

## 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.*  
*She **sat 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**