



## Lesson 05: Phrasal Verbs

### What is a phrasal verb?

A phrasal verb is a group of words that functions as a verb, and it is made up of a verb plus a preposition, and adverb or both.

### Examples of phrasal verbs used in business communities :

- 1- a. Would you **advise against** moving the head office to Edinburgh? → **To tell someone not to do something**  
b. Yes, I don't think we should do that for the time being.
- 2- a. Shall we **put back** the meeting until everyone can come? → **To postpone an event to a later time**  
b. Well, I certainly think it's a good idea to move it to a later date.
- 3- a. Have you **taken over** the company? → **To get or to get control of something**  
b. Well, we haven't actually bought it yet, but we've made an offer to buy most of the shares.

Activity: Read the following short dialogues, then guess the meaning of each phrasal verb in **bold**.

- 1- a. Did you manage to **turn** the company **around**? → **To change and become better or more successful**  
b. Yes, it was making a loss, but now it's a very profitable organisation.
- 2- a. Do you think the staff will **walk out** when they hear the news? → **To go on strike**  
b. Probably, but we really don't want everyone to stop working and leave in protest.
- 3- a. Did you manage to **get through to** the complaints department? →  
b. No, they weren't answering the phone. **To be clearly expressed to/understood by someone**
- 4- a. Were the management willing to **improve on** their previous offer? → **To develop or achieve something better**  
b. Yes, they thought they might be able to do a bit better as long as we were prepared to work harder.
- 5- a. Would the staff be prepared to **hold out for** a 10% pay rise? → **To refuse to agree to something for getting**  
b. Well, another £60 a week is an improvement, I suppose, but they won't want to wait too long. **Something.**
- 6- a. Will we be able to **hold him to** the contract? → **To persuade someone to adhere to a commitment**  
b. I hope so. We've been promised that the terms we've set out will be honoured.
- 7- a. Can we **clock off** yet? → **To stop working**  
b. Yes, it's time to leave. Let's go home.