

SPEAK ENGLISH NOW PODCAST

006: PHRASAL VERBS #1

Hi, everyone!

I'm Georgiana, founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help YOU speak English fluently.

In this episode:

- I'll be discussing some of the most common phrasal verbs.
- After, I will tell you a mini-story, using the Question & Answer technique. This mini-story will help you develop your speaking skills. We'll practice phrasal verbs here.

Ok, let's get started!

Most English students tend to get overconcerned about how to learn phrasal verbs. A phrasal verb is just a verb and a particle. For example, "get in."

There are thousands of phrasal verbs. Sometimes they may be confusing and counterintuitive.

Also, each phrasal verb can have multiple meanings.

Ok, this scenario doesn't seem like very encouraging, and the million-dollar question is: How can I learn all those phrasal verbs?

Here's the good news: You just need to learn the most common ones. In other words, what people use most of the time.

Ok, so let's see some of the most common phrasal verbs, and later on, we'll practice them in a mini-story.

Turn on

It has two different main meanings, and you have to be careful about how you use it, especially the second one.

Let's see the first meaning, the most obvious one. To turn on something, means just to "start" something. For example:

Please, can you turn on the TV? I'd like to watch the news.
Please turn on the computer. I need to check something.

You can also use "**switch on**" for the same purpose:

Please, can you switch on the TV? I'd like to watch the news.
Please switch on the computer. I need to check something.

The second meaning of "turn on" is to arouse sexually. It's kind of informal, and it's commonly used.

That girl really turns me on.
Tall men really turn me on.
Whatever turns you on, I'm not interested.

Turn off

When you want to "stop" something, you turn it off. You can also use "switch off". For example:

Please turn off the TV, we are talking about something important.

Turn up

To intensify or increase volume, etc. For example:

Turn the volume up, please; I'd like to listen to the news.

Turn down

The contrary to "turn up" is **turn down**. It means to reduce the volume, the brightness of something.

Please turn the music down. It's too loud.
Please turn the volume down, we are talking.

It also has an interesting meaning: **it means to refuse an offer.**

I don't want that job, so I am going to turn it down.
Please carefully consider the offer before turning it down.

I don't know about you, but I love watching series on Netflix. Have you ever watched House of Cards? The characters use this phrasal verb quite often.

Let's see another common phrasal verb:

Turn out

This last one means to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result, usually an unexpected one. It's like discovering something. Let's see some examples:

It turns out that Jim doesn't want to buy a car.
It turns out that she's a vegetarian.
The job offer turned out to be a scam.
Things often don't turn out as one would like.

MINISTORY

(Improve your speaking)

Ok, let's move on to the next section.

Here, I'll use the Question & Answer technique. This is the perfect lesson for automatizing your spoken English. This is how it works:

- I'll give you some information. (a phrase or two).
- I'll ask simple questions.

- After each question, there will be some seconds of silence: it's your turn to answer the question! Just try to give an easy and short answer, not a complex one.
- After you answer, I'll give you a correct answer.

This process will continue and little by little, I'll be telling a story using questions and answers.

Ok, let's get started!

Alex wants to watch TV, so he turns it on.

Does Alex want to watch TV?

Yes, he wants to watch TV.

Does Alex turn the radio on?

No. Alex doesn't turn the radio on. He turns the TV on.

Does Alex turn up the TV volume?

No, no. He doesn't turn up the TV volume, he turns the TV on.

Does Alex switch the TV on?

Yes. He switches the TV on. He wants to watch TV.

Why does Alex switch the TV on? What's the reason?

Because he wants to watch TV. Alex turns the TV on because he wants to watch it.

When the news starts, Alex turns the volume up. He wants to listen better.

Does Alex turn the volume down?

No, no. Alex doesn't turn the volume down. He turns it up. He wants to listen better.

Why does Alex want to turn the volume up?

Because he wants to listen better. The volume is low, so he wants to turn the volume up to listen better.

Who wants to listen better?

Alex, Alex wants to listen better.

Does Alex switch off the tv because it's distracting?

No, no. Alex doesn't switch tv. He wants to listen better.

What does Alex do with the TV volume?

He turns it up. He turns the volume up.

On the news, the presenter says IBM turned down an offer made by Microsoft.

Does the presenter say IBM turned down an offer?

Yes, he does. The presenter says IBM turned down an offer made by Microsoft.

Did IBM turn down an offer made by Microsoft?

Yes, IBM turned down an offer made by Microsoft.

Did Microsoft turn down an offer made by IBM?

No. Microsoft didn't turn down an offer made by IBM. It was IBM, not Microsoft.

It turns out that the news is boring, so Alex goes to sleep.

Does it turn out that the news is boring?

Yes, it turns out that the news is boring.

Does it turn out that the news is entertaining?

No, it doesn't turn out that the news is entertaining. It turns out that the news is boring.

What does it turn out?

It turns out that the news is boring, so Alex goes to sleep.

Where does Alex go?

To sleep. Alex goes to sleep.

Why does he go to sleep?

Because the news is boring. It turns out that the news is boring, so he decides to go to sleep.

As you can see, you are answering easy questions all the time. They are easy on purpose, and this technique helps you develop your speaking skills. It is like practicing with another person!

This is one of the techniques that I use in my courses. I recommend you to take a look at:

Courses.SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

Ok, this is the end of this episode. Remember to listen to it several times. It will help with your English.

Please remember that you can get the text of this episode at:

SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

See you next week and have an awesome day!

Goodbye!

