

PARTICLES WITH REGULAR MEANINGS

On and up

Although it is often difficult to see any meaning in the particles that go with phrasal verbs, as you learn more of them you will see that there are some common meanings. In this part of the unit, you will learn some common meanings of the particles *on* and *up*.

Study tip

Try to look out for more phrasal verbs that have particles with the meanings you learn in this unit.

Sound natural

If you hear someone using a verb for speaking with *on* (e.g. *drone on*, *rabbit on*, *witter on*), it means that the speaker is talking too much, and the people listening are bored or annoyed.

Study tip

Remember that *keep on* is followed by a verb in a continuous form.

1 These verbs are all used with the preposition *on*. The phrasal verbs they make are all connected with continuing something. Complete the sentences with a verb from the box.

drone • keep • urge • struggle • drag

- We are going to _____ **on** fighting until we get justice for our friends.
- I'm really fed up with listening to Bill _____ **on** about his holidays.
- Do you think her speech is going to _____ **on** much longer?
- The car was making strange noises, but we managed to _____ **on** until we found a garage.
- He started hitting the other boy, his friends shouting and cheering to _____ him **on**.

2 These verbs all use the preposition *up*. The phrasal verbs they make are all connected with making people or things more attractive, interesting or happy. Complete the sentences with a verb from the box.

perk • dress • smarten • do • liven

- We had to _____ **up** in our best clothes when Grandma came to visit.
- They've bought an old cottage and they're going to _____ it **up**.
- Lucy seems a bit down, but she'll soon _____ **up** when I tell her I've booked us a holiday in Greece.
- The party was really dull, so he decided to _____ it **up** a bit by making people play silly games.
- He needs to _____ **up** if he wants a permanent job here.

3 Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

- If you **dress up** for a special occasion, you put on nice clothes.
- If you **perk up** after a meal, you start to feel better and more lively.
- If you are doing something very difficult, but decide to **struggle on**, it becomes easy.
- If you **urge** someone **on** to do something, you give them encouragement to help them do it.
- If someone asks you to **smarten up**, they mean that you are being really stupid and need to act more sensibly.
- If you **keep on** making mistakes, you only make one mistake.
- If someone **drone on** about their work, they speak for a long time and what they say is interesting.
- If a concert **drags on**, it seems very long and boring.
- If you **liven up** an event, you make it more interesting and more fun.
- If you are **doing up** an old house, you are repairing it and making it in good condition again.

4 These three people are telling their friends about their holidays. Put their sentences in the correct order. Then listen to the recording to check your answers. Notice how the speakers use slightly informal phrasal verbs.



Len

- The last thing I want to do on holiday is listen to someone **drone on** about ancient ruins, but I agreed just to please her. _____
- That's when I actually started enjoying the holiday! _____
- This year, my wife persuaded me that we should go on a history cruise around the Greek islands. _____
- On top of that, the lecturer on the ship was awful. As the week **dragged on**, I started skipping the talks and playing cards with the crew instead. _____
- I soon regretted it. We were expected to **dress up** for dinner every night, and I hate that sort of formality. _____



Rosa

- It was much harder than we had expected. The road was so steep that I **kept on** having to stop to get my breath back. So did most other people. _____
- When we got back to the hotel, we were absolutely exhausted, but we soon **perked up** when we saw the feast they'd prepared for our dinner! _____
- But he was really encouraging and we **struggled on** to the top of this huge mountain. The views were absolutely fantastic, and we were really pleased with ourselves. _____
- My boyfriend and I went on a cycling holiday to Italy this year. On one of the days we did a ride into the Dolomite mountains. _____
- In fact, if the tour guide hadn't been there to **urge us on**, I don't think we'd have made it. _____



Chuck

- The huts were fine, but very basic – all the time we were walking, we barely washed or changed our clothes, and we were pretty dirty. _____
- So after a week of lying on the beach in Corsica, we decided to **liven up** our holiday with a mountain trek. _____
- So we had to **smarten ourselves up** a bit at the end, since we'd booked two nights in a luxury hotel as a reward for all our hard work. _____
- Even though we are in our seventies, my wife and I get bored very easily and we like to keep active. _____
- We put a few things in our rucksack and set off, staying in old shepherds' huts that had been **done up** to provide accommodation for walkers. _____

5 There is one mistake in each sentence. Find the mistakes and correct them.

- If Joe would perk himself up he'd be a lovely looking man.
- A lovely bunch of flowers will smarten up any room.
- I hate the way she drags on about how wonderful her children are.
- We were very tired, but we managed to drone on until we reached the hostel.
- This puzzle is really difficult, but I'm going to struggle on trying.
- An angry crowd livened the protesters up as they smashed down the wall.
- My dad has says we can dress up my bedroom in the summer holidays.
- Whatever his illness is, it's been urging on for a long time now.
- After I watered the plants, they soon kept on.
- My grandmother always expected us to do up to go to church.

CLASSROOM EXTRA

In pairs, ask students to pick three or four of the phrasal verbs they have learned and write a short description of a holiday experience (either real or invented).