

## Lecture: Grammar-Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

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### Phrasal Verbs

It is very usual to place prepositions or adverbs after certain verbs so as to obtain a variety of meanings:

- We often use verbs with the following words: in on up away by about over round *or* around **out off down back through along forward**
- We often use **on/off/out** etc. with verbs of movement. For example:  
**Get on**                      The bus was full. We couldn't **get on**.  
**Drive off**                     A woman got into the car and **drove off**.  
**Come back**                  Sarah is leaving tomorrow and **coming back** on Saturday  
**Turn round**                 When I touched him on the shoulder, he **turned round**
- But often the second word (**on/off/out** etc.) gives a special meaning to the verb. For example:

**Break down**                 Sorry I'm late. The car **broke down**. (=the engine stopped working)

**Look out**                     **Look out!** There's a car coming. (= be careful)

**Get on**                        How was the exam? How did you **get on?** (=How did you do?)

**Get by**                        My French isn't very good, but it's enough to **get by**. (= manage)

- Sometimes a phrasal verb is followed by a *preposition*. For example:

Phrasal verb	Preposition	example
<b>run away</b>	From	Why did you <b>run away from</b> me?
<b>keep up</b>	With	You're walking too fast. I can't <b>keep up with</b> you.
<b>Look up</b>	At	We <b>Looked up at</b> the plane as it flew above us.
<b>look forward</b>	to	Are you <b>Looking forward to</b> your trip?

- Sometimes a phrasal verb has an *object*. Usually there are two possible positions for the object.

So you can say:

I **turned on the light**.      *Or*      I **turned the light on**.

If the object is a *pronoun* (**it/them/me/him** etc.), only one position is possible:

I **turned it on**. (*not* I turned on it)

- The student doesn't need to decide whether the combination is verb + preposition or verb + adverb, but should consider the expression as a whole.

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- It is also important to learn whether the combination is transitive (i.e. requires an object) or intransitive (i.e. cannot have an object):

**Look for** is transitive: I am looking for my passport.

**Look out** is intransitive: Look out! This ice isn't safe!

### a) Compare in and out:

<b>in</b> = into a room, a building, a car etc.	<b>out</b> = out of a room, building, a car etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did the thieves <b>get in</b>?</li> <li>Here's a key, so you can <b>Let yourself in</b>.</li> <li>Lisa walked up to the edge of the pool and <b>dived in</b>. (=into the water)</li> <li>I've got a new apartment. I'm <b>moving in</b> on Friday.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He just stood up and <b>walked out</b>. I had no key, so I was <b>Locked out</b>.</li> <li>She swam up and down the pool, and then <b>climbed out</b>.</li> <li>Andy opened the window and <b>Looked out</b>.</li> </ul>

### Other verbs + out

**Out** = not burning, not shining

**Go out** Suddenly all the lights in the building **went out**.

**Put out** a fire / a cigarette We managed to **put** the fire **out**.

**Turn out** a light I **turned** the lights **out** before leaving.

**Blow out** a candle We don't need the candle. You can **blow it out**

### b) On and off

- On** and **off** for lights, machines etc.

We say: the light is **on** / I put the light **on** / Leave the light **on** etc.

Turn the light **on/off** or switch the light **on/off**.

Shall I Leave the lights on or turn them off?

'Is the heating on?' 'No, I switched it off.'

- On** and **off** for events etc.

- Go on = *happen*

What's all that noise? What's going on? (=what's happening)

- Call something off = *cancel it*

The open air concert had to be called off because of the weather.

- Put something off, put off doing something = *delay it*

The wedding has been put off until January.

We can't put off making a decision. We have to decide now.

- On and off for clothes etc.

Put on clothes, glasses, make-up, a seat belt etc.

My hands were cold, so I put my gloves on.

- Also put on weight = *get heavier*

I've put on two kilograms in the last month.

- Off = away from a person or place be off (to a place)

Tomorrow I'm off to Paris / I'm off on holiday. (= I'm going to Paris / I'm going on holiday)

- Verb+ on= continue doing something

Drive on / I walk on / I play on = *continue driving/walking/playing etc.*

Shall we stop at this petrol station or shall we drive on to the next one?

- go on = *continue*

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The party went on until 4 o'clock in the morning.

- **Get on** = *progress*

How are you getting on in your new job? (=How is it going?)

- **Doze off / drop off / nod off** = *fall asleep*

The lecture wasn't very interesting. In fact I dozed off in the middle of it.

- **Finish something off** = *do the last part of something*

A: Have you finished painting the kitchen?

Nearly. I'll finish it off tomorrow.

- **Go off** = *explode*

A bomb went off in the city centre, but fortunately nobody was hurt.

### c) Compare up and down:

up	down
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>put</b> something <b>up</b> (on a wall etc.)</li> <li>• I <b>put</b> a picture <b>up</b> on the wall.</li> <li>• <b>pick</b> something <b>up</b></li> <li>• There was a letter on the floor.</li> <li>• I <b>picked it up</b> and looked at it.</li> <li>• Alan <b>stood up</b> and walked out.</li> <li>• I can't hear the TV. Can you <b>turn it up</b> a bit?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take</b> something <b>down</b> (from a wall etc.)</li> <li>• I didn't like the picture, so I <b>took it down</b>.</li> <li>• I stopped writing and <b>put down</b> my pen.</li> <li>• I <b>bent down</b> to tie my shoelace.</li> <li>• The oven is too hot. <b>Turn it down</b> to 200 degrees.</li> </ul>

### Other uses of up and down

- **Slow down** = *go more slowly*

You're driving too fast. **Slow down**.

- **Calm (somebody) down** = *become calmer, make somebody calmer*

**Calm down**. There's no point in getting angry.

- **Cut down (on something)** = *eat, drink or do something less often*

I'm trying to **cut down on** coffee. I drink too much of it.

- **Break down** = *stop working (for machines, cars, relationships etc.)*

The car **broke down** and I had to phone for help.

Their marriage **broke down** after only a few months.

- **Dose down / shut down** = *stop doing business*

There used to be a shop at the end of the street; it **dosed down** a few years ago.

- **Let somebody down** = *disappoint them because you didn't do what they hoped*

You can always rely on Paul. He'll never **let you down**.

- **Turn somebody/something down** = *refuse an application, an offer etc.*

I applied for several jobs, but I was **turned down** for all of them.

- **Go up / come up / walk up (to ...)** = *approach*

A man came up to me in the street and asked me for money.

- **Catch up (with somebody), catch somebody up** = *move faster than somebody in front of you so that you reach them*

I'm not ready to go yet. You go on and I'll catch up with you / I'll catch you up.

- **Keep up (with somebody)** = *continue at the same speed or level*

You're walking too fast. I can't keep up (with you).

- **Set up an organisation, a company, a business, a system, a website etc.** = *start it*

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The government has set up a committee to investigate the problem.

- Take up a hobby, a sport, an activity etc. = *start doing it*  
Laura took up photography a few years ago. She takes really good pictures.
- Fix up a meeting etc. = *arrange it*  
We've fixed up a meeting for next Monday.
- Grow up = *become an adult*  
Ann was born in Hong Kong but grew up in Australia.
- Bring up a child = *raise, look after a child*  
Her parents died when she was a child and she was brought up by her grandparents.
- End up somewhere, end up doing something etc.  
There was a fight in the street and three men ended up in hospital. (= that's what)
- Give up = *stop trying*, give something up = *stop doing it*

### d) Compare away and back:

<b>away</b> = away from home	<b>back</b> = back home
<p><b>Away</b> = away from a place, a person etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We're <b>going away</b> on holiday today.</li> <li>• The woman got into her car, started the engine and <b>drove away</b>.</li> <li>• I tried to take a picture of the bird, but it <b>flew away</b>.</li> <li>• I dropped the ticket and it <b>blew away</b> in the wind.</li> <li>• The police searched the house and <b>took away</b> a computer.</li> </ul> <p>In the same way you can say: <b>walk away, run away, Look away</b> etc.</p>	<p><b>Back</b> = back to a place, a person etc. We'll <b>be back</b> in three weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A: I'm going out now. B: What time will you <b>be back</b>?</li> <li>• After eating at a restaurant, we <b>walked back</b> to our hotel.</li> <li>• I've still got Jane's keys. I forgot to <b>give</b> them <b>back</b> to her.</li> <li>• When you've finished with that book, can you <b>put it back</b> on the shelf?</li> </ul> <p>In the same way you can say: <b>go back, come back, get back, take</b> something <b>back</b> etc.</p>

### Other verbs + away/back

- **Get away** = *escape, leave with difficulty*
- **Back** = back to a place, a person etc.  
After eating at a restaurant, we **walked back** to our hotel.
- **Get away with** something = *do something wrong without being caught*  
I parked in a no-parking zone, but I **got away with** it. I didn't have to pay a fine.
- **Keep away (from ...)** = *don't go near*  
**Keep away from** the edge of the pool. You might fall in.
- **Give** something **away** = *give it to somebody else because you don't want it any more*  
'Did you sell your old computer?' 'No, I **gave it away**.'
- **Put** something **away** = *put it in the place where it is kept, usually out of sight*  
When the children had finished playing with their toys, they **put** them **away**.
- **Throw** something **away** = *put it in the rubbish*  
I kept the letter, but I **threw away** the envelope.
- **Wave back I smile back I shout back I write back I hit** somebody **back**  
I waved to her and she **waved back**.
- **Call/phone/ring** (somebody) **back** = *return a phone call*  
I can't talk to you now. I'll **call** you **back** in ten minutes.
- **Get back to** somebody = *reply to them by phone etc.*

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I sent him an email, but he never **got back to** me.

- **Look back (on something)** = *think about what happened in the past*

My first job was in a travel agency. I didn't like it very much at the time but, **Looking back on** it, I learnt a lot and it was a very useful experience.

- **Pay back money, pay somebody back**

If you borrow money, you have to **pay it back**.