

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are combinations of verbs and particles. Common particles include *in*, *on*, *off*, *up*, *down*, and *out*. Verb + particle combinations carry their own meanings. In other words, the verb and the particle work together to create meaning.

The plane **took off** ten minutes ago. ["left the ground"]

We **turned in** our papers. ["submitted"]

You can find the definitions of phrasal verbs in most dictionaries made for learners of English.

Phrasal verbs can appear in all the tense-aspect combinations you have studied so far. The following chart includes the tense-aspect combinations for *turn up*:

	Present	Past	Future
Simple	turn/turns up	turned up	will turn up
Progressive	am/is/are turning up	was/were turning up	will be turning up
Perfect	has/have turned up	had turned up	will have turned up
Perfect Progressive	has/have been turning up	had been turning up	will have been turning up

exercise

19-1

Complete the following chart using the correct forms of the phrasal verb *go out*. Remember that *go* is an irregular verb.

	Present	Past	Future
Simple	_____	_____	_____
Progressive	_____	_____	_____
Perfect	_____	_____	_____
Perfect Progressive	_____	_____	_____

exercise

19-2

Complete each sentence with the form of the phrasal verb indicated in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: They *took apart* (take apart, simple past) the engine.

- The towing company _____ (take away, present perfect) the old car.
- He _____ (put on, past progressive) his hat when the doorbell rang.
- We _____ (find out, simple future) the results today.
- I _____ (look up, present progressive) their phone number.
- I _____ (sign up, future progressive) for four courses this term.
- The planning committee _____ (put off, past perfect) the event once again.
- Ray _____ (read through, future perfect) the report by Friday.
- The publishing company _____ (put out, present perfect progressive) a new book every month.
- By the end of the day, the actors _____ (go over, future perfect progressive) their lines for ten hours.
- We _____ (take out, simple present) the trash every Thursday night.
- The tour guide _____ (point out, simple past) some important sites.
- For years, Lixing _____ (pay back, past perfect progressive) his loan month by month.

Phrasal Verbs in the Passive Voice

Phrasal verbs may also be used in the passive voice:

	Present	Past	Future
Simple	am/is/are picked up	was/were picked up	will be picked up
Progressive	am/is/are being picked up	was/were being picked up	NOT COMMON
Perfect	has/have been picked up	had been picked up	will have been picked up

exercise

19-3

Complete the following chart using the correct passive forms of the phrasal verb *set up*. Remember that *set* is an irregular verb.

	Present	Past	Future
Simple	_____	_____	_____
Progressive	_____	_____	NOT COMMON
Perfect	_____	_____	_____

exercise

19-4

Complete each sentence with the passive form of the phrasal verb indicated in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: The interviews *were written up* (write up, simple past) in time for the conference.

- All the food at the party _____ (eat up, past perfect).
- Our car _____ (block in, simple past) by another car.
- The fire _____ (put out, present perfect).
- His photograph _____ (blow up, simple future) and published in the local newspaper.
- The project _____ (slow down, present progressive) by endless regulations.
- Change _____ (bring about, simple present) only through much effort.
- Their house _____ (break into, past progressive); so we called the police.
- By next year, three new products _____ (bring out, future perfect).

Separable Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs that take direct objects are often separable: the direct objects can be placed between the verb and the particle.

Angela **threw away** *the letter*.
Angela **threw** *the letter* **away**.

When the direct object is a pronoun, it must be placed between the verb and the particle.

Angela **threw** *it* **away**.

exercise

19-5

Rewrite the following sentences so that the direct object is between the verb and the particle. Then rewrite the sentence replacing the direct object with a pronoun.

EXAMPLE: The instructor quickly passed out the exams.
The instructor quickly passed the exams out.
The instructor quickly passed them out.

1. She brought back the books yesterday.

2. They called off the game.

3. I checked out the book on Monday.

4. I crossed out some names.

5. Someone turned off the washing machine.

6. I called up my parents last night.

7. She closed up her suitcase and put it on the scale.

8. I cleaned out my desk this morning.

9. She wrote down the number.

10. They gave away their old furniture.

11. Victor helped out his sister.

12. She took down a map and gave it to us.

Forming Negatives

You studied the ways to make verbs negative in Parts I, II, and III. Phrasal verbs follow these same patterns.

Active Voice

TENSE/ASPECT	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
simple	does/do not turn out	did not turn out	will not turn out
progressive	am/is/are not turning out	was/were not turning out	will not be turning out
perfect	has/have not turned out	had not turned out	will not have turned out
perfect progressive	has/have not been turning out	had not been turning out	will not have been turning out

Passive Voice

TENSE/ASPECT	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
simple	am/is/are not picked up	was/were not picked up	will not be picked up
progressive	am/is/are not being picked up	was/were not being picked up	NOT COMMON
perfect	has/have not been picked up	had not been picked up	will not have been picked up

exercise

19-6

Make each of the following sentences negative.

EXAMPLE: The wind blew it down.
The wind did not blow it down.

1. Jacob is writing down the address.

2. She has booted up the computer.

3. The hot weather was wearing us down.

4. The books were brought back yesterday.

5. The painting on the sidewalk has been washed off.

6. I am bringing my friend over tonight.

7. They vote down most proposals.

8. He made up the story.

9. I will print out my paper on that printer.

10. The report was turned in on time.

11. She set it down carefully.

12. They had been locked out of their car before.
