

## Phrasal verbs

English is relatively simple compared to other languages. However, from a certain level of advancement, we encounter so-called **phrasal verbs**, the mastering of which poses a problem for some students. These are idiomatic expressions consisting of **a verb and a preposition**.

The verb and preposition thus create a **completely new meaning**, which is often very different from the exact definition of the original verb. The meaning of phrasal verbs cannot be inferred logically, and you will have to learn them mechanically if you want to know it.

### **Why are English phrasal verbs used?**

The reason is the historical origin - short words were produced by long evolution from Old English and long words were borrowed from foreign languages (most often French, later other languages).

In English phrasal verbs are used very often. For an English-speaking person, it is far more natural to use verbs that were formed by the natural evolution of the originally English words rather than the adopted words (loan words). In a normal speech you will probably NOT hear verbs like **demolish** or **surrender**, but rather **mash up** and **give up**.

A seemingly **slight change** in the preposition is enough, and the verb will mean something else entirely. Moreover, it does NOT even relate to the original meaning of the separate verb, which is always confusing.

E.g.

look after	starat se o (pečovat)
look down on	dívat se na někoho spatra
look forward to	těšit se na něco
look into	vyšetřovat (zločin)
look on	brát ohledy
look out	být opatrný
look over	zvážit
look through	předstírat, že nevidí (doslova dívat se skrz)
look up to	vážit si

take up	začít se věnovat čemu, zabírat (čas, prostor)
take off	sundat si
take back	vrátit
take after	podobat se komu
take on	vzít si na sebe, nabrat si (práci), zaměstnat
take sb. in	oklamat koho, napálit

- 1 We ought to get rid of this table – it takes ..... too much space.
- 2 If you're hot, take ..... your jacket.
- 3 This meat smells awful! I'm taking it ..... to the butcher!
- 4 John's always been difficult – he takes ..... his dad.
- 5 You shouldn't take ..... more responsibilities than you can handle.
- 6 It must be difficult to give ..... teaching in order to travel.
- 7 We'll need to take ..... more teachers for next year.
- 8 She took ..... her glasses when she had her photograph taken.
- 9 Of course I believed him. He took me ..... completely with his story
- 10 Rachel took me ..... to lunch the other day.