

oxford dictionary of phrasal verbs

Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs is an essential resource for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of the English language. Phrasal verbs, which are combinations of verbs with prepositions or adverbs, can significantly alter the meaning of the base verb and are commonly used in spoken and written English. The Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs not only defines these phrases but also provides context, usage examples, and insights into their grammatical structures.

What Are Phrasal Verbs?

Phrasal verbs are phrases that consist of a verb followed by one or more particles, such as prepositions or adverbs. The combination of these words can create meanings that are often different from the meanings of the individual words. For instance, the phrasal verb "give up" means to stop trying, which is quite different from the literal meanings of "give" and "up."

Examples of Common Phrasal Verbs

To illustrate the concept, here are some frequently used phrasal verbs:

- **Break down:** To stop functioning (e.g., "My car broke down on the way to work.")
- **Look after:** To take care of someone (e.g., "Can you look after my dog while I'm away?")
- **Run into:** To meet someone unexpectedly (e.g., "I ran into an old friend at the supermarket.")
- **Give in:** To yield or surrender (e.g., "After hours of negotiation, she finally gave in.")
- **Turn up:** To arrive (e.g., "He turned up late to the meeting.")

Why Use the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs?

The Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs is particularly valuable for several reasons:

1. Comprehensive Coverage

The dictionary includes a vast array of phrasal verbs, making it one of the most comprehensive references available. Whether you are a native speaker or a learner of English, you'll find definitions for both common and obscure phrasal verbs.

2. Clear Definitions and Examples

Each entry in the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs provides a clear definition, along with example sentences that demonstrate how the phrasal verb is used in context. This is especially beneficial for learners who may struggle to grasp the nuanced meanings of these phrases.

3. Grammatical Information

Phrasal verbs can be tricky because they often have different grammatical forms. The Oxford Dictionary provides detailed grammatical information, including whether a verb is transitive or intransitive, and whether it can be separated by an object (e.g., "turn the music down" vs. "turn down the music").

4. Cultural Insights

Understanding phrasal verbs also means understanding the culture behind them. The Oxford Dictionary often includes notes about the usage of certain phrases in different contexts, which can help users appreciate the language's richness and diversity.

How to Effectively Use the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs

Utilizing the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs can enhance your language skills significantly. Here are some tips on how to make the most of this resource:

1. Regular Practice

Make it a habit to look up new phrasal verbs that you encounter in your reading or conversations. Regular exposure will help reinforce your understanding and usage of these phrases.

2. Create Flashcards

Using flashcards can be an effective memorization technique. Write the phrasal verb on one side and its meaning and an example sentence on the other side. Test yourself regularly to reinforce your learning.

3. Engage in Conversations

Try to use new phrasal verbs in your everyday conversations. This practical application will help solidify your understanding and make the phrases more memorable.

4. Read Widely

Reading books, articles, and other materials in English will expose you to phrasal verbs in context. Whenever you come across an unfamiliar phrasal verb, refer to the Oxford Dictionary for its meaning and usage.

Common Mistakes with Phrasal Verbs

Even advanced English speakers can make mistakes when using phrasal verbs. Here are some common pitfalls:

1. Confusing Similar Phrasal Verbs

Many phrasal verbs have similar meanings but are used in different contexts. For example, "give up" and "give in" are often confused. The former means to stop trying, while the latter means to yield to pressure.

2. Incorrect Word Order

Some phrasal verbs can be separated by an object, while others cannot. For instance, "turn down the music" can be separated, but "look after someone" cannot be separated (you cannot say "look someone after").

3. Ignoring Context

The meaning of a phrasal verb can change depending on the context. For example, "get over" can mean to recover from something (e.g., "She got over her illness") or to move on emotionally from a relationship (e.g., "He took a long time to get over his ex-girlfriend"). Always pay attention to the context in which a phrasal verb is used.

Conclusion

The **Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs** is an invaluable tool for anyone looking to master the

English language. With its comprehensive coverage, clear definitions, and practical examples, it serves as an essential guide for both learners and native speakers alike. By understanding and utilizing phrasal verbs effectively, you can enhance your communication skills and gain a deeper appreciation for the nuances of English. Whether you are preparing for an exam, improving your professional language skills, or simply wanting to sound more fluent, this dictionary is a must-have resource. Start exploring today, and see how these dynamic phrases can transform your use of English!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs?

The Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs is a comprehensive reference book that provides definitions, examples, and usage notes for thousands of English phrasal verbs, helping learners understand and use them effectively.

How is the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs structured?

The dictionary is typically organized alphabetically and includes phrasal verbs along with their meanings, example sentences, and information about their grammatical patterns and usage in different contexts.

Who can benefit from using the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs?

Students, educators, writers, and anyone looking to improve their English language skills can benefit from this resource, as it provides clear insights into the often complex nature of phrasal verbs.

Are there any digital versions of the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs available?

Yes, there are digital versions available, including online subscriptions and mobile apps, which offer interactive features such as search functionalities and audio pronunciations.

Why are phrasal verbs important in English language learning?

Phrasal verbs are important because they are commonly used in everyday English and can change the meaning of the verbs they accompany. Understanding them is essential for effective communication and comprehension.

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