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A verb phrase is the portion of a sentence that contains both the verb and either a direct or indirect object (the verb's dependents). Take a look at what verb phrases are, and then view some verb phrase examples. Verbs are words that demonstrate an action, such as sing, dance, smell, talk, and eat. When combined with linking verbs, such as is, must, will, and has, they form verb phrases. Verb phrases can consist of one to three linking verbs, and action verbs, and sometimes any complements (such as objects or direct objects). She smells the pizza. (verb is smells)She can smell the pizza. (verb phrase is can smell)He appears on screen as an actor. (verb is appears)He has appeared on screen as an actor. (verb phrase is has appeared)I study Italian. (verb is study)I will have been studying Italian for three years. (verb phrase is will have been studying) Verb phrases form tenses besides present and past tense, including progressive tenses and perfect tenses. They also demonstrate the sentence's mood, intention and other information. A verb phrase can be the predicate of the clause or sentence. It functions as the verb in a sentence, even when it has more than one word. Following are some verb phrase examples where the verb phrase is the predicate of a sentence. In this case, the verb phrase consists of the main verb plus any auxiliary, or helping, verbs. She was walking quickly to the mall. He should wait before going swimming. Those girls are trying very hard. Ted might eat the cake. You must go right now. You can't eat that! My mother is fixing us some dinner. Words were spoken. These cards may be worth hundreds of dollars! The teacher is writing a report. You have woken up everyone in the neighborhood. Will you get me a marker? Rhonda has been asking for help. My little brother will blow out his candles. Are they accusing me of a crime? The team should shake hands with their opponents. Dad has tried to change my tires before. Verb phrases help to make your text more informative and meaningful. They are essential to clear writing and letting your reader know exactly what you're trying to say. When verb phrases function as anything other than verbs, they're verbal phrases. Verbal phrases can act like adverbs or adjectives. The phrase would include the verbal (participle, gerund or infinitive) and any modifiers, complements or objects. Examples of verb phrases versus verbal phrases include: The man was texting on his phone. (verb phrase was texting functions as the action) Texting on his phone, the man swerved into a ditch. (verbal phrase texting on his phone functions as an adjective; swerved is the verb) The cat watched as the two puppies fought over a bone. (verb phrase watched functions as the action) As the cat watched, the two puppies fought over a bone. (verbal phrase as the cat watched functions as an adverb; fought is the verb) The small dog can learn new things. (verb phrase can learn functions as the action) The small dog was reluctant to learn new things. (verbal phrase to learn new things functions as an adverb; was reluctant is the verb phrase) Finally, we can buy a new house. (verb phrase can buy functions as the action) Finally, we can afford to buy a new house (verbal phrase to buy a new house functions as an adverb; can afford is the verb phrase) She was walking on the ice, she slipped. (verbal phrase walking on the ice functions as an adjective; she slipped is the verb) All of these different verbal phrases provide important useful information for the reader about the action in the sentence. However, they do not function as the action in your sentence. That's the verb and verb phrase's job! Verb phrases are great additions to sentences when you need to make your action more precise. Once you've mastered verb phrases in your grammar journey, try out more complicated verb forms. A list of phrasal verbs is helpful for both native and non-native speakers who have a harder time sorting out these specific verb forms. English words from Chinese words are often denoted as being 'loanwords'. A loanword is one that does not share a literal translation of the word. Rather the word is based on the adopted language. Quite simply, the word is borrowed and then co-opted into the new language. Words, such as, bok yok or brain wash are referred to as a calque, because the meaning is the same in both Chinese and English. 1. Gung Ho 共何 Pronounced gōng hé in Mandarin. The literal translation is, "work together." The English use was popularized by Marines fighting in the Pacific in World War II. The phrase came to mean: "whole heartedly enthusiastic, and loyal, eager, and zealous." 2. Typhoon 台风 Pronounced dàfēng in Mandarin and tai fung in Cantonese. The literal translation is "strong wind." Experts say the term, typhoon from the Greek and Arabic, was strengthened with the Chinese translation. 3. Chopsticks 筷子 British sailors are said to have first used this word in the late 17th century. The term derives from the word 'kap kap', which sounds like chop-chop to the English ear. The Chinese word literally means "fast." 4. China 中国 In Chinese, the name is pronounced zhōng guó and literally means "the middle country." The name was first used by the Italian explorer, Marco Polo. Pronounced koehiap and literally means "brine of fish." Originally, ketchup was a tomato based sauce for fish. Purportedly, introduced to England by William Ketchner. 5. Scroll down to continue reading article 6. Silk 丝绸 Pronounced sī in Mandarin. The word was first introduced to Western culture by smugglers who took silk worms and mulberry leaves out of China in 552 Common Era (CE). 7. Feng Shui 风水 Literally wind and water. It is the Chinese belief in creating a spiritual balance in one's home and workplace. The word was first introduced to Westerners in 1757. 8. J-Particle 粒 A subatomic particle discovered by Samuel C. C. Ting. The letter J resembles the Chinese symbol of Ting's last name. 9. Kowtow 磕头 Literally means "knock head." Pronounced e k'o-tou in Chinese. In China the word is a way of bowing and touching the forehead to the ground to indicate respect. In English the word means to "be servile; to behave in an extremely submissive way in order to please somebody in a position of authority." 10. Junk 垃圾 The literal translation in Chinese is "boat." In 1884 the term came to mean "old refuse from boats and ships," and eventually came to mean trash in Western culture. The literal translation is "humiliation" and is pronounced to lien in Chinese. The word is said to have been introduced to English speakers in 1876. 11. Scroll down to continue reading article 12. Shanghai 上海 Shanghai is a Chinese seaport. The word in English came to mean, "to drug a man unconscious and ship him as a sailor." This was the practice of "recruiting" sailors to the seaport of Shanghai. 13. Tai Chi 太极 In Chinese, the word is literally translated to the "supreme ultimate." It is now used in American lingo to describe the martial art of tai chi. Some emphasize the slow movements as a form of exercise, while others practice it as a martial art. 14. Oolong 乌龙茶 Literally "black dragon." First introduced to the English language in 1852 as a dark, black tea. 15. Tea 茶 Pronounced chá in Chinese. Introduced to the English in 1852, from the Mandarin. Phrasal verbs are two or more words that together act as a completely new word, with a meaning separate from the original words. For example, pick up means to "grab" or "lift," very different from the definitions of pick and up alone. Popular in spoken English, phrasal verbs can be quite confusing because their definitions aren't always easy to guess—and there are thousands of them. In fact, many phrasal verbs are distinct variations on the same base verb, which can add to the confusion. For multilingual speakers, in particular, phrasal verbs are one of the most difficult topics in learning English. To help simplify this complicated issue, what follows is our guide to understanding English phrasal verbs, including a list of the most common ones. What is a phrasal verb? A phrasal verb combines a normal verb with an adverb or a preposition to create an entirely new verbal phrase—the phrasal verb. The meaning of a phrasal verb is usually unrelated to the meanings of the words that comprise it, so think of a phrasal verb as an entirely new and independent word. When used in a sentence, phrasal verbs act the same as other verbs for conjugation and placement, although they do have special grammatical rules about word order, which we talk about below. Phrasal verbs can be conjugated into every type of verb form, so you can use them anywhere you could use a normal verb. Let's look at the phrasal verb get over as an example. The verb get alone means to "acquire," and the preposition over alone usually refers to being higher or going above something. However, put them together and the phrasal verb get over means to "recover" or "overcome," a completely new definition that's separate from the definitions of get and over. You can use get over just like a normal verb, in any form or tense. Here are some quick examples: Simple past tense: I had the flu last week but got over it. Infinitive: He wrote a song to get over his grandmother's death. Gerund: Getting over prejudice at work is never easy. Participle: Having finally gotten over the breakup, they were ready to return their partner's things. How to conjugate phrasal verbs When a phrasal verb is used as the main verb of a sentence, you conjugate the verb part and leave the other words as they are. Simply use whatever form of the verb you would use if it were alone. I get up at noon during the summer. However, this morning I got up at sunrise. I have gotten up early too many times this marriage. Not to worry, how only the direct object comes in the middle or at the end of a phrasal verb. Both options are acceptable. Unfortunately, there's no method for knowing whether or not you have to separate a phrasal verb; you just have to study and practice until it comes naturally. Pick the box up and carry it to the kitchen. Pick up the box and carry it to the kitchen. However, pronouns follow a special rule when it comes to separable phrasal verbs: If the object is a pronoun, it must be placed in the middle of a phrasal verb. Pronoun direct objects cannot go at the end. Pick it up and carry it to the kitchen. Pick it up and carry it to the kitchen. Remember that not all transitive phrasal verbs are separable. Transitive phrasal verbs can be either separable or inseparable, so be careful of where you put your object. For example, the transitive phrasal verbs get through, come between, and go against are all inseparable, so the direct object comes after them every time. Nothing comes between us. 80 common phrasal verbs (with meanings and examples) back [x] up support or defend someone When the class was making fun of me, only the teacher backed me up. break down stop working, especially when referring to machines The ice cream machine at McDonald's is always breaking down. call around contact multiple people Roy called around to find a nearby mechanic. calm down relax after an energetic or irritated state I need a few minutes to calm down after that match. call [x] off cancel We called the party off. / We called off the party. check [x] out verify a person or thing (can sometimes be flirtatious when used in reference to a person) I'll check the contract out. / I'll check out the contract. clean up be extremely successful in an endeavor, such as business, sports, or gambling Our hockey team cleaned up at the tournament and went home undefeated. stop questionable behavior, such as consuming drugs or alcohol Her boss said she had to either clean up or find a new job. clean [x] up clean a general area John cleaned the living room up. / John cleaned up the living room. cheer [x] up make someone happy, especially if they were previously sad Reading always cheers me up on a rainy day. come around change an opinion or see a new point of view I never liked seafood, but came around after trying fried calamari. come between disturb a relationship After more than fifty years of marriage, nothing could come between them. come down on attack or punish harshly Ever since last month's accident, police have been coming down on drunk driving. come down with become sick After sitting in the rain for hours, Chandra came down with a nasty cold. come out of happen as a consequence of another event We missed a day of school, so at least some good came out of our boring class trip. come up become the topic of discussion or receive attention Everyone talked about how much they enjoyed the movie, but the run time never came up in the conversation. approach or come near While walking outside the fence, a cow came up right next to me and licked my face. happen or occur, as with an event or situation Don't worry about a problem until after it comes up. come up with think of an idea, especially as the first person to do so, or to produce a solution Sahar comes up with her best story ideas at night, so she writes them down before she forgets them. count on rely or depend on If I'm ever making a mistake, I can count on my friends to warn me. dive into occupy oneself with something; to pore over quickly or reach into quickly I'll dive into that new TV show later tonight. dress up wear nice clothes or put forth in the best light Abed dressed up for the award ceremony. end up eventually reach some conclusion or destination After thinking for a day, he ended up taking the job. fall apart break into pieces My new dress completely fell apart after just two washes. suffer from mental or emotional distress He endured all kinds of harassment at work without flinching but completely fell apart when his cat got sick. fill [x] up fill something completely Bruce filled his wine glass up to the brim. / Bruce filled up his wine glass to the brim. find out discover or learn We'll have to wait until the next TV episode to find out who the killer is. get [x] across communicate or explain something clearly The professor spoke for hours but didn't get anything across to the students. get ahead succeed or progress You'll never get ahead at this company unless you follow the rules. get around travel from place to place It's impossible to get around this city without a car. get around to [x] do something eventually I'll get around to fixing the table after the playoffs. get away with escape punishment or some other unpleasantness Shirley thought she got away with cheating until the teacher asked her to stay after class. get along with be friendly with My dog gets along with everyone as long as they're not a cat. get at reach There's an itch on my back that I can't get at. attempt to prove or explain What these graphs are getting at is that we'll be bankrupt by next week. get away escape or depart from Lucio liked to go to the lake every weekend, just to get away from the city. get away with escape punishment for a crime or misdeed The boss's nephew gets away with much more than any of the other employees. get [x] back have something returned Rodger got his pencil back from Greta. / Rodger got back his pencil from Greta. get back at have revenge on someone Laila promised herself that she would get back at whoever started the rumor. get by survive or manage at the bare minimum When Sheila lost her job, the family had to get by with only their savings. get down enjoy oneself without inhibitions, especially with music or dancing Vicente may be overly formal at work, but he sure knows how to get down to hip-hop. get [x] down depress or discourage someone Kima always gets everyone down with her stories from the hospital. record or write something down The President spoke quickly at the press conference, and reporters were struggling to get all of his comments down. get down to begin or start Once everyone arrives, we'll get down to picking teams. get in on join an activity After Bitcoin started going up, everyone wanted to get in on cryptocurrency. get into discuss something thoroughly I don't want to get into our finances now; we'll talk after our guests leave. get [x] out of receive a benefit from something Babysitting the Cohles was a nightmare, but at least Janelle got some money out of it. get over recover or overcome Drinking a lot of water helps in getting over an illness. get through complete or endure an unpleasant task Alessandra can't get through a morning without coffee. get to annoy or bother someone People who don't clean up after their dogs really get to me. get together have a social event The volleyball team is getting together for dinner after practice. give [x] away donate something or give something for free Mindy gave her prized doll collection away. / Mindy gave away her prized doll collection. give up accept defeat, quit, or surrender Carin felt like giving up every time she saw the scoreboard. give [x] up stop consuming or doing something, often a habit Minh gave chocolate up for his diet. / Minh gave up chocolate for his diet. go against contradict, oppose, or fight against A group of students went against the school dress code yesterday and wore ripped jeans. go ahead proceed or move forward Because of the snow, we can't go ahead with the festival. go along with agree with or pretend to agree with Even though Cedric hated weight lifting, he went along with it because his coach suggested it. go for try or attempt to achieve something Carlos trains so hard because he is going for an Olympic gold medal. go on continue doing something (see keep [x] up) The boys will go on digging until they hit a water pipe. go over review or look at again Marie went over the study guide one last time before the test. hand in submit (especially an assignment) The teacher wants us to hand in our essays through email. hold [x] back prevent someone from doing something I wanted to become an architect, but my bad grades held me back. keep [x] up continue doing something (see go on) Keep this pace up and you'll set a new record! leave [x] out omit or disregard Orna left the graph out of the presentation. / Orna left out the graph from the presentation. let [x] down disappoint Kamal let Marco down when he arrived late. / Kamal let down Marco when he arrived late. let go of release or free Don't let go of the rope until I'm safe. let [x] in allow to enter Close the door or you'll let the flies in! let [x] know tell someone something Let me know as soon as Leslie texts back. look after take care of someone or something Thank you for looking after me when I was sick. look up to [x] admire or idolize someone I looked up to this YouTuber until I read about their scandal. mix up confuse something with something else It's easy to mix up Chris Pine and Chris Pratt. pull [x] up retrieve or bring something nearer Eugene pulled the document up on his computer. / Eugene pulled up the document on his computer. put [x] on wear or add something to your person or an object I always put my backpack on before leaving the house. / I always put on my backpack before leaving the house. put up with tolerate or condone Somehow Paz could put up with Janice's cynical attitude. run out of use all of or drain the supply of something Isabella ran out of toilet paper at the worst possible time. see to make sure something is done I'll see to watering the plants while you're gone. set [x] up arrange or organize Since no one invited me to join their study group, I set one up myself. show off deliberately display abilities or accomplishments in order to impress people Panya didn't need to shoot so many three-pointers; she was just showing off. shut [x] off turn off, especially a machine Don't forget to shut the water after your shower. / Don't forget to shut off the water after your shower. take after resemble, especially with parents and their children Li takes after his father when it comes to politics. take [x] out move something outside Please take the garbage out before dinner. / Please take out the garbage before dinner, think [x] over consider something When his parents suggested selling his Pokemon cards, Yosef thought it over. throw [x] away dispose of something Could you throw that old burrito away? / Could you throw away that old burrito? turn [x] down reject or say "no" My crush turned me down after I asked them out. top off fill something to the top; to complete something in a special or spectacular way May I top off your beverage? wait on serve, especially at a restaurant Billie eagerly waited on the new table of customers, hoping for a big tip. Phrasal verb FAQs English speakers of all backgrounds often have questions about phrasal verbs—after all, they're quite confusing! Here are some frequently asked questions about phrasal verbs to help clear up some things. What are phrasal verbs? Phrasal verbs are a group of words that combine a verb with an adverb or a preposition. Together, these words act as a single verb and take on a whole new meaning that's independent from the meanings of the individual words. What are phrasal verb examples? Phrasal verbs are very common, and you hear them in spoken English all the time. Some popular examples include get out, calm down, give away, and put up with. What are the four types of phrasal verbs? There are four types of phrasal verbs, divided into two pairs: transitive and intransitive; separable and inseparable. A phrasal verb can belong to only one of each pair, but keep in mind that all separable phrasal verbs are transitive. This article was originally written in 2020 by Nikki Pontek. It's been updated to include new information. Your writing, at its best. Works on all your favorite websitesRelated ArticlesWriting grammar, and communication tips for your inboxGet GrammarlyGrammarly for Your DesktopGrammarly for WindowsGrammarly for MacGrammarly Browser ExtensionGrammarly for ChromeGrammarly for SafariGrammarly for FirefoxGrammarly for EdgeGrammarly for MS OfficeGrammarly for Google DocsGrammarly for iPhoneGrammarly for iPadThe Grammarly KeyboardLearn MorePlansGrammarly PremiumGrammarly BusinessGrammarly for EducationBlogTech BlogBusiness BlogGrammarly APIFeaturesGrammar CheckerPlagiarism CheckerEssay CheckerTone DetectorStyle GuideSnippetsAnalyticsBrand TonesCompanyAboutCareers & CulturePressAffiliatesUser Trust GuidelinesPrivacy PolicyTerms of ServiceCA Privacy NoticeSecurityConnectHelp CenterContact UsFacebookInstagramTwitterLinkedIn2022 © Grammarly Inc.

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