

## Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are mainly used in spoken English and informal texts. (The more formal a conversation or text, the less phrasal verbs are found.)

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb and a particle (preposition, adverb). The particle can change the meaning of the verb completely. For example:

- look up – consult a reference book (look a word up in a dictionary)
- look for – seek (look for her ring)
- look forward – anticipate with pleasure (look forward to meeting someone)

### Position of the Particle:

The particle is placed either after the verb or after the object.

Example:

- Pick *up* the bag
- Pick the bag *up*

If the object is a pronoun, however, the particle has to be placed after the pronoun (object).

Example:

- Pick it *up*.
- Put it *down*
- Take it *off*