

Phrasal verbs & Idioms in IELTS Speaking

What are phrasal verbs?

Phrasal verb – 구동사; 동사에 부사, 전치사가 붙어 새로운 뜻을 띄는 표현

- 동사 + 부사; Grow up, pick up, take out
- 동사 + 부사 + 전치사; Look forward to, get on with

Purpose of using phrasal verb in IELTS speaking

- **To make your answers sound more natural**

Examples

You can **encounter** new challenges

→ You can **come across** new challenges

You can **acquire** a language

→ You can **pick up** a language

Transitivity (타동성)

- **Intransitive – 목적어가 없는 경우**

We **broke up** two years ago

They **set off** early to miss the traffic

He **pulled up** outside the cottage

- **Transitive – 목적어가 있는 경우**

The police were called to **break up** the fight

When the door is opened, it **sets off** an alarm

They **pulled** the house **down** and redeveloped the site

Word order (문장 배열)

- **목적어가 없는 경우, phrasal verb 는 분리할 수 없다**

We **broke up** two years ago (o)

We **broke** two years ago **up** (x)

- **목적어가 있고, 명사일 경우 – 명사는 중간에 들어올 수 있다**

✓ *They pulled the house down.*

[direct object]

✓ *They pulled down the house.*

- **목적어가 있고, 대명사일 경우 – 항상 대명사는 중간에 배치**

✓ *They pulled it down.*

[direct object]

✗ *They pulled down it.*

Common Phrasal verbs

1. ~ up

break up	start laughing (informal)	My friends and I broke up when we saw a comedy show. It was hilarious.
bring someone up	raise a child	My grandparents brought me up when I was a child.
bring something up	start talking about a subject	My friend suddenly brought up yesterday's football match.
call someone up	phone	I called my friend up to ask something..
catch up	get to the same point as someone else	I missed last week's writing lesson so it was really difficult to catch up today's one.
catch up with someone	See someone in a while and talk over what happened	I couldn't see my friends for a long time so I have lots to catch up with them.
cheer up	become happier	My mother always cheers me up when I'm depressed.
clean something up	tidy, clean	The room was huge, so it took me some time to clean it up .
dress up	wear nice clothing	My friends and I were all dressed up for the party.
end up	eventually reach/do/decide	We ended up having dinner instead of going for a film.
get up	get out of bed	I got up early today to study for my exam.
give something up	quit a habit	I am giving up drinking as of January 1st.
give up	stop trying	My maths homework was too difficult so I gave up .
grow up	become an adult	I thought I'd be an actor when I grow up.
keep something up	continue at the same rate	If you keep those results up you will get into a great college.

look something up	search and find information in a reference book or database	I looked tourist attractions in London up on the internet.
look up to someone	have a lot of respect for	My little sister has always looked up to me.
make up	forgive each other	We were angry last night, but we made up at breakfast.
mix something up	confuse two or more things	I mixed up the twins' names again!
put up with someone/something	tolerate	I don't think I can put up with three small children in the car.
set something up	arrange, organize	I set a meeting up for my team members on Friday.
turn up	appear suddenly	Our cat turned up after we put posters up all over the neighbourhood.
wake up	stop sleeping	We have to wake up early for work on Monday.
warm up	prepare body for exercise	I always warm up by doing sit-ups before I go for a run.

2. ~ out

check <i>someone/something out</i>	look at carefully, investigate	The company checks out all new employees.
eat out	eat at a restaurant	I really didn't feel like cooking so we ate out last night.
figure something out	understand, find the answer	It wasn't difficult to figure out what to buy for my bedroom.
fill something out	to write information in blanks (N.Amer.)	The form must be filled out in capital letters.
fill something in	to write information in blanks (Br.E.)	Please fill in the form with your name, address, and phone number.
find out	discover	I found out I'm going on a business trip next month today.
give something out	give to many people (usually at no cost)	They were giving out free perfume samples at the department store.
go out	leave home to go on a social event	We're going out for a movie tonight.
hand something out	to distribute to a group of people	We will hand out the invitations at the door.
hang out	spend time relaxing (informal)	I usually hang out with my friends at weekends.
pick something out	choose	I picked out where to go for summer holiday.
sort something out	organize, solve a problem	We need to sort the bills out before the first of the month.
try something out	test	I am going to try this new brand out .
work out	exercise	I work out at the gym three times a week.
work out	be successful	Our plan worked out fine.

3. Other common ones

bring someone down	make unhappy	This sad music is bringing me down .
call something off	cancel	I had to call my meeting off because of heavy rain.
calm down	relax after being angry	It took me a while to calm down after I went through it.
not care for someone/something	not like (formal)	I don't care for his behaviour.
chip in	help	If everyone chips in we can get the kitchen painted by noon.
come across something	find unexpectedly	I came across these old photos when I was tidying the closet.
come apart	separate	The top and bottom come apart if you pull hard enough.
cut back on something	consume less	My doctor wants me to cut back on sweets and fatty foods.
get something across/over	communicate, make understandable	I tried to get across with my supervisor, but I failed.
get along/on	like each other	I get along so well with my friend. .
get around	have mobility	I can get around anywhere if I take the bus in Seoul.
get away	go on a vacation	We worked so hard this year that we had to get away for a week.
get back	return	We got back from our vacation last week.
get something back	receive something you had before	Liz finally got her Science notes back from my room-mate.
get back into something	become interested in something again	I finally got back into my novel and finished it.

get on something	step onto a vehicle	When I got on the bus, I saw my colleague.
get over something	recover from an illness, loss, difficulty	I just got over the flu
get over something	overcome a problem	The company will have to close if it can't get over the new regulations.
go after something	try to achieve something	I went after my dream and now I am an IELTS teacher
go ahead	start, proceed	You should go ahead to achieve your goal.
go back	return to a place	I have to go back home and get my lunch.
go over something	review	Please go over your answers before you submit your test.
hand something in	submit	I have to hand in my essay by Friday.
hang in	stay positive (N.Amer., informal)	Hang in there. I'm sure you'll find a job very soon.
hang on	wait a short time (informal)	Can you hang on a second?
hold on	wait a short time	Please hold on while I transfer you to the Sales Department.
let someone down	fail to support or help, disappoint	I didn't want to let my parents down .
look after someone/something	take care of	I had to look after my brother when I was younger.
look down on someone	think less of, consider inferior	I felt really offended since my boss looked down on me.
look for someone/something	try to find	I'm looking for a red dress for the wedding.
look forward to something	be excited about the future	I'm looking forward to the Christmas break.

look into something	investigate	We are going to look into the price of snowboards today.
put something off	postpone	We are putting off our trip until January because of the hurricane.
run into someone/something	meet unexpectedly	I ran into an old school-friend at the mall.
shop around	compare prices	I want to shop around a little before I decide on these boots.
show off	act extra special for people watching (usually boastfully)	He always shows off on his skateboard
stick to something	continue doing something, limit yourself to one particular thing	I really don't like changes, I prefer sticking to what I'm used to
take after someone	resemble a family member	I take after my mother. We are both very well-organised.
think something over	consider	I'll have to think this job offer over before I make my final decision.
throw something away	dispose of	We threw our old furniture away when we won the lottery.

What are idioms?

- 관용구 / 속어
- Learning to use common idioms and expressions will make your English sound more native
- idioms don't always make sense literally, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the meaning and usage of each idiom

Common idioms which can be used as a part of a sentence

1. A blessing in disguise - a good thing that seemed bad at first
2. A dime a dozen – something common
3. Bite the bullet – to get something over with because it is inevitable
4. Call it a day – stop working on something
5. Make a long story short – tell something briefly
6. Miss the boat – too late
7. To get bent out of shape – to get upset
8. To make matters worse – make a problem worse
9. Under the weather – sick
10. Over the moon – very happy
11. As fit as a fiddle – very healthy
12. Recharge one's batteries – rest or relax for a period of time to feel energetic
13. Add insult to injury – to make a bad situation worse
14. Barking up the wrong tree – to be mistaken, to be looking for solutions in the wrong place
15. Break the ice – make people feel more comfortable
16. Costs an arm and a leg – very expensive
17. Once in a blue moon – rarely
18. Saving for a rainy day – saving money for later
19. Think outside of the box – think differently, unconventionally
20. The best thing since sliced bread – a really good invention

Common idioms which can be used by itself

1. Speak of the devil – the person we were just talking about
2. Your guess is as good as mine – I have no idea
3. A penny for your thoughts – tell me what you're thinking
4. You can't judge a book by its cover – don't judge something or someone by how it looks
5. Actions speak louder than words – believe what people do, not what they say
6. It's a piece of cake – it's easy
7. It's raining cats and dogs – it's raining hard
8. Someone's sitting on the fence – can't make up one's mind
9. Cheap as chips – inexpensive
10. Keep your chin up! – be confident!

Some interesting British expressions

1. All that jazz –
2. Someone is down in the dumps –
3. Pulling something out of the hat –
4. My cup of tea –
5. Drama queen –