

Watch your vocabulary *take off*!

One of the features of English that makes it different from so many other languages is its use of phrasal verbs. A phrasal verb is made by combining a verb with a preposition or adverb (known as particles) and there are hundreds and thousands of possible combinations. The key to understanding phrasal verbs is seeing how by changing particles, we change the meaning of the whole phrasal verb.

See how changing the particle changes the meaning of the phrasal verb in these examples with the verb *take*:

take off DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

PHRASAL VERB

OTHER ENTRIES FOR THIS WORD +

WORD FORMS +

DEFINITIONS 6 -

1. remove clothing etc.
2. aircraft start flying
3. become successful etc.
4. not go to work
5. leave suddenly
6. copy someone for fun

2 INTRANSITIVE **if an aircraft takes off, it leaves the ground and starts flying**

The plane should take off on time.

Synonyms and related words +

take in DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

PHRASAL VERB TRANSITIVE

OTHER ENTRIES FOR THIS WORD +

WORD FORMS +

DEFINITIONS 9 -

1. include something
2. allow someone to stay
3. understand & remember something
4. make someone believe something false
5. make clothing narrower
6. accept something
7. look at something
8. do work for someone else
9. go to an event

4 USUALLY PASSIVE **to trick someone into believing something that is not true**

Don't be taken in by their promises.

Activity 1

Choose the particle that best fits the meaning of the sentences. Use the Macmillan online dictionary to check.

- a. The plane should take off / over / up on time.
- b. Sports drinks have caught off / on / out as consumers have become more health-conscious.
- c. It would be lovely to stay with you, but I don't want to put you in / off / out.
- d. I think you're reading too much into / onto / out a casual remark.
- e. A truck ran at / into / up my car at the lights this morning.
- f. Don't be taken in / off / out by their promises.

Activity 2

Add the correct particles to complete the sentences. Check your answers in the Macmillan online dictionary.

- a. The teacher took apart everything the student had written.
- b. He's a role model for other players to look up _____.
- c. In looks she takes _____ her father.
- d. It's hard work looking _____ three children all day.
- e. I've decided to take you up _____ that job offer.
- f. She looks down _____ anyone who hasn't had a university education.
- g. She had an affair, but then he took her _____.

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

Activity 3

Choose a verb and one or two particles from the boxes and write sentences that are true for you.

bring	come	get	put	turn
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across	along	away	behind	into	on	out	up
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- a. *I get on well with my parents most of the time.*

- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

If you would like to learn more about phrasal verbs, just take a look at the Macmillan online dictionary. Try to find out how many particles can be combined with the same verb.