

A

Phrasal verbs with no object

Some phrasal verbs don't have an object. We cannot put other words between the parts of the verb.

When does your train **get in** [arrive]?

Hold on [wait a moment], I just need to get my coat.

The car **broke down** on my way to work. [stopped working]

I'll **call for** them at 8 o'clock. [go to collect them]

We **set off** [started the journey] about 7.30.

B

Phrasal verbs with an object

Many phrasal verbs need an object. We can usually put the object in different positions.

Put on your shoes.

Turn on the TV.

Take off your coat.

Put your shoes **on**.

Turn the TV **on**.

Take your coat **off**.

These are separable phrasal verbs, but if the object is a long phrase, it usually goes at the end, e.g. I **turned off** the lights in the living room. If the object is a pronoun, it must go in the middle, e.g. **Turn it off**.

Common mistakes

Put them on. (NOT Put ~~on them~~.); **Take it off.** (NOT Take ~~off it~~.)

There are some phrasal verbs where the object must come after the phrasal verb.

I will **look after** the children for you. [take care of them]

How did the two men **break into** the shop? [enter the shop using force, e.g. breaking a window]

C

In dictionaries

Dictionaries usually show the grammar of a phrasal verb like this:

The screenshot shows a dictionary interface with three entries:

- No object**: **hang around** (also UK hang about) to spend time somewhere, usually without doing very much: *There's nowhere for teenagers to go, so they just hang around on street corners.*
- Separable**: **hand sth out** to give something to all the people in a group: *A girl was handing out leaflets at the station.*
- Not separable** (the object must come after the phrasal verb): **get over sth** to begin to feel better after being unhappy or ill: *It took her months to get over the shock of Richard leaving.*

D

Style

Phrasal verbs are commonly used in spoken and written English. Many phrasal verbs are quite informal, and sometimes there is a single word with the same meaning as a phrasal verb, which sounds more formal. We use this word instead of the phrasal verb in more formal situations.

leave sb/sth out [not include sb/sth; *syn omit*], e.g. He made a list of people but left me out.

make sth up [create sth from your imagination; *syn invent*], e.g. We had to make up a story.

put sth off [put sth back to a later date; *syn postpone*], e.g. They put the game off till Friday.

turn sth/sb down [refuse an offer or request; *syn reject*], e.g. I offered her a job but she turned it down.

Exercises

80.1 Correct any mistakes with word order in the sentences. Be careful: some are correct.

- 1 She asked me to hand out ~~them~~. *hand them out*
- 2 I've got some boots but I'll put on them later.
- 3 Could you turn the light on?
- 4 My boots were tight and I couldn't take off them.
- 5 We set off very early this morning.
- 6 Why did they turn down it?
- 7 The boys were hanging the station around.

80.2 Replace the underlined word with a phrasal verb that makes the sentence more informal.

- 1 Could you wait a minute, please? *hold on*
- 2 As so many people are ill, I've had to postpone the meeting till next week.
- 3 The teacher told us to invent a story to go with the picture in our books.
- 4 They omitted a number of the names from my list.
- 5 I don't know why he rejected my offer of help.
- 6 The train should arrive by ten o'clock.

80.3 Write a sentence to describe what is happening or what has happened in the pictures.



1 *He's putting on his jacket.*



3



5



2



4



6

80.4 Complete the phrasal verbs.

- 1 I'm not stopping, so I won't take *off* my coat.
- 2 We didn't think Mike was good enough, so we left him
- 3 He told me he was 25, but I don't believe him. I think he's making that
- 4 We'll get there by seven if we set now.
- 5 I'll call you a bit later. I should be at your house by 7 o'clock.
- 6 They offered him the job but he turned it

80.5 Complete these sentences in a suitable way.

- 1 It was cold so I put on *my gloves/coat/scarf*.
- 2 Inma is still getting over
- 3 I'm not very good at making up
- 4 She asked me to turn on
- 5 Two men tried to break into
- 6 She's going out, so I said I'd look after