Phrasal Verbs

A **phrasal verb** [ˈfreɪzl vəːrb] (or also **compound verb** [ˈkɔmpʌund vəːrb]) is a stable combination of a [verb](#) with a [preposition](#) or a particle, or both, such a combination is idiomatic:

- *Come in. – Enter (the room, building, or other place).*

A phrasal verb formed with a preposition is called a **prepositional phrasal verb**, and a phrasal verb with a particle – a **particle phrasal verb** or an **adverbial phrasal verb**:

- *I am after another job.* (combination of a verb with a preposition)
- *He is out now.* (particle phrasal verb formed using the adverb "*out*")
- *He is getting on.* (particle phrasal verb formed using the preposition "*on*")

The function of a particle in phrasal verbs can be performed by prepositions or [adverbs](#). The difference between a particle phrasal verb formed with the help of a preposition from a prepositional phrasal verb is determined by whether the preposition is part of the sentence's [object](#) (i.e., whether it forms the prepositional object) or not:

1. *I have to get on the bus number 7.* (in this sentence "*on*" is part of the object "*on the bus*")
2. *You have to get on your coat.* (herein "*on*" is a particle and does not perform the function of a preposition, in other words, the "*on*" does not link the verb "*get*" with "*your coat*")

In the second case, there are two options for the location of the particle, before and after the object:

- *You have to get on your coat. = You have to get your coat on.*

If a [personal pronoun](#) is used as the object, then the phrasal verb's particle is always placed after the pronoun:

- *Here is your coat. You have to get it on.*

Compare with the prepositional phrasal verb:

- *It's the bus number 7. I have to get on it.*

In connection with the above, phrasal verbs are sometimes divided into **separable** [ˈsepərəbl] and **inseparable** [ɪnˈsepərəbl].

Phrasal verbs in English are more often used in everyday communication and, as a rule, they are formed with native English words, and usually are not formed with words borrowed from other languages, i.e. verbs belonging rather to formal speech:

- "*get together*" vs. "*congregate*"
- "*put off*" vs. "*postpone*"
- "*get out*" vs. "*exit*"

Sometimes some lexical [meanings of a phrasal verb](#) can be understood from the meanings of the

attached preposition or adverb, for example: "*give away*", "*give back*", "*look for*", "*get up*".

After studying a certain number of phrasal verbs, the understanding comes of what this or that preposition, or adverb in a given phrasal verb can mean.

See also

- English Phrasal Verbs (Dictionary)

From:
https://esl.wiki/ - **ESL.Wiki**

Permanent link:
https://esl.wiki/en/grammar/phrasal_verb

Last update: **24.11.2022 00:42**