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Phrasal verbs make our speech more vivid and authentic. A **phrasal verb** is a combination of a verb with an adverb or a [preposition](#). Typically, its meaning is not obvious from the meanings of the individual words themselves. For example:

- *I **ran into** my teacher at the movies last night. (you didn't physically run into your teacher, but you met your teacher unexpectedly)*

Look at the verb 'take' and see how many phrasal verbs it can form with different prepositions:

Phrasal verbs without objects

We don't use '**wake up**' and '**get up**' with an object.

These are some other examples of phrasal verbs **without objects**:

- **Come in!** *The door is open!*
- **Hold on.** *I need five more minutes.*
- **Look out!** *There's a car coming!*
- **Go away!** *I don't want to talk to you!*
- *The train was full so I had to **stand up**.*
- *Please **sit down** and relax.*

Phrasal verbs with objects

a) phrasal verbs taking an object

Some phrasal verbs **always** take an object:

- *I **put on** my jacket.*

- NOT: ~~I put on.~~

'My jacket' is the object. We can also put the object in the middle:

- I **put** my jacket **on**.

If the object is a pronoun, it always comes in the middle:

- I **put** it **on**.
- NOT: ~~I put on it.~~

Other common phrasal verbs which follow this pattern:

- I **took off** my jacket.
- He **switched on** / **turned on** the computer.
- He **switched off** / **turned off** the computer.

b) inseparable phrasal verbs with an object

Other phrasal verbs always take an object but we can't put it in the middle:

- I **looked after** his plants.
- NOT: ~~I looked after.~~
- NOT: ~~I looked his plants after.~~
- I **looked after** them.
- NOT: ~~I looked them after.~~

Another common phrasal verb which follows this pattern:

- She **takes after** her father.
- The police **are looking into** the crime.

c) phrasal verbs with or without an object

Some phrasal verbs can be used with or without an object:

- The taxi arrived and I **got in**. (no object)
- I **got in** / **into** the taxi.
- The bus arrived and I **got on**.

- *I **got on** / **onto** the bus.*
- *I walked to the shop and I **went in**.*
- *I **went in** / **into** the shop.*

In this video, you can find the explanation of a phrasal verb and the most commonly used phrasal verbs:

See also:

[Phrasal Verbs: Separable and Inseparable](#)