# An Analysis of *NTC's Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs and Other Idiomatic Verbal Phrases* (1)

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## 1.  Introduction

Phrasal verbs dictionaries are very popular in the UK (e.g. McArthur & Atkins (1974), Cowie & Mackin (1975, 1993), Courtney (1983), Turton & Manser (1985), Sinclair & Moon (1989)). However, the situation is quite different on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. According to the publisher's blurb on the back cover, *NTC's Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs and Other Idiomatic Verbal Phrases* (hereafter *NTCPV*) is "the only American dictionary of phrasal verbs".

   This article, written by an intended user of this book, will review *NTCPV* in a comprehensive and objective fashion. I used a copy in the first printing and did not consult one in the latest possible printing. Mistakes and inappropriate descriptions and explanations that will be mentioned may have been corrected by now (I hope so).

## 2.  Intended users

According to the preface, *NTCPV* is "intended for the new-to-English user as well as for fluent speakers" (p. vii). It is a common commercial practice to avoid specifying user groups, but, as a language teacher myself, I guess it must have been a tough task for the NTC compilers to satisfy various needs of various user groups at a time, just as it is hardly an easy task for a language teacher to satisfy the whole class consisting of beginners as well as highly advanced learners.

## 3.  Phrases included

### 3.1.  Phrasal verbs

*NTCPV* is a dictionary of 'phrasal verbs and other idiomatic verbal phrases'. However, the title is a little misleading because (1) 'phrasal verb' is defined ambiguously, (2) there are some strange 'particles' (see 3.2), and (3) 'other idiomatic verbal phrases' are loosely defined.

In the preface 'phrasal verbs' (or "combinations of a verb and one or more adverbs or prepositions") are defined semantically, namely, combinations that "function together as a single unit of meaning". However, they are defined grammatically (and ambiguously) in the glossary called "TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS" (pp. xvi–xvii). According to sense 1 (s.v. phrasal verb), they consist of a verb and an adverbial particle, while they are defined much more loosely in sense 2, namely, "a generic term covering *prepositional verb, phrasal-prepositional* verb [*sic*], the construction described under sense 1, and other *verb + particle collocations* where the *particle* is an adverb or other function word". It seems the term 'phrasal verb' is used in the second sense in the dictionary's title.

*NTCPV* also contains "[m]any sequences that are readily understandable" (p. vii) and "a number of constructions analogous to phrasal verbs" (p. ix).

### 3.2.  Particles

Particles are "prepositions and some directional adverbs that are governed by verbs" (p. xvi). However, 'particle' is defined elsewhere as "an adverb or other function word" (p. xvii). It is not mentioned what are "other function words".

A survey has revealed that *NTCPV* contains the following 'particles':

(1)  conjunctions: *after* (**snap back (after sth)**), *before* (**appear before sth, think before doing sth**), *that* (**make out [that] sth**), *until* (**keep sth until sth**);

(2)  *to* as the marker of the infinitive (e.g. **challenge sb to sth**).

(Direct and indirect objects are indicated by "**someone**", "**something**", etc. in *NTCPV*, but to save space they are often abbreviated to '**sb**' and '**sth**' in this review.)

The particle *to* is confusing in some entries as the next table shows, where 'to-inf' and 'to-prep' stand for *to* as the marker of the infinitive and *to* as a preposition, respectively:

(1)  to-prep only (e.g. **abbreviate sth to sth**);
(2)  to-inf only;
    (2a)  a pro-verb 'do' used (e.g. **oblige sb to do sth**);
    (2b)  a particular verb used (e.g. **lead sb to believe sth**);
(3)  to-inf as well as to-prep;
    (3a)  monosemous entry (e.g. **drive sb to sth**);
    (3b)  polysemous entry (e.g. **condition sb or sth to sth**).

(3a) and (3b), where *to* has two meanings, are very confusing. The two examples given at **drive sb to sth**, "*She drove him to leaving her*" and "*She drove herself to stay awake*", will confuse the learner. At **condition sb or sth to sth** *to* stands for to-inf in sense 1, while it is to-prep in sense 2.

It is mentioned that *NTCPV* "does not include most instances of verb + *to* where the *to* is the marker of the infinitive" (p. ix). It is not clear how such combinations have been chosen (for instance, **force sb to do sth** is not included).

In dictionaries of this type *to* should be treated only as a preposition; it should not stand for the marker of the infinitive.

### 3.3.  Idiomatic and non-idiomatic combinations

*NTCPV* is a dictionary of "Idiomatic Verb Phrases" (front cover). However, it also contains a great number of non-idiomatic combinations. The dictionary often neglects to tell the user whether a particular phrase has an idiomatic (or figurative) meaning as well as literal one. For instance, only literal meanings are shown in the following entries: **brighten up, bring sb or sth forward, break sth on sth, carry sb or sth out, drop across sb or sth, line up alongside sb or sth.**

It seems that non-idiomatic combinations were selected in a rather random fashion. For instance, **break sth on sth** as in "*He broke his arm on the steps*" is included, but phrases like **break sth under, break sth in,** etc. are not. Similarly, **sway back and forth, sway from side to side,** and **buy sth on credit** are all included, but **run back and forth, shake sth from**

side to side, and **pay in cash** are not.

Many of these literal combinations are regarded as 'free combinations'. Take the 'verb + to death' construction as an example. *NTCPV* includes both **bleed to death** and **choke to death,** but it does not include other possible combinations such as **burn to death, starve to death, stab sb to death,** nor does it include a more important phrase **put sb or sth to death.**

It is misleading to include non-idiomatic (free) combinations in such a random fashion, for it is doubtful that phrases included are more typical, important collocations than those omitted.

## 3.4.   Antonymous phrasal verbs

It is not unusual that the combination with an opposite meaning to a particular phrase is not included. For instance, **strike for sth** in the sense of "to conduct a work stoppage in order to gain something" is included, but its antonymous phrase **strike against sth** as in *"The workers were striking against unequal pay"* is not (see also **break sth on sth** in 3.3). Phrases associated in meaning with each other should be included (and cross-referenced appropriately; see 10).

## 4.   Index heads

Entries are introduced by 'index heads' and 'entry heads' (see 5).

An index head is capitalised and consists of a verb followed by a particle separated by an arrowhead (p. x; e.g. LAY ▶ OUT). The particle is usually the first particle after the verb.

When the first particle is an optional element, however, the second particle is shown. For instance, **abut (up) against sth** is shown under ABUT ▶ AGAINST, not under ABUT ▶ UP. This rule is occasionally broken. For example, **go overboard about sb or sth** is explained under GO ▶ ABOUT and is not referred from GO ▶ OVERBOARD (see also **come out in(to) the open (with sth)**).

All the 71 particles are listed on p. xvi, where *upside-down* is the only compound particle. It is used only at TURN ▶ UPSIDE DOWN (**turn sb or sth upside down**). However, the index head could be combined

with TURN ▶ UPSIDE, where **turn sth upside down** is explained.

Phrases having a causative verb such as *get* or *let* are shown under the index head with the causative verb. They should be cross-referenced from the entries without the causative verb. For instance, **get sth sewed up** and **let sth slip by** are shown under GET ▶ UP and LET ▶ BY, respectively, but they are not cross-referenced from **sew up** and **slip by,** respectively.

## 5.   Entry heads

Entry heads printed in boldface type contain the two words in the index head and are listed in alphabetical order beneath the index head (p. x). For instance, under BRING ▶ DOWN are listed **bring sb down, bring sb down to earth, bring sth crashing down (around one),** etc.

One of the distinctive features of *NTCPV* is the indication of human and nonhuman direct/indirect objects (p. viii). This will be discussed in 6.

## 5.1.   AND, and, or

'AND' is used to introduce alternate forms (see 5.6), while '**and**' is an element of a phrase (e.g. **fluctuate between sb and sb**). The boldface '**or**', which introduces an alternative element (except **make heads or tails of sb or sth**, where the first **or** is a part of this phrase), can be confusing in some entry heads such as **match sb against sb or sth against sth else**. The **or** should be typographically distinguished from other elements of the phrase, say, in italic type (see also 6.1).

## 5.2.   Entry heads and other information

Judging form the definition, usage note, and/or examples, some entry heads are considered inappropriate. For instance, **drain out** has two examples: *"All the milk drained out of the container onto the bottom of the refrigerator"* and *"All the oil drained out of the crankcase"*. If this phrasal verb is usually followed by an *of* phrase as the examples show, the entry head should be **drain out of sth**. The entry for **be on** (def. 2) has a usage note: "Often with a *for* phrase". Then the entry head should be replaced with **be on (for sth)**. See also **call sb down, get out with sth, jump all**

over sb, live sth over, splatter sb or sth up, stuff sth up, trade up from sth/trade up (to sth).

## 5.3. Gerunds

A gerund may be a part of a phrase and is indicated in the following ways (N stands for 'noun (phrase)'):

(1) particle + doing (e.g. **begin by doing sth**);
(2) particle + (doing) (e.g. **beat sb into (doing) sth**);
(3) particle + something
    (3a) something = N only (e.g. **talk sb out of sth**);
    (3b) something = doing only? (e.g. **deceive sb into sth**);
    (3c) something = N and doing (monosemous entry) (e.g. **trick sb into sth**);
    (3d) something = N and doing (polysemous entry) (e.g. **give sth up**).

Among these (1), which means the particle is always followed by a gerund, (2), which means the particle is followed by either a gerund or a noun (phrase), and (3a), which means the particle is always followed by a noun (phrase), are acceptable, but the others are all confusing. The two examples at **deceive sb into sth** both show the preposition is followed by a gerund, but it is not clear whether it can also be followed by a noun (phrase). In (3c) and (3d) the **something** has two meanings. (3d) is especially confusing; at **give sth up** a gerund may follow the particle only in the second sense.

## 5.4. Entries that cannot be 'eligible as an entry'

Some entries have a note: "not eligible as an entry". For instance, it is applied to **settle down somewhere,** where the particle *down* can be omitted without changing the meaning of the phrase, but "the resulting expression is not *eligible as an entry* because there is no particle" (pp. xv–xvi).

However, optional elements are usually shown in parentheses (pp. xiii–xiv). Thus such a strange note becomes unnecessary by simply including the optional element in parentheses, namely, **settle (down) somewhere**.

Compare it with **settle (back) (in(to) sth)**, which does not have an 'eligible' note.

## 5.5. Independent or combined entry heads?

There are dozens of entries that are associated with each other in both form and meaning. They could, or should, be combined (see also 5.6 and 6).

### 5.5.1. When the same entry head appears more than once

Phrases that have the same form are all shown under the same entry head, even though they have quite different meanings. For instance, five different senses are listed under **put sth out.**

However, this rule is ignored from time to time without clear reasons. There are cases where a pair of phrases are given a separate entry status each other even if they are identical not only in form but also in meaning (e.g. **cut sth off, dissociate oneself from sb or sth, leave sb or sth out (of sth)**). It is confusing that the information given (particularly definitions and usage notes) is often different from each other. For example, the second **leave sb or sth out (of sth)** has a note "*Someone* includes *oneself*", but the first does not, even though they are virtually the same phrasal verb.

### 5.5.2. When the same or very similar examples are given in two different entries

It is very strange to find exactly the same, or very similar, examples in two different entries. Compare:

    **fall (up)on sb or sth** . . . 2 [for something] to become the responsibility of someone or a group. □ *It falls upon you to have the window repaired.* . . .
    **fall (up)on sb (to do sth)** to become someone's responsibility to do something. . . . □ *It falls on you to fix the window.*

Is it significant that the forms (i.e. '**sb or sth**' as opposed to '**sb**' only; with or without '**to do sth**') and the definitions are different from each other? Other examples are: **allow sth for sb or sth/allow sth for sth, back sb or sth up/back sth up** (def. 1), **bring sth on sb/bring sth (up)on one-**

self, cloak sb or sth in secrecy/cloak sth in sth, drop around (for sth)/drop around (sometime), grade sb down on sth/grade sb or sth down, switch sb or sth over to sth/switch sth over (to sth). (See also 6.2.3.)

### 5.5.3. When two or more phrases become identical if optional elements are omitted

Many phrases become identical when optional elements shown in parentheses are removed. Compare:

> lay sth out to explain something; to go over details of a plan carefully. . . .
>
> lay sth out (for sb) to explain something in great detail to someone. (Colloquial.) . . .

The former entry is unnecessary.

A more serious problem is that the information given is different. Is it true that "*She laid out the details for him*" is a colloquial expression, while "*She laid out the details*" is not? Another example is make (good) use of sth/make use of sb or sth. Is the difference between "sth" and "sb or sth" significant? Also compare: bum around/bum around (with sb), cave in/cave in (on sb or sth), clean sth off/clean sth off ((of) sth), cut out ('Slang')/cut out for some place ('Colloquial'), drone on/drone on (about sb or sth), drop in/drop in (on sb), fall in love/fall in love (with sb or sth), fritter sth away/fritter sth away (on sb or sth), hurry back/hurry back (to sb or sth), keep sb in ignorance/keep sb in ignorance (about sb or sth), let on (about sb or sth)/let on (to sb) (about sb or sth), let sb or sth (get) out (of sth) (def. 1)/let sb or sth out (of sth), travel by sth/travel (from some place) (to some place) (by sth).

There are entries that are semantically identical but are treated differently in terms of optional elements. Compare: bind sb or sth up in sth AND bind sb or sth up with sth/bind sb or sth up (with sth), go out of sth/go out (of sth), jerk sb or sth out of sth/jerk sth out (of sb or sth). Note the difference in the objects of the last pair. (See also 6.2.3.)

### 5.5.4. When "Someone includes oneself" is involved

There are some pairs of entry heads that could be combined by using the note: "*Someone* includes *oneself*". For instance, help oneself to sth is redundant because it is virtually identical to help sb to sth, in which "*Someone* includes *oneself*". Also compare: burn (oneself) out/burn sb out, busy oneself with sb or sth/busy sb with sb or sth, dress (oneself) up/dress sb or sth up/dress sb or sth (up) (in sth), get (oneself) up/get sb up, trouble oneself about sb or sth/trouble sb about sb or sth.) (See also 6.2.6.)

### 5.5.5. When "F" examples overlap with "T" examples

In some sequences of *off of* or *out of*, the *of* is replaced with *from* when the *off* or *out* is moved to precede the direct object. Such examples are introduced by a box with "F" ([F]) (p. xiii). However, the "F" example in drain sth off (of sth), for instance, becomes identical with the "T" example in drain sth off (from sth) (e.g. "*Drain off the broth from the chicken*").

### 5.5.6. When *from* and *to* are involved

Many sequences consisting of *from* and/or *to* phrases can be combined into a single entry head. For instance, dispatch sb from some place and dispatch sb or sth to sb or sth can (or should) be converted into a single entry head: dispatch sb or sth (from sb or sth) (to sb or sth). (The "sb" in dispatch sb from some place is incorrect; see the second example given there. Note also the difference between "some place" and "sb or sth"; see 6.2.8.)

Other examples are: count up to sth (def. 1)/count from sth (up) to sth, escort sb or sth from sth/escort sb or sth to sth, jump up (from sth)/jump up (to sth). The entry head switch sth to sth should be corrected to switch sth (from sth) to sth.

### 5.5.7. Someone/something

When a phrase may take both human and nonhuman objects, they are shown as "someone or something" (see 6.2.3). However, this rule is occasionally broken, perhaps carelessly. Examples are: eavesdrop on sb/

eavesdrop on sth, fluctuate between sb and sb/fluctuate sth and sth, give (an) ear to sb/give (an) ear to sth, tip sb over/tip sth over.

### 5.5.8. Other redundant entries

The entry for **fork money out for sth** is redundant because it can be regarded as one of the examples of the sequence **fork sth out (to sb)** (def. 2). In the following set of entries, the first two are redundant: **come to terms (about sb or sth)** AND **come to terms (on sb or sth)/come to terms with sb or sth/come to terms (with sb or sth) (about sb or sth)** AND **come to terms (with sb or sth) (on sb or sth).**

### 5.6. Alternate forms

An entry head, or one of the senses of an entry head, may have one or more alternate (or additional) forms (pp. x–xi). There are cases where misleading alternate forms are given. For instance, the parenthetical "**(around)**" in **fool (around) with sb or sth** is misleading; the additional form **fool with sb or sth** is given to sense 2 and sense 3. Then what do the parentheses mean? At **get a grip on sth** the additional form **get a hold on sth** should be given to the whole entry, that is, soon after the entry head, not to sense 1 only (the second example of sense 2 does show this form).

There are entries that should (or could) be combined by means of appropriate alternate forms. For instance, **be bound up in sb or sth** and **be bound up with sb or sth** could be merged (cf. **keyed up (about sth)** AND **be keyed up (over sth)**). Similarly, **exult in sth** could be shown as an additional form after **exult at sth** AND **exult over sth.**

The real problem is, here again, that it is doubtful whether the differences in the information given are significant. Compare:

> **get into an argument (with sb) (about sb or sth)** to enter a quarrel with someone about someone or something. . . .
> **get into an argument (with sb) (over sb or sth)** to enter a quarrel with someone about who will end up with someone or something. . . .

Here *over* is regarded to have a different meaning from *about*. However, *over* and *about* are interchangeable at **argue (with sb) (over sb or sth)**

AND **argue (with sb) (about sb or sth)**. Which is correct? Also compare: **learn sth by heart/learn sth by rote.**

When a phrase is cross-referenced to another synonymous phrase, the two phrases could be explained at the same time, one of them being shown as an alternate form of the other. For instance, **ban sb from sth** (def. 2) has a note: "The same as *bar someone from some place*" (for "**some place**" see 6.2.8). Then they are explained at one of the two entries, the other being cross-referenced to it. Also compare: **catch up (to sb or sth)/catch up (with sb or sth)**, **direct sth against sb or sth/direct sth at sb or sth.**

It is not unusual that such cross-references are shown in one direction only (see 10). Compare: **be in over one's head (with sb or sth)/be in (sth) over one's head, check out (from sth)/check out (of sth), sit right with sb/sit well with sb.**

### 5.7. Imperative entry heads

There are a few entry heads shown in an imperative form (e.g. **Hang on to your hat!** AND **Hold on to your hat!, Get off it!**), while there are some other entries with a special note. For instance, **go on (with you)** and **go away** have the following notes, respectively: "Always a command. No tenses", "Often a command".

### 5.8. Interrogative entry heads

Unlike imperative entry heads, interrogative entry heads may cause minor trouble in retrievability. For instance, **Where do (you think) you get off?** is arranged in alphabetical order under GET ▶ OFF, and thus comes next to **get sth off (to sb or sth)**. The set phrase could be included in a note after the definition of **get off**. Incidentally, the set phrase **What can I do for you?** should be explained under **do sth for sb,** not under **do for sb.**

### 6. Selectional restrictions

One of the distinctive features of *NTCPV* is "the indication of human and nonhuman direct objects" (p. viii). The indication of this kind is very useful especially for the foreign learner. However, there are problems:

some are rather minor, but others are more serious.

## 6.1.   Selectional restrictions or real elements?

Human and nonhuman objects (and other pro-forms; see 6.2) are printed in the same typeface as the real elements of a phrase (i.e. verbs and particles). They should be typographically separated from each other, otherwise entries can become confusing.

There are entries where **something** etc. appear as they are. For instance, **slip sth over sb or sth** AND **slip one over on sb or sth** has a note: "The *something* is used unchanged." It means the first (not the second) **something** may appear as it is. This is very confusing. Besides, the note is more or less misleading. Firstly, the *something* may be changed into *anything* or *nothing* depending on the context, and secondly, the **one** is also used unchanged. See also: **dream sth up, have sth with sb, mean sth to sb, drop around (sometime).** Such a warning is missing at the following entries: **lay one on, get sth on sb or sth, make sth of sb or sth.**

## 6.2.   Pronouns, pro-adverbs, and other pro-forms

Selectional restrictions are typically shown by **someone** or **something,** or by their combination (**someone or something**), but other pro-forms are used from time to time (e.g. **one, some time, somewhere, somehow, money** etc.).

### 6.2.1.   Someone

Needless to say, **someone** refers to a human object. However, it refers to nonhuman objects at **display sth to sb** ('bird', 'committee') and **descend from sb** ('family'). Words like *committee* and *family* refer to human object in its broader sense, but they are treated as nonhuman objects in *NTCPV* (see 6.2.2), so the **sb** in these entry heads should be **sb or sth.**

The usage note at **tow sb or sth away** is useful.

### 6.2.2.   Something

As mentioned above, **something** may refer to human objects in its broader sense. For instance, "a bad crowd" in "*He runs with a bad crowd*

*and is bound to get in trouble*" (**run with sb or sth**) is replaced with 'something' in the entry head.

### 6.2.3.   Someone or something

It is regrettable that the indication of selectional restrictions is hardly reliable in some entries. For instance, compare the objects between **testify for sb** and its antonym **testify against sb or sth.** Is this difference really significant? Other examples are: **be soft on sb/to** [*sic*] **be soft on sb or sth, level sth against sb/level sth at sb or sth, take sth with one/take sb or sth with one, turn sb or sth upside down/turn sth upside down** (see also 5.5.2, 5.5.3).

It is not unusual that the indication of direct objects is by no means congruent with the examples given. For instance, the first example at **filch sth from sb** reads "*The young boy filched a candy bar from the store*", which is inconsistent with "**from sb**". See also **get sb through to sb or sth.**

### 6.2.4.   Set phrase or not?

Another serious problem is that it is often unclear when a normal phrase becomes a set phrase. For instance, the example "*They cloaked the whole project in secrecy*" is given at **cloak sth in sth,** while **cloak sb or sth in secrecy** does have a separate entry (see also 5.5.2; note the difference between the direct objects). Other examples are: **take sb for sth** (def. 1)/**take sb for a fool/take sb for an idiot, take sb for sth** (def. 2)/**take sb for a ride, close sth on sb or sth** (def. 2)/**close the door to sth; curve to sth/jog to the right or left, flash through sth/flash into one's mind.**

The entry head **get along with sb** should be corrected to **get along with you,** if the usage note is correct: "Only with *you*". See also **spread sth on thick** (def. 2: "Always with *it*").

There are opposite cases: direct objects are too specific in some entries. For instance, is *reelection* in **be up for reelection** the only possible object in this phrase? Is *election* impossible? See also **consecrate sb or sth to God.**

### 6.2.5.  Someone('s) or one('s)?

The pronoun **one** is sometimes used instead of **someone**. This creates another confusion. Compare (the examples are cited from *NTCPV*):

(1) **throw up one's hands in despair** (*She threw up her hands in despair.*)
(2) **blow someone's brains out** (*Careful with that gun, or you'll blow your brains out.*)
(3) **get out of one's face** (*Get out of my face, you creep!*)
(4) **get out of someone's sight** (*Get out of my sight!*)
(5) **bring one to oneself** (*A glass of ice water in the face brought her to herself.*)
(6) **hurry one on one's way** (*Mary hurried Joel on his way so he could catch his train.*)
(7) **hurry someone or something up** (*Please hurry them all up.*)

In (1) and (2) both **one's** and **someone's** refer to the same person as the subject. From (3) to (7), on the other hand, they refer to a different person (or a thing) from the subject.

A possible solution is to apply the following formulae: use "**one('s)**" when the object refers to the same referent as the subject; use "**someone('s)**" in other cases. Exceptions: use "**himself/herself, etc.**" in cases like (5); use "**his/her, etc.**" in cases like (6).

Incidentally, compare **make one's mind up (about sb or sth)** with **make sb's mind up.** The former is all right, but the latter is very misleading. It could accept a sentence like "??*I made his mind up*" (the definition reads "to do something that decides something for someone"). Besides, neither of the two examples given there show this construction; they should be given under **make one's mind up.**

### 6.2.6.  "Someone includes oneself"

At least two problems should be mentioned about this usage note (see also 5.5.4). Firstly, the absence of this note does not necessarily mean that the construction does not accept reflexive pronouns. For instance, the note is missing at **claim sth for sb or sth,** even though the examples given there all show that possibility ("*for itself*", "*for herself*"). Similarly, the note is given at **cage sb or sth in** and **train sb on sth,** but not at **cage sb or sth**

**up (in sth)** and **train sb in sth.**

There are some entries where it is doubtful whether the entry head has been decided carefully. Compare, for example, **bring sth on sb,** which has the "*Someone* includes . . . " note, with **bring sth (up)on oneself.** Is the difference between **sb** and **oneself** based on the real usage?

Secondly, "**something**" may also include *oneself*, namely, *itself/themselves*, in some entries, as in the first example at **claim sth for sb or sth** shown above.

### 6.2.7.  Sometime, some time, a period of time, a time

Pro-adverbs and other pro-forms are used in some entry heads. As with **someone** and **something,** they should be typographically separated from the verb and particles involved.

In the following phrases "**for some time**" and "**for a period of time**" mean the same thing: **doss down (for some time)/stop off (some place) (for a period of time).**

The "**sometime**" in **take one back (to sometime)** refers to a time in the past, while that in **drop around (sometime)** refers to a time in the future. The examples given at the latter both include the word *sometime*, but an example such as "*Why don't you drop around while you're in this city?*" would be useful.

It is not clear how different "**a time**" in **arrange sth for a time** (e.g. "*We will arrange a picnic for the afternoon*") is from "**something**" in **arrange sth for sb or sth** (e.g. "*We arranged a dance for the holiday*").

### 6.2.8.  Somewhere, some place, a place, something

It is not clear, either, how different "**some place**" is from "**something**". Compare **drive up (to some place)** (e.g. "*She drove up to the door and stopped*") with **drive up to sth** (e.g. "*If you want to order fried chicken here, you drive up to the window and place your order*"). See also **exit (from sth) (to sth), exile sb (from sth) (to sth).** Locative objects could be referred to simply by "**something**".

Another problem is that "**some place**" is used in two ways. For instance, "**some place**" in **stop off (some place)** and **stop over (some**

**place**) refers to the whole prepositional phrase (e.g. "*I have to stop off at the store for a minute*"), while that in **stop in** (**some place**) and **stop by** (**some place**) and "**a place**" in **set sth in a place** refer to a noun phrase only (e.g. "*Do you want to stop in Adamsville or just drive on through?*"). This is confusing.

The "**at**" is misleading in **leave sb or sth at some place** ("*here*" and "*behind on my desk*" are shown in the examples).

In these cases "**somewhere**" would be better as in **turn up** (**somewhere**).

### 6.2.9. Somehow, some kind of, some, something

These are used in the following phrases: **turn out** (**somehow**) (e.g. "*I hope everything turns out all right*"), **get some kind of mileage out of sth** (e.g. "*I wish I could get better mileage out of this car*"), **shed** (**some**) **light on(to) sb or sth** (e.g. "*The single hanging bulb shed very little light on her work*"), **think sth of sb or sth** (e.g. "*Please don't think ill of me*").

These entry heads could simply be **turn out, get mileage out of sth, shed light on(to) sb or sth,** and **think of sb or sth,** with an appropriate usage note, for example, "Usually with *more, better, good,* etc." See the usage note at **get mileage out of sth.** See also **take pride in sb or sth,** where the first example reads "*I take a great deal of pride in my children*".

Incidentally, the particle "**forward**" in **face** (**oneself**) **forward** is used as a kind of pro-adverb; the usage note reads "Also with many other directions — *backward, to the right, to the left,* etc."

### 6.2.10. An amount of money, money, a price

These pro-forms are included in the following phrases: **shell out an amount of money** (**for sth**) (**to sb**), **lose money on sth, advertise sth for a price.** They could be replaced with "**something**" (possibly with a usage note), because both "**money**" and "**price**" can be misleading (e.g. "*Liz shelled a fortune out for the stereo*", "*I lost thousands on that deal*", "*The shop advertised chocolates for four dollars a pound*").

### 6.2.11. Between people, between sb and sb else, etc.

Consider which entry heads are appropriate, inappropriate, or misleading:

(1) **distinguish between sb or sth and sb or sth**
(2) **draw a line between sth and sth else**
(3) **divide sth between people or things**
(4) **divvy sth up** (**between sb**) AND **divvy sth up** (**among sb**)
(5) **interface sb or sth with sb or sth**
(6) **interchange sb with sb else**
(7) **envisage sb or sth as sb or sth**
(8) **envision sb as sb else or sth as sth else**
(9) **match sb against sb or sth against sth else**

(1) to (3) are more or less misleading: "**and**" may or may not appear after "**between**". (4) is inappropriate if "**someone**" only refers to a single referent. (5) to (9) are all acceptable, but "**else**" could be omitted. Otherwise a great number of entry heads would actually need "**else**" (from **abandon sb or sth to sb or sth** to **zoom sb or sth** (**over**) **to sth**).

Superscripts could be used (e.g. **interchange sb[1] with sb[2]**).

(To be concluded.)

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