

Advanced English

108

common

Phrasal prepositional verbs

with definitions and example sentences

Average out at something
Add up to something
Back out of something
Be on about something
Be up for something
Be up to somebody/something
Break out in something
Break out in somewhere/something
Bring somebody out in something
Burst in on somebody/something
Call out to somebody
Cash in on something
Catch up on something
and many more

First edition. November 20, 2022

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Written by D.Méndez.

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Phrasal

prepositional verbs

(three-word phrasal verbs)



Phrasal-prepositional verbs are made up of three parts: a verb, an adverb particle, and a preposition. These verbs are always transitive (have a direct object) and are often used in informal contexts. Although they are inseparable (the object always comes immediately after the preposition, and not in any other position), there are some exceptions to this rule and some of these verbs also take a direct object after the verb as well as an object of the preposition (examples written in red below).

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Average out at sth | Do away with sb/sth | Go ahead with sth | Own up to sth |
| Add up to sth | Do sb out of sth | Go along with sth | Press on with sth |
| Back out of sth | Drop in on sb | Go back on sth | Push on with sth |
| Be on about sth | Drop out of sth | Go in for sth | Put sth down to sth |
| Be up for sth | Face up to sth | Grow out of sth | Put in for sth |
| Be up to sb/sth | Fall back on sth | Hold out for sth | Put sb up to sth |
| Break out in sth | Fall behind with sth | Keep away from sb/sth | Put up with sb/sth |
| Break out of sw/h/sth | Fall out with sb | Keep up with sb/sth | Reach out to sb |
| Bring sb out in sth | (be) Fed up with sb/sth | Let sb in on sth | Run away from sb/sth |
| Burst in on sb/sth | Feel up to sth | Listen in on sb/sth | Run out of sth |
| Call out to sb | Fill in for sb | Listen out for sth | Send away for sth |
| Call sb out on sth | Fix sb up with sb/sth | Live up to sth | Shy away from sth |
| Cash in on sth | Hold back on sth | Load up on sth | Stand in for sb |
| Catch up on sth | Gang up against/on sb | Look down on sb | Stand up for sb/sth |
| Catch up with sb | Get away with sth | Look forward to sth | Stand up to sb/sth |
| Chalk sth up to sth | Get back to sb/sth | Look in on sb | Stick up for sb |
| Check up on sb/sth | Get back at sb | Look out for sb/sth | Take sth out on sb |
| Clamp down on sth | Get along with sb | Look up to sb | Take sb up on sth |
| Close in on sb | Get in on sth | Make off with sth | Talk sb out of sth |
| Come down with sth | Get on with sb/sth | Make out with sb | Talk back to sb |
| Come down on sb | Get out of sth | Make up for sth | Turn away from sth |
| Come forward with sth | Get sth over with | Make up to sb | Wake up to sth |
| Come up against sth | Get rid of sb/sth | Measure up to sb/sth | Walk away from sb/sth |
| Come up for sth | Get (a)round to sth | Miss out on sth | Walk away with sth |
| Come up with sth | Get through to sb | Move in on sb/sth | Walk out on sb/sth |
| Cut back on sth | Get through with sth | Move on to sth | Watch out for sb/sth |
| Cut down on sth | Get back to sb/sth | Open up to sb/sth | Zero in on sth |

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Be on about something - inseparable

If you ask someone what they are on about, you are asking that person, often in a slightly annoyed way, what they mean

- I dunno what you're on about.
- I didn't know what they were on about. It didn't make any sense.

Be up for something - inseparable

to want to do something

- We're going clubbing tomorrow if you're up for it.
- 'What do you feel like doing today?' 'I'd be up for just about anything.'
- Are you up for watching a film?
- We're going out tonight. Are you up for it?

Be up to someone /something - inseparable

Be up to someone : If an action or decision is up to someone, they are responsible for doing or making it

- I can't decide for you Jane, it's up to you.
- It's up to her to decide whether she wants to take the job she has been offered.

Be up to something : to be doing or planning something, often something secret and bad

- John, what are you up to?

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Catch up on something - inseparable

to do something that you have not been able to do recently

- I have a lot of work to catch up on.
- I need to catch up on some sleep.
- I have to catch up on my reading.

to spend time finding out what has been happening while you have been away or during the time you have not seen someone

- When I got home I phoned Susan to catch up on all the gossip.

Catch somebody up on something - separable

to give someone the latest news or information about something

- Can someone catch me up on the latest developments?
- Please, catch me up on what your family is doing.

Catch up with somebody - inseparable

to reach someone who is ahead by going faster

- Go on ahead. I'll catch up with you.
- Drive faster – they're catching up with us.

Chalk something up to something - separable

(informal) to consider that something is caused by something

- We can chalk that win up to a lot of luck.
- He was clearly lying, and now he's trying to chalk it up to a poor memory.

Check up on somebody/something - inseparable on somebody

to make sure that somebody is doing what they should be doing

- My parents are always checking up on me.
- My mum checks up on me most evenings to see that I've done my homework

on something

to find out if something is true or correct

- I need to check up on a few things before I can decide.

Clamp down on something - inseparable

to take strict action in order to stop or limit a harmful or unwanted activity

- The government is clamping down on teenage drinking.
- The US government is clamping down on drugs.
- The school has taken steps to clamp down on bullying.

Close in on somebody/something - inseparable

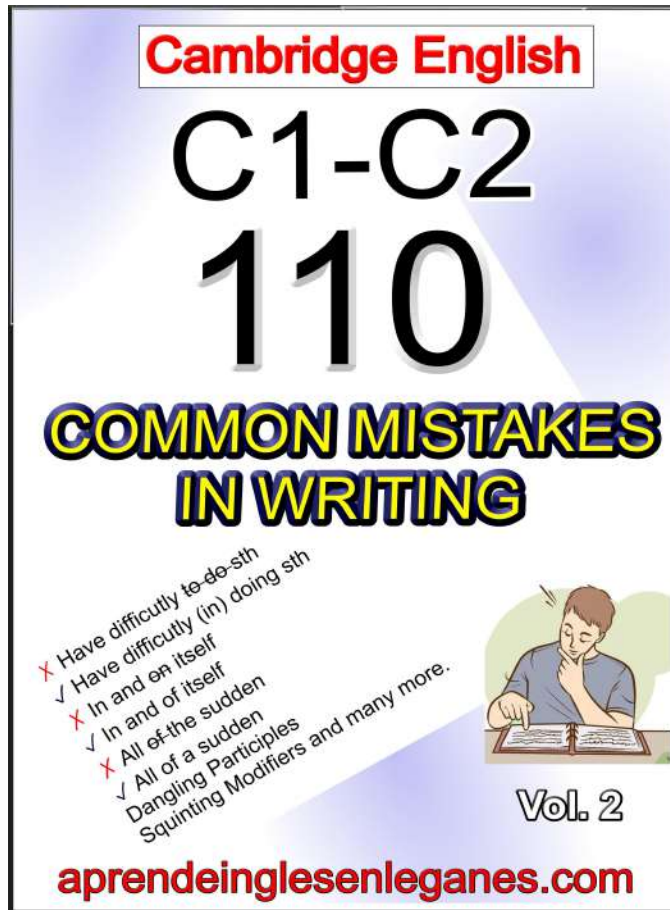
to move nearer to somebody/something, especially in order to attack them

- The lions closed in on their prey.
- There were enemy soldiers closing in on them from all sides.

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Common Mistakes in Writing

C1 Advanced / C2 Proficiency



TO CHECK IT OUT!!



This book contains a compilation of 110 common and frequently seen writing mistakes in both the C1 and the C2 writing papers. By learning to recognise and avoid such errors, you can improve your writing skills, and therefore get better marks in your exam.

Take some time to familiarise yourself with the mistakes included on this ebook and remember to always check your piece of writing before you hand it in.

Come up against something - inseparable

to have to deal with a problem

- If you come up against difficulties, let me know and I'll help out.
- Last week , we came up against a tricky problem.

Come up for something - inseparable

to reach the time at which something should happen

- The contract comes up for renewal in August.
- He wanted more time to study the bill before it came up for discussion on the Senate floor.
- The policy comes up for review in April.

Come up with something - inseparable

to suggest or think of an idea or plan

- They've come up with a new method to improve sales.
- Is that the best excuse you can come up with?

informal to produce an amount of money

- How soon can you come up with the money?
- He was given 10 days to come up with the money he owed.

Cut back on something - inseparable

to reduce the amount of something, especially money that you spend

- We're trying to cut back on the amount we spend on food.
- If you cut back on fat and sugar, you'll lose weight.

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Fall out with somebody - inseparable

to have an argument with somebody so that you are no longer friendly with them

- I'd fallen out with my parents.
- Emily's always falling out with people

(be) Fed up with somebody/something - inseparable

bored or unhappy, especially with a situation that has continued for too long

- I'm fed up with my job.
- I'm fed up with waiting for you.
- I'm a bit fed up with John at the moment.

Feel up to something - inseparable

to have the strength and energy to do or deal with something

- Do we have to go to the party? I really don't feel up to it.
- After the accident he didn't feel up to driving.
- I don't feel up to going out tonight.

Fill in for somebody - inseparable

to do somebody's job for a short time while they are not there

- She will fill in for him while he's at the conference.
- Can you fill in for me while I'm on holiday?

Fix somebody up with somebody/something

- separable

to provide someone with something that they need

- Can he fix us up with somewhere to stay?
- Peter saw to it that I was fixed up with a job.

to find a romantic partner for someone

- Jacques tried to fix me up with his older sister.

Hold back on something - inseparable

to wait for a period of time before doing something

- We held back on the product release until the second quarter.
- Democrats have expressed interest in the plan but have so far held back from making a commitment.

Gang up against/on somebody - inseparable

to unite as a group against someone

- The whole class ganged up against/on her because she was the teacher's pet.
- At school the older boys ganged up on him and called him names.

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Get through to somebody - inseparable

to succeed in making someone understand or believe something

- We can't get through to the government just how serious this issue is!
- I don't seem to be able to get through to him these days.
- I found it impossible to get through to her.

Get through with something - inseparable

to finish or complete a task

- Has he got through with his work?
- Finally, I got through with the exams.

Get back to somebody/something - inseparable

to someone (with something)

to communicate with someone at a later time:

- I'll get back to you later with more details about the project.
- I'll find out and get back to you.

to something

to start doing or talking about something again:

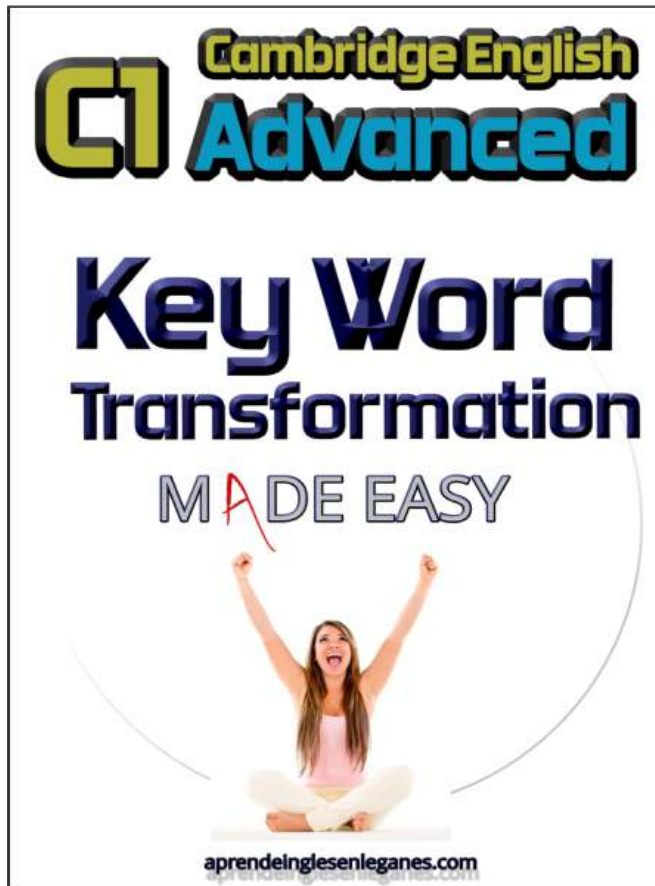
- Anyway, we'd better get back to work.

Go ahead with something - inseparable

to begin to do something, especially when somebody has given permission or has expressed doubts or opposition

- We've received permission to go ahead with the music festival in spite of opposition from local residents.
- The government intends to go ahead with its tax cutting plans.

C1 Advanced - Use of English part 4 : Key Word Transformation



TO CHECK IT OUT!!



This ebook has been written to help students prepare for the Key Word Transformation part of the Use of English paper (grammar) of the Cambridge English: C1 Advanced exam.

It will give you a good understanding of the different grammatical structures commonly used in this part of the Use of English test, e.g. passive - active voice , impersonal passive, conditional sentences , inverted conditionals, inversions, set phrases, comparative-superlative, causative verbs, phrasal verbs, linking words, etc.

If you want to learn how to do Key word transformation exercises effectively, this book is for you.

Go along with somebody / something - inseparable

to agree with somebody/something

- I don't go along with her views on private medicine.
- The president would not feel obligated to go along with a deal he didn't like.
- It was easier to go along with him rather than risk an argument.

Go back on something - inseparable

to fail to keep a promise, or to change a decision or agreement

- He looks likely to go back on his decision to retire.
- He's gone back on his word and decided not to give me the job after all.

Go in for something - inseparable

to take an exam or enter a competition

- He's going in for the Cambridge C1 Advanced exam.

to have something as an interest or a hobby

- She doesn't go in for team sports.

Grow out of something - inseparable

(of a child) to become too big to fit into a piece of clothing

- He's already grown out of his school uniform.

to stop doing something as you become older

- They thought I would grow out of my fear of spiders.

to develop from something, or to exist as a result of it

- Other issues grew out of the policy review.

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Look forward to something - inseparable

to feel happy and excited about something that is going to happen

- He had worked hard and was looking forward to his retirement.
- I'm looking forward to the weekend.
- I'm really looking forward to working with you.

Look in on somebody - inseparable

to make a short visit to a place, especially somebody's house when they are ill or need help

- She looks in on her elderly neighbour every evening.
- Why don't you look in on me next time you're in town?
- It helps if older people have a nearby relative who will look in on them.

Look out for somebody/something - inseparable

to try to notice someone or something

- Look out for James while you're there.
- He's looking out for a nice apartment downtown.

to try to make sure that someone is treated well

- My older brother always looked out for me when we were kids

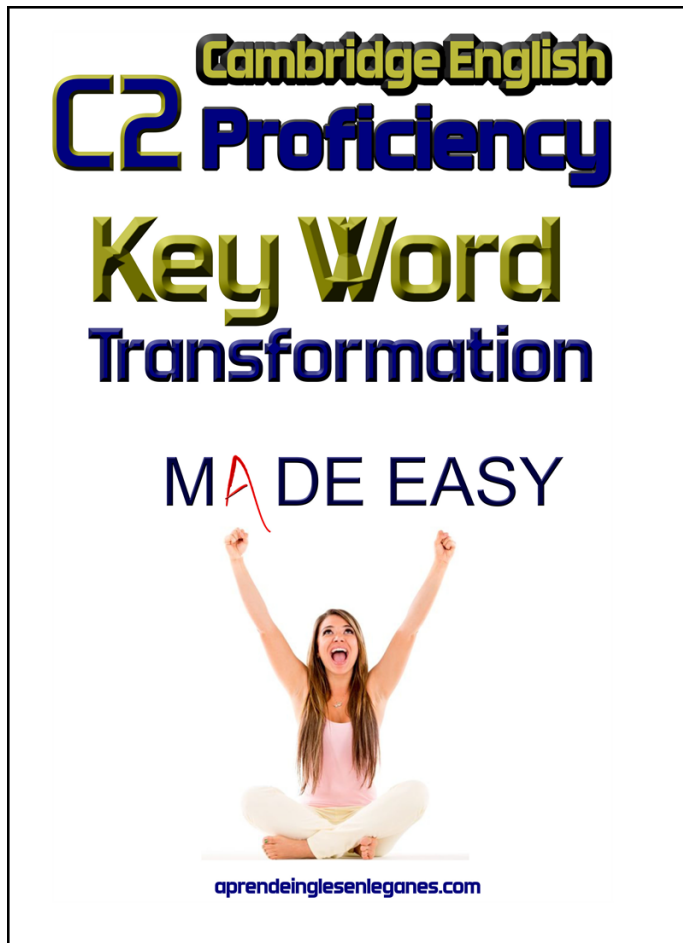
Look up to somebody - inseparable

to admire or respect somebody

- Other kids looked up to him because he was smart.
- I've always looked up to Jack for his courage and determination.

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C2 Proficiency - Use of English part 4 : Key Word Transformation



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It will give you a good understanding of the different grammatical structures commonly used in this part of the Use of English test, e.g. passive - active voice , impersonal passive, conditional sentences , inverted conditionals, inversions, set phrases, comparative-superlative, causative verbs, phrasal verbs, linking words, etc.

If you want to learn how to do Key word transformation exercises effectively, this book is for you.

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Reach out to somebody - mainly US - inseparable
to try to communicate with a person or a group of people,
usually in order to help or involve them:

- The new mayor is reaching out to inner city communities to involve them in his plans for the city.
- The church needs to find new ways of reaching out to young people.

Run away from somebody/something - inseparable
to flee or escape from someone or something

- Ben ran away from home at the age of 14.
- Please don't run away from me. I mean you no harm.

to try to avoid dealing with a difficult or unpleasant situation

- You can't keep running away from the problem

Run out of something - inseparable

to finish, use, or sell all of something, so that there is none left:

- We've run out of toilet roll.
- I'll have to stop you there, we've run out of time.
- I've run out of milk - would you like some creamer instead?

Send away/off for something - inseparable

to write to an organization or place to ask them to send you something

- I've sent away for details of their holiday packages.
- You can send off to the TV company for an information pack.

Shy away from something - inseparable

to avoid something that you dislike, fear, or do not feel confident about

- I've never shied away from hard work.
- Hugh never shied away from his responsibilities.
- The newspapers have shied away from investigating the story.

Stand in for somebody - inseparable

to do the job that another person was going to do or usually does, or to take that person's place at an event, because they cannot be there

- Pamela stood in for Jane, while Jane was on holiday.
- My assistant will stand in for me while I'm away

Stand up for somebody/something - inseparable

to support or defend somebody/something

- Always stand up for your friends.
- You must stand up for your rights.
- She had learnt to stand up for herself.

Stand up to somebody/something - inseparable

somebody : to resist somebody; to not accept bad treatment from somebody without complaining

- It was brave of her to stand up to those bullies.
- You've got to stand up to people like that.
- If you stand up to him he'll probably back down.

something : to not be changed or damaged by something

- Will the lorries stand up to the journey over rough roads?

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Walk away from somebody/something - inseparable
to leave a difficult situation or relationship, etc. instead of staying and trying to deal with it

- He was tempted to walk away from the problem.
- You can't just walk away from a marriage at the first sign of a problem.
- I walked away from him and never saw him again.

Walk away with something - inseparable
to feel a particular emotion when you leave a situation

- We can all walk away with a clear conscience.
- (informal) to win or obtain something easily
- She walked away with the gold medal.
 - And the lucky winner will walk away with a prize of £10,000.

Walk out on somebody/something - inseparable
(informal) to stop doing something that you have agreed to do before it is completed

- I never walk out on a job half done.
- to suddenly end your relationship or involvement with someone or something
- You can't afford to walk out on your job.
 - How could she walk out on her kids?

Watch out for somebody/something - inseparable
to make an effort to be aware of what is happening, so that you will notice if anything bad or unusual happens

- The cashiers were asked to watch out for forged banknotes.
- What problems should we watch out for when buying a house?

to be vigilant for the arrival of someone or something

- Would you mind watching out for the mailman? I'm expecting a package today.

to be careful to notice someone or something interesting

- Watch out for his latest movie, out next month.

to be careful of something

- Watch out for the stairs—they're steep.

Zero in on something - inseparable

to aim a weapon directly at something or someone

- Modern military aircraft use computers to help them zero in on their targets.


to direct all your attention towards a particular thing

- We must decide on our target market, then zero in on it.
- They zeroed in on the key issues.
- She immediately zeroed in on the weak point in his argument.

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- ✗ Have difficulty to do sth
- ✓ Have difficulty (in) doing sth
- ✗ In and on itself
- ✓ In and of itself
- ✗ All of the sudden
- ✓ All of a sudden
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Good morning/afternoon. My name is _____ and this is my _____.
How do you do?
And your names are?
Can I have your mark sheets please?
Thank you.
If you don't mind, I'd like to know something about you.
Where are you from? (Candidate A)?
And you, (Candidate B)?


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