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How to talk like a native using Phrasal Verbs

How-to Series

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How to talk like a native

English learners dream of talking like natives. Everybody practices pronunciation and grammar, works hard on writing, broadens their vocabulary. However, have you ever been told that, to sound like a native, you need phrasal verbs?

Most language researchers agree: if there are two ways of saying the same thing in English and one of them is a phrasal verb, you can bet that the phrasal verb will be the one the native speaker will use.

Polishing your phrasal verbs skills, having them on the tip of your tongue and knowing how to use them give your speech a feel of nativeness. So, are you ready to give one more step towards fluency?

Quem estuda inglês tem o sonho de falar como um nativo. Todo mundo treina pronúncia e gramática, se esmera na escrita, amplia o vocabulário. Porém, alguém já contou a você que, para soar mesmo como um nativo, phrasal verbs são essenciais?

A maioria dos estudiosos da língua concorda: se houver duas formas de dizer a mesma coisa e uma delas for com phrasal verb, pode contar que o phrasal verb será escolhido antes pelo falante nativo de inglês.

Caprichar nos phrasal verbs, dominá-los e saber quando usá-los dão à sua fala um ar todo especial de quem manja muito de inglês. E aí, tudo pronto para dar mais um passo a caminho da fluência?

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are verbs that have their meanings changed when they are joined with prepositions or adverbs (or both). The same verb can have dozens of completely different meanings, depending on the term that goes with it.

To help you mastering phrasal verbs and learning how to use them, we have listed the most important ones divided into categories below. Go for it!

Os phrasal verbs são verbos que mudam de significado ao ganharem a companhia de preposição ou advérbio (ou ambos). O mesmo verbo pode ter dezenas de significados completamente diferentes, dependendo da palavra que o acompanha.

Para ajudar você a conhecer os phrasal verbs e aprender como e quando usá-los, separamos os mais importantes em categorias a seguir. Vá em frente! Ou melhor, *go for it!*

Relationships





PHRASAL VERB	DEFINIÇÃO	TRADUÇÃO	EXEMPLO
ask out	to invite someone to go out (for a romantic date)	convidar para sair	He asked her out for a movie.
be better off	to be in a better situation than before	ficar melhor sem, estar melhor assim.	My sister is better off now that she found new friends. The old ones were mean to her!
break up	to separate, to put an end to something	separar, terminar	They were the perfect couple, I never thought they would break up!
chat (someone) up	to talk to someone to try to get their attention	flertar, paquerar, dar em cima	At a bar, he always tries to chat up the girls around him.
cheat on	to betray, to have a secret relationship with someone else.	trair	She never cheated on him, but he keeps lying to her.
fall for / fall in love with	to become romantically interested in someone	apaixonar-se	He fell for her when he saw she was a soccer fan.
get along	to develop in a positive way, have a good relationship	dar-se (bem com alguém)	My boyfriend and I get along very well.
go out with	to have a romantic relationship with someone, not necessarily a serious one	sair com (alguém)	Every week, she goes out with a different guy!
settle down	to begin living a steady life, to get settled with only one person	estabelecer-se (com alguém), sossegar	He is 35 and, now, he thinks it is time to find a girl to settle down.
split up	to separate, to end a relationship	separar-se	They were always arguing, so they decided to split up.

Working





PHRASAL VERB	DEFINIÇÃO	TRADUÇÃO	EXEMPLO
account for (something)	to give reason or explanation for something	prestar contas, dar explicação	The boss could not account for all the absences.
carry out	to put something in action, to accomplish.	dar andamento, levar a cabo	The marketing team carried out several tests before launching the campaign.
come up with	to have a new idea or produce an answer	dar solução, inventar, ter ideias	In every meeting, she always comes up with the best solutions.
deal with	to take action about something, to take care of it by facing it	lidar com, encarar	We have to deal with complaints from clients everyday.
go over (something)	to review something, to examine carefully	examinar, revisar	The accountant has to go over the books every month.
go through	to discuss something, to go over something until you find a solution	olhar cuidadosamente, debater para chegar a uma conclusão	I have to go through the report today.
pay off	to yield a profit or result, to have a successful result	compensar, valer a pena	Spending to have a good team pays off.
point out	to explain something specific, to call attention to something	explicar um ponto, apontar (um erro), listar	They have to point out the benefits of the merger.
put out	to make something, to produce and launch	lançar	The producer puts out new CDs every week.
take over	to take control of something	assumir o controle	Some companies specialize in taking over small ventures.
set up	to start a company or a venture	lançar, fundar (uma empresa)	A group of journalists set up a new magazine.

Traveling





PHRASAL VERB	DEFINIÇÃO	TRADUÇÃO	EXEMPLO
be due in	to be expected to arrive	estar marcado para	The plane is due in at 5pm.
be off	to go out to (some place)	sair, partir para	I'm off to Paris now.
get back to	to return to, go back to	voltar	Traveling is great, but we were tired when we got back to town.
get in	to arrive (a plane, for example)	chegar (o transporte)	The plane gets in at 12 pm.
pull in	to arrive (used for trains)	chegar (à plataforma – trens)	The British trains always pull in on time.
pull out	to depart (used for trains)	partir (para trens)	When the train pulled out, we were happy to finally start our trip.
see (someone) off	to accompany someone as they depart.	levar para a partida de uma viagem	My parents saw me off at the airport.
set off	to leave on a trip or journey	partir (para uma viagem)	The family set off to the beach really early.
stop over	to make a brief pause in a trip, either to change airplanes or to rest	fazer uma parada (na viagem), fazer escala	While going to the farm, we had to stop over to eat.
take off	to leave flying (for planes)	decolar	International flights cannot take off from Congonhas anymore.

Daily routine





PHRASAL VERB	DEFINIÇÃO	TRADUÇÃO	EXEMPLO
catch up	to learn the newest facts	ficar em dia	She called her friend to catch up on the gossip
get into	to enter (a discussion, a car)	entrar (numa discussão, no carro, na faculdade)	I don't like to get into fights.
hold on	to wait for a little while	esperar (um pouco)	Hold on, they have to pick up the books first.
run out of	to be without, to be with nothing left	ficar sem	When the car ran out of gas, he was in the middle of nowhere.
bring up	to raise a child	criar	I bring my son up with all the love I possibly can;
come out	to be presented in public, to become or result in	resultar em, surgir, revelar	He never cooks, but now he is baking a cake. I don't know how it will come out.
find out	to discover, to learn a new fact	descobrir	She spent hours in front of the computer trying to find out her brother's password.
give up	to quit, to abandon hope, to stop trying	desistir, abrir mão	College is difficult, but you can't give up!
go on	to continue, not to stop.	prosseguir, continuar sem interrupção	The class was over, but the teacher kept going on and on about the life of the germs.
look up	to search for information, to consult (a book, a readable source)	consultar, pesquisar	Students have to look up new words in the dictionary.
take back	to cancel what one said, to "unsay"	retirar (o que foi dito)	We told her she was awful, but we regretted. So, we took it back.

Sports





PHRASAL VERB	DEFINIÇÃO	TRADUÇÃO	EXEMPLO
bulk up	to gain weight or increase the size	ficar mais forte, "bombar"	Some athletes use steroids to bulk up.
call off	to cancel	cancelar	The match had to be called off due to the rain.
come in	to arrive (at a certain position)	chegar	The Australian rider came in 2nd in the grand prix.
fall off	to fall from something	cair	When skaters fall off, it must hurt!
play off	to play the last game in competition to decide the winner	jogar a decisão do campeonato	When Cuba and Brazil play off, the volleyball court is full of excitement.
warm up	to briefly practice before really starting an activity	aquecer-se	Players have to warm up before every game.
work out	to exercise to keep in shape or to improve physically	malhar	Working out is really good for your health.
cheer on	to give support and encouragement	animar	The fans were cheering on the basketball players.
keep up	to accompany, to follow and have the same pace	acompanhar	I have trouble keeping up with aerobics classes.
knock out	to hit someone so hard they pass out.	nocautear	Mike Tyson knocked out many of his opponents.
take on	to compete with, to fight against	enfrentar	São Paulo will take on River Plate and crush them.

Money





PHRASAL VERB	DEFINIÇÃO	TRADUÇÃO	EXEMPLO
bail out	to help someone out of a financial issue	livrar alguém de problema	My friend did not have money for the rent, so, I bailed him out.
cough up	to give money unwillingly	liberar grana sem querer	Cough up for a better wedding present!
dip into	to spend part of one's savings	gastar parte das economias	When the dad was fired, they had to dip into the kids funds.
get by	to have just enough money for one's needs, nothing else	ter dinheiro para as contas e nada mais	With our wages, we can get by, but we don't have luxuries.
pay back	to give money back to someone	pagar uma dívida a alguém	The author paid back the loan for his book.
put aside	to save money for a purpose	poupar com um propósito	For college, I have to put a fortune aside.
splash out	to spend too much on unnecessary things	ser perdulário, gastar demais	Trust fund kids like Paris Hilton love splashing out.
tide over	to help someone with money until they can get by	ajudar alguém financeiramente por um tempo	His aunt was kind to tide him over while he was unemployed.

Não pare aqui!

É verdade que os phrasal verbs deixam uma marca inegável de fluência em seu discurso. Ainda assim, só mesmo a prática leva à perfeição. Para falar inglês como um nativo, além de usar estes phrasal verbs, você precisa treinar, conversar bastante, estar sempre em contato com o idioma – para não esquecer nem os verbos que acabou de aprender, nem o vocabulário que já conhecia antes. Alcance e *mantenha* a fluência da forma mais descontraída e flexível, praticando sempre seu inglês, de preferência em aulas com professores nativos. Onde? Na Englishtown! Venha conhecer nossa escola! É, a gente sabe: se você baixou este guia pela internet, o computador é mesmo sua praia e você não tem tempo de ir até a escola. Só que nossa escola é diferente: basta clicar aqui e você já está lá: www.englishtown.com.br. Ou, caso prefira, peça uma consultoria grátis sobre nossos cursos pelo telefone (11) 3847-4000.

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