do we have to **check out**?

In the same way you can say **go out**, **get out**, **move out**, **let** somebody **out** etc.

Compare **out** and **out of**:

- He walked **out**.
- He walked **out of the room**.

B

Other verbs + **in**

drop in = *visit somebody for a short time without arranging to do this*

- I **dropped in** to see Chris on my way home.

join in = *take part in an activity that is already going on*

- They were playing cards, so I **joined in**.

plug in an electrical machine = *connect it to the electricity supply*

- The fridge isn't working because you haven't **plugged** it **in**.

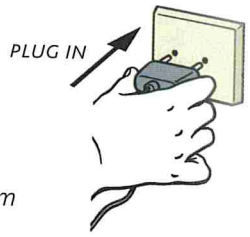
fill in a form, a questionnaire etc. = *write the necessary information on a form*

- Please **fill in** the application form and send it to us by 28 February.

You can also say **fill out** a form.

take somebody **in** = *deceive somebody*

- The man said he was a policeman and I believed him. I was completely **taken in**.



C

Other verbs + **out**

eat out = *eat at a restaurant, not at home*

- There wasn't anything to eat at home, so we decided to **eat out**.

drop out of college, university, a course, a race = *stop before you have completely finished a course/race etc.*

- Gary went to university but **dropped out** after a year.

get out of something that you arranged to do = *avoid doing it*

- I promised I'd go to the wedding. I don't want to go, but I can't **get out** of it now.

cut something **out** (of a newspaper etc.)

- There was a beautiful picture in the magazine, so I **cut** it **out** and kept it.

leave something **out** = *omit it, not include it*

- In the sentence 'She said that she was ill', you can **leave out** the word 'that'.

cross something **out** / **rub** something **out**

- Some of the names on the list had been **crossed out**. ~~Sarah~~ *cross out*

Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) → Unit 137 More verbs + **out** → Unit 139

Unit 138

Phrasal verbs 2 in/out

A

Compare **in** and **out**:

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- Andy opened the window and **looked out**.
- *(at a hotel)* What time do we have to **check out**?

In the same way you can say **go out**, **get out**, **move out**, **let** somebody **out** etc.

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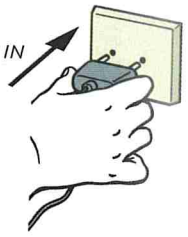
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Other verbs + **out**

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- I promised I'd go to the wedding. I don't want to go, but I can't **get out** of it now.

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- There was a beautiful picture in the magazine, so I **cut** it **out** and kept it.

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- In the sentence 'She said that she was ill', you can **leave out** the word 'that'.

cross something **out** / **rub** something **out**

- Some of the names on the list had been **crossed out**. ~~Sarah~~ *cross out*

Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) → Unit 137 More verbs + **out** → Unit 139

Unit 139

Phrasal verbs 3 **out**

A

out = not burning, not shining

go out
put out a fire / a cigarette / a light
turn out a light
blow out a candle

- Suddenly all the lights in the building **went out**.
- We managed to **put** the fire **out**.
- I **turned** the lights **out** before leaving.
- We don't need the candle. You can **blow** it **out**.

B

work out

work out = *do physical exercises*
- Rachel **works out** at the gym three times a week.

work out = *develop, progress*
- Good luck for the future. I hope everything **works out** well for you.
- A: Why did James leave the company?
  B: Things didn't **work out**. (= things didn't work out well)

work out (for mathematical calculations)
- The total bill for three people is £84.60. That **works out** at £28.20 each.

work something **out** = *calculate, think about a problem and find the answer*
- 345 × 76? I need to do this on paper. I can't **work** it **out** in my head.

C

Other verbs + **out**

carry out an order, an experiment, a survey, an investigation, a plan etc.
- Soldiers are expected to **carry out** orders.
- An investigation into the accident will be **carried out** as soon as possible.

fall out (**with** somebody) = *stop being friends*
- They used to be very good friends. I'm surprised to hear that they have **fallen out**.
- David **fell out with** his father and left home.

find out that/what/when … etc., **find out about** something = *get information*
- The police never **found out** who committed the murder.
- I just **found out** that it's Helen's birthday today.
- I checked a few websites to **find out about** hotels in the town.

give/hand things **out** = *give to each person*
- At the end of the lecture, the speaker **gave out** information sheets to the audience.

point something **out** (**to** somebody) = *draw attention to something*
- As we drove through the city, our guide **pointed out** all the sights.
- I didn't realise I'd made a mistake until somebody **pointed** it **out to** me.

run out (**of** something)
- We **ran out of** petrol on the motorway. (= we used all our petrol)

sort something **out** = *find a solution to, put in order*
- There are a few problems we need to **sort out**.
- All these papers are mixed up. I'll have to **sort** them **out**.

turn out to be … , **turn out** good/nice etc. , **turn out** that …
- Nobody believed Paul at first, but he **turned out** to be right. (= it became clear in the end that he was right)
- The weather wasn't so good in the morning, but it **turned out** nice later.
- I thought they knew each other, but it **turned out** that they'd never met.

try out a machine, a system, a new idea etc. = *test it to see if it is OK*
- The company is **trying out** a new computer system at the moment.

Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) → Unit 137 More verbs + **out** → Unit 138

Unit 140

Phrasal verbs 4 **on/off** (1)

A

On and **off** for lights, machines etc.

We say: the light **is on** / **put** the light **on** / **leave** the light **on** etc.
turn the light **on/off** *or* **switch** the light **on/off**

- Shall **I leave** the lights **on** or **turn** them **off**?
- '**Is** the heating **on**?' 'No, I **switched** it **off**.'
- We need some boiling water, so I'll **put** the kettle **on**.

Also **put on** some music / a CD etc.

- I haven't listened to this CD yet. Shall I **put** it **on**? (= shall I play it)

B

On and **off** for events etc.

go on = *happen*

- What's all that noise? What's **going on**? (= what's happening)

call something **off** = *cancel it*

- The open air concert had to be **called off** because of the weather.

put something **off**, **put off** doing something = *delay it*

- The wedding has been **put off** until January.
- We can't **put off** making a decision. We have to decide now.

C

On and **off** for clothes etc.

put on clothes, glasses, make-up, a seat belt etc.

- My hands were cold, so I **put** my gloves **on**.

Also **put on** weight = *get heavier*

- I've **put on** two kilograms in the last month.

try on clothes (to see if they fit)

- I **tried on** a jacket in the shop, but it didn't fit me very well.

take off clothes, glasses etc.

- It was warm, so I **took off** my jacket.

D

Off = away from a person or place

be off (to a place)

- Tomorrow I'**m off** to Paris / I'**m off** on holiday.
  (= I'm going to Paris / I'm going on holiday)

walk off / **run off** / **drive off** / **ride off** / **go off** (similar to **walk away** / **run away** etc.)

- Diane got on her bike and **rode off**.
- Mark left home at the age of 18 and **went off** to Canada.

set off = *start a journey*

- We **set off** very early to avoid the traffic. (= We left early)

take off = *leave the ground (for planes)*

- After a long delay the plane finally **took off**.

see somebody **off** = *go with them to the airport/station to say goodbye*

- Helen was going away. We went to the station with her to **see her off**.

Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) → **Unit 137** More verbs + **on/off** → **Unit 141**

Unit 141

Phrasal verbs 5 on/off (2)

A *Verb* + **on** = continue doing something

drive on / walk on / play on = *continue driving/walking/playing etc.*
- Shall we stop at this petrol station or shall we **drive on** to the next one?

go on = *continue*
- The party **went on** until 4 o'clock in the morning.

go on / carry on doing something = *continue doing something*
- We can't **go on** spending money like this. We'll have nothing left soon.
- I don't want to **carry on** working here. I'm going to look for another job.

Also **go on with / carry on with** something
- Don't let me disturb you. Please **carry on with** what you're doing.

keep on doing something = *do it continuously or repeatedly*
- He **keeps on** criticising me. I'm fed up with it!

B Get on

get on = *progress*
- How are you **getting on** in your new job? (= How is it going?)

get on (**with** somebody) = *have a good relationship*
- Joanne and Karen don't **get on**. They're always arguing.
- Richard **gets on** well **with** his neighbours. They're all very friendly.

get on with something = *continue doing something you have to do, usually after an interruption*
- I must **get on with** my work. I have a lot to do.

C *Verb* + **off**

doze off / drop off / nod off = *fall asleep*
- The lecture wasn't very interesting. In fact I **dozed off** in the middle of it.

finish something **off** = *do the last part of something*
- A: Have you finished painting the kitchen?
  B: Nearly. I'll **finish** it **off** tomorrow.

go off = *explode*
- A bomb **went off** in the city centre, but fortunately nobody was hurt.

Also an alarm can **go off** = *ring*
- Did you hear the alarm **go off**?

put somebody **off** (doing something) = *cause somebody not to want something or to do something*
- We wanted to go to the exhibition, but we were **put off** by the long queue.
- What **put** you **off** applying for the job? Was the salary too low?

rip somebody **off** = *cheat somebody (informal)*
- Did you really pay £2,000 for that painting? I think you were **ripped off**. (= you paid too much)

show off = *try to impress people with your ability, your knowledge etc.*
- Look at that boy on the bike riding with no hands. He's just **showing off**.

tell somebody **off** = *speak angrily to somebody because they did something wrong*
- Clare's mother **told** her **off** for wearing dirty shoes in the house.

Go on / carry on / keep on → Unit 53B
More verbs + on/off → Unit 140
Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) → Unit 137
American English → Appendix 7

Exe

141.1

141.2

141.3

→ Ad

Unit 142

Phrasal verbs 6 up/down

A Compare up and down:

put something **up** (on a wall etc.)
- I **put** a picture **up** on the wall.

pick something **up**
- There was a letter on the floor. I **picked** it **up** and looked at it.

stand up
- Alan **stood up** and walked out.

turn something **up**
- I can't hear the TV. Can you **turn** it **up** a bit?

take something **down** (from a wall etc.)
- I didn't like the picture, so I **took** it **down**.

put something **down**
- I stopped writing and **put down** my pen.

sit down / bend down / lie down
- I **bent down** to tie my shoelace.

turn something **down**
- The oven is too hot. **Turn** it **down** to 150 degrees.

B Knock down, cut down etc.

knock down a building, **blow** something **down**, **cut** something **down** etc.
- Some old houses were **knocked down** to make way for the new shopping centre.
- Why did you **cut down** the tree in your garden?

be **knocked down** (by a car etc.)
- A man was **knocked down** by a car and taken to hospital.

burn down = *be destroyed by fire*
- They were able to put out the fire before the house **burnt down**.

C Down = getting less

slow down = *go more slowly*
- You're driving too fast. **Slow down**.

calm (somebody) **down** = *become calmer, make somebody calmer*
- **Calm down**. There's no point in getting angry.

cut down (**on** something) = *eat, drink or do something less often*
- I'm trying to **cut down on** coffee. I drink too much of it.

D Other verbs + down

break down = *stop working (for machines, cars, relationships etc.)*
- The car **broke down** and I had to phone for help.
- Their marriage **broke down** after only a few months.

close down / shut down = *stop doing business*
- There used to be a shop at the end of the street; it **closed down** a few years ago.

let somebody **down** = *disappoint them because you didn't do what they hoped*
- You can always rely on Paul. He'll never **let** you **down**.

turn somebody/something **down** = *refuse an application, an offer etc.*
- I applied for several jobs, but I was **turned down** for all of them.
- Rachel was offered the job, but she decided to **turn** it **down**.

write something **down** = *write something on paper because you may need the information later*
- I can't remember Tim's address. I **wrote** it **down**, but I can't find it.

Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) → Unit 137 More verbs + up → Units 143–144

Unit 143

Phrasal verbs 7 **up** (1)

A

go up / come up / walk up (to ...) = *approach*

- A man **came up to** me in the street and asked me for money.

catch up (with somebody), **catch** somebody **up** = *move faster than somebody in front of you so that you reach them*

- I'm not ready to go yet. You go on and I'll **catch up with** you / I'll **catch** you **up**.

keep up (with somebody) = *continue at the same speed or level*

- You're walking too fast. I can't **keep up (with** you).
- You're doing well. **Keep** it **up**!

B

set up an organisation, a company, a business, a system, a website etc. = *start it*

- The government has **set up** a committee to investigate the problem.

take up a hobby, a sport, an activity etc. = *start doing it*

- Laura **took up** photography a few years ago. She takes really good pictures.

fix up a meeting etc. = *arrange it*

- We've **fixed up** a meeting for next Monday.

C

grow up = *become an adult*

- Ann was born in Hong Kong but **grew up** in Australia.

bring up a child = *raise, look after a child*

- Her parents died when she was a child and she was **brought up** by her grandparents.

D

clean up / clear up / tidy up something = *make it clean, tidy etc.*

- Look at this mess! Who's going to **tidy up**? (*or* **tidy** it **up**)

wash up = *wash the plates, dishes etc. after a meal*

- I hate **washing up**. (*or* I hate **doing the washing-up**.)

E

end up somewhere, **end up** doing something etc.

- There was a fight in the street and three men **ended up** in hospital. (= that's what happened to these men in the end)
- I couldn't find a hotel and **ended up** sleeping on a bench at the station. (= that's what happened to me in the end)

give up = *stop trying*, **give** something **up** = *stop doing it*

- Don't **give up**. Keep trying!
- Sue got bored with her job and decided to **give** it **up**. (= stop doing it)

make up something, be **made up of** something

- Children under 16 **make up** half the population of the city. (= half the population are children under 16)
- Air is **made up** mainly **of** nitrogen and oxygen. (= Air consists of ...)

take up space or time = *use space or time*

- Most of the space in the room was **taken up** by a large table.

turn up / show up = *arrive, appear*

- We arranged to meet David last night, but he didn't **turn up**.

use something **up** = *use all of it so that nothing is left*

- I'm going to make some soup. We have a lot of vegetables and I want to **use them up**.

Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) → **Unit 137** More verbs + **up** → **Units 142, 144**

Unit 144

Phrasal verbs 8 **up** (2)

A

bring up a topic etc. = *introduce it in a conversation*

- I don't want to hear any more about this matter. Please don't **bring** it **up** again.

come up = *be introduced in a conversation*

- Some interesting points **came up** in our discussion yesterday.

come up with an idea, a suggestion etc. = *produce an idea*

- Sarah is very creative. She's always **coming up with** new ideas.

make something **up** = *invent something that is not true*

- What Kevin told you about himself wasn't true. He **made** it all **up**.

B

cheer up = *be happier*, **cheer** somebody **up** = *make somebody feel happier*

- You look so sad! **Cheer up**!
- Helen is depressed at the moment. What can we do to **cheer her up**?

save up for something / to do something = *save money to buy something*

- Dan is **saving up** for a trip round the world.

clear up = *become bright (for weather)*

- It was raining when I got up, but it **cleared up** later.

C

blow up = *explode*, **blow** something **up** = *destroy it with a bomb etc.*

- The engine caught fire and **blew up**.
- The bridge was **blown up** during the war.

tear something **up** = *tear it into pieces*

- I didn't read the letter. I just **tore** it **up** and threw it away.

beat somebody **up** = *hit someone repeatedly so that they are badly hurt*

- A friend of mine was attacked and **beaten up** a few days ago. He was badly hurt and had to go to hospital.

D

break up / **split up** (with somebody) = *separate*

- I'm surprised to hear that Sue and Paul have **split up**. They seemed very happy together.

do up a coat, a shoelace, buttons etc. = *fasten, tie etc.*

- It's quite cold. **Do up** your coat before you go out.

do up a building, a room etc. = *repair and improve it*

- The kitchen looks great now that it has been **done up**.

look something **up** in a dictionary, encyclopaedia etc.

- If you don't know the meaning of a word, you can **look** it **up** in a dictionary.

put up with something = *tolerate it*

- We live on a busy road, so we have to **put up with** a lot of noise from the traffic.

hold up a person, a plan etc. = *delay*

- Don't wait for me. I don't want to **hold** you **up**.
- Plans to build a new factory have been **held up** because of the company's financial problems.

mix up people/things, **get** people/things **mixed up** = *you think one is the other*

- The two brothers look very similar. Many people **mix** them **up**. (*or* … **get** them **mixed up**)

Phrasal verbs 1 (General points) ➜ **Unit 137** More verbs + **up** ➜ **Units 142–143**
American English ➜ **Appendix 7**

Unit 145

Phrasal verbs 9 away/back

A

Compare **away** and **back**:

away = away from home
- We're **going away** on holiday today.

away = away from a place, a person etc.
- The woman got into her car, started the engine and **drove away**.
- I tried to take a picture of the bird, but it **flew away**.
- I dropped the ticket and it **blew away** in the wind.
- The police searched the house and **took away** a computer.

In the same way you can say:
walk away, **run away**, **look away** etc.

back = back home
- We'll **be back** in three weeks.

back = back to a place, a person etc.
- A: I'm going out now.
  B: What time will you **be back**?
- After eating at a restaurant, we **walked back** to our hotel.
- I've still got Jane's keys. I forgot to **give** them **back** to her.
- When you've finished with that book, can you **put** it **back** on the shelf?

In the same way you can say:
go back, **come back**, **get back**, **take** something **back** etc.

B

Other verbs + **away**

get away = *escape, leave with difficulty*
- We tried to catch the thief, but she managed to **get away**.

get away with something = *do something wrong without being caught*
- I parked in a no-parking zone, but I **got away with** it. I didn't have to pay a fine.

keep away (**from** ...) = *don't go near*
- **Keep away from** the edge of the pool. You might fall in.

give something **away** = *give it to somebody else because you don't want it any more*
- 'Did you sell your old computer?' 'No, I **gave** it **away**.'

put something **away** = *put it in the place where it is kept, usually out of sight*
- When the children had finished playing with their toys, they **put** them **away**.

throw something **away** = *put it in the rubbish*
- I kept the letter, but I **threw away** the envelope.

C

Other verbs + **back**

wave back / **smile back** / **shout back** / **write back** / **hit** somebody **back**
- I waved to her and she **waved back**.

call/**phone**/**ring** (somebody) **back** = *return a phone call*
- I can't talk to you now. I'll **call** you **back** in ten minutes.

get back to somebody = *reply to them by phone etc.*
- I sent him an email, but he never **got back to** me.

look back (**on** something) = *think about what happened in the past*
- My first job was in a travel agency. I didn't like it very much at the time but, **looking back on** it, I learnt a lot and it was a very useful experience.

pay back money, **pay** somebody **back**
- If you borrow money, you have to **pay** it **back**.
- Thanks for lending me the money. I'll **pay** you **back** next week.

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