

Grammar in Context: Telephone Phrasal Verbs

1 The following are common phrasal verbs we often use while on the telephone. Match the correct meaning with each phrasal verb.

1. ____ hold on	a. put the receiver down
2. ____ put (a call) through	b. return someone's call
3. ____ get through	c. answer a call, lift the receiver to take a call
4. ____ hang up	d. stop talking on the phone
5. ____ call up	e. connect one caller to another
6. ____ hang on	f. deactivate (a cell phone)
7. ____ call back	g. wait
8. ____ pick up	h. talk louder
9. ____ get off (the phone)	i. to be disconnected abruptly during a telephone conversation
10. ____ get back to (someone)	j. to be connected to someone on the phone
11. ____ cut off	k. return someone's call
12. ____ switch off/turn off	l. make a telephone call
13. ____ speak up	m. wait

2 Some phrasal verbs are separable (e.g., *call someone back*); others are not. Complete the chart below by putting the phrasal verbs above in the correct column.

Separable	Not separable
<i>Put a call through</i>	

3 | Fill in the blanks with the correct phrasal verbs.

1. **Caller:** Hello. Could I speak to Lucia Rodriguez, please?
Receptionist: She's not in the office at the moment. Can I _____ you _____ to her voice mail?
Caller: Yes, thank you.
2. **Caller:** Could I speak to Emma, please?
Emma's mother: Sure. _____ a second and I'll get her.
3. **Automated Operator:** Please _____ and try your call again. This is a recording.
4. **Mother:** Magdalena, could you _____ the phone? I need to call Dad.
Daughter: Okay, mom.
5. **Chairperson of a meeting:** I would appreciate if everyone could _____ their cell phones. We have a lot of important things to discuss and we don't want to be interrupted.
6. **Caller:** Hi, it's Ahmed Mohamed calling. Could I speak to Martin Switzer please?
Receptionist: I'm sorry. He's not in at the moment. Can I take a message?
Caller: Yes, could you ask him to _____ me _____ when he gets in? It's urgent.
Receptionist: Certainly.
7. **Voice mail recording:** Hi, you've reached Josh Wills in Accounting. I will be out of the office until July 2 but will be _____ my messages while I'm away. So please leave yours at the sound of the tone. Thanks and have a great day!
8. **Voice mail recording:** You've reached Julia and Ben. We're not available to take your call right now, but if you leave a message, we'll _____ to you as soon as we can. Thanks.
9. **Caller:** I can't seem to _____. The line is always busy.