



Module 6 – Phrasal Verbs

Lesson Title “Phrasal Verbs – Speak Naturally in English”

Let's take a closer look at how phrasal verbs reflect our everyday experiences and emotions. If I say, *“I've been putting off this cleaning project for months,”* I use **put off** to express postponing something unpleasant – a very common usage.

Other natural examples include:

- **Get rid of** → to remove or eliminate:
“I need to get rid of all this stuff.”
→ This is much more conversational than saying *“eliminate”* or *“dispose of.”*
- **Come across** → to find something unexpectedly:
“I came across that guitar in my parents' attic.”
→ This adds a sense of surprise or coincidence.
- **Get around to** → to finally do something you've been delaying:
“I never got around to practicing.”
→ Common when talking about procrastination or priorities.
- **Take up** → to start a new hobby or activity:
“Maybe this move is a chance to take it up again.”
→ Often used for hobbies: *take up yoga, painting, guitar...*

Notice how the phrasal verbs add natural rhythm and emotional shading to the conversation – something single-word verbs rarely capture as well.

[Expressing Emotions and Challenges]

Phrasal verbs also help express how we feel, especially during stressful situations like moving:

- **Put up with** → to tolerate something unpleasant:
“I can't put up with this mess anymore.”
→ Stronger and more expressive than simply saying *“tolerate.”*



- **Let go of** → to release, both physically and emotionally:
“It’s hard to let go of sentimental items.”
→ This phrase captures the emotional difficulty of parting with things.
- **Work out** → to resolve or end well:
“Don’t worry – everything will work out fine.”
→ Commonly used to reassure someone or talk about solutions.
- **Get through** → to manage or survive a difficult experience:
“Moving is stressful, but you’ll get through it.”
→ Used for emotional or practical challenges.

These expressions mirror real feelings and make your English sound more empathetic and realistic.

[Phrasal Verbs in Social Contexts]

We also use phrasal verbs to talk about relationships and communication:

- **Get along (with)** → to have a friendly relationship:
“I hope I’ll get along with my new neighbors.”
→ A common way to talk about personal dynamics.
- **Run into** → to meet unexpectedly:
“I ran into Sarah at the coffee shop.”
→ Suggests a casual, unplanned meeting.
- **Call up** → to phone someone:
“I called them up yesterday.”
→ Informal, friendly alternative to “*telephoned*.”
- **Go over** → to review something carefully:
“The landlord wants to go over the contract.”
→ Common in both formal and informal settings.

Social life, work, and even small talk are full of these everyday phrasal expressions.

- **Sort out** → to organize or resolve something:
“I need to sort out the final paperwork.”



→ Also used for problems: *We need to sort this out.*

- **Look up** → to search for information:
“I looked up bike shops in the area.”
→ Useful for online searches or dictionaries.
- **Wrap up** → to finish something:
“Let’s wrap up for today.”
→ Informal and natural for ending a meeting or task.
- **Pick up (where we left off)** → to resume something:
“We can pick up where we left off tomorrow.”
→ Very useful in conversations, meetings, or tasks.
- **Carry out** → to complete or perform a task:
“I couldn’t carry out this project without you.”
→ Often used in slightly more formal or technical contexts.

These are phrases you’ll hear daily in offices, homes, and casual chats.

7. Grammar Tips: Separable vs Inseparable

- Put off the meeting ✓
- Put the meeting off ✓
- Put off it ✗
- Put it off ✓

Some phrasal verbs are separable – you can place the object in the middle – but some are not. Learn the pattern with each verb.

More Examples of Separable and Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

Separable:

- ✓ Turn down the offer
- ✓ Turn the offer down
- ✗ Turn down it
- ✓ Turn it down



- ☒ Give back the book
- ☒ Give the book back
- ☒ Give back it
- ☒ Give it back

- ☒ Call off the trip
- ☒ Call the trip off
- ☒ Call off it
- ☒ Call it off

- ☒ Figure out the problem
- ☒ Figure the problem out
- ☒ Figure out it
- ☒ Figure it out

Inseparable:

- ☒ Look after the children
- ☒ Look the children after
- ☒ Look them after
- ☒ Look after them

- ☒ Run into an old friend
- ☒ Run an old friend into
- ☒ Run him into
- ☒ Run into him

- ☒ Get over the flu
- ☒ Get the flu over
- ☒ Get it over (← this means something else!)
- ☒ Get over it

- ☒ Come across a great article
- ☒ Come a great article across
- ☒ Come it across
- ☒ Come across it



As you've seen, phrasal verbs are at the heart of everyday English. They're expressive, flexible, and full of personality.

Let's review a few key points:

- ✓ Use phrasal verbs to sound more natural and fluent.
- ✓ Learn them in context – not just in lists.
- ✓ Pay attention to meaning, tone, and grammar (separable/inseparable).
- ✓ Practice them through stories like Tom's, or by writing about your own life.

So next time you're talking about a challenge, a memory, or just everyday plans – see how many phrasal verbs you can include. You'll be surprised how much more authentic you sound.

Your English won't just improve – it'll take off. 🚀

Lesson 6: Tom's Big Move

(Mastering everyday phrasal verbs through a relatable relocation story)

Story summary

This relatable story follows Tom through the stressful but ultimately rewarding experience of moving to a new apartment. The narrative captures the emotional and practical challenges of relocating, from sorting through accumulated possessions to coordinating logistics and adapting to change. With help from his friend Jake, Tom faces the overwhelming task of deciding what to keep, donate, or discard while dealing with the anxiety of starting fresh in a new neighborhood.

The story demonstrates how phrasal verbs are naturally integrated into everyday conversation, particularly during practical activities and problem-solving situations. Through Tom's moving experience, we see how these multi-word verbs express nuanced meanings that single verbs cannot capture as effectively.

The narrative covers everyday life situations such as organizing belongings, making decisions, dealing with paperwork, planning transportation, and managing relationships with friends and neighbors.

Tom's journey illustrates the practical and emotional aspects of significant life transitions, showing how we use phrasal verbs to describe actions, emotions, and social interactions in natural, conversational English. The story provides authentic contexts for understanding how phrasal verbs make English sound more natural and expressive in casual communication.



"Moving Day Adventures"

Tom looks around his cluttered apartment and sighs. He has only two weeks to **get through** all his belongings and decide what to keep before moving to his new place across town.

"I really need to **get rid of** all this stuff," he tells his friend Jake, who came to help. "I've been **putting off** this cleaning project for months, and now I can't **put it off** any longer."

Jake **picks up** an old guitar from the corner. "Are you going to **take up** playing again? You **gave up** music years ago, but maybe this move is a chance to **take it up** again."

Tom laughs. "I doubt it. I **came across** that guitar in my parents' attic last year, but I never **got around to** practicing on it. I should probably **give it away** to someone who will actually use it."

The two friends **get down to** the serious work of packing. Tom **comes up with** a system: keep, donate, or throw away. It's more complicated than he expected to **let go of** sentimental items.

"I can't **put up with** this mess anymore," Tom says, looking at the pile of old books. "But I hate **throwing away** things that might be useful someday."

Jake **points out** a box of old electronics. "You should **get rid of** these broken gadgets. They're just **taking up** space, and you'll never **get around to** fixing them."

Tom's phone rings. It's his new landlord calling about the lease. "I need to **sort out** the final paperwork tomorrow," Tom tells Jake after hanging up. "The landlord wants to **go over** the contract one more time."

"Don't worry, everything will **work out** fine," Jake reassures him. "Moving is stressful, but you'll **get through** it."

They **carry on** packing until late afternoon. Tom **looks forward to** starting fresh in his new apartment, but he's also nervous about **settling into** a new neighborhood.

"I hope I'll **get along** with my new neighbors," Tom says. "In my current building, I **get by** with just saying hello in the hallway, but I'd like to **get to know** people better."

Jake **brings up** a practical concern. "Have you **figured out** how you're going to **get around** without a car? The new place is further from the subway station."

"I'm **looking into** buying a bicycle," Tom replies. "I **looked up** bike shops in the area, and there's one that **specializes in** commuter bikes. I **called them up** yesterday to ask about their selection."

As they continue packing, Tom **comes across** old photos from college. "I **ran into** Sarah at the coffee shop last week. She's **going through** a divorce and **looking for** a new apartment too. It's funny how life **turns out**."



"Speaking of **turning out**," Jake says, "I think we should **wrap up** for today. We've **gotten through** about half your stuff, and we can **pick up** where we left off tomorrow."

Tom agrees. "Thanks for **helping out**. I couldn't **carry out** this project without you. Let's **call it** a day and **grab** some pizza. All this work has made me hungry."

"Great idea," Jake replies. "And don't worry about the move. Once you **settle in**, you'll wonder why you **put it off** for so long."