

Aggie Grammar Guide: Single-Word Verbs vs. Phrasal Verbs

Intermediate Practice

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Without significantly changing meaning, rewrite the following sentences containing phrasal verbs to contain only strong, single-word verbs. There is more than one way to revise each sentence, although you'll only see one option in the answer key. You should make sure your revisions use single-word verbs that match in terms of form and tense with the verbs in the suggested answers.

Please note, because word choice deals with style more than grammar rules, there may be multiple revision options although you will see only one option in the answer key. Compare your revision to the one provided and determine if one is more effective. One way to do that is to determine which revision still maintains the original sentence's meaning.

Example: *People can save time by transferring money via phone instead of physically **showing up** in banks and waiting in line.*

Answer: *People can save time by transferring money via phone instead of physically **going** to banks and waiting in line.*

- 1) The author **talks about** how it is harder for her to go back to college each time she **goes back** home.
- 2) I think that the new one is better because I **took out** an unnecessary and confusing sentence.
- 3) I **wrote down** the vocabulary on another sheet of paper from my memory.
- 4) I do not think that telemedicine has the same value as **going to** the doctor.
- 5) I want to **talk about** airplanes' history, airplanes' companies, personal business, global trade, and the benefit for international students and traveling.
- 6) After working on glider experiments they **found out** how to steer a plane while in flight.
- 7) Then the post office will handle the rest and **send** the item **out** to your house.

Advanced Practice

The following paragraph mainly contains phrasal verbs. First, make a list of the phrasal verbs and write a list of possible single-word synonyms next to them. Second, rewrite any sentence that changes structure when you revise to include a single-word verb.

Please note, because word choice deals with style more than grammar rules, there may be multiple single-word and sentence revision options although you will see only one set of options in the answer key. Compare your responses to the ones provided and determine if one is more effective. One way to do that is to determine which revisions still maintain the original sentences' meanings.

I caught on that in today's society, many people are more self-centered. They put themselves first. When they look at anything unjust, they will not stand up and go against wrongdoings. The bystander effect goes far beyond my experience, however. According to James Nye, a reporter of Dailymail.com, many people looked at Brown's murder by a white police officer, but they didn't do anything to help Brown because they waited for someone else to take action. This pluralistic ignorance contributed to Brown's death. The witnesses clearly were conscious of the situation and they knew that that was unjust. However, no one stood up for him because the person who stands entirely for justice, the police officer, was bringing about the unjust behavior. Obviously, we should take action when it is needed. We must not wait or watch for others to do anything for us because it will be too late.