

Sept 17, 2021 ~ Using Phrasal Verbs, #3: “Break” and “Go” (Lesson 22c)

Phrasal verbs can be confusing. They indicate action, but often sound like other phrases. For example, “look up” may mean to seek (*look up* in a dictionary), or to actually *look upward*. “Look up to” means to admire sb; “look for” means to search (and we can say “go *look for* her inside” or “go *look inside* for her”). There’s no easy “rule” to follow; you just need to memorize how these phrases are used. Phrasal verbs contain a verb (that you’ll need to conjugate: *look/looked/looking*) and either a preposition (*break in*), an adverb (*break down*), or a combination (*break out in*).

Students: after you read the examples, restate them in other words. **Remember: **sth** = something; **sb** = somebody.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Example
1. sth breaks down	sth stops functioning (car, machine)	Our computer broke down during the Zoom meeting.
2. sb breaks down	sb gets upset; sb loses control of his/her emotions	The woman broke down when the doctor told her that her son had contracted the coronavirus.
3. break sth down break down sth	divide sth into smaller parts	The reporter broke the day’s events down into three parts: disturbing news, peaceful protest, and violent riot.
4. break sth in break in sth	wear sth a few times so that it begins to feel more comfortable	I need to break these shoes in before I run in the race next week. I need to break in these shoes before I run...
5. break in	enter illegally by breaking a door or window	During the riot, looters broke in and stole many things; the police eventually stopped the break-ins.
6. sb breaks out	sb escapes	While officers were busy, Tim broke out of their custody.
7. sth breaks out	sth starts suddenly	Rioting broke out after the police shot two demonstrators. Small groups broke out in prayer after hearing the news.
8. break out in sth	quickly develop a skin problem or quickly begin to sweat	She broke out in a rash after hiking in the forest. He breaks out in a sweat whenever he gives a speech.
9. sb breaks up	sb ends a relationship	My boyfriend and I broke up before I moved here.
10. break sth up break up sth	stop (argument/fight between people)	Police broke up the fight between young and old protestors. Police broke the fight up by using force.
11. go after sb	chase sb to catch him	The police went after the looter, but he got away.
12. go after sth	try to achieve sth	Protestors are going after the dream of equal justice.
13. go against sb/sth	compete against sb; oppose sth	Students went against the curfew to join the protest.
14. go without sth	live without sth (a basic necessity)	African-Americans have gone without justice for too long. Humans can’t go without air for more than a few minutes.

Questions: (Use the underlined phrase when you answer a question, to make sure you can use it correctly.)

- Are there any terms in the above text (or that you heard recently) that you would like to understand better?
- What kinds of situations can cause people to break down? Why? How can they recover from those situations?
- Have you heard news reports about looters breaking in and riots breaking out. Why do you think these things happen?
- What kind of situation (besides physical activities) might cause somebody to break out in a sweat? Why? If you don’t mind, share about one time when you broke out in a sweat or broke out in a rash.
- Choose any phrasal verb above and create a sentence.
- Share one of your goals, and then break it down into the steps you will take to reach that goal.
- What are you willing to go without in order to achieve one of your goals or dreams? Why? (Examples: adequate sleep, exercise, money, free time, relationships, etc.)

Use the following to fill in these blanks. Use each only once.

down, in, after, break, push, out, against, build, without, it down

When prejudice breaks _____, some people go _____ fair treatment. When looters break _____, both property and dreams are broken. When many people see injustice, they break _____ and cry. In the past, minorities had to go _____ unjust laws in order to go _____ their dreams. Considering the problem of injustice, we should break _____ into its complicated parts, set aside prejudice, and _____ forward together. Christians believe that God’s love can _____ down any dividing wall. What do you think the world needs in order to _____ up world peace?