

English Grammar: Phrasal Verbs by preposition

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb together with a preposition, or sometimes an adverb. The preposition can sometimes be a clue to the meaning of the phrasal verb. For example:

over	-	can mean "pass to a different state/position" e.g. "be over", "hand over", "get over"
on	-	can mean "to continue something" e.g. "go on", "carry on", "keep on"
up	-	can mean "to stop" or "to increase" e.g. "break up", "wrap up", "give up", "shut up", "blow up", "end up", "go up"
back	-	can mean "to return" e.g. "call back", "go back", "pay back"
off	-	can mean "disconnection" e.g. "get off", "turn off", "take off"
out	-	can mean "removal" e.g. "take out", "fall out", "break out"
down	-	can mean "decrease" e.g. "turn down", "go down", "slow down"
away	-	can mean "to another place" e.g. "move away", "take away", "run away"

Here are some more examples:

1) "over"

be over	to be finished
carry over	to take something to another position
change over	to make a transition from one system to another
fall over	to fall (something/someone that has contact with the ground)
fly over	to fly across the top
get over	to emotionally accept a difficult event
give over	to deliver somebody to the authorities
hand over	to give something to someone using your hands
pass over	to skip or ignore
pull over	to stop your car at the side of the road
run over	to pass your car over someone/something
turn over	to flip something upside down

2) "on"

build on	to continue the same success
carry on	to continue
go on	to continue
hang on	to wait
hold on	to wait
keep on	to continue (doing something)
stay on	to stay for more time
walk on	to continue walking

3) "up"

blow up	to explode
break up	to separate
bring up	to raise (children)
clean up	to clean completely

drink up	to finish what you are drinking
eat up	to finish what you are eating
end up	to arrive at a destination or result
fill up	to fill completely
get up	to rise
give up	to desist
go up	to ascend
grow up	to become an adult
hang up	to terminate a telephone call
hurry up	to hurry
set up	to install or configure
stand up	to stand on your feet
turn up	to increase volume

4) "back"

call back	to return a telephone call
come back	to return to your origin
give back	to return something to somebody
go back	to return to your origin
hit back	to hit someone in retaliation
look back	to look behind you
pay back	to pay someone money that you owe
phone back	to return a telephone call
ring back	to return a telephone call
take back	to apologise for something that you said
talk back	to argue with someone in authority
walk back	to return to your origin on foot
write back	to respond to a written message

Exercise. Complete using the phrasal verbs above.

- John called me when I was out, so I need to _____ him _____.
- We have a long drive tomorrow. Let's go to the gas station and _____ the car.
- (Telephone) I need a pen. Please _____ for just a minute while I find one.
- My marriage _____. We're going to get a divorce.
- I need you to _____ doing the exercises while I'm out.
- I can't _____ the loss of my father. He was my hero.
- I loved watching my children _____. Now they have their own children!
- A: What you said to me was cruel and unfair. B: You're right. I _____ it _____.
- OMG! The restaurant will close in 5 minutes – let's _____!
- How much do I owe you? I want to _____ you _____.
- (Hotel) I would like to _____ an extra week, please.
- I had to _____ to check my tires, as I thought that I had a puncture.

Phrasal verbs with 'out': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cr4RYby4L6Q> (18 mins)