

FUMC ESL 1-28-2019 High Intermediate Lesson Phrasal Verbs-Separable or Not?

1. Some phrasal verbs can be separated by their object. When the object is a noun, it is usually optional whether the object goes in the middle or at the end. For example:

I took my shoes off.

I took off my shoes.

Both are correct.

2. However, when a pronoun is used instead of a noun, the pronoun must be placed in the middle. For example:

I took them off.

I took off them.

Only the first sentence is correct.

3. When there are two objects in a phrasal verb, they must be separated. For example:

She put a blanket on the bed.

She put on a blanket the bed.

She put on the bed a blanket.

Only the first sentence is correct.

4. Some phrasal verbs are non-separable. There is no easy way to tell this. For example:

He ran into a tree.

He ran a tree into.

Only the first sentence is correct.

5. Here are some examples of **non-separable** phrasal verbs.

come from: When you *come from* a place, you were born there or lived there previously.

EX: Mike *comes from* Alaska. Joe and Ned *come from* Arizona. She *came from* a broken home. The mechanic heard a strange noise *coming from* the engine.

Make a sentence with "come from": _____

run into: This phrasal verb has many meanings.

1-When you are driving and hit another vehicle or something near the road, such as a tree or a telephone pole, you *run into* it. EX: Al was driving too fast when he *ran into* the telephone pole. The drunk driver *ran into* my car.

2-When you meet people unexpectedly or unintentionally, you *run into* them. Bump into is the same as run into.) EX: We *ran into* Karen and her new boyfriend at the market. I hope I don't *run into* Frank, as I owe him \$10. My mother *bumped into* my neighbor at the mall and told her I was on vacation.

3-When you unexpectedly encounter difficulties or problems, you *run into* them. EX: I *ran into* a problem while trying to fix my car. James should have the work completed by now, but he keeps *running into* problems.

4-When the total of something grows to a large amount or number, it *runs into* that number. EX: If you fixed everything on that old car, it would *run into* thousands of dollars. The number of starving people in Liberia *ran into* millions.

6. Here are some examples of **separable** phrasal verbs.

figure out: When you *figure out* something, you think about it and succeed in understanding it. EX: I looked everywhere for my keys, but I couldn't *figure out* where I had put them. Jan is so mean to me. I can't *figure her out*. After studying the problem for an hour, I finally *figured it out*. I *figured out* why Jan hates me.

give back: When you return something to someone, you give back. EX: I *gave it back* to Ted because he said it was his. If you let me borrow your pen, I'll *give it back* after the test. Tim, give *that doll back* to your sister!

One use of give back refers to repaying someone for your good fortune. In this case “give back” should not be separated. EX: Kate works at the homeless shelter each week because she likes to give back to the community.

Exercise:

Fill in the blank with one of these phrasal verbs. You can use them more than once.

give back	run into	figure out	come from
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1. There is a stray cat on our porch. Where did it _____?
2. I can't _____ why my checkbook won't balance.
3. Sara likes to _____ to the people who supported her by volunteering at the hospital.
4. Mike wouldn't _____ my notebook after he borrowed it.
5. Guess who I _____ at the market today.
6. I didn't watch where I was going and I _____ the car in front of me.
7. Joey _____ Alaska, but I _____ California.

Tell if these sentences are correct. If they aren't, correct them.

1. My brother took my bike and he won't give back it.
2. She gave back the ball to the boy.
3. What happened to your car? I ran into a truck.
4. Will you run the store into and get some bread.
5. Please give back my pen.
6. The problem was too hard. No one could figure out it.
7. I told her to put on her coat so we could go to school.
8. She said she would put on it after we got in the car.
9. Hurry and finish your dinner up.
10. She asked him to give back it.

Discuss:

1. What makes English hard to figure out?
2. What is one thing you could never do without?
3. What breaks down in your apartment or house?
4. How do you feel about getting up early? Do you like to stay up late?
5. Do you put away your clean clothes after you take them out of the dryer, or do you leave them in the laundry basket?