

Phrasal Verbs についての一考察

A Study on Phrasal Verbs

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(一)

F. R. Palmer は Phrasal Verbs について次のように述べている。

The essential characteristic of compound verbs is, of course, that they consist of two elements, a verb and a particle. Phrasal verbs have the further characteristic that the particle may take one of two positions, both before and after the object noun phrase. We must first define the phrasal verb more accurately and then see what the greater syntactic flexibility implies. (1)

Phrasal Verb については呼称が他に Two-Word Verb, Verb-Adverb Combination, Group Verb などと言われている。しかし put up with, keep up with などは Two-Word Verb では矛盾するし, Verb-Adverb Combination だと, Verb + 前置詞の場合に問題を醸し出すので, Bolinger の主張を受け入れたい。

I adopt the term phrasal verb purely for convenience, as the one most generally accepted. (2)

Phrasal Verb として一つの単位と見る理由は次の三点が考えられる。

① Collocational restriction

We can give up. We can give down.

We can look after him. We can look before him.

② semantic unit

give in = yield

put up with = tolerate

③ transitive のものは受身可能

His father was looked after.

上記の② semantic unit は idiomaticness という関連性を有する。例えば、次の英文を考えてみよう。

(a) The enemy gave in.

(b) The guests came in.

(a)の gave in に対して、(b)の come in は Phrasal Verb として特に扱う必要がない。

Colin Mortimer は *Phrasal verbs in conversation* の中で次のように述べている。

The English Language has hundreds of two part verbs such as 'bring up', 'carry on' and 'put up'. These are easy enough to understand when the meaning of the whole two part verb is equal to the meaning of the sum of its two parts: we can understand what 'bring up a table' means, provided we know the meaning of 'bring' and the meaning of 'up'.

But in many cases knowing the meaning of the parts does not help us to know the meaning of the whole. Thus, to add the meaning of 'bring' to the meaning of 'up' will not help us to understand the meaning of 'bring up' in the expression 'He brought up a point'. Nor will it help us to understand 'bring up' in the expression 'She brought up a family'.

These uses of 'bring up' are *idiomatic*. To understand their meanings, we may, perhaps, need dictionary definitions; but above all we need to meet the verbs, and remember them, in the kind of context in which they are used, and in which we might ourselves use them. And we need to learn the groups of words that regularly accompany particular verbs. Thus, 'bring up', as in 'bring up a point', is also often accompanied by 'question', or 'issue', or 'matter'. On the other hand, 'bring up', as in 'bring up a family', can be accompanied by 'child', 'son', 'grandson', 'orphan', etc.

We could say that in the paragraph above, we have two meanings of the single verb 'bring up'. But in this book it is suggested that it is more useful to *think of each separately meaning as a separate verb*, which is to be considered separately, learnt separately in one's mind,

along with the situation in which it is met, and the lexical company it regularly keeps.

Thus, it is useful to think of 'blow up' in 'blow up a bridge' as one verb, 'blow up' in 'blow up a ballon' as a second verb, 'blow up' in 'blow up with anger' as a third verb, 'blow up' in 'the storm blew up' as a fourth verb, and 'blow up' in 'blow up a photograph' as a fifth verb—each of these to be learnt separately.

Each of the conversations in this book is devoted to one separate meaning of one phrasal verb. Each of the verbs is idiomatic (though some are less idiomatic than others), and each is an adverbially particled verb. Thus, even though 'go through' as in 'go through an experience' is idiomatic, it is not met in this book, because it is prepositionally particled. Such idiomatic verbs are often called 'prepositional verbs' to distinguish them from phrasal verbs—which are adverbially particled idiomatic verbs.

We can sometimes tell whether a transitive verb is a phrasal verb or whether it is a prepositional verb by the position the pronoun takes. Thus we can 'bring up a point' and we can 'bring it up': but when we 'go through an experience', we 'go through it', we do not 'go it through'.

Also, the adverbial particle in a phrasal verb is often separable, but the prepositional particle in a prepositional verb is not separable. We can 'bring up a point' and we can 'bring a point up'; but though we can 'go through an experience', we cannot 'go an experience through'.

Intransitive two part idiomatic verbs—'blow over', for example—are, of course, phrasal verbs, and many of these are included in the book.

Most of the verbs used in this collection have been selected because most of their meanings are frequently encountered. Some, such as 'blow up' as in 'blow up a photograph', have been chosen because they are beginning to be widely used and will almost certainly be used increasingly.

Phrasal verbs are *used* a great deal, especially in spoken English. So it is important for a student to recognise their meaning at least. If he wants to learn to speak English naturally and well, however, he must try to use these verbs himself—once he understands them properly. It is possible to use few of these verbs in one's speech; but then one is likely to sound rather formal, and possibly a bit pompous—'enter' for instance, is a rather more momentous verb than 'come in', and is not always appropriate to the same occasions.

The verbs in this book are arranged in alphabetical order so that, if he so chooses, the student can use the book as a complement to, or amplification of, the dictionary. (3)

ここで述べる Phrasal Verb は基準として idiomaticness で Verb+Particle (不変化詞) の構造をもつものとする。勿論, Particle には前置詞, 副詞が入る。

(二)

動詞が異なる型の Object と Complement に対応して動詞にもいくつかの型がある

Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum 氏は
A University Grammar of English の中で次のように分類している。

The girl is now a student (Cs) at a large university.

His brother grew happier (Cs) gradually.

Subject Complement を有する文は Intensive Verb を、それ以外のすべての文は Extensive Verb を含んでおり、後者に属するものは

It rained steadily all day.

のように Object, Complement についてこれまでに区別した SV, SVC, SVO, SVOO, SVOC のいずれをもとらないものは intransitive でそれ以外の場合の Extensive は transitive である。

動詞と一つの不変化詞から成る自動詞的句動詞の例文をあげると

The children were sitting down.

He is playing around.

Drink up quickly.

Get up at once.

The plane has now taken off.

Did he catch on?

The prisoner finally broke down.

He turned up unexpectedly.

When will they give in?

The tank blew up.

次に他動詞的句動詞では句動詞で Object をとりうるものは多い。

We will set up a new unit.

They are bringing over the whole family.

Find out whether they are coming.

She is bringing up her brother's children.

They turned on the light.

They gave in their resignation.

I can't make out what he means.

He can't live down his past.

He looked up his former friend.

他動詞的な句動詞では不変化詞は直接目的語の前と後のいずれに置いても差支えない。

They turned on the light.

They turned the light on.

人称代名詞が Object である場合は

He took it off. であって He took off it

とは言わない。基本的な理由は口調が悪い。しかし、対照的な強勢を伴う場合で例外のあることもある。

(三)

Phrasal Verbs を類別すると

- (1) V+Adv.
- (2) V+Prep.+N
- (3) V+Adv.+N
- (4) V+Adv.+Prep.+N

- (a) The spectator looked over my shoulder. (2 の型)

(見物人は肩越しにみた)

- (b) The doctor looked over my shoulder. (3 の型)

(医者是我的肩を検査した)

別の基準で分類したものでは B. Strang は *Modern English Structure* の中で次のように詳しく説明している。

We turn now to another plane of analysis, in order to distinguish four different kinds of verb. So far we have considered verbs which, in their base forms, are one-word items. But just as we treat of complex forms in conjugation, so we are compelled by lexical and other evidence to recognise the existence of units, functioning and conjugated as verbs, consisting of two or three words—which may not even always follow one another in unbroken sequence. The lexical consideration is that such combinations may have lexical meaning quite different from that of the components strung together as distinct lexical units. Thus, if we know the meaning of the separate items and the grammatical patterns according to which the elements are combined, we know the meaning of the remark:

'I came across the fields this evening.'

But, knowing only these things, we do not know the meaning of:

'I came across an old friend this evening.'

The words come across, in this use, form an idiom, a unit which has to be learnt as a whole, and cannot be understood by deduction from the meanings of its parts. Once we recognise the existence of more-than-one-word verbs, other considerations show us that we must distinguish three principal types amongst them. One is called the **prepositional verb**, since it consists of an item that on its own functions as a verb, plus an item that on its own functions as a preposition (cf. § 160); the second is called a **phrasal verb**, since it consists of an item that can be a verb plus a particle that can be either preposition or adverb (reasons for distinguishing these types will be given below; for adverbs cf. § § 153 ff.); and the third, combining the characteristics of the other two, is called **prepositional-phrasal**.

The three types may be distinguished in terms of the following criteria in addition to the criterion of 'idiomaticness' described above, which differentiates all three from sequences of verb+particle:

(1) the prepositional verb is transitive, and if active must be followed by its object. Examples, with *take to*, *come across*, are:

'I took to him at once.' *'We came across him again only recently.'*

The corresponding collocation of verb+particle may be transitive or intransitive, and if there is an object, it must be interpolated between the verb and the particle:

'I took it to him' or *'I took the case to him.'*

In passive constructions, the prepositional verb has the particle in final position, but the verb+particle has it followed by its object:

'It isn't a thing to be laughed at.' *'It isn't a thing to be taken to the police.'*

(2) the phrasal verb may be transitive or intransitive. There are four special characteristics:

(a) position of object. A pronominal object must be interpolated between verb-component and particle, a nominal one may have either that of post-particle position, thus:

'He turned the light (it) off' or *'He turned off the light'*

(contrast, *'He turned off the road (it)'* but not **'He turned the road off'*).

(b) stress. The particle is normally fully stressed, which it would not generally be as a separate item, thus:

'He can't be taken in at any price'

(contrast *'It can't be taken in large doses'*; this is a contrast only for preposition-like components).

(c) intonation. The intonation of the particle is dynamic, though the direction of movement varies according to context; if the particle is a separate item or part of a prepositional verb it is normally, especially if prepositional, spoken on level tone. Thus:

'He can't be taken in' (falling tone, 2, with tonic on *in*), but

'He can't be laughed at' (tonic on *laughed*).

(d) adverbs (cf. § 153). Adverbs cannot be interpolated between the components of a phrasal verb as they can in a sequence of verb+preposition/adverb. Thus:

'He turned off the road suddenly'

'He turned off the light suddenly'

'He turned suddenly off the road'

are all acceptable, while **'He turned suddenly off the light'* is not.

(3) the prepositional-phrasal verb has two particles in addition to the verb-component, the group being uninterrupted by objects or adverbs, as in:

'I can't put up with it any longer.'

Note that the pronoun object in such idioms has a fixed position not otherwise permitted to it.

It is impossible to determine the exact range of these three types of construction, both because they are not sharply delineated, but shade off indefinitely into ordinary verb+particle sequences, and because new formations, and new values for old ones, are constantly coming into existence. Similarly, it is impossible to draw a line between accepted and merely fringe or even nonce usage. These points were made in a study published by A. G. Kennedy in 1920. The author rarely tries to label forms as slang, colloquial or accepted, but the indications and omissions we do find in his work are often strange to British English speakers only forty years later, and give a hint of the rapidity of change in this aspect of the language. But some general statements are possible. Kennedy was able to find over 900 combinations (Preface), the vast majority formed by monosyllabic verbs (p.29), amongst which twenty were the most productive—*back, blow, break, bring, call, come, fall, get, give, go, hold, let, make, put, run, set, take, turn, work*, entering into 155 combinations with at least 600 fairly distinct uses (p.35). He analysed formations involving 16 particles, *about, across, (a) round, at, by, down, for, in, off, on, out, over, through, to, up, with* (p.9), amongst which the most productive by an enormous margin was *up* (nearly 250 combinations, pp.23–25); some of them have not survived, and some are not British English, but on the other hand the list is not exhaustive for its time and language, covering only 'the most common combinations' (p.25). Lastly, certain verbs are rarely used without a particle (e.g., *clutter up, peter out*—about three dozen in all, p.29), and some have intransitive uses only in such combinations (*calm down, keep in, light up*, etc., loc. cit.). In using Kennedy's figures one must remember not only that he presents them very tentatively, but also that they represent the whole spectrum of what he calls 'combinations', from verb+particle as separate items through all the gradations up to the prepositional-phrasal verb.

Note

The separation of prepositional and phrasal verbs from verb+particle

sequences is now a commonplace. The distinction of the three types of verbs is due to T. F. Mitchell (1958, especially pp.103–106). To this article the examples and criteria of distinction listed above are due. Mitchell sets up a system of particles for the phrasal verb including *up, down, in, out, on, to*,—a closed system that could be catalogued exhaustively. Productive verbs of the pattern are *bring, come, get, go, keep, run, put, take, turn, send, fall, stand, look*, among others forming an open class, which could not, of course, be catalogued. The productive particles for prepositional verbs are those listed by

Kennedy.

Mitchell's criteria for the phrasal verb include no mention of rhythm. Clearly the examples with *taken in* differ as much in rhythm as in stress and intonation, and I should prefer to speak of a complex of related differences (a superfix) part stress, part rhythm, part intonation; but so little is agreed about the analysis or notation of rhythmical patterns in English that this aspect of structure cannot yet be given its proper place in description. (4)

要するに Strang の分類を簡単にまとめると、次のようになる。

- (1) Prepositional Verb = V + Prep
- (2) Phrasal Verb = V + Particle $\begin{cases} \text{Prep} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Adv.} \end{cases}$
- (3) Prepositional - Phrasal Verb = (1) + (2)

(1)の例は come across (2)の例は turn off

(3)の例は put up with

このうち(2)の Phrasal Verb の特徴は次の通りである。

(イ) Transitive or intransitive

(ロ) Pronominal Object は V と Particle の中間におかれ、Nominal Object はどちらでもよい。

He turned $\begin{cases} \text{the light} \\ \text{it} \end{cases}$ off. He turned off $\begin{cases} \text{the light} \\ \text{*it} \end{cases}$

(ハ) 副詞は普通中間におかれない。

*He turned suddenly off the light.

He turned off the light suddenly.

さらに STRESS の問題がある。

(a) Give out the examination papers.

(b) Give the examination papers out.

(a)では papers に emphasis があり,

(b)では distribution に emphasis があるといえるが、一般的には Bolinger が主張するように

If transitive, the combination should passivize. (5)

と言えるが、これもすべての場合に当てはまるわけではない。如何なる場合に passive が不可能か簡単に要領よく説明する方法はない。

実用的に最も重要なことは、分離型 (Separable) であるか、非分離型 (Unseparable) であるかにつくる。

分離型 (Separable)

Look up this word in the dictionary.

Look this word up in the dictionary.

Look it up in the dictionary.

非分離型 (Unseparable)

Look up the chimney.

Call at the hospital and see how the patient is.

このことに関して Kenney は次のように述べている。

It is very noticeable that the verbs that enter into these combinations are largely monosyllables. (6)

即ち、単綴の動詞に注意する必要がある。

しかし、Bolinger は Phrasal Verb に関しては、あまり、堅苦しく考えないように指摘している。

I do not believe that a linguistic entity such as the phrasal verb can be confined within clear bounds. ...being or not being a phrasal verb is a matter of degree. (7)

(四)

次に例文をあげて、分析してみたい。

1. The enemy *gave in*.

Cf. The guests came in.

2. She *broke down* when she heard the news.
3. Have you *filled out* a form like this before?
4. He *looked after* his old father.
5. I can't *put up with* that woman.
6. He *took care of* the matter.

- 1 give in = yield で idiomaticness の基準の例としてあげたもので、The guests came in と比較すると、come と in の意味を別々に知っておれば、come in の意味は大体わかる。これに対して give in の場合はそうはいかない。つまり

give in [+ idiomaticness]

come in [- idiomaticness]

- 2 Phrasal Verb without object の例文

break down = burst into tears

- 3 Phrasal Verb with object の例文

(英) で fill in, fill up に対し (米) では fill out.

- 4 Prepositional Verb の例

- 5 Prepositional-Phrasal Verb の例

- 6 上記のものと別枠で考えるものであろうが、この種のものを一括して整理すると、

pay attention to, make fun of, make use of, find fault with, take part in, take advantage of, take notice of, take charge of, lose sight of, keep an eye on, etc.

これは次に示すように一かたまりとして使われることは無論のこと、中間の要素を分離して使うこともある。

During the illness of their mother the children were *taken care of* by a neighbor.

In the old people's home every *care is taken of* the inmates' health.

No *attention was paid to* my advice.

次の例文で分離型 (Separable → S) か非分離型 (Unseparable → U) か検討したい。

1. With whom did you *talk over* your plan to buy a new car?
2. A very pleasant young woman *waited on* me in Macy's yesterday.
3. He *tried on* several suits and finally picked out a blue one.
4. The doctor had to *call off* all his appointments for the day and rush to the hospital.
5. The firemen worked hard but were not able to *put out* the fire.
6. How long did it take you to *figure out* the cost of that machine?
7. John *went on* reading and paid to attention to any of us.
8. The teacher *crossed out* several words in my composition.
9. We must all *look up to* our great statesmen of the past.
10. We are *counting on* you to help us with today's assignment.

- | | | | |
|---|------------|---------------------|-----|
| 1 | talk over | (= to discuss) | → S |
| 2 | wait on | (= to serve) | → U |
| 3 | try on | (= to test) | → S |
| 4 | call off | (= to cancel) | → S |
| 5 | put out | (= to distinguish) | → S |
| 6 | figure out | (= to calculate) | → S |
| 7 | go on | (= to continue) | → U |

- 8 cross out (= to cancel) → S
 9 look up to (= to admire) → U
 10 count on (= to depend on) → U

次の例文で Phrasal Verb の用法からみて、正しいか、否か検討してみよう。

1. A: Where's Joe?

B: He's driving the cattle in. He'll be along in a minute.

2. I'm going to do this dress over; I didn't get it right the first time.

3. Have you taken the wash in yet?

4. He ran up the flag up the pole.

5. I'm afraid you'll find these transfer students dropping gradually out.

6. It's almost ten o'clock. Put your nightie on, now, and run up to bed.

7. He keeps writing away his books.

8. Over which child did he run?

9. That lake has been come across so many times that no guide is necessary.

10. The running up of the hill was matter of minutes.

1 true 2 true 3 true 4 wrong

こうした場合、同じ second element をくりかえして使うことなく、stylistic change をうける。従って He ran up the flag on the pole が正しい。

他の例をあげると

*He *drove off* the chickens off the lawn. → wrong

He *drove off* the chickens *from* the lawn. → true

5 wrong

… dropping gradually out を gradually dropping out としななければならない。

out のような不変化詞 (Particle) が most literal sense である場合をのぞいて、副詞が動詞と不変化詞の間に入ることはない

6 true

7 wrong

He keeps writing away at his books. が正しい。underlying meaning が Transitive のときは、このような構文では目的語の前に前置詞をいなければならない。

8 wrong

run over は unseparable である。over は前置詞であるがイギリス語法では次のように副詞として用いることがある。

He ought to be severely punished, *running* people over like that.

9 wrong

能動態の come across は次のように用いるべきである。

We have *come across* that lake so many times that no guide is necessary.

原則として Transitive であれば受身にできるが、come との組み合わせは come by を除き受身にできない。

A fortune is not easily *come by*.

これに対して go との組み合わせはほとんど、どれも受身が可能。

That lake has been *gone across* so many times that no guide is necessary.

10 true

このような nominalization は次の二つの文の不変化詞の underlying difference をはっきり示してくれる。

He *looked into* the information.

→ His looking into the information...

→ *His looking into of the information...

He *looked up* the information.

→ His looking up of the information...

受身にただけでは、ちがいは表にあらわれない。

The information was *looked* { ^{into}
_{up} } by him.

(五)

最後に *A Practical English Grammar* by A. J. Thomson and A. V. Martinet から Phrasal Verbs を pick up して Phrasal Verbs についての考察を終了する。

account

account for (tr)=give a good reason for, explain satisfactorily (some action or expenditure):

A treasurer must account for money he spends.

He has behaved in the most extraordinary way; I can't account for his actions at all/I can't account for his behaving like that.

allow

allow for (tr)=make provision in advance for, take into account (usually some additional requirement, expenditure, delay etc.):

TOM: *It is 800 Kilometres and I drive at 100 k.p.h., so I'll be there in eight hours.*

ANN: *But you'll have to allow for delays going through towns and for stops for refuelling.*

Allowing for depreciation your car should be shuld be worth £2,000

this time next year.

answer

answer back (intr), **answer somebody back**=answer a reproof impudently:

FATHER: *Why were you so last night? You weren't in till 2 a.m.*

SON: *You should have been asleep.*

FATHER: *Don't answer me back. Answer my question.*

ask

ask after/for somebody=ask for news of:

I met Tom at the party; he asked after you (asked how you were/how you were getting on).

ask for

a =ask to speak to:

Go to the office and ask for my secretary.

b =request, demand:

The men asked for more pay and shorters.

ask someone in (object before **in**)=invite him to enter the house:

He didn't ask me in; he kept me standing at the door while he read the message.

ask someone out (object before **out**)=invite him to an entertainment or to a meal (usually in a public place):

She had a lot of friends and was usually asked out in the evenings, so she very seldom spent an evening at home.

back

back away (intr)=step or move back slowly (because confronted by

some danger or unpleasantness):

When he took a snake out of his pocket everyone backed away and stood watching it from a safe distance.

back out (intr)=withdraw (from some joint action previously agreed on), discontinue or refuse to provide previously promised help or support:

He agreed to help but backed out when he found how difficult it was.

back somebody **up**=support morally or verbally:

The headmaster never backed up his staff (backed them up). If a parent complained about a master he assumed the master was in the wrong.

be

be in (intr)=be at home/in this building.

be out (intr)=be away from home/from this building for a short time—not overnight.

be away (intr)=be away from home/from this place for at least a night.

be back (intr)=have returned after a long or short absence:

I want to see Mrs Pitt. Is she in?

No, I'm afraid she's out at the moment

or *No, I'm afraid she's away for the weekend.*

When will she be back?

She'll be back in half an hour/next week.

be for (tr)=be in favour of (often used with gerund).

be against (tr)=be opposed to (often used with gerund):

I'm for doing nothing till the police arrive/I'm against against doing anything till the police arrive.

be in for (tr)=be about to encounter (usually something unpleasant):

Did you listen to the weather forecast? I'm afraid we're in for a bumpy flight.

If you think that the work is going to be easy you'er in for a shock.

be over (intr)=be finished:

The storm is over now; we can go on.

be up (intr)=be out of bed:

Don't expect her to answer the dooor bell at eight o'clock on Sunday morning. She won't be up.

be up to (tr)=be physically or intellectually strong enough (to perform a certain action). The object is usually it, though gerund is possible:

After his illness the Minister continued in cffice though he was no longer up to the work/up to doing the work.

be up to something/some mischief/some trick/no good=be occupied or busy with some mischievous act:

Don't trust him; he is up some trick.

The boys are very quiet. I wonder what they are up to.

Note that the object of **up to** here is always some very indefinite expression such as these given above. It is never used with a particular action.

it is up to someone (often followed by an infinitive)=it is his responsibility or duty:

It is up to porents to teach their children manners.

I have helped you as I can. Ncw it is up to you (you must continue by your own efforts).

bear

bear out (tr)=confirm:

*This report bears out my theory (bears **my theory** out/bears **it** out).*

bear up (intr)=support bad news bravely, hide feelings of grief:

The news of her death was a great shock to him but he bore up bravely and none of us realized how much he felt it.

blow

blow out (tr)=extinguish (a flame) by blowing:

*The wind blew out **the candle** (blew **the candle** out/blew **it** out).*

blow up (tr or intr)

a=destroy by explosion, explode, be destroyed:

*The blew up **the bridges** so that the enemy couldn't follow them (blew **the bridges** up/blew **them** up).*

Just as we got to the bridge it blew up.

b=fill with air, inflate, pump up:

*The children blew up **their balloons** and threw them into the air (blew **the balloons** up/blew **them** up).*

boil

boil away (intr)=be boiled until all (the liquid) has evaporated:

I put the kettle on the gas ring and then went away and forgot about it. When I returned, the water had all boiled away and the flame had burnt a hole in the kettle.

boil over (intr)=to rise and flow over the sides of the container (used only of hot liquids):

The milk boiled over and there was a horrible smell of burning.

break

break down figures=take a total and sub-divide it under various head-

ings so as to give additional information:

You say that 10,000 people use this library. Could you break that down into age-groups? (i.e. say how many of these are under 25, over 50 etc.).

break down a door etc. =cause to collapse by using force:

*The firemen had to break down **the door** to get into the burning house (break **the door** down/break **it** down).*

break down (intr)=collapse, cease to function properly, owing to some fault or weakness:

1 Used of people, it normally implies a temporary emotional collapse:

He broke when telling me about his son's tragic death (i.e. he was overcome by his sorrow, he wept).

2 It can express collapse of mental resistance:

At first he refused to admit his guilt but when he was shown the evidence he broke down and confessed.

3 When used of health it implies a serious physical collapse:

After years of overwork his health broke down and he had to retire from business.

4 It is very often used of machines:

The car broke down when we were driving through the desert and it took us two days to repair it.

5 It can be used of negotiations:

The negotiations broke down (i.e. were discontinued) because neither side would compromise.

break in (intr), **break into** (tr)

a=enter by force:

Thieves broke in and stole the silver.

Thieves broke into the house etc.

break in (intr), **break into** (a conversation etc.) (tr)

b=interrupt someone by some sudden remark:

I was telling them about my travels when he broke in with a story of his own.

break in (a young horse/pony etc.) (tr)=train him for use:

You cannot ride or drive a young horse safely before he has been broken in.

break off (tr or intr)=detach or become detached:

*He took a bar of chocolate and broke off **a bit**/broke **a bit** off/broke **it** off.*

A piece of rock broke off and fell into the pool at the foot of the cliff.

break off (tr)=terminate (used of agreements or negotiations):

*Ann has broken off **her engagement** to Tom (broken **her engagement** off/broken **it** off).*

break off (intr)=stop talking suddenly, interrupt oneself:

They were arguing but broke off then someone came into the room.

break out (intr)

a=begin (used of evils such as wars, epidemics, fires, etc.):

War broke out on August 4th.

b=escape by using force from a prison etc.:

They locked him up in a room but he broke out (smashed the door and escaped).

The police are looking for two men who broke out of prison last night.

break up (tr or intr)=disintegrate, cause to disintegrate:

If that ship stays there she will break up/be broken up by the waves.

The old ship was towed away to be broken up and sold as scrap.

*Divorce breaks up a lot of **families** (breaks **families** up/breaks **them** up).*

break up (intr)=terminate (used of school terms, meetings, parties etc.):

The school broke up on July 30 and all the boys went home for the holidays.

The meeting broke up in confusion.

bring

bring someone **round** (tr; object usually before **round**)

a=persuade someone to accept a previously opposed suggestion:

After a lot of argument I brought him round to my point of view.

b=restore to consciousness:

She fainted when she heard the news but a little brandy soon brought her round.

bring a person or thing **round** (tr; object usually before **round**)=bring him/it to my/your/his house:

I have finished that book you lent me; I'll bring it round (i.e. to your house) tonight.

bring up (tr)

a=educate and train children:

*She brought up **her children** to truthful (brought **her children** up/ brought **them** up).*

b=mention:

*At the last committee meeting, the treasurer brought up **the question** of raising the annual subscription (brought **the question** up/brought it up).*

burn

burn down (tr or intr)=destroy, or be destroyed, completely by fire

(used of buildings):

*The mob burnt down **the embassy** (burnt **the embassy** down/burnt it down).*

The hotel burnt down before help came.

call

- 1 **call** meaning 'visit' (for a short time)

call at a place

I called at the bank and arranged to transfer some money.

call for=visit a place to collect a person or thing:

I am going to a pop concert with Tom. He is calling for me at eight so I must be ready then.

Let's leave our suitcases in the left luggage office and call for them later on when we have the car.

call in is intransitive, and has the same meaning as **look in** and the colloquial **drop in**:

Call in/Look in on your way home and tell me how the interview went.

call on a person:

He called on all the housewives in the area and asked them to sign the petition.

- 2 Other meanings of **call on, in, for**

call for (tr)=require, demand (the subject here is often an impersonal word or phrase such as: the situation/this sort of work/this etc.; the object is then usually some quality e.g. courage/patience/a steady hand etc.):

The situation calls for tact.

You've got the job! This calls for a celebration.

But it can also be used with a personal subject:

The workers are calling for strike action.

The relations of the dead men are calling for an inquiry.

call in a person/**call** him **in**=send for him/ask him to come to the house to perform some service. **send for** is more authoritative than **call in**, which is therefore a more polite form:

It was too late to call in an electrician (call an electrician in/call him in).

There is some mystery about his death; the police have been called in.

call on somebody (usually+infinitive)=ask him to do something/ask him to help. This is a rather formal way of making a request and is chiefly used on formal occasions or in speeches etc. There is usually the idea that the person called on will consider it his duty to comply with the request:

The president called on his people to make sacrifices for the good of their country.

The chairman called on the secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting.

3 Other combinations with **call**

call off (tr)=cancel something not yet started, or abandon something already in progress:

They had to call off (cancel) the match (call the match off/call it off) as the ground was too wet to play on.

When the fog got thicker the search was called off (abandoned).

call out (tr)=summon someone to leave his house to deal with a situation outside. It is often used of troops when they are required to leave their barracks to deal with civil disturbances:

The police couldn't control the mob so troops were called out.

The Fire Brigade was called out several times on the night of Novem-

ber 5 to put out fires started by fireworks.

Doctors don't much like being called out at night.

call up (tr)

a=summon for military service:

*In countries where there is conscription **men** are called up at the age of eighteen (call up **men**/call men up/call **then** up).*

b=telephone:

*I called **Tom** up and told him the news (call up **Tom**/call **him** up).*

care

not to care about (tr)=to be indifferent to:

The professor said that he was interested only in research; he didn't really care about students.

care for (tr)

a=like (seldom used in the affirmative):

He doesn't care for films about war.

b=look after (not much used except in the passive):

The house looked well cared for (had been well looked after/was in good condition).

carry

carry on (intr)=continue(usually work or duty):

I can't carry on alone any longer; I'll have to get help.

carry on with (tr) is used similarly:

The doctor told her to carry on with the treatment.

carry out (tr)=perform (duties), obey (orders, instructions), fulfil (threats):

You are not meant to think for yourself; you are here to carry out my

orders.

He carried out his threat to cut off out water supply (he threatened to do it and he did it).

He read the instructions but he didn't carry them out.

catch

catch up with (tr), **catch up** (tr or intr)=overtake, but not pass:

*I started last in the race but I soon caught up whit **the others*** (*caught **them** up/caught up*).

*You've missed a whole term; you'll have to work hard to catch up with **the calss*** (*catch **them** up/catch up*).

clean

clean out (tr) a room/cupboard/drawer etc.=clean and tidy it thoroughly:

*I must clean out **the spare room*** (*clean **the spare room** out/clean it out*).

clean up (tr) a mess e.g. anything spilt:

*Clean up **any spilit paint*** (*clean the **spilt paint** up/clean it up*).

clean up (intr) is used similarly:

These painters always clean up when then they've firished (leave the place clean).

clear

clear away (tr)=remove articles, usually in order to make space:

*Could you clear away **these papers*** (*clear **these papers** away/clear **them** away*)?

clear away (intr)=disperse:

The clouds soon cleared away and it become quite warm.

clear off (intr) from an open space, **clear out** (intr) of a room building=go away(colloquial; as a command it is definitely rude):

'You clear off,' said the farmer angrily. 'You've no right to put your caravans in my field without even asking permission.'

Clear out! If I find you in this building again, I'll report you to the police.

clear out (tr) a room/cupboard/drawer etc.=empty it, usually to make room for something else:

*I'll clear out **this drawer** and you can put your thing in it (clear **this drawer** out/clear **it** out).*

clear up (intr)=become fine after clouds or rain:

The sky looks a bit cloudy now but I think it will clear up.

clear up (tr or intr)=make tidy and clean:

When you are cooking it's best to clear up you go, instead of leaving everything to the end and having a terrible pile of things to deal with.

*Clear up **this mess** (clear **this mess** up/clear **it** up).*

clear up (tr)

a=finish (some work which still remains to be done):

I have some letters which I must clear up before I leave tonight.

b=solve (a mystery):

*In a great many detective stories when the police are baffled an amateur detective comes along and clears up **the mystery** (clears **it** up).*

close

close down (tr or intr)=shut permanently (of a shop or business):

Trade was so bad that many small shops closed down and big shops

*closed some of **their branches** down (closed down **some branches**/closed **them** down).*

close in (intr)=come nearer, approach from all sides (used of mist, darkness, enemies etc.):

As the mist was closing in we decided to stay where we were.

close up (intr)=come nearer together (of people in a line):

If you children closed up a bit there'd be room for another one on this seat.

come

come across/upon (tr)=find by chance:

When I was looking for my passport I came across these old photographs.

come along/on (intr)=come with me, accompany me. "Come on" is often said to someone who is hesitating or delaying:

Come on, or we'll be late.

come away (intr)=leave (with me):

Came away now. It's time to go home.

come away/off (intr)=detach itself:

When I picked up the teapot the handle came away in my hand.

come in (intr), **come into** (tr)=enter:

Someone knocked at my door and I said, 'Come in.'

Come into the garden and I'll show you my roses.

come off (intr)

a=succeed, of plan or scheme (used in negative):

She told her husband that she was going to spend the week with her mother in York whereas in fact she was going to Paris. She tried to cover her tracks by writing postcards to her husband and asking a

friend in York to post them. But the scheme didn't come off because the friend forgot to post them till the following week.

b=take place; happen as arranged:

'When is the wedding coming off?' 'Next June.'

If we say 'The duchess was to have opened the bazaar' we imply that this plan was made but didn't come off (she arranged to open it but later had to cancel this arrangement).

c=end its run (of a play, exhibition etc.):

Lady Windermere's Fan is coming off next week. You'd better hurry if you want to see it.

come out (intr)

a=be revealed, exposed (the subject here is normally **the truth/the facts/the whole story** etc. and usually refers to facts which the people concerned were trying to keep hidden, i.e. scandals etc.):

They deceived everybody till they quarrelled among themselves; then one publicly denounced the others and the whole truth came out.

b=be published (of books):

Her new novel will be coming out in time for the Christmas sales.

c=disappear (of stains):

Tomato stains don't usually come out.

come round (intr)

a=finally accept a previously opposed suggestion:

Her father at first refused to let her study abroad but he came round (to it) in the end (i.e. said she could go).

b=come to my (your/his etc.) house:

I can't come to dinner but I come round after dinner and tell you the plan.

come round/to (intr; stress on **to**)=recover consciousness:

When we found him he was unconscious but he came round/to in half an hour and explained that he had been attacked and robbed.

come up (intr)

a=rise to the surface:

A diver with an aqualung doesn't have to keep coming up for air; he can stay underwater for quite a long time.

Weeds are coming up everywhere.

b=be mentioned:

The question of the caretaker's wages came up at the last meeting.

come up (intr), **come up to** (tr)=approach, come close enough to talk:

A policeman was standing a few years away. He came up to me and said, 'You can't park here.'

crop

crop up (intr)=appear, arise unexpectedly or by accident (the subject is normally an abstract noun such as **difficulties/the subject** etc. or a pronoun):

At first all sorts of difficulties cropped up and delayed us. Later we learnt how to anticipate these.

cut

cut down a tree=fell it:

*If you cut down **all the trees** you will ruin the land (cut **the trees** down /cut **them** down).*

cut down (tr)=reduce in size or amount:

We must cut down expenses or we'll be getting into debt.

'This article is too long,' said the editor. 'Could you cut it down to 2,000 words?'

cut in (intr)=pass one car when there isn't room to do this safely, as another car is coming from the opposite direction:

Accidents are often caused by drivers cutting in.

cut off (tr)=disconnect, discontinue supply (usually of gas, water, electricity etc.). The object can either be the commodity or the person who suffers:

*The Company has cut our **electricity supply** (cut **our supply** off/cut it off) because we haven't paid our bill.*

They've cut off the water (our water supply) temporarily because they are repairing one of the main pipes.

We were cut off in the middle of our (telephone) conversation (this might be accidental or a deliberate action by the switchboard operator).

cut someone off=form a barrier between him and safety (often used in connexion with the tide, especially in the passive):

We were cut off by the tide and had to be rescued by boat.

be cut off (intr)=be inconveniently isolated (the subject is usually a place of residents in a certain place):

You will be completely cut off if you go to live in that village because there is a bus only once a week.

cut out (tr)

a=cut from a piece of cloth/paper etc. a smaller piece of a desired shape:

*When I am making a dress I mark the cloth with chalk and then cut it out (cut out **the dress**/cut **the dress** out).*

Young people often cut out photographs of their favourite film stars and stick them to the walls.

b=omit, leave out:

*If you want to get thin you must cut out **sugar** (cut **it** out).*

be cut out for (tr)=be fitted or suited for (used of people, usually in the negative):

His father got him a job in a bank but it became clear that he was not cut out for that kind of work (he wasn't happy and not good at the work).

cut up (tr):cut into small pieces:

*They cut down the tree and cut **it** up firewood (cut **the tree** up/cut up **the tree**).*

die

die away (intr)=become gradually fainter till inaudible:

The prisoners waited till the sound of waited till the sound of the warder's footsteps died away.

die down (intr)=become gradually calmer and finally disappear (of riots, fires, excitement, etc.):

When the excitement had died down the shopkeepers took down their shutters and reopened their shops.

die out (intr)=become extinct (of customs, races, species of animals etc.):

Elephants would die out if men were allowed to shoot as many as they wished.

do

do away with (tr)=abolish:

The government should do away with the regulations restricting drinking hours.

do up (tr)=redecorate:

When I do this room up I'll paint the walls in stripes (do up this room /do it up).

do without (tr)=manage in the absence of a person or thing:

We had to do without petrol during the fuel crisis.

The object is sometimes understood but not mentioned:

If there isn't any milk we'll have to do without (it).

draw

draw back (intr)=retire, recoil:

It's too late to draw back now; the plans are all made.

draw up (tr)=make a written plan or agreement:

My solicitor drew up the lease and we both signed it (drew it up).

draw up (intr)=stop (of vehicles):

The car drew up at the kerb and the driver got out.

drop

drop in (intr)=pay a short unannounced visit:

*He dropped in for a few minutes to ask if he could borrow your power drill (**drop in** is more colloquial than 'call in').*

drop out (intr)=withdraw, retire from a scheme or plan:

We planned to hire a bus for the excursion but now so many people have dropped out that it will not be needed.

enter

enter for (tr)=become a candidate (for a contest, examination, etc.):

Two hundred competitors have entered for the motor-cycle race.

fade

fade away (intr)=disappear, become gradually fainter (usually of sounds):

The band moved on and the music faded away.

fall

fall back (intr)=withdraw, retreat (this is a deliberate action, quite different from **fall behind**, which is involuntary).

As the enemy advanced we fell back.

fall back on (tr)=use in the absence of some thing better:

We had to fall back on dried milk as fresh milk wasn't available.

He fell back on the old argument that if you educate women they won't be such good wives and mothers.

fall behind (intr)=slip into the rear through inability to keep up with the others, fail to keep up an agreed rate of payments:

At the beginning the whole party kept together but by the end of the day the women and weaker men had fallen behind.

He fell behind with his rent and the landlord began to become impatient.

fall in with someone's plans= accept them and agree to cooperate:

Tom to Harry (with whom he is arranging to share a flat): I'll fall in with whatever you suggest as regards sharing expenses.

fall in (intr) of troops etc.=get into line

fall out (intr) of troops etc.=leave the lines:

The troops fell in and were inspected. After the parade they fell out and went back to their barracks.

fall off (intr)=decrease (of numbers, attendance etc.):

Orders have been falling off lately; we must advertise more.

If the price of seats goes up much more theatre attendances will begin to fall off.

fall on (tr)=attack violently (the victim has normally no chance to defend himself as the attackers are too strong. It is also sometimes used of hungry men who attack their food when they get it):

The wolves fell on the flock of sheep and killed them all.

The starving men fell on the food (devoured it).

fall out (intr)=quarrel:

When thieves fall out honest men get their own (proverb). (i.e. get back their property.)

fall through (intr)=fail to materialize (of plans):

My plans to go to Greece fell through because the journey turned out to be much more expensive than I had expected.

feed

be fed up (intr), **be fed up with** (tr)=be completely bored (slang):

I'm fed up with this wet weather.

I'm fed up with waiting; I'm going home.

feel

feel up to (tr)=feel strong enough (to do something):

I don't feel up to dealing with the matter now. I'll do it in the morning.

I don't feel up to it.

fill

fill/up forms etc.=complete them:

*I had to fill in **three forms** to get my new passport (fill **three forms** in*

/fill **them** in).

find

find out (tr)=discover as a result of conscious effort:

In the end I found out what was wrong with my hi-fi.

The dog found out the way to open the door/found it out.

find someone out=discover that he has been doing something wrong (this discovery is usually a surprise because the person has been trusted):

The cashier had been robbing the till for months before he was found out.

fix

fix up (tr)=arrange:

*The club has already fixed up **several matches** for next season (fixed **several matches** up/fixed **them** up).*

get

get about (intr)=circulate; move or travel in a general sense:

The news got about that he had won the first prize in the state lottery and everybody began asking him for money.

He is a semi-invalid now and can't get about as well as he used to.

get away (intr)=escape, be free to leave

Don't ask him how he is because if he starts talking about his health you'll never get away from him.

I hooked an enormous fish but it got away.

I had a lot to do in the office and didn't get away till eight.

get away with (tr)=perform some illegal or wrong act without being

punished, usually without even being caught:

He began forging cheques and at first he got away with it but in the end he was caught and sent to prison.

get back (tr)=recover possession of:

*If you lend him a book he'll lend it to someone else and you'll never get it back (get back **your book**/get **your book back**).*

get back=reach home again:

We spent the whole day in the hills and didn't get back till dark.

get off (intr)=be acquitted or receive no punishment (compare with **get away with it**, which implies that the offender is not even caught):

He was tried for theft but got off because there wasn't sufficient evidence against him (was acquitted).

The boy had to appear before a magistrate but he got off (received no punishment) as it was his first offence.

get on (intr), **get on with** (tr)

a=make progress, be successful:

How is he getting on at school?

He is getting on very well with his English.

b=live, work etc., amicably with someone:

He is a pleasant friendly man who gets on well with nearly everybody.

How are you and Mr Pitt getting on?

get out (intr)=escape from, leave (an enclosed place):

Don't worry about the snake. I've put it in a cardboard box. It can't get out.

News of the Budget got out before it was officially announced.

I don't very often get out (out of the house) because I have too much to do.

Note that the imperative 'Get out', except when it means 'descend'

(from a vehicle), is very rude.

get out of (tr)=free oneself from an obligation or habit:

I said that I'd help him. Now I don't want to but I can't get out of it
(free myself from my promise).

He knows that he smokes too much but says that he can't get out of the habit.

Some people live abroad to get out of paying heavy taxes.

get over (tr)=recover from (illness, distress, or mental or physical weakness):

He is just getting over a bad heart attack.

I can't get over her leaving her husband like that (I haven't recovered from the surprise; I am astonished).

He used to be afraid of heights but he has got over that now.

get it over (the object is usually it, which normally represents something unpleasant)=deal with it and be finished with it:

If you have to go to the dentist why not go at once and get it over?

(Be careful not to confuse this with **get over it**, which is quite different.)

get round a person=coax him into letting you do what you want:

Girls can usually get round their fathers.

get round a difficulty/resolution=find some solution to it/evoke it:

If we charge people for admission we will have to pay entertainment tax on our receipts; but we can get round this regulation by saying that we are charging not for admission but for refreshments. Money paid for refreshments is not taxed.

get through (tr or intr)=finish a piece of work. finish successfully:

He got through his exam all right (passed it).

get through (intr)=get into telephone communication:

I am trying to call London but I can't get through; I think all the lines are engaged.

get up (tr)=organize, arrange (usually an amateur entertainment or a charitable enterprise):

*We got up **a subscription** for his widow (got **a subscription** up).*

*They got up **a concert** in aid of cancer research (they got **it** up).*

get up (intr)=rise from bed, rise to one's feet, mount:

I get up at seven o'clock every morning.

(For **get** used to mean enter/leave vehicles, see 79.)

give

give something **away**=give it to someone(who need not be mentioned):

*I'll give **this old coat** away (give away **this old coat**/give **it** away).*

give someone **away** (object before **away**)=betray him:

He said that he was not an American but his accent gave him away (i. e. told us that he was an American).

give back (tr)=restore (a thing) to its owner:

*I must call at the library to give back **this book** (to give **this book** back/to give **it** back).*

give in (intr)=yield, cease to resist:

An first he wouldn't let her drive the car but she was so persuasive that he eventually gave in.

give out (intr)=become exhausted (of supplies etc.):

The champagne gave out long before the end of the reception.

His patience gave out and he slapped the child hard.

give out (tr)

a=announce verbally:

*They gave out **the names of the winners** (gave **the names** out/gave*

them out).

b=distribute, issue:

*The teacher gave out **the books** (i.e. gave **one/some** to each pupil).*

give up (tr or intr)=abandon an attempt, cease trying to do something:

*I tried to climb the wall but after I had failed three times I gave up/
gave up **the attempt**/gave **the attempt** up/gave it up.*

A really determined person never gives up/never gives up trying.

give up (tr)=abandon or discontinue a habit, sport, study, occupation:

Have you given up drinking whisky breakfast?

*He gave up **cigarettes**/gave **them** up.*

He tried to learn Greek but soon got tride of it and gave it up.

give oneself up (object before **up**)=surrender:

I'm tired of being chased by the police; I'm going to give myself up.

He gave himself up to despair.

go

go ahead (intr)=proceed, continue, lead the way:

While she was away he went ahead with the work and got a lot done.

You go ahead and I'll follow; I'm not quite ready.

go away (intr)=leave, leave me, leave this place:

*Are you going away for your holiday? No, I'm going to stay at home.
please go away; I can't work unless I am alone.*

go back (intr)=return, retire, retreat:

*I have left that hotel and I'm never going back to it. It is a most
uncomfortable place.*

go back on (tr)=withdraw or break (a promise):

He went back on his promise to tell nobody about this (i.e. he told

people about it, contrary to his promise).

go down (intr)

a=be received with approval (usuall of an idea):

I suggested that she should look for a job but this suggestion did not go down at all well. She said that it was up to her relations to support her at home, now that she was a widow.

b=become less, be reduced (of wind, sea, weight, prices etc.):

*During her illness her weight went down from 50 kilos to 40 kilos.
The wind went down and the sea became quite calm.*

go for (tr)=attack:

The cat went for the dog and chased him out of the hall.

go in for (tr)=be especially interested in, practise; enter for a competition:

*This restaurant goes in for vegetarian dishes (specializes in them).
She plays a lot of golf and goes in for all the competitions.*

go into (tr)=investigate thoroughly:

'We shall have to go into this very carefully,' said the detective.

go off (intr)

a=explode (of ammunition or fireworks), be fired (of guns usually accidentally):

As he was cleaning his gun it went off and killed him.

b=be successful (of social offasions):

The party went off very well (i.e. everyone enjoyed it).

c=start a journey, leaave:

He went off in a great hurry.

go on (intr)=continue a journey:

Go on till you came to the cross-roads.

go on (intr), **go on with** (tr), **go on+gerund**=continue any action:

Please go on playing; I like it.

Go on with the treatment. It is doing you good.

go on+infinitive:

He began by describing the route and went on to tell us what the trip would probably cost (he continued [his speech] and told us etc.).

go out (intr)

a=leave the house:

She is always indoors; she doesn't go out enough.

b=join in social life, leave one's house for entertainments etc.

She is very pretty and goes out a lot.

c=disappear, be discontinued (of fashions):

Crinolines went out about the middle of the last century.

d=be extinguished (of lights, fires etc.):

The light went out and we were left in the dark.

go over (tr)=examine, study or repeat carefully:

He went over the plans again discovered two very serious mistakes.

go round (intr)

a=suffice (for a number of people):

Will there be enough wine to go round?

b=go to his/her/your etc. house:

I said that I'd go round and see her during the weekend.

I think I'll go round tonight (i.e. go to her house).

go through (tr)=examine carefully (usually a number of things, **go through** is like **look through** but more thorough):

There is a mistake somewhere; we'll have to go through the accounts and see where it is.

The police went through their files, to see if they could find any fingerprints to match those that they had found on the handle of the

weapon.

go through (tr or intr)=suffer, endure:

No one knows what I went through while I was waiting for the verdict (i.e. how much I suffered).

go through with (tr)=finish, bring to a conclusion (usually in the face of some opposition or difficulty):

He went through with his plan although all his friends advised him to abandon it.

go up (intr)

a=rise (of prices):

The price of strawberries went up towards the end of the season.

b=burst into flames (and be destroyed), explode (used of whole buildings, ships etc.):

When the fire reached the cargo of chemicals the whole ship went up (blew up).

Someone dropped a cigarette end into a can of petrol and the whole garage went up in flames.

go without (tr)=do without. (But it only applies to things, 'Go without a person' has only a literal meaning i.e. it means 'start or make a journey without him'.)

grow

grow out of (tr)=abandon, on becoming older, a childish (and often bad) habit:

He used to tell a lot of lies as a young boy but he grew out of that later on.

grow up (intr)

a=become adult:

'What are you going to do when you grow up?' I asked. 'I'm going to be a pop star,' said the boy.

b=develop (of customs):

The custom of going away for one's holiday has grown up during the last thirty years.

hand

hand down (tr)=bequeath or pass on (traditions/information/possessions):

This legend has been handed down from father to son.

hand in (tr)=give by hand (to someone who need not be mentioned because the person spoken to knows already):

*I handed in **my resignation** (i.e. gave it to my employer).*

*Someone handed **this parcel** in the morning/handed **it** in.*

hand out (tr)=distribute:

*He was standing at the door of the theatre handing out **leaflets** (handing **leaflets** out/handing **them** out) .*

hand over (tr or intr)=surrender authority or responsibility to another:

*The outgoing Minister handed over **his department** to his successor (handed **his department** over/handed **it** over).*

hand round (tr)=give or show to each person present:

*The hostess handed round **coffee** and **cakes** (handed **them** round).*

hang

hang about/around (tr or intr)=loiter or wait (near):

He hung about the entrance all day, hoping for a chance to speak to the director.

hang back (intr)=show unwillingness to act:

Everyone approved of the scheme but when we asked for volunteers they all hung back.

hang on to (tr)=retain, keep in one's possession (colloquial):

I'd hang on to that old coat if I were you. It might be useful.

hold

hold off (intr)=keep at a distance, stay away (used of rain):

The rain fortunately held off till after the school sports day.

hold on (intr)=wait (especially on the telephone):

Yes, Mr Pitt is in. If you hold on for a moment I'll get him for you.

hold on/out (intr)=persist in spite of, endure hardship or danger:

The survivors on the rock signalled that they were short of water but could hold out for another day.

The enemy besieged the town but it held out for six weeks.

hold up (tr)

a=stop by threats or violence (often in order to rob):

The terrorists held up the train and kept the passengers as hostages.

*Masked men held up **the cashier** and robbed the bank (held **him** up).*

b=stop, delay (especially used in the passive):

The bus was held up because a tree had fallen across the road.

join

join up (intr)=enlist in one of the armed services:

When war was declared he joined up at once.

jump

jump at (tr)=accept with enthusiasm (an offer or opportunity):

He was offered a place in the Himalayan expedition and jumped at the chance.

keep

keep somebody **back** (object before **back**)=restrain, hinder, prevent from advancing:

Frequent illnesses kept him back (i.e. prevented him from making normal progress).

keep down (tr)=repress, control:

*What is the best way to keep **down** rats?* (*keep **them** down*).

*Try to remember to turn off the light when you leave the room. I am trying to keep down **expenses**/keep **expenses** down.*

keep in a schoolboy=oblige him to remain at school after school hours as a punishment:

The teacher kept Tom in/kept him in because he had been inattentive.

keep off (tr or intr)=refrain from walking on, or from coming too close:

'Keep off the grass' (park notice).

keep on (often followed by *derund*)=continue:

I wanted to explain but he kept on talking and didn't give me a chance to say anything.

keep out (tr)=prevent from entering:

*My shoes are very old and don't keep out the **water** (keep **the water** out/keep **it** out).*

keep out (intr)=stay outside:

'Private. Keep out' (notice on door).

keep up (tr)=maintain (an effort):

He began walking at four miles an hour but he couldn't keep up that

***speed** and soon began to walk more slowly (he couldn't keep **it** up).*

It is difficult to keep up a conversation with someone who only says 'Yes' and 'No'.

keep up (intr), **keep up with** (tr)=remain abreast of someone who is advancing; advance at the same pace as:

A runner can't keep up with a cyclist.

The work that the class is doing is too difficult for me. I won't be able to keep up (or to keep up with them).

It is impossible to keep up with the news unless you read the newspapers.

knock

knock off (tr or intr)=stop work for the day (colloquial):

English workmen usually knock off at 5.30 or 6.00 p.m.

We knock off work in time for tea.

knock out (tr)=hit someone so hard that he falls unconscious:

*In the finals of the boxing championship he knocked out **his opponent**, who was carried out of the ring (knocked **his opponent** out/knocked **him** out).*

lay

lay in (tr)=provide oneself with a sufficient quantity (of stores etc.) to last for some time:

She expected a shortage of dried fruit so she laid in a large supply.

lay out (tr)=plan gardens, building sites etc.:

*Le Nôtre laid out **the gardens** at Versailles (laid **the gardens** out/laid **them** out).*

lay up (tr)=store carefully till needed again (used of ships, cars etc.):

*Before he went to Brazil for a year, he laid up **his car**, as he didn't want to sell it (laid **it** up).*

be laid up (of a person)=be confined to bed through illness:

She was laid up for weeks with a slipped disk.

lead

lead up to (tr)=prepare the way for, introduce (figuratively):

He wanted to borrow my binoculars, but he didn't say so at once.

He led up to the subject by talking about his holidays.

leave

leave off (usually intr)=stop (doing something):

He was playing his trumpet but I told him to leave off because the neighbours were complaining about the noise.

leave out (tr)=omit:

We'll sing out School Song leaving out the last ten verses.

*They gave each competitor a number; but they left out **No. 13** as no one wanted to have it (left **No. 13** out/left **it** out).*

let

let down (tr)=lower:

*When she lets **her hair** down it reaches her waist (lets down **her hair**/lets **it** down).*

You can let a coat down (i.e. lengthen it) by using the hem.

let someone down (object before **down**)=disappoint him by failig to act as well as expected, or by failing to fulfil an agreement:

I promised him that you would work well. Why did you let mbe down by doing so little?

He said he'd come to help me; but he let me down. He never turned up.

let in (tr)=allow to enter, admit:

*They let in the **ticket-holders** (let the **ticket-holders** in/let **them** in).*

If you mention my name to the door-keeper he will let you in.

let someone off (object before off)=refrain from punishing:

*I thought that the magistrate was going to fine me, but he let me off (compare with **get off**).*

let out (tr)

a=make wider (of clothes):

*That boy is getting fatter. You'll have to let out **his clothes** (let **his clothes** out/let **them** out).*

b=allow to leave, release:

*He opened the door and let out **the dog** (let **the dog** out/let **it** out).*

listen

listen in (intr)=listen to the radio:

I only listen in if there is a good concert.

live

live down a bad reputation=live in such a manner that people will forget it:

*He has never quite been able to live down a reputation for drinking too much which he got when he was a young man (live **it** down).*

live in (intr)=live in one's place of work (chiefly used of domestic servants):

Advertisement: Cook wanted. £80 a week. Live in.

live on (tr)=use as staple food:

It is said that for a certain period of his life Byron lived on vinegar and potatoes in order to keep thin.

live up to (tr)=maintain a certain standard moral, economic or behavioural.

He had high ideals and tried to live up to them (i.e. he tried to act in accordance with his ideals).

lock

lock up a house (tr or intr; usually intr)=lock all doors:

People usually lock up before they go to bed at night.

lock up a person or thing=put in a locked place i.e. box, safe, prison:

*She locked up **her diamonds** every night (locked **her diamonds** up/locked **them** up).*

look

look after (tr)=take care of:

Will you look after my parrot when I am away?

look ahead (intr)=consider the future so as to make provision for it:

Everyone should look ahead and save a little money each year for when he retires.

look at (tr)=regard:

He looked at the clock and said, 'It is midnight.'

look back (intr), **look back on** (tr)=consider the past:

Looking back, I don't suppose we are any worse now than people were a hundred years ago.

Perhaps some day it will be pleasant to look back on these things.

look back/round (intr)=look behind (literally):

Don't look round now, but the woman behind us is wearing the most

extraordinary clothes.

look for (tr)=search for, seek:

I have lost my watch. Will you help me to look for it?

look out for (tr)=keep one's eyes open so as to see something (usually fairly conspicuous) if it presents itself:

I am going to the party too, so look out for me.

look out (intr)=be watchful, beware:

(to someone just about to cross the road) *'Look out! There's a lorry coming!'*

look forward to (tr)=expect with pleasure (often used with gerund):

I am looking forward to her arrival/to seeing her.

look in (intr)=pay a short (often unannounced) visit (=call in):

I'll look in this evening to see how she is.

look into (tr)=investigate:

There is a mystery about his death and the police are looking into it.

look on... as (tr)=consider:

Most people look on a television set as an essential piece of furniture.

These children seem to look on their teachers as their enemies.

look on (intr)=be a spectator only, not a participator:

Two men were fighting. The rest were looking on.

look on (tr), **look out on** (tr) (used of windows and houses)=be facing:

His house looks (out) on to the sea (i.e. from his house you can see the sea).

look over (tr)=inspect critically, read again, read again, revise quickly (look over is similar to go over but less thorough):

Look over what you've written before handing it to the examiner.

I'm going to look over a house that I'm thinking of buying.

look through (tr)=examine a number of things, Often in order to select some of them; turn over the pages of a book or newspaper, looking for information:

Look through your old clothes and see if you have anything to give away.

Look through these photographs and try to pick out the man you saw. He looked through the books and decided that he wouldn't like them.

look through someone=look at him without appearing to see him, as a deliberate act of rudeness:

She has to be polite to me in the office but when we meet outside she always looks through me.

look up an address/a name/word/train time/telephone number etc.= look for it in the appropriate book or paper, i.e. address book/dictionary/timetable/directory etc.:

*If you don't know the meaning of **the word** look **it up** (look up **the word**/look **the word up**).*

I must look up the time of your train (look for it in the timetable).

look somebody up can mean visit. The person visited usually lives at some distance and is not seen very often. **look up** is therefore different from **look in**, which implies that the person visited lives quite close:

Any time you come to London do look me up (come and see me).

I haven't seen Tom for ages. I must find out where he lives and look him up (look Tom up/look up Tom).

look up (intr)=improve (the subject is usually things/business/world affairs/the weather, i.e. nothing very definite):

Business has been very bad lately but things are beginning to look up now.

look someone up and down=look at him contemptuously, letting your

eyes wander from his head to his feet and back again:

The policeman looked at the drunk man up and down very deliberately before replying to his question.

look up to (tr)=respect!

Schoolboys usually look up to great athletes.

look down on (tr)=despise:

Small boys usually look down on little girls and refuse to play with them.

She thinks her neighbours look down on her a bit because she's never been abroad.

make

make for (tr)=travel towards:

The escaped prisoner was making for the coast.

make off (intr)=run away (used of thieves etc.):

The boys made off when they saw the policemen.

make out (tr)

a=discover the meaning the meaning of, understand, see, hear etc. clearly:

*I can't make out **the address**, he has written it so badly (make **the address** out/make it out).*

Can you hear what the man with the loud-hailer is saying? I can't make it out at all.

I can't make out why he isn't here yet.

b=state (probably falsely):

He made out that he was a student looking for a job. We later learnt that this wasn't true at all.

The English climate isn't so bad as some English people like to make

out.

c=write a cheque:

CUSTOMER: *Who shall I make it out to?*

SHOPKEEPER: *Make it out to Jones and Company.*

make up one's mind=come to a decision:

In the end he made up his mind to go by train.

make up a quarrel/make it up=end it:

*Isn't time you and Ann made up your **quarrel**/made it up?*

make up a story/excuse/explanation=insent it:

I don't believe your story at all. I think you are just making it up.

make up (tr or intr)=use cosmetics:

*Most women make up/make up **their faces**/make **their faces** up/make **them** up.*

Actors have to be made up before they appear on the stage.

make up (tr)=put together, compound, compose:

*Take this prescription to the chemist's. They will make it up for you there (make up **the prescription**/make **the prescription** up).*

Notice in tailor's window: Customers' own materials made up.

The audience was made up of very young children.

make up for (tr)=compensate for (the object is very often it):

You'll have to work very hard today to make up for the time you wasted yesterday or to make up for being late yesterday.

We aren't allowed to drink when we are in training but we intend to make up for it after the race is over (i.e. to drink more than usual then).

miss

miss out (tr)=leave out ('leave out' is more usual).

mix

mix up (tr)=confuse:

He mixed up the addresses so that no one got the right letters/mixed them up.

be/get mixed up with=be involved (usually with some rather disreputable person or business):

I don't want to get mixed up with any illegal organization.

move

move in (intr)=move self and possessions into new house, flat, rooms etc.

move out (intr)=leave house/flat etc., with one's possessions, vacate accommodation:

I have found a new flat. The present tenant is moving out this weekend and I am moving in on Wednesday.

move on or up (intr)=advance, go higher:

Normally in schools boys move up every year.

order

order somebody **about** (object before **about**)=give him a lot of orders (often regardless of his convenience or feelings):

He is a retired admiral and still has the habit of ordering people about.

pay

pay back (tr), **pay someone back** (tr or intr)=repay:

*I must pay back **the money** that I borrowed (pay **the money** back/pay it back).*

*I must pay back **Mr Pitt** (pay **Mr Pitt** back/pay **him** back).*

*I must pay **Mr Pitt** back **the money** he lent me.*

*I must pay him back **the money**. I must pay **it** back to him.*

pay someone **back/out**=revenge oneself:

I'll pay you back for this (i.e. for the harm you have done me).

pay up (intr)=pay money owed in full:

Unless you pay up I shall tell my solicitor to write to you.

pick

pick out (tr)=choose, select, distinguish from a group:

*Here are six diamonds. Pick out **the one you like best** (pick it out).*

*In an identity parade the witness has to try to pick out **the criminal** from a group of about eight men (pick **the criminal** out/pick **him** out).*

I know that you are in this photograph but I can't pick you out.

pick up (tr)

a=raise or lift a person or thing, usually from the ground or from a table or chair:

*He picked up **the child** and carried him into the house/picked **the child** up.*

*She scatters toys all over the floor and I have to pick **them** up.*

b=call for, take with one (in a vehicle):

I won't have time to come to your house but I could pick you up at the end of your road.

*The coach stops at the principal hotels to pick up **tourists**, but only if they arrange this in advance (pick **tourists** up/pick **them** up).*

The crew of the wrecked yacht were picked up by helicopter.

c=receive (by chance) wireless signals:

Their S.O.S. was picked up by another ship which informed the life-

boat headquarters.

d=acquire cheaply, learn without effort:

Sometimes you pick up wonderful bargains in these markets.

Children usually pick up foreign languages very quickly.

point

point out (tr)=indicate, show:

*As we drove through the city the guide pointed out **the most important buildings** (pointed **the buildings** out / pointed **them** out).*

pull

pull down (tr)=demolish (used of buildings):

*Everywhere elegant old **buildings** are being pulled down and mediocre modern erections are being put up. (pull down **houses** / pull **them** down.)*

pull off (tr)=succeed (the object is normally it):

*Much to our surprise he pulled off **the deal** / pulled **it** off (sold the goods / got the contract).*

pull through (intr or tr)=recover from illness/cause someone to recover:

We thought that she was going to die but her own will power pulled her through (tr).

He is very ill but he'll pull through if we look after him carefully (intr).

pull up (intr)=stop (of vehicles):

A lay-by is a space at the side of a main road, where drivers can pull up if they want a rest.

put

put aside/by (tr)=save for future use (usually money). **put aside** often implies that the money is being saved for a certain purpose:

*He puts aside **£10 a month** to pay for his summer holiday (puts it aside).*

*Don't spend all your salary. Try to put **something** by each month.*

put away (tr)=put tidily out of sight (usually in drawers, cupboards etc.):

*Put **your toys** away, children; it's bedtime (put away **the toys** /put **them** away).*

put something back=replace it where you found it/where it belongs:

When you've finished with the book put it back on the shelf.

put back a clock/watch=retard the hands: *put the clock back* is sometimes used figuratively to mean *return to the customs of the past*:

MOTHER: *Your father and I will arrange a marriage for you when the time comes.*

DAUGHTER: *You're trying to put **the clock** back. Parents don't arrange marriages these days! (put back **the clock** /put it back).*

put down (tr)

a=the opposite of **pick up**:

*He picked up **the saucepan** and put it down at once because the handle was almost red-hot (put **the saucepan** down /put it down).*

b=crush rebellions, movements:

*Troops were used to put down **the rebellion** (put **the rebellion** down /put it down).*

c=write:

*Put down **his phone number** before you forget it (put **the number** down /put it down).*

Customer to shop assistant: *I'll take that one. Please put it down to me/my account* (enter it in my account).

put something down to (tr)=attribute it to:

The children wouldn't answer him, but he wasn't annoyed as he put it down to shyness.

She hasn't been well since she came to this country; I put it down to the climate.

put forward a suggestion/proposal etc.=offer it for consideration:

*The older members of the committee are inclined to veto any **suggestion** put forward by the younger ones (put **a suggestion** forward/put it forward).*

put forward/on clocks and watches=advance the hands. **put forward** is the opposite of **put back**:

*In March people in England put **their clocks** forward/on an hour.*

When summer time ends they put them back an hour.

put in a claim=make a claim:

He put in a claim for compensation because he had lost his luggage in the train crash.

put in for a job/a post=apply for it:

They are looking for a lecturer in geography. Why don't you put in for it?

put in (intr) used of ships=call (at a port):

Ships on their way to Australia via the Suez Canal used to put in at Genoa/put in here.

put off an action=postpone it:

Some people put off making their wills till it is too late.

*I'll put off **my visit** to Scotland till the weather is warmer (put **my visit** off/put it off).*

put a person off

a=tell him to postpone his visit to you:

I had invited some guests to dinner but I had to put them off because a power cut prevented me from cooking anything.

b=repel, deter him:

I wanted to see the exhibition but the queue put me off.

Many people who want to come to England are put off by the stories they hear about English weather.

put on clothes/glasses/jewellery=dress oneself etc. The opposite is **take off**:

*He put on a **black coat** so that he would be inconspicuous (put a coat on/put it on).*

She put on her glasses and took the letter from my hand.

put on an expression=assume it:

He put on an air indifference, which didn't deceive anybody for a moment.

put on a play=produce/perform it:

The students usually put on a play at the end of the year.

put on a light/gas or electric fire/wireless=switch it on:

*Put on **the light** (put the **light** on/put it on).*

put out any kind of light or fire=extinguish it:

*Put out **that light**/(put **the light** out/put it out).*

put someone out (inconvenience him):

He is very selfish. He wouldn't put himself out for anyone.

be put out=be annoyed:

She was very put out when I said that her new summer dress didn't suit her.

put up (tr)

a=erect (a building, monument, statue etc.):

*He put up **a shed** in the garden to keep tools in (he put **a shed** up/put **it** up).*

b=raise (prices):

*When the importation of foreign tomatoes forbidden, home growers put up **their prices** (they put **their prices** up/put **them** up).*

put someone up (object usually before **up**)=give him temporary hospitality:

If you come to Paris I will put you up. You needn't look for an hotel.

put someone up to something (usually some trick)=give him the idea of doing it/tell him how to do it:

He couldn't have thought of that trick by himself. Someone must have put him up to it.

put up with (tr)=bear patiently:

We had to put up with a lot of noise when the children were at home.

ring

ring up (tr or intr)=telephone:

*I rang up **the theatre** to book seats for tonight. (I rang **the theatre** up/rang **them** up.)*

If you can't come ring up and let me know.

ring off (intr)=end a telephone call by putting down the receiver:

He rang off before I could ask his name.

round

round up (tr)=drive or bring together (people or animals):

The sheepdog rounded up the sheep (collected them into a group) and

drove them through the gate.

*On the day after the riots the police rounded up **all suspects**/rounded **them up** (arrested them).*

rub

rub out (tr)=erase pencil or ink marks with an india-rubber:

*The child wrote down the wrong word and then rubbed **it** out. (He rubbed **the word** out/rubbed out **the word**.)*

rub up (tr)=revise one's knowledge of a subject:

*I am going to France next month; I must rub up **my French**/ rub **it** up.*

run

run after (tr)=pursue (see example below).

run away (intr)=flee, desert (one's home /school etc.), elope:

The thief ran away and the policeman ran after him.

He ran away from home and got a job as a shelf-filler in a supermarket.

run away with (tr)=become uncontrollable (of emotions), gallop off out of rider's control (of horses):

My tongue ran away with me and I said things that I afterwards regretted.

His horse ran away with him and he had a bad fall.

run away with the idea=accept an idea too hastily:

Don't run away with the idea that I am unsociable; I just haven't time to go out much.

run down (tr)=disparage, speak ill of:

*He is always running down **his neighbours** (running **his neighbours** down/running **them** down).*

run down (intr)=become unwound/discharged (of clocks/batteries etc.):

This torch is useless; the battery has run down.

be run down (intr)=be in poor health after illness, overwork etc.:

He is still run down after his illness and unfit for work.

run in (tr)=drive slowly initially to avoid straining engine (necessary with new or reconditioned engines):

*I can't go more than 50 Kilometres an hour as this is a new car and I am still running it in (I am running in a **new car**/running a **new car** in).*

Notice on the back window of a new car: 'Running in. Please pass.'

run into (tr)=collide with (of vehicles):

The car skidded and ran into a lamp-Post (=struck the lamp-post).

run into/across someone=meet him accidentally:

I ran into my cousin in Harrods recently (I met him).

run out of (tr)=have none left, having consumed all the supply:

I have run out of milk. Put some lemon in your tea instead.

run over (tr)=drive over accidentally (in a vehicle):

The drunk man stepped into the road right in front of the oncoming car. The driver couldn't stop in time and over him.

run over (tr or intr)=overflow:

He turned on both taps full and left the bathrom. When he came back he found that the water was running over (or running over the edge of the bath).

run over/through (tr)=rehearse, check or revise quickly:

We've got a few minutes before the train goes, so I'll just run through your instructions again.

run through (tr)=consume extravagantly, waste (used of supplies or

money):

I laid in a good stock of provisions but he ran through it all in a couple of weeks.

run up clothes=make them quickly:

Do you like this blouse? I ran it up myself this afternoon.

run up bills=incur them and increase them by continuing to buy things and put them down to one's account:

Her husband said that she must pay for things at once and not run up bills.

run up against difficulties/opposition=encounter them/it:

If he tries to change the rules of the club he will run up against a lot of opposition.

see

see about (tr)=make inquiries or arrangements:

I must see about getting a room ready for him.

see somebody off=accompany an intending traveller to his train/boat/plane etc.:

The station was crowded with boys going back to school and parents who were seeing them off.

see somebody out=accompany a departing guest to the door of the house:

When guests leave the host usually sees them out.

Don't bother to come to the door with me. I can see myself out.

see over a house/a building=go into every room, examine it, often with a view to buying or renting (this combination is chiefly used in the infinitive):

I'm definitely interested in the house. I'd like to see over it as soon as

possible.

see through (tr)=discover a hidden attempt to deceive:

*She pretended that she loved him but he saw through her, and realized that she was only after his money. (He wasn't taken in by her/by her pretence. For **taken in** see page 334.)*

see to (tr)=make arrangements, put right, repair:

If you can provide the wine I'll see to the food.

That electric fire isn't safe. You should have it seen to.

sell

sell off (tr)=sell cheaply (what is left of a stock):

*ASSISTANT: This line is being discontinued so we are selling off **the remainder** of our stock; that's why they are so cheap (sell **the rest** off /sell it off).*

sell out (intr)=sell all that you have of a certain type of article:

When all the seats for a certain performance have been booked, theatres put a notice saying 'Sold out' outside the booking office.

send

be sent down (intr)=be expelled from a university for misconduct:

He behaved so badly in college that he was sent down and never got his degree.

send for (tr)=summon (the person summoned may be in the building already):

One of our water pipes has burst. We must send for the plumber.

The director sent for me and asked for an explanation.

send in (tr)=send to someone (who need not be mentioned because the person spoken to knows already):

*You must send in your **application** for the job before Friday (send it to the authority concerned) (send **your application** in/send **it** in).*

send on (tr)=forward, send after a person:

*If any letters come for after you have gone I will send them on (I'll send on **your letters**/send **your letters** on).*

set

set in (intr)=begin (a period, usually unpleasant):

Winter has set in early this year.

set off (tr)=start (a series of events):

*That strike set off **a series of strikes** throughout the country (set **them** off).*

set off/out (intr)=start a journey:

They set out/off at six and hoped to arrive before dark.

'for' is used when the destination is mentioned:

They set out/off for Room.

set out+infinitive (often **show/prove/explain** or some similar verb)=begin this undertaking, aim:

In this book the author sets out to prove that the inhabitants of the islands came from South America.

set up (tr)=achieve, establish (a record):

*He set up **a new record** when he ran a mile in under four minutes (he set **a new record** up/set **it** up).*

set up (intr)=start a new business:

When he married he left his father's shop and set up on his own (i.e. opened his own shop).

settle

settle down (intr)=become accustomed to, and contented in, a new place, job etc.:

He was unhappy when he first went to school but he soon settled down and liked it very much.

settle up (intr)=pay money owed:

Tell me what I owe you at the end of the week and I'll settle up with you then.

shout

shout down (tr)=make a loud noise to prevent a speaker from being heard:

*Tom tried to make a speech defending himself but the crowd wouldn't listen to his explanation and shouted **him** down (shouted **Tom** down).*

The moderate speakers were shouted down.

show

show off (tr or intr)=display (skill, knowledge etc.) purely in order to win notice or applause:

Although Jules speaks English perfectly, my cousin spoke French to him all the time just to show off (i.e. to impress us with her knowledge of French).

*He is always picking up very heavy things just to show off **his strength** (show **it** off).*

shut

shut down (tr or intr)=close down (see p.305).

sit

sit back (intr)=relax, take no action, do no more work:

I have worked hard all my life and now I'm going to sit back and watch other people working.

sit out (tr or intr)=remain seated with one's partner instead of dancing:

*I'm quite tired; let's sit **this one** out (sit out **his** dance).*

sit up (intr)=stay out of bed till later than usual (usually reading, working, or waiting for someone):

I was very worried when he didn't come in and I sat up till 3 a.m. waiting for him.

She sat up all night with the sick child.

stand

stand by someone (tr)=continue to support and help him:

No matter what happens I'll stand by you, so don't be afraid.

stand for (tr)=represent:

The symbol 'x' usually stands for the unknown quantity in mathematics.

stand for Parliament=be a candidate for Parliament, offer yourself for election:

Mr. Pitt stood for Parliament five years ago but he wasn't elected.

stand up for (tr)=defend verbally:

His father blamed him, but his mother stood up for him and said that he had acted sensibly.

stand up to (tr)=resist, defend oneself against (a person or force):

This type of building stands up to the gales very well.

stand out (intr)=be conspicuous, be easily seen:

She stood out from the crowd because of her height and her flaming red hair.

stay

stay up (intr)=remain out of bed till later than usual ('stay up' is practically the same as 'sit up', the only difference being that 'sit up' usually implies work, study, or waiting, while 'stay up' may be for pleasure only):

Childfen nejer want to go to bed at the proper time; they always want to stay up late.

step

step up (tr)=increase rate of, increase speed of (this usually refers to industrial production):

This new machine will step up production (step it up).

take

be taken aback (intr)=be surprised and disconcerted:

When she told me that she was going to ride the horse herselr in the race I was completely taken aback and at firs couldn't think of anything to say.

take after (tr)=resemble (one's parents/grandparents etc.):

He takes after his grandmother; she had red hair too.

My great-grandfather was terribly forgetful and i take after him; I can never remember anything.

take back (tr)=withdraw (remarks, accusations etc.):

*I blamed him bitterly at first but later, when I heard the wholestory, I realized that he had been right and I went to him and took back **my***

remarks (took **them** back).

take down (tr)=write, usually from dictation:

*He read out the names and his secretary took **them** down (she took down **the names**/took **the names** down).*

take for (tr)=attribute wrong identity or qualities to someone:

I took him for his brother. They are extremely alike.

Do you tmke me for a fool?

take in (tr)

a=deceive:

At first he took us in by his stries and we tried to help him; but later we learnt that his stoies were alllies.

b= receive as guests/lodgers:

*When our car broke down I knocked on the door of the nearest house. The owner very kindly took us in and gave us a bed for the night. People who live by the sea often take in **paying guests** during the summer (take **paying guests** in/take **them** in).*

c=understand, receive into the mind:

*I was thinking of something else while she was speaking and I didn't really take in **what she was saying**.*

*I couldn't take in **the lecture** at all. It was too aifficult for me (I couldn't take **it** in).*

d=make less wide (of clothes):

*I'm getting much thinner; I'll have to take **in my clothes** (thke **my clothes** in/take **them** in).*

take off (tr)=remove (when used of clothing 'take off' is the opposite of 'put on'):

*He took off his **coat** when he entered the house and put it on again when he went out. (He took **his coat** off/took **it** off.)*

take off (intr)=leave the ground (of aeroplanes):

There is often a spectators' balcony at airports, where people can watch the planes taking off and landing.

take on (tr)

a=undertake work:

*She wants someone to look after her children. I shouldn't care to take on **the job**. They are terribly spoilt. (take **the job** on/take **it** on.)*

b=accept as an opponent:

I'll take you on at table tennis pI'll play against you).

*I took on **Mr Pitt** at draughts (took **Mr Pitt** on/took **him** on).*

take out (tr)=remove, extract:

*Petrol will take out **that stain** (take **the stain** out/take **it** out).*

The dentist took out two of her teeth.

take somebody out=entertain them (usually at some public place):

Her small boy is at a boarding school quite near here. I take him out every month (and give him a meal in a restaurant).

take over (tr or intr)=assume responsibility for, or control of, in succession to somebody else:

We stop work at ten o'clock and the night shift takes over until the following morning.

Miss gmith is leaving to get married and Miss Jones will be taking over the class/Miss jones will be taking over from Miss Smith (see hand over).

take to (tr)

a=begin a habit. There is usually the impression that the speaker thinks this habit bad or foolish, though this is not necessarily always the case. It is often used with the gerund:

He took to drink (began drinking too much).

He took to borrowing money from the petty cash.

b=find likeable or agreeable particularly at first meeting:

I was introduced to the new headmistress yesterday. I can't say I took to her.

He went to sea (because a sailor) and took to the life like a duck to water.

c=seek refuge/safety in:

When they saw that the ship was sinking the crew took to the boats.

After the failure of the coup many of the coup many of the rebels took to the hills and became guerillas.

take up (tr)

a=begin a hobby, sport or kind of study (there is no feeling of criticism here):

*He took up **golf** and became very keen on it (took **it** up).*

b=occupy (a position of time or space):

He has a very small room and most of the space is taken up by a grand piano.

A lot of an MP's time is taken up with answering letters from his constituents.

talk

talk over (tr)=discuss:

*Talk **it** over with your wife and give me your answer tomorrow (talk over **my** suggestion/talk **my** suggestion over).*

think

think over (tr)=consider:

*I can't decide straight away but I'll think over **your** idea and let **you***

*know how what I decide (I'll think **your idea** over/think **it** over).*

throw

throw away/out (tr)=jettison (rubbish etc.):

*Throw away **those old shoes**. Nobody could wear them now.*

*(Throw **the shoes** away/throw **them** away.)*

throw up (tr)=abandon suddenly (some work or plan):

*He suddenly got tired of the job and threw **it** up (he threw up **the job** /threw **the job** up).*

tie

tie someone **up**=bind his hands and feet so that he cannot move:

*The thieves tied up **the night watchman** before opening the safe (they tied **the man** up/tied **him** up).*

try

try on (tr)=put on (an article of clothing) to see if it fits:

CUSTOMER IN DRESS SHOP: *I like this dress, could I try **it** on?
(could I try **this dress** on/try on **this dress**?)*

try out (tr)=test:

*We won't know the plan works till we have tried **it** out.*

*They are trying out **new ways of preventing noise in hospitals** (trying **them** out).*

turn

turn away (tr)=refuse admittance to:

*The man at the door turned away **anybody who hadn't an invitation card** (turned **them** away).*

turn down (tr)=refuse, reject an offer, application, applicant:

*I applied for the job but they turned **me** down/turned down **my application** because I know German.*

*He was offered £500 for the picture but he turned **it** down (turned down **the offer**/turned **the offer** down).*

turn into (tr)=convert into:

I am going to turn my garage into a playroom for the children.

She turned the silver candlestick into an electric lamp.

turn in (intr)=go to bed (used chiefly by sailors/campers etc.):

The campers usually turned in as soon as it got dark.

The captain turned in, not realizing that the icebergs were so close.

turn on (tr) (stress on **turn**)=attack suddenly (the attacker is normally a friend or a hitherto friendly animal):

The tigress turned on the trainer and struck him to the ground.

turn on/off (tr)=switch on/off (lights, gas or electric fires, radios, taps etc.).

turn up/down (tr)=increase/decrease the pressure, force, volume (of gas or oil, light, fire, or of radios):

Turn up the gas; it is much too low. Vegetables should be cooked quickly.

*I wish the people in the next flat would turn down **their radio**. You can hear every word (turn **the sound** down) turn **it** down).*

turn out (tr)

a=produce:

*That creamery turns out two hundred tons of butter a week (turns **it** out).*

b=empty, evict:

1 turn a person out=evict him from his house/flat/room:

At one time if tenants didn't pay their rent, the landlord could turn them out.

2 turn out one's pockets/handbags/drawers etc.=empty them, usually when looking for something:

'Turn out your pockets.' said the detective.

3 turn out a room usually means clean it thoroughly, first putting the furniture outside:

I try to turn out one room every month if I have time.

turn out (intr)

a=assemble, come out into the street (usually in order to welcome somebody):

The whole town turned out to welcome the winning football team when they came back with the Cup.

b=develop:

I've never made Yorkshire pudding before so I am not quite sure how it is going to turn out.

Marriages arranged by marriage bureaux frequently turn out very well.

c=be revealed. Notice the two possible constructions: *it turned out that...* and: *he turned out to be...*:

He told her that he was a bachelor but it turned out that he was married with six children (she learnt this later).

Our car broke down half way through the journey but the hiker we had picked up turned out to be an expert mechanic and was able to put things right.

Note the difference between turn out and come out. With **turn out** the fact revealed is always mentioned and there is no implication that the facts are discreditable. With **come out** we are told only that certain

facts (usually discreditable) are revealed; we are not told what these facts are.

turn over (tr)=turn something so that the side previously underneath is exposed:

*He turned over **the stone**/turned **the stone** over/turned **it** over.*

The initials 'P.T.O.' at the bottom of a page mean 'Please turn over'.

'Turn over a new leaf' (begin again, meaning to do better).

turn over (intr)

a=turn upside down, upset, capsize (used of vehicles or boats):

The car struck the wall and turned over.

The canoe turned over, throwing the boys into the water.

b=(of people) change position so as to lie on the other side:

It is difficult to turn over in a hammock.

When his alarm went off he just turned over and went to sleep again.

turn up (intr)=arrive, appear (usually from the point of view of someone waiting or searching):

We arranged to meet at the station but she didn't turn up.

Don't bother to look for my umbrella; it will turn up some day.

wait

wait on (tr)=attend, serve (at home or in a restaurant):

He expected his wife to wait on him hand and foot.

The man who was waiting on us seemed very inexperienced; he got all our orders mixed up.

wash

wash up (tr or intr)=wash the plates etc., after a meal:

When we have dinner very late we don't wash up till the next morning

(*wash up the dishes/was them up*).

watch

watch out (intr)=look out.

watch out for (tr)=look out for (see p.321).

wear

wear away (intr)=gradually reduce; make smooth or flat; hollow out (used mostly of wood or stone. The subject is usually the weather, or people who walk on, or touch the stone etc.):

It is almost impossible to read the inscription on the monument as most of the letters have been worn away (by the weather).

wear off (intr)=disappear gradually (can be used literally but is chiefly used for mental or physical feelings):

These glasses may seem uncomfortable at first but that feeling will soon wear off.

When her first feeling of shyness had worn off she started to enjoy herself.

He began to try to sit up, which showed us that the effects of the drug were wearing off.

wear out (tr or intr)

a=(tr) use till no longer serviceable; (intr) become unserviceable as a result of long use (chiefly of clothes):

*Children wear out **their shoes** very quickly (**wear their shoes out/wear them out**).*

Cheap clothes wear out quickly.

b=(tr) exhaust (used of people; very often used in the passive):

He worked all night and wanted to go on working the next day, but

we saw that he was completely worn out and persuaded him to stop.

wind

wind up (tr or intr)=bring or come to an end (used of speeches or business proceedings):

*The headmaster wound up by saying that the school had a most successful year (wound **the meeting** up/wound **it** up).*

wink

wink at (tr)=ignore purposely, pretend not to notice (an error, breach of regulations):

People are not supposed to park here at all but the police seem to wink at it provided cars don't cause an obstruction.

wipe

wipe out (tr)=destroy completely:

*The epidemic wiped out **whole families** (wiped **wiped whole** families out/wiped **them** out).*

work

work out (tr)=find by calculation or study, the solution to some problem or a method of dealing with it; study and decide on, the details of a scheme:

*He used his pocket calculator to work out **the cost**/work **the cost** out.*

Tell me where you want to go and I'll work out a route.

*This is the outline of the plan. We want the committee to work out **the details** (work them out).*

Note

- (1) The English Verb p.220
- (2) Phrasal Verb p.3
- (3) Phrasal verb in conversation pp.iii-iv
- (4) Modern English Structure pp.177-180
- (5) Phrasal Verb p.7
- (6) Verp-Adverb Combination p.29
- (7) Phrasal Verb p.6

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