

PHRASAL VERBS

Phrasal verbs are verbs that consist of two (or three) parts – an ordinary verb and another word (words) like **in**, **up**, **for**, or **down**.

Literal and idiomatic meaning

Literally used phrasal verbs are easy to understand (you can guess the meaning of look up or sit down if you know the verbs look/sit and the words up/down)

I looked up the tree, but I couldn't see my cat.
Sit down.

Idiomatically used phrasal verbs have special meanings.

I looked up the spelling in my dictionary.
Don't let me down.

The four types

Type 1 - phrasal verbs without an object. INTRANSITIVE

The fire went out.

In the dictionary this verb is written like this: **go out**

Type 2 - phrasal verbs that can be separated by an object. TRANSITIVE -SEPARABLE

She tried on the red dress.
She tried the red dress on. } If the object is a noun, it can either go after both parts of the phrasal verb, or between them.

She tried it on. (She tried on it.) → If the object is a pronoun, it must go between the two parts of the phrasal verb.

In the dictionary this verb is written like this: **try sth on**

TRANSITIVE -NOT SEPARABLE

Type 3 - phrasal verbs that cannot be separated by an object

John's looking after the children.
(John's looking the children after.)
John's looking after them.
(John's looking them after.) } The two parts of the phrasal verb must go together.

In the dictionary this verb is written like this: **look after sb**

Type 4 - phrasal verbs with three parts

I can't put up with this noise any longer. → The three parts of the phrasal verb must go together.

In the dictionary this verb is written like this: **put up with sb/sth**