

Word order in multi-word verbs ★★

(★ = Basic ★★ = Intermediate ★★★ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite (read this)

For definitions of words in CAPITALS,
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Worksheet (do this)

Here's a simple difference between phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs (MULTI-WORD VERBS¹); the difference is in **word order**.

Prepositional verb



Susie ran up the hill
(Susie ran up it)

[Susie] [ran] [up-the-hill]
(Up is attached to hill)

Phrasal verb



Susie ran up a bill
(Susie ran it up)

[Susie] [ran-up] [a-bill]
(Up is attached to ran)

In a **phrasal verb**, *up* can sometimes go in two different places:

Eat your supper **up** ✓ Eat it **up** ✓

Eat **up** your supper ✓ Eat ~~up~~ it ✗

(there are two possible orders of *up* and a NOUN, but only one with *up* and a PRONOUN)

¹ MULTI-WORD VERB = PHRASAL VERB **or** PREPOSITIONAL VERB

Can you change round the order of the two items underlined?

Tip: Three quarters of the answers are "no"

	yes	no
1 He walked <u>up the stairs</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 He walked <u>up them</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 She put <u>up a notice</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 She put <u>one up</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 They set <u>up the website</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 They set <u>it up</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 The squirrel ran <u>up the tree</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The squirrel ran <u>up it</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 The wind blew <u>up the street</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 The wind blew <u>up it</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 The robbers blew <u>up the bank</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 The robbers blew <u>it up</u> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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¹For DEFINITIONS, go to www.grammarbites.co.uk/definitions