

Phrasal verbs are two-word verbs which usually contain a verb and an adverb. Much of English conversation includes phrasal verbs. Today we will study a few.

Let's begin by looking at the word "**figure**". This word can mean an amount expressed as a number. For example: Figures show that one in every two marriages will end in divorce. Write the figure 3 on your paper. The skater made a figure 8 on the ice. I'd like to pay for the damage I caused to your car. Name a figure and I'll gladly pay it.

**Figure** can refer to the shape of your body. EX: That woman has a nice figure.

**Figure** can also mean someone well known. EX: Obama was a key figure in the Democratic party.

**Figure** can also be used as a verb to mean guess. EX: I figured my wife would like to receive roses for her birthday, and I was right.

A **figurehead** is someone who is a recognized leader without any real power. The Queen of England is a figurehead. Parliament controls the laws of England, but the Queen serves as it's official head.

Now, let's look at the phrasal verb, **FIGURE OUT**. To figure out something is to find a solution to a problem.

EX: Tom figured out all the answers on the math exam except for the last one.

It took us all day to figure out how to put the storage unit together.

Sometimes you may put a noun or pronoun in the middle of the phrasal verb. EX: I tried very hard, but I couldn't figure it out. Paul never really understood Carol. Though they dated for 2 years, Paul could never figure her out. I can't figure my boss out.

**Write a sentence using figure, figurehead and figure out.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Read your sentences to your group, then to your teacher.**

**SHOW UP** is another phrasal verb. When you show up, you appear somewhere. EX: When Eddy shows up, tell him I need to speak with him. The polar bears didn't show up against the icy background.

**SHOW UP** can also mean to surpass. EX: Jim ran the marathon in just over two hours. He really showed up the rest of us who were among the last finishers. He showed us up.

You **SHOW OFF** when you let people see something that you have in an obvious way. EX: Carol came to the office and showed off her huge diamond engagement ring. That tight dress really shows off her trim figure.

**A SHOW OFF** is a noun that refers to a person who frequently draws attention to himself. EX: Alonso was doing back flips into the swimming pool. He is such a show-off!

**PAY FOR** means to give someone money in exchange for something. EX: Can I pay for my meal with a credit card? Josh paid for my dinner last week, so I'll pay for his tonight. **PAY FOR** can also mean to get a bad result for something you have done. EX: Those who refuse to exercise when they are young will pay for it when they are old and out of shape. Smokers pay for their addiction by higher rates of lung cancer.

**CHECK OUT** means to look at or examine something. EX: We're going to check out the new restaurant that just opened. Wow, a new Ferrari. Check it out! Check out my new shoes.

**CHECK OUT** can also mean to pay for your items at a store. EX: I've got milk, potatoes and cheese in my basket, so I'm going to check out now. The check out line at the grocery store was too long. Are you ready to check out now?

Note: Though you can say, "check it out", you would never say "check out it".

**TRY ON** to put some piece of clothing on to see if it fits. EX: You should try on both shoes because most people have one foot that is bigger than the other. My wife tried on ten pairs of shoes before she decided on a pair. I'll try it on and see if it fits.

**Fill in the blank with one of the words or word phrases above.**

1. I can't \_\_\_\_\_ what I did with my car keys.
2. The blue pattern didn't \_\_\_\_\_ on the purple background.
3. Go into the hallway and \_\_\_\_\_ the beautiful paintings hanging on the wall.
4. Can we get a sponsor to \_\_\_\_\_ the cost of refreshments at the school carnival?
5. Wendy was \_\_\_\_\_ her new fur coat, even though it wasn't that cold outside.
6. Dad's liver is in bad shape. He's \_\_\_\_\_ all those years of heavy drinking.
7. Sam is \_\_\_\_\_ his new bride at the party.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Sam's date. She's gorgeous.
9. Bill is retired. He still serves on the board of the company, but he's mainly a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. I found all the items I need. I'm going to find a sales person and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ where you put your wallet?
12. James always \_\_\_\_\_ late at dinner parties. It is so rude.
13. My date is tall, blonde and gorgeous. She will really \_\_\_\_\_ the other girls at the party.
14. I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ why the dog continued to bark even after I fed him.
15. I wouldn't think of buying this blouse without first \_\_\_\_\_.

**Practice these conversations in your groups. Underline all the phrasal verbs.**

Jane: Check out my new jacket.

Nan: Oh, that is gorgeous. I bet you paid a lot for it.

Jane: Not really. I bought it at the outlet mall in Round Rock.

Nan: I like the color. It shows off your lovely blue eyes.

Salesperson: May I help you?

Sara: Yes. I'm looking for an evening dress. I've lost 20 lbs and I would like a dress that will show off my new figure.

Salesperson: How about this black one. It's very slinky.

Sara: That will be perfect. I'll take it.

Salesperson: Don't you want to try it on?

Sara: No, I need to check out in a hurry because my boyfriend is waiting in the car.

Jeffrey: Check out Ben and the new girl.

John: Yes, he is speaking French to impress her. He is such a show-off.

Jeffrey: I can show him up. I speak French, Spanish and Italian. I think I'll go introduce myself to her.

John: When Ben figures out you speak several languages, he'll be so embarrassed.

Mike: Could you help me with my computer. I can't figure out how to install the software.

Salesperson: I can't help you, but when our tech support guy shows up, I'll send him to you. Have you checked out the online help?

Mike: They were no help. I may have to pay for a tutor.

Salesperson: Check out our bulletin board. We have several employees that earn money by tutoring people on computers.