

A We often use verbs with:

in	on	up	away	by	about	over	round or around
out	off	down	back	through	along	forward	

So you can say **look out** / **get on** / **take off** / **run away** etc. These are *phrasal verbs*.

We often use **on/off/out** etc. with verbs of movement. For example:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| get on | <input type="checkbox"/> The bus was full. We couldn't get on . |
| drive off | <input type="checkbox"/> A woman got into the car and drove off . |
| come back | <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah is leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday. |
| turn round | <input type="checkbox"/> When I touched him on the shoulder, he turned round . |

B Often the second word (**on/off/out** etc.) gives a special meaning to the verb. For example:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| break down | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorry I'm late. The car broke down . (= the engine stopped working) |
| find out | <input type="checkbox"/> I never found out who sent me the flowers. (= I never discovered) |
| take off | <input type="checkbox"/> It was my first flight. I was nervous as the plane took off . (= went into the air) |
| give up | <input type="checkbox"/> I tried many times to contact her. In the end I gave up . (= stopped trying) |
| get on | <input type="checkbox"/> How was the exam? How did you get on ? (= How did you do?) |
| get by | <input type="checkbox"/> My French isn't good, but it's enough to get by . (= enough to manage) |

For more phrasal verbs, see Units 138–145.

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

- | <i>phrasal verb</i> | <i>preposition</i> | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| look up | at | <input type="checkbox"/> We looked up at the plane as it flew above us. |
| run away | from | <input type="checkbox"/> Why did you run away from me? |
| keep up | with | <input type="checkbox"/> You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you. |
| look forward | to | <input type="checkbox"/> Are you looking forward to your trip? |

D Sometimes a phrasal verb has an *object*. For example:

- ☐ I turned on **the light**. (**the light** is the *object*)

Usually there are two possible positions for the object. You can say:

- ☐ I **turned on** the light. or I **turned** the light **on**.
- object* *object*

But 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)

In the same way, you can say:

- ☐ I'm going to **take off** my shoes.
 take my shoes **off**.

but These shoes are uncomfortable. I'm going to **take them off**. (*not* take off them)

- ☐ Don't **wake up** the baby.
 wake the baby **up**.

but The baby is asleep. Don't **wake her up**. (*not* wake up her)

- ☐ Don't **throw away** this box.
 throw this box **away**.

but I want to keep this box, so don't **throw it away**. (*not* throw away it)

Exercises

137.1 Complete each sentence using a verb from A (in the correct form) + a word from B.

A be get fly sit
 break get go speak
 come get look take

B away by on round
 back down off up
 back down out up

- Sarah is leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday.
- I've been standing a long time. I'm going to for a bit.
- It's a very busy airport. There are planes landing and all the time.
- A cat tried to catch the bird, but it just in time.
- We were trapped in the building. We couldn't
- I can't hear you very well. Can you a little?
- Ben's salary is very low, but it's enough to
- Everything is so expensive now. Prices have a lot.
- I heard a noise behind me, so I to see what it was.
- I'm going out now to do some shopping. I'll in about an hour.
- Our car on the motorway and we had to call for help.
- How is your new job? How are you?

137.2 Complete each sentence using a word from A and a word from B.

A away in ~~up~~ back
 out up up forward

B at to ~~with~~ about
 at to with through

- You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
- My holidays are nearly over. Next week I'll be work.
- We went the top floor of the building to admire the view.
- The meeting tomorrow is going to be difficult. I'm not looking it.
- There was a bank robbery last week. The robbers got £50,000.
- I love to look the stars in the night sky.
- I was sitting in the kitchen when a bird flew the open window.
- How do you know about the plan? How did you find it?

137.3 Complete the sentences. Use these phrasal verbs + it/them/me:

get out give back switch on take off ~~throw away~~ wake up

- I want to keep this box. Don't throw it away.
- I'm going to bed now. Can you at 6.30?
- I've got something in my eye and I can't
- I don't like it when people borrow things and don't
- I want to use the hair dryer. How do I?
- My shoes are dirty. I'd better before going into the house.

137.4 Complete the sentences. Use the word in brackets.

- Don't throw away this box. I want to keep it. (away)
- I don't want this newspaper. You can throw it away. (away)
- These books are Lisa's. I have to give to her. (back)
- We can turn Nobody is watching it. (off)
- Shh! My mother is asleep. I don't want to wake (up)
- It's cold today. You should put if you go out. (on)
- It was only a small fire. I was able to put easily. (out)
- It's a bit dark in this room. Shall I turn? (on)
- A: The hotel is more expensive than when we stayed here last year.
B: Yes, they've put (up)
- A: How did the vase get broken?
B: I'm afraid I knocked while I was cleaning. (over)