



Festive Phrasal Verbs

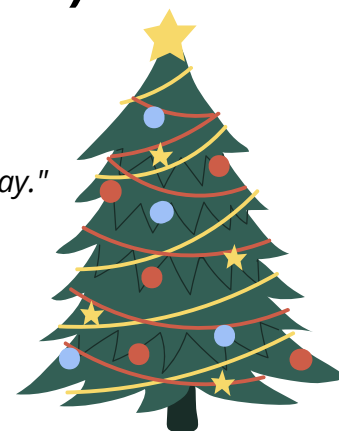
1

look forward to (the festive season)

When we look forward to a future event, it means we are anticipating it with excitement.

*"I am looking forward to watching lots of Christmas movies."
"We are looking forward to the office Christmas party this Friday."*

Avoid this common mistake! Remember, since this phrase ends in a preposition, we need to follow it with the gerund form of the verb (verb+ing).



2

meet up (with someone)

The verb 'meet' means to encounter a person or animal for the first time. When we 'meet up' with people it means that we organise to see them at a social event.

*"I am meeting up with my cousin this weekend. I haven't seen him in person since last Christmas! I am looking forward to it."
"All of the friends are meeting up at the pub for some drinks and to exchange presents."*

3

wrap up (presents)

To wrap up describes the action of encasing something. You might wrap up a present for someone you love, or in order to face the cold weather, you may wrap up warm in a big coat or jumper.

*"I wrapped up several presents last night. I added the tags and some ribbon, and put them under the tree."
"If you're going out in the snow, be sure to wrap up warm and bring a hat and gloves!"*

4

sing along (to Christmas songs)

When listening to Christmas music or carols, you may want to get into the Christmas spirit by singing along with the lyrics.

*"For the last lesson of the year, we sang along to some well-known Christmas carols."
"At the concert, the singer encouraged the crowd to sing along if they knew the lyrics."*





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5

send out (Christmas cards)

If you have friends and family in different parts of the world, you may send out Christmas cards or a Christmas newsletter or email. Young children may also send off a letter to Santa in the North Pole.

"I just need to send out the Christmas newsletter, and then I'll be signing off for the week."

"It was a frosty morning, and they walked to the post box to send off the Christmas cards they had written the night before."

6

put up (the decorations)

We use the phrasal verb to describe putting something in its place, often on a wall or in a decorative capacity. We put up posters, pictures, mirrors, photographs. At Christmas time, many people put up decorations such as tinsel a Christmas tree or Christmas lights.

"Yesterday we put up the Christmas decorations in the living room while listening to Christmas songs. I'm definitely feeling festive now."

"Our neighbour is out in front of his house putting up some Christmas lights. I'm excited to see them on later."

Note: The opposite of this phrasal verb is to 'take down'. When the festive season is over we take down the decorations.

7

tuck in (to the food)

You might hear this phrasal verb used at Christmas dinner. To start eating the food is to 'tuck in'.

"Well, I think everyone has a plate. Merry Christmas everyone, let's tuck in to this delicious food!"

"On Christmas evening, we watched a cheesy Christmas film on Netflix and tucked in to the Quality Street chocolates."

8

hand out (the presents)

To hand out means to distribute something.

"Tomorrow is the last day at the office, so we'll be handing out the Secret Santa gifts at lunch time."

"My brother was in charge of reading the names on the presents under the tree and handing them out to everyone."





Practice activity

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Fill in the spaces with a phrasal verb from the list above.

1. Everyone from the office is _____ at a tapas bar on Friday for a Christmas get-together.
2. When the DJ played 'Come on Eileen' at the end of the night, everyone was _____ at the top of their lungs.
3. I had to lock the door so my daughter wouldn't go in my room because her Christmas present is in there and I haven't _____ it _____ yet.
4. At the end of the show, Santa and the elves _____ presents to the small children in the audience.
5. I've been so disorganised this year. It's mid-December and I haven't _____ any Christmas cards yet.
6. We have tickets to the pantomime this weekend. I am so excited. I am really _____ it.
7. We bought our Christmas tree a couple of days ago, so this weekend we are going to decorate and also _____ the other decorations around the house.



Answers

1. meeting up
2. singing along
3. wrapped up
4. handed out
5. sent out
6. looking forward to
7. put up

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