ESOL E2 – Phrasal verbs

# 1 of 20 – Welcome

Welcome to this session on phrasal verbs.

This session will cover:

* Phrasal verbs
* Separable and non-separable phrasal verbs
* Three-word phrasal verbs

# 2 of 20 – What are phrasal verbs?

Phrasal verbs are multi-word verbs. They are made up of a verb and a particle, or sometimes, two particles. Phrasal verbs change the verb’s meaning based on the preposition (or prepositions) that follow them.

There are many different phrasal verbs in English, and it is very difficult to learn them all. They are used often in everyday conversation, which makes them important to know and understand.

In this session, we will be learning about the most common phrasal verbs.

# 3 of 20 – How phrasal verbs change the verb’s meaning

Phrasal verbs change a verb’s meaning based on the preposition or prepositions that follow.

For example:

My friend has promised to look after my dog whilst I am on holiday.

The verb ‘look’ on its own means to see or to direct your gaze. However, the phrasal verb ‘look after’ means to take care of. The sentence is saying that my friend has promised to take care of my dog while I am on holiday.

# 4 of 20 – Types of phrasal verbs – separable

There are two types of phrasal verbs: separable and non-separable.

With separable phrasal verbs, the verb and the particle can be apart or together – the meaning doesn’t change.

For example, we can say:

He is going to pick up his children.

Or

He is going to pick the children up.

In these sentences, the phrasal verb ‘pick up’ means to go somewhere and collect the children.

# 5 of 20 – Separable phrasal verbs - examples

Let’s look at some more examples of separable phrasal verbs.

1. Turn down

Can you turn down the music please?

Can you turn the music down please?

In these sentences, the phrasal verb ‘turn down’ means to reduce the volume.

2. Fill out

Please fill out the application form.

Please fill the application form out.

In these sentences, the phrasal verb ‘fill out’ means to complete.

# 6 of 20 – Separable phrasal verbs – using pronouns

When we use a pronoun – usually ‘it’ in place of the subject – the pronoun must come between the verb and the particle.

For example, we can say:

Can you turn it up please?

But we CANNOT say:

Can you turn up it please?

The phrasal verb ‘turn up’ means to increase the volume.

Remember, the rule about pronouns only applies to separable phrasal verbs.

# 7 of 20 – Types of phrasal verbs – non-separable

With non-separable phrasal verbs, the verb and particle cannot be separated.

For example, we can say:

I can’t wait to get over the flu.

But we CANNOT say:

I can’t wait to get the flu over.

The phrasal verb ‘get over’ means to recover from sickness.

# 8 of 20 – Non-separable phrasal verbs – examples

Let’s look at some more examples of non-separable phrasal verbs.

1. Call on

My sister said she will call on our parents today.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘call on’ means to visit.

2. Go over

I will go over the material before the exam.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘go over’ means to review.

# 9 of 20 – Three-word phrasal verbs

There are a few phrasal verbs with two particles and they are always non-separable.

Let’s look at some examples.

1. Think back on

I often think back on our holiday with great pleasure.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘think back on’ means to recall.

2. Look forward to

I always look forward to my birthday.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb, ‘look forward to’ means anticipate with pleasure.

# 10 of 20 – Three-word phrasal verbs – more examples

3. Keep up with

I can’t keep up with Tim – he’s too fast!

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘keep up with’ means to maintain pace with.

4. Get rid of

I can’t wait to get rid of all this clutter.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘get rid of’ means to eliminate.

5. Come up with

I have come up with an idea.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘come up with’ means to contribute or to suggest.

# 11 of 20 – Question 1

Select the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence.  
“I don’t usually blank until nine o’clock on a Sunday.”

1. try on
2. get up
3. look after
4. run across

The correct answer is b) get up. In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘get up’ means to arise.

# 12 of 20 – Question 2

Select the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence.  
“My mother-in-law is lovely and I blank her really well.”

1. break in on
2. run out of
3. get rid of
4. get on with

The correct answer is d) get on with. I In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘get on with’ means to have a good relationship with.

# 13 of 20 – Question 3

Select the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence.  
“I’m sorry I’m late. My car blank and I had to walk here.”

1. Got up
2. broke down
3. make out
4. looked over

The correct answer is b) broke down. In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘broke down’ means stopped functioning.

# 14 of 20 – Question 4

Select the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence.  
“I can’t be bothered to cook tonight. Let’s blank at Bella’s restaurant.”

1. catch on
2. go on
3. eat at
4. keep away

The correct answer is c) eat out. In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘eat out’ means to dine.

# 15 of 20 – Question 5

Sort the words to put the sentence into the correct order.

1. I
2. of the race
3. before the end
4. ran out of
5. energy

The correct answer is:  
I ran out of energy before the end of the race.  
In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘ran out of’ means exhausted the supply of.

# 16 of 20 – Question 6

Sort the words to put the sentence into the correct order.

1. going on
2. what was
3. to see
4. The police
5. stopped

The correct answer is:  
The police stopped to see what was going on.  
In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘going on’ means happening.

# 17 of 20 – Question 7

Sort the words to put the sentence into the correct order.

1. passed out
2. for an ambulance
3. so I phoned
4. The man had

The correct answer:  
The man had passed out so I phoned for an ambulance.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘passed out’ means lost consciousness.

# 18 of 20 – Question 8

Sort the words to put the sentence into the correct order.

1. and tried to
2. on the exam
3. get away with
4. Jana cheated
5. it

The correct answer is:

Yana cheated on the exam and tried to get away with it.

In this sentence, the phrasal verb ‘get away with’ means to escape blame.

# 19 of 20 – End

Well done. You have completed this session on phrasal verbs.

We have covered:

* Phrasal verbs
* Separable and non-separable phrasal verbs
* Three-word phrasal verbs

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, speak to your tutor for more help.