# 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
2. _____ put (a call) through
3. _____ get through
4. _____ hang up
5. _____ call up
6. _____ hang on
7. _____ call back
8. _____ pick up
9. _____ get off (the phone)
10. _____ get back to (someone)
11. _____ cut off
12. _____ switch off/turn off
13. _____ speak up

a. put the receiver down
b. return someone's call
c. answer a call, lift the receiver to take a call
d. stop talking on the phone
e. connect one caller to another
f. deactivate (a cell phone)
g. wait
h. talk louder
i. to be disconnected abruptly during a telephone conversation
j. to be connected to someone on the phone
k. return someone's call
l. make a telephone call
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 |
|---|---|
| *Put* a call *through* | |
| | |
| | |
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| | |

**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.

**LIVEWORKSHEETS**