

Verb Phrases

A verb phrase is a combination of a verb and a particle. The meaning of some verb phrases can be understood by looking at the verb; however, others require a little bit of memorization. In addition to this, some may be separable and others may not.

The verb in this group can help you with the meaning of the verb phrase.

Meaning

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. come from | origin |
| 2. come in | enter |
| 3. eat out | eat outside the home |
| 4. go on | continue |
| 5. keep on | continue |
| 6. look out | look outside |
| 7. pick up* | lift |

This group requires memorizing their meaning.

Meaning

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. figure out* | find a solution to a problem |
| 2. hand out* | give something to someone |
| 3. look out | be careful |
| 4. make up* | create |
| 5. take off* | remove something such as clothes |
| 6. turn on*/off* | start/stop equipment or light |

In both groups, those followed by an asterisk(*) can be separated. This means that you can place a noun or a pronoun between the verb and the particle.

- For example:
- 1). Sandy **picks up** the children from school.
- Or
- 2). Sandy **picks** the children **up** from school.
- Or
- 3). Sandy **picks** them **up** from school.

One thing to keep in mind is that if the noun that follows the verb phrase is changed into a pronoun (see example #3), it must be placed between the verb and the particle never after the particle.

Practice With Verb Phrases

Using the verb phrases below, fill in the blank with the appropriate completion. Please note that these verbs can be used in any tense.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| come from | figure out |
| come in | hand out |
| eat out | look out |
| | make up |
| keep on | take off |
| look out | turn on |
| pick up | turn off |

1. Jane decided to _____ her shoes when she got home.
2. Jimmy has a great imagination. He's always _____ stories.
3. Before I leave my house, I make sure I _____ all the lights. When I get home at night, I _____ them _____ again.
4. Every Saturday night Andy _____ with Myra and the boys.
5. If you drive on the highway, you need to _____ for the speeding drivers.
6. Do you _____ your little brother from his karate class?
7. After Johnny got the job at the restaurant, he _____ spending money.
8. Where does Yayui _____? Is it Japan?
9. The children _____ the house after playing outside.
10. I am not good in math. I haven't been able to _____ the last problem.
11. When did teacher _____ the chart on modals? I can't find my copy.

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Past versus present perfect

Look at the sentences below and determine if the verb required to complete it is in the simple past or the present perfect. Pay attention to the time expressions.

1. My brothers and I _____ (go) swimming in the pool yesterday.
2. Our family _____ (travel) to Europe on various occasions.
3. The last time we went to Europe, we _____ (visit) five countries.
4. The boys _____ (cross) the English Channel twice.
5. At the British Museum, they _____ (see) the Rosetta Stone.
6. One of the interesting highlights of the trip _____ (be) having breakfast in England, lunch in Belgium, and dinner in Holland.
7. _____ (you, see) the Eiffel Tower in Paris last year?

8. Up to now, the children _____ (enjoy) their visits every other summer.
9. When _____ (be) the last time you _____ (go)?
10. How much money _____ (you spend) on the last trip?
11. My parents _____ (visit) Germany two years ago.
12. They _____ (take) a cruise on the Rhine river.
13. Last month, my rental car _____ (break) down when I _____ (visit) my grandmother in Seville.
14. When you _____ (be) in Madrid in 2003, _____ (you, spend) some time in El Prado Museum?
15. I _____ (not, go) to El Prado in 2003. Instead, I _____ (go) to the Reina Sofía Museum and I _____ (see) Guernica, the famous painting by Pablo Picasso.

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