

MAIRO VERGARA
ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE
Transcript | Lesson 11

Hi, this is Melissa Faulkner, coming to you from Durham, North Carolina. Today we're going to talk about three phrasal verbs: 'Get back', 'go back', 'come back'. All three of these phrasal verbs have the word 'back' in it. The word 'back' can mean a couple of different things. It could mean the back side of something. So for example, my back, or the back side of your hand, the back side of a book. It means the other side, the back side. In these cases, 'back' means to return to something. So either to return to the way things were. To return to the original state. To return to a place. So, in all these cases, 'back' means to return, to go back to the original state or the original way that things were. So let's get started with the first phrasal verb and you'll see a pattern of how these all mean to return to something.

So our first phrasal verb is 'get back'. Now, 'get back' means to return and it could be to return to a person, to return to a place or to return to a certain condition or the state of something. The way the thing is.

So let's read the first sentence. For each of the sentences I will read to you today, I will read the sentence and give a quick explanation of how to use the phrasal verb in that sentence. So sentence number 1 for 'get back':

After they had been playing at the creek for three hours, the boys realized they needed to get back home for dinner before their mother was angry.

So in this case, there are three boys, probably three brothers. They had been playing out playing at the creek for about three hours. You can imagine that their mother probably told them to be home at a certain amount of time but maybe they had been gone for longer and they suddenly realized that they needed to get back home. They needed to

return home before their mother had dinner ready, otherwise she would be a little bit angry. So the boys had to get back home. Sentence number 2:

Sarah called to see if she could get back that coat that she let you borrow.

So in this case, Sarah had a coat. The coat originally belonged to Sarah and she let a friend borrow it for an amount of time. After a little while of time, she wanted to get the coat back. She wanted to have the coat again so that she could wear it since it originally belonged to her. So she wanted to get back the coat. She wanted it to be returned. Sentence number 3:

The house needs to get back into a clean state before Dad gets home.

So in this example, you can imagine that there's something has been going on at the house. Dad is about to come home. Maybe they had a party, maybe they were playing around in the house. But in any case, you can tell that the house is probably dirty or messy. The house was originally clean so they need to return the house to the state when it was clean. The house is dirty; they need to get it back to being clean. So in this example, you can see that we were clean, we went to dirty, we want to return back to clean. So in all three of these sentences, you can see that you are returning to either a person, a place or a condition.

Let's move on to our second phrasal verb: 'Go back'. Now, this is similar to 'get back' in that you're returning to something but it could be a place, it could be a condition or it could be a time. You are returning to a certain time.

So let's take a look at sentence number 1 and we'll go a little further into it:

The store was closed when I went after work so I will have to go back tomorrow during lunch.

You can imagine sometimes this happens. You want to do an errand or something after work, you go to the store, maybe you get there around 6 or 6:30, the store has already closed, so you realize that you need to go back to the store at a different time. At a time when the store is open. So you're going to have to return to the store, you're going to have to go back to the store again. Sentence number 2:

Hank forgot what happened in chapter 2, so he had to go back and re-read the entire chapter.

So in this situation, Hank is reading a book. Maybe he has gone on a couple of chapters, he's read chapter 1, chapter 2, chapter 3, chapter 4. Maybe when he gets to chapter 4, there is something that's happening that he needs to remember "what was that character's name?" or "what happened in that situation?" so he needs to go back, he needs to return to chapter 2 and re-read chapter 2 to find that information. So in this case, he is returning to a place or returning to a time when he read chapter 2. Sentence number 3:

Lily missed her family and was glad that she was going to be able to go back home over Christmas break.

So in this case, Lily has been away from her family. Maybe she's been at college, maybe she's been in a different city for a job. But in this case, she was at home, she left to go to college or the job and now she wants to go back home. She is going to return to her home, to where her family is, for Christmas break. So she is going back to a certain place, she's returning to a certain place.

Let's go on to our third phrasal verb - 'come back'. There are a couple of different versions of this phrasal verb. Some of them are similar to the other phrasal verbs that we've talked to, but we'll go through each definition as we go through each sentence. Sentence number 1:

Once I heard the first verse, the song started to come back to me as I sang the chorus loudly.

So in this case, 'come back' means to return but in this case, we're talking about your memory and what you remember. So often times if someone is thinking of something and they have a memory that returns to them, they will say that that memory has come back to them. So in this case, she's listening to a song. She maybe sort of remembers it a little bit, but once the first verse comes, the whole song comes back to her. She remembers all of the words of the song and starts singing loudly. So the memory comes back to her. It returns.

Sentence number 2:

When you have finished at the grocery store, come back to pick me up at the mall.

So in this case, this is very similar to 'get back' or to 'go back'. A person is returning to a place, a former place or position. So in this case, maybe someone dropped you off at the mall, they're going to go to the grocery store and then they're going to return to the mall to pick you up. So they are going to come back to the mall. They're going to return to the mall to pick you up. Sentence number 3:

The little boy always had an attitude and would come back at his teacher with rude comments.

Now in this case, this one is a little bit different definition than all of the other ones that we have looked at. In this one, it kind of means to talk back or to retort, which is kind of like a phrase where you have a little bit of an attitude towards the person that you are talking to. So in this case, the little boy had an attitude. Maybe he is talking to his teacher, his teacher tells him to sit down and he says "I don't want to, and I don't have to listen to you!". He's coming back at his teacher; he is retorting at her with an attitude. So in this case, that one is slightly different than the uses

of the, other versions of 'come back' but it's still a way to almost return the attitude or return the thought to the teacher.

So in each of these cases, 'get back', 'go back' and 'come back' we're returning to the way that something was, either the position, the time, the condition. You're coming back, you're going back, you're getting back to the way that something was.

I hope these explanations have given you a little bit more insight about these phrasal verbs and I hope to help you in the future with other phrasal verbs. Thanks.