

Separable vs. Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are combinations of a verb + particle(s) (preposition or adverb).

Their structure changes depending on whether they are separable or inseparable.

1. Separable Phrasal Verbs

- The object can go between the verb and the particle, or after the complete phrasal verb.
- If the object is a pronoun, it *must* go in the middle.

Examples:

- Turn off the light.
- Turn it off. (not: ~Turn off it~)

2. Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

- The object must always go after the full phrasal verb.
- The phrasal verb cannot be divided.

Examples:

- Look after the baby. (not: ~Look the baby after~)
- Run into an old friend.

Exercises (10)

Indicate whether the phrasal verb is separable or inseparable and rewrite the sentence when possible.

1. Turn off the computer. (use the pronoun "it")
2. Look after the kids.
3. Pick up the book. (use the pronoun "it")
4. Run into my teacher yesterday.
5. Put on your jacket. (use the pronoun "it")
6. Get over the problem.
7. Take off your shoes. (use "them")
8. Come across a new word.
9. Write down the number. (use "it")
10. Look for my keys. (use "them")