Hi. I’m Marianne Raynaud. My goal is to help you improve your spoken English. So let’s get going.

In this podcast we will continue practicing phrasal verbs. As I explained in podcast No. 41, phrasal verbs are followed by one or two postpositions. Phrasal verbs often have the same meaning as academic verbs with Latin or Greek roots. Learners of English tend to think that verbs with Latin or Greek roots are easier to recall, as they are similar to verbs in other languages. But English speakers prefer using phrasal verbs in colloquial, everyday language. To become more comfortable in spoken English, it is important to learn some basic phrasal verbs.

Here is the first set. We will give you the more academic verb or its definition followed by the equivalent phrasal verb and its postposition. Listen and repeat.

use all that was left of something → run out of something
postpone something → put something off
resemble someone → take after someone
cancel something → call something off

Now I will give the academic verb or the definition, and you will give the phrasal verb and its postposition. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

use all that was left of something → run out of something
postpone something → put something off
resemble someone → take after someone
cancel something → call something off

In the first application exercise we ask you to change the sentence by substituting the equivalent phrasal verb and its postposition for the more formal verb. Listen to the example.

I say: We have used all the coffee that was left.
You say: We have run out of coffee.
I say: They postponed the match.
You say: They put off the match.

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

We have used all the coffee that was left. She resembles her mother.
We have run out of coffee. She takes after her mother.
They postponed the match. He had to cancel the concert.
They put off the match. He had to call off the concert
Your English No. 42 Phrasal Verbs 2

Now listen and repeat this short poem. (Here the syllables to stress are in bold.)

Tonight I ran out of coffee and wine
‘Cause I keep putting off all chores of this kind
Don’t take after me, don’t wait till day ends
Or you’ll have to call off a dinner with friends.

Here is a second set of phrasal verbs. We will give you the more academic verb or a definition followed by the equivalent phrasal verb and its postposition. Listen and repeat.

remove something  \(\rightarrow\) take something off
use something so much that it is damaged  \(\rightarrow\) wear something out
call someone  \(\rightarrow\) ring someone up
take possession of a company  \(\rightarrow\) take over a company

Now I will give the academic verb or a definition, and you will give the phrasal verb.

remove something  \(\rightarrow\) take something off
use something so much that it is damaged  \(\rightarrow\) wear something out
call someone  \(\rightarrow\) ring someone up
take possession of a company  \(\rightarrow\) take over a company

In the next application exercise we ask you to change the sentence by substituting the equivalent phrasal verb for the more formal verb or its definition. Listen to the example.

I say: He removed the wrapping to open the box.
You say: He took off the wrapping to open the box.

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

He removed the wrapping to open the box.
He took off the wrapping to open the box.
The dog used the rug so much that it was damaged.
The dog wore out the rug.
She often calls her best friend.
She often rings up her best friend.
A rival firm is taking possession of our company.
A rival firm is taking over our company.

Now listen and repeat this short poem. If you learn our poems, you’ll remember these phrasal verbs without difficulty. (Here the syllables to stress are in bold.)

After my run I took off my shoes
I had worn them out, they were of no use
I rang up the shop to know what they had
The firm’s been taken over, it’s ever so sad!

Now I’ll say the eight lines of the two verses once again. Try to speak together with me.

That’s the end of our podcast. For more oral practice try our other series QualityTime-ESL” for grammar & “5 Minute TOPs for fun with lyrics. Bye for now, and thank you for listening.

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