

English Grammar: Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are English verbs consisting of two or more words, usually a verb and a preposition. Their meanings are usually different from the meanings of the base verbs. For example:

- get up (levantar-se)
- wake up (acordar)
- turn on/off (ligar/desligar)
- turn up/down (aumentar/diminuir volume)
- take off * (decolar (avião))
- take off * (tirar (roupas))
- look after (cuidar de)
- look for (procurar)
- lie down (deitar)
- find out (descobrir)
- get on/off (embarcar/desembarcar)
- get in/out (entrar/sair de carro)
- get on well (se dar bem)
- go out (sair)
- put on (vestir-se)
- pass away (falecer)
- go in (entrar)
- go on (continuar)
- try on (experimentar (roupas))
- go up/down (subir/descer)
- run away (fugir)
- work out * (dar certo)
- work out * (malhar)
- work out * (calcular)

* Sometimes, a phrasal verb can have more than one meaning. For example:

to take off: I always **take off** my school uniform when I arrive home.
What time does your flight **take off**? It **takes off** at 2:10pm.

to work out: The application process is very complicated. I hope it **works out**.
I **work out** at the gym every day.
I'm will use a map to **work out** the distance from my house to yours.

Exercise 1. Complete the following sentences using the phrasal verbs above (conjugating if necessary):

1. I always need to _____ when I have a headache.
2. I'm sorry – you can't _____ the bus because it's full.
3. Excuse me – at what time will my flight _____ ?
4. On Sunday I _____ very late, because the party on Saturday finished at 4am.
5. Our dog _____ last week, so we're very sad.

6. I wear a suit every day, but I don't always _____ a tie.
7. Can you please _____ the TV? I want to watch the news.
8. We _____ on Sunday afternoon. We went to the supermarket and then visited my uncle.
9. Last week I _____ that there is a bee hive in one of our trees.
10. I _____ my sick mother for many years before she died.
11. My brother _____ every day at the gym – he is very fit!
12. Can you please help me to _____ my cell phone? I don't know where it is.
13. Please _____ your shoes before you _____ the mosque.
14. *Customer in a shop:* Excuse me – where can I _____ this T-shirt?
15. Mary please can you _____ the lights?
16. Everybody – please _____ your cellphones.
17. The TV is very loud. Can you please _____ it _____ ?
18. The dog is getting old. Please help it to _____ the car.
19. I always _____ with my brother. We are best friends!
20. It's Friday! Let's _____ and have fun!

Exercise 2. Read the following text and highlight the 16 phrasal verbs (answers below in white).

I got up at seven o'clock this morning. I put on my clothes and ate a big breakfast. Before I left home at eight, I told my daughter to look after her dog and take it for a walk. I got in my car, turned on the radio and drove to work. I arrived at work at 8:30. When I got out of my car, I turned off the radio and turned on the car alarm. I walked to the elevator and went up to the fifth floor. I got out of the elevator, went in my office and sat at my desk. I didn't see my agenda, so I asked my secretary to help me look for it. It was very hot in my office, so I took off my jacket. My secretary was very sad because her cat passed away recently. In the evening I went to the gym to work out. I think exercise is important. After that, I went home, took off my clothes and went to bed.