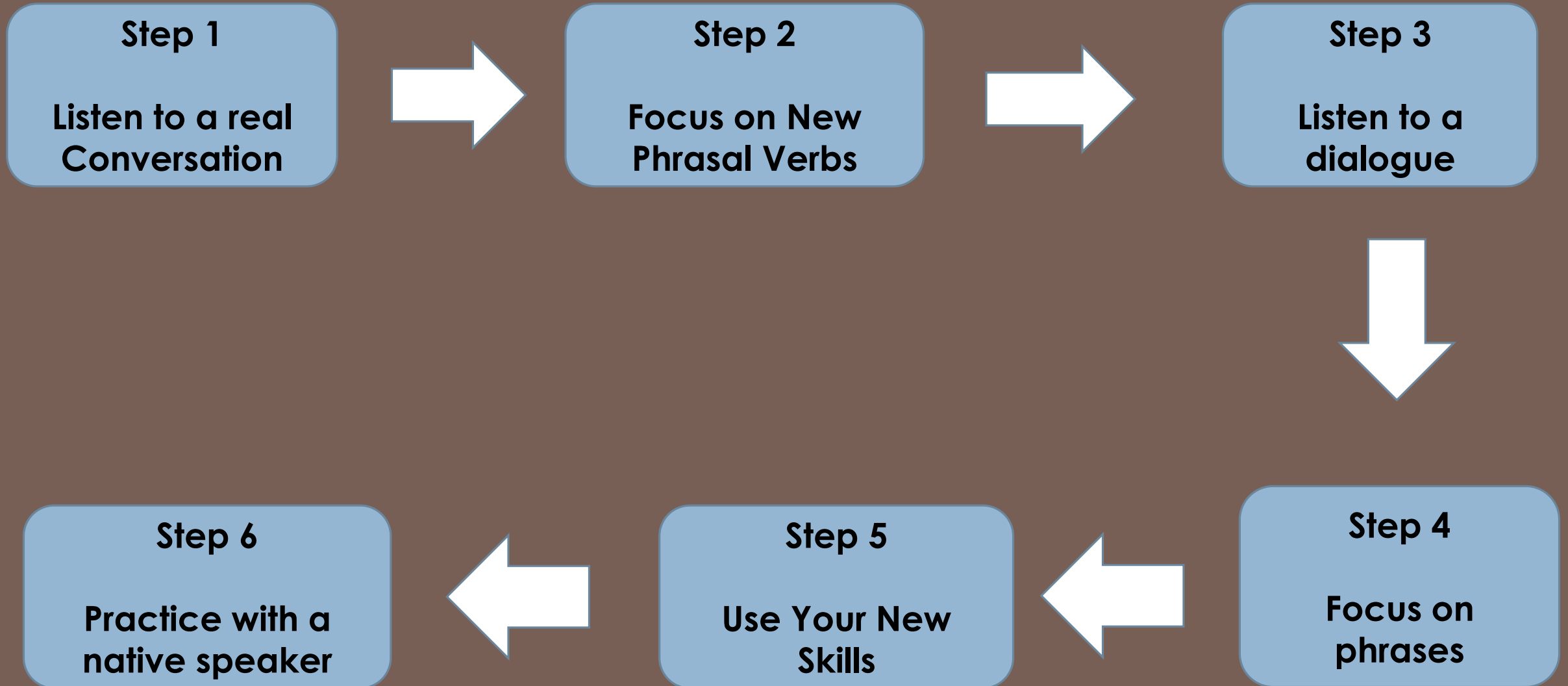




How to Succeed at an American University

A Phrasal Verb Lesson

Our Method



Step 1: A Chat with an American University Professor



Please listen to
Audio Step 1: A
Chat with an
American
University
Professor



What do professors in the United States expect from students? What factors determine a student's success in a course? The answer is probably very different from your home country! Listen to this conversation to find out.

Please click on Transcript Step 1- A Chat with an American University Professor

Step 2: Focus on New Phrasal Verbs

**To scare
off**

To jot down

**To speak
up**

**To show
up**

**To break
up**

**To look back
on**

To Scare off

Phrasal verb



Meaning: To induce fear in someone or something so that they want to run away or escape a situation

The students were scared off when the professor announced his quiz schedule.

To Jot down

Phrasal verb

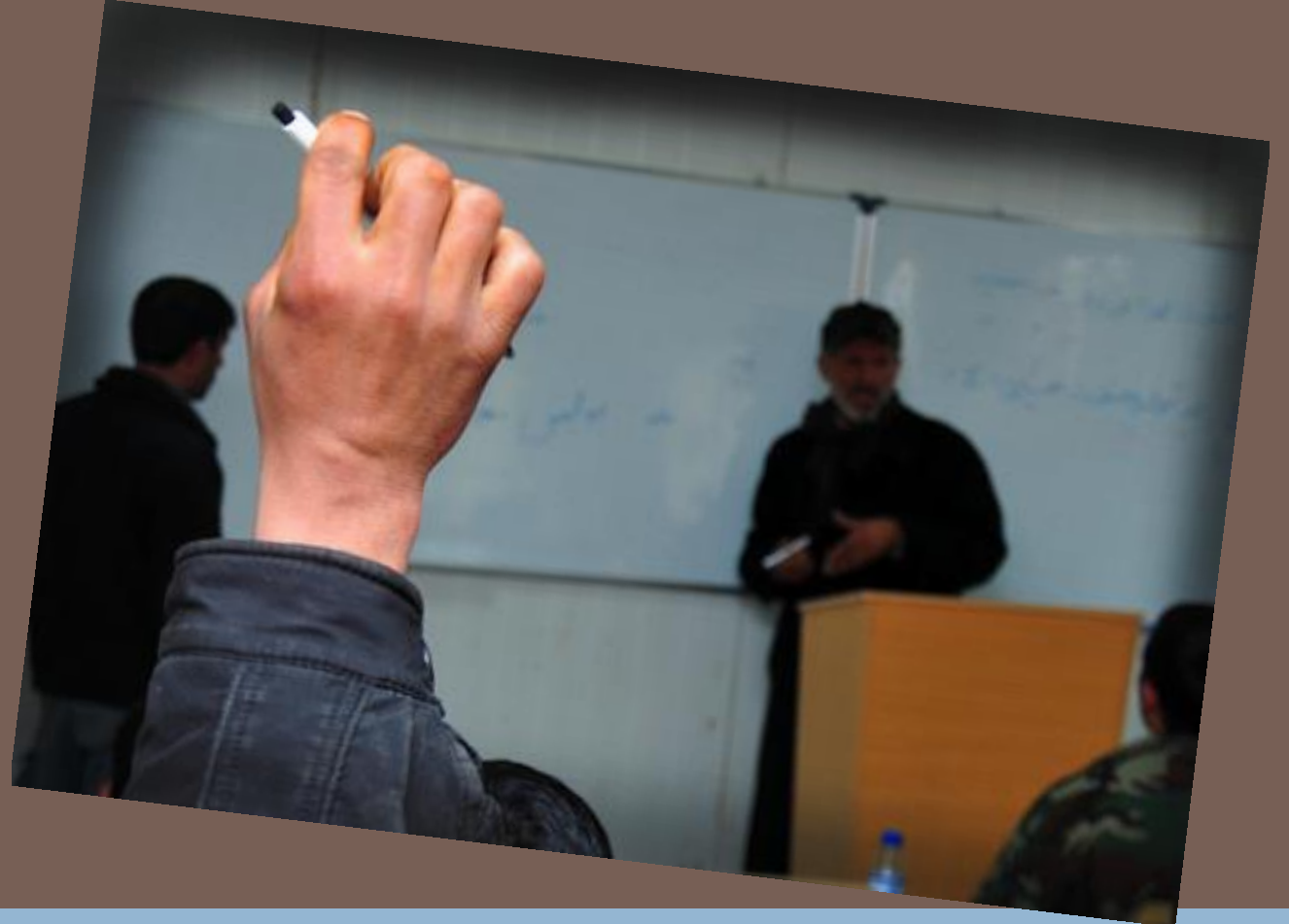


Meaning: To quickly write something down on a piece of paper,
to take notes

I jotted down a few notes during the lecture at school.

To speak up

Phrasal verb



Meaning: To say something, to voice your opinion without hesitation

If you have an important point to make you need to speak up.

To show up

Phrasal verb



Meaning: To arrive, sometimes unexpectedly

I couldn't believe it when the famous politician showed up at our home.

To break up

Phrasal verb

* note- this phrasal verb has many meanings, this module only looks at one of them



Meaning: To separate a group of people or objects

Our teacher broke us up into groups so that we could work together

To look back
on

Phrasal verb



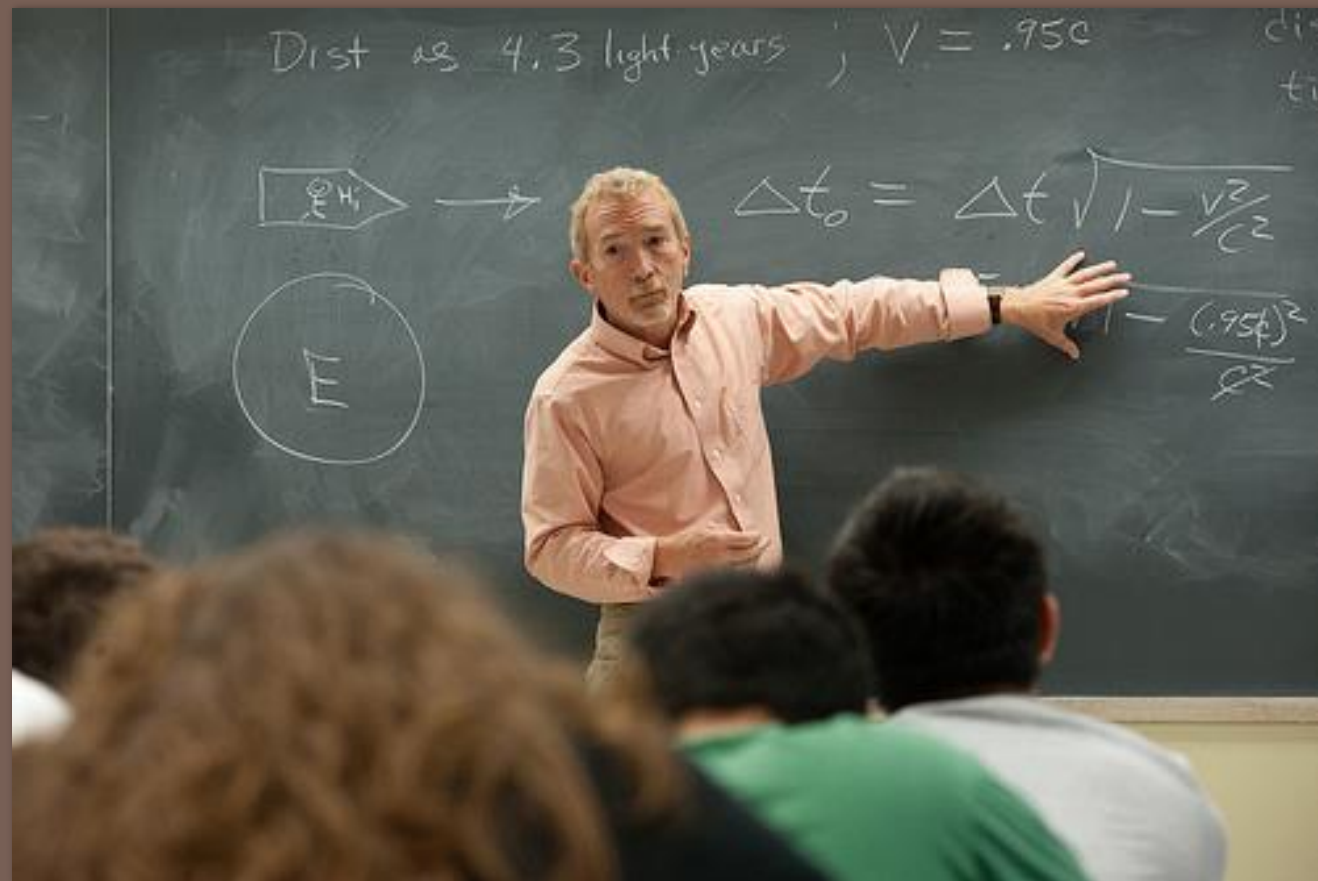
Meaning: To remember or recall a time or situation in the past

I don't want to look back on my twenties and feel disappointed.

Step 3: How to Pass Chemistry 101

In this conversation, two university students talk about their class schedules and they discuss how to do well in an introductory chemistry class.

Please listen to Audio Steps and 4-How to Pass Chemistry 101



Step 4: Focus on the Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4- A Friend Visits New York

“I have heard that he scares a lot of students off.”

“You just need to jot down notes.”

“Try to speak up once in a while.”

“Did you show up for every class?”

“...now that I look back on it, it wasn't a big deal.”

“He breaks you up into groups.”

Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way and then prepare to use them during your practice session with your conversation partner!

Click on the file “Say It Another Way-American Universities.”



Step 5: Use Your New Skills

Jot down

Scare off

Break up

Speak up

Show up

**Look back
on**

1. Do you like to _____ notes when you hear a lecture? (take notes)
2. What time did your friend finally _____ (arrive) at the party?
3. When you _____ your life, what do you want to see? (reflect on, remember)
4. Is it easy for you to _____ in class? (participate, voice your thoughts)
5. In your university, did you _____ into groups to discuss the material or did you listen to lectures? (separate)
6. Do you get _____ easily when something or someone is intimidating to you? (frightened)

Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards



To break up

**To look
back on**



To scare off



**To jot
down**

To speak up



To show up



Step 6: Practice with a Native Speaker

- Have you ever been **scared off** by a professor and dropped a class after the first day? Do you think that American students would be **scared off** by the format of university classes in your country? How are classes in your country different from what you learned about university classes in the US?
(Please try to answer the questions using “scared off”)

** note- the student's parts are in italics for every dialogue*

1. Bonus- Please use the phrases from “Say It Another Way”

A: *(student) How was your first day of Bio 101?*

B: Horrible! I'm terrified of my professor.

A: *Yeah, a lot of students _____. (get scared off)*

B: You should try to relax, I am sure it will be fine.

A: *I'm not so sure about that.*

Step 6 Continued...

- When you were in school, did you **jot down** notes in a notebook or did you take notes on your laptop? Did teachers mind if you brought your computer to class? Is it important for you to **jot down** notes in order to remember the material or can you remember just by hearing it? What is your learning style?

1. **Bonus- Please use the phrases from “Say It Another Way”**

A: So I've heard that Psychology 201 with Professor Brown is really tough. If I want to pass, what should I do?

B: (Student): Well you need to _____ (jot down notes).

A: That's a good idea. I usually just try to remember the lectures, but for this class I might need to use some new tactics.

B: Yeah, it's always a good idea to _____ (jot down notes) in a tough class like that.

Step 6 Continued...

- Is (was) it easy or hard for you to **speak up** in class? Do professors in your country grade you based on class participation? Based on the conversations in this module, do you think that **speaking up** and class participation is important in the US? What does that say about US culture and the skills that are valued here? Do you think that it's important to teach students to **speak up** in class? Why or why not?

1. **Bonus- Please use the phrases from "Say It Another Way"**

A: Excuse me, Professor Jones, can I speak with you for a second?

B: *(student)* Sure, what's up?

A: Well I was surprised when I got my midterm grade. I am getting a C- in your class and I am wondering why.

B: *Well I place a lot of weight on class participation and you are very quiet in class.*

A: Well that's my personality. What can I do?

B: You should _____ *(speak up)* in class once in a while.

A: Ok, it won't be easy, but I'll try.

Step 6 Continued...

- In small colleges in the US, class attendance or **showing up** is usually part of your grade. Is that true in your country? Do you think that professors should include this in your grade? When you were in college, did you **show up** for every class?

1. Bonus- Please use the phrases from "Say It Another Way"

A: Hey, can I get your notes from the review session?

B: (student) I noticed that you didn't _____ (show up) that day. What happened?

A: Yeah, I had some other things to take care of. I have been busy.

B: Ok, here are my notes, but you know that the instructor only gives high marks to students who _____ (show up) to every class.

Step 6 Continued...

- What do you feel when you **look back on** your university experience? Was it a good time in your life or a stressful time? Based on what you learned in this module, how do you think the college lifestyle in your country is different from that in the US in terms of where you live, how you study, your daily habits, etc. **Looking back on** your own college days, would you change anything about your experience in college?

1. Bonus- Please use the phrases from “Say It Another Way”

A: (student) Oh I'm so glad we could both make it to the class reunion!

B: I know, can you believe it's been 20 years since we graduated?

A: I can't believe it. _____ (Looking back) on those years, things were so great

B: Yes! And life was easy back in college.

A: I thought that there was so much pressure at the time, but _____ (looking back) it wasn't so bad.

Step 6: Continued...

- Do you think that **breaking up** into small groups and having discussions is a good way to learn? Why or why not? Did you **break up** into discussion or work groups in your college classes? What other skills could you gain from this format in addition to the class material?

1. Bonus- Please use the phrases from “Say It Another Way”

A: What was your graduate program like? How did the professor structure the classes?

B: *(student)* Most of the time there was a lecture and then the professor _____(broke us up into) small groups to discuss the concepts.

A: Oh yeah? And how did you like that style?

B: *It really helped me learn. I am glad that the professor _____ (broke us up into) work groups.*

A: I bet your classmates challenged your point of view. That's great.

B: *Yeah, exactly.*

Step 6 Continued...

- What are the top 3 skills that the US education system tries to cultivate in students? How does that compare to your country's education system?
- What skills are *not* taught in your country's education system? How important are those skills? What is the cost of not learning them? What other countries are learning them?
- Do you think that study abroad should be a mandatory requirement to graduate from college? Why or why not? How important do you think cross-cultural communication skills are? Why?
- Should students have to pay for college or should it be funded by the state? Does everyone have a right to education? What is the average price of education (tuition) in your country? What are the differences between public and private colleges?

Step 6: Continued...

- Is it common for students to cheat in university classes in your country? How are they disciplined? What are the repercussions?
- What is the attitude toward learning disabilities in your country's university education system? How could this be improved? (*If you don't know what a learning disability is, please read more about this in the materials list)
- What is your personal definition of "intelligence"? Is that the only way to define it? How have other people defined it in the past? Do you agree with these definitions? Why or why not?
- To what extent is intelligence inborn and to what extent can it be cultivated?

Credits

- Scared cat: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/digallagher/>
- Jot down notes: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/laihiu/>
- Speak up: http://www.flickr.com/photos/ntm-a_cstc-a/
- Show up: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/infomatique/>
- Break up: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/afsusa/>
- Look back on: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tomsaint/>
- Physics class: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tulanesally/>
- Cover photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tulanesally/>
- In class- say it another way:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bike/>

1. Jot down Show up
2. Show up
3. Look back on
4. Speak up
5. Break up
6. Scared off