



## GRAMMAR: PHRASAL VERBS

### 1) What is a phrasal verb?

✓ A **phrasal verb** consists of a verb + one or more participles. A **participle** is a preposition or an adverb.

- *Help with* (verb + preposition) = ayudar con.  
Example: I will *help you with* your homework.
- *Put away* (verb + adverb) = guardar, apartar.  
Example: Every year, I *put away* some money for a new car.

### 2) What do phrasal verbs mean?

✓ Some phrasal verbs have got a **literal meaning**:

- He *filled in* the form -> The speaker here is literally filling in the spaces on a form by writing his details.  
*Fill in* here means *complete* (completar, rellenar).

✓ Some phrasal verbs have got a **figurative (= non-literal) meaning**:

- I *fell out* with my brother and now he isn't speaking to me -> The speaker here has not literally fallen out of anything.  
*Fall out* here means *have an argument* (tener una discusión).

✓ You have to learn whether a phrasal verb has got a literal or a figurative meaning. Watch out! Some phrasal verbs have **more than one meaning**:

- I *got on* the bus (I moved from the outside to the inside of the bus -> subirse).
- My parents and I really *get on* (My parents and I have got a good relationship -> llevarse bien).

### 3) What are some common phrasal verbs?

There are many phrasal verbs in the English language, and they are frequently used in spoken and informal English. See some very common examples below.

Phrasal verb	Definition	Example
Break down	Stop working = averiarse	The car <b>broke down</b> on the motorway.
Carry on	Continue doing = continuar	You must <b>carry on</b> studying a bit longer.
Clean up	Make clean and tidy = limpiar y ordenar	Please, <b>clean up</b> the house.
Come across	Find by chance = encontrar por casualidad	I <b>came across</b> this dog on my way home.
Find out	Discover information = descubrir, averiguar	He <b>found out</b> that Sarah liked him.
Get up	Get out of bed = levantarse	I <b>get up</b> at 07:00 am every morning.
Give up	Stop doing something = dejar un hábito	You should give up smoking.
Grow up	Move into adulthood = crecer	We <b>grew up</b> in a quiet neighbourhood.
Hang on	Wait (informal) = esperar	<b>Hang on!</b> I am arriving!
Hurry up	Move more quickly = darse prisa	If you don't <b>hurry up</b> , we will be late!
Look after	Take care of = cuidar de	I hate <b>looking after</b> my little brother.
Look for	Try to find = buscar	I'm <b>looking for</b> my mobile. I think I have lost it.
Look into	Investigate = investigar	We need to <b>look into</b> this problem.
Look forward to	Anticipate with pleasure = estar deseando	I'm really <b>looking forward to</b> the film.

Make up	Invent = inventar	It isn't true; I <b>made</b> the story <b>up</b> .
Point out	Bring to someone's attention = señalar, destacar	I <b>pointed out</b> that she was wrong.
Put on	Wear = llevar puesto	<b>Put on</b> a jumper; it's cold.
Put off	Decide to do later = posponer	Don't <b>put off</b> your homework; do it now.
Run out of	Finish a supply of = quedarse sin	We have <b>run out of</b> milk. I will buy some more.
Split up	Finish a romantic relationship = terminar una relación sentimental	Evan and Aaron <b>split up</b> .
Set off	Depart for somewhere = partir, salir	We <b>set off</b> after lunch, and we arrived at six o'clock.
Take after	Resemble (a family member) = parecerse a	You really <b>take after</b> your dad.
Take off	Leave the ground (a plane) = despegar	The plane <b>took off</b> at midday.
Take up	Begin a new activity = comenzar una actividad	I think I will <b>take up</b> surfing.
Throw away	Discard as rubbish = tirar a la basura	You should <b>throw</b> those jeans <b>away</b> .
Turn down/ up	Make quieter/ louder = subir/ bajar el volumen	Please, <b>turn down/ up</b> the music!
Turn on/ off	Make a gadget active/ inactive = encender/ apagar	Let's <b>turn on</b> the TV to see what's on. <b>Turn off</b> the radio, we have to study.
Turn out	Eventually prove to be = resultar ser	It <b>turned out</b> to be a lovely day.

Wash up	Clean (food utensils) = lavar	I hate <b>washing up</b> all the dirty plates.
Work out	Find (the solution) = encontrar una solución	Help! I can't <b>work out</b> the answer!

## WORKSHEET

### 1) Read the following sentences and choose the correct particle.

- We need to set **after/ off/ up** for the airport in five minutes.
- I would like to point **across/ after/ out** that this evidence is inaccurate.
- What a mess! Clean **after/ off/ up** your bedroom immediately!
- Can you help me? I am looking **for/ on/ up** this top in a smaller size.
- You really take **across/ after/ up** your mum. You have both got the same eyes.
- We need to work **into/ on/ out** the solution to this problem before it gets worse.
- The bus broke **away/ down/ up** on the way to school.
- You need to put **on/ off/ up** some boots; it is muddy outside.

### 2) Complete the text with the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the list. You might have to change the verb tense.

**Fall out • Get on • Grow up • Look after • Look forward to • Wash up**

I \_\_\_\_\_ in a small town in Yorkshire. We were a large family, and I often had to help my parents \_\_\_\_\_ my little brothers and sisters. Most of the time, we \_\_\_\_\_ well with each other, but sometimes we argued and \_\_\_\_\_. Most of the arguments were about housework; we loved eating, and always \_\_\_\_\_ dinner, but one one ever wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ all the plates afterwards!