

LEARNING PHRASAL VERBS USING AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

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Annotation:

Phrasal verbs make up an essential part of English lexical resources, however, teaching and learning them has been a serious problem for English language learners. This article suggests several approaches for teaching through contexts and other ways of how to enliven the English classroom.

Keywords: phrasal verb, authentic material, social media, listening, reading

Introduction:

What is a phrasal verb?

The **Longman Dictionary Of Contemporary English** defines the word in this way:

“A phrasal verb is a group of words that functions a verb and is made up of a verb with an adverb or preposition following it, for example ‘set off’ or ‘look after’.”

A phrasal verb is a lexical verb “which consists of a simple verb combined with one or more particles” with typically unpredictable meaning[1]. Comprehending them is usually regarded as extremely difficult, daunting, and tedious. The reason is probably because teaching phrasal verbs is intimidating and difficult for the teacher, and therefore confusing for the learner.[2].

Phrasal verbs are easily used by native English speakers but learning them has been a severe matter for foreign students who learn English as their second language.[3].

As reported by Arnaud & Savingnon, several phrasal verbs have colloquial senses, generally defined as the point that "the sense of the compound unit does not end in just grouping some of its components" [4].

Learning phrasal verbs is not so easy because of the large number of meanings of one word, for instance, the word put off has 6 different meanings.



One another reason why learners often find learning phrasal verbs difficult is the vast amount of them. The problem is it is hard to memorize them. For instance, on the website usingenglish.com, 37 different phrasal verbs are made up of the word come.

One effective way, which is also known as the ‘context’ method, is learning phrasal verbs with authentic materials.

What is an authentic material?

According to the **Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary**, “If something is authentic, it is real, true, or what people say it is”. Printed, audio, and video authentic material aims to connect the meaning to information, which is produced for real communication rather than for study purposes [5].

TV shows, newspapers, movie clips, songs, podcasts, and social media are examples of various authentic materials and they might be used to boost language skills by non-native learners. Learning phrasal verbs with authentic materials is an effective way to upgrade the knowledge of phrasal words. According to **Al-Sibai** students can acquire phrasal verbs only through extensive listening and writing by using authentic materials [6]

Using context materials is a way that is more motivational than ordinary syllabuses as students usually get bored with traditional coursebooks. Furthermore, several materials can be chosen according to the student’s interests, thus getting them to know better. Now, social media sites can become a great source of different learning materials. Instagram posts and TikTok videos can be used in the English classroom. The material does not have to contain complex vocabulary, it may have entertaining content as well. The students can tell what is happening on an Instagram post using some of the phrasal verbs which have to be explained by the teacher before the reading activity. After watching the TikTok video, the students should describe the movements using phrasal verbs such as spin around, slide back, etc. In this way, students are more engaged in using phrasal verbs in the context, which helps them to memorize better.

Listening to podcasts and songs can also be an excellent way to learn phrasal verbs. Various exercises, such as filling in the gaps, can be created from the song lyrics that a teacher prepares ahead of the lesson. In 2001, the students of the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages in India were given a fragmented text of the song,



and they had to complete the missed phrasal verbs by listening to the original song multiple times. The name of the song is “Another Day in Paradise” performed by Phil Collins. Once students finished the task, they were asked to guess the meaning of a phrasal verb they had written in the blanks. If it was tough enough for them, the teacher provided them with the context material, for example, they read several sentences where those phrasal verbs were used. This not only allows students to enjoy listening to music but also helps them learn to listen for meaning. They will learn the phrasal verb and know how to use it in different contexts [7].

Furthermore, there are tons of different audio podcasts that are accessible online. Any person can download and listen to it. Those recordings contain detailed explanations, and examples of usage in practice. Podcasts can be found anywhere on the Internet: on YouTube, Spotify, Google, etc. To give an example, one of the YouTube channels for improving English is **Learn English with Vanessa** contains a huge number of videos where she explains the meaning of phrasal verbs and how to use them. Alternatively, there are podcasts by the **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**, which can be downloaded and listened to anywhere anytime. Additionally, newspapers and magazines can also become an effective way to grasp confusing phrasal verbs. These kinds of materials are known to be the easiest to work with because the size of the text and its complexity can be regulated. Articles that contain explicit visual representations like pictures help students to understand better. During the class, if the students are asked to read the news article, they may try to express their attitude to the incident using the phrasal verbs from the text. Before this, learners should be given time to look through the text, note down new phrases, and look up in the dictionary. “Students are able to predict the meaning of a phrasal verb in a context despite seeing it for the first time.”[8]. In the study of the acquisition of English phrasal verbs by Japanese EFL learners, data showed that the frequency of the occurrence of certain structures promotes the correct use of prepositions, and thus students can acquire phrasal verbs through continuous use in context in the classrooms.[9].

Conclusion:

Teaching and learning phrasal verbs in context through authentic material is an effective and engaging way to help students learn and understand these complex



linguistic structures. By using real-world examples, students can see how phrasal verbs are used in natural language and gain a deeper understanding of their meanings and usage. Additionally, incorporating authentic material such as articles, songs, and videos allows students to practice and reinforce their understanding of phrasal verbs in a meaningful and practical way. All in all, integrating authentic material into phrasal verb instruction can improve students' language proficiency and confidence in using these important linguistic elements.

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