



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Intermediate

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## **A Special Evening by K S Sandhu**

One Saturday morning, Banta wanted to eat out with his friend Priya. He liked her a lot, so he decided to ask her out. First, he used his phone to look up a nice restaurant. He found a place with good Punjabi food and music.

Banta felt a little nervous. He called Priya, but she didn't answer. He left a message: "Hi Priya, it's Banta. Please ring me back later." After fifteen minutes, Priya rang him back. "Hello Banta! Yes, I want to go with you," she said with a smile in her voice.

They planned to meet at 7 p.m. Banta wanted to look after everything carefully. He cleaned his car and brought back some fresh flowers from the shop for Priya.

At 6:45, Banta drove to Priya's house to drop her off later, but first to pick her up. When he arrived, Priya's little brother was playing up. He was crying loudly and didn't want Priya to leave. Priya said, "Wait a minute, I will sort out my brother." She spoke kindly to him and gave him his favourite toy. Soon he stopped.

Priya came out. "Sorry, he was playing up today," she said. They got into the car and drove to the restaurant.

The restaurant was busy. They waited for a table. The music was loud, so Banta couldn't make out everything Priya said. He smiled and nodded.

Finally, they sat down and ordered dal makhani, naan, and mango lassi. "This food brings back memories of my home in Punjab," Priya said happily.

After dinner, they walked outside. Suddenly, it started raining. Banta had put off checking the weather, so he had no umbrella. They ran to the car and got very wet. Priya laughed. "Don't call off our next meeting because of rain!" she said.

The next week, Banta's car was playing up. The engine made strange noises. He needed to sort out the problem. He took it to a garage. The mechanic said, "No problem, we will fix it."

Banta and Priya met again. This time, no rain and no car problems. They never came up against big difficulties. Priya liked that Banta was kind and patient. She didn't have to put up with rude behaviour.

One day, Priya came across an old photo of Banta's family. "This picture brings back happy memories," Banta said.

Banta's friend Amrit asked, "Did you get away with being late that rainy day?" Banta laughed. "Yes, Priya is very kind. She put up with the rain and my wet shirt!"

In the end, Banta and Priya enjoyed many evenings together. Banta was glad he had the courage to ask her out.

# I

## Phrasal verbs: the basics

### A What are phrasal verbs?

Phrasal verbs are verbs that consist of a verb and a particle.

verb	particle	example	meaning
look	up	You can <b>look up</b> any new words in your dictionary.	You can find the meaning of any new words in your dictionary.
get	through	I tried to phone her but I couldn't <b>get through</b> .	I tried to phone her but I couldn't get a connection.
make	out	I just can't <b>make</b> Jim <b>out</b> at all.	I just can't understand Jim's behaviour.

Particles are small words which you already know as prepositions or adverbs. Here are some of the most common phrasal verb particles: **about** **(a)round** **at** **away** **back** **down** **for** **in** **into** **off** **on** **out** **over** **through** **to** **up**

### B What do I need to know about phrasal verbs?

First you need to know the meaning of the whole phrasal verb as a unit. The Mini dictionary in this book will help you. For example, **look** means to use your eyes and **up** means the opposite of down, but the phrasal verb **look up** can have several different meanings:

**Look** the word **up** in the dictionary. [**look up** = search for information in a book/computer]

I'll **look you up** next time I'm in London. [**look up** = visit someone you have not seen for a long time] Things are **looking up**. [**look up** = improve]

Next you need to know the grammar patterns of phrasal verbs, e.g. whether the verb takes an object. The table shows the way the grammar patterns are shown in this book and in many dictionaries. Note that **sth** means **something**; **sb** means **someone**.

grammar pattern	comment	example
<b>eat out</b>	the verb is used without an object	We were too tired to cook at home so we decided to <b>eat out</b> . [eat in a restaurant] Not: We decided to eat out <del>a meal</del> .
<b>bring back sth</b> or <b>bring sth back</b>	the verb must have a non-human object	This photograph <b>brings back happy memories</b> . [makes me remember or think about something from the past] Not: This photograph brings back <del>my sister</del> .
<b>ask out sb</b> or <b>ask sb out</b>	the verb must have a human object	I'd love to <b>ask Sally out</b> . [invite Sally to go to a place like a cinema or a restaurant] Not: I'd love to ask <del>my dog</del> out.
<b>look after sb/sth</b>	the object can be either human or non-human	I'll <b>look after the baby</b> while you're cooking. Will you <b>look after my bike</b> while I'm away?
<b>ring sb back</b>	the object must come before the particle	I'll <b>ring you back</b> later. [phone you again] Not: I'll <del>ring back you</del> .
<b>look after sb/sth</b>	the object must come after the particle	Can you <b>look after the dog</b> while I'm away? Not: Can you <del>look the dog after</del> while I'm away?
<b>drop off sb/sth</b> or <b>drop sb/sth off</b>	the object can be before or after the particle	I <b>dropped off the package</b> at her house. [delivered/left] I <b>dropped the package off</b> at her house.

## Exercises

### 1.1 Underline the twelve phrasal verbs in these sentences.

- 1 I sent off the order last week but the goods haven't turned up yet.
- 2 I came across an interesting book in the library. I took down the title. Here it is.
- 3 We asked some friends around to watch a film, but the video was playing up and it eventually broke down.
- 4 I brought up this problem at the last meeting. It's really time to sort out the problem.
- 5 I wish he'd stop messing us about! He's put the meeting off three times and now he wants to call it off altogether.

### 1.2 Match the twelve phrasal verbs from sentences 1–5 in exercise 1.1 above with their meanings from the box below.

cause inconvenience    deal with    stop working    find    invite home    arrive  
post    cancel    write    postpone    not work properly    mention

### 1.3 Decide which of these sentences contain errors. Explain why they are wrong and suggest a correct answer. Use the table in B to help you.

- 1 That song you just sang brings back memories of my days at college.
- 2 She looked the children after when their mother was in hospital.
- 3 I promised to ring my brother back. He called earlier when I was busy.
- 4 We ate out a wonderful dinner last night.
- 5 It was a beautiful summer evening so I asked the cat out for a drink.

### 1.4 Sometimes phrasal verbs are followed by a particular preposition to make three-part verbs. Try to learn these prepositions with the phrasal verbs. Look at these examples of three-part verbs, then complete the sentences below with a preposition from the box. Use a dictionary or the Mini dictionary at the back of this book if necessary.

EXAMPLES I'm looking forward to the weekend.  
She's been going out with him for six months now.

with    against    with    on    with

- 1 She seems to look down ..... people who are less intelligent than her.
- 2 The school decided to do away ..... the language lab as no-one was using it.
- 3 I came up ..... a serious problem when I tried to save my work onto a disk.
- 4 How can some students get away ..... doing no work and yet pass the exams?
- 5 Her son is so horrible. I don't know how she puts up ..... him.



## Answers

### Unit 1

- 1.1**
- 1 I sent off the order last week but the goods haven't turned up yet.
  - 2 I came across an interesting book in the library. I took down the title. Here it is.
  - 3 We asked some friends around to watch a film, but the video was playing up and it eventually broke down.
  - 4 I brought up this problem at the last meeting. It's really time to sort out the problem.
  - 5 I wish he'd stop messing us about! He's put the meeting off three times and now he wants to call it off altogether.
- 1.2**
- 1 send off = post    turn up = arrive
  - 2 come across = find    take down = write
  - 3 ask around = invite home    play up = not work properly    break down = stop working
  - 4 bring up = mention    sort out = deal with
  - 5 mess about = cause inconvenience    put off = postpone    call off = cancel
- 1.3**
- 1 Correct
  - 2 Incorrect: the object must come after the particle.  
She looked after the children when their mother was in hospital.
  - 3 Correct
  - 4 Incorrect: this verb is used without an object.  
We ate out and had a wonderful meal last night.
  - 5 Incorrect: the object must be human.  
It was a beautiful summer evening so I asked my new colleague out for a drink.
- 1.4** 1 on    2 with    3 against    4 with    5 with