

english phrasal verbs in use

intermediate

Understanding English Phrasal Verbs in Use: An Intermediate Guide

English phrasal verbs in use intermediate level learners often find themselves navigating a complex yet fascinating aspect of the English language. Phrasal verbs, which are combinations of verbs with prepositions or adverbs, can often change the meaning of the original verb entirely. This article will explore what phrasal verbs are, their significance in everyday communication, and provide practical examples and exercises to improve your understanding and usage.

What Are Phrasal Verbs?

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb plus one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs). The meaning of these combinations can often be idiomatic, meaning that it is not always possible to deduce the meaning from the individual words. For example, "give up" does not mean to give something that is up; instead, it means to stop trying.

The Structure of Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs can be categorized into three main types based on their structure and meaning:

1. **Intransitive Phrasal Verbs:** These verbs do not take an object. For example, "wake up" in the sentence "I wake up at 7 AM."
2. **Transitive Phrasal Verbs:** These verbs take an object. For instance, "turn off" in "Please turn off the lights."
3. **Transitive Phrasal Verbs with Separable and Inseparable Parts:** Some phrasal verbs can be separated by their objects, while others cannot. For example, "pick up" can be used as "pick the book up" (separable) or "turn on" as in "turn on the lights" (inseparable).

The Importance of Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are integral to fluent English communication. They are commonly used in both spoken and written English, making them essential for achieving a natural-sounding proficiency. Understanding and using phrasal verbs correctly can enhance your ability to express yourself clearly and effectively.

Common Phrasal Verbs and Their Meanings

Here are some common phrasal verbs that intermediate learners should be familiar with, along with their meanings:

- **Break down:** To stop functioning (e.g., "My car broke down on the way to work.")
- **Bring up:** To introduce a topic (e.g., "She brought up an interesting point during the discussion.")
- **Call off:** To cancel something (e.g., "The meeting was called off due to bad weather.")
- **Carry on:** To continue (e.g., "Please carry on with your work.")
- **Look forward to:** To anticipate something positively (e.g., "I look forward to meeting you.")
- **Run out of:** To have no more of something (e.g., "We ran out of milk.")
- **Turn up:** To arrive or appear (e.g., "He turned up late for the meeting.")

Using Phrasal Verbs in Context

To effectively incorporate phrasal verbs into your speech and writing, context is key. Here are some tips on how to use them correctly:

1. Understand the Context

Knowing the context in which a phrasal verb is used is crucial. For instance, "take off" can mean to remove something (like clothing) or for an airplane to

leave the ground.

2. Practice with Real-Life Examples

Using phrasal verbs in real-life scenarios can enhance retention. For example, try incorporating them into your daily conversations or writing exercises.

3. Watch English Media

Engaging with English-language media such as movies, TV shows, and podcasts can expose you to phrasal verbs in action. Pay attention to how they are used in different contexts.

Exercises for Practice

To reinforce your learning of phrasal verbs, consider the following exercises:

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences using the correct phrasal verb from the list below:

- give up
- look after
- run into
- find out

1. I was surprised to _____ my old friend at the coffee shop.
2. She decided to _____ smoking for good.
3. Can you _____ my dog while I'm on vacation?
4. I need to _____ what time the meeting starts.

Exercise 2: Match the Phrasal Verb with Its Meaning

Match the phrasal verbs with their correct meanings:

- A. Turn down
- B. Give in
- C. Set up
- D. Look into

1. To investigate or examine
2. To refuse an offer
3. To arrange or organize
4. To yield or surrender

Exercise 3: Create Sentences

Choose five phrasal verbs from the list provided earlier and create your own sentences to demonstrate your understanding.

Conclusion

Mastering **English phrasal verbs in use intermediate** is a valuable skill that can significantly improve your English fluency. By understanding their meanings, practicing their usage in context, and engaging with English media, you can enhance your communication skills and express yourself more naturally. Remember, the key to mastering phrasal verbs lies in consistent practice and application. So, embrace the challenge and start incorporating these dynamic expressions into your vocabulary today!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are phrasal verbs and why are they important in English?

Phrasal verbs are combinations of verbs with prepositions or adverbs that create a new meaning. They are important because they are commonly used in everyday English and can change the meaning of the original verb

significantly.

Can you provide examples of common phrasal verbs and their meanings?

Sure! Some common phrasal verbs include 'give up' (to stop trying), 'look after' (to take care of), 'turn down' (to refuse), 'break down' (to stop functioning), and 'make up' (to reconcile or invent).

How can I effectively learn and remember phrasal verbs?

To effectively learn phrasal verbs, try to practice them in context by reading or listening to English materials, using flashcards, and creating sentences of your own. Grouping them by themes or situations can also help with memorization.

Are phrasal verbs only informal, or can they be used in formal writing?

While phrasal verbs are often used in informal speech, many are also acceptable in formal writing depending on the context. However, it's important to choose the right phrasal verb that fits the tone of your writing.

What resources can help me practice phrasal verbs at the intermediate level?

There are many resources available such as online quizzes, language learning apps, textbooks focused on phrasal verbs, and websites offering exercises. Additionally, watching English movies or series can help you see phrasal verbs in action.

[English Phrasal Verbs In Use Intermediate](#)

English Phrasal Verbs In Use Intermediate

Related Articles

- [engineering materials 1 solution manual](#)
- [epic rap battles of history hitler vs vader 1](#)
- [ethics in information technology 4th edition george reynolds](#)

[Back to Home](#)