

CHAMBERS

English

DICTIONARY OF PHRASAL VERBS

钱伯斯

英语短语动词词典

外语教学与研究出版社
Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press

Prentice Hall, Inc.

CHAMBERS
—— *English* ——
DICTIONARY OF
Phrasal
Verbs

钱伯斯
英语短语动词词典

Compiled by
Kay Cullen
Howard Sargeant



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



Prentice Hall, Inc.

(京)新登字 155 号

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

钱伯斯英语短语动词词典/(英)卡伦 (Cullen, K.)编写.

—北京:外语教学与研究出版社,1998

ISBN 7-5600-1540-9

I. 钱… II. 卡… III. 英语-动词-词典 IV. H314.2-61

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 34231 号

京权图字: 01—98—2652

Copyright © Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd 1996

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher.

本书由外语教学与研究出版社和美国 Prentice Hall Inc. 合作出版, 未经出版者书面许可, 本书的任何部分不得以任何方式复制或抄袭。

版权所有 翻印必究

Chambers English Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs

钱伯斯英语短语动词词典

编写: ~~Kay Cullen~~ Howard Sargeant

外语教学与研究出版社出版发行

(北京西三环北路 19 号)

北京大学印刷厂印刷

新华书店总店北京发行所经销

开本 850×1168 1/32 14 印张

1998 年 12 月第 1 版 1998 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 1—5000 册

* * *

ISBN 7-5600-1540-9/H·864

定价: 24.90 元

出版说明

本词典是外语教学与研究出版社和 Prentice Hall, Inc. 合作出版的钱伯斯词典系列中的一本。钱伯斯词典系列包括《钱伯斯学生英语词典》、《钱伯斯基础英语词典》、《钱伯斯英语短语动词词典》和《钱伯斯英语惯用语词典》。这四种词典释义简洁明了,通俗易懂,编排醒目,使用便捷,信息量大,内容权威,全部由英语词典专家依据最新的英国国家语料库精心编纂而成。英国国家语料库是在牛津大学出版社、朗文公司、Chambers Harrap 等几家著名出版机构及牛津大学计算机中心和大英图书馆共同倡议下成立的。语料库应用计算机技术不断更新存储信息,以求最真实地反映当代英语语言的面貌。另一方面,钱伯斯词典系列又各具特色,内容上相互补充,构成一套完整的英语学习词典,非常适合我国广大英语学习者使用。

外语教学与研究出版社

1998 年 12 月

INTRODUCTION

One of the features of English that presents greatest difficulty for foreign learners is the use of **idiomatic constructions**, or phrases - frequent and almost instinctive for a native speaker - whose meaning is not deducible, or is not readily deducible, from their constituent parts. These constructions can be broadly categorized as **idioms** and **phrasal verbs**. Understanding and being able to use these constructions correctly in spoken and written English is essential if the learner is to develop a complete command of the language.

Idioms or 'fixed phrases', with their definitions and examples of their use in English, are dealt with in the companion volume to this dictionary, **Chambers Dictionary of Idioms**.

This dictionary concentrates on the second category, **phrasal verbs**.

What is a phrasal verb?

A phrasal verb is a short two-word (or sometimes three-word) phrase made up of a verb, such as **get, give, make, pull** and **see**, and an adverb (an adverbial particle) or a preposition, such as **in, off, on, out** and **up**. Learners find them difficult for two reasons: (1) meaning, and (2) verb and particle order.

1 Meaning

Strictly speaking, a phrasal verb is a form of idiom - that is, it has a meaning which 'is different from the sum of its parts'. In other words, knowing what the verb and adverb or preposition mean will not necessarily help you understand the combination when they are used together as a phrasal verb. For example, you may know the meaning of the verb **polish**, but may not know that the combination 'to **polish off**' means to finish something quickly and easily. In the sentence '*He polished off the last of the cakes*', clearly, **polish off** is a unit of meaning; omit the 'off' and the sentence '*He polished the last of the cakes*' no longer makes much sense. Similarly, you may know the meaning of the verb **act**, but may not know that when someone **acts up** they behave badly, especially by being disruptive or uncooperative, as in '*The children were acting up again*'. The sentence '*The children were acting again*' has a wholly different meaning.

Learners will also encounter many *verb + adverb* and *verb + preposition* combinations that are not strictly 'idiomatic', that have either a literal meaning with a related idiomatic meaning, or a semi-idiomatic meaning.

which may be quite easily deduced from the meaning of the verb alone. Although these are not strictly 'phrasal verbs', learners may nevertheless, quite understandably, expect to find them in a dictionary of phrasal verbs, so they have been included in this dictionary.

This dictionary therefore includes:

1. **'idiomatic', or non-deducible phrasal verbs.** This category includes phrasal verbs or senses of the verb + particle in which the particle cannot be dropped without changing the meaning completely.
2. **combinations that have a literal meaning,** and also idiomatic or semi-idiomatic senses. Examples include: **hold down**, **push around**, and **put up**.
3. **combinations in which the particle functions as a intensifier,** suggesting the idea of completeness or thoroughness, without adding much to the basic meaning of the verb, as in **finish off**, **tidy up** and **eat up**. The use of a particle as an intensifier is one of the commonest ways of creating new phrasal verbs.
4. **verbs which are always, or nearly always, accompanied by a particular adverb or preposition,** as in **rely on**, **abstain from**, **apprise of** and **consult with**.

2 Verb and particle order

Learners may find phrasal verbs difficult to use because they are not sure where to put the adverbial particle. Several different positions may be possible, or there may just be one fixed position. For example, in the phrasal verb **eat up**, in its transitive uses, **up** can come immediately after the verb, as in: *His mum told him to eat up his lunch*, or after the object, as in: *Amy ate her lunch up*. The object is regularly placed between the verb and particle when the object is a pronoun: *She ate it up*. When **eat up** is used intransitively, **up** always follows the verb: *Come on, Amy, eat up quickly!*

In this dictionary, there are no complicated codes to show the position of the particle, or whether a phrasal verb is transitive or intransitive. These are shown in this dictionary in two ways: (1) through the full-sentence definitions, and (2) in examples.

Full-sentence definitions show the phrasal verbs in context, and allow the learner to see immediately whether they are transitive or intransitive, and where the particle goes. Further usages - other common transitive or intransitive usages, and any alternative position for the particle - are shown in the examples. Showing syntactic behaviour in these ways allows the learner to see how the phrasal verb is used and to copy this usage in their own speech or writing.

Phrasal verbs in everyday speech and writing

The English language is constantly changing and evolving: new words and phrases enter the language all the time, and this new vocabulary includes phrasal verbs, such as *'grease out'* (= to pig out on greasy food). Native speakers of English intuitively create phrasal verbs, and intuitively understand those created by fellow native speakers, and this is naturally something that learners cannot do with anything like the same instinctive ease.

To help learners with this aspect of language use, this dictionary includes special entries on the adverbial particles and prepositions used to form phrasal verbs. These entries give the broad range of meanings that each particle has, and show which of the particles are used by native speakers to form new phrasal verbs. Examples of these phrasal verbs are taken from *Chambers WordTrack*, the Chambers new-words monitoring programme. New phrasal verbs from this source are usually informal in register, and are clearly labelled to show this.

While these entries may not make a learner use phrasal verbs intuitively like a native speaker, they will help learners who wish to develop their knowledge of how phrasal verbs are formed and how they function in English. By showing the range of meanings each particle has, and identifying those particles and meanings that are used in modern English to form phrasal verbs, we hope that learners will begin to understand phrasal verbs more easily, and feel more confident in their own use of them.

Chambers language databases

Chambers Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs has been compiled using computerized language resources consisting of: **Chambers WordTrack** and the **British National Corpus**.

Chambers WordTrack is a database of one of the most authoritative new-word monitoring programmes, and collects about 500 new words and meanings every month: approximately 40 000 citations are being monitored for inclusion in Chambers dictionaries and thesauruses at any one time. New words, usages and meanings are taken from a wide range of sources - newspapers, magazines, contemporary fiction, radio, television and film - from Britain, North America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, India and the Far East, reflecting the use of English as an international language.

The **British National Corpus** is a database of modern English. It contains 100 million words of both written and spoken English, from a similarly wide range of recent sources, including books, magazines, newspapers, radio and television, formal meetings and everyday conversations.

Access to such a language corpus has revolutionized dictionary-making, helping us learn a lot of new things about what words mean and how they are used together.

How are the Chambers language databases used in this dictionary?

Learners can benefit directly from this new-found knowledge. Language databases help our task in the following ways:

- **new phrasal verbs**

Chambers WordTrack monitors new phrasal verbs that are being invented all the time and used by native speakers of English.

- **new meanings**

The language databases frequently reveal new meanings.

- **collocation**

They show us which words are normally associated with a particular phrasal verb. For example, a search on *patter about* demonstrates that it is usually small or light people or animals that *patter about*.

- **context**

They enable us to see what sort of situations phrasal verbs are used in.

- **register**

They tell us which phrasal verbs are mainly used in informal situations and avoided in more formal situations. Most new phrasal verbs are either highly informal or slang.

- **gender, age, status**

They allow us to see what kinds of people use certain phrasal verbs. They show us, for example, that many new and highly informal phrasal verbs are used by young people, such as the new phrasal verbs that are connected with drug-taking: *skin up* (= to roll a joint), *spliff up* (= to smoke a joint), *coke up* (= to get high on cocaine).

The language databases and examples

In addition, the language databases have been used extensively in this dictionary to provide material for examples. In particular, **Chambers WordTrack** has been used to provide examples of new phrasal verbs in the entries for the adverbial particles. These examples help show meaning, collocation and context and illustrate level of language. Where possible, material is authentic and has been taken directly from the language databases. In some cases, however, examples have been modified to keep them clear and useful, for instance where they contain obscure references or vocabulary.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Key to the phonetic symbols used in the dictionary

Consonant

p	/pi:/	pea
t	/ti:/	tea
k	/ki:/	key
b	/bi:/	bee
d	/daɪ/	dye
g	/gaɪ/	guy
m	/mi:/	me
n	/nju:/	new
ŋ	/sɒŋ/	song
θ	/θɪn/	thin
ð	/ðen/	then
f	/fan/	fan
v	/van/	van
s	/si:/	see
z	/zu:m/	zoom
ʃ	/ʃi:/	she
ʒ	/beɪʒ/	beige
ʧ	/i:ʧ/	each
dʒ	/edʒ/	edge
h	/hat/	hat
l	/lei/	lay
r	/rei/	ray
j	/jes/	yes
w	/wei/	way

Vowels

Short vowels

ɪ	/bɪd/	bid
ɛ	/bed/	bed
ʌ	/bad/	bad
ʌ	/bʌd/	bud
ɒ	/pɒt/	pot
ʊ	/pʊt/	put
ə	/ə'baʊt/	about

Long vowels

i:	/bi:d/	bead
ɑ:	/hɑ:m/	harm
ɔ:	/ɔ:l/	all
u:	/bu:t/	boot
ɜ:	/bɜ:d/	bird

Diphthongs

eɪ	/beɪ/	bay
aɪ	/baɪ/	buy
ɔɪ	/boɪ/	boy
aʊ	/haʊ/	how
oʊ	/goʊ/	go
ɪə	/bɪə(r)/	beer
ɛə	/beə(r)/	bare
ʊə	/puə(r)/	poor

Notes

1. The stress mark (') is placed before the stressed syllable (*eg* *fizzle* /'fɪzəl/)
2. The symbol '(r)' is used to represent *r* when it comes at the end of a word, to indicate that it is pronounced when followed by a vowel (as in the phrase *fritter away* /frɪtər ə'wei/).

ORGANIZATION OF ENTRIES

Verb parts – the third person singular, the present participle, past tense and past participle are shown for all verbs.

Cross references: references are made to other phrasal verbs in the dictionary if information is given there, or if they are useful for comparison.

wake /weɪk/: **wakes, waking, woke**
/wɒk/, **woken** /'wɒkən/

Note that in American English **waked** is often used as the past tense and past participle of **wake**.

Pronunciation is given for the headword verb and irregular parts as necessary.

Grammatical notes follow the headword verb.

tail /teɪ/: **tails, tailing, tailed**

tail away | **see** | **tail off**

tail back

Traffic that is **tailing back** has formed a long queue that is moving slowly or waiting to move: *A huge queue of cars and lorries tailed back from the scene of the accident.* [compare **snarl up**]

• **noun tailback**: **tailbacks**: *a five-mile tailback on the M5.*

Derivatives: nouns and adjectives formed from phrasal verbs are given after the phrasal verb.

swivel /'swɪvəl/: **swivels, swivelling** (AmE **swiveling**), **swivelled** (AmE **swiveled**)

American spellings are shown in brackets.

swivel round

You **swivel round** when you quickly turn to face in the opposite direction:

She swivelled round to face me. □ *She'd swivelled round in her chair.* [same as

swing round]

Synonyms and antonyms are given at the end of the definitions, where appropriate.

Examples supported by the British National Corpus show the range of ways a phrasal verb can be used, and show where the adverbial particle can go.

Definitions are numbered and written as whole sentences, showing the phrasal verb being used in a natural and grammatically correct way. No abbreviations except AmE, BrE and eg (meaning 'for example') are used in the dictionary.

wait up

1 You **wait up** when you don't go to bed at night at your usual time because you are waiting for someone's arrival or return, or some other event: *My mother always waits up for me, even when I come in after midnight.* □ *I'll be back late; don't wait up for me.*

[same as **stay up**] 2 (informal) If you are about to leave or are ahead of someone and they say '**wait up**' they are asking or telling you to wait for them: '*Wait up, Ken, I'll just be a minute.*' [same as **hang on** (informal)]

Register labels: phrasal verbs, synonyms and antonyms are labelled for register (for example, *informal* or *formal*) where necessary.

Adverbial particles: entries for adverbial particles are in panels.

without /wɪðaʊt/

Without is a preposition.

It is a fairly common word in English, but it only occurs in three phrasal verbs in this dictionary; **do without**, **go without** and **reckon without**; all of which have the idea of a lack or absence of something as part of their meaning.

CONTENTS

Contributors	<i>vi</i>
Introduction	<i>vii</i>
Pronunciation guide	<i>xi</i>
Organization of entries	<i>xii</i>
The dictionary	1

a

aback /ə'bak/

Aback is an adverb.

In the past, **aback** was a common adverb used in many of the ways that *back* is used now. In modern English, **aback** only appears in the phrasal verb **take aback**.

abide /ə'baɪd/: **abides, abiding, abided**

abide by

You **abide by** something such as a rule or a decision when you do what is ordered or what has been decided: *Israel knew that any failure to abide by the terms of the treaty would bring international condemnation.* [same as **keep to, stick to, observe; opposite flout, defy**]

abound /ə'baʊnd/: **abounds, abounding, abounded**

abound in or abound with (formal)

A place **abounds in** something, or **abounds with** it, when there is a large quantity or large numbers of it in that place: *The island abounds in lovely walks and beautiful scenery.* □ *This part of town abounds with bars, restaurants and nightclubs.* [same as **be full of**]

about see panel on next page

above see panel on next page

absorb /əb'zɔ:b/: **absorbed**

absorb in

You **are absorbed in** something when it holds your attention completely, so that you're not aware of what is happening around you: *The men were so absorbed in their game that they didn't see us slip away.* [same as **be taken up with, be engrossed in**]

abstain /əb'steɪn/: **abstains, abstaining, abstained**

abstain from (formal)

You **abstain from** something that you enjoy, such as food or alcohol, when you choose not to have it; you **abstain from** doing something when you don't do it: *His doctor told him to abstain from cigarettes and alcohol.* □ *Several members of parliament abstained from voting.* [same as **leave off, refrain from** (formal)]

accede /ək'sɪd/: **accedes, acceding, acceded**

accede to (formal)

1 You **accede to** a request when you agree to it: *The French government acceded to her request to be buried at Malmaison.* □ *The company has acceded to most of the strikers' demands.* [same as **grant; opposite turn down, refuse**] 2 You **accede to** a job, position or title when you gain it: *He had significant achievements behind him when he acceded to the job.*

about /ə'baʊt/

About is an adverb and a preposition. It is a very common word in English and is widely used in combination with verbs. It often has very little meaning at all, being used simply to link the verb with its object, as in **think about**, **talk about**, **know about** and **worry about**. **Around** or **round** can usually be substituted for **about** with no change of meaning.

1 MOVEMENT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS

About refers to movement in several different directions, often movement without aim or purpose, as in **move about** and **look about**, and as in **drive about**, **toss about** and **tear about** in the following examples: *He continued to drive about his garden and woods.* □ *Any topic under the sun could be tossed about in the course of a morning's talk.* □ *They*

buy a jeep and think they can go tearing about the countryside.

2 ACTION IN DIFFERENT PLACES

In a second sense, closely related to the first, and suggesting the same lack of plan or pattern, **about** refers to action taken in different places, as in **ask about**, or action that results in things being put in different places, as in **scatter about**. This action is often rough or violent, as in **throw about** and **hurl about**. In this sense, too, **about** frequently combines with verbs to form new combinations, such as **snuffle about**, **fling about** and **swap about**, in the examples: *There was the sound of something snuffling about in the soil.* □ *Paintings were pulled off the walls and flung about all over the room.* □ *There will inevitably be some changes; displays will get swapped about.*

above /ə'baʊ/

Above is a preposition and an adverb. Although it is a very common word in English, it is only found in a small number of phrasal verbs.

1 HIGHER POSITION OR LEVEL

The literal sense of **above** relates to a higher position or level, as in **get above** and **tower above** in the examples: *The noise has to get above a certain level before it can be classed a nuisance.* □ *The closer he got to the lamp, the bigger the shadow grew, until finally it spread across the ceiling and towered above him.*

2 BETTER OR MORE IMPORTANT POSITION

These literal combinations often have an extended meaning in which **above** refers to a better or more important position, so that when you **get above** yourself you behave as if you think you are better than others, and when one performer **towers above** all others they are considered by everyone to be the best by far.

One thing **accords with** another if it fits with, agrees with, or corresponds to, it: *The court has the ability to overturn legislation that does not accord with the constitution.* □ *This would accord with commonsense.* [same as **fit in with**, **correspond to**, **correspond with**; **opposite be at odds with**]

account /ə'kaʊnt/: **accounts**, **accounting**, **accounted**

account for

1 You **account for** something that has happened when you explain it: *He couldn't account for his behaviour.* □ *It was an odd feeling, and perhaps accounts for why I delayed my departure so long.* □ *What accounts for the Tories' success in winning again against the odds?* 2 Someone can be **accounted for** when you know where they are, and know that they have not been harmed or damaged: *The fire brigade said everyone in the building had been accounted for.* 3 Something **accounts for** a proportion of something if it amounts to or constitutes that proportion: *Fast food accounts for almost*

accord /ə'kɔ:d/: **accords**, **according**, **accorded**

accord with (formal)

3 LACK OF ACTIVITY, PURPOSE OR PATTERN

In many informal phrasal verbs, **about** refers to lack of activity, as in **hang about**. Laziness is often suggested, as in **laze about**, **idle about** and **loaf about**. Lack of purpose or pattern is suggested in phrasal verbs such as **stand about** and **wander about**, combining with the idea of foolishness or irresponsibility in phrasal verbs such as **lark about**, **mess about**, **play about** and **muck about**.

About in this sense sometimes combines with verbs to form new phrasal verbs, most of which are very informal or vulgar, as in *fanny about* in the following example: *He didn't see the point in fannying about [= messing about] with the guitars and drum kits.*

4 HAPPENING

In a small group of phrasal verbs, **about** refers to something happening or being

caused, as in **bring about**, **come about** and **set about**.

5 TURNING

In a fairly formal use that is perhaps also a little old-fashioned, **about** can refer to the action of turning to face the opposite direction, as in **turn about** and **face about**, and is similar in this sense to **around** and **round**.

6 SURROUNDING OR ENCLOSING

In some phrasal verbs, with a slightly formal or literary use, **about** is used like **round** and **around** to refer to something being surrounded or enclosed, as in **throw about**. In this sense, it is occasionally used to form new phrasal verbs, such as *gather about* in the example: *Alice stepped gingerly over the stones with her skirts gathered about her.*

one meal in every ten served in the UK.

□ *Forest burning currently accounts for 20% of the world's annual production of carbon dioxide. [same as **make up**, **represent**, **constitute**]* **4** A sum of money is **accounted for** when a record has been kept of how it has been, or will be, spent: *The finance director has discovered that £13.7m of funds could not be accounted for. [compare **budget for**]*

across see panel on next page

acquaint /ə'kweɪnt/: **acquaints**, **acquainting**, **acquainted**

acquaint with (formal)

1 You are **acquainted with** a person if you know them or have met them: *He tells me he is already acquainted with Mr Miller and Mr Rand.* **2** You are **acquainted with** something if you have some knowledge of it or are familiar with it: *You'll need to be acquainted with all the details.* □ *Experienced soldiers are fully acquainted with danger and know how to assess it.*

act /akt/: **acts**, **acting**, **acted**

act for

1 A lawyer or agent **acts for** you when he or she represents your interests in business dealings or discussions: *My husband and I have a solicitor who acts for both of us. [same as **represent**]* **2** You **act for** someone when you do their job because they are temporarily unable to: *In her absence, Jack Morris will act for her in negotiations with The Unico Corporation. [same as **stand in for**, **fill in for** (formal)]*

act on or act upon

1 You **act on** or **act upon** advice or suggestions when you do what is advised or suggested: *An experienced nurse can act on her own initiative.* □ *In a constitutional monarchy, the Queen acts on the advice of her Prime Minister. [same as **follow**]* **2** Something such as a drug, or an influence present in your surroundings, **acts on** you when it has an effect on you: *Caffeine is a stimulant which acts on the nervous system.* □ (computers) *The 'arrange icons' command acts upon the active window only.*

act out

1 You **act out** your feelings, emotions or fears when you express them in your behaviour, often unconsciously: *He is a man who acts out his principles.* □ *Teenagers sometimes act out their distress by running away.* **2** You **act out** an event or a story when you perform it as a play or a piece of theatre: *Children act out in miniature the dramas of adult life.* [same as **play out**, **enact**]

act up (informal)

1 Something such as a machine is **acting up** when it's not working properly: *The speakers seem alright, but the tape-deck's acting up again.* **2** Someone, especially a child, is **acting up** when they are behaving badly or uncooperatively, and causing trouble: *She couldn't trust him not to act up when something upset him.* [same as **play up** (informal)]

add /ad/: adds, adding, added**add in**

You **add something in** when you include it: *I'd add in a couple of paragraphs about her family background, just to give the character a little history.* □ *Stir the sauce until it thickens, and add in a little chopped parsley before you serve.*

add on

You **add something on** when you include it or attach it as an extra: *Add on £2.50 for postage and packing.* □ *You have space enough at the back of the house to add a conservatory on later, if you decide to.*

● **noun add-on: add-ons**

An **add-on** is any extra item or feature that you can get to add to something you already have: *This video-games machine comes with a cassette recorder and an add-on keyboard, which can be used for word-processing.* □ *You may also be able to get legal insurance as an add-on to a household policy for as little as £12.50.* □ *You can buy add-on*

across /ə'kros/

Across is a preposition and an adverb. It only occurs in a few phrasal verbs in this dictionary, with meanings that relate to movement from one side of something to the other, to discovering something, and to telling or communicating something.

1 MOVEMENT FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER

Its literal meaning relates to movement from one side of something to the other, as in **run across** and **come across**. In this sense the appearance of new phrasal verbs is very common with **about** combining readily with many verbs of movement, such as **flood across**, **reach across** and **coil across** in the following examples: *The army came flooding across an unguarded frontier.* □ *He reached across and wiped a spot of ketchup from John's chin.* □ *She parked the car near where a stream coiled across the salt marsh.*

In an extension of this literal meaning, **across** is quite widely used to form new phrasal verbs, such as **gaze across**, **lean**

across and **glance across**, as in the following examples: *He gazed across a sea of Union Flags.* □ *Fenn leaned across and flashed his card at the constable.* □ *She glanced scornfully across at Christina.*

Over can be substituted for **across** in most phrasal verbs with this sense, with little or no change of meaning.

2 DISCOVERING

Across combines with verbs to refer to the act of discovering something, usually unexpectedly or by chance, as in **come across**, **run across** and **stumble across**. Unlike senses 1 and 3, **over** cannot be substituted for **across** here.

3 TELLING OR COMMUNICATING

Across also relates to something being told or communicated, and particularly to the impression created or received, as in **put across**, **get across** and **come across**.

Over can be substituted for **across** in most phrasal verbs with this sense, with little or no change of meaning.

memory for your computer at \$700 for 16 megabytes.

add to

One thing **adds to** another, or **adds** something **to** it, if it increases it: *The darkness of the night, the rain; it all adds to the atmosphere.* □ *The vast arched glass ceiling adds to the sense of space and grandeur.*

add together

1 You **add numbers together** when you combine them to make a greater number: *When you add together all the fees she receives from her various consultancies it makes a very healthy income indeed.* [same as **add up**, **count up**, **tot up** (informal)] 2 You **add** several things **together** when you combine them or mix them: *When added together, the gloss and matt paints give you a kind of eggshell finish.* [same as **blend**]

add up

1 You **add up** numbers or amounts when you calculate their total: *You haven't added the figures up correctly.* □ *You'll save 30p a week, and it all adds up.* [same as **count up**, **tot up** (informal)] 2 You say that figures or numbers **don't add up** if their total has been wrongly calculated. 3 (informal) Things **add up** if they make sense: *I*

can't think why she left so suddenly; it doesn't add up. [same as **stand to reason**]

add up to

1 Numbers **add up to** an amount that is their total: *Errol gets £34.70, and Pam earns £75 a week. This adds up to £109.70.* [same as **come to**, **total**] 2 Circumstances **add up to** something if, taken together, they have a meaning or significance: *I can't see that this adds up to a motive for murder.* [same as **amount to**, **constitute**]

adhere /əd'hɪə(r)/: adheres, adhering, adhered

adhere to (formal)

1 You **adhere to** a plan, arrangement, agreement or rule when you do what it orders or requires: *Many Jews adhere scrupulously to Judaic law.* □ *It's important for staff to adhere strictly to the guidelines.* [same as **stick to**, **abide by**, **follow**; **opposite flout**] 2 You **adhere to** a belief, opinion or principles if you continue to support it: *He still adheres to the view that children need strict discipline.* [same as **hold to**, **stand by**]

after see panel below

after /'ɑ:ftə(r)/

After is a preposition.

As a preposition, its meaning relates to time, showing that one thing happens later than, or follows, another. This sense of following appears in our first group of phrasal verbs, the meanings of which relate to people and things being followed, chased or hunted. The other main meanings of **after** relate to wanting or desiring things, and to imitating or copying people or things.

1 FOLLOWING

After combines with verbs to refer to people or things being followed, chased or hunted, as in **come after**, **go after**

and **run after**.

2 WANTING

After also combines with verbs to refer to the feeling of wanting something, or the action of trying to get it, as in **ask after**. In some combinations, this sense is developed from the idea of chasing or hunting, as in **go after** and **run after**. In others, the feeling suggested is a strong desire, as in **hunger after**, **hanker after** and **lust after**.

3 IMITATING OR COPYING

After also relates to the imitating or copying of people or things, in combinations such as **call after**, **name after** and **take after**.

against /e'genst/ or /e'geinst/

Against is a preposition.

It is quite a common word in English, and its basic sense relates to relationships between two things, especially when these relationships involve difference, opposition or conflict. It has four main meanings when used in phrasal verbs, and frequently combines with verbs to form new combinations with all of these meanings.

1 OPPOSING

Against combines with verbs that refer to the actions of one person or thing that opposes another, as in **go against**, **plot against**, **set against** and **turn against**. It is very frequently used to form new phrasal verbs with this meaning, such as **protest against**, **lean against**, **appeal against**, **fight against** and **unite against**, as in the following examples: *The people are protesting against a hotel and golf development on their land.* □ *Courts will lean against allowing a tribunal to decide such matters.* □ *There are notorious difficulties in English law in appealing against an exercise of discretion.* □ *They would still be in the position of fighting against an independence movement.* □ *They invent a common enemy for the people to unite against.*

2 PROTECTING

In a second sense, **against** combines with verbs to refer to the idea of someone or something being protected, as in **protect against**. In some phrasal verbs, this protection is achieved by preventing what would cause harm, as in **guard against**, **insure against** and **provide against**. In this sense too, **against** frequently combines with verbs to form new phrasal verbs, such as **indemnify**

against, **cover against** and **preserve against**, as in the following examples: *The company will indemnify us against all losses, claims and demands we may incur.* □ *Many people believe the E111 form covers you against any medical treatment you may need abroad.* □ *This will allow native tribes to preserve their territories against encroachment by developers.*

3 COMPARING

In a third sense, **against** forms phrasal verbs which refer to the comparing of two things, as in **balance against**, **match against** and **weigh against**. New phrasal verbs with **against** in this sense are also common: consider **check against** and **judge against** in the examples: *The most common search is that of checking a part against all others in its assembly.* □ *The Commission will not be judging its performance against local authority spending levels.*

4 BEING A DISADVANTAGE

The final sense of **against** relates to the fact of being a disadvantage. Things that **count against** you, **militate against** you, or **tell against** you make it less likely that you will succeed. **Against** combines freely with verbs in this sense, as can be seen in combinations such as **operate against**, **argue against** and **work against** in the following examples: *The scheme operates against every person who makes a claim in these circumstances.* □ *Our experience would argue against giving shareholders full status.* □ *In Vologsky's case, the very qualities which should have promoted him actually worked against him.*

In a few phrasal verbs, **against** occurs as the third element, as in **be up against** and **come up against**.

against see panel above

agree /ə'gri:/ **agrees, agreeing, agreed**

agree with (informal)

Something, usually food, doesn't **agree with** you when it makes you feel ill: *These small, smoky rooms don't agree*

with his health.

ahead see panel on next page

aim /eim/: **aims, aiming, aimed**

aim at

1 You **aim at** a person or thing when you point something in their direction: