

MAIRO VERGARA ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE

Lesson 45 | Transcript

FRONT

The children lined up before they entered the monument

BACK

to line up = to arrange people or things in a line or a row

A straight line is the shortest distance between two points. A row consists of a number of people or things that are more or less in a straight line. Underlying the concept of "lining up" in a row is a sense of order and fairness. When people queue in a line, those who arrive first, are served first and those who arrive later, are served later. Those who arrive first enter first and those who arrive later enter later. Therefore, when people line up, they create an orderly formation, and everyone is treated fairly.

FRONT

Some of the bullies refused to line up and forced their way through to the front where they pushed the smaller boys away.

BACK

to line up = to arrange people or things in a line or a row

This sample sentence illustrates what happens when people refuse to line up. Order and fairness go out the window.

FRONT

In a police lineup the suspect and several people who are the same height and build as the suspect line up before the person who has to identify the guilty party from behind a glass window.

BACK

to line up = to arrange people or things in a line or a row

Lineup (one word) is a noun. Line up (two words) is a phrasal verb.

FRONT

Voters line up to vote at the polling station.

BACK

to line up = to arrange people or things in a line or a row

The voters stand in a line when they arrive and wait their turn to vote.

FRONT

She lined up the tea cups neatly and then lined up the teaspoons so they all faced in the same direction.

BACK

to line up = to put something in the correct position in relation to something else, to align

She made sure that all the tea cups were in a straight line in relation to one another. She also arranged all the teaspoons at the same angle in relation to the tea cups.

FRONT

She always battles to line up the car with the ticket dispenser before she enters the parking lot. In the end she has to open the car door, get out, take the ticket and get back in while impatient drivers are lining up behind her.

BACK

to line up = to align, to put in a row

This sample sentence contains both meanings of "line up" - to align and to arrange things in a line or a row. The woman battles to align the car with the ticket dispenser and as a result the cars pile up in a row behind her.

FRONT

The holes you drill in the wall need to line up; otherwise, the curtain rail will be skew.

BACK

to line up = to put something in the correct position in relation to something else, to align

If the holes you drill do not line up, the holes will not be in a straight line. Consequently, when you attach the curtain rail, the curtain rail will also not be straight. The curtain rail will be at a diagonal if the holes are at a diagonal. In other words, you'll have a sloping line instead of a straight line.

FRONT

I have lined up two local models for our fashion show judging panel.

BACK

to line up = to arrange for something to happen

This person has arranged with two models to be part of the panel that will judge a fashion show.

FRONT

We lined him up for the job and then, disappointingly, he declined the offer at the last minute.

BACK

to line up = to arrange for something to happen

We arranged for him to get the job and then he did not take it.

FRONT

She lined up a team of caterers for her daughter's wedding months in advance. Two days before the event they cancelled. She almost had a heart attack!

BACK

to line up = to arrange for something to happen

She arranged/scheduled the caterers and then they left her in the lurch at the last minute. Just in case you are wondering what "left in the lurch" means, it is an idiom that means to leave someone in a difficult situation.

FRONT

The school kids chip in while I am trying to film the video.

BACK

to chip in = to interrupt

The children keep interrupting!

FRONT

It is hard to teach young children not to chip in while other people are talking.

BACK

to chip in = to interrupt

Young children find it hard to wait. If they want attention, they want it now! Parents and teachers have to remind them constantly to wait their turn and not to interrupt, not to chip in.

FRONT

During the television interview the one participant rudely and repeatedly chipped in whenever she did not agree with something another participant had said.

BACK

to chip in = to interrupt

Conversation is a group activity, and it is important that every person in the conversation should get an opportunity to express his or her opinion. Avoid interrupting people in mid-sentence or cutting their stories short.

FRONT

The talkative woman chipped in so many times that the other people in the conversation could not get in a word. Eventually they discreetly left the conversation one by one until Miss Blabbermouth was left on her own chatting away to herself.

BACK

to chip in = to interrupt

There are many synonyms for talkative people in English: motor-mouth, blabberer, prattle-box, prater, rattletrap, yammerer, ear-basher, chinwagger and motor-mouth.

FRONT

Her colleague was in the process of describing the new strategy when she chipped in, "I am not sure that is going to work!"

BACK

to chip in = to interrupt

The phrasal verb "chip in", used in this context, nearly always has negative connotations. Connotations are the emotions we associate with a word. In this sample sentence we associate "chipping in" with rudeness.

FRONT

We all chipped in to buy her a microphone and recording software. She enjoys singing, so it

was the perfect birthday gift.

BACK

to chip in = to contribute money for something that is bought together with other people

It is expensive if one person has to buy a gift of this costly nature by himself or by herself, but the moment the cost is shared, the gift becomes more affordable for everyone. Chipping in has financial advantage for everyone.

FRONT

We all chipped in to buy the beggar a nutritious meal.

BACK

to chip in = to contribute money for something that is bought together with other people

Everyone contributed to this act of charity.

FRONT

If we all chip in, we can buy Dad that golf set he has always had his eye on.

BACK

to chip in = to contribute money for something that is bought together with other people

If the young adult children of this father all contribute towards the golf set, it becomes possible to give their father what he desires. Individually these young people may not have been able to afford such an expensive gift, but collectively they can afford it. To "have your eye on something" means to desire something.

FRONT

They all promised to chip in for gas when we went to the beach but only two of the five guys paid up and I ended up paying the lion's share because it was my car!

Back:

to chip in = to contribute money for something that is bought together with other people

All the guys promised to contribute to the petrol costs but only two did! The lion's share is an idiom that means the largest part of something. The car owner ended paying for most of the gas.

FRONT

I'd love to chip in on a farewell gift for our teacher.

BACK

to chip in = to contribute money for something that is bought along with other people

She wants to make a contribution to her teacher's gift. Notice the use of the preposition: you chip in on a gift.

FRONT

I had to stab the tough steak a few times before the fork pierced through it.

BACK

pierce through = to make a hole through something with a sharp object

Things that pierce through other things usually have sharp points. In this case the prongs of

the fork were forced through the tough meat. Note that in this sentence “pierce through” is used literally.

FRONT

The bull’s horn pierced through the matador’s cheek.

BACK

pierce through = to make a hole through something with a sharp object

“Pierce through” may be considered an example of tautology. Tautology is when you say the same thing twice. The word “pierce” can mean to go into or to go through. So why would you add the preposition “through” to the verb “pierce”? For emphasis!

When you add the word “through” to a word that already carries the meaning of “through”, you emphasize the word “through”. You strengthen its force. In the sample sentence above the use of “pierce” through” emphasizes the force with which the horn went through the cheek.

FRONT

The man who fell from his balcony was impaled by the trellis. The sharp points of the trellis pierced through his arm and shoulder.

BACK

pierce through = to make a hole through something with a sharp object

Once again pierced through is used literally. Its use emphasizes the force with which the man was impaled. To be impaled means to be pierced with a sharp object - it is close in meaning to being pierced but when you are impaled, your body or part of your body is stuck on the sharp object. In this case the trellis went through the man’s arm and shoulder, and he had to be cut free.

FRONT

The pole that fell off the truck pierced through the windshield and narrowly missed the child.

BACK

pierce through = to make a hole through something with a sharp object

The pole made a hole through the windscreen.

FRONT

The woman’s screams failed to pierce through the indifference of her neighbors.

BACK

pierce through = to penetrate so as to touch the emotions of

“Pierce through” is used figuratively in this sentence. When you are indifferent towards a person, you don’t care about that person. This woman’s suffering could not go through the hard-heartedness of her neighbors. Her suffering could not penetrate their heartlessness and stir their pity. Research shows that when there is an emergency, the more bystanders there are, the less likely anyone is to help a person in need because everyone thinks someone else will do it. This is called the bystander effect.

FRONT

The baby's crying pierced through the mother's heart.

BACK

pierce through = to penetrate so as to touch the emotions of

In this case there is no indifference. Most mothers find it difficult to ignore a baby's cry. The sound penetrates the mother's loving heart and causes her to take action. Research indicates that the sound of a baby's cry activates primitive parts of our brain that respond strongly to the cry, even if we are not the parents. Our brains are hard-wired to respond within 100 milliseconds to that piercing sound!

FRONT

The powerful message pierced through voter apathy and inspired many people to turn up at the voting stations.

BACK

pierce through = to penetrate so as to touch the emotions of

Many people were not interested in voting until the message penetrated their hearts and touched their emotions, inspiring them to cast their votes.

FRONT

His scathing words pierced through her emotional defenses and hurt her deeply.

BACK

pierce through = to penetrate so as to touch the emotions of

The woman could not defend herself against his words. They penetrated through her emotional defenses and hurt her.

FRONT

The search light pierced through the night sky.

BACK

pierce through = to force a way through something

This meaning of "pierce through" is metaphorical. The light is not a sharp object punching an actual hole in the sky. The sentence means that the light was so strong that it seemed to force its way through the night sky. There is a comparison between the way in which the light shines into the dark sky and the way in which a sharp object penetrates something.

FRONT

Her investigation pierced through the veil of secrecy behind which the company tried to hide.

BACK

pierce through = to force a way through something

The woman's investigation was so thorough that she managed to penetrate (to force her way through) the company's attempts at hiding certain facts. She managed to reveal the truth.