83 Phrasal verbs: grammatical patterns

Inseparable phrasal verbs

With inseparable phrasal verbs, you cannot put other words between the different parts of the phrasal verb. These include phrasal verbs that don't take an object.

Verb	Example	Meaning
pull up	*The driver **pulled up** in front of the hospital.*	(of a car or its driver) stop
drop by	*Please **drop by** if you're in the area.*	go to sb's house on an informal visit or without telling them that you are coming
stay up	*We **stayed up** late to watch the match last night.*	go to bed later than usual
go off	*I woke up when the alarm clock **went off**.*	make a sudden loud noise



I **broke down** in the countryside.



I **woke up** at 7 o'clock.



Look out! The floor's wet.

Some phrasal verbs take an object, which can only go after the phrasal verb. All phrasal verbs with three parts belong to this group.

get into sth	*Mina wants to **get into** teaching when she finishes university.*	start a career in a particular profession
run into sb SYN **bump into sb**	*I **ran into** Daisy in the sports centre – what a surprise!*	meet sb by chance
take up sth	*Sport **takes up** all my time.*	use or fill time or space
go off sth	*I've **gone off** coffee – it keeps me awake.*	stop liking or being interested in sth
get out of sth/ doing sth	*I've got a meeting this afternoon, but I'll try and **get out of** it.*	avoid a duty or doing sth that you have said you will do
come up with sth	*Max **came up with** a great way of saving money.*	find an answer or solution to sth

Separable phrasal verbs



I **turned** the volume **up**.



I **threw** the papers **away**.



I **switched** the light **on**.
(OPP **switch sth off**)

fill sth in	*I received the form, so I **filled** it **in**.*	complete a form, etc. by writing information on it
check sth out	*We're going to **check out** the restaurants in the area.*	find out more information about sth
put sth out	*They **put** the fire **out** very quickly.*	make sth stop burning, e.g. a fire, cigarette, etc.

SPOTLIGHT separable phrasal verbs

With separable phrasal verbs, the object can go (1) after the verb and particle, (2) or between the verb and the particle, but (3) a pronoun must go between the verb and particle.

1 *He put on **his jacket**.* ✓ 2 *He put **his jacket** on.* ✓ 3 *He put **it** on.* ✓ (NOT *He ~~put on it~~.*)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Can you put another word between the different parts of these phrasal verbs?

▶ get into No (get into sth)
1 go off _____
2 switch on _____
3 get out of _____
▶ throw away Yes (throw sth away)
4 bump into _____
5 fill in _____
6 put on _____

2 Do these sentences need an object? If so, add a possible ending. If not, write –.

▶ Then I woke up. –
1 Several cars broke down. _____
2 I'd like to get into. _____
3 She pulled up. _____
4 The bed takes up. _____
▶ I want to get out of cleaning the house.
5 He said he'd drop by. _____
6 The alarm went off. _____
7 I ran into. _____
8 Look out. _____

3 Right or wrong? Write *R* or *W*. Correct the wrong answers.

▶ She threw away it. W – She threw it away.
1 I've gone tea off. _____
2 Put your coat on. _____
3 How do I get out of going to the concert? _____
4 Why did they stay so late up? _____
5 I ran Tina into today in town. _____
6 She can't switch off it. _____
7 I wasn't expecting Sara – she just dropped by. _____
8 Did you fill in it? _____

4 Circle the correct answer.

▶ She put *on* / *in* her shoes.
1 I always try to get out *of* / *from* doing the washing up.
2 Who came *down* / *up* with that idea?
3 Don't stay *up* / *down* too late – you've got school tomorrow.
4 I got *in* / *into* journalism about twenty years ago. It's changed a lot.
5 I *switched off* / *out* the TV.
6 Did they put *out* / *off* the fire?
7 The bed takes *on* / *up* most of the room.
8 Look *over* / *out*, there's a big hole in the road.

5 Complete the phrasal verbs in the questions. ABOUT YOU

1 What time do you usually wake up ?
2 Have you ever had to p o a fire?
3 What was the last form you f i ?
4 Is there any food, drink or activity you've g o recently?
5 When was the last time you t some clothes a ?
6 Have you ever b d in a car?
7 Have you ever s u all night?
8 Do you ever r i other people in your class in the street?

6 Complete the sentences with a suitable phrasal verb.

▶ I didn't hear my alarm clock and didn't wake up until 9 o'clock.
1 We didn't need the files any longer, so I _____ them _____.
2 You can't smoke in here. You'll have to _____ that cigarette _____.
3 It was getting dark, so I _____ the light _____.
4 She didn't expect to see Ellie; she just _____ _____ her in the street.
5 My niece wants to _____ _____ politics as a career.
6 I had to _____ _____ a form to get a new passport.
7 The car _____ _____ and I had to phone for help.
8 I asked the driver to stop, and he _____ _____ outside the police station.
9 I'm looking for an English course, so I need to _____ _____ a few schools.
10 I can't hear the radio very well. Could you _____ it _____, please?

7 ABOUT YOU **Write answers to the questions in Exercise 5, or talk to another student.**

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS