

1. FOCUS ON: separable and nonseparable phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are either **separable** or **nonseparable**. Unfortunately, there is no rule that will help you to look at a phrasal verb and always know whether it is separable or nonseparable.

Separable phrasal verbs

Separable phrasal verbs can be separated by their object. When the object is a noun, it is usually entirely optional whether the object is placed between the verb and the particle or placed after the particle. Both sentences below are correct:

I **took** my shoes **off**.

I **took off** my shoes.

However, when a pronoun is used instead of a noun, the pronoun must be placed between the verb and the particle:

I **took** them **off**.

~~I **took off** them.~~

But in one type of sentence, separable phrasal verbs must be separated — when the phrasal verb has two objects:

She **put** a blanket

on.

She **put on** a blanket.

She **put** a blanket **on** the bed.

~~She **put on** a blanket the bed.~~

Nonseparable phrasal verbs

Nonseparable phrasal verbs cannot be separated by their object:

He **ran into** a tree.

~~He **ran** a tree **into**.~~

Throughout this book, phrasal verbs that can be separated have three dots (...) between the verb and the particle.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
come from	come from & comes from	coming from	came from	come
from				

1. **come from** p.v. When you **come from** a place, you were born there or lived there previously. When you **come from** a family or a social situation, your past experience helps to explain your present attitudes and behavior.

Mike **comes from** Alaska, so he's used to cold weather.

Jane had a difficult childhood. She **came from** a broken home.

2. **come from** p.v. When something **comes from** a source, that is where it originated.

The word "admiral" comes **from** an Arabic word.

The mechanic heard a strange sound **coming from** the engine.

Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
figure out			
figure out & figures out	figuring out	figured out	figured out

1. **figure ... out** p.v. [the object can be a noun or a noun clause] When you **figure out** something, such as the answer to a question, the solution to a problem, or why a person is a certain way or acts a certain way, you think about and succeed in understanding it.

Joe's so hostile all the time. I can't **figure him out**.

I looked everywhere for my keys, but I couldn't **figure out** where I put them.

give back

give back & gives **giving back** **gave back** **given**

1. **give ... back** (to) p.v. When you return something to someone, you **give it back**.

Can I use your pen? I'll **give it back** after the test.

Timmy, **give** that toy **back** to your sister right now!

look for

look for & looks for **looking for** **looked for** **looked for**

1. **look for** p.v. When you **look for** things or people, you try to find them.

/ **looked** for you at the party, but I didn't see you.

Excuse me, can you help me? I'm **looking for** 303 Main St.

put on

put on & puts on **putting on** **put on** **put on**

1. **put... on** p.v. When you place something on or apply something to your body, you **put it on**.

I **put on** my new dress before going to the party.

Eric forgot to **put** suntan lotion **on**, and now he's as red as a lobster.

2. **put... on** p.v. When you place something on or apply something to another surface, you **put it on**.

I **put** the book **on** the table.

Jerry **put** too much fertilizer **on** his **lawn**, and now he has to cut it twice a week.

3. **put... on** p.v. When you attach or affix something to another thing, you **put it on**.

The Wilson's **put** a new roof **on** their house last year.

I told the tailor to **put** red buttons **on** the dress he's making for me.

4. **put... on** p.v. When you **put on** weight, you gain weight.

THE ULTIMATE PHRASAL VERB BOOK

Did you see Mike? He's **put on** so much weight that I didn't recognize him.
I need to go on a diet. I've been **putting on** a lot of weight lately.

5. put ...on p.v. When you organize or perform something for other people's entertainment, such as a play or a concert, you **put it on**.

The club **put on** a show to raise money for the party.

That opera hasn't been **put on** in more than 200 years.

6. put.. .on p.v. [informal] When you **put** people on, you kid or tease them.

You won the lottery? You're **putting me on!**

Don't **put me on** — tell me the truth.

put-on n. Something done with the **intention** of fooling or **deceiving** people is a **put-on**.

He didn't really win the lottery. It was all a big **put-on** to impress his girlfriend.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
run	run into & runs into	running into	ran into	run into

1. run into p.v. When you are driving and hit another vehicle or something near the road, such as a tree or a telephone pole, you **run into** it.

Ali was driving too fast, and he **ran into** a telephone pole.

I was **run into** by a drunk driver.

2. run into p.v. When you meet people **unexpectedly** or **unintentionally**, you **run into** them. **Bump into** is the same as **run into**.

We **ran into** Karen and her new boyfriend at the supermarket yesterday.

I owe Frank \$300, so I hope I don't **run into** him.

3. run into p.v. When you unexpectedly **encounter** difficulties or problems, you **run into** them.

/ thought it would be easy to fix my car, but I've been **running into** problems.

Janice **ran into** one problem after another at work today.

4. run into p.v. When the total of something grows to a large amount or number, it **runs into** that amount or number.

If you fixed everything on that old car that needs fixing, it would **run into** thousands of dollars.

The number of starving people in the country **ran into** millions.

show up

show up & shows up	showing up	showed up	shown up
--------------------	------------	-----------	----------

1. show up p.v. When you appear somewhere, you **show up**. **Turn up** is similar to **show up**.
/ was supposed to meet my sister for lunch, but she hasn't **shown up** yet.

Over a hundred people **showed up** for the news conference.

2. show up p.v. When something appears or becomes visible, it **shows up**.

It's hard to photograph polar bears because they don't

show up well against the snow. The spots won't **show up** until the last stages of the disease.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
take off	take off & takes off	taking off	took off	taken off

3

1. take ...off p.v. When you remove something from your body, you **take** it **off**.
 / was so tired when I got home that I **took** my clothes **off** and went straight to bed.
Take off your shoes. You're getting mud on the carpet.

2. take ...off p.v. When you remove something from a surface, you **take** it **off**.
 I **took** the book **off** the table. You need to **take** the old wax **off** the floor before you wax it again.

3. take ...off p.v. When you remove something from something it is attached or affixed to, you **take** it **off**.
 Alfonso always **takes** the skin off chicken before he cooks it.
 After Jane **took** the flat tire off her bicycle, she put on the new one.

4. take ... off p.v. When you **take** time **off** from work or study, you do something different, in stead of working or studying.
 I can't work tomorrow. I have to **take** the day off for some tests at the hospital.
 Our company always lets us **take** the week between Christmas and New Year's Day off.

5. take off p.v. When an airplane leaves the ground and flies up into the air, it **takes off**.
 Our plane **took off** an hour late because of the snow.
 Put on your seat belt; we're **taking off** now.
takeoff n. Takeoff is when an airplane leaves the ground and flies up into the air.
 The **takeoff was** delayed because of the snow.

6. take off p.v. When a business or other organized activity becomes very successful, it **takes off**.
 The new restaurant's business is **taking off** because it got a good review in the newspaper.
 If this business **takes off**, we could make a lot of money.

7. take off p.v. [informal] When you leave suddenly or quickly, you **take off**.

4

After he found out the FBI was looking for him, he **took off in** a hurry.
This party's boring — let's **take off**.

8. take ... off p.v. When you reduce the price of something that is for sale by a certain amount, you **take** that amount **off** the price.

The sign in the store window said, "Every Monday **take** 10 percent **off** all marked prices."

The car dealer **took** \$2,000 **off** the list price.

EXERCISE 1 a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

Example: Sergeant Jones is very strict with his children. He COMES

FROM a military family.

1. After the police arrived, we _____ quickly.
2. Sales of air conditioners really _____ when the temperature got over 100 degrees last summer.
3. Megan _____ a lot of weight _____ when she was pregnant.
4. I'm going to install a new program tonight, and I hope I don't _____ any problems.
5. The invisible ink _____ only under ultraviolet light.
6. I was expecting 100 people at the party, but only around 50 _____.
7. Jane was lucky; she _____ a good family.
8. Be sure you _____ a coat of **primer** _____ before you paint the **fender**.
9. My cousin is so weird that even his mother can't _____ him _____.
10. I don't feel well; I think I'll _____ tomorrow _____ and stay home.
11. We were scared to death when we heard voices _____ the attic.

12. My son always forgets to _____ his coat before he goes outside.
13. I was surprised when our plane _____ on time.
14. We _____ our dog all night, but we couldn't find him.
15. Paul finally _____ my CDs after I asked him for them about a million times.
16. I'm not going to the party because I don't want to _____ Janice.

17. The real estate agent said that our asking price was too high and that we should _____ at least \$10,000 _____ it if we want to sell our house.
18. _____ those muddy shoes before you come inside.
19. Sending my son to Stanford and my daughter to Yale is going to _____ some serious money.
20. _____ the ornaments _____ the Christmas tree isn't as much fun as putting them on.
21. You can't be serious — you're _____ me _____!
22. Don't forget to _____ a stamp _____ that letter before you mail it.
23. A special performance of **The Nutcracker** was _____ at the children's hospital.
24. The maid _____ the dirty sheets _____ the bed.
25. Be careful! You almost _____ that truck back there.

EXERCISE 1 b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.

Example: I can't **figure out**. (the answer, it)
I can't figure out the answer. I can't figure the answer out. I can't figure it out.

1. I finally **figured out**. (the instructions, them)

2. **Give back** when you are finished, (my tools, them)

3. She **put on**. (her slippers, them)

4. I **took off**. (my shoes, them)

5. The hurricane **took off**. (the roof, it)

EXERCISE 1c — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and nouns from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

Example: I can't understand where my wallet is. What can't I do?
You can't figure out where your wallet is.

1. A lot of guests didn't come to the wedding. What didn't a lot of guests do?
2. Raul thought about the math problem, and he knows the answer now. What did Raul do?
3. The jet is leaving the ground and flying into the air. What is the jet doing?
4. In Question 3, what would you call what the airplane did?
5. Omar speaks Arabic because he was born in Egypt. Why does Omar speak Arabic?
6. We left Bob's house quickly. What did we do?
7. I met Uncle John at the baseball game today. What did I do today?
8. The source of the smoke was a window on the tenth floor. What did the smoke do?
9. You almost hit a tree while you were driving your car. What did you almost do?

10. Mr. Taylor attached his name to his mailbox. What did Mr. Taylor do?
11. I have to remove the flat tire from my car. What do I have to do?
12. We didn't have any problems cooking the turkey. What did we do?
13. I'm removing the dirty dishes from the table. What am I doing?
14. Sales of the company's new product were very successful. What did sales of the company's new product do?
15. Linda is trying to find her golf ball. What is Linda doing?
16. Susie's blue eyes aren't visible in this photo. What don't Susie's eyes do in this photo?
17. Jim always forgets to place salt and pepper on the table. What does Jim always do?
18. Bill didn't go to work last Friday. What didn't Bill do?
19. Sally returned Frank's camera. What did Sally do?
-