

American English

Phrasal Verbs
and collocations

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Revised 1

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To the Student

The CorpusLAB series of books are based on computer-aided analysis of spoken and written American English. By studying the exercises in this book, you will be learning the most frequent phrasal verbs and associated phrases (collocations) in American English and you will be working with sentences based on real American English.

American Phrasal Verbs is designed to help you improve your understanding of the most frequently used phrasal verbs in everyday English. The phrasal verbs and the phrases and sentences used in this book have been selected on the basis of an analysis of real American English: both spoken and written.

Frequency. Phrasal verbs are very common in English, especially spoken English. The frequency is indicated at the top of each unit by a number of circles.



The top line shows the frequency in speech and the second line shows the frequency in writing. All the phrasal verbs in this book are very frequent in English.

Meaning. We give several common meanings for each phrasal verb. These meanings are often extensions from the core meaning and they may be abstract. You should study the sentences carefully to see how each phrasal verb is used. Some hints on the meaning are given next to each sentence.

Collocations. Each meaning of a phrasal verb is usually associated with a set of particular words (collocates) within the sentence. For example, *complaints* is a collocate of *deal with*, as in the sentence *we had to deal with a lot of complaints*. Studying the sentences will help you learn these very important word associations. Also the collocate *complaints* provides a clue to the appropriate meaning of *deal with*.

Idioms. Phrasal verbs are often used in idioms such as the expression *look at the big picture*. We include a number of idiomatic uses in this book

Each unit concentrates on one phrasal verb (e.g., *go out*). The phrasal verb is introduced in a table format that (a) highlights the grammar of the phrasal verb, (b) defines its most common meanings, and (c) provides examples of how the phrasal verb is used in everyday English. The information in the table is brief, easy-to-follow, and can be consulted at any time for quick reference. Studying these tables will help you to learn American English as it is used in everyday situations.

Each table is followed by a series of exercises intended to check your understanding of the meaning and uses of the phrasal verb presented in the unit. The exercises generally progress from controlled practice to more open-ended exercises. A wide variety of question types are used; including, fill-in-the-blanks, multiple choice, crossword puzzles, sentence matching, and re-writing, as well as pattern identification, concordance-based research, error correction, and discussion.

Following every four units, you will find a short set of comprehensive review exercises dealing with the phrasal verbs from the previous four chapters. You will also find a key to all of the exercises at the end of the book, which you can use to check your answers. The index contains a list of a list of the phrasal verbs and collocations used in he book.

We hope that you will enjoy **finding out** more about everyday phrasal verbs by **going through** this book step by step, and feel challenged as you **deal with** the information and **work out** answers to the exercises. **Believe in** yourself and really **get into** it! Who knows where you might **end up**?

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6 Sample: *American Phrasal Verbs*, 2006. Barlow and Burdine

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Unit 21: GO OUT

STUDY THESE SENTENCES



In China, people often go out after dinner.	1	leave my/your house
Three months later, she started going out with Craig.	2	have a romantic relationship with
The advertising brochures will go out on May 1.	3	a letter, etc. being mailed, sent out
They were trapped in the elevator when the power went out .	4	=power supply fails

IDIOMS

Every year hundreds of farmers go out of business .	5	go out of business; go bankrupt; =close a business
The boss went out of his way to thank everyone personally.	6	go out of my way =make a special effort to do something

EXERCISES

A. Study the following concordance lines.

- Some guys **go out** and drink after work.
- Many parents are **going out** and buying new laptop computers.
- He told me I should **go out** and get myself a new car.
- Candidates have to **go out** and raise a lot of money.
- We have to **go out** and play as a team.
- We had to **go out** and look at new carpets.
- I'll just **go out** and buy it, if I find something I really like.

1. What conjunction often follows the phrasal verb *go out*?
2. What kind of information follows the conjunction?
3. How can you summarize the pattern that you have just observed?

4. Using the pattern illustrated above, complete these sentences using your own words and an appropriate form of *go out*:

- Last night, I
.....
- Today I plan to
.....
- Some people enjoy
.....

B.

1. Read the following sentences with *go out of one's way*:

- a) The boss went out of his way to thank everyone personally.
- b) The president has gone out of his way to maintain good relations with the prime minister.
- c) The committee members went out of their way to insist that an agreement could still be reached.
- d) They have made a special effort and gone out of their way to meet everyone.

2. List the verbs that collocate with *go out of one's way*.

3. Does *go out of one's way* appear to have a positive or negative connotation?

4. Explain the meaning of the following use of *go out*. Use a dictionary, if necessary:

My heart goes out to the family of the missing child.

C. Complete the sentences with a suitable form of *go out* (e.g., *is going out*) and one of the words from the box. Be sure to use the correct article (e.g. *a/the*) with the noun where required:

dark	way	letter	praise	cameras	flirted
------	-----	--------	--------	---------	---------

- 1. Last Sunday, the minister of his way to his staff.
- 2. The president has of his to maintain good relations with the prime minister.
- 3. We a lot in high school, but we never really together until last year.
- 4. I pulled myself together and to face
- 5. I never after anymore.
- 6. I should have been more responsible and read before it



I think I'd like to go out with Donald Trump

Unit 22: KNOW ABOUT something/someone



STUDY THESE SENTENCES

OTHER PATTERNS know (quantity) about

The book covers everything you want to **know** 1 **be aware of, have knowledge of**
about a wedding. **something**

EXERCISES

A. Draw a line between the two halves of each sentence.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a. What do high school students know | about the selection process. |
| b. The more we know | about you, but I get busier and busier. |
| c. Parents have a right to know | about finance? |
| d. He does things nobody knows | about each other, the better. |
| e. I don't know | about. |

B. Study the following concordance lines.

- I **knew** nothing **about** antiques.
- Do you **know** anything **about** that topic?
- We **know** so little **about** climate change.
- She **knows** a lot **about** making clothes.
- I'd love to **know** more **about** it.

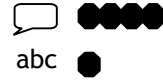
1. What information occurs between *know* and *about*?

2. Summarize the basic pattern observed above, then write your own sentence based on the same pattern.

C. Discussion Question

- What subject do you know a lot about? How did you learn about it?
- What subject do you know nothing about? Where could you find out more?

Unit 23: GO AHEAD (with)



STUDY THESE SENTENCES

I told them to **go ahead** and start the party without me. 1 **carry on, start**

IDIOMS

A: *Can I ask another question?*

B: *Go ahead, Gail*

2 **go ahead**
=an invitation to speak

EXERCISES

A. Study the following concordance lines.

- I tried to persuade them not to **go ahead** with the merger
- I **went ahead** with it because I didn't want to disappoint my parents
- We are planning to **go ahead** with the sale
- The mayor will determine whether to **go ahead** with plans to build a new stadium
- Is he still planning to **go ahead** with his trip?

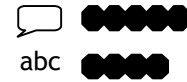
- What preposition follows the phrasal verb *go ahead*?
- What kind of information follows the preposition? Make a list.
- How can you summarize the pattern that you have just observed?

B. Complete the sentences with a suitable form of *go ahead* (e.g., *is going ahead*) and one of the words from the box. Be sure to use the correct article (e.g. *a/the*) with the noun where required:

lunch	plans	insisted	say	agreement
-------	-------	----------	-----	-----------

- Bill, why don't you with what you wanted to
- After months of discussions we finally with our
- We have to with the sale.
- The company on with its plans.
- It is 12:30, so maybe we should and break for

Unit 24: MEET WITH someone/something



STUDY THESE SENTENCES

Last week the president met with three foreign diplomats.	1	meet (for business or discussions)
The mayor is hopeful that the new policies will meet with public approval.	2	=a focus on the reactions to or consequences of something

EXERCISES

A. For each sentence decide if *meet with* refers to (1) *meeting as a result of planning* or (2) *reactions or consequences* and write the number on the line.

1. The company's proposal met with harsh criticism. _____
2. When you have gathered all the information, you are ready to meet with your boss. _____
3. His efforts met with only limited success. _____
4. The peace offering has been met with renewed violence. _____
5. The new bylaws did not meet with public approval. _____
6. The proposed bills met with major skepticism from some Republicans. _____
7. Attempts to introduce a set of revised rules met with vigorous opposition. _____
8. The manager met with the coaches to discuss the problem. _____
9. His claims were met with utter disbelief. _____
10. Talk of the merger was met with cautious optimism. _____

B. Using the sentences from A, identify all of the collocations relating to *negative* reactions about something. The first has been done for you:

Noun	Collocates with	Example
criticism	harsh	<i>The company's proposal met with harsh criticism.</i>

D. Discussion Question

1. Have you ever met with a career guidance counselor?

Unit 25: REVIEW

GO OUT, KNOW ABOUT, GO AHEAD, MEET WITH

A. Using complete sentences, answer these questions about the phrasal verbs examined in units 21-24:

1. If Lindsey is going out with Ryan, does this mean they are dating?
2. Kayla was aware of the return policy before she bought the DVD player. Does this mean she knew about the policy before buying it?
3. The mayor decides not to go ahead with the plan. Does this mean that he is going to proceed with the plan?
4. The university's admission letters went out on April 1st. Were the letters sent?
5. The client's proposal was met with disapproval. Was the proposal well received?

B. Read the following statements and decide which people are experiencing negative feelings and which are experiencing positive feelings:

1. Ann: "Her parents made a special effort at the wedding and went out of their way to meet everyone."
2. Caleb: "You don't know anything about me!"
3. Michelle: "I tried to tell them not to go ahead with it, but they wouldn't listen."
4. Alex: "He knows so much stuff about computers."
5. Chris: "I didn't want to do it, but I went ahead with it anyway."

C. Replace the underlined word or phrase with the appropriate phrasal verb or idiomatic phrase:

1. We are planning to proceed with the merger.
2. He is aware of the dangers of skydiving.
3. During the recession, many owners of small companies could no longer operate their businesses.
4. They dated for years before he finally proposed marriage.
5. The check was mailed a week ago.

D. Correct the errors in these sentences. There is one error in each sentence.

1. The president has went out of his way to maintain good relations with the United Nations.
2. Is she still planning to going ahead with her trip?
3. We so little know about earthquakes.
4. Last week the teacher meets with three new students.
5. Many parents are going out and buy new laptops for their kids.

Answer Key

Unit 21: Go out

A.

1. *Go out* is followed by the conjunction *and*.
2. It is followed by a second verb.
3. Summary of pattern: *somebody goes out and does something*
4. *Students' answers will vary.*

B.

2. List of verbs: *thank, maintain, insist, meet*.
3. *Go out of one's way* appears to have a positive connotation.
4. If *your heart goes out to someone*, you feel compassion for him/her.

C.

1. Last Sunday, the minister went out of his way to praise his staff.
2. The president has gone out of his way to maintain good relations with the prime minister.
3. We flirted a lot in high school, but we never really went out together until last year.
4. I pulled myself together and went out to face the cameras.
5. I never go out after dark anymore.
6. I should have been more responsible and read the letter before it went out.

Unit 22: Know about

A.

1.
 - a. What do high school students know about finance?
 - b. The more we know about each other, the better.
 - c. Parents have a right to know about the selection process.
 - d. He does things nobody knows about.
 - e. I don't know about you, but I get busier and busier.

B.

1. *nothing, anything, so little, a lot, more*
2. The basic pattern is: *know/don't know X (QUANTITY) about Y*
3. *Students' answers will vary.*

Unit 23: Go ahead

A.

1. *with*
2. *With* is followed by a noun, including *sale, merger, plans, trip*, and *it*.
3. The basic pattern is: *go ahead with X*

B.

1. Bill, why don't you go ahead with what you wanted to say?
2. After months of discussions we finally went ahead with our plans.
3. We have an agreement to go ahead with the sale.
4. The company insisted on going ahead with its plans
5. It is 12:30, so maybe we should go ahead and break for lunch.

Unit 24: Meet with

- A. 1. 2 2. 1 3. 2 4. 2 5. 2 6. 2 7. 2 8. 1 9. 2 10. 2

B.

Noun	Collocates with
success	limited
violence	renewed
approval	public
skepticism	major
opposition	vigorous
disbelief	utter
optimism	cautious

D. *Students' answers will vary.*

Unit 25: REVIEW**A.**

1. Yes, this means they have a romantic relationship.
2. Yes, if he was aware of the policy, this means he knew about it.
3. No, this means he will not proceed with the plan.
4. Yes, they were sent on April 1st.
5. No, the proposal was not approved.

B.

1. Ann: positive
2. Caleb: negative
3. Michelle: negative
4. Alex: positive
5. Chris: negative

C.

1. We are planning to go ahead with the merger.
2. He knows about the dangers of skydiving.
3. During the recession, many owners of small companies went out of business.
4. They went out for years before he finally proposed marriage.
5. The check went out a week ago.

D.

1. The president has gone out of his way to maintain good relations with the United Nations.
2. Is she still planning to go ahead with her trip?
3. We know so little about earthquakes.
4. Last week the teacher met with three new students.
5. Many parents are going out and buying new laptops for their kids.