

# Phrasal Verbs Exercises

Level: B1, B2

## 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

## Exercise 2: Complete with the correct particle

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

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

## Exercise 3: Build the sentence

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Exercise 4: True or false?**

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

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

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

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

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

# Answer key

## Exercise 1: Choose the correct phrasal verb

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

## Exercise 2: Complete with the correct particle

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6. off / down
7. up
8. after
9. off
10. off / out

## Exercise 3: Build the sentence

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

## Exercise 4: True or false?

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15. False
16. True
17. False
18. True