

NDS English Short Notes for Grade 12

Worksheet 4

PHRASAL VERBS

Phrasal verbs are part of a large group of verbs called 'multi-word verbs'. Phrasal verbs and other multi-word verbs are an important part of the English language. Multi-word verbs, including phrasal verbs, are very common, especially in spoken English. A multi-word verb is a verb like 'pick up', 'turn on' or 'get on with'. For convenience, many people refer to all multi-word verbs as phrasal verbs. These verbs consist of a *basic verb + another word or words*. The other word(s) can be prepositions and/or adverbs. The two or three words that make up multi-word verbs form a short 'phrase'-which is why these verbs are often all called 'phrasal verbs'. Look at these examples. You can see that there are three types of multi-word verb:

single-word	verb	Look	direct your eyes in a certain direction	You must <i>look</i> before you leap.
Multi word verbs	Prepositional verbs	Look after	take care of	Who is <i>looking after</i> the baby?
	phrasal verbs	<i>look up</i>	search for a find information in a reference book	You can <i>look up</i> my number in the telephone directory.
	phrasal prepositional verbs	Look forward to	Anticipate with pleasure	I look forward to meeting you.

Some of the phrasal verbs are: -

Account for = explain

Example: They had to *account for* all the money that had gone missing.

Act on = take action because of something like information received

Example: The police were *acting on* a tip from an informer and caught the gang red-handed.

Ask for = provoke a negative reaction

Example: You're *asking for* trouble.

Ask in = invite somebody into your house

Example: John's at the door. Ask him *in*.

Ask out = invite someone for a date

Example: He wanted to *ask her out* but was too shy.

Break through = pass a barrier or obstacle

Example: The crowd *broke through* the police barriers and attacked the hunters.

Bring about = make something happen

Example: The changes to the law were *brought about* by the government because so many people were ignoring the old one.

Chew over = think about an issue

Example: He asked for a few days to *chew* the matter *over* before he made a final decision.

Dream of = not think or consider

Example: I wouldn't even *dream of* telling her that.

Dream up = invent something, have an idea

Example: They *dreamed up* the scheme for the improvements and it was accepted by the board.

Drop out = quit a course Example: She *dropped out* of college and went straight into a good job.

Ease off = reduce pressure

Example: She *eased off* the accelerator to let the car slow down.

Fall in = collapse

Example: The ceiling *fell in* hurting a lot of people.

Fall off = decrease

Example: The membership *fell off* dramatically when the chairperson resigned.

Fall over = fall on the ground

Example: I slipped on the ice and *fell over*.

Fall through = be unsuccessful

Example: The plans *fell through* when planning permission was refused.

Get around to = finally manage to do something

Example: It always takes me ages to *get around* to replying to letters.

Give away = tell a secret

Example: She didn't *give* anything *away* about the party so it came as a complete surprise to me.

Hand in = submit work for appraisal Example: I *handed* my homework in late as usual.

Hand over = give

Example: The robbers told the clerk to *handover* all the money.

Hang out = spend time socially

Example: He *hangs out* in the pub *The Monarch*, he's there most of the nights.

Hold back = not show emotion

Example: It was really hard to *hold back* the tears.

Hold down = keep a job

Example: He's so unreliable that he can never *hold down* a job for more than a couple of months.

Hold off = when bad weather doesn't appear

Example: The rain held off until we'd got back home.

Jazz up = make something more interesting or attractive

Example: The show was getting stale so they jazzed it up with some new scenes.

Knock down = demolish

Example: They knocked down the cinema and built a block of flats in its place.

Knock down = hit and injure someone *Example: The car knocked her down and she broke her arm.*

Knock off = finish work for the day

Example: We knocked off early on Friday to avoid the rush hour queues.

Layoff = make an employee redundant

Example: The hotel laid off twenty staff because tourist numbers were down.

Lay on = organize~ supply *Example: They laid on a buffet lunch at the conference.*

Let down = disappoint, fail to keep an arrangement

Example: She failed to turn up and I felt badly let down.

Look after = take care

Example: Their auntie looked after them while their mother was in hospital.

Look back = think about the past *Example: Old people often look back on over their lives.*

Look down on = have a low opinion of

Example: He looks down on his colleagues because he thinks he's better than they are.

Look for = try to find

Example: I've been looking for all their hidden flies, but I can't find them anywhere.

Look forward to = wait for or anticipate something pleasant

Example: I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Look up to = respect *Example: She's looks up to her mother.*

Owe to = be the reason for something

Example: She owes her success to hard work and determination.

Put away = put something back in the correct place

Example: He put the dictionary back on the shelf after he'd finished the crossword.

Put off = postpone

Example: The concert's been put off until next month because the singer's got a throat infection.

Put off = stop liking something or somebody

Example: I was really put off by the way he eats with his mouth open.

Put through = connect someone by phone

Example: Could you put me through to extension 259 please.

Put towards = make a financial contribution

Example: She put \$250 towards the cost of the repairs and we had to pay the rest.

Read off = read a list aloud for someone to write down

Example: I read off the figures and she wrote them down in her notebook.

Read out = read aloud rather than silently

Example: The teacher read out the names of the students who'd passed.

Round off = finish something in a satisfactory manner

Example: Winning the FA Cup rounded off a wonderful season for Arsenal.

Rule out = exclude

Example: The Government quickly ruled out the possibility of a relaxation of the law.

Shake off = get rid of an illness *Example:* It took me ages to shake off the cough.

Shoot off = leave promptly and quickly

Example: I'll have to shoot off as soon as the lesson finishes, otherwise I'll miss my train.

Shoot up = increase quickly

Example: The share prices of internet companies have been shooting up lately.

Take after = look like, resemble *Example:* He takes after his mother.

Take apart = take something to pieces

Example: She took the photocopier apart to see what had got stuck in it.

Take aside = get someone alone to talk to them

Example: The teacher took her aside and said that she'd failed the exam.

Tear apart = disturb or upset greatly

Example: People were torn apart when news of the train crash came through.

Tear down = demolish

Example: The estate was torn down so that they could develop the land into luxury flats.

Watch over = keep an eye on something or someone to check that there is no trouble

Example: The lecturer watched over the students as they did the experiment.

Water down = make something weaker and less effective

Example: The Freedom of Information Act was watered down by the Government and didn't give ordinary people much access to official data files

Yield to = surrender

Example: I tried hard to resist, but in the end I yielded to temptation and ate it all.

Zoom in = focus more closely *Example:* The camera zoomed in on his face.

Source: "Spoken English Flourish Your Language"
By Robert Carmen