



Warm up:

Use the simple verb “cut” or “give” in a sentence.

Introduction:

Phrasal verbs can be confusing. They indicate action, but often sound like other phrases. For example, “cut down” may mean to use an ax (*cut down* that dead tree), or to be unkind (He rudely *cut* his friend *down* at dinner). “Cut in” and “cut off” can both mean to interrupt; “cut back” means to reduce (and we can say “please *cut back* the bush” or “please *cut* the bush back”). 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: *give/gave/giving*) and either a preposition (*give in*), an adverb (*give up*), or a combination (*cut sth out of*).

Students: after you read the examples, restate them in other words.

****Remember: sth = something; sb = somebody.**

Teacher: After each example, ask several students to create new examples. For lower level classes, skip the “give” section and move straight to the “cut” questions; return if you have time.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Example
1. cut back on sth 1. cut down on sth	reduce the amount of sth	My doctor wants me to <u>cut back on</u> fatty foods. Sam wants his wife to <u>cut back on</u> her work hours.
2. cut sb down 2. cut down sb	unkindly criticize sb (usually in front of other people)	You shouldn’t <u>cut down</u> your wife in front of anybody! (... <u>cut</u> your wife <u>down</u> ...)
3. cut in 3. cut in on sb 3. cut in line	interrupt sth/sb	Your father <u>cut in</u> while I was talking with your uncle.

		He sometimes <u>cuts in on</u> other people's conversation. I don't like people to <u>cut in line</u> to buy movie tickets.
4. cut sth off 4. cut off sth	stop providing sth	The phone company <u>cut off</u> our phone service because we didn't pay our bill. (... <u>cut</u> our phone service <u>off</u> ...)
5. cut sb off	interrupt sb in a conversation	I was telling her about my job, when she <u>cut me off</u> to answer her phone.
6. cut it out 6. cut that out	stop doing sth that others don't like	When my friend kept teasing me, I told her to <u>cut it out</u> . You keep interrupting me! <u>Cut that out!</u>
7. cut sth out of sth	remove part of sth (usually with scissors)	I <u>cut</u> this coupon <u>out of</u> the newspaper. She <u>cut</u> sugar <u>out of</u> her diet.
8. give sb away	reveal hidden information about sb	His neighbor <u>gave</u> him <u>away</u> to the police.
9. give sb away	take the bride to the altar	My father <u>gave</u> me <u>away</u> at my wedding.*
10. give sth away	reveal a secret	My little sister <u>gave</u> the surprise party <u>away</u> by accident. (... <u>gave away</u> the surprise...)
11. give sth away	give sth to sb for free	The library was <u>giving away</u> old books on Friday. (... <u>giving</u> old books <u>away</u> ...)
12. give sth back	return a borrowed item	I have to <u>give</u> these skates <u>back</u> to Frank before his hockey game. (... <u>give back</u> these skates...)
13. give in	reluctantly stop fighting or arguing	My boyfriend didn't want to go to the ballet with me, but he finally <u>gave in</u> .
14. give sth out 14. give out sth	give to many people (usually free)	They were <u>giving out</u> perfume samples at the store. (... <u>giving</u> perfume samples <u>out</u> ...)
15. give sth up 15. give up doing sth 15. give up (on) sth	quit a habit/dream/hope/goal/plan/etc.	He's going to <u>give up</u> alcohol as of January 1. He's going to <u>give up</u> drinking alcohol as of January 1. He finally <u>gave up (on)</u> his hope of marrying her. <i>(all of these can split the phrasal verb; e.g., <u>give it up</u>...)</i>

Questions: (Try to use a phrasal verb in your answers, to make sure you can use it correctly.)

If you have a question about anything in the chart, please ask!

1. What are 1-2 things you want to cut back on, so that your family can be happier and/or healthier? Explain.
2. Why do people sometimes cut down other people?
3. Is it possible to cut in on a conversation politely? If so, how can we do that? Share an example.
4. In what kind of situation would you tell somebody to cut it out? If possible, share an example from the past.
5. Share one kind of situation where you think we should give in to somebody else. Why?
6. Share one kind of situation where you think we should NOT give in to somebody else. Why?
7. Share one habit/dream/goal that you gave up in the past. Why did you give it up? Also, was it hard to give it up?

*When a father “gives away the bride,” he’s honoring an old tradition and showing that he approves of the man who is taking his daughter “away from his home.” If you have time, talk about this Bible verse about family: “...A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” (Genesis 2:24 NLT)

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These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from EFLsuccess.com (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission. *If posted at www.ifmusa.org/english: this resource was created for our students under the understanding of “fair use” for educational purposes.*