

Tips for learning phrasal verbs

How else can you learn phrasal verbs?

Here are some ideas:

Keeping records

It is helpful to keep paper or electronic vocabulary records for phrasal verbs:

- Write down and learn verbs as vocabulary units (as if they are single words) as you meet them.
- Make a note of whether they have an object or not e.g. *get up*, *look sth up*, *take after sb* (see also p. iv). Can the verb be used in the passive?
- Note some common subjects and objects that the verb is used with and the grammar patterns.
- It may help you to remember the meaning and grammar if you write down a couple of examples. You could even add your own cartoons.
- You can keep a note of opposites too or a single-word verb with the same meaning.
- Add any related nouns and adjectives that you find.

<i>verb:</i>	<i>look sth up</i>
<i>meaning:</i>	<i>to search for a word or some information in a book or a computer</i>
<i>objects:</i>	<i>new words; telephone numbers</i>
<i>grammar:</i>	<i>look sth up, look up sth; look it up</i>
<i>Related words:</i>	<i>look-up (noun)</i>

<i>verb:</i>	<i>take after sb</i>
<i>meaning:</i>	<i>to look like or behave like an older member of your family</i>
<i>example</i>	<i>I take after my mother in looks.</i>

Grouping verbs

Here are some different ways of grouping the verbs in your records to help you remember them:

- according to their particles (*up*, *down*, *out*, etc.) and particular meanings of the particles (e.g. for **up**: increasing – *speak up*; finishing – *fill sth up*) (see Review pages 1–6). Add new phrasal verbs as you meet them.
- Some verbs, like **get**, **take** and **put** form many phrasal verbs with different particles (see Review pages 7 and 8). You can group phrasal verbs under the main verb in your records.
- You can group them by themes (at home, at work, travelling, telephoning, etc.).
- When you are revising or reviewing phrasal verbs, try to group them in a different way. You may like to try writing a short story. For example, you could write about somebody making a telephone call and use the verbs *call sb back*, *hang up*, *hold on*, *speak up*, etc.

Meeting new phrasal verbs

- When you meet a verb you don't know, try to guess its meaning first, using the context and what you know about the meaning of particles. This will also help you with phrasal verbs that are very new to the language as they are often formed with a word and a particle with a common meaning, for example **head up**.