PHRASAL VERBS: TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE, SEPARABLE AND INSEPARABLE

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INTRANSITIVE NO OBJECT

INSEPARABLE

VERB + PARTICLE

- What time do you get up?
- I'd like to go out
- Energy prices will go up

TRANSITIVE NEED AN OBJECT

SEPARABLE

VERB + PARTICLE + OBJECT

- Put your jacket on
- I took my shoes off

VERB + OBJECT + PARTICLE

- Put on your jacket
- I took off my shoes

VERB + OBJECT PRONOUN + PARTICLE

- Put it on
- I took them off
- Put on it ✗
- I took off them ✗

INSEPARABLE

VERB + PARTICLE + OBJECT/ OBJECT PRONOUN

- I am looking for my keys
- I'm looking for them
- I'm looking them for ✗

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Phrasal verbs consist of a **verb + a preposition or an adverb.** When we add the preposition or the adverb to the verb, the original meaning of this verb changes. The adverb or preposition we add to the verb is called **the 'particle'.** Verb + particle = **phrasal verb.**

wake + up = wake up
sit + down = sit down
throw + away = throw away
pick + up = pick up
take + off = take off

Some phrasal verbs consist of a verb + two particles; for example:

I am looking forward to my holiday.
I get on with my father.

TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS

Transitive verbs are verbs that **need an object**. The object is the receiver of the action, and it goes after the verb. For example, in the sentence "I bought a T-shirt", the verb is "buy", and "a T-shirt" is the object because it tells us what was bought. If you use a transitive verb without an object, the verb does not make sense because it needs an object; for example:

- I bought. ✗
- I bought a T-shirt. ✓
- They wrote. ✗
- They wrote a letter. ✓

Intransitive verbs, on the other hand, are verbs that **do not have an object.** They describe an action or occurrence that does not involve a direct object. Here are a few examples of intransitive verbs:

- He slept.
- She laughed.
- They danced.

The action described by these verbs is NOT done to anything or anybody; we do NOT ***sleep something**; we just **sleep.**

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Intransitive phrasal verbs – Inseparable

As we said, **intransitive phrasal verbs** have **no object**, and this means the verb and the particle are always together; they cannot be separated. For this reason, intransitive phrasal verbs are called inseparable. Here are some examples:

- I like to get up late. ✓
- Joe isn't here. He's gone out. ✓
- The price of oranges has gone up. ✓

Transitive phrasal verbs – Separable

Transitive phrasal verbs need **an object,** and they can be **separable** or **inseparable**. When a phrasal verb is separable, we can use either **verb + particle + object** or **verb + object + particle.**

- You need to put on your jacket. ✓
- You need to put your jacket on. ✓
- I took off my shoes. ✓
- I took my shoes off. ✓

We can also replace the object with a pronoun, but then the object MUST go between the verb and the particle.

- You need to put it on. ✓
- You need to put on it. ✗
- I took them off. ✓
- I took off them. ✗

Transitive phrasal verbs – Inseparable

Some other transitive phrasal verbs can NEVER be separated, even if the object is replaced by a pronoun.

- I am looking for my notebook. ✓
- I am looking for it. ✓
- I am looking my notebook for. ✗
- I am looking it for. ✗

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PHRASAL VERBS: TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE, SEPARABLE AND INSEPARABLE - QUIZ

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1. Choose the correct phrasal verb forms to complete the sentences below.

1 I'm really _____.

a. looking my holiday forward to
b. looking forward to my holiday
c. Both A and B are correct

2 He _____ because he fell in love with another woman.

a. called the wedding off
b. called off the wedding
c. Both A and B are correct

3 My shoes were uncomfortable, so I _____.

a. took off them
b. took them off
c. Both A and B are correct

4 I helped Joe _____.

a. look for his keys
b. look his keys for
c. Both A and B are correct

5 The teacher gave us a form and told us to _____.

a. fill in it
b. fill it in
c. Both A and B are correct

6 She closed the door and _____.

a. turned up the music
b. turned the music up
c. Both A and B are correct

7 I didn't know the meaning of the word, so I _____.

a. looked up it
b. looked it up
c. Both A and B are correct

8 I have a good relationship with my cousins. I _____ very well.

a. get on them with
b. get on with them
c. Both A and B are correct

9 The food didn't smell good, so I _____.

a. threw it away
b. threw away it
c. Both A and B are correct

10 As soon as I left the classroom, I _____.

a. turned my phone on
b. turned on my phone
c. Both A and B are correct

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2. Choose the correct verb forms for the gaps below.

1. Judy _____ and pushed her chair under the table.
2. I finished the apple, then I _____.
3. A: "And your phone?" B: "I am _____."
4. He gave me his number, and I _____.
5. Anna _____.
6. I really like these shoes. Is it okay if I _____?
7. The price of gas has _____ a lot recently.
8. I _____.
9. Cara is our babysitter. She _____.
10. I _____.



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