

Lesson Plan:

Introduction to phrasal verbs

LEVEL	TIME	SKILLS	FOCUS
Beginner / Intermediate (A2-B1)	50-60 minutes	Vocabulary, grammar, speaking	What phrasal verbs are; separable vs. inseparable; 15 common everyday phrasal verbs

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand what phrasal verbs are and why they cannot always be guessed from their words
- Learn and use 15+ common everyday phrasal verbs in context
- Distinguish between separable and inseparable phrasal verbs
- Use the pronoun placement rule correctly with separable phrasal verbs

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

What is a phrasal verb?

- A main verb + particle (preposition or adverb) that creates a new, often idiomatic meaning
- look + up ≠ look upwards → look up = search for information
- give + up ≠ give something upwards → give up = stop trying

Movement / daily life phrasal verbs

- get up — wake up and leave bed
- turn on/off — start/stop a device
- put on — wear clothing
- take off — remove clothing; (plane) leave the ground
- pick up — lift; collect someone

Communication / achievement phrasal verbs

- find out — discover information
- give up — stop trying

- look up — search (dictionary/internet)
- run out of — have no more of something
- look after — take care of

Separable vs. inseparable

- Separable: Turn off the TV. / Turn the TV off. / Turn it off. (pronoun **MUST** go in the middle)
- Inseparable: Look after the children. NOT Look the children after.
- Key rule: if there is a pronoun (it/them/him/her), it always goes in the middle with separable verbs.

Meaning & Nuance

Phrasal verb	Meaning	Separable?	Pronoun test
turn on/off	start/stop a device	YES	Turn it off. ✓
look after	take care of	NO	Look after them. ✓ / Look them after. ✗
find out	discover	YES	Find it out. ✓ / Find out it. ✗
run out of	have no more	NO	We've run out of it. ✓
pick up	lift / collect	YES	Pick her up at 6. ✓
get on with	have good relations with	NO	He gets on with everyone. ✓

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Guess the meaning (5 min)

Task: Six phrasal verbs in context sentences. Students guess what each means.

- 'I looked up the word in the dictionary.' / 'She gave up smoking.' → Shows that phrasal verbs are often non-literal and must be learned in context.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Introduce phrasal verbs in meaningful groups. Separable vs. inseparable: the pronoun test.

- 'Turn it off' works (separable) — 'Look it after' doesn't work (inseparable).
- Drill both positions for separable verbs: 'Turn off the TV' / 'Turn the TV off'.

3. Gap-fill in context (10 min)

Task: Fill in the correct phrasal verb in 10 contextualized sentences.

- Students compare answers and discuss any differences. → Context sentences, not isolated examples, aid retention.

4. Phrasal verb story (15 min)

Task: Students write a 5-sentence mini-story using at least 5 different phrasal verbs.

- Share with a partner: does the story make sense? Is each phrasal verb used correctly? → Encourages creative, extended use.

TEACHER NOTES

- Phrasal verbs reward repeated exposure over time — this introduction builds awareness but mastery takes time.
- The pronoun test for separable verbs is reliable, simple, and highly effective.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Find 5 phrasal verbs in an English song, film, or article and explain their meaning.
2. Write a paragraph about your morning routine using at least 5 phrasal verbs.
3. Keep a phrasal verb journal: record 10 new phrasal verbs with context sentences this week.