

Introduction to Phrasal Verbs: Part 1

The Basics

Kickoff:

Look at the pictures. Select the correct sentence for each one.



1. a. She is turning the TV on.
- b. She is starting the car.



5. a. He is turning the light off.
- b. He is turning the computer off.



2. a. She is taking her shoes off.
- b. She is taking her jacket off.



6. a. She is eating at home.
- b. She is eating out at a restaurant.



3. a. The friends are alone at home.
- b. The friends are hanging out.



7. a. He is waking up in the morning.
- b. He is going to bed in the evening.



4. a. She is sitting down on a chair.
- b. She is standing up on a bus.



8. a. She is working at the office.
- b. She is looking after the child.

Speaking I:

Read and answer the questions.

1. What time do you normally wake up?
2. At lunchtime, do you like to eat out?
3. After work, what do you prefer to do?
 - a. "I prefer to sit down and turn on the TV."
 - b. "I prefer to hang out with my friends."
4. Do you look after any children or other people?
5. Do you take off your shoes before entering your house?
6. What time do you normally turn off the lights in the evening?

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Reading: Read the text and answer the questions.

A phrasal verb is a very common type of verb in English. It combines a verb and another word*. The second word can be a preposition (e.g., up, down, in, out, etc.) or an adverb (e.g., forward, around, after, etc.). The second word can be called a "particle". The combination of the two words creates a new verb with a different meaning.

take (verb) + **off** (preposition) = **take off** (phrasal verb)

look (verb) + **after** (adverb) = **look after** (phrasal verb)

Frequently, the meaning of the phrasal verb is similar to the original verb. For example, the verbs "to sit" and "to sit down" have very similar meanings. Both mean to take a seated position or to be in a seated position. In most situations, you can use these two verbs to mean the same thing.

sit ≈ **sit down** (be in a seated position; move from standing to a seated position)

In other cases, the meaning of the phrasal verb can seem very different from the original verb. For example, "to hang" and "to hang out" have very different meanings. "To hang" means to suspend something from above, like hanging a picture on the wall. On the other hand, "to hang out" means to spend time with friends or family, like hanging out with friends at the park.

hang (verb meaning "suspend from above") ≠ **hang out** (phrasal verb meaning "spend time")

Phrasal verbs are often more informal and are used more frequently in spoken English than in written English. They can make your speech sound more natural and conversational.

*Some phrasal verbs have more than one particle, such as "look up to" meaning "admire."

1. What is a phrasal verb?
2. What are the two types of words that can be combined with a verb to form a phrasal verb?
3. What other name can we use for the preposition or adverb in a phrasal verb?
4. Are the meanings of "to sit" and "to sit down" very different from each other?
5. Are the meanings of "to hang" and "to hang out" very different from each other?
6. In what context are phrasal verbs more commonly used: spoken English or written English?

Controlled Practice: Complete the sentences with the correct particles.

off	out	after	off	out	down
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- a. When I'm tired, I like to sit _____ and watch a movie.
- b. She always takes _____ her coat when she enters the house.
- c. My brother looks _____ my dog when I'm at work.
- d. Don't forget to turn _____ the computer before you leave.
- e. We love to eat _____ at our favorite café on weekends.
- f. After work, I often hang _____ with my colleagues for a drink.

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Speaking II: Discuss with a partner.

1. Talk about a time when you had to look after someone or something.
2. Describe a memorable time when you were hanging out with friends or family.
3. Share a situation when you had to wake up early or stay up late.
4. Recommend a great place to eat out in your town or city.
5. Try to think of ten devices that you can turn on and off.