IX

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are an essential aspect of English grammar, often posing challenges for learners due to their idiomatic nature. These verbs consist of an **infinitive verb** followed by one or more particles (**prepositions** or **adverbs**), which modify or completely change the verb's original meaning.

Structure of Phrasal Verbs

Verb: The action or state part of the phrase.
Particle(s): Preposition(s) or adverb(s) that alter the verb's meaning.



Types of Phrasal Verbs

I**ntransitive Phrasal Verbs:** These do not require an object.
Example:

- "The plane **took off**."

Transitive Phrasal Verbs:

These require a direct object and can be separable or inseparable.
Separable: The object can come between the verb and the particle.
Example:

- "I **put off** the meeting" can also be "I **put** the meeting **off**."

Inseparable: The object must follow the verb and particle.
Example:

- "I **ran into** an old friend."

Meaning and Usage

Phrasal verbs can have literal meanings, where the individual parts contribute to the overall meaning. However, they often carry idiomatic meanings, which can be quite different from the literal meanings of the component words.
They can significantly alter the tone and level of formality in speech and writing.

Grammatical Features

- Phrasal verbs can change tense, and the verb part is modified according to the subject and tense.
- They may require different prepositions to convey different meanings (e.g., "**look up**" as in searching in a directory, "**look after**" meaning to take care of).
- Challenges in Learning Phrasal Verbs
- They often don't translate literally into other languages, making them difficult for non-native speakers to learn.
- A single phrasal verb can have multiple meanings, and different phrasal verbs can have similar meanings, which can be confusing.

"Due to their idiomatic nature, phrasal verbs can be challenging for learners. It's important to study and understand them in context rather than trying to translate them literally."



Phrasal Verbs Exercise 1:

Choose the correct answer.

1.What does "look up to" someone mean?
a) To search for someone
b) To respect or admire someone
c) To search for information

2. "Get along with" refers to:
a) Moving to another place
b) Having a good relationship
c) Managing with limited resources

3. To "set off" means:
a) To start a journey
b) To trigger an alarm
c) Both A and B

4. "Put up with" means:
a) To build or construct
b) To tolerate or endure
c) To raise one's hand

5. "Throw away" means:
a) To discard or dispose of
b) To throw something while moving away
c) To give something at no cost

6. Is "look after" transitive, intransitive, separable, or non-separable?
a) Transitive, non-separable
b) Intransitive, separable
c) Transitive, separable

7. "Turn down" an offer means:
a) Accept
b) Refuse
c) Consider

8. Which phrasal verb means to investigate?
a) Look away
b) Look up to
c) Look into

9. "Throw away" is:
a) Transitive, separable
b) Intransitive, non-separable
c) Transitive, non-separable
Answer: A) Transitive, separable

10. "Keep on" doing something means to:
a) Retain possession
b) Preserve
c) Continue

Phrasal Verbs Exercise 2:

Complete the sentences with the phrasal verbs in the box below in the correct form.

call off, think over, give away, look into, come down with, went off, sort out, bump into, came up with, get up

1. She always _____ early in the morning to go jogging.

2. The meeting was _____ due to unforeseen circumstances.

3. I can't believe he _____ such a ridiculous excuse!

4. Can you please _____ these files by the end of the day?

5. He's _____ a cold and can't come to work today.

6. We need to _____ our holiday plans because of the budget.

7. The fire alarm _____ in the middle of the night.

8. He _____ his old friend in the street after many years.

9. You should not _____ personal information to strangers.

10. The police are _____ the recent thefts in the neighborhood.

Phrasal verbs: answer key

Grammar practice · B2 Upper-intermediate

Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

Exercise 1

1. b) To respect or admire someone
2. b) Having a good relationship
3. a) To start a journey or c) Both A and B
4. b) To tolerate or endure
5. a) To discard or dispose of
6. a) Transitive, non-separable
7. b) Refuse
8. c) Look into
9. a) Transitive, separable
10. c) Continue

Exercise 2

1. gets up
2. called off
3. came up with
4. sort out
5. coming down with
6. think over
7. went off
8. bumped into
9. give away
10. looking into

Corrections to the printed pages

Exercise 1, item 9: the page already shows the answer under the options.