

# Multi-word verbs

Week 4

# Homework

Look at the following words:

- a. What prefix is added to the verb to make it a noun?
- b. Are there any changes in sound / spelling?
- c. What are the allomorphs?
- d. Can you write a rule for when we use each allomorph?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Opt → option	Obsess → obsession	Invade → invasion
Act → action	Express → expression	Persuade → persuasion
Delineate → delineation	Discuss → discussion	Erode → erosion
Sedate → sedation		

# Multi-word verbs

a.k.a. phrasal verbs

# Multi-word verbs

- Multi-word verbs are often known as phrasal verbs (this is what you are likely to find in a dictionary entry).
- There are actually three types of multi-word verbs.
- Knowing the type of multi-word verb can help us understand how we use it with an object.
- Most multi-word verbs are idiomatic in meaning and so have a more informal register.

# People try to put us d-down

- Watch the music video.
- How to young people express their identity as separate from the previous generation?
- Make notes of things you see as you watch.

# Multi-word verbs

People try to put us d-down (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
Just because we get around (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
Things they do look awful c-c-cold (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
I hope I die before I get old (talkin' 'bout my generation)

This is my generation  
This is my generation, baby

Why don't you all f-fade away (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
And don't try dig what we all s-s-say (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
I'm not trying to cause a big s-s-sensation (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
I'm just talkin' 'bout my g-g-generation (talkin' 'bout my generation)

How many  
multi-word  
verbs can you  
find here?

What do they  
mean?

In pairs / threes  
3 mins

# Multi-word verbs

People try to **put us d-down** (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
Just because we **get around** (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
Things they do look awful c-c-cold (talkin' 'bout my generation)  
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I'm just talkin' 'bout my g-g-generation (talkin' 'bout my generation)

to put someone down

to get around

fade away

# Multi-word verbs

Multi-word verbs have a partly or wholly idiomatic meaning.

- to put (someone) down = to insult / deride
- to get around = frequent a variety of places / people
- to fade away = become very weak or die



# Multi-word verbs and register

Because multi-word verbs are idiomatic, they can give a text an informal tone.

Compare this to the original:

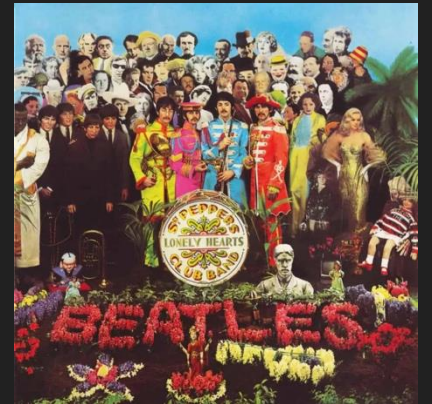
People try to deride us

Just because we frequent a range of places and people

Why don't you all weaken and disappear?

# Multi-word verbs in music

Identify the multi-word verbs in each song.



# Multi-word verbs in music

I say don't you know?  
You say you don't know..  
I say **take me out**

I heard that you'd **settled down**  
that you'd found a girl and you're married now

But you didn't have to **cut me off**  
**Make out** like it never happened and that we were nothing

I **get by** with a little help from my friends  
I get high with a little help from my friends

What do these phrasal verbs mean?

Use the context of the song to help you.

# Multiple meanings

1. The son of the Earl of York was devastated when his father ..... him .....
2. She's excited because her wife is ..... her ..... to a special dinner tonight.
3. I don't know how he ..... on such a small salary in London.
4. The teacher asked the class to .....
5. They ..... two enemy bombers.
6. She's actually not as rich as she likes to .....
7. Please don't ..... me ..... when I'm speaking.
8. My German isn't great but I can .....
9. She loved travel and was certain she would never .....
10. How many teeth did the dentist .....

cut off  
take out  
settle down  
make out  
get by

# Inferring meaning

Multi-word verbs (sometimes called phrasal verbs) often have a wholly or partially idiomatic meaning. This means we can't work out the meaning from the constituent parts.

cut off

The son of the Earl of York was devastated when his father cut him off.

to disinherit

cut off

Please don't cut me off when I'm speaking

interrupt

## Why is this an important skill?

Many multi-word verbs have a number of different meanings. For example, 'bring up' can also mean 'to mention'.

There are often subtleties in meaning. eg. 'grow' means increase in size, but 'grow up' suggests maturity.

# Multi-word verbs

bring up  
make do with  
pass away  
speak up against  
make fun of  
get on with  
depend on  
rail against  
go in for  
deal with  
throw around  
cope with  
grow up

Find examples of the multi-word verbs in the 'Generation Names' text and put them in your table.

Try to summarise their meaning in one word. Don't use a dictionary!

Go to 'Multi-word verbs' file in this week's materials on Moodle for the table.

# Types of multi-word verbs

# Multi-word verbs

- Multi-word verbs are often known as phrasal verbs (this is what you are likely to find in a dictionary entry).
- There are actually three types of multi-word verbs.
- Knowing the type of multi-word verb can help us understand how we use it with an object.
- Most multi-word verbs are idiomatic in meaning and so have a more informal register.



# Multi-word verbs

Multi-word verbs have a partly or wholly idiomatic meaning.

○ Verb + preposition	<i>rely on</i>	prepositional verb
○ Verb + adverb particle	<i>give away</i>	phrasal verb
○ Verb + adverb particle + preposition	<i>comes down to</i>	phrasal-prepositional verb

But how do we tell them apart?

# Prepositional verbs

Multi-word verbs can be transitive (take an object) and intransitive (no object).  
The main way of identifying types of multi-word verbs is how we use them with objects.

Look at the following phrases. Which word order sounds correct?

1. Young people rely on technology for everything!
2. The doctor relied on her team.
3. The doctor relied her team on.
4. I know I can't rely you on.

# Prepositional verbs

Prepositional verbs like 'rely on' must have the object after the whole verb.

Prepositional verbs are sometimes called inseparable phrasal verbs.

1. Young people rely on technology for everything!
2. The doctor relied on her team.
- ~~3. The doctor relied her team on.~~
- ~~4. I know I can't rely you on.~~

# Phrasal verbs

Look at the following sentences. Which word order sounds correct?

1. He gave *the secret* away.
2. He gave away *the secret*.
3. Don't give me away!
4. Don't give away me!

# Phrasal verbs

For phrasal verbs, the object can go at the end or in the middle of the verb.

Phrasal verbs are sometimes called **separable phrasal verbs**.

1. He gave the secret away.

2. He gave away the secret.

3. Don't give me away!

~~4. Don't give away me!~~

pronoun follows  
the verb

# Phrasal-prepositional verbs

Phrasal-prepositional verbs are easy to spot because they have three parts. However, some of these verbs can take 2 objects. They are ditransitive. Look at the following examples.

1. I put this mistake down to lack of experience
2. This is a mistake I put down to lack of experience
3. I put down this mistake to lack of experience.

1. I can't put up with this treatment anymore!
2. I can't put with this treatment up anymore!
3. I can't put this treatment with up anymore!

# Intransitive phrasal verbs

- Some phrasal verbs don't require an object. They are intransitive.

I heard that you settled down.

The teacher asked the class to settle down.

I settled down with a book.

- Sometimes the meaning of a phrasal verb changes depending on whether you use an object or whether it is used intransitively.

Alright you lot, time to clear out.

(leave)

She cleared the cupboard out / She cleared out the cupboard.

(empty something)

# Name the type of phrasal verb

cut off

*But you didn't have to cut me off.*

phrasal-prepositional

settle down

*I heard that you'd settled down.*

prepositional

take out

*I say, take me out.*

phrasal

make out

*Make out like it never happened and that we were nothing*

intransitive

get by

*I get by with a little help from my friends.*



# Multi-word verbs in a dictionary

In dictionaries, all 3 types of multi-word verbs are all grouped together under 'phrasal verbs'.

However, you can tell the difference between phrasal and prepositional verbs by where they put the noun object (sb/smith).

## rely on *phrasal verb*

rely on/upon somebody/something

- 1 ★ 🔑 B2 to need or depend on somebody/something
- The charity **relies solely on** donations from the public.

## give away *phrasal verb*

give somebody ↔ away

- ★ (in a marriage ceremony) to lead the bride to the **bridegroom** and formally allow her to marry him
- The bride was **given away** by her father.

# Multi-word verbs

A phrasal-prepositional verb with 2 objects will be listed like this:

A phrasal-prepositional verb with 1 object will be listed like this:

## put down to *phrasal verb*

**put something down to something**

★ to consider that something is caused by something

SYNONYM **attribute**

- *What do you put her success down to?*

## put up with *phrasal verb*

**put up with somebody/something**

★ to accept somebody/something that is annoying, unpleasant, etc. without complaining

SYNONYM **tolerate**

- *I don't know how she puts up with him.*
- *I'm not going to put up with their smoking any longer.*

# Identifying multi-word verbs

**go out with** *phrasal verb*

go out with somebody | go out (together)

**account for** *phrasal verb*

account for something

**show off** *phrasal verb*

show off

show somebody/something ↔ off

- Identify the type of multi-word verb from the dictionary entry.
- Are they prepositional, phrasal, or phrasal prepositional?

# Polysemy

Do you remember what polysemy means?

# Polysemy

A lot of phrasal verbs have multiple meanings.

In pairs / threes  
15 mins

- get on with
- make out
- bring up
- take out
- give away

Use the Oxford Learner's Dictionary to look up the multiple meanings of these phrasal verbs (max 3).  
Fill in the worksheet, making notes of where the objects go / examples!

# In this lesson we have...

- looked at the 3 types of multi-word verb
- looked at intransitive multi-word verbs
- looked at two approaches to understanding multi-word verbs (dictionaries and inference)
- focused on word order with multi-word verbs– when it's flexible and when it's not!

# Homework

- Listen to some music in English this week
- Identify at least 2 multi-word verbs from songs you have listened to and add them to the glossary on Moodle.
- Identify the type of multi-word verb
- Give a definition (ideally 1 word).
- Give the example from the song
- Write your own example

## cut off

to cut somebody off (phrasal verb)

to interrupt

1. But you didn't have to cut me off,  
make out like it never happened and that we were nothing  
- **Somebody that I Used to Know, Gotye**
2. I really wish he wouldn't cut me off when I'm speaking.