



Christmas Time! Looking at phrasal verbs in context

Phrasal verbs are a very important part of the English language. They are informal and so people use them all the time. It's crucial that you can incorporate them into your vocabulary in order to improve your level of speaking AND listening. However, don't panic about learning lists of hundreds of verbs! Just learn them as they appear. The most important thing is to learn them in context as they very often change meaning. Today we're looking at them in the context of Christmas! Look at the verbs in the text and see if you can guess what they mean.

Listen to the audio to hear the explanation then check your answers at the end of the PDF.

Christmas is one of my favourite times of year. It's the perfect opportunity to **meet up** with friends and family. Everywhere looks lovely because all the Christmas lights have been **put up** and it feels like there's magic in the air! I love **wrapping up** presents, **lighting up** the fire and **getting into** the Christmas spirit.

In the UK, the main holidays are 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st of December. The 24th is called Christmas Eve. It's more common to spend this day with friends rather than family, usually having a few drinks in the pub. Children make sure they **hang up** their stockings on the fireplace and then they leave milk and biscuits for Santa Claus! When everyone is asleep, Santa **comes down** the chimney and leaves the presents.

The 25th is the day we spend with family. It's called Christmas Day. In the morning we open the presents and then start getting ready for Christmas Dinner. The traditional meal these days is turkey with roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts and stuffing and for dessert Christmas Pudding, which is a calorie bomb! Everyone **sits down** and before we start to eat we have to pull a cracker. Crackers are a big Christmas tradition in the UK. Inside there is a joke, a paper hat and a present. Each person pulls one end and when it opens it makes a bang. After dinner most people watch the Queen's speech on the TV. In my family we usually play games and **sing along** to Christmas Carols.

The 26th is called Boxing Day. Originally it was the day that the rich gave their servants a box with presents. Now it's famous because it's the first day of the sales. People run to the shops to try and **snap up** a bargain.

The last big celebration is 31st of December, New Year's Eve. In Scotland it has a different name, Hogmanay. For some people in Scotland this is a bigger celebration than Christmas! Hogmanay has its roots in a pagan festival. In fact, in Edinburgh on the 30th there is a beautiful torch light procession which ends with burning a Viking boat! Normally on the 31st you "see the bells in", or celebrate midnight, and then go "first footing". This is when you go to visit other people's houses. To get good luck for the new year you need to have a tall dark and handsome first footer who brings you coal!

The only thing I hate about Christmas is **taking down** the tree! It makes me feel very sad that the holidays are over!

CHRISTMAS PHRASAL VERBS AND TRANSLATIONS

PHRASAL VERBS	OPPOSITE (where appropriate)	TRANSLATION IN THIS CONTEXT
To meet up with friends		
To put up Christmas decorations	To take down	
To wrap up presents	To unwrap	
To light up the fire	To put out	
To get into the Christmas spirit		
To hang up your Christmas stocking	To take down	
To come down the chimney	To go up	
To sit down for dinner	To stand up	
To sing along with a song		
To snap up a bargain		
To take down the Christmas tree	To put up	

ANSWERS

PHRASAL VERBS	OPPOSITE (where appropriate)	TRANSLATION IN THIS CONTEXT
To meet up with friends		Quedar con amigos
To put up Christmas decorations	To take down	Colgar el árbol, poner decoraciones
To wrap up presents	To unwrap	Envolver los regalos
To light up the fire	To put out	Encender el fuego
To get into the Christmas spirit		Emocionarte con la navidad
To hang up your Christmas stocking	To take down	Colgar algo desde un gancho
To come down the chimney	To go up	Bajar por la chimenea
To sit down for dinner	To stand up	sentarse
To sing along with a song		Cantar con algo o alguien
To snap up a bargain		Pillar una ganga
To take down the Christmas tree	To put up	Quitar el árbol o decoraciones