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Phrasal Verbs - To Look

Hi there! I’m Marianne Raynaud. I want to help you master English grammar through oral exercises. If you find this podcast difficult, have a look at earlier episodes in this series that might be better suited to your needs. For additional, practice with a variety of topics, also try our series called “Your English”.

Phrasal verbs are verbs that are followed by one or two prepositions, called postpositions, which change their original meaning. For example we all know the verb “look” which means “using one’s eyes”, but “look after” means “take care of” and “look into” means “examine”. With phrasal verbs we recommend that you study their meanings in your own language. Look them up in a paper or online dictionary and then memorize their meanings. If you do this, these exercises will become much easier.

Listen and Repeat

I am looking for my keys; I can’t find them anywhere.
Look out! You could fall here on the icy sidewalk.
She’ll look after the children when you go to work.
He has been looking forward to this trip for years.
They just looked on; they didn't take part in the show.
Look it up on the Web if you don't know the meaning.
I looked up to my brother, because he was so good at sports.
I'd like to look over your report before deciding what to do.
She looks down on us, because she lives in an exclusive area.
I'll look into your request, but I can’t promise anything.

Now in the next exercise listen to the sentence with the word “blank” in the place of the postposition, and then say the whole sentence correctly. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

To practice some more I will say a sentence, which means the same as the sentence with the phrasal verb but contains another verb. You will say the sentence with “look” plus a position. Listen to the examples.

I say: I’m searching for my keys.
You say: I’m looking for my keys.

I say: Be careful! You could fall.
You say: Look out! You could fall.

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

I’m searching for my keys.
I’m looking for my keys.

Be careful! You could fall.
Look out! You could fall.

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She’ll take care of the children when you go to work.
She’ll look after the children when you go to work.
He’s been thinking about this trip with eager anticipation.
He’s been looking forward to this trip.
They just watched; they didn't take part in the show.
They just looked on; they didn't take part in the show.

That was difficult I admit. Doing exercises orally is far more arduous than doing the same ones as written work. But let’s try the last five.

Search for it on the Web if you don't know the meaning.
Look it up on the Web if you don't know the meaning
I admired my brother, because he was so good at sports.
I looked up to my brother, because he was so good at sports.
I'd like to examine your report before deciding.
I'd like to look over your report before deciding.
She scorns us, because she lives in an exclusive area.
She looks down on us because she lives in an exclusive area.
I'll take a look at your request, but I can’t promise anything.
I'll look into your request, but I can’t promise anything.

That’s the end of this episode. Now I think you can use many postpositions with the verb “look”. Visit www.qualitytime-esl.com for the script. Other exercises on phrasal verbs will come in future podcasts and in our other series called “Your English” where we will offer additional practice with phrasals used in context. Teachers interested in more effective teaching can order “QualityTime-ESL: The Digital Resource Book” on a DVD or get it immediately in a slightly lighter downloadable version. Bye for now, and don’t forget to keep smiling.