

Verbs with adverb particles and prepositions

There are four main types of these verbs. Many of the examples here are from the depression case.

Some are straightforward in meaning, others are idiomatic. Sometimes the same words can have straightforward **and** idiomatic meanings.

Type 1. verb + adverb particle (often indicating direction, sometimes idiomatic)	
go away	My girlfriend went away .
come back	She comes back in about two weeks' time.
go out	I haven't been going out as much.
give up	I sometimes think about giving up .
Type 2. verb + preposition + NOUN	
think about something	So you've thought about it ...
act on something	... but not acted on it.
study for something	I'm studying for the CPA.
cope with something	How have you been coping with all this?
talk about something <i>and</i> talk with/to somebody	I don't really want to talk about it with my mum. I've never really talked to her about any of that.
Type 3. verb + NOUN + adverb particle	
get something up	I want to get my energy levels up .
Type 4. verb + adverb particle + preposition + NOUN	
go out with somebody	I'm going out with someone I met at work.

Grammar

Some words can function as a particle or as a preposition depending on the context. In the following examples, *off* is used as a preposition (pattern 2) and as a particle (patterns 1, 3 and 4).

In type 1 (verb + adverb particle), there is no need for other words for complete meaning	fall off (become detached): I put a plaster on the cut, but it fell off .
In type 2 (verb + preposition + N), the preposition always comes before the object.	go off something (come to dislike): I went off spicy food when I was pregnant. I went spicy food off when I was pregnant. I went off it when I was pregnant. I went it off when I was pregnant.
In type 3 (verb + N + adverb particle), the adverb particle must follow a pronoun object; it can precede or follow a noun.	turn something off (remove the power): I turned my pager off at midnight. I turned off my pager at midnight. I turned it off at midnight. I turned off it at midnight.
In type 4 (verb + adverb particle + preposition + N), the object follows the preposition.	walk off with something (take without asking): He's walked off with my stethoscope again! He's walked off with it again!

Use a good dictionary for learners of English to find out the meaning of verbs you come across and to check which type they are.