

Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs have two parts: a main verb and an adverb particle.

The most common adverb particles used to form phrasal verbs are: around, at, away, down, in, off, on, out, over, round, up:

Examples of phrasal verbs: bring in, go around, look up, put away, take off.

Meaning

Phrasal verbs often have meanings which we cannot easily guess from their individual parts. (The meanings are in brackets.)

The book first came out in 1997. (was published)

The plane took off an hour late. (flew into the air)

The lecture went on till 6.30. (continued)

It's difficult to make out what she's saying. (hear/understand)

For a complete list of the most common phrasal verbs, see the Cambridge International Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs.

Reference:

Ellii (formerly ESL Library) (2022). Past Progressive - Grammar & Verb Tenses. Retrieved from: