

Lesson Plan: Phrasal verbs with look

Level	Intermediate (B1–B2)
Time	60–75 minutes
Skills	Vocabulary, speaking, writing
Focus	Look up, look into, look after, look forward to, look back on, look out, look down on, look up to

OBJECTIVES

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

- Learn and use 10+ look phrasal verbs accurately
- Use look forward to correctly with a gerund (not infinitive)
- Distinguish similar-meaning look phrasal verbs
- Use look phrasal verbs naturally in extended speaking and writing

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Positive / upward look phrasal verbs

- look up — search for information; (things are) improve/get better
- look up to — respect or admire someone
- look forward to — anticipate something with pleasure

Investigative / careful look phrasal verbs

- look into — investigate or research something
- look over — review or check quickly
- look through — search or scan through (papers, data, a crowd)
- look out (for) — be careful; watch for something

Judgmental / reflective look phrasal verbs

- look down on — consider someone inferior
- look back on — reflect on the past
- look ahead — think about the future

In natural sentences

- Things are finally looking up — I got a promotion!
- She looks down on people who didn't go to university.
- I'm really looking forward to the holidays. (+ gerund, NOT infinitive)
- He's someone I've always looked up to.

Meaning & Nuance

Phrasal verb	Meaning	Grammar note
look up to	admire / respect	no object restriction
look down on	consider inferior	no object restriction

look forward to	anticipate with pleasure	MUST be followed by noun or -ing, NOT infinitive
look back on	reflect on the past	usually used with a time reference
look into	investigate	often used in formal/professional contexts
look out for	watch carefully for	can also mean 'take care of someone'
look over	check / review	separable: look it over ✓
look up	search for / things improve	two very different meanings — context is key

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Who do you look up to? (5 min)

Task: Students share someone they look up to and why.

→ Pre-teaches *look up to* in a personal context before formal instruction.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Introduce all look phrasal verbs with examples.

- Look forward to + gerund (NOT infinitive): drill: 'I'm looking forward to SEEING you.'
- Look up: two meanings — search / things improve. Both extremely high frequency.

3. Matching and gap-fill (10 min)

Task: Match phrasal verbs to definitions, then complete sentences.

- Check especially: look up (search) vs. look into (investigate) — subtle but important difference.

4. Discussion: Looking back and forward (25 min)

Task: Two-part discussion using look phrasal verbs as the engine.

- Part 1: 'What do you look back on with pride? With regret?'
- Part 2: 'What are you looking forward to in the next year?'
- Requirement: use at least 5 different look phrasal verbs across the discussion.

TEACHER NOTES

- Look forward to + -ing is a persistent error. Drill: 'I'm looking forward to SEEING you' until automatic.
- Look up to / look down on are culturally rich — great triggers for discussing values, status, and respect.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write a 'looking back, looking forward' paragraph reflecting on this year and anticipating next year.
2. Find 5 look phrasal verbs in a book, article, or TV show and explain the context.
3. Write 8 sentences using 8 different look phrasal verbs.