

phrasal verbs

A phrasal verb is a verb plus a particle (a preposition or an adverb). It is usually difficult to guess the meaning of the phrasal verb from the words themselves. For example:

Can you **hold on**? = Can you **wait a moment**?

Okay, **carry on** with the exercise. = Okay, **continue** with the exercise.

I **ran into** Sam at the cinema. = I **met** Sam **unexpectedly** at the cinema.

Here is a list of some common phrasal verbs.

verb + particle

phrasal verb	meaning	example
come across	find something by chance	I came across this great new web site yesterday.
take after	look or act like someone older in the family	Everyone says I take after my dad.
look after	take care of	Who's going to look after the cat while we're on holiday?
break down	stop working (machine, car)	The car broke down so we had to walk the rest of the way.
cut down	reduce	We should try and cut down on the amount of paper we use.
turn down	refuse	He turned down the job because it sounded boring.
run into	meet someone by chance	I ran into Clare in the supermarket.
keep on	continue	We've got to keep on studying!
look out	be careful	Look out , there's a car there!
get over	recover from	He's still getting over the flu so isn't coming to the party.
give up	stop doing something	I'm trying to give up eating crisps but I can't.
hold up	delay	The injured player held up the start of the match.
take up	start a new activity	If I had time I'd take up karate.
turn up	arrive	He always turns up late for class and annoys the teacher.
wash up	clean the dishes	I'll cook the dinner then you can wash up .

verb + object + particle OR verb + particle + object

take off	remove	Take your shoes off / Take off your shoes before you go in the living room.
try on	try wearing new clothes, shoes	You should always try new shoes on / try on new shoes before you buy them.
look up	find a word in a dictionary	If you don't know what 'exasperated' means, look it up .
pick up	meet someone in a car and drive them somewhere	My mum is going to pick me up and take me to my friend's house after school.

1 Complete the spaces with a phrasal verb from the box. Change the form if necessary.

look after keep on turn down take up get over turn up
wash up hold up come across run into cut down

- He has five dogs and a cat so he must be good at looking after animals!
- Julianne always five minutes early to each class and gets the best seat.
- I was in this great second hand bookshop and this signed copy of Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*. It's worth thousands of pounds!
- He wants to be healthier so he has on cigarettes and fried food.
- This plate is still dirty! You never properly!
- I can't running, I'm too tired.
- Have you your cold yet?
- He the class by arguing with the teacher.
- She his invitation to the party and now he's really upset.
- My mum was talking to your mum for ages! They each other on the bus into town.
- He said he's going to sky diving but I don't believe him.

2 Underline the correct preposition to complete the phrasal verb.

- Lots of fruit and vegetables will help you get on / over / up your cold.
- I never try up / off / on clothes before buying them. It takes too much time.
- My mum says I take into / down / after my grandmother because I talk too much!
- I suggested taking on / up / down a sport to help him lose weight.
- Look up / out / on! You're going to drop that if you're not careful.
- He said he's going to give in / up / into shopping on the Internet because he spends too much money.
- That job is too good to turn up / down / off.
- You should take your hat in / over / off in the cinema. People will get angry with you.
- She has to look on / in / after her younger brother when her parents are out.
- I had lots of shopping and people were angry with me because I was holding on / off / up the queue.

3 Complete the second sentence with a phrasal verb from the box so it means the same as the first. Change the form if necessary.

pick up take after turn down
take off look after turn up

- I'll meet you in my car at half past seven.
..... I'll pick you up at half past seven.
- They offered him a place at university but he refused it.
.....
- He always arrives at parties without an invitation.
.....
- Dave isn't like his dad.
.....
- When you come inside you should remove your coat and hat.
.....
- My neighbour has to care for his mother who is very old.
.....

ANSWER KEY:

Unit 57

Ex 1

- a looking after b turns up c came across d cut down
e wash up f keep on g got over h held up
i turned down j ran into k take up

Ex 2

- a over b on c after d up e out f up
g down h off i after j up

Ex 3

- a I'll pick you up at half past seven.
b They offered him a place at university but he turned it down.
c He always turns up at parties without an invitation.
d Dave doesn't take after his dad.
e When you come inside you should take off your coat and hat.
f My neighbour has to look after his mother who is very old.