



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Intermediate

Phrasal Verbs

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Reeta's Day off by K S Sandhu

One sunny Saturday morning, Reeta woke up late. She had a lot of work on at her new job, but today was her day off. She wanted to relax and see friends. First, she looked for her phone. It was under the pillow. She found two messages.

The first was from her best friend Mona: "Hey! What do you have on today? Come over if you're free!" Reeta smiled. She liked it when Mona invited her over or invited her round to her flat. It was always fun there.

Reeta replied: "Sure! Can I invite Lisa along too? She just moved to the city." Mona answered quickly: "Of course! Invite her along. We'll have pizza and watch a film.

"Reeta called Lisa, "Hi Lisa! Do you want to come? Mona is inviting us over this afternoon." Lisa was happy. "Yes! I need to get out. Thanks for inviting me along.

"Before leaving, Reeta decided to tidy her room. She moved over some books on the shelf to make space for new ones. Suddenly, her cat jumped on the table and fell over a glass of water. Water went everywhere! "Oh no!" Reeta said. She cleaned it up quickly.

At 3 pm, Reeta arrived at Mona's flat. Mona opened the door. "Come in! Don't stand there. Invite yourself in!" she laughed. Reeta stepped inside. The flat smelled of fresh coffee.

Lisa arrived soon after. "Hi everyone! Thanks for inviting me over." They all sat down. Mona said, "I invited you round because I miss our old chats. Let's catch up properly.

"They talked about everything. Reeta told them about her job. "I have a lot of work on right now, but it's interesting." Lisa said, "I looked for a job for weeks, but now I found one!"

Mona read over the menu on her phone, "What shall we order? Pizza?" They agreed. While waiting, they played a game. Reeta almost fell over laughing when Mona told a funny story.

After eating, Mona said, "It's getting late. Do you want to stay longer?" Reeta replied, "I'd love to, but I need to go home." Lisa added, "Me too. But let's do this again soon."

As they left, Mona said, "Next time, I'll invite you back to my place – or maybe you can invite me over to yours!" Reeta laughed. "Deal! Or we can go out somewhere. I'll invite you out for coffee next weekend."

On the way home, Reeta thought about the day. She felt happy. Friends made everything better. She decided to invite more people along next time. Life was good when you invited friends in – into your home and into your heart.

3

Particles in phrasal verbs

This unit looks at the role of particles in phrasal verbs. A particle is either a preposition (e.g. from, to, with) or an adverb (e.g. out, up, about). You can create phrasal verbs by adding different particles to a basic verb.

A What do particles mean?

In some phrasal verbs the particle has a clear basic meaning. Look at the examples of different particles used with the verb *invite*. On the right, in speech bubbles, you can see what the original speaker probably said.

Jack invited me out .	Let's go out together.
Rosie invited me in .	Please come in!
Jill invited me over .	Come to our place.
Paul invited me round .	Come to my house for dinner or a drink.
Mark invited me up .	Come upstairs to my flat.
Susie invited me along .	Come with us!
Bill invited me back .	Come back home with me.

B What other meanings can particles have?

Most particles convey a number of different senses. For example, *over* can have various meanings, including:

- changing position, e.g. in **fall over** [fall to the ground] or **move over** [change the place where you are sitting or standing to make room for someone else].
- an idea of thoroughness, e.g. in **read over** [read thoroughly] or **talk over** [discuss something thoroughly before making a decision].

The meanings of particles are looked at in more detail in Units 13–21.

C Where does the particle go?

With verbs that have an object:

- Sometimes the particle has to go *before* the object of the verb, e.g. I'm **looking for** my keys (not: ~~I'm looking my keys for~~).
- Sometimes it must go *after* the object, e.g. I **have** a lot of work **on** (not: ~~I have on a lot of work~~).
- Sometimes the particle may go either *before* or *after* the object, e.g. The thunder **woke up** the children *or* The thunder **woke** the children **up**.

Note that if the object is a pronoun (e.g. him, them), then the particle must go *after* it, e.g. The thunder **woke** them **up** (not: ~~The thunder woke up them~~).

Exercises

3.1 Look at section A and then answer the questions about these sentences.

- 1 My brothers were going to the circus and they asked me along.
Did the speaker go the circus on her own, with her brothers or do we not know for sure?
- 2 When I took Di a birthday present, she asked me in but I had to get to my lecture.
Did the speaker go into Di's house?
- 3 When I saw Mark on the balcony, he asked me up.
Who was in a higher position, Mark or the speaker?
- 4 When the Richardsons asked me back after the concert I was happy to accept.
Where did the speaker go after the concert?
- 5 My cousin has asked me to go over to his flat this evening.
What word could replace *over* with no change in meaning?

3.2 Look at B opposite. Are the phrasal verbs underlined in the sentences below examples of the (a) or the (b) meanings of *over*?

- 1 Think it over before you make up your mind what to do next.
- 2 You may turn over the page now and read the exam questions.
- 3 It's raining too hard to drive. Pull over to the edge of the road.
- 4 Look over your answers before the end of the exam.

3.3 Look at C opposite. Then read these definitions and decide whether the sentences below are correct or incorrect. If necessary, correct them.

have on has, having, had
have sth on to have an arrangement to do something (never in continuous tenses)
have sb on to persuade someone that something is true when it is not, usually as a joke
have on sth or have sth on if you have clothes or shoes on, you are wearing them (never in continuous tenses; never passive)

- 1 I have on three important meetings tomorrow.
- 2 John has an amazing tie on.
- 3 Sue was only having on her sisters when she told them she was planning to become a model.
- 4 I'm having a lot of work on today.
- 5 I don't believe you! I'm sure you're having me on.
- 6 Ruth was wearing her new jeans this morning and she had on them yesterday.

3.4 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- 1 to / you / for / make room / Can / move / over / your sister?
- 2 finished / she / over. / Harry / it / to read / When / her essay, / asked / Jill
- 3 his house / tomorrow. / Jim / back / me / has invited / to
- 4 when he / Paul / his driving test. / his parents / he'd failed / only having / was / told them / on
- 5 tomorrow? / What / you / on / do / have
- 6 the light / in her bedroom, / was / she / at home. / Sue / had / I knew / on / so

Answers

Unit 3

- 3.1**
- 1 The speaker went with her brothers.
 - 2 No, she didn't go into Di's house.
 - 3 Mark was in a higher position.
 - 4 The speaker went to the Richardson's house.
 - 5 round
- 3.2**
- 1 b 2 a 3 a 4 b
- 3.3**
- 1 Incorrect. The object must come between the verb and the particle:
I **have** three important meetings **on** tomorrow.
 - 2 Correct
 - 3 Incorrect. The object must come between the verb and the particle:
Sue was only **having** her sisters **on** when she told them she was planning to become a model.
 - 4 Incorrect. This meaning of the phrasal verb *have on* is never used in the continuous form:
I **have** a lot of work **on** today.
 - 5 Correct
 - 6 Incorrect. The object must come before the particle because it is a pronoun:
Ruth was wearing new jeans this morning and she **had** them **on** yesterday.
- 3.4**
- 1 Can you move over to make room for your sister?
 - 2 When Jill finished her essay, she asked Harry to read it over.
 - 3 Jim has invited me back to his house tomorrow.
 - 4 Paul was only having his parents on when he told them he'd failed his driving test.
 - 5 What do you have on tomorrow?
 - 6 Sue had the light on in her bedroom, so I knew she was at home.
Or Sue had on the light in her bedroom, so I knew she was at home.