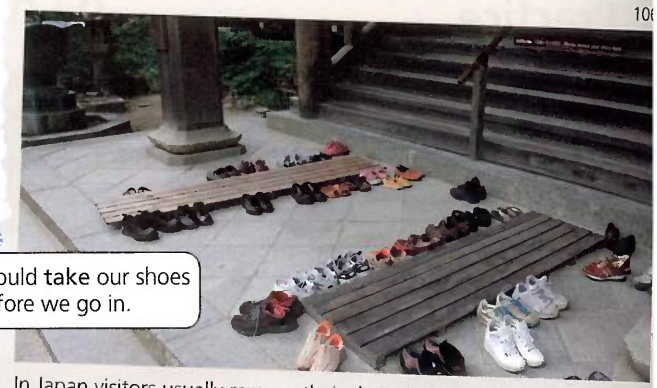
102 Phrasal verbs



In Japan visitors usually remove their shoes before they enter a house.

1 Verb + adverb

A phrasal verb is a verb + an adverb/preposition, e.g. *take* + *off* (= *take off*).
It usually has a different meaning from the verb alone:
It's cold. You should ***take*** *a jumper with you.*
It's warm. I'm going to ***take off*** *my jumper.* (*take off* = remove)

In formal English we often use a different verb with the same meaning as the phrasal verb
Why don't you ***take off*** *your shoes?* (informal) = *Please* ***remove*** *your shoes.* (formal)

2 Phrasal verbs with an object

put on (put something on) to put clothes on your body: Put your coat on – it's cold outside! | Let me put on my glasses – I can't read this. > opposite TAKE OFF.

Many phrasal verbs have an object:
Please take off ***your shoes.***

If the object is a noun, we can put it before or after the adverb/preposition:
Please ***put your jacket on.*** *Please* ***put on your jacket.***

⚠ But we always put pronoun objects (e.g. *it, him, them*) between the verb and adverb/preposition:
✗ ~~*Put on it.*~~ ✓ *Put* ***it*** *on.*

Here are some common phrasal verbs that have an object:

bring/give/put something back	*pick somebody up* (= collect somebody and take them somewhere)
fill something in (= complete a form)	*put something down*
find something out (= get information)	*put something on*
give something up (= stop a habit, activity or job)	*switch/turn something on/off*
let somebody in	*take something away*
look something up (= find in a book, etc.)	*take something off*
pick something up	*turn something down* (= reduce the sound)
	write something down

It's dark in here. Can you ***turn on*** *the lights?*
I'll ***take*** *your computer* ***away*** *today and I'll* ***bring*** *it* ***back*** *on Friday.*
Liz is on a diet so she's ***giving up*** *chocolate.*

Pronunciation ➤ 1.34

3 Phrasal verbs without an object

Some phrasal verbs have no object:

come back come in get out get up go away go back go in go out grow up hurry up
lie down look round look out (= be careful) *sit down stand up turn around wake up*

Hurry up! *We're late. I usually* ***wake up*** *early.* ***Look out!*** *A car's coming.*