

PRACTICAL LESSON

Phrasal Verbs

Lesson category: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

Understand verb plus particle combinations, the difference between separable and inseparable types, and where pronouns must go. Includes everyday examples and the formal single-word alternatives.

Phrasal Verbs

A **phrasal verb** is a verb combined with a particle — a preposition or adverb — that together mean something different from the verb alone. *Look* means to direct your eyes; *look after* means to take care of; *look up* means to search for information. They are everywhere in spoken English, and avoiding them makes speech sound stiff.

Learning objectives

- Recognise a phrasal verb and understand why its meaning is not literal.
- Distinguish separable from inseparable types.
- Place object pronouns correctly.
- Choose between a phrasal verb and its formal equivalent.

The structure

Type	Structure	Example
Verb + particle, no object	intransitive	<i>The plane took off.</i>
Verb + particle + object	transitive, often separable	<i>She turned on the light.</i>
Verb + preposition + object	inseparable	<i>I'm looking after the children.</i>
Verb + particle + preposition	three-part, inseparable	<i>I look forward to your reply.</i>

Separable phrasal verbs

With these, a noun object can go either before or after the particle:

- Turn **on** the light. ✓
- Turn the light **on**. ✓

But a **pronoun** object must go in the middle. This is the rule learners break most often:

- Turn **it** on. ✓
- Turn on it. ✗

Common separable verbs: *turn on/off, put on, take off, pick up, throw away, fill in, give up, look up, switch on, try on, work out, bring up, call off, put off.*

Inseparable phrasal verbs

These never split, even with a pronoun:

- I'm looking after **them**. ✓ — not looking them after
- She takes after **her mother**.
- We ran into **him** yesterday.

Common inseparable verbs: *look after, look for, take after, run into, get over, deal with, come across, look forward to, get on with, put up with.*

Everyday phrasal verbs by topic

Topic	Verb	Meaning	Example
Daily routine	get up	rise from bed	I get up at seven.
Daily routine	put on	dress in	She put on her coat.
Technology	turn on / off	start / stop a device	Turn off the TV.
Study	look up	find information	Look up the word.
Study	give up	stop trying	Don't give up .
Social	get on with	have a good relationship	I get on with my colleagues.
Travel	check in	register at a hotel	We checked in at noon.
Problems	deal with	handle	She dealt with the complaint.
Plans	call off	cancel	They called off the match.
Plans	put off	postpone	We put off the meeting.

Formal alternatives

Phrasal verbs belong to everyday English. In formal or academic writing, a single Latin-based verb is often preferred.

Phrasal verb	Formal equivalent
put off	postpone
call off	cancel
find out	discover
go on	continue
set up	establish
carry out	conduct, perform

Phrasal verb	Formal equivalent
look into	investigate
bring about	cause

One verb, several meanings

The same combination can mean different things, so context decides:

- *take off* — remove clothing / leave the ground / become successful
- *make up* — invent a story / become friends again / apply cosmetics
- *pick up* — lift / collect someone / learn informally

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
<i>Turn on it.</i>	Turn it on.	pronouns go in the middle
<i>I'm looking them after.</i>	I'm looking after them.	inseparable verb
<i>I look forward to hear from you.</i>	I look forward to hearing from you.	to here is a preposition, so <i>-ing</i> follows
<i>She takes to her mother.</i>	She takes after her mother.	wrong particle
Using phrasal verbs in a formal report	use the single-word equivalent	register

Learning tips

1. Learn phrasal verbs in full sentences, never as isolated pairs — the particle only makes sense in context.
2. Group them by topic (travel, technology, relationships) rather than alphabetically.
3. Test yourself with pronouns: if you can say *turn it on*, you know the verb is separable.

Summary checklist

- Does the combination have a non-literal meaning?
- Is it separable or inseparable?
- If the object is a pronoun, is it in the right place?
- Is a phrasal verb appropriate for this register?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Një **phrasal verb** është një folje e bashkuar me një grimcë — parafjalë ose ndajfolje — që së bashku kanë një kuptim **të ndryshëm** nga folja e vetme. *Look* do të thotë «shikoj», por *look after* do të thotë «kujdesem për» dhe *look up* «kërkoj një informacion».

Ato ndahen në dy grupe. Te **foljet e ndashme**, kundrinori i shprehur me emër mund të qëndrojë ose para ose pas grimcës: *Turn on the light* dhe *Turn the light on* janë të dyja të sakta. Por nëse kundrinori është **përemër**, ai duhet të qëndrojë detyrimisht **në mes**:

Turn **it** on, kurrë Turn on it.

Te **foljet e pandashme** grimca nuk shkëputet kurrë, as edhe me përemër: *I'm looking after **them**.*

Ka edhe folje me tri pjesë, të cilat janë gjithmonë të pandashme: *look forward to, get on with, put up with.*

Në ligjërimin zyrtar shpesh preferohet një folje e vetme me rrënjë latine: *put off* zëvendësohet me *postpone*, *find out* me *discover*.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Shqipja nuk ka phrasal verbs. Atë që anglishtja e shpreh me folje plus grimcë, shqipja e shpreh me një **folje të vetme** ose me një folje plus parafjalë të ngulitur.

Anglisht	Shqip	Vërejtje
get up	zgjohem, ngrihem	folje e vetme
look after	kujdesem për	folje + parafjalë
look for	kërkoj	folje e vetme
look up	kërkoj në fjalor	shprehje
turn on / off	ndez / fik	folje krejt të ndryshme
give up	dorëzohem, heq dorë	folje e vetme
put off	shtyj	folje e vetme
find out	zbuloj, marr vesh	folje e vetme
get on with	shkoj mirë me	shprehje

Vini re se *turn on* dhe *turn off* përkthehen me dy folje krejt të ndryshme, *ndez* dhe *fik*. Kjo e tregon qartë se grimca nuk është parafjalë e zakonshme, por pjesë e kuptimit.

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Struktura.** Meqë shqipja nuk e ka këtë ndërtim, folësit e shqipes prirën ta përkthejnë grimcën fjalë për fjalë, gjë që jep rezultate të pakuptueshme.
- **Vendi i përemrit.** Shqipja e vendos përemrin para foljes (e *ndez*); anglishtja e vendos midis foljes dhe grimcës (*turn it on*). Ky është gabimi më i shpeshtë.
- **Regjistri.** Në shqip folja e vetme është neutrale. Në anglisht folja e vetme është **formale**, kurse phrasal verb-i është i zakonshëm në bisedë. Prandaj shmangia e tyre e bën anglishten të tingëllojë të ngurtë.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
<i>Turn on it.</i>	Turn it on.	përemri shkon në mes
<i>I'm looking them after.</i>	I'm looking after them.	folje e pandashme
<i>I look forward to hear from you.</i>	I look forward to hearing from you.	to këtu është parafjalë

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
I search my keys.	I'm looking for my keys.	përkthim i drejtpërdrejtë i <i>kërkoj</i>

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