How to teach Multiword Verbs

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What we are going to talk about

1. Aims of the webinar
2. Your goal as a teacher
3. Define a multiword verb
4. What you need to know as a teacher
   1. grammatical terms
   2. syntactic and semantic tests
5. What a student needs to learn proficiently
6. Materials to teach online and in-person
Aims

a. To teach you the grammar required to teach Phrasal Verbs effectively to your students

b. To show some ways in which you can teach Phrasal Verbs online and during in-person lessons
Your goal as a teacher

a. Teach the student to feel comfortable with the grammatical terms and the properties of different groups of phrasal verbs

b. Ensure the student can use a dictionary correctly, in order to continue learning and using phrasal verbs without assistance from the teacher.
What is a multiword verb

It is a combination of a word and one or two other elements:

Only number 4 is not a multiword verb

1. He *looked at* the cat.
2. She *looked up* a word in the dictionary.
3. He *looked* his friend’s address *up*.
4. Adam *is looking up* the tree.
5. The boss *looks down on* his employees.
What you need to know

Multiword verbs can belong to three main groups:

a. Phrasal Verbs

look up, call off, run into, take off

b. Prepositional Verbs

decide on, apply for, stand for, depend on

c. Prepositional Phrasal Verbs

put up with, look forward to, run up against
A particle is not an adverb or a preposition, but yet, has the same form:

a. I decided on the chair. (particle)

b. I decided on the chair. (preposition)

The book, which I decided on, is excellent.

The book, on which I decided, is excellent.

On which book did you decide?

Which book did you decide on?
What you need to know

Different groups have different grammatical properties:

a. Transitive or intransitive
b. Separable or inseparable
c. Relative clause test
d. Wh- question test
e. Particle movement test
Multiword verbs have multiple meanings:

A single phrasal verb can belong to different categories and have different meanings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>take off = fly</th>
<th>The plane took off.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>take off = leave</td>
<td>He took off without saying anything.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take off = succeed</td>
<td>John's career is taking off.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take [sth] off = remove</td>
<td>Sonia took off her earrings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take [sth] off = not work</td>
<td>She is taking three month off.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What you need to know

Multiword verbs are used in spoken and written English, by every speaker:

As of 2008, there was no documented preference for phrasal verbs in informal discourse.

Cornell (1985) recognizes that two word verbs appear in formal discourse.

They are increasing in number.
A good dictionary is important to understand and use phrasal verbs!

Phrasal verbs come after the main verb in the dictionary:

- Give
- Give something back
- Give something up

Here, you can see that the phrasal verbs are separable transitive phrasal verbs because:

there is a *pronoun* between the verb and particle.
Direct object = Pronoun

If the direct object is a pronoun, you **must** place it between the verb and the particle!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I put <em>my hat</em> on.</th>
<th>I put <em>it</em> on.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He is handing <em>his report</em> in.</td>
<td>He is handing <em>it</em> in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She jotted <em>the notes</em> down.</td>
<td>She jotted <em>them</em> down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We looked up <em>the recipe</em>.</td>
<td>We looked <em>it</em> up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What can you...

...turn over?
- someone’s address, the time of an appointment, a telephone number

...check out?
- a piece of meat, a letter, a book, a packet of something

...jot down?
- a hat, jewelry, shoes, a shirt, make-up, gloves

...put on?
- a friend’s new house, a strange place, a popular club
More inseparable transitive phrasal verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry looks and acts just like his father.</td>
<td>I have gone through all my money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week I had $400 in my wallet and now I have nothing left.</td>
<td>I ran across that guy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I saw that terrible guy from the office at the gym today.</td>
<td>The students were picking on Jim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The students were calling Jim bad names and mistreating him.</td>
<td>Henry takes after his father.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ask sb out / get sb down / let sb off / see sth through

These verbs belong to another small group of transitive phrasal verbs:

The direct object **always** comes between the verb and the particle. They are *permanently separated transitive* phrasal verbs.

The policemen *let me* off.

The policemen *let off* me.
He **dozed off** early last night.

The car engine **blew up** last night.

She **passed out** after the car accident.

My laptop has **broken down** again.
Prepositional verbs

It is generally easy to understand the meaning of a prepositional verb…

The baby *smiled at* his mother.

The subway stations in London also *served as* bomb shelters during World War II.

…but not always.

He *called on* his mother on his way home from work. (= visited)

The Red Cross *stands for* medical care. (= represents)
Phrasal prepositional verbs consist of a verb + two elements:

- a verb
- prepositional phrase

Dean came up with an idea.

You cannot leave out one of the elements.

Dean came up with an idea.
What about Homework?

Each Off2Class lesson comes loaded with a self-study activity.
In which order do I teach?

The general order in which I teach the grammar of multiword verbs to ESL students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiword Verb</th>
<th>Corresponding Off2Class lessons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phrasal Verbs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Separable Transitive Phrasal Verbs</td>
<td>PV1.2 to PV1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Inseparable Transitive Phrasal Verbs</td>
<td>PV1.5 and PV1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Permanently Separated Transitive Phrasal Verbs</td>
<td>PV1.7 and PV1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Intransitive Phrasal Verbs</td>
<td>PV1.8 and PV1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pure Intransitive versus Paired Ergative Verbs</strong></td>
<td>(these are explored particularly in PV1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepositional Verbs</td>
<td>PV2.1 and PV2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepositional Phrasal Verbs</td>
<td>PV3.1 and PV3.2</td>
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Any questions?

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