
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs and context



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Neil...

Catherine

And I'm Catherine. In this programme we're looking at multi-word verbs like **move in**, **move on**, **move out** and **get on**, and we call these **phrasal verbs**. And prepositions like **in**, **on**, or **out** can completely change the meaning of phrasal verbs...

Neil

...so we'll be looking at these verbs in sentences to help us understand their meanings.

Catherine

Let's start by listening to Robin. He's having problems with his housemate, Pete. And here's a question for you while you listen. Why is Robin unhappy with Pete?

INSERT

Robin

Pete **moved in** three months ago. We **got on** well at first – we were friends – but now it's terrible. He's so messy! And he keeps disturbing me when I'm trying to **get on with** my college work. It's really time for us to **move on** – we can't be friends anymore. I'm going to ask him to **move out** and live somewhere else, but he **gets on with** my family – my brother really likes him – so it'll be difficult.

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Neil

Ok. So we asked you: why is Robin unhappy with Pete?

Catherine

It's because Pete is messy and keeps disturbing him. What do you think of that, Neil?

Neil

Well, I'm not surprised then. They were friends at first. Here's what Robin said:

INSERT 1 CLIP 1

We **got on** well at first – we were friends...

Catherine

Right. So, here, **get on** means **have a good relationship**. And we can work out the meaning of **get on** by listening to what Robin said next. He said: **we were friends**.

Neil

What about Pete's relationship with Robin's family?

INSERT 1 CLIP 2

... he **gets on with** my family – my brother really likes him ...

Catherine

So Pete and Robin's family have a good relationship. And to add an object to the verb **get on**, we use the preposition **with**.

Neil

That's right. We can say: Pete and Robin's family **get on**. And we can also say: Pete **gets on with** Robin's family.

Catherine

We can. Now listen to **get on** in this clip.

INSERT 1 CLIP 3

... and he keeps disturbing me when I'm trying to **get on with** my college work.

Neil

This time, **get on with** isn't about a relationship.

Catherine

No, it isn't. In this one, **get on with** means **do**, or **continue doing**, something.

Neil

But Robin can't **get on with** it because Pete keeps disturbing him. Pete stops Robin finishing his work. And to understand what **get on with** means in each of these contexts, we have to pay attention to the words around each verb phrase.

Catherine

We do. So, **get on with** usually means **have a good relationship** when the sentence around it is talking about people.

Neil

Get on with is usually about finishing something if we're talking about work, studies or a project.

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6 Minute Vocabulary, from BBC Learning English

Neil

And we're talking about **phrasal verbs**. We've looked at **get on** and **get on with** to talk about relationships.

Catherine

My brother and sister don't **get on**, but I **get on with** both of them.

Neil

Oh, lucky you.

Catherine

I know.

Neil

And **get on with** when we're talking about work.

Catherine

I'm **getting on with** my work, Neil.

Neil

Good! And we work out which meaning is which by listening to the context. Let's **get on with** the programme and take a look at some phrasal verbs with **move**. Here's a clip.

INSERT CLIP 3

Pete **moved in** three months ago ... It's really time for us to **move on** ... I'm going to ask him to **move out** and live somewhere else ...

Catherine

So we had **move in**, **move on** and **move out**.

Neil

Move in means **start to live in a place**. If you want to say **who** you're starting to live with, use **with**, like this:

Catherine

Pete **moved in with** Robin six months ago.

Neil

To say **the place** that someone started living, use **into** instead of **in**.

Catherine

Pete **moved into** Robin's house six months ago.

Neil

Now, **move out** is the opposite. It's when you stop living somewhere and go to live somewhere new. So it describes a change.

Catherine

It does. And **move on** also describes a change, but not just about housing: **move on** has a sense of progressing to something different. So, Robin is going to end his friendship with Pete, Neil.

Neil

Well that's certainly a change. And now we must **move on** too: It's quiz time! Number one. I'm **getting on with** my school project. Is getting on with here about a) a relationship or b) finishing something?

Catherine

And it's b). **It's about finishing something** – a school project. Number two. I'm not very happy with my job. I'll have to a) move in, b) move out, or c) move on.

Neil

And it's c) **move on**. It's about changing to something new. Last one. I've just found a new flat. I'm a) moving in or b) moving on next week.

Catherine

And it's a) **moving in**. That's what we say about starting to live somewhere.

Neil

And that's the end of the quiz.

Catherine

But before we go, here's that top tip for learning vocabulary. When you see or hear a phrasal verb, pay close attention to all the words in the sentence. Write the sentence down if you can. That will help you learn and remember the meaning.

Neil

That's a good tip. There's more about this at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again soon for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

Both
Bye!

Vocabulary points to take away

get on (with)

have a good relationship (when talking about people)

Jack and John get on really well.

I've always got on with Abid. He's good fun.

get on (with)

make progress (when talking about work, studies or a project)

Right, enough talking. Time to get on!

I'm getting on really well with this report. It's nearly finished.

move in(to)

start living somewhere new

We moved into our new house six months ago. We wanted to move in sooner, but we couldn't afford it.

move on

change from one situation to another, usually because you are progressing to something better or something has gone wrong in your current situation

I don't like my colleagues. Time to move on and find another job.

move out

stop living somewhere

I'm moving out next Friday. I've already packed my bags.