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Unit 130 Phrasal verbs (get up, break down, fill in etc.)

a We often use verbs with these words:

on	off	in	out	up	down	away
back	over	about	round	forward	through	along

We often use these words with verbs of *movement*. For example:

get on	The bus was full. We couldn't get on.
drive off	She got into the car and drove off.
come back	Tom is leaving tomorrow and coming back on Saturday.
turn round	When I touched him on the shoulder, he turned round.

But often these words (on/off/up/down etc.) give a special meaning to a verb. For example:

- Sorry I'm late. The car broke down.
- Look out! There's a car coming.
- It was my first flight. I was very nervous as the plane took off.
- I was so tired this morning that I couldn't get up.
- How did you get on in your examination yesterday?

These verbs (break down / get up / get on etc.) are *phrasal verbs*.

b Sometimes a phrasal verb has an *object*. Usually there are *two possible positions* for the object. So you can say:

object *object*

I turned off the light. *or* I turned the light off.

Here are some more examples:

- Could you fill in this form? / fill this form in?
- It's warm. Take off your coat. / Take your coat off.
- The fire-brigade soon arrived and put out the fire. / put the fire out.
- I think I'll throw away these old newspapers. / throw these old newspapers away.
- The police got into the house by breaking down the door. / breaking the door down.

Sometimes the object of a phrasal verb is a *pronoun* (it/them/me/you/him/her/us). These pronouns go *before* on/off/in/out/up/down etc.:

- They gave me a form and told me to fill it in. (*not* 'fill in it')
- Ann's asleep. Don't wake her up. (*not* 'wake up her')
- 'What shall I do with these old new spapers?' 'Throw them away.'
- Here's the money you need. Don't forget to pay me back.

c Sometimes we use a *phrasal verb + preposition*. For example: look forward to / keep up with / cut down on. The object always comes *after the preposition*:

- Are you looking forward to your holiday?
- You're walking too fast. I can't keep up with you.
- Jack has cut down on smoking. He only smokes five cigarettes a day now.