

# The Identification of Phrasal Verbs and Types in The “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” Storybook

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**Abstract:** The purposes of this research is to identify the amount of phrasal verbs used in the story and put the phrasal verbs found in the story into table types of phrasal verbs. The data was collected from children storybook entitled “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” by David Bellamy. Intransitive, non separable transitive, optionally separable transitive, and obligatorily separable transitive are four types of phrasal verbs. The results were as follows. First, the researcher identified that the story only had 27 phrasal verbs used in it. Secondly, the researcher found out that intransitive phrasal verbs are the most used phrasal verb in the story. The researcher found this story helpful in spite of the low frequency of phrasal verb usage in it, because the phrasal verbs used in the story are suitable for the young readers to improve their vocabulary knowledge.

**Keyword:** identification, phrasal verbs, types, storybook

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## I. Introduction

In language study and teaching context, vocabulary is considered as an important linguistic feature to instruct. As for the learners, it is a fundamental part of language learning and a significant means of communication. And the learners’ vocabulary growth will be consistent with their reading skill. Nation (2001) states that a learner’s development of vocabulary knowledge grows with a progression from the receptive level to the productive level.

Most of students in Indonesia are beginner young readers who are still lacking in vocabulary comprehension, so comprehending a text sometimes can be a challenge for them. They often misinterpret or misunderstand the content of the text which then lead them to a confusion in about the whole text content. Some researchers claim that vocabulary learning is a demanding task and when it comes to phrasal verbs, it can get even more difficult and challenging. Cornell (1985) & Side (1990) suggest that phrasal verbs create special difficulty for learners because of their diversity both in terms of number and forms.

Phrasal verbs are combination of verb followed by preposition or adverb which function as a single verb and create different meaning than the original verbs. Phrasal verb is a verbal construction consisting of a verb plus an adverb particle (Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistic, 2010). Phrasal verbs are functioned to describe an action literally.

Based on its transitivity and separability, phrasal verbs are divided into 4 categories. They are:

1. **Intransitive Phrasal Verb** is defined as a phrasal verb that cannot or does not take an object. Examples:

- Break down → My bike **broke down** on the way to school. (malfunction)
- Get up → You should **get up** now! (arise)
- Run away → The thief **ran away** from the police. (escape)

2. **Non-separable Transitive Phrasal Verbs** is defined as a phrasal verb that takes an object but in which the p-word functioning as a particle must directly follow the verb.

Examples:

- Get in → I couldn’t let any stranger to **get in** our house. (enter)
- Look forward to → Most children **look forward to** school holiday. (anticipate)
- Run into → Julia **ran into** an old friend. (encounter)

3. **Optionally Separable Transitive Phrasal Verbs** is defined as a phrasal verb that takes an object and in which the p-word function as a particle can follow either the verb or the object.

Examples:

- Call off → I **called off** the meeting because I was sick. (cancel)  
I **called** the meeting **off** because I was sick.
- Hand in → All students must **hand in** their assignment. (submit)  
All students must **hand** their assignment **in**.
- Work out → My father tries to **work out** this problem. (solve)

My father tries to **work** this problem **out**.

4. **Obligatorily Separable Transitive Phrasal Verbs** is defined as a phrasal verb that takes an object and in which the p-word function as a particle must directly follow the object. When the direct object is in the form of a pronoun, the p-word must follow the pronoun, not the verb. In other words, optionally separable transitive phrasal verbs become obligatorily separable when a pronoun functions as the object.

Examples:

- Look up → The student **looked up** the word. (correct)  
The student **looked** the word **up**. (correct)
- Look up → \*The student **looked up** it. (incorrect)  
The student **looked** it **up**. (correct)

From the definition above the researcher formulates the research question as follow:

1. How many phrasal verbs are found in the “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” story?
2. What categories are the phrasal verbs found in the “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” story can be put into?

## II. Method

This research used descriptive qualitative design to find the answers of the research questions. The researcher analyzed the data to find out the answers.

### Data source

The data was taken from a classic children storybook entitled “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” by David Bellamy. It is published in 1980 and the publisher was World International. The storybook doesn’t have chapter and has only 24 pages. Therefore all of it was used to be analyzed.

### The instrument

The instrument that was used by the researcher is

1. Data of storybook entitled “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” by David Bellamy.

### Data Collection

The data were collected from children storybook entitled “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” by David Bellamy. First of all, the researcher read the story. Then the researcher looked for and identified all the phrasal verbs in the story. After all the phrasal verbs were identified, the researcher calculated the percentage of the phrasal verbs used in the story. Then to answered the second research question, the researcher grouping all the phrasal verbs based on the types. And at last, the researcher reread the story and recheck if there were any phrasal verbs left.

## III. Results

This part of the article presented the result of the two of research questions. The first result showed that from 1633 words printed on the story “Countrylane Treasure Hunt”, the researcher identified 27 pairs of phrasal verbs. Each pair of phrasal verbs consists of 2 words. So, 27 pairs of phrasal verbs equals with 54 words. And using the equation below the researcher found the percentage of the phrasal verbs used in this story is 3.3%.

The phrasal verbs used →  $\frac{54}{1633} \times 100\% = 3.3\%$

And for the second research question, the phrasal verbs found were put in to table of types of phrasal verbs. There are four categories used based on its transitivity and separability: intransitive, non separable transitive, optionally separable transitive, and obligatorily separable transitive.

**Table1.** Types of phrasal verbs

Types of Phrasal Verb	Phrasal Verb	Examples
Intransitive	Go away Go off Draw near Fly around Call out Fly on Flop down Come on <b>Set off</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Come on, it’s worth a try.”</li> <li>• Before they could ask him why, the cuckoo had flown on</li> </ul>

		Rush over Peg out Work on Get away Come on Go back Leap down	
Non separable transitive		Fly off Catch up Pull out Trail off Take out Hand over Read out	Rona peered into the basket and then she pulled out a small piece of paper
Optionally transitive	separable	Put on Put down	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “If you put your thinking caps on, you should soon solve this one,” chucked the robin ...</li> <li>• “I’ve put it down somewhere!”</li> </ul>
Obligatorily transitive	separable	Pick up	He picked it up and showed it to the others...

Based on the table above there are 16 phrasal verbs identified as intransitive phrasal verb, 7 phrasal verbs of non separable transitive phrasal verb, 2 optionally separable transitive phrasal verb and 1 obligatorily separable transitive phrasal verb. The phrasal verb of **set off** appears twice in the text, in this table the researcher wrote only one of it.

#### IV. Discussion

Based on the explanation above, the first research question result showed that from 1633 words in the story of “Countrylane Treasure Hunt” there are only 27 pairs of phrasal verbs. 27 pairs of phrasal verbs equals with 54 words. The calculation of the percentage of phrasal verb appearance in the story shows 3.3 %. It means that in this story the phrasal verbs usage is low. The low percentage result here is actually quite reasonable because the target reader of the book is children. The writer might avoid the usage of difficult words in order to ease these young readers. Phrasal verbs are widely used by native speakers of English but they have been found to be difficult for second language learners to master (Moon, 1997; Kao, 2001). And most of the phrasal verbs that appear in the story are not having too different meaning from its original form.

The second result of the research question showed that from 27 phrasal verbs identified, 26 phrasal verb are used. And most of the phrasal verbs are intransitive phrasal verbs with 16 phrasal verb found. The rests are non separable transitive with 7 phrasal verbs, optionally separable transitive with 2 phrasal verbs, and 1 obligatorily separable transitive phrasal verb. All of the phrasal verbs were being categorized based on their transitivity and separability in the text. From the second result we could say that intransitive phrasal verb is the most used phrasal verbs in the story of “Countrylane Treasure Hunter”.

#### V. Conclusion

The objectives of this research are to find the amount of phrasal verbs used in the story of “Countrylane Treasure Hunter” and the types of phrasal verbs that appear in the story. And from the result for the first objective we can say that phrasal verbs is not commonly used in a children story since the amount of its appearance is low. The result of second objectives shows that from all the phrasal verbs, intransitive phrasal verb is the most commonly found in the story of “Countrylane Treasure Hunter”. And most phrasal verbs used in the story has similar meaning with the original verbs. For that reason, the researcher found this story useful for young and beginner readers in spite of the low frequency of phrasal verb appearance in the story.

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## Appendix 1

### Countrylane; Treasure Hunt

After a long hard winter, spring had come at last to Countrylane. Catkins hung like lambs' tails on the hazel trees; the yellow coltsfoot was in flower in the ditches; primroses and white violets peeped shyly among the grass in the woods, and all the birds were busy searching for twigs, moss and feathers to build their nests. Everyone in Countrylane was busy spring cleaning, even Ramsbottom and Hubert, helped by Granny Hermione and Mrs Badger.

"Oh, Sammy, do go away and play," pleaded Mrs Squirrel, brushing her son out of the house with her birch broom.

So Sammy went off down the lane in search of his friends. He found Cedric and Charlotte, and the Rabbit twins, Rona and Reggie, gathered around the old oak. As he drew nearer Sammy saw that there was a notice pinned to the tree. It said:

#### COUNTRYLANE TREASURE HUNT

**If the treasure you wish to seek**

**Find the kettle with a leak**

"We haven't solved the clue yet," said Cedric. "Do you know who has a leaky kettle, Sammy?"

But before Sammy could answer, the cuckoo, who was flying around Countrylane telling everyone spring had arrived, called out: "Look under the hedge near Granny Hermione's house."

Before they could ask him why, the cuckoo had flown on. So, since no else had any ideas, they set off towards Granny Hamster's house.

And just under the hedgerow near Granny Hermione's house was a kettle ... the new home of Robbie Robin.

"Granny gave it to me when it started to leak," he explained to the astonished children. "See how comfortable I have made it for us. I suppose you have come for your next clue. Listen!" And the robin sang:

**Near the stream where the willow weeps,**

**An old tadpole your next clue keeps.**

"If you put your thinking caps on, you should soon solve this one," chuckled the robin as he flew off to Hermione's for some scraps to feed his new family.

"Tadpoles live in streams," said Rona quickly. "Shall we go there next?"

The other nodded in agreement.

Then suddenly Cedric said: "I think this is a jokey clue. It said an old tadpole. Well, an old tadpole ..."

"Ernest Frog!" everyone cried together. "Ernest is an old tadpole! Tadpoles do change to frogs."

Off they set once again, running swiftly over the bridge to where Ernest was fishing.

"I see you've managed to find this old tadpole," chuckled Ernest, as they flopped down beside him near a carpet of white wood anemones.

"Well, it was Cedric who thought that you might be the old tadpole," cried Bill Beaver, who had only just caught up with the others.

"Cedric, was it?" murmured Ernest, giving the little shrew a smile. "Well, you may be small, my lad, but you're certainly shrewd."

Everyone laughed at the frog's little joke, and Cedric and Charlotte looked very pleased. Sometimes people made jokes about their size, and it did annoy them!

"Have you got the next clue for us, Ernest?" asked Rona eagerly. "Well, take a look in my fishing basket and see," suggested Ernest with a twinkle in his eye.

Rona peered into the basket and then she pulled out a small piece of paper. On it was written:

**If the next clue you wish to know**

**To the oldest inhabitant you must go!**

"Oh dear, the oldest inhabitant!" gasped Sammy Squirrel. "That is a hard one!"

"Why?" asked Billy Beaver, who had only recently come to live in Countrylane. "Surely that is either Great Uncle Hubert or Granny Hermione?"

"Because they will never tell us how old they are," explained Sammy. "We know they went to school together but ..."

"Well, we shall just have to go and see them both," suggested Rona Rabbit sensibly. "Let's try Great Uncle Hubert first."

"Good luck, I hope you find your next clue," cried Ernest, as he peered into the stream to see if there were any fish about.

But when they got to Great Uncle Hubert's house it was empty.

"If he is the oldest inhabitant, we shall never get the clue!" cried Bill Beaver in disappointment. "He could be anywhere in Countrylane."

"Perhaps he has gone to see Granny Hermione," cried Reggie. "Come on, it's worth a try."  
So the children set off once again, along the lane and through the fields to Hermione Hamster's house.  
But when they knocked at the door she wasn't in either!  
"The treasure trail's lost!" cried Charlotte. "We've come to a dead end."  
The little band started to trail off down the path, when suddenly Rona gave a little cry.  
"There's something sticking out of Granny Hermione's water barrel!" she cried.  
"It looks like a picture!" cried Bill Beaver, rushing over. He picked it up and showed it to the others. It was a picture of Hermione and Hubert and it said:

**Your next clue we have carefully set,  
You've all done well, but there's no treasure yet.**

"So we still don't know which of them is the oldest!" laughed Sammy. "But at least we've found the next clue."  
"It's nice to know those wise old hamsters think we are doing well," said Reggie Rabbit. "But where is the clue they have set? Is that in the water barrel too?"  
"No, there's nothing else here," replied Bill Beaver, peering inside the barrel again. "The clue must be in the rhyme. But what can it mean?"  
Everyone thought very hard, and kept repeating the clue to themselves.  
Then, suddenly Sammy started to laugh.  
"Where do you live, Bill?" he asked.  
"In Beaver Lodge, of course, you know that!" replied Bill.  
"And where do I live?" chuckled Sammy. "In a drey, like all squirrels, and who lives in a set?"  
"Professor Torquillian Badger!" cried Charlotte, clapping her paws in delight. "Oh, Sammy, what a clever squirrel you are!"  
Off everyone went to the Professor's house, eager to find the next clue.  
They found Mrs Badger in the garden pegging out her washing ... and Martin Mouse.  
"He fell in my washing tub, so I'm hanging him out to dry," explained Mrs Badger. "You'll find the Professor in his laboratory, working on his experiments as usual. Go right in, he's expecting you."  
"Aha, the treasure hunters, I see," cried Torquillian Badger, as the children entered after knocking politely at the door. "Just in time to see my latest invention. It's an umbrella you wear on your head. Do you like it?"  
Everyone thought that Torquillian looked rather funny with an umbrella on his head, but they were too polite to say so.  
Sammy coughed, and then said, "It will be very useful when it rains, sir."  
"Just what I thought," cried Torquillian gleefully. "I'm making one for Hermione and Hubert, and one for Harold Hedgehog. His car has no hood, so it will keep him dry."  
"I suppose you are all waiting to hear my clue?" said Torquillian. "I've put it down somewhere!"  
The children groaned. The Professor was always losing his papers ... there were so many of them.  
"We shall be here for hours," whispered Reggie to his twin.  
But suddenly, Torquillian opened up a cupboard full of jars and bottles ... and took out a bottle with a message in it.  
"I was going to throw it into the stream for you," he explained.  
"Please may we have it now that we are here?" asked Reggie politely. If the Professor got talking about sailors and ships in the bottles, they would never get away.  
Torquillian handed over the bottle, and he was back again with his experimenting before the Countrylane children were out of the door.  
"What does it say?" Sammy cried, as Reggie struggled to get the message out of the bottle.  
But when Reggie read out the clue, everyone groaned in dismay. For this clue said:

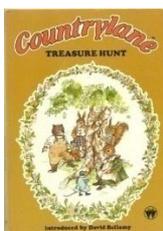
**Now here is your very last clue –  
I'd start again if I were you.**

"Oh, no, we can't do it all over again! Someone's been playing a cruel joke on us!" cried little Charlotte, beginning to cry.  
"It does seem strange," admitted Sammy. "But folk are kind in Countrylane. There must be a reason for starting again. Come on, everyone, let's go back and read the notice again."  
So, sadly, and very, very, slowly, for they were all very tired, they made their way back to the old oak tree. And they were so downcast that they did not see Hubert and Hermione, Rufus and Cyril, Sarah and Marmaduke, and Edgar, Selina and old Ernest peeping at them through the trees.  
But when they got to the oak tree, they saw, to their great surprise, that the notice had been changed. Now it read:

**Well done, children, now climb the tree,  
And the treasure there you'll see.**

“The treasure hidden in the branches of the tree! Hurray, we’ve found it at last!” cried the children.  
“I’ll climb the tree for the treasure!” cried Sammy. And away up the tree he went.  
“There’s a parcel of treasure for everyone here,” he called as he peered into the leafy branches. “Catch the treasure as I throw it down!”  
One by one Sammy threw down several small parcels, each one bearing the name of one of the treasure seekers. Then Sammy leapt down and everyone opened their treasure.  
There was a pretty peg doll for Rona and Charlotte. Sammy and Bill got a fine cricket bat each, and Cedric got a little walnut shrew just like himself! And all the children got a packet of honey sweets!  
“Ben Beaver and Granny Hermione must have made the treasure!” squeaked Charlotte in delight.  
“Quite right, my dear,” cried Hermione, stepping from her hiding place. “Have you enjoyed your treasure hunt?”  
“It was lovely!” everyone cried. ”Let’s have another one tomorrow!”

~The End~



**Written by David Bellamy**  
**Illustrated by Barry Smith**  
**Published in 1980 by World International**

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