1 of 3

The woman worked out at the gym.

**Examples:** Our plan worked out.

look at these examples:

they look the same, the phrasal verb *work out* can have a different meaning from *work out*. Take a

There are also some phrasal verbs that look exactly alike but can have different meanings. Though

What is the difference between work out and work out?

*looked up* is not functioning as a unit.

preposition *up* followed by *the road*, which is the object of the preposition). In this sentence,

are not working together. In the second sentence, *up the road* is a prepositional phrase (the

locate information in reference materials.” The meaning of the sentence changes if the two words

In the first example, the preposition *up* is part of the phrasal verb *looked up*, a unit meaning “to

Amy looked up the road.

**Examples:** I looked up the directions.

in prepositional phrases. How do we tell the difference?

Be careful. While phrasal verbs can contain prepositions, these same prepositions can also be used

How are phrasal verbs different from prepositional phrases?

*speak* merely means to talk. However, the phrasal verb *speak up* means to talk louder.

Phrasal verbs can often have different meanings from the basic verbs that they use. For example,

“phrasal verbs.”

These two or three words together form a short phrase—which is why these verbs are called

**Example:** call (basic verb) + Lorenzo (direct object) + back (adverb)

Some phrasal verbs require direct objects (someone or something).

**Example:** speak (basic verb) + up (preposition)

Phrasal verbs consist of a basic verb + another word or words, usually a preposition or adverb.

(e.g., *speak up, figure out*) or occurrences (e.g., *turn up*).

Phrasal verbs are multi-word verbs that, like single-word verbs, convey action of the body or mind

Phrasal Verbs

**University of Abderrahmane Mira**

**Faculty of human sciences**

**Specialty:psychology  
lecture:04**



Walt fell down this morning.

3. Walt fell down the cliff.

We ran out of shampoo.

2. We ran out the door.

Joel stepped up the ladder.

1. Joel stepped up his game.

and which contains a phrasal verb (pv).

In the following pairs of sentences, determine which sentence contains a prepositional phrase (pp)

Activity

something bad

to Jesse.

pay for  *something*

be punished for doing

Walt will *pay for being mean*

*over* later today.

several weeks, so I will  *go*

go over

go visit

I have not seen Jesse in

eventually *gave in*.

arguing

trip to Belize, but he

give in

reluctantly stop fighting or

Mike did not want to go on a

washing machine.

fall apart

break into pieces

Holly’s dress *fell apart* in the

husband left the room.

break down

get upset

Skyler *broke down* when her

(vehicle/motor)

the train tracks.

break down

stop functioning

Bill’s truck *broke down*  near

question

had seen his money.

ask around

ask many people the same

Walt *asked around,* but no one

dinner.

ask *someone*  out

invite on a date

Jesse *asked Andrea out*  to

**Phrasal Verb**

**Meaning**

**Example**

sentence.

table below lists several phrasal verbs, their meaning, and examples of their context within a

memorize them all at once, study them as you find them in your everyday work. For reference, the

There are many phrasal verbs in English, each with a different meaning. Rather than trying to

determines which meaning is used in the sentence.

sentence, *worked out* signifies that the woman exercised at the gym. The context of each phrasal verb

In the first sentence, the phrasal verb functions to show that the plan was successful. In the second