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PHRASAL VERBS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

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Annotation: This article examines the fascinating field of Phrasal verbs and how they are an essential and often challenging aspect of learning English. They are combinations of a verb and one or more particles (usually prepositions or adverbs) that create a new meaning. Phrasal verbs can be inseparable, separable, or transitive, presenting unique characteristics that learners must understand to use them effectively.

Key words: phraseology, phrasal verbs, prepositional verb, particle, transitive, intransitive, separable, inseparable, Multi word verbs (MWV).

Phrasal verbs are important because they are extremely common in informal English, and unless you are familiar with their meanings, understanding informal language will be difficult. In addition, learning to use phrasal verbs correctly will help you sound natural in casual conversation. They're important because English speakers use phrasal verbs all the time. They are extremely common in conversations, and that makes them essential to mastering the language.

The origin of phrasal verbs is related to the syntax or word order of the German language. The German language follows the sentence structure of subject-verb-object. English is considered a Germanic language because it follows the subject-verb-object order, but it also follows the Germanic placement of the adjective and the adverb before the noun. The phrasal verb in the English language follows the separation of the present tense verb from the adverb or the preposition in German. In German, some verbs have prefixes before the root verb, which changes the meaning of the verb. In German, the phrase, "aufstehen" translates to "upstand" or "upget." In English it means "stand up" or "get up." Notice the prefix is attached to the root word. In English, the adverb or preposition is after the verb and is usually a separate word. The prefix and the particle added to the verb changes the meaning.

Types of Phrasal Verbs:



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- a. Prepositional phrasal verbs: These consist of a verb followed by a preposition (e.g., look up, run into).
- b. Particle phrasal verbs: These consist of a verb followed by an adverb (e.g., bring up, take off).
- c. Transitive and intransitive phrasal verbs: Transitive phrasal verbs require an object, while intransitive ones do not (e.g., put on vs. take off).

Inseparable Phrasal Verbs:

Inseparable phrasal verbs are those in which the particle cannot be separated from the verb. The meaning of the verb is different from the individual words used together. For example, "give up" means to surrender or quit, which is distinct from the meaning of "give" and "up" separately. These phrasal verbs are usually transitive and followed by a direct object. For instance, "She gave up her favorite hobby."

2. Separable Phrasal Verbs:

Separable phrasal verbs allow the particle to be placed either before or after the object of the sentence. The verb and particle can be separated by an object noun or pronoun. For example, the phrasal verb "call off" means to cancel. You can say, "They called off the meeting" or "They called the meeting off." This characteristic of separability gives learners flexibility in constructing sentences.

3. Transitive Phrasal Verbs:

Transitive phrasal verbs are those that can take an object, either a noun or pronoun, between the verb and the particle. These verbs can be either separable or inseparable. For instance, "turn off" can be used both ways - "She turned off the lights" (inseparable) or "She turned the lights off" (separable).

4. Idiomatic Meanings:

Phrasal verbs often have idiomatic meanings that are not predictable based on the individual verb and particle. For example, "bring up" means to mention or introduce a topic in conversation. These idiomatic meanings can sometimes be baffling for non-native speakers, so it's crucial to study phrasal verbs in context to understand their intended implications.

5. Variations in Formality:

Phrasal verbs can also vary in formality levels. Some are considered more informal, commonly used in spoken English or informal writing. For instance, "hang out" means to spend time casually with someone. In contrast, more formal equivalents like "associate with" can be used in formal writing or professional contexts.



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Prepositional and adverbial phrasal verbs: Phrasal verbs can be categorized into prepositional and adverbial phrasal verbs. Prepositional phrasal verbs have a preposition as the particle, while adverbial phrasal verbs have an adverb as the particle. For example, "put on" (prepositional) and "run away" (adverbial).

Informality: Phrasal verbs are commonly used in spoken and informal English. They add variety and expressiveness to the language. In more formal situations, it is often preferable to use their equivalents, such as one-word verbs or formal expressions.

Expanded meaning: Phrasal verbs often have an expanded meaning compared to their one-word verb counterparts. For example, "turn down" means to decrease the volume or to reject an offer.

Examples of Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are combinations of a verb and one or more prepositions or adverbs. They create new meanings that may not be obvious from the individual words. Here are a few examples of phrasal verbs:

1. Turn on - to start or activate something (e.g. Please turn on the lights.)
2. Look after - to take care of someone or something (e.g. Can you look after my cat while I'm on vacation?)
3. Run into - to encounter someone unexpectedly (e.g. I ran into an old friend at the grocery store.)
4. Break up - to end a relationship (e.g. They broke up last month.)
5. Put off - to postpone something (e.g. Let's put off the meeting until next week.

These are just a few examples, but there are many phrasal verbs in English that are used in everyday language.

Examples of Phrasal verbs and their types.

6. Come in — To enter

Type: Inseparable, intransitive

7. Fall off- to decline in quality or quantity

Type: Intransitive

8. Fill in (for someone) — To do someone else's job temporarily

Type: Separable, transitive

9. Give out (1) — To break down or stop working

Type: Inseparable, intransitive

10. Go out (with) — To go on a date with someone

Type: Inseparable, transitive / intransitive



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Phraseological units are subdivided into the following four classes according to their function in communication determined by their structural-semantic characteristics.

1. Nominative phraseological units are represented by word groups, including the ones with one meaningful word, and coordinative phrases of the type wear and tear, well and good. The first class also includes word-groups with a predicative structure, such as as the crow flies, and also, predicative phrases of the type see how the land lies, ships that pass in the night.

2. Nominative-communicative phraseological units include wordgroups of the type to break the ice — the ice is broken, that is, verbal word-groups which are transformed into a sentence when the verb is used in the Passive Voice.

3. Phraseological units which are neither nominative nor communicative include interjectional word-groups.

4. Communicative phraseological units are represented by proverbs and sayings.

These four classes are divided into sub-groups according to the type of structure of the phraseological unit. The sub-groups include further rubrics representing types of structural-semantic meanings according to the kind of relations between the constituents and to either full or partial transference of meaning.

The classification system includes a considerable number of subtypes and gradations and objectively reflects the wealth of types of phraseological units existing in the language. It is based on truly scientific and modern criteria and represents an earnest attempt to take into account all the relevant aspects of phraseological units and combine them within the borders of one classification system.

In conclusion, phrasal verbs are a distinctive feature of the English language, characterized by their unique structure, varied meanings, and diverse usage. Language learners must grasp the intricacies of phrasal verbs to communicate effectively in both spoken and written English. This coursework has provided an overview of the characteristics, structure, meanings, and usage of phrasal verbs, shedding light on their significance in the English language.

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