



THE MEANING OF PARTICLES (Used in phrasal verbs & in general)

ANSWER KEY

MEANING OF SOME PARTICLES

Here are some particles (adverbs or prepositions) that are often found in phrasal verbs. See how many you can get based on some of the meanings they have.

If you have a good idea of what the verb means and what the particle may mean, then many times that will help you understand the idea communicated by the phrasal verb composed of those parts. Remember, though, that there are also many phrasal verbs that are more idiomatic and won't follow these more traditional meanings ascribed to them. Still, knowing what phrasal verbs are and how they work can be a great help not only to your understanding of them, but how to use them as well.

away	1	not here
back	2	return
up	3	higher level or position
	4	increase
	5	happy / energetic
	6	completion / with intensity
down	7	lower level or position
	8	decrease / reduce
	9	depressed / low energy
over	10	above
	11	more than
	12	finished
on	13	contact with the surface
	14	continue
off	15	no contact with the surface

- Go _____.
- She has to take it _____ to the library.
- I'm going _____ the corporate ladder.
- Turn the volume _____.
- I'm really _____ for it. Let's start now.
- The dog licked the ice cream _____.
- They look _____ on those people.
- The number of students is going _____.
- He feels quite _____ today.
- That joke went _____ my head.
- Max is _____ 30.
- The meeting/class is _____.
- Put your jacket _____. It's cold out.
- Keep _____ writing. Don't stop.
- Take your jacket _____. It's hot.

MEANING OF SOME PARTICLES

Complete the sentences using the appropriate particle. (There is one sentence for each of the above meanings.)

- 6 Drink your beer up.
- 2 Take this steak back. It's not cooked enough.
- 15 Take your shoes off before you come in, please.
- 12 I can't believe the film's already over. It started only forty-five minutes ago.
- 11 There are over a dozen mosquitoes in my room. Go and see for yourself if you don't believe me.
- 3 She's moving up in the world.
- 9 It was a terrible week and I'm still feeling a bit down.
- 1 Take it away Anywhere. It smells terrible.
- 13 Put your glasses on. You gotta see this.
- 4 Prices are going up again. Everything is getting too expensive.
- 14 No, I don't mind. I love listening to you. Keep on talking.
- 8 Price often go down in the off-season.
- 10 Those birds flew over my house three times this morning.
- 5 It's been a good day. I really feel up today.
- 7 They're not doing so well. They seem to be going down the corporate ladder.

HOMework

Complete the sentences using the appropriate particle. (There is one blank for each of the above meanings.)

- 7 10 I'm down here in the basement. I'm trying to install this new hanging light over my work table.
- 12 It was over before you knew it. The party had barely gotten started and it was time to leave.
- 3 I am going to be staying up in the penthouse suite. What do you think of that?
- 14 1 He went on working even after everybody had left. He's not the type to want to get away from the office.
- 9 It gets me down whenever people don't phone or email me back.
- 13 Seeing that picture of my mother-in-law on our bedroom table doesn't put me in a good mood.
- 6 Listen up everybody. I have an important announcement that concerns all of you.
- 4 8 The hotel rates keep going up. Why don't we go in January when they go down?
- 5 I just don't feel up to it today. Maybe next week.
- 15 If you clear off the table, I can start bringing the food.
- 11 There is over half a bottle of wine at my place. Let's get it and bring it to the picnic.
- 2 I can't go back now. Not after everything I've done. I'm too embarrassed.