

Драгана Спасић<sup>23</sup>  
Јелена Бабић Антић<sup>24</sup>

Филозофски факултет у Приштини – Косовска Митровица

## SOME IDIOMATIC STRUCTURES IN ENGLISH

**Abstract:** *There are a great number of phrasal verbs in the English language. The curriculum for English as a foreign language includes them as a very important learning objective. There is no doubt that a significant amount of attention has been paid to their learning and usage in recent years. Various specialized dictionaries are on display for their easier acceptance and understanding.*

*Phrasal verbs present one of the most difficult aspects for learners of English language. This paper as an answer to this problem offers three main reasons, as well as mentioning the basic division between various phrasal verb patterns such as the so-called particle verbs, prepositional verbs, phrasal verbs and modifying adverbs, phrasal verbs combined with special verb forms and clauses.*

*Covering the important issues concerning the process of learning the grammar of phrasal verbs and being able to understand their meaning, very often idiomatic, this paper gives an insight into various additional characteristics of phrasal verbs, particularly those structures that were derived with –get.*

**Key words:** phrasal verb forms, phrasal verb's grammar, idiomatic structures, structures with –get, English language.

## INTRODUCTION

A phrasal verb is a combination of a verb and a preposition, a verb and an adverb or a verb with both an adverb and a preposition and so they are a complete semantic unit. Sentences may contain direct and indirect objects in addition to the phrasal verb. Phrasal verbs are particularly frequent in the English language. A phrasal verb often has a meaning which is different from the original verb. According to Tom McArthur “the term *phrasal verb* was first used by Logan Pearsall Smith in “Words and Idioms” (1925).

<sup>23</sup> [adminspasic@yahoo.com](mailto:adminspasic@yahoo.com)

<sup>24</sup> [bebbica2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bebbica2002@yahoo.com)

Alternative terms for phrasal verb are ‘compound verb’, ‘verb-adverb combination’, ‘verb-particle construction (VPC)’; in American English a ‘two-part word/verb’ and a ‘three-part word/verb’ (depending on the number of particles), and a multi-word verb ( MWV).

Prepositions and adverbs used in a phrasal verb are also called particles in that they do not alter their form through inflections (are therefore uninflected: they do not accept affixes, etc.). Because of the idiomatic nature of phrasal verbs, they are often subject to preposition stranding.

Phrasal verbs are usually used informally in everyday speech as opposed to the more formal Latinate verbs, such as *to get together* rather than *to congregate*, *to put off* rather than *to postpone*, or *to get out* rather than *to exit*.

Many verbs in English can be combined with an adverb or a preposition, and readers or listeners will easily understand a phrasal verb used in a literal sense with a preposition:

- *He **walked across** the square.*

Verb and adverb constructions can also easily be understood when used literally:

- *She opened the shutters and **looked outside**.*
- *When he heard the crash, he **looked up**.*

An adverb in a literal phrasal verb modifies the verb it is attached to, and a preposition links the verb to the object. It is, however, the figurative or idiomatic application in everyday speech which makes phrasal verbs so important:

- *I hope you will **get over** your operation quickly.*
- *Work hard, and get your examination **over with**.*

The literal meaning of *to get over*, in the sense of “to climb over something to get to the other side”, no longer applies to explain the subject’s enduring an operation or the stress of an examination which they have to overcome. It is when the combined meaning of verb plus adverb, or verb plus preposition is totally different from each its component parts. The semantic content of the phrasal verb cannot be predicted by its constituent parts and so becomes much more difficult for a student learning English to recognize.

Other idiomatic usages of phrasal verbs show a verb + direct object + preposition/adverb + indirect object construction. In her introduction to Longman Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs – What this dictionary contains (1983), Rosemary Courtney includes as a third category idioms formed from phrasal verbs, such as *let the cat out of the bag*. These idioms are printed in heavy type. Idioms have a meaning which is different from the meaning of the single words, and usually have a fixed word order. Courtney then cites among many other examples in the dictionary such phrases as *to add fuel to the flames*, *to leave someone in the lurch*, *to scare someone out of their wits*, etc.

## PHRASAL VERB PATTERNS

A phrasal verb contains either a preposition or an adverb (or both), and may also combine with one or more nouns or pronouns.

### Particle verbs

Phrasal verbs that contain adverbs are sometimes called “particle verbs”, and are related to separable verbs in other Germanic languages. There are two main patterns: intransitive and transitive. An intransitive particle verb does not have an object:

- *When I entered the room he **looked up**.*

A transitive particle verb has a nominal object in addition to the adverb. If the object is an ordinary noun, it can usually appear on either side of the adverb, although very long noun phrases tend to come after the adverb:

- *Switch off the light.*
- *Switch the light off.*
- *Switch off the lights in the hallway next to the bedroom in which the president is sleeping.*

With some transitive particle verbs, however, the noun object must come after the adverb. Such examples are said to involve “inseparable” phrasal verbs:

- *The gas gave off fumes. (not\* The gas gave fumes off.)*

The other transitive particle verbs require the object to precede the adverb, even when the object is a long noun phrase:

- *I cannot tell the dogs apart. (not\*I cannot tell apart the dogs.)*
- *I cannot tell the bulldogs and the pugs who look like them apart.*

However, some authors say that the particle must be adjacent to the verb *whenever* the noun phrase is lengthy and complicated. With all transitive particle verbs, if the object is a pronoun, it must, with just one type of exception, precede the adverb:

- *Switch it off. (not\*switch off it.)*
- *The smell put them off. (not\*put off them.)*
- *They let him through. (not\*they let through him.)*

The exception occurs if the direct object is contrastively stressed, as in :

- *Figure out THESE, not THOSE.*

Gorlach asserts that the position of the nominal object before or after the adverb has a subtle effect on the degree to which the phrase has resultative implication, as seen in this example involving the simple verb *eat* and the phrasal verb *eat up*:

- *to eat the apple (neutral for result)*

- *to eat up* the apple (greater possibility for result)
- *to eat* the apple *up* (compulsory claim for result)

### Prepositional verbs

Prepositional verbs are phrasal verbs that contain a preposition, which is always followed by its nominal object. They are different from inseparable transitive particle verbs, because the object still follows the preposition if it is a pronoun:

- On Fridays, we *look after* our grandchildren.
- We look after them. (not\* *look* them *after*)

The verb can have its own object, which usually precedes the preposition:

- She *helped* the boy *to* an extra portion of potatoes.
- with pronouns: She *helped* him *to* some.

Prepositional verbs with two prepositions are possible:

- We *talked to* the minister *about* the crises.

A phrasal verb can contain an adverb and a preposition at the same time. Again, the verb itself can have a direct object:

- No direct object: The driver *got off to* a flying start.
- Direct object: Onlookers *put* the accident *down to* the driver's loss of concentration.

### Phrasal verbs and modifying adverbs

When modifying adverbs are used alongside particle adverbs intransitively (as particle adverbs usually are), the adverbs can appear in any verb/particle/adverb positions:

- *He unhappily looked round.*
- *He looked unhappily round.*
- *He looked round unhappily.*

The particle adverb here is "round" and the modifying adverb is "unhappily". ("Round" is a particle because it is not inflected - does not take affixes and alter its form. "Unhappily" is a modifying adverb because it modifies the verb "look").

With a transitive particle verb, the adverb goes either before the verb or after the object or particle, whichever is last:

- *He cheerfully picked the book up.*
- *He picked up the book cheerfully.* (not\**picked cheerfully up the book*)
- *He picked the book up cheerfully.*

Prepositional verbs are different from transitive particle verbs, because they allow adverbs to appear between the verb and the preposition:

- *He cheerfully looked after the children.*

- *He looked after the children cheerfully.*
- *He looked cheerfully after the children.*

### Phrasal verbs combined with special verb forms and clauses

Courtney also includes special verb forms and clauses in phrasal verb constructions.

### Phrasal verbs combined with wh-clauses and that-clauses

Sentences which include verb+particle+object(s)+wh-clauses

- The teacher tries to *dictate to* his class *what the right thing to do is*  
= transitive verb + preposition (dictate to) + direct object ( his class) + **wh**-clause (what the right thing to do is).
- My friend *called for* me *when the time came*.  
= transitive verb + preposition (called for) + pronoun (me) + **wh**-clause (when the time came).
- *Watch out that you don't hit your head on the low beam*.  
= intransitive verb + adverb (watch out) + that-clause (that you don't hit your head on the low beam).

### Phrasal verbs combined with verb-ing forms

- You can't *prevent me from seeing her*.  
= transitive verb + pronoun (prevent me) + preposition (from) + verb-ing form (seeing) + pronoun (her).

### What are phrasal verbs?

1. A phrasal verb is a verb plus a preposition or adverb which creates a meaning different from the original verb.

Example:

I ran into my teacher at the movies last night. **run+into=meet.**

He ran away when he was 15. **run+ away = leave home.**

2. Some phrasal verbs are intransitive. An intransitive verb cannot be followed by an object.

Example:

He suddenly showed up. **"show up" cannot take an object**

3. Some phrasal verbs are transitive. A transitive verb can be followed by an object.

Example:

I made up the story. **"story" is the object of "make up"**

4. Some transitive phrasal verbs are separable. The object is placed between the verb and the preposition. In this Phrasal Verb Dictionary, separable phrasal verbs are marked by placing a\*between the verb and the preposition / adverb.

Example:

I talked *my mother* into letting me borrow the car.

She looked *the phone number* up.

5. Some transitive phrasal verbs are inseparable. The object is placed after the preposition. In this Phrasal Verb Dictionary, inseparable phrasal verbs are marked by placing a + after the preposition / adverb.

Example:

I ran into *an old friend* yesterday.

They are looking into *the problem*.

6. Some transitive phrasal verbs can take an object in both places. In this Phrasal Verb Dictionary, such phrasal verbs are marked with both \* and +.

Example:

I looked *the number* up in the phone book.

I looked up *the number* in the phone book.

7. Although many phrasal verbs can take an object in both places, you must put the object between the verb and the preposition if the object is a pronoun.

Example:

I looked *the number* up in the phone book.

I looked up *the number* in the phone book.

I looked it up in the phone book. **correct**

I looked up it in the phone book. **incorrect**

## ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PHRASAL VERBS

Phrasal verbs are one of the most difficult aspects for learners of the English language. There are three main reasons for this:

1. In many cases the meaning of the phrasal verb cannot be deduced from its elements, i.e., it is being used idiomatically. For example: a learner who knows that *to tick* is to make a checkmark may have difficulty in understanding the sentence *The teacher ticked off the student for being late*, in which the phrasal verb *to tick off* means *to reprimand* or *to express disapproval*.

2. Many phrasal verbs are polysemous; i. e., they have more than one meaning. The phrasal verb *to put down* has the literal meaning of putting something down on the table or floor. But it also has the idiomatic meanings:

- *to make someone feel small, to criticize and humiliate them.*
- *to kill* as in the sentence *I had to have my cat put down.*
- *to stop, quash, put an end to* as in the sentence *The police put down the riots with unnecessary brutality.*

3. There are difficulties with the grammar of phrasal verbs, particularly with the position of the particles. Look at the following examples:

She put down the baby.	She put the baby down.
The teacher put the student down.	The teacher put down the student.
The student put her bad grade down to tiredness. The student put down her bad grade to tiredness.	

Phrasal verbs are very important for learners because they are so prevalent in everyday spoken and informal written language. Not only do learners need to understand the more common phrasal verbs, but they will also need to use them themselves. If they don't, and use a more formal synonym, they run the risk of sounding pompous or ridiculous to native speakers. Imagine, for example, your friend telling you "Oh, do desist from talking!" instead of "Oh, do shut up!" or "Oh, do belt up!" or "Oh, pipe down!"

In these sentences, for example, an object is necessary because without it sentences would have no meaning. An intransitive verb cannot be followed by an object.

Examples:

- In the winter the lake **froze over**.
- He suddenly **showed up**.

Some verbs can be used both with and without an object, but the meaning may change.<sup>25</sup>

Examples:

- Tina and Jo were so clever the teacher **moved them up** to a higher class. (with object)
- Tina and Jo **moved up** to a higher class. (no object-same meaning)
- I can **drop you off** at the station. (with object-drive you somewhere and leave you there)
- I was sitting in the armchair and I **dropped off**. (no object-fell asleep, different meaning)

Some phrasal verbs have three parts, the verb and two particles. The object comes last.

Example:

- I will not **put up with** such bad behavior. (tolerate)

English vocabulary is particularly rich because it combines a large vocabulary originating from Anglo-Saxon roots with a large vocabulary originating from Latin or French. This means that English often have words with very similar meanings from each of these sources. To give a phrasal verb example, we can **put forward** or **propose** an idea, where put forward has a typical Anglo-

<sup>25</sup> Michael McCarthy, Felicity O'Dell (2007); *English phrasal verbs in use, Advanced*; 2A, p.8. CUP :Cambridge

Saxon etymology, whereas propose is Latin origin. It is interesting to notice that propose comes from the Latin prefix pro- (meaning forward) added to the Latin root – pose (meaning put); there are many other examples of where the Latin etymology parallels the etymology of its phrasal verbs equivalent. Words of Latin or French tends to be more formal and so ‘proposing an idea’ is found more frequently in formal written English than in informal spoken English.<sup>26</sup>

### STRUCTURES WITH ‘GET’

In the case of phrasal verbs one of the key words is GET.

Many phrasal verbs are based on the verb *get*, and it is important to understand that the meaning of get in these verbs is not the same as the non-phrasal form of *get*, meaning *receive*. Instead, *get* has a meaning similar to *become* or *change to*:

- I **got up** at 6.00. (was not up before, and then I became up — I changed from not being up to being up.)

Many phrasal verbs with get that relate to a change in physical location might seem identical in meaning to a variety of phrasal verbs using *come*, *go*, and other verbs that describe physical movement, such as *walk*, *move*, and so on, and often they can be used with little difference in meaning:

- I **came back** last night. I **got back** last night.

But there is a difference: *get* emphasizes the change in location; *come*, *go*, and so on emphasize the movement from one location to another.

It is very common to use the adverbs *right* and *back* with *get* phrasal verbs. Two forms of the past participle of *get* are shown: *gotten* and *got*. *Gotten* is more common in American English, but *got* is occasionally used. Both are correct:

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get back	Get back / Gets back	Getting back	Got back	Gotten / Got back

#### 1. get back (to)

When you return to a level or place where you were before, you **get back** or **get back to** that place.

- *We left three weeks ago, and we didn't **get back** until yesterday.*
- *Where are you going? **Get right back** here!*
- *Mark lost a lot of weight when he was sick, and it took him a long time to **get back** to his old weight.*<sup>27</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Michael McCarthy, Felicity O'Dell (2007); *English phrasal verbs in use, Advanced*; 6A, p.16. CUP: Cambridge

<sup>27</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: phrasal verbs with get, p.322



## 2. get back (to)

When you **get back to** something it means to start again at the beginning:

- *The football coach decided it was time for his team to **get back to basic**.*<sup>28</sup>

## 3. get ... back (to)

When you **get** something **back** or **get** something **back** to a person or place, you return it to that person or place.

- *Jim uses his mother's car in the morning, but she needs it to go to work at 4:30, so he has to **get it back** before then.*
- *I have to get these books back to the library — they're overdue.*<sup>29</sup>

## 4. get... back (from)

When you **get** something **back** or **get** something **back from** someone or someplace, you have something that you had before.

- *I couldn't believe I **got** my stolen car **back**.*
- *Jim borrowed a book from me three years ago, and I still haven't **gotten** it **back from him**.*<sup>30</sup>

## 5. get back (from)

When you **get back** or **get back** from something that is very hot or dangerous or that you should not be near, you move away from it so that there is more distance between you and it.

- ***Get back** from the edge of the cliff! You might fall.*
- *As the President came closer, the police told the crowd to **get back**.*<sup>31</sup>

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get behind	Get behind/ Gets behind	Getting behind	Got behind	Gotten behind / Got behind

## 6. get behind (in)

When you are in a group that is studying or working, and so on, and they learn faster or get more work done because you are learning or working more

([http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

<sup>28</sup> Michael McCarthy, Felicity O'

<sup>29</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p.323

([http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

<sup>30</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p.323

([http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

<sup>31</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: phrasal verbs with get, p.323

([http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

slowly than the others, you **get behind** or **get behind in** your studies or work. When you do not complete work as fast as originally planned and expected, you **get behind** schedule. **Keep up** is the opposite of **get behind**. **Fall behind** is similar to **get behind**.

- *Linda had some problems last semester, and she **got behind** in her studies.*
- *With all the bad weather we've been having, the construction project has **gotten** way **behind** schedule.*<sup>32</sup>

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get by	Get by / Gets by	Getting by	Got by	Gotten by / Got by

### 7. get by

When you **get by** or **get by** something, you pass something or someone while you are walking or driving even though it may be difficult because there is not enough room.

- *Can you move all that junk in the hallway please? It's hard for people to **get by**.*
- *There was an accident on the highway, and no one could **get by**.*<sup>33</sup>

### 8. get by (on)

When you **get by** or **get by on** a certain amount of money, you continue with your work or continue with your life even though it may be difficult.

- *Don't worry about me; I'll **get by** somehow.*
- *It's not easy **getting by** on \$250 a week.*<sup>34</sup>

### 9. get by

When something, such as a mistake or a problem, **gets by** you, you do not notice it.

- *I've got a great editor; no mistakes **get by** her.*
- *I checked this report twice. How did all these misspellings **get by** me?*<sup>35</sup>

<sup>32</sup> The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book, 42. Focus on: phrasal verbs with get, p.323

<sup>33</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p.323  
[http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

<sup>34</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: phrasal verbs with get, p.323  
[http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

<sup>35</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p.324  
[http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get down	Get down / Gets down	Getting down	Got down	Got down / Gotten down

### 10. get down (to)

When you move to a lower level or place or from north to south, you get down or get down to that level or place. **Get up** is the opposite of **get down**. **Go down** is similar to **get down**.

- *You're going to fall out of that tree and break your neck. **Get down** right now!*
- *The first thing I did after I **got down** to Miami was go to the beach.*

### 11. get... down (from)

When you **get** things or people **down**, you move them from a higher level or place to a lower one.

- *Why do you always put the dishes on the top shelf? I can't **get them down**.*
- *The fire fighters **got** the people **down** from the roof of the burning building.*

### 12. get down

When you bend your body and lower your head to avoid danger or to prevent people from seeing you, you **get down**.

- *When the enemy soldiers started shooting, the sergeant ordered his men to **get down**.*
- ***Get down!** If the police catch us here we'll be in a lot of trouble.*

### 13. get... down

When things or people **get** you **down**, they make you sad or depressed.

- *Don't let your troubles **get** you **down**. Everything will be all right.*
- *Jim's marriage problems are really getting him **down**.*<sup>36</sup>

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get in	Get in / Gets in	Getting in	Got in	Got in / Gotten in

### 14. get in / into

When you **get in** or **get into** a place, building, room, car, boat, and so on, you enter it.

- ***Get in** the car! We're going now.*
- *We'd better **get into** the school — the bell's going to ring soon.*

### 15. get... in / into

<sup>36</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p.324  
([http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

When you **get in** or **get into** a place, building, club, restaurant, meeting, and so on, you obtain permission to enter. When you **get** other people **in** or **get** other people **into** a building, club, restaurant, meeting, and so on, you arrange for them to enter.

- *We'll never **get into** that club; we don't know the right people.*
- *I didn't have an invitation to the party, but Nancy **got me in**.*

#### 16. get... in/ into

When you **get** something **in** or **get** something **into** a place, building, room, container, enclosure, and so on, you get the object inside even though it is difficult.

- *The shoes are too small — I can't **get my feet in**.*
- *How did they **get that elephant into** its cage?*

#### 17. get...in / into

When you **get in** trouble or **get into** a difficult situation or a mess (a mess is a confused or difficult situation), you become involved in it. When you **get** people **in** trouble or **get** them **into** a difficult situation or a mess, you cause them to become involved in it.

- *Susie **got in** a lot of trouble at school today.*
- *I don't see any solution to this problem. How did I ever **get into** this mess?*

#### 18. get in/into

When you **get in** or **get into** a place, you arrive. When the vehicle you are in **gets in** or **gets into** a place, it arrives. **Come in** is similar to **get in**.

- *I'm exhausted. I **got in** really late last night.*
- *I'll be waiting for you at the station when your train **gets into** the station.*

#### 19. get.. in

When a store **gets** something **in**, it receives a delivery of something that it will offer for sale.

- *Karen asked the sales clerk when the store was going to **get** some summer dresses **in**.*
- *I wanted to buy that new book, but the bookstore hasn't **gotten** it **in** yet.*

#### 20. get... in

When you **get** an activity **in**, you find the time for it or make the time for it.

- *Dinner isn't until 7:30, so we've got time to **get a tennis game in**.*
- *Whenever I go to San Francisco on business, I try to **get a baseball game in**.*<sup>37</sup>

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get out	Get out / Gets out	Getting out	Got out	Got out / Gotten out

<sup>37</sup> The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book, 42 .Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p 324  
[http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;jsessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

### 21. get out (of)

When you **get out** or **get out** of a place, building, room, car, boat, and so on, you leave or escape from it.

- *When Bob heard his car's engine making a strange noise, he **got out** and looked under the hood.*
- *We smelled gas and **got out** of the building just seconds before it exploded.*

### 22. get out (to)

When you go to a place that is west of where you are or to a place outside a large city, you **get out** or **get out** to that place.

- *I love it here in the city. I almost never **get out** to the suburbs anymore.*
- *I told my friend in New York. "If you ever **get out** to California, please visit me."*

### 23. get... out (of)

When you **get** people **out** or **get** them **out** of a place, you take them out or you arrange for them to leave.

- *The soldiers were surrounded, so they called for a helicopter to **get them out**.*
- *After Hank was arrested, his lawyer **got him out** of jail.*

### 24. get... out (of)

When you **get out** or **get out** of a dangerous, awkward, or difficult situation, you avoid it. When you **get** people **out** of a dangerous, awkward, or difficult situation, you help them to avoid it.

- *Erik made a date with two girls for the same night. How is he going to **get out** of this mess?*
- *You got me into this mess—you **get me out!***

### 25. get... out (of)

When you get something **out** or **get** something **out** of a container or place, you remove it.

- *Mother's coming for dinner tonight, so let's **get the good china out**.*
- *The videotape is jammed; I can't **get it out** of the VCR.*

### 26. get... out (of)

When you **get** dirt or a stain **out** or **get** dirt or a stain **out** of a material, you remove it by cleaning.

- *This detergent's ad claims it'll **get dirt out** even in cold water.*
- *Do you think bleach will **get this wine stain out** of my white blouse?*

### 27. get out

When information **gets out**, it becomes known to people who are not supposed to know it.

- *Be careful—we'll be in a lot of trouble if this information **gets out**.*
- *There was a huge scandal after the news **got out**.*

### 28. get out (of)

When you leave your house and do things that are relaxing and fun, you **get out** or **get out** of the house.

- *You work too hard; you should **get out** more.*
- *Ned doesn't **get out** of the house much; he prefers to stay home and play computer games.*<sup>38</sup>

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get over	Get over / Gets over	Getting over	Got over	Got over / Gotten over

### 29. get over (to)

When you **get over** to a place, you go there. When you tell people to **get over** here, you want them to come where you are.

- *Francisco called and he said he needs you to help him with something, so **get over** to his house right way.*
- *Susie, **get over** here and clean up this mess immediately!*

### 30. get over

When you **get over** a problem, illness, or emotionally painful experience, you stop letting it affect you and continue with your life.

- *I've got a bad cold. I've been sick for a week, and I still haven't gotten over it.*
- *You can't feel sorry for yourself forever—you've got to **get over** it and get on with your life.*

### 31. get over

When something happens that surprises you or makes you angry, and you cannot stop thinking about it, you cannot **get over** it.

- *I can't **get over** seeing my ex-wife with her new husband.*
- *The coach couldn't **get over** losing the state championship 47 to 0.*<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book, 42. Focus on: phrasal verbs with get, p 325  
[http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;sessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3De3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;sessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3De3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285)

<sup>39</sup> The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book, 42. Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p.326  
[http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_YL.html;sessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_YL.html;sessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285)

### 32. get...over with

When you want to **get** something **over with** it is because it is something unpleasant that you want to finish so that you can stop worrying about it.

- *I think it is better to **get** the exam **over with** in the first period than to be nervous about it all day long.*<sup>40</sup>

Infinitive	Present Tense	-ing form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Get up	Get up / Gets up	Getting up	Got up	Got up /Gotten up

### 33. get up (to)

When you move to a higher level or place, or from south to north, you **get up** or **get up** to that level or place. **Get down** is the opposite of **get up**. **Go up** is similar to **get up**.

- *Tom, your brother is in the basement. Please go tell him to **get right up** here and start doing his homework.*
- *I haven't **gotten up** my brother's house in Canada for a long time.*

### 34. get... up

When you get up or someone **gets** you **up**, you rise from your bed. When you **get** people **up**, you cause them to rise from their beds.

- *I don't usually **get up** until 11:00 on weekends.*
- *I make breakfast; **getting** the children **up** and ready for school in the morning is Bill's job.*

### 35. get up

When you change from a sitting or lying position to a standing position, you **get up**. **Stand up** is similar to **get up**.

- *The teacher told the sleeping students to **get up**.*
- *After he hit me, I **got right up** and hit him back.*<sup>41</sup>

**Get around to-** When you do something after waiting for some time because you are lazy or do not want to do it you **get around to it**.

- *I didn't **get around** to doing my taxes until April 14.*

**Get out of-** When you **get out of** something or you **get out of doing** something you must do, but you do not want to do, you find a way to avoid it.

- *I **got out of going** to church with my wife by pretending to be sick.*

If an activity gives you pleasure or some other benefit, you get pleasure, or some other benefit **out of it**.

<sup>40</sup> Carl, W.Hart (1999); *The ultimate phrasal verb book*: second edition. Library of Congress (Cataloging- in- publication data,p.14): Hauppauge, New York.

<sup>41</sup> *The Ultimate Phrasal Verb Book*, 42. Focus on: **phrasal verbs with get**, p.327 ([http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english\\_phrasal\\_verbs\\_-\\_THE\\_UL.html;sessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285](http://www.4shared.com/get/ahgZtNf0/english_phrasal_verbs_-_THE_UL.html;sessionid=4F3F9FC46DE3DE3297EF9FF4F5ED1051.dc285))

- *The judge didn't **get** any pleasure **out of** imposing such a harsh penalty.*

When you use force or pressure to get something, such as information or money from people, you **get it out of** them.

- *It took me a while, but I **got** the whole story **out of** her.*<sup>42</sup>

## CONCLUSION

There is a great number of phrasal verbs in the English language. The curriculum for English as a foreign language includes them as a very important learning objective. There is no doubt that a significant amount of attention has been paid to their learning and usage in recent years. Various specialized dictionaries are on display for their easier acceptance and understanding.

As shown throughout this paper, it is known that phrasal-verbs with literal meaning present a smaller problem for those who learn English. But the situation changes when dealing with idiomatic structures. Their semantic content cannot be predicted by its constituent parts and therefore this creates a difficulty for the learners. But it is this idiomatic and figurative usage of phrasal verbs that makes them as important as they are in the spoken and informal language.

The widespread interest in phrasal verbs and their grammar is clearly reflected in modern dictionaries and fact that nowadays they have been accorder specialized dictionaries of their own. There is no doubt that knowing them is of vital importance for all those interested in learning the basics of English language, and today they occupy a very special position in the English grammar. Being a part of informal and spoken language many of them come up as an exception to the rule and start occurring in some formal contexts.

## *Bibliography*

- Carl, W.Hart (1999): *The ultimate phrasal verb book*: second edition: Barron's educational series.
- Darwin, C. M., & Gray, L. S. (1999): *Going after the phrasal verb: An alternative approach to classification*. *TESOL Quarterly*, 33(1), 65-83.
- Gardner, D., & Davies, M. (2007). *Pointing Out Frequent Phrasal Verbs*: A Hemmens, A.(2008). *Advancing your phrasal verbs*. The English.
- Gardner, D., & Davies, M. (2007): *Poiting Out Frequent Phrasal Verb*, A Corpus-Based Analisys. *Tesol Quartetly*, 41 (2), 339-359.
- Li, W., Zhang, X., Niu, C., Jiang, Y., & Srihari, R. (2003). *An expert lexicon approach to identifying English phrasal verbs*. In *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting on*

---

<sup>42</sup> Carl, W. Hart (1999). *The ultimate phrasal verb book*, second edition. Library of congress (Cataloging- in- publication data, p.33). Hauppauge: New York



*Association for Computational Linguistics-Volume 1* (pp. 513-520). Association for Computational Linguistics.

McCarthy, M., & O'Dell, F. (2004). *English phrasal verbs in use*. Ernst Klett Sprachen.

Rudzka-Ostyn, B. (2003). *Word power: Phrasal verbs and compounds: A cognitive approach*. De Gruyter Mouton.

Side, R. (1990). *Phrasal verbs: Sorting them out*. *ELT journal*, 44(2), 144-152.

Siefring, J. (2004). *The Oxford dictionary of Idioms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Speake, J. (1999). *The Oxford dictionary of phrasal verbs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Драгана Спасић

Јелена Бабић Антић

Филозофски факултет у Приштини – Косовска Митровица

## НЕКЕ ИДИОМАТСКЕ СТРУКТУРЕ У ЕНГЛЕСКОМ ЈЕЗИКУ

**Апстракт:** Постоји велики број фразних (фразалних) глагола у Енглеском језику. План и програм за учење енглеског као страног језика убраја их у веома важне наставне јединице. Нема сумње да је протеклих година значајан простор посвећен њиховом изучавању и употреби. У понуди је велики број специјализованих речника који додатно олакшавају усвајање граматике фразних глагола.

У овом раду посебан осврт дат је на основне поделе у формама фразних глагола, наводећи форме сачињене од глагола и партикула, предлошких фразних глагола, фразних глагола и модификујућих прилога, фразних глагола у комбинацији са посебним глаголским формама и клаузама.

Нудећи одговоре на неке од проблема изазваних идиоматским значењем фразних глагола и немогућношћу да се одгонетне значење глагола посматрањем његових саставних елемената, овај рад се посебно бави бројним идиоматским структурама фразних глагола које се састоје од глагола *-get*.

**Кључне речи:** облици фразних глагола, граматика фразних глагола, идиоматске форме, структуре са *-get*, Енглески језик.