

MAIRO VERGARA

ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE

Sentences for Anki | Lesson 30

FRONT

Whenever I see Gabriella she asks after Paulo and you.

BACK

ask after = enquire about someone's well-being

It is important to understand the difference between "ask about" and "ask after". "Ask about" can be a request for information about someone's wellbeing, but it can also simply be a request for information about the person, without the added element of concern. "Ask after" always carries the sense of genuine concern about someone's well-being. In other words, you can "ask about" someone simply because you are curious or want to pry, not because you are really concerned about the person. You "ask after" someone because you care.

Also note that in the following construction "after" is not part of a phrasal verb but is a conjunction:

He only asked after he had gone ahead with the deal. In this sentence the following two sentences are joined: "He asked" and "He had gone ahead with the deal". "After" is a conjunction, not a preposition. So in the sentence above "ask after" is not a phrasal verb.

FRONT

Well-known author Neil Gaiman once said, "You don't want to ask after the health of anyone, if you're a funeral director. They think maybe you're scouting for business."

BACK

ask after = enquire about someone's wellbeing

I love Gaiman's off-beat sense of humour!

Notice the use of the object form of the pronoun following the phrasal verb "ask after". You ask after her, him and them. They ask after us.

FRONT

He asked after my roommate in his WhatsApp message. I think he has his eye on her.

BACK

ask after = enquire about someone's wellbeing

This concern about the roommate's welfare is obviously not just platonic. There is more to it than friendly concern.

FRONT

They knew each other well. Then he emigrated. Years later he asked after her because he had fond memories of their time together.

BACK

ask after = enquire about someone's wellbeing

People often ask after the welfare of those they knew well when they were young.

FRONT

She asked after the welfare of the tortoises.

BACK

ask after = enquire about something's wellbeing

You don't only have to be concerned about people. You can also ask after the welfare of animals or other living beings. In this case the concern is for the tortoises.

FRONT

If I see my sister, I will tell her you asked after her.

BACK

ask after = enquire about something's wellbeing

Most people enjoy being asked after. It is great to know that someone is concerned about you.

FRONT

The breach between father and daughter was permanent. He never asked after her again and she never mentioned his name again for the rest of her life. .

BACK

ask after = enquire about something's wellbeing

It is tragic when family feuds drive people apart. Asking after family members' well-being is an important way of showing that you care about them.

FRONT

My mother taught me that it is polite to ask after the welfare of someone's family members when you visit the person.

BACK

ask after = enquire about something's wellbeing

Not everyone will agree that it is polite to ask after someone's family members unless you know the family very well. The definition of polite behavior often depends on cultural practices in a community.

FRONT

Notice the use of the phrasal verb "ask after" in the following quote from Virginia Woolf's novel *Mrs Dalloway*:

"But everybody adored her (except perhaps Papa). It was her warmth; her vitality – she would paint, she would write. Old women in the village never to this day forgot to ask after 'your friend in the red cloak who seemed so bright.'"

BACK

ask after = enquire about something's well-being

The friend in the red cloak that everyone asked after was a free-spirited character called Sally Seton!

FRONT

He was about to ask after her, when she burst into the room, a bright parrot on her shoulder and in her hand a battered suitcase held together with fraying string and duct tape.

"Someone's thinking of me!" she exclaimed, as though she could read his thoughts.

BACK

ask after = enquire about something's well-being

I can understand that this man would ask after his eccentric friend. She sounds like the kind of person whose life is quite adventurous - someone of whom one would like to keep track!

FRONT

Where can I find wax for my surfboard?

Ask around. One of your surfing buddies ought to know.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

This young man wants to know where he can buy wax for his surfboard. When you are looking for information about products, it is a good idea to ask experts in the field. In this case it is best to approach other surfers who use the wax. They should know best.

FRONT

There are many long-tail boat operators at Chew Lan Lake in Thailand. When you get to the pier, just ask around. You'll definitely find someone to take you on a trip across the lake.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

When you go on holiday it is not always possible to plan everything. Sometimes it is fun to ask a number of different locals for information, to ask around. That is if you can speak the language, of course! If you ask around, you often stumble upon interesting experiences that you would not have had if you had planned everything meticulously.

FRONT

I am running out of newspaper for my paper mâché project. Have you got more newspapers stashed somewhere?

No, but ask around the neighborhood. Maybe one of the neighbors will be able help you.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

In this case the young woman does not want information, but newspapers for her project. You can ask around to get information or things.

FRONT

Ask around and you will find fresh curry leaves in the market.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

I wanted to buy fresh curry leaves in the Port Louis produce market. I asked different stallholders in the market about the best place to buy the leaves. People in the market referred me to a very kind man.

FRONT

We're new in town. Can you recommend a good dentist?

I'm also new, but ask around and get a few opinions.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

When you move from one city to another, you usually have to find a new doctor, hairdresser and dentist. It is always a good idea to ask the locals. When you ask around, you usually get enough information to make an informed decision.

FRONT

I asked around but no-one had seen my Siamese cat.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

This woman's cat is missing so she asked various people if they had seen the cat. She tried to gather information about the cat's whereabouts.

FRONT

If you ask around, you'll soon find out where the gangster is hiding.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

If you are a policeman it is important to keep your eyes and ears open.

FRONT

If you ask around the school you'll soon find moms who are willing to bake pancakes for the fundraiser.

BACK

ask around = to ask a number of different people in order to get information

In this case the person tries to find information about potential volunteers by asking teachers, children and other parents who would be willing to take part in the fundraiser.

FRONT

He asked his friends round to play X-Box.

BACK

ask round = invite

Drop the "a" and you have a new meaning - to invite. "Ask round" is more informal than

invite, though. It usually suggests an informal get-together. You invite people to dinner but you ask them around for a drink and snacks.

FRONT

He asked me round for a drink but when I arrived he had prepared a three-course meal.

BACK

ask round = invite

Notice that when you use "ask round" in this way, the verb is split from the preposition because you insert a direct object between the verb and the preposition. In this case that object is friends. He asked (verb) me (object form of the pronoun) around (preposition).

FRONT

We've been meaning to ask you round for weeks but things have been very busy. Hopefully we'll get round to it next month.

BACK

ask round = invite

People often promise to ask other people round without having any intention of doing so!

FRONT

My friends and I pitched in to weed the neighbor's garden.

BACK

pitch in = to join others to help with an activity

These young men joined forces to help an old lady by weeding her garden.

FRONT

If we all pitch in, we'll get this job done in no time!

BACK

pitch in = to join others to help with an activity

Usually the phrasal verb "pitch in" implies vigorous activity.

FRONT

After the storm they all pitched in to remove the fallen tree trunk that was lying across the road.

BACK

pitch in = to join others to help with an activity

Once again the use of this phrasal verb suggests team effort and vigorous activity.

FRONT

When our house was flooded, the whole neighborhood pitched in to clean up the mud.

BACK

pitch in = to join others to help with an activity

Community spirit can be a powerful thing. Such helpfulness is unfortunately not always prevalent. You'll always get people who will try to benefit from the misery of others. For example, one family whose house was buried in mud during a flood saw what was left of

their belongings stolen by thieves.

FRONT

If we all pitch in, we can buy her a great twenty-first birthday present.

BACK

pitch in = to join others in contributing a part of the expense

This sentence means that if they pool the money they can buy something expensive and valuable (rather than buying a whole lot of small things).

FRONT

She lost her cellphone and did not have enough money to buy another phone, so all her friends pitched in to buy her a new phone.

BACK

pitch in = to join others in contributing a part of the expense

All the friends donated money for the new phone. They combined their money to help their friend.

FRONT

They all pitched in to buy warm soup for twenty homeless children.

BACK

pitch in = to join others in contributing a part of the expense

By combining their financial resources, they could help those less fortunate than themselves.

FRONT

If we all pitch in, we'll be able to afford the trip.

BACK

pitch in = to join others in contributing a part of the expense

If you share a vehicle and everyone contributes to the petrol expenses, for example, the trip becomes more affordable.

FRONT

Pitch in! I have bought enough pizza to feed an army.

BACK

pitch in = to start to eat hungrily

This is a British English expression. It is often used in the imperative - the command form.

FRONT

The boys pitched in as though they had not been fed for a month.

BACK

pitch in = to start to eat hungrily

Don't boys make a habit of that anyway!?