

3. FOCUS ON: three-word phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are not always composed of two words. Three-word phrasal verbs are composed of a verb and two particles: the first particle is normally an adverb, and the second a preposition. Like two-word phrasal verbs, three-word phrasal verbs are either separable or nonseparable:

I know it's been a long day, but do you **feel up to** playing tennis after dinner?

Jake always **went in for** fishing when he was a kid. It was nice to meet you, and I **look forward to** seeing you again.

I'm sorry I can't say yes about the motorcycle, but I have to **go along with** your mother's decision.

I've **put up with** these love handles long enough — next week I'm getting liposuction.

Mr. Baker tried to **screw** his ex-wife **out of** her share of the lottery prize.

You **talk down to** me like I'm some kind of idiot. Karen's nervous about the job interview.

She just wants to **get it over with** so she can stop worrying about it.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
feel up to	feel up to & feels up to	feeling up to	felt up to	feel up to

1. feel up to p.v. When you **feel up to** doing something, you have the **confidence** or energy to do it.

I'm sorry to cancel, but I just don't **feel up to** going dancing tonight.

The top of the mountain is only 1,000 feet away — do you **feel up to** it?

get over with

get over with & gets over getting over with got over with gotten over

1. get... over with p.v. [always separated] When you want to **get** something **over with**, it is because it is something unpleasant that you want to finish so that you can stop worrying about it or **dreading** it.

Let's fix both **cavities** today, doctor; I just want to **get it over with**.

I think it's better to **get** the exam **over with** first period than to be nervous about it all day long.

go along with

go along with & goes along with going along with went along with gone along

1. go along with p.v. When you agree with people or agree with what they are saying, you **go along with** them.

I understand your **concern**, Linda, but I have to **go along with** Maria on this matter.

What's my opinion? I **go along with** Omar.

2. **go along with** p.v. When you **obey** a rule or follow a decision, you **go along with** it.

Mrs. Taylor wasn't happy about the committee's decision, but she **went along with** it anyway.

I don't care what the boss says — I'm not **going along with** any changes that will mean longer hours for less money.

Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
go in for go in for & goes in for	going in for	went in for	gone in for

1. **go in for** p.v. When you **go in for** a certain activity, you like it and do it regularly.

Bryan really **goes in for** any kind of outdoor activity.

When I was a kid I **went in for** football, but I don't watch it much anymore.

look forward to

look forward to & looks	looking forward	looked forward	looked
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1. **look forward to** p.v. When you **look forward to** something or **look forward to** doing something, you are excited about something in the future because you enjoy it or because it will benefit you in some way.

It's been four years since my brother went overseas. I'm **looking forward to** seeing him again.

I **look forward to** an opportunity to meet with you in person.

put up with

put up with & puts up with	putting up with	put up with	put up
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1. **put up with** p.v. When you **put up with** something you do not like or are not happy about, you accept it and do not try to change it.

Her neighbors have loud parties every night, but she doesn't complain. She just **puts up with** it.

My husband said, "I've **put up with** your brother long enough!"

screw out of

screw out of & screws out of	screwing out of	screwed out of	screwed
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1. **screw... out of** p.v. [informal] When you get money or something valuable from people in a dishonest way, you **screw** them **out of** it.

That con man **screwed** me **out of** my life savings.

Their sleazy son-in-law **screwed** them **out of** thousands of dollars.

talk down to

talk down to & talks down to	talking down to	talked down to	talked
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1. **talk down to** p.v. When you **talk down to** people, you use a tone of voice or an attitude that shows you think they are less intelligent, less educated, or from a lower level of society than you.

/ was furious about the way he **talked down to** me!
Bob hates Jane because of the way she **talks down to** him.

EXERCISE 3a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Thanks for inviting me, but I don't _____ card games.
2. I couldn't _____ my husband's smoking any longer.
I told him to choose between cigarettes and me.
3. I'm sorry, but I think your plan is a big mistake, and I can't _____
_____ it.
4. Even though Mr. Watson is the richest man in town, he never _____
_____ people.
5. It's been only two weeks since the tragedy. I'm sure they don't _____
_____ going to the party.
6. If that crook thinks he's going to _____ me _____
500 bucks, he's crazy!
7. The whole family's going to be here for Thanksgiving, and Mom is really _____
_____ it.
8. I volunteered to give my speech first just so I could _____ it _____
9. Even if you don't like the rules, you have to _____
them.

EXERCISE 3b — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Jerry's brother-in-law talks to him like he's an idiot. How does Jerry's brother-in-law talk to Jerry?
2. Nicole can't work tomorrow, and she's nervous about telling her boss. What should Nicole do?
3. They paid \$5,000 too much for their house because the salesman lied to them. What did the salesman do to them?

4. Sally's going to fly in an airplane for the first time, and she's very excited about it. How does Sally feel about flying in an airplane?
5. The winters in Minneapolis are terrible, but you can't move or change the weather. What do you have to do?
6. Erik just got out of the hospital, and he doesn't feel strong enough to go back to work. Why can't Erik go back to work?
7. I thought the new policy was an excellent idea, and I agreed with it 100 percent. How did I feel about the new policy?

EXERCISE 3c, Review — Complete the sentences with these phrasal verbs from Section 2. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense. To check their meanings, review Section 2.

come off	fall for	hear about	stay off
doze off	give in	pull through	throw up

1. Miguel told me he didn't steal my TV, but I didn't _____ his lies.
 2. Jim is really sick, and he stayed home from school today. He _____
twice last night.
 3. After a few weeks, the gold on this cheap jewelry starts to _____.
 4. He kept nagging and nagging, and I finally _____.
 5. If that cat doesn't learn to _____ the table, it will have to go.
 6. After Betty's temperature got up to 105 degrees, we started to think she might not
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7. The meeting was so boring that I _____.
 8. I _____ a country where people use big stones for money.