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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](#)