



Level 2

phrasal verbs *Look out! I'll think it over.*

English has a large number of **phrasal verbs**, made up of a **verb** and a **small word (adverb particle)** like *at, in, on, up, down, away, out*. The adverb particles are not the same as prepositions (though some of them have the same form). Phrasal verbs are very common in an **informal** style.

1 Match the phrasal verbs with the more formal one-word verbs from the box.

arrive	awake	consider	continue	disintegrate	explode ✓	leave	postpone
return	return	rise					

blow up *explode* break up come back get up
 go away go on put off turn up
 send back think over wake up

Adverb particles can have various meanings. *Up* often means 'completely'.

*I'll cut **up** the wood. Let's clean **up** the house. Fill **up** your glass. I tore **up** her letter.*

2 Look at the adverb particles in the following sentences, and choose the best meaning from the box for each one.

away	completely ✓	further	further	higher	louder	quieter	on paper
to various people	working	not working					

- ▶ Can you cut up the onions? *completely* 6 I've sent out the invitations.
- 1 He drove off. 7 Go on.
- 2 Write it down. 8 Prices are going up.
- 3 The heater's off. 9 Is the printer on?
- 4 Turn the radio down. 10 Who turned the music up?
- 5 Drive on.

3 Here are some sentences from conversations. Complete the phrasal verbs with words from the boxes.

back	off	over	up	up	up
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- 1 He turned two hours late and then expected me to fix lunch for him.
- 2 'Are you coming tomorrow?' 'Not sure. I'll think it'
- 3 I'm going to send these shirts They're all too big.
- 4 You know what they say. Never do today what you can put till tomorrow.
- 5 It would be nice if that kid cleaned his room sometimes. Just once a week would do.
- 6 'You wash the plates and I'll dry.' 'No, I'll wash and you dry.'

bring	cut	look	pick	switch	switch	take
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- 7 I'll you up about 8.00 and we'll go straight on to Holly's, OK?
- 8 OK, you can have the car, but please it back in one piece.
- 9 'It's too hot.' 'Well, you could off your coat.'
- 10 'What does *precipitation* mean?' 'No idea. it up.'
- 11 When I get home I just off my brain and on the TV.
- 12 You can up the onions. If I do, it makes me cry.



Adverb particles can usually go **before** or **after** noun objects.

Fill in this form. OR Fill this form in.

I'm going to **put on** a sweater. OR I'm going to **put** a sweater **on**.

Did you **throw away** the newspapers? OR Did you **throw** the newspapers **away**?

But an adverb particle must go **after** a pronoun object.

Fill it in. (NOT Fill in it.) I threw **them** away. (NOT I ~~threw away~~ them.)

4 Change the sentences twice.

▶ I put on my raincoat.

I put my raincoat on. I put it on.

▶ I cleaned up the kitchen.

I cleaned the kitchen up. I cleaned it up.

1 Could you turn off the radio?

2 I'll throw away these old plates.

3 Do take off your coat.

4 Please write down my address.

5 Get Mary to fill in this form.

6 I'll switch off all the lights.

7 We'd better put off the next meeting.

8 We'll have to give back the money.

9 I'll think over your suggestion.

10 I couldn't put down the book, it was so interesting.

time to *tidy up*

Every now and then you decide it's time to tidy up, don't you? Because you just can't find anything. So you pick up all the stuff that's been lying around on the floor since Adam was a lad. You throw out the old magazines that you're never going to read again. You give back the books and music that you borrowed from the people upstairs when you were all much younger. You take down your old posters and put up the new ones you bought three years ago

to replace them. You sort out the papers on your desk, arrange some of them in systematic-looking piles, and throw away the others. Finally you put on some relaxing music, pour yourself a drink, and sit back with a feeling of satisfaction. A good job done. Only one small problem, which you slowly discover over the next few days: you just can't find anything. ❄

