

Phrasal Verbs Exercises

Level: B1, B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

What phrasal verbs are and how they work

A phrasal verb is a verb plus one or two particles (up, out, on, off...) whose combined meaning is often different from the verb alone: give up means quit, not give something upward.

Form: verb + particle(s): wake up, look after, run out of

Meaning: often idiomatic — 'turn down an offer' means refuse it

Separable: some take the object between verb and particle: turn the music down / turn it down

Inseparable: others never split: look after the kids (never 'look the kids after')

Strategy: learn phrasal verbs in context and in topic groups, not as isolated lists

Exercise 1: Choose the correct phrasal verb

Select the phrasal verb that completes each sentence.

1. The plane ___ on time despite the storm.
a) took off b) took up c) took over
2. I need to ___ this word in the dictionary.
a) look after b) look up c) look out
3. She ___ a story about why she was late.
a) made off b) made out c) made up
4. Our car ___ on the motorway, so we called a mechanic.
a) broke down b) broke up c) broke out
5. Don't worry, you can always ___ on me.
a) count in b) count on c) count up
6. The fire alarm ___ during class, so everyone left the building.
a) went off b) went on c) went out

Exercise 2: Complete with the correct particle

Type the missing particle (up, off, after, out, on...).

7. Please turn ___ the TV — the baby is sleeping. (make quieter / stop)
8. I grew ___ in a small town in the mountains. (become an adult)
9. She takes ___ her mother — they have the same smile. (resemble)
10. The meeting was put ___ until next Friday. (postpone)
11. We set ___ early to avoid the traffic. (start a journey)

12. Could you speak ___ a little? I can hardly hear you. (talk louder)

Exercise 3: Build the sentence

Click the words in the correct order — watch the position of the object.

13. Put the words in the correct order: **turned / she / it / down**

14. Put the words in the correct order: **after / looks / he / his little sister**

15. Put the words in the correct order: **gave / smoking / my dad / up**

16. Put the words in the correct order: **out of / we / run / have / coffee**

Exercise 4: True or false?

Decide if each statement about phrasal verbs is true or false.

17. "She turned down it" is correct English. True / False

18. 'Give up' means to stop doing something. True / False

19. The meaning of a phrasal verb is always the literal meaning of the verb plus the particle. True / False

20. 'Look after' and 'take care of' mean the same thing. True / False

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the correct phrasal verb

1. a) took off
2. b) look up
3. c) made up
4. a) broke down
5. b) count on
6. a) went off

Exercise 2: Complete with the correct particle

7. off / down
8. up
9. after
10. off
11. off / out
12. up

Exercise 3: Build the sentence

13. she turned it down
14. he looks after his little sister
15. my dad gave up smoking
16. we have run out of coffee

Exercise 4: True or false?

17. False
18. True
19. False
20. True