

#175. The Phrasal Verb Chronicles

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Hello everybody, it's Luke here, from Luke's English Podcast as usual. In the last episode of the podcast I promised to you that I will record another one which I didn't read from a script that's all! I've talked about reading a script before and I don't think it's necessarily a natural way to speak, you know, we speak differently when we speak a kind of in a non-planned way to when we're speaking things we've written down. So, in this one, I've decided I'm just going to speak in a completely unplanned way, none of this is scripted. In fact, I hardly even prepared, that's all! I just have an idea and the idea is I want to do some kind of phrasal verb review with you, because, you know, I've been doing this series of many phrasal verbs episodes which you can find on the website and I just been thinking, in fact, I've been meaning for a while ??? Go through some of these phrasal verbs again just to give you some kind of review and also just to encourage you if you haven't started listening to them already to going check them out.

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So what I am going to do here is – I've actually got a list of the phrasal verbs that I've done so far and at this point I've done 62 phrasal verbs, alright? So I've been.....I was thinking about this idea of something called 'the phrasal verb chronicles'. Now really I just like the name – the phrasal verb chronicles – it kind of sounds slightly mysterious and cool so I just had this name in mind. That's it really! 'The phrasal verb chronicles!' What can I do with that? And I was thinking: Now maybe I can kind of make a story using the phrasal verbs that I have taught so far and I'll be able to kind of do two things. One would be to make up a story off the top of my head and do one of those kind of episodes. Also at the same time use it as a way of just sort of reviewing some of the phrases which I have taught you on the website recently.

So, it's working these two things, kind of a have fun and also a way to just try and jog your memories regarding some of these phrases. And that's it! That's the only idea I've got. So I've got no idea where I am going to go with this story but what I am going to try and do is just kind of try and make up a story or make up situations in which I use these phrasal verbs. I am going to try and do the first fifty. That's right! Fifty!

Now, if you want to study these seriously, you can! You can go to the website and listen to each episode and read the transcripts there and study them and get to know the different meanings and things like that. And if you've already done that then you could just use this as a chance to try and spot the phrasal verbs, if you like, just try andoh, there is one – oh, yeah, there is another one – I wonder how he's going to use the next one and just try and follow the way I am using the phrasal verbs of the specific ones I am using.

If you haven't checked out any of my phrasal verbs then you can just ...or you can kind of play the same game as you are listening. Just try to spot the phrasal verbs, okay?

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Where are they? How am I using them? Think also about the grammatical context I'm using the phrasal verbs in: are they in, like, the progressive form or passive form or something like that. Check out the other verbs and phrases that I'm using in combination with these phrasal verbs as well and just try and work out the meaning of them as well if that's necessary and what you can do then, is go and check out all the phrasal verbs episodes and sort of, you know, just have a look at the ones that you might have missed or the ones that weren't completely clear to you and then you can kind of, you know, expand your vocabulary a bit, alright.

So now I'm just going to start talking. Well, obviously, I already am talking. That's a ridiculous thing to say, isn't it? Er, not really. Well anyway, I'm going to now just try and make up a story off the top of my head. I've got absolutely no idea where it might go. Er, but, the aim is for me to just try and use these phrasal verbs in this weird long drawn out situation. Ok? And, I think it's time to start, now.

Ok. So, let's see. I was in a pub the other day, I wasn't, really. This is just a story. But, just imagine, alright? I was in a pub, the other day, and I was just there with a couple of friends. We were having a beer and actually, and, I saw this girl on the other side of the pub and I thought: "Wow. She looks very nice and she's really fit. She's, and, really, she looks very cool as well." This is before I had a girlfriend, of course. I thought she looks very cool and I've seen her in this pub before. She looks like this sort of person who you can just talk to, you know. She kind of seemed to wear cool clothes and just had a good atmosphere about her.

So I thought this time, I'm in a good mood. I'm going to try and ask her out, ok? I'm going to go over there and I'm going to start chatting to her and see what happens. And then, you know, in some way, I'll try and ask her out. Just try and ask her on a date.

So, I said to my friends: "Look guys, I'm going to go for it, ok? You're going to back me up, ok? I'm going to need you to be my wingmen on this one, alright? So, just back me up. I'm going to go over there and try and talk to her and we'll see what happens."

And, so, let's see. I walked over to the girl and I said: "Hey, er, hey, how is it going?"

And she was like: "Oh, er, fine. Thanks."

I said: "Hey, it's cool to see you in the pub again. I've seen you a couple of times but I've never actually spoken to you. My name's Luke, from Luke's English Podcast."

And she said: "Oh, really? That's good. I'm sure that's very interesting. Thanks. Thanks for telling me."

And he say, and then I said to her: "Sorry, you just sound a little bit sarcastic."

But she said: "Oh no, I'm not sarcastic at all, no. I don't know where you're getting THAT idea. No, I, er, no one has ever accused me of being sarcastic."

So, and I said: "Really that's odd. Because you, really, you sound really sarcastic. Are you sure you're not joking? This is a bit weird."

And she said: "What? I sound like I'm sarcastic? That's a bit weird, isn't it? Look, you think, you think yeah, I'm not, I'm not joking. Just because of the way that I'm speaking like this doesn't mean I'm, it doesn't mean I'm joking or anything, doesn't it?"

I said: "Ok, this is, er, this is a bit weird. You just have a really really sarcastic sounding voice."

And then immediately I thought: This isn't going to work. This, I thought she was great but she's

just really sarcastic and she doesn't even realise it. And I thought: I'm not up for it anymore. I'm going to bail out of this one. I'm going, and I thought, how am I going to bail out of this?

You know, and I just said: "Look, I just thought I'd introduce myself. Er, anyway, er, you know, maybe I'll see you later. Ok. Bye for now."

And I just bailed out completely and I walked back over to the other side of the pub with my mates. And I felt de, ok ? I felt devastated because I thought, I, I thought that she was going to be cool. I thought that we were really going to get on with each other. I thought it was going to be great and we might even start going out with each other or something. And then, one day, we would get married and we would have an amazing family. But she was just really annoyingly sarcastic and, oh my god! I don't know if I can take it. And my mates said to me: "Come on Luke! You'll be alright. Come on, you know, it's not first time it has happened."

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"You usually bounce back from this kind of situation". And I was like: "Yeah you're right, aren't you? _____ just bounce is back. If I get flung into a corner I'll just bounce back, I'm a bounced back, I bounce back. In fact I have bounced back, I'm back now, I bounced and now I'm back. So bring it on, OK? Let's go!" And my friends said: "Alright Luke, calm down. Don't get carried away, don't get overexcited, you're OK, you're alright... just be cool, OK? Just be cool brother". And I was like: "Why are you speaking in that 1970's cool kind of way?" And I said: "Look you know we don't speak like it's not ____all cool and groovy brother. We don't speak like that, it's not the 70's anymore, come on, catch up, this is the... what? Two thousands and teens, I don't know what you call this decade. It used to be the 90's, then it was the noughties because it was like you know nought zero zero... two zero zero, the noughties. And now what is it? The teens? The two thousand and teens?" And my friend said to me, Stan, he said: "Sorry can I just chip in here and just remind you that you suppose to be doing... you suppose to be making a story out of this, so far it's going a little bit bizarre, isn't it? Wouldn't you say? Because the story at this point has sort of disappeared I would say". And I said to him: "Look never mind that, it's time to buy another round of beers, OK? In fact I've already ordered them, it's 20 quid, come on, cough up". And so my friend produced his money and we had another round of drinks and that was very nice. I overheard a guy in the pub... the some guy who was always there just like going on and on about stuff, and I listened in and he was going: "Yeah well you know what I think? I think the police needs to crack down on crime... there's too much crime in this city, people need to crack the police and the government need to introduce new laws and really crack down on the crimes that being committed". And I thought: "I'm going to have to get involved here". And I said: "Sorry do you mind if I just cheap in here? How exactly do you expect the police to crack down on crime? And in fact which crime? You can't just say 'crime' in general, can you? Is there specific crime that you think the police would crack down on?" And he said: "Well... you know... I think the main course of problems in society today is the simple fact that...". And I said: "Yes the simple fact that..." And he said: "The main ... the reason why the police should be cracking down..." And I said: "Yes, cracking down". "Yes, cracking down on..." "What? Crime?" "Yeah, crime... the main reason for that is because..." And I said to him: "Look you don't really know, do you? You don't know why people... you don't know what kind of crime people should be cracking down on". And he said: "Look can I just remind you that you're telling this story and none of this actually happened

and I get the impression that nothing is occurring at this moment because you can't work out what kind of crime it is that you think the police should be cracking down on. Because you know that the next phrasal verb is 'to crack up' and, you know, most people might know that 'to crack up' means to start laughing. So what you're trying to do here is actually buying time. So you can think of a funny crime, OK? Then you can use the expression 'to crack up' meaning laugh". And I said:"That's very good. You're very intuitive, aren't you? It's amazing the way that you are able to think... to know exactly what I'm thinking". And he said:"Well that's because... that's not two people, it's just one person, it's just you just telling a story, so get on with it and let's see if you can find the way to introduce the expression 'to crack up". And I said:"Well I think... to be honest I have... we've just said it, just said it a few times 'to crack up". And then I said to myself:"This is very strange because at this point this podcast is becoming very schizophrenic. In fact Luke you know what you're doing, you're having the conversation with yourself". And I said:"That's right I am actually having a conversation with myself. Maybe I'm cracking up, maybe that's it, maybe I'm losing it... I'm just starting to talk to myself and at that point I thought:"Well I've had enough of this and I just want to go home and just curl up on the sofa and just... you know... go to sleep".

So I said to my friends:"Look guys thanks a lot for the beers, great to see you, I've got to dash off, OK? I've got to dash off, I've got to go home, I've got to doze off, OK? Because I'm fed up with this". And they said:"Alright, fair enough Luke, fair enough... you just... you know... you've got to _____ man because it's the 1970's dude". And I was like:"OK whatever".

And so I dashed off in order to doze off at home and I got on a bus and the bus was moving nice and slowly, it was very warm day and I'd had a few beers and I started to drop off, to sleep... I was just... "such a warm lovely comfortable bus" and so I dropped off to sleep and at that point... well... at that point I started having a dream and... let's see... I had a dream about simply going surfing... that was just a lovely dream about surfing and then I woke up... yep... I woke up and I went home and I turned on a TV... and I sat down on a sofa, turned on a TV and a commercials were on and it was just the usual nonsense... just... you know... "do you take two bottles into the shower? Why not use one bottle of Head & Shoulders"... you know, just usual annoying advertising stuff. And I thought to myself:"TV really is dumbing down, isn't it?. It's the dumbing down of the modern culture. It really is". And at that point I thought:"Right I've got to get out, I've got to get out now. I know... I've just come home, I've just come in but I've got to get out now. In fact I'm hungry. Well I think tonight what I'll do is I treat myself to a meal in a nice restaurant. So I thought:"I'm going to eat out tonight. I'm just going to eat out in a lovely restaurant". And then I thought:"Wait a minute, you can't afford that because, you know, I don't get paid much, I'm just a starving English teacher and I have just a very meager salary which I have to eke out over the whole year. Hold your horses Luke, don't get carried away, you can't just go and eat out in some expensive restaurant whenever you want to. No you've got to try and save money". So I thought:"I'll better stay in then, I'll better stay in at this point and probably what I should do is work out how to move this story forwards in some way because I realize now in the story I'm just sitting at home, nothing happens, I'm just sitting at home. This isn't an exciting adventure story. This is just of a guy sitting on a sofa. OK, alright... so... let's see... And I thought:"Never mind the fact that I've got to save money because eventually I'm going to get rich from doing Luke's English Podcast, so to hell with my savings, I'm going to go out and I just

started to really build myself, I'm going to go out, I started building myself up... you know... "come on, right... we going to go outside..." I decided I'm just going to dress nicely in a nice suit and everything and I was like really egging myself on and I was like: "Come on then, let's go out and have a lovely evening". And I was just egging myself up like that, egging myself on... And I went out and it was really nice time I ended up in a bar again. It seems that I spend a lot of time in bars and pubs but anyway, I just ended up in a bar... I don't know quite well what happened and who did I see in the bar, who was it that I saw on the other side of the bar? It was the same girl, the sarcastic girl from the pub earlier on, and I have to admit that she was looking pretty good, and I couldn't help thinking I couldn't help noticing that she was eyeing me up. That's right, Mister smooth over there in his suit had caught her attention. She was... every now and then she was eyeing me up a little bit. And I thought: "Hello, OK. Second attempt. It's never mind the annoying sarcastic voice. Actually I don't mind sarcasm, that's fine, I'm English, I'm Orpheus with sarcasm, that's totally fine". So I thought: "Right, I'm going to go over there". So I edged myself on. And I was like: "Come on". And I went over and I spoke to her and I said: "Hey there... hey. I didn't catch your name earlier on in the pub". And she was like: "Oh yeah, that's right. Oh yeah we met in the pub, didn't we? Yeah exactly. I didn't give you my name? Yeah alright then". And I said: "Yeah... yeah... I didn't give you my name... What's your name?" "Alright you want to know my name I see. OK, let's say, shall we, I'm like called... I'm called Jane". And I said: "Look Jane, it's really nice to talk to you again but I'm just... I'm going to go back over to the other side of the pub because cannot handle how sarcastic you are". And she said: "Oh yeah you can't handle how sarcastic I am, right". And I said: "Yeah and I also can't handle effect you just repeat everything that I say but in a sarcastic tone of voice. What are you going to say to that?" "I repeat everything you say in like a sarcastic tone of voice?" And I said: "Yeah look see you later OK? I'm out of here. I've had enough and just faffing around. This always happens to me, I see you from across a pub or a bar and I think that you look really hot and when I come over here we end up just faffing about, not actually talking about anything and I just get really annoying by your sarcastic tone of voice, OK? So... sorry. I did have plan this evening, I thought that I'm going to go out, I'm going to take her out for dinner and it's going to be nice, but sorry, those plans are just falling through when I... I'm sorry to say these things to you". And she was: "Oh yeah you're sorry". And I said: "Yeah, I'm not even convinced that you're sarcastic, I think that you're just kind of ironic, I think there's a difference" And I said: "Look, I'm going to fess up at this point, I think I've been getting your voice wrong because you meant to be sarcastic but you are just kind of like ironic, like that. I'm not sure that's really sarcastic". And she said: "Oh yeah of course because sarcasm is when you say exactly what you mean?" And I said: "Actually that did sound quite sarcastic so maybe I'm getting it right at this point". Anyway, look, at this point I realized I was just nervous, you know, I was standing there, I had my pint glass in my hand and I was fiddling with the glass in my hand and just thinking: "Oh dear, this is terrible, I really need to get out of this awkward social situation, I really do". And in the end I just said: "Look I really feel for you you because it must be hard having just a completely sarcastic tone of voice like that, you know. It must be really really hard". And she said: "So I suppose do you want to feel me up or something?" And I said: "What? What? Did you ask me if I wanted to feel you up? That's really weird. In fact I'm not even sure if you're being sarcastic there, I'm out of here, I'm just flagging this up, you shouldn't say that kind of thing because it's really weird. OK so I'm out of here, nice

to see you again Jane, bye-bye for now". And I thought:"Oh dear, it's devastated again by that, by this repetition of events but anyway I wonder if my listeners are managing to keep up with all these phrasal verbs that I'm doing. And I thought at that point:"Right, well. I'm going to go and sit down and just reading newspaper or something, so I grabbed the newspaper and just sat with my glass trying not to think about the embarrassing situation I'd just had with Jane. And I just sat there flicking through the newspaper and just wondering how the hell I was going to introduce the next phrasal verb into this story. A story which has no drama and very little romance as well, as a matter of fact.

Again just biding my time flicking through the newspaper just thinking how am I going to introduce this next phrase and I thought:"Alright, this is nice being in a pub and pubs... pubs are places where you tell stories, aren't they? The traditional places where people gather round and tell each other stories, right? And I thought:"OK, that's not happening, that's clearly what's going on in this culture. Everyone's just sitting around minding their own business". And I thought:"OK, I think what I should do is trying introduce maybe sort of like a storytelling element to this pub night out". So I started kind of gearing myself up to announce to the pub that it was story time, OK? So I was gearing myself up and I was thinking:"Right how am I going to get across this idea that what we should do is take this pub to its traditional routes and gather round near the fireplace and tell stories to each other. Never mind all mobile phones and newspapers and TV football coverage and stuff. Let's take it back to the origins, let's go back to the time of Shakespeare and let's gather round and tell each other stories, oral traditions, right?" So I was really gearing myself up to really get this message across to everyone and I thought:"It's going to be brilliant, well we'll have story time in the pub every thursday, it'll be a great chance for everyone to get together and gather round in a group and really get on with each other and you know, there won't be a TV to really annoy you, no one will argue, no one will be getting at each other or anything like that, it's going to be fine". And I thought:"I wonder if I'll get away with this because they might not go along with it, you know? They might think:"Who is this mad man? No TV, no mobile phones, you're crazy, aren't you?" And I thought:"Well it's a crazy idea but I might just get away with it". And... let's see... I thought:"I'd probably better speak to the barman about this before I launch into it, you know? I'd probably better just check with him that it's OK. And I said to the barman:"Excuse me can I just ask you a question about a potential sort of fun evening that I've got planned in my head?" And he said:"Sorry Luke but you did say this to me... well... you have said this to me almost everyday at the last seven weeks so what is it? You want to set up a story club where everyone shares old stories with each other. Look I told you that I'd get back to you on that, alright? Still the same case, just leave it with me and I'll get back to you". I said:"Look, never mind that, I've had enough of you promising to get back to me on this and I've been waiting for seven weeks and nothing, nada, zero, zilch, zip, OK?" And he said:"How many words for nothing did you just say". And I said:"I think it was zero, it was nada, zero, zip, zilch, nothing, something like that". and he said:"That was pretty cool, that was cool... I don't know where they came from, that sounded good, let's do that again because that was fun, just all of different ways to say nothing, some of them are like a bit spanish and stuff. That's fun. How many times have you asked me about the story time in the pub?" And I said:"I've asked you everyday for this last seven weeks and what have you got back to me with? Nothing, zero, zip, nada, zilch, nowt, not, absolutely nothing". And he said:"Alright, well I'm really

sorry about that, it's just that I'm very busy and, you know, I've got so many things to do everyday, I just always get behind, I can never really catch up with all the things I have to do and it's really hard, it's really hard Luke and sometimes I don't know how I get by". And I said:"Alright mate don't get down about it, no need to get depressed about how busy your life is. It was just a request, just an idea of story time in the pub, it could be fun. Imagine the amount of beer that people will drink because they'll have nothing else to do, either I think there are three possibilities. Possibility one is that they will all drink a lot because they'll be so interested in the stories, they'd be caught up in the spirit of things or... option two - they will be so bored and so miserable by the stories that they will be forced to drink in order to drown their sorrows. In both of those cases you're a winner, you're selling more beer, alright? The third option is that just no one buys any drink and no one likes the story in which case you put on some music and everyone just gets down, have a disco, alright?" And he said:"Look this is pretty good, it's a pretty good idea Luke, neither I think about it, I think that what we should do is really just get down to this, we need to get started, we need to try, really get down to it, OK. So when do you want to start? Do you want to start tonight?" And I was like:"Yes get in, yes, I'd love to start tonight, brilliant!" And I just really started getting into the idea, alright? I started getting into the idea and I thought:"All we need to do is start with a couple of people telling stories and everyone else will listen to them. This is brilliant. I want to get in on this. This is really good. Everyone's going to start getting into it. And then, you know, eventually people be saying:"Oh if you heard about story time at the pub? It's amazing, it's a very exclusive sort of club. It's a bit like fight club, you know, storytime club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast" And people will be saying:"You really want to get with Luke because that story time club is _____. And there'll be meetings, there'll be like story time club with Luke from Luke's English podcast meetings and I'll stand around. Everyone I have to say the shirts off, I don't know about the girls, they can keep... you know... their dignity, it's fine. Everyone gets the shirts off and feel like:"Right, OK. Here the rules of story time club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast, the first rule is 'you do not talk about story time club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast' and the second rule of story time club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast is 'you do not talk about story time club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast, you know, it would be cool, it would be like the movie fight club, I'd be like Brad Pitt or something and it would be amazing. And that girl, that fit with the sarcastic voice would be so impressed that she would... that she'd get off with me, right? And that would be amazing and then I think:"Wait a minute Luke. Calm down, you haven't started it yet, that might not even happen, OK?. Come on, let's just take it easy, I think we should just get on with this and get story time club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast started". And so I thought:"Right, I'm going to go for it". And I stood up in the pub and I said:"Hello everyone, I'm Luke from Luke's English Podcast, I welcome to story nightclub, that's we are going to get together, gather round and tell each other old traditional folk tales. You have to turn off the TV, turn off the football... yeah... now turn it off... yeah. You got to put your mobile phones away. Let's get started with story time club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast". And one big bloke, he was watching the football just turned to me and he said:"Get out of here, get out of here! We don't want Luke's story time club, stupid". And I thought:"Well, never mind. I tried, I failed and my dreams would dashed onto the floor of a traditional pub". And I thought:"Well at least I've still got my dreams, I can still dream about story time club with Luke from Luke's English Podcast

and that's alright, isn't it?"

OK and that's the end of The Phrasal Verb Chronicles Episode 1 and... let's see... OK. Now that it's finished, I wonder how it was... it was pretty stupid and pretty ridiculous, but did you find and notice all of the phrasal verbs in there? Let me just take you through the list of phrasal verbs. I'm just going to read them out as a list, just so you can kind of confirm which ones were in there. To be honest it was pretty difficult, I don't know if you could realize. It was really hard constructing some kind of story in which I to use all those phrases. It's really hard and as a result the story just didn't make any sense. Some of them are vague notion of a story line I suppose but that was fun actually, that was really fun because I had no idea what I'm going to say next. It's good fun. You should try that, try that game, get a list of phrases or verbs or something and just trying make a story in which you use each one. That's I think... I convinced that's really good practice, that could be a good project for you, OK? You could record yourself trying to do what I just did. You don't have to do all 50 of them, you could just do like 5 in a row, 10 in a row and see if you going to make them... make sense and have fun with it, and that's quite a good way of practicing using these phrasal verbs. So here the phrasal verbs which you may've noticed or you may've missed. Let me just remind you that you can go to www.teacherluke.wordpress.com and click on the button that says A Phrasal Verb a Day and you'll see this list and you'll be able to listen to each individual phrasal verb lesson and learn them properly, OK?

So here are all the phrasal verb which I used. Number one was to ask someone out, then to back someone up, to bail out, to bounce back, to bring it on, to get carried away, to catch up, to chip in, to cough up, to crack down, to crack up, to curl up, to dash off, to doze off, to drop off, to dumb out, to eat out, to eke out, to egg on, to end up, to eye up, to faff around, to fall through, to fess up, to fiddle about, to feel for someone, to feel someone up which is a rude one, to flag something up, to flick through a newspaper, to gather round, to gear up, to get ready, to get across, to get along, to get at someone, to get away with something, to get something back or to get back, to get back on someone or something, to get behind, to get by, to get down, to get down to something, to get in, to get into, to get in on something, to get in with, to get off, to get off with someone, to get on, to get on with it, to get out of... and that's it.

OK, I've realized I went super-fast at the end there but ultimately I thought:"Well this is getting boring all of these words like all these prepositions with the word 'get', the only way I can make them exciting is to do it faster.

That is the end of this episode of The Phrasal Verb Chronicles and I hope you've enjoyed it and who knows I might do another one of these soon in which I'll go through the other phrasal verbs. Maybe I'll wait until 100 and then I'll do The Phrasal Verb Chronicles Episode 2. That's it then, speak to you again soon... bye-bye-bye...

The End