

Phrasal Verb Examples

Audio Lessons 1 to 10

Lesson 1: [Act up](#) (1st meaning)

Alternative to the phrasal verb: to misbehave

Example 1:

- When the teacher left the classroom the students acted up.
- When the teacher left the classroom the students misbehaved.

Example 2:

- When you give children food with lots of sugar in it, they tend to act up.
- When you give children food with lots of sugar in it, they tend to misbehave

Lesson 2: [Act up](#) (2st meaning)

Alternative: to not work properly

Example 1:

- My car was acting up yesterday so I took it to the mechanic to have it repaired.
- My car was not working properly yesterday so I took it to the mechanic to have it repaired.

Example 2:

- When my computer is acting up, I just restart it. That usually fixes the problem.
- When my computer is not working properly, I just restart it. That usually fixes the problem.

Lesson 3: [Think over](#)

Alternative: to consider / to think about something

Example 1:

- I can't make a decision right now this is something I have think over for a few days.
- I can't make a decision right now this is something I have to consider for a few days.
- I can't make a decision right now this is something I have to think about it for a few days.

Example 2:

- My boss gave me problem to solve at work and I really had to think it over to find a solution.
- My boss gave me problem to solve at work and I really had to consider it to find a solution.
- My boss gave me problem to solve at work and I really had to think about it to find a solution.

Lesson 4: Take off (1st meaning)

Alternative: to leave the ground

Example 1:

- I can't wait for this airplane to take off.
- I can't wait for this airplane to leave the ground.

Example 2:

- The rocket took off 30 seconds ago.
- The rocket left the ground 30 seconds ago.

Lesson 5: Take off (2nd meaning) separable

Alternative: to remove

Example 1:

- I took off my shoes when I came into the house.
- I took my shoes off when I came into the house
- I removed my shoes when I came into the house.

Example 2:

- Take the painting off the wall so we can clean the wall better.
- Remove the painting from the wall so we can clean the wall better.

Lesson 6: Take off (3rd meaning)

Alternative: to leave

Example 1:

- Thanks for inviting me to the party, it was great but I'm going to take off now.
- Thanks for inviting me to the party, it was great but I'm going to leave now.

Example 2:

- The robber took off as quickly as he could from the bank.
- The robber left as quickly as he could from the bank.

Lesson 7: Take off (the amount of time) (4th meaning) separable

Alternative: to not work

Example 1:

- I asked my boss if I could take 3 days off this week.
- I asked my boss if I could not work for 3 days this week.

Example 2:

- I need to take some time off of work to de-stress a bit.
- I need to not work to de-stress a bit.

Lesson 8: Run Down (1st meaning) separable

Alternative: to criticize

Example 1:

- My friend is always running me down for my choice in music
- My friend is always criticizing my choice in music.

Example 2:

- She left her boyfriend after 2 years because he was always running her down.
- She left her boyfriend after 2 years because he was always criticizing her.

Lesson 9: (to feel) Run Down (2nd meaning)

Alternative: to have low energy

Example 1:

- I think I'm starting to get sick, I'm feeling so run down.
- I think I'm starting to get sick, I'm feeling very low on energy.

Example 2:

- After completing the 25km marathon, he felt very run down for 3 days.
- After completing the 25km marathon, he had low on energy for 3 days.

Lesson 10: Track down - separable

Alternative: to find (someone or something)

Example 1:

- It's easy to track Curtis down because he always has his cell phone with him.
- It's easy to track down Curtis because he always has his cell phone with him.
- It's easy to find Curtis because he always has his cell phone with him.

Example 2:

- I need to track down a new charger for my laptop at one of the stores here.
- I need to track a new charger down for my laptop at one of the stores here.
- I need to find a new charger for my laptop at one of the stores here.

Phrasal Verb Story

Last year we decided to **take 6 weeks off** (time away from work) of work so we could to travel to Ecuador. After 3 flights we had finally arrived in Ecuador but had to stay in a hotel overnight. In the morning we had to **take off** (leave) from our hotel at 9AM so that we had enough time to go through security and get our tickets before our plane **took off** (left the ground) at noon to reach our final destination on the coast.

Once we were in the air, high above the mountains, the plane started to make a strange noise. It sounded like one of the engines was **acting up** (having a technical problem). We were hoping nothing as going to go wrong but I was definitely thinking that the mechanics should **track down** (find) the source of the noise; because the entire flight I was **thinking over** (think about) all of the horrible things that might happen if there was a problem with the engine of the airplane.

About halfway through the flight I decided to **take off** (remove) my jacket and use it as a pillow against the side of the airplane because I was feeling **run down** (low on energy) after so much time travelling. Just as I was about to fall asleep, a little girl started to **act up** (misbehave) and was crying. Although I'm complaining about the flight and the plane, I'm not trying to **run down** (talking badly) the airline. The staff were really friendly and after all, we did arrive safely to our destination.