



Episode 22: Phrasal Verbs with “Come”

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations.

In today’s episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss some different ways to use the verb “come” as phrasal verbs and in expressions. Additionally, several other phrasal verbs were discussed.

Here are the phrasal verbs that were discussed during the episode:

come up with	produce something, especially ideas, plans, solutions, etc. • <i>I need to <u>come up with</u> a topic for my essay.</i>
come across	find something by chance • <i>I <u>came across</u> some old photos when I was cleaning the attic.</i>
come down with	begin to suffer from an illness. Most commonly used in present continuous to express that it’s in the beginning stages. • <i>I think I’m <u>coming down with</u> a cold.</i>
come around	to change your opinion of something, often influenced by another person's opinion • <i>My husband doesn’t like the idea of getting another cat, but I think he’ll <u>come around</u>.</i>
come down	become lower in position, temperature, or price • <i>This [newly released product] is too expensive right now. I’ll wait until the prices <u>come down</u>.</i>
come out	be released, as in a product, movie, song, etc. <i>When does Taylor Swift’s new album <u>come out</u>?</i>
come over	come to a place, especially someone's house, to visit for a short time. (Note that it is not necessary to say “to my house”) • <i>Do you want to <u>come over</u> for dinner tomorrow?</i>
come on	can express encouragement, a push for someone to hurry, or a feeling of frustration or exasperation (get meaning from context) –Come on, you can do it! –Come on, we’re going to be late. –Oh, come on, You can’t really believe that!
come up	happen unexpectedly, usually requiring the change of a plan, and usually with “something” • <i>Let’s meet next week unless <u>something comes up</u>.</i>

You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

be supposed to [do something]	be expected or obligated to do something (for more detailed explanation about meaning and use, see show notes from Episode 15 Animal Idioms.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We <u>were supposed to</u> record last week, but I had come down with a cold.
as per [the] usual	indicates that something is happening in the usual or expected way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As <u>per [the] usual</u>, I went on vacation and came back with a cold.
pick out	phrasal verb: choose, select from a variety of options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>picked out</u> a few phrasal verbs to focus on.
[go] down a rabbit hole	start to do a simple task, and then find yourself going into it much deeper and spending much longer than you intended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While researching phrasal verbs, I found my way <u>down a rabbit hole</u>.
not put [something] past [someone] [to do something]	used to say that you would not be surprised if someone did something, especially something bad, because it is a typical thing for them to do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>wouldn't put it past him</u> to call in sick when there's a big job to do at work.
suggestive	has sexual or improper references or inferences
barely	by the smallest amount; almost not/none <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>barely</u> finished my exam before the bell rang.
when it comes to [topic]	use this phrase to introduce or emphasize a specific topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't really enjoy sports, but <u>when it comes to</u> board games, I'm a fanatic.
a whole lot of a whole bunch of	informal: Both of these phrases are a way to put emphasis on the idea that there is a very large quantity of something. (bunch is even more informal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I cooked too much, and now I have <u>a whole bunch of</u> leftovers.
I'm not about to [do something]	used to emphasize that you have no intention of doing something. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have too many leftovers, but <u>I'm not about to</u> throw them away.
rein [it/someone] in	expression: start to control or limit something that is getting out of control or off course. (comes from the idea of using a rein--the strap used to control the movements of a horse) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We've gone off topic – let's <u>rein it back in</u>.
scratch that off the list	a way to indicate that a certain item or activity has been completed (as in scratching something off your to-do list)
bring up	phrasal verb: mention a topic during a discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm going to <u>bring</u> this issue <u>up</u> during our next meeting.
out of the blue	completely unexpected; without seeming to have any relevance or reason <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An old friend I hadn't talked to in years called me <u>out of the blue</u> yesterday.
scroll	move through computer text or posts and images on social media. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I was bored, so I picked up my phone and started <u>scrolling</u>.

Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

get carried away	become excessively excited or enthusiastic that you lose control, or can't stop doing something
can't help [oneself]	unable to control your actions or stop doing something that you don't want to or shouldn't do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I tried not to laugh, but <u>I couldn't help myself</u>.
cliff	a high, vertical mass of rock that is often found in mountain areas or near oceans.
palooza	slang word used after another word to mean a big or extravagant party; used to generate enthusiasm an interest (We have a phrasal verb palooza today)
swirl	move in a twisting or spiraling pattern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are so many viruses <u>swirling</u> around in the air.
every single [noun]	used to emphasize that it is all instances of something, without exception. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Every single</u> time I take a trip, I come back with a cold.
spoiler alert	idiom - warning: a surprising piece of information is coming. The end of the story will be revealed. Originally used for talking about a movie, and warning the other person that if they have not yet seen the movie and are planning to, they should not listen to what is said next because it will ruin the experience for them. In everyday use, we often say this in a joking way to highlight a funny or surprising end to the story.
get a lot of mileage out of [something]	take full advantage of something or got a lot of use or benefit from it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This dress was expensive, so I plan to <u>get a lot of mileage out of it</u>. [i.e. I will wear it for as many occasions as possible.]
chatty	very talkative in conversation
beat [someone] to it	do something before another person who was planning to do the same thing had a chance to do it first. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was just going to give that example, but <u>you beat me to it</u>.
get it together	something you say to someone who is being foolish, confused, or behaving in a wrong way – to say that they need to get or improve the state of their life; stop being confused, foolish, etc.
easy peasy	informal expression meaning extremely easy or simple. Often used as a variation: "Easy peasy, lemon squeezy"

Vocabulary: Phrasal Verbs with Subtle Differences in Meaning


We are generally used to seeing phrasal verbs where a preposition completely changes the meaning of the verb (such as *come* vs. *come down with*), but there are times when the difference is *subtle*¹. In the episode, we discussed how adding “on” to imperative phrases, such as “come down” or “come in” add a feeling of warmth and welcoming. Similarly, saying **come on over** expresses that the person is very welcome in their home, especially if it is the guest suggesting to visit someone’s home. See the following dialogue as an example.

- A. Hi, I’m going to be in your neighborhood this afternoon, and I thought I would stop by if you’re free.
B. Sure, come on over!

Also, you may notice that sometimes people say **help out** instead of **help**. The meaning is basically the same, but we tend to use “help out” to describe giving assistance in a general way, rather than helping with a specific task. Consider the following sentences:

- Can you *help* me move this table?
- I *helped* my sister with her homework.
- This app really *helped* me improve my English.
- My kids *help out* around the house.
- She’s going through a difficult time, so I’d like to try to *help her out*.

Join the Conversation

- How many phrasal verbs can you **come up with** that contain the word “up”?
- How many different ways can you **come up with** to use a binder clip other than its intended purpose of holding stacks of paper together? 
- What do you do when you feel like you’re **coming down with** a cold? Do you have any remedies to help prevent or lessen the symptoms?
- What are some reasons that the price of a product or service might **come down**?
- Are there any products, albums, movies, or television show seasons that you’re looking forward to **coming out**?
- Do you like to clean or prepare anything in your house before a visitor **comes over**?
- Imagine you had plans to meet your friend for lunch, but **something came up** and you had to cancel. What are some possible situations that might have **come up**?
- Have you ever found yourself **going down a rabbit hole** when you started reading or looking for something on the Internet? Discuss what happened.
- **When it comes to** learning English, what do you think is the most difficult part?

¹not immediately obvious or completely clear

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

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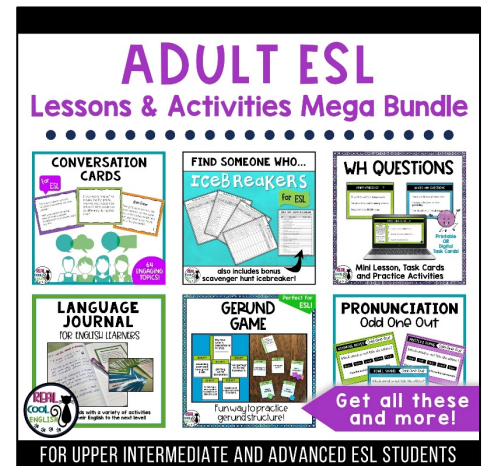
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