

VERB-PREPOSITION COMBINATIONS – QGLS

- **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]

	DO	Particle		Prep
		Adv	P	Obj
Phrasal V	±	+	-	-
Prep V	±	-	+	+
Phrasal-prep V	±	+	+	+

VERB-PREPOSITION COMBINATIONS – CGE

- **Prepositional verbs:** select a specified transitive preposition (*congratulate on, refer to*)
- **Verb-particle constructions:** select a particle = an intransitive preposition, adjective or verb (*hand in, cut short, let go*)
- **Verbal idioms:** “an expression larger than a word whose meaning cannot be systematically derived from meanings that the parts have when used independently of each other” (*give up, take [sby] to task, pull [my] leg, make up [her] mind, have no idea*)

	DO	Prep		Other
		Intrans	Trans	
V-particle	±	+	-	-
Prep V	±	-	+	-
Verbal idioms	±	-	-	+

TRANSITIVITY AND OBJECT–PARTICLE ALTERNATION

- “Joined” usage: *look up the word, pay back [my father] [that loan]*
- “Split” usage: *look the word up, pay [my father] back [that loan], pay [my father] [that loan] back*
- Verb-particles occur in both usages, prepositional verbs in only joined usage

IDIOMATIC AND NON-IDIOMATIC VERB-PARTICLES

- Prepositional particles readily occur in both idiomatic and non-idiomatic (**free**) combinations (*bring down the price* vs. *bring down the bed*)

TESTS FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN VERB-PARTICLES AND PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

- The particle+NP order can be reversed, but Prep+NP usually cannot (*take the label off* vs. **jump the wall off*)
- Only transitive prepositions can be followed by unaccented personal pronouns (*jump off it* vs. **take off it*)
- Transitive PPs can normally be fronted or extracted, particle+NP sequences never can (*Off which wall did she jump* vs. **Off which label did she take*)
- Transitive pronouns can normally be repeated in coordinated phrases (*jump off the wall or off the balcony* vs. **take off the red label and off the yellow one*)
- A manner adverb can generally be inserted between the verb and transitive preposition (*jump fearlessly off the wall* vs. **take carefully off the label*)

SPLIT USAGES OF TRANSITIVE PREPOSITIONS

- Consider: *read through the prospectus/read the prospectus through, look over the letters/look the letters over*
- NOT verb-particles as: *read through it, look over them and read carefully through the prospectus, look quickly over the letters*
- This alternation is restricted to *through* and *over*

TESTS FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN VERBAL IDIOMS AND FREE COMBINATIONS

- Possible to front the preposition in free combinations, not in verbal idioms (*down it went* vs. **down it broke*)
- Possible to insert a modifier between the verb and preposition with free combinations, but generally not in idioms (*climb slowly up* vs. **give slowly up*)
- Order alternation less readily available with verbal idioms (*turn people off/*turn off people, answer someone back/*answer back someone*)
- **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*

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*