

VERB-PARTICLE CONSTRUCTIONS – AN OVERVIEW

- **VERB-PARTICLE CONSTRUCTION:** MWE made up of verb (head) and particle(s)
- **PARTICLES:** prepositions (e.g. *off, over, up with*) and spatial adverbs (e.g. *away, over*)
- **phrasal verbs** (*come in, send away*) vs. **prepositional verbs** (*come with, receive from*) vs. **phrasal-prepositional verbs** (*run away with, send out into*) [verb ± DO ± adverb ± preposition]
- Lexicalised (*put N off, put N to rights, keep tabs on N*) vs. institutionalised (*accuse N of*) verb-particle constructions

Type	V	DO	Adv	P	+NP
Phrasal (inst)	<i>come</i>	—	<i>in</i>	—	—
Phrasal (lex)	<i>crop</i>	—	<i>up</i>	—	—
Phrasal (inst)	<i>send</i>	SBY	<i>away</i>	—	—
Phrasal (lex)	<i>turn</i>	SBY	<i>down</i>	—	—
Prepositional (inst)	<i>come</i>	—	—	<i>with</i>	<i>me</i>
Prepositional (lex)	<i>come</i>	—	—	<i>across</i>	<i>a problem</i>
Prepositional (inst)	<i>deprive</i>	SBY	—	<i>of her savings</i>	<i>me</i>
Prepositional (lex)	<i>take</i>	SBY	—	<i>for</i>	<i>a fool</i>
Phrasal-prep (inst)	<i>run</i>	—	<i>away</i>	<i>with</i>	<i>the ball</i>
Phrasal-prep (lex)	<i>come</i>	—	<i>up</i>	<i>with</i>	<i>an answer</i>
Phrasal-prep (inst)	<i>send</i>	SBY	<i>out</i>	<i>into</i>	<i>the world</i>
Phrasal-prep (lex)	<i>put</i>	SBY	<i>up</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>election</i>

EFFECTS OF PARTICLES ON THEIR GOVERNING VERBS

- **Aspect:** the particle alters the aspect of the verb (*eat* vs. *eat up*, *play* vs. *play through*)
- **Valency:** the particle alters the valency of the verb (*eat* vs. *eat up*, *work* vs. *work off*, *hit* vs. *hit off*)
- **Misc:** conative – *hit* vs. *hit at*; reciprocal – *ring* vs. *ring back*; repetitive – *start* vs. *start over*

TRANSITIVITY AND OBJECT–PARTICLE ALTERNATION

- “Joined” usage: *look up the word*
- “Split” usage: *look the word up*
- Transitive phrasal verbs occur in both usages, transitive prepositional verbs in only joined usage.

TESTS FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN PHRASAL AND PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

- Pronouns occur in split usages with phrasal verbs, but in joined usages with prepositional verbs (*look me up* vs. **come me with*)
- Adverbs can often be inserted between the verb and particle with prepositional verbs, but not phrasal verbs (*come quickly with me* vs. **look quickly up the word/*look quickly the word up*)
- Phrasal verb particles cannot precede a relative pronoun when relativised, or WH-word when extraposed (**the word up which I looked* vs. *the person with whom I came*)

TESTS FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN LEXICALISED AND INSTITUTIONALISED VERB-PARTICLES

- **Single word paraphrasability:** *leave out=omit, put up with=tolerate*
BUT *go past=pass*
- **Identifiability:** *bring/take in/out* vs. *cut/slice up* vs. *come by*

TESTS FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN TRANSITIVE PREPOSITIONAL AND SIMPLE VERBS

- Fronting: *On whom did he call*
- Adverb insertability: *call unexpectedly on the dean*
- The PP can be repeated in response to a question, in coordinated constructions, etc.: *A: Who did he call on? B: (On) his mother, Did he call on the dean or (on) his mother?*
- Passivisability: only possible with prepositional verbs (*I was called on* vs. *a knife was cut with*)

PRODUCTIVITY

- Full productivity: *eat/gobble/drink/slurp up*
- Near-full productivity: *call/phone/ring/*telephone up*
- Partial productivity: *tell/slag/tick/*shout/*call/*talk off*
- Non-productivity: *start/*begin/*commence over*