

Teaching phrasal verbs in English

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The ultimate goal of the education policy of our state – to establish the effective national system for training specialists, whose knowledge and skills must meet the world standards. In such a situation there is a great demand for learning a foreign language, English, in particular, as English is a chief medium of communication all over the world.

Phrasal verbs are one of the most distinctive and essential features of the English language. They consist of a verb followed by a preposition or an adverb, or both, and together they create a meaning that often differs from the original verb. They are used widely in everyday spoken and written English, making them crucial for learners to understand. Their idiomatic nature often confuses learners of English as a Second Language (ESL). This paper explores the structure, types, meanings, and usage of phrasal verbs, highlights the challenges they present for learners, and proposes strategies for mastering them.

Phrasal verbs can be broken down into several categories based on their grammatical behavior[1,2]:

1. Separable Phrasal Verbs: These allow the object to be placed between the verb and the particle. For example:

- 'Turn off the lights' or 'Turn the lights off'
- 'Put on your jacket' or 'Put your jacket on'

2. Inseparable Phrasal Verbs: These do not allow separation of the verb and the particle. The object must come after the phrase. Examples:

- 'Look after the baby'
- 'Run into an old friend'

3. Three-word Phrasal Verbs: These include a verb + two particles (adverb + preposition):

- 'Get away with something'
- 'Look forward to something'
- 'Come up with an idea'

Understanding these structures helps learners use phrasal verbs correctly in both writing and speech.

Phrasal verbs can be also be literal or idiomatic[2]:

- Literal phrasal verbs retain the original meaning of the verb and the particle. For example:
 - 'Sit down' (to sit in a lower position)
 - 'Stand up' (to rise to a standing position)
- Idiomatic phrasal verbs, on the other hand, have meanings that cannot be deduced from

the

individual words:

- 'Give up' (to stop trying)
- 'Break down' (to stop working or to become emotionally upset)
- 'Pick up' (to collect someone or something)

Idiomatic phrasal verbs are often the most difficult for learners because the meaning is not obvious.

There are hundreds of phrasal verbs used daily in English. Mastering the most common ones is essential for fluency[2]. Here are a few grouped by theme:

- Daily routines:
- Wake up, get up, go out, come back, turn in
- Social interactions:
- Get along, hang out, run into, catch up
- Work and study:
- Take on (responsibility), hand in (an assignment), drop out (of school)
- Emotions and reactions:
- Calm down, cheer up, freak out, break down

Learning these by category can help students better understand context and usage.

In general, phrasal verbs are more common in informal contexts, especially spoken English.

In

academic and formal writing, their one-word equivalents are often preferred.

Examples:

- Informal: 'He put off the meeting.' Formal: 'He postponed the meeting.'
- Informal: 'We found out the truth.' Formal: 'We discovered the truth.'

However, some phrasal verbs are acceptable even in semi-formal writing, particularly when no

concise equivalent exists or when the phrasal verb is more natural in tone.

English learners often find phrasal verbs difficult because their meanings are unpredictable, a single verb can combine with different particles to create completely different meanings (e.g. 'take off', 'take in', 'take up')[2,3]. To overcome these difficulties, learners and teachers can use the following strategies:

1. Learn in context instead of memorizing lists, learn phrasal verbs through dialogues and real situations.
2. Group them thematically, learn similar phrasal verbs together based on topic.
3. Use flashcards and apps, they can help memorize and review phrasal verbs regularly.
4. Practice regularly, create sentences, write short stories, or have conversations using phrasal verbs.
5. Watch and listen to native content, movies, podcasts, and videos help with understanding tone and context.

Phrasal verbs are an indispensable part of English. Although they present a challenge to learners, particularly because of their idiomatic nature and complexity, they are essential for fluency. Understanding their types, meanings, and appropriate contexts along with consistent exposure and practice can greatly improve learners' command of the language. By applying smart strategies and being patient with the learning process, mastering phrasal verbs becomes an achievable goal for ESL students.

Источники и литература

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- 3) Swan, M. (2005). Practical English Usage. Oxford University Press.
- 4) <https://www.ef.com/wwen/english-resources/english-grammar/phrasal-verbs/>