

PHRASAL VERBS

Sentences like “*he’s coming back tomorrow*” and “*it’s all coming back to him now*” contain the same verb and particle (*come + back*). The first sentence has a more “transparent” meaning (*he’s returning tomorrow*), while the second has a special “idiomatic” sense (*he’s starting to remember now*). Both combinations are phrasal verbs and are treated under a separate entry in the dictionary.

Phrasal verbs, i.e. groups of words formed of a verb with an adverb or preposition (or both), are all listed in alphabetical order at the end of the entry for the main verb (for example, *come, give, make, set*). Phrasal verbs can take a direct object or have no object. Some verbs can be used in both ways:

Ex: *He is just showing off.*

She was showing off her new boyfriend at the party.

The white dress showed her tan off.

The dictionary clearly indicates whether or not the verb can take an object, and whether or not the verb and the particle can be separated by other words. The phrasal verb pattern is presented in bold underlined italics. Intransitive verbs are written without [*sb.*] or [*sth.*] to show that they do not have an object (eg *break out*). In the case of separable verbs, the object can go either after the particle or between the verb and the particle. In the dictionary, separable phrasal verbs are illustrated this way: ***verb [sb., sth.] + particle, verb + particle [sb., sth.]*** (eg ***break [sth.] down, break down [sth.]***). The construction ***verb [sb., sth.] + particle*** exemplifies that the particle cannot follow the verb directly, but rather is restricted to one specific position: in this case, it can only be placed after the direct object. Alternatively, if a phrasal verb is inseparable, its construction is ***verb + particle [sb., sth.]***, as in the case of ***look after [sb., sth.]***.

- **show in:** ~ [*sb.*] *in* fare entrare, accompagnare dentro.
- **show off:** ~ *off* COLLOQ. farsi vedere, mettersi in mostra; *to ~ off to o in front of sb.* mettersi in mostra davanti a qcn.; ~ [*sb., sth.*] *off, ~ off [sb., sth.]* fare risaltare [*figure, special feature, skill*]; mettere in risalto [*talent*]; fare vedere [*baby*]; sfoggiare [*car, boyfriend*].
- **show out:** ~ [*sb.*] *out* fare uscire, accompagnare fuori, alla porta.
- **show round:** ~ [*sb.*] *round* fare visitare, fare vedere.
- **show through:** ~ *through* [*courage, determination*] trasparire; ~ *through [sth.]* vedersi attraverso.
- **show up:** ~ *up* 1 (*be visible*) [*dust, mark*] vedersi; [*pollution, signs, symptoms*] manifestarsi; [*details, colour*] notarsi, risaltare 2 COLLOQ. (*arrive*) farsi vedere, presentarsi; ~ *up [sth.]* rivelare [*fault, mark*]; ~ [*sb.*] *up* 1 (*let down*) fare fare una brutta figura a, fare vergognare [*person*] 2 (*reveal truth about*) **research has shown him up for what he is** l’indagine ha messo in luce la sua vera natura.

Some transitive phrasal verbs can be made passive. When this is common, there is often an example at the dictionary entry:

*it’s the way I was brought up
don’t be taken in by appearances
that was not called for*

When a phrasal verb has a particular compound noun derived from it, this compound is included in the wordlist alphabetically.

Phrasal verbs are an essential part of English, especially in informal spoken language. When there is a one-word equivalent, it is usually much more formal in style, as can be seen in the following sentences:

*How can I **make up for** the way I've treated you?*

*It is crucial that a mechanism is found to **compensate for** inflation.*

Both **make up for** and **compensate for** have the same meaning, but they differ greatly in register and style. In the dictionary, the more formal equivalents or synonyms of phrasal verbs are often provided in the form of sense indicator glosses.

■ **make up:** ~ **up** **1** (after quarrel) riconciliarsi (with con) **2 to ~ up for** (compensate for) recuperare [lost time, lost sleep, missed meal, delay]; compensare [financial loss, deficit]; colmare [personal loss, bereavement] **3 to ~ up to** COLLOQ. ingraziarsi [boss, person]; ~ **up [sth.]**; ~ **[sth.] up** **1** (invent) inventare [excuse, story]; **you're making it up!** ti stai inventando tutto! **to ~ sth. up as one goes along** inventarsi qcs. man mano **2** (prepare) fare [parcel, bundle, garment, road surface, bed, prescription]; comporre, impaginare [type]; **she had the fabric made up into a jacket** con la stoffa si è fatta fare una giacca **3** (constitute) fare, costituire [whole, personality, society]; **to be made up of** essere composto di, da; **to ~ up 10% of** costituire il 10% di **4** (compensate for) recuperare [loss, time]; compensare [deficit, shortfall]; **to ~ the total up to £ 1,000** arrotondare la somma totale a 1.000 sterline **5** (put make-up on) truccare [person, face, eyes] **6** (stoke up) alimentare [fire] **7 to ~ it up** (make friends) riconciliarsi (with con); **I'll ~ it up to you somehow** (when at fault) troverò il modo di farmi perdonare; (when not at fault) in qualche modo ti ricompenserò.