

Vocabulary insight 5 Phrasal verbs: understanding the particle

1 Work in pairs. Study the words below. Which ones are not phrasal verbs? How do you know?

- play games ■ look after ■ sit down ■ feel bored
- go out ■ take risks ■ look up

STRATEGY

Understanding the meaning of the particle in phrasal verbs

A phrasal verb is a combination of two or three words: a verb and at least one particle (a preposition or an adverb). Some of the most common particles are *at*, *back*, *down*, *for*, *in*, *off*, *on*, *out*, *to*, *up* and *with*. The same particle can have different meanings in different phrasal verbs. For example, *out* and *up* have several meanings:

OUT

- sharing: Share the chocolates out between you.
- leaving: We set out early on our trip.
- removing: I've just had a tooth taken out.

UP

- moving from a low to a high position: Please stand up when the head teacher comes into the room.
- finishing: I've used up all my money.
- increasing: He grew up on a farm in Ireland.

Knowing the possible meanings of a particle will help you to understand new phrasal verbs.

2 Read the strategy above. Then study the underlined phrasal verbs in the sentences below and match the particles to meanings a–f.

- 1 She went over to the crying child and picked him up.
- 2 I got some fruit juice out of the fridge and drank it.
- 3 The price of petrol has gone up again.
- 4 I went around the guests, serving out tea and biscuits.
- 5 They ate up the rest of the cake.
- 6 We started out at six in the morning and arrived at lunchtime.

- a increasing
- b finishing
- c removing
- d sharing
- e leaving
- f moving from a low to a high position

3 Choose the correct words.

- 1 Ann, can you help me to give **out** / **up** the dictionaries?
- 2 Please turn the music **out** / **up**. I can't hear it.
- 3 Don't leave your coat on the floor! Pick it **out** / **up** and put it in your wardrobe.
- 4 Drink **out** / **up** all your milk!
- 5 I took the books **out** / **up** of my bag and started doing my homework.
- 6 They checked **out** / **up** of the hotel at eight o'clock.

4 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs below.

- eat up ■ get up ■ go out ■ hurry up ■ rub out

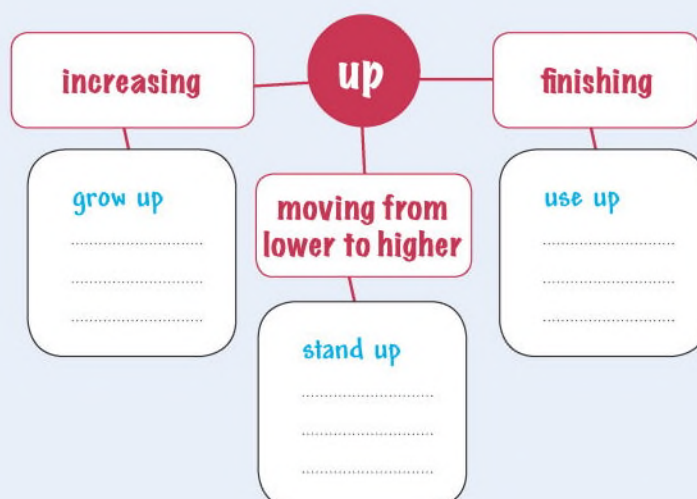
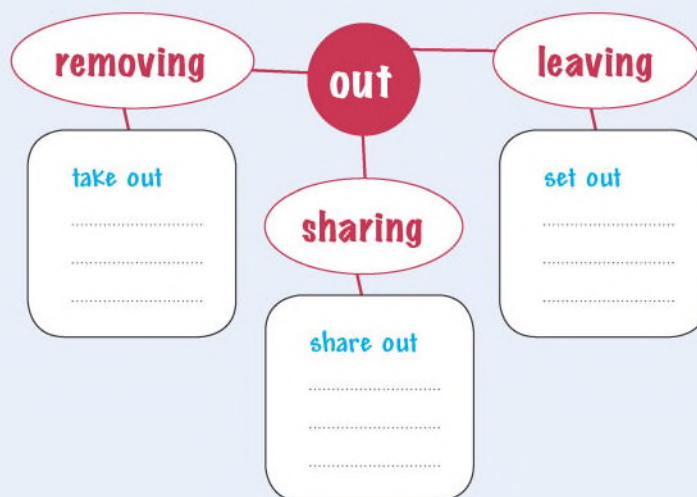
- 1 I at six o'clock this morning and had a shower.
- 2 Dad, I'm just See you later.
- 3 your sandwich and let's go.
- 4! We're going to be late.
- 5 The teacher the drawing on the board and wrote the date.

STRATEGY

Recording phrasal verbs

It is useful to group and record phrasal verbs by the meaning of the particle. A mind map can be a good technique to use. You can add more phrasal verbs to the group as you learn them.

5 Read the strategy above. Put the phrasal verbs from exercises 2, 3 and 4 under the correct particle meaning in the mind map. Can you add one more phrasal verb for each particle meaning?



6 Work in pairs. Take turns to say a sentence using a phrasal verb from exercises 2, 3 and 4. Your partner has to guess the meaning of the particle.

- A Bus ticket prices have gone up.
- B Increasing.
- A Correct!