

Greenbaum, S. *et al.* (1990) *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*, Harlow: Longman.

Quirk, R. *et al.* (1985) *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, London and New York: Longman.

MULTI-WORD VERBS

PHRASAL VERBS

PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

- The two main categories of multi-word verbs consist of a lexical verb plus a particle.
- In **PHRASAL VERBS** the particle is an adverb (*eg: to find out*).
- In **PREPOSITIONAL VERBS** the particle is a preposition (*eg: to look at*).
- In addition, there are **PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL VERBS**, with verbs with two particles, an adverb followed by a preposition (*eg: to look forward to*), and types of multi-verbs that do not consist of lexical verbs followed simply by particles (*eg: to cut short*).

- Some phrasal verbs retain the individual meaning of the verb and the adverb (*eg: to sit down*), whereas for other phrasal verbs the meaning of the combination cannot be built up from the meanings of the individual verb and adverb (*eg: to give in = to surrender*).

- Phrasal verbs may be **INTRANSITIVE**:
- *The plane has now taken off.*

- However, many phrasal verbs can take an object, and are therefore **TRANSITIVE**:
- *Find out if they are coming.*

- *Someone turned on the light.*
- With most of these phrasal verbs, the adverb can either come before or follow the object:
 - *They turned on the light.*
 - *They turned the light on.*
- But when the object is a personal pronoun, the adverb must usually follow the object:
 - *They turned it on.*
 - ~~*They turned on it.*~~
- The adverb tends to precede the object if the object is long, or if it is intended that the object should receive end-focus (eg: to process the information in a message so as to achieve a linear presentation from low to high information value).
- NOTE. Some transitive phrasal verbs, usually idiomatic, do not easily allow the adverb to come after the object, unless the object is a pronoun (eg: ~~*they had given hope up*~~). Conversely, some do not easily allow it to come before the object (eg: ~~*I was crying out my eyes*~~).
- In some cases, phrasal verbs with objects look identical to verbs followed by a prepositional phrase, but notice:

▪ PREPOSITIONAL VERB	▪ PHRASAL VERB
▪ <i>They ran over the bridge.</i> (1)	▪ <i>They ran over the cat.</i> (2)
▪ <i>They ran the bridge over.</i>	▪ <i>They ran the cat over.</i>
▪ <i>They ran over it.</i>	▪ <i>They ran over it.</i>
▪ <i>They ran it over.</i>	▪ <i>They ran it over.</i>

- = They crossed the bridge running.
- = They knocked down and passed over it.
- Moreover, the adverb in the phrasal verb is normally stressed, whereas the preposition in the prepositional verb is normally unstressed.
- Most phrasal verbs are informal.
- This subject is rather complex. For further information, see Greenbaum, S. *et al.* (1990) §§ 16.1-10.