

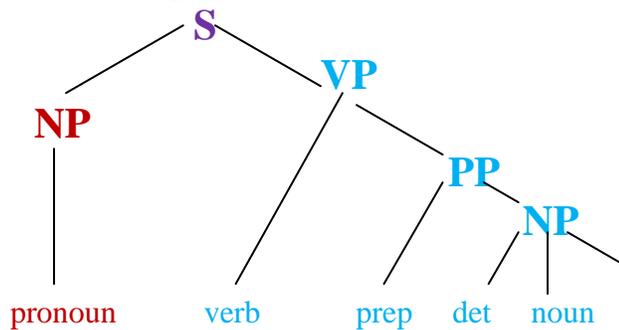
Prepositions as Particles in Phrasal Verbs

1. They decided on the boat.

Paraphrase: While they were actually physically aboard the boat, they made some kind of decision – could be about anything, e.g. to leave the kids at home on their next vacation; where to have lunch after the boat docked; to never-ever take another boat trip ever again because no matter how many pills they take, one of them always gets seasick, etc. Any random decision works.



Bracketing and tree look like this:

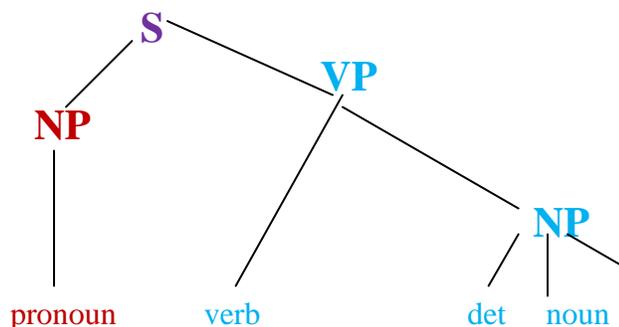


$[[\text{They}]^{\text{NP}} [[\text{decided}]^{\text{V}} [[\text{on}[\text{the boat}]^{\text{NP}}]^{\text{PP}}]^{\text{VP}}]^{\text{S}}$

2. They decided on the boat.

Paraphrase : They decided to spend their windfall profits on a luxurious boat, rather than a Ferrari or a beach house .

Bracketing and tree look like this:



$[\text{They}]^{\text{NP}} [[\text{decided on}]^{\text{V}} [\text{the boat}]^{\text{NP}}]^{\text{VP}}]^{\text{S}}$



In this version, the preposition *on* is functioning as a verb particle, e.g. thought *about*, cleaned *up*, woke *up*, turn *off*, put *down*, threw *up*, look *up*, cuddle *up*, look *after*, call *up*, tell *off*, piss *off*, come *off*, put *down*, call *out*

Prepositions as Particles in Phrasal Verbs

It is estimated that there are at least 2,621 so-called *phrasal verbs* – and it's almost impossible to go a day without using at least one of them. They are an intimate part of our vocabulary and it's not like they *feel* different when they slide out of our mouths or off of our fingertips as we keyboard them. See below:

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
keep * around	have handy, have accessible	I always keep a dictionary around to translate new words.
keep at +	not give up (an activity), to persevere	You should keep at your studies.
keep * away	prevent access to, hold back	Keep the kids away from the cookies.
keep * back	maintain a safe distance, cause to maintain a safe distance	Keep back! The burning building is about to collapse.
keep * down	not vomit, not throw up, keep in one's stomach	If I ate that, I don't know if I could keep it down.
keep * in	keep in a particular place, have something in a specific location	When I am not using it, I keep my passport in this drawer.
keep * off	prevent from stepping or climbing on to something	Keep the cat off the couch.
keep on	continue	He kept on talking after everybody asked him to stop.
keep * out	prevent from entering	Keep the dog out of the garden; he keeps digging up the flowers.
keep * over	cover something with, put something above	I keep a tarp over my bicycle at night to prevent it from getting wet.

Prepositions as Particles in Phrasal Verbs

keep to +	continue, persist in (an activity)	Everybody said she would never finish the puzzle, but she kept to it until it was done.
keep up	stay on the required schedule	You have to keep up if you want to work here.
keep * up +	continue	You are doing a great job! Keep it up.
keep up with +	stay on schedule with (a person, the workload, homework)	I have so much reading that I can't keep up with the writing exercises.
kick back	sit or lie back (to relax)	After work, I like to kick back in front of the TV and relax.
kick in	begin taking effect	The medicine takes one hour to kick in.

Websites:

English Page < <http://www.englishpage.com/prepositions/phrasaldictionary.html>.>

Prepositions and Phrasal Verbs < <http://www.englishpage.com/prepositions/prepositions.html>>

Dictionary of English Phrasal Verbs < <http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/phrasal-verbs/>>