

Phrasal verbs

- A phrasal verb is a verb combined with a particle (= an adverb or expression).
- Sometimes the meaning of the phrasal verb is obvious from the verb and the particle, e.g. *sit down*, *come back*.
- Sometimes the meaning is not obvious, e.g. give up smoking (=stop smoking), *carry on talking*(= continue to talk).

Group 1: No object

Phrasal verbs in this group can not be separated.

- **Come on!**
- **Hurry up!** We are late.
- The plane **took off** two hours ago.
- **Go away** and never **come back**.

Group 2: With an object and can not be separated

Phrasal verbs in this group can not be separated.

I am **looking for** my keys. NOT ~~I am looking my keys for.~~

I **asked for** chicken, not steak.

Please **look after** the baby.

I don't **get on with** my sister.

I am **looking forward to** the party.

Group 3: With an object and can be separated

Please **switch off** your mobiles. / Please **switch** your mobile **off**.
Can you **fill in** this form, please? / Can you **fill** this form **in**, please?
They have **set up** a new company. / They have **set** a new company **up**.
Don't **throw away** those papers. / Don't **throw** those paper **away**.

Group 3: With an object and can be separated

- In group 3, where the verb and the particle can be separated, if the object is a pronoun, it goes between the verb and the particle.

Switch it off. NOT ~~*Switch off it.*~~

Throw them away. NOT ~~*Throw away them.*~~

- Sometimes a phrasal verb has more than one meaning, e.g. *The plane took off.*

He took off his shoes.

Underline the correct phrase. If both phrases are correct, put a tick (✓).

1. Could you pick **me up** / **up me** at the airport next week?
2. Have you thrown **away yesterday's newspaper** / **yesterday's newspaper away**?
3. Did you ask **for the steak** / **the steak for**?
4. See you at the party next month. I'm really looking **forward to it** / **it forward to**.
5. Last week I bumped **into an old friend** / **an old friend into**.
6. Your shoes are dirty. Please take **them off** / **off them**.

Choose the correct answer:

1. Where can I plug my computer?
A- over B- in C- up D- back
2. I am in a meeting. Could you calllater, say in half an hour?
A- away B- about C- into D- back
3. Her grandmother passed last year at the age of 93.
A- away B- up C- into D- over
4. Athletes always warm..... before a race.
A- up B- over C- of D- off
5. The match is! Brazil have won.
A- away B- up C- in D- over
6. I bumped an old friend in the street yesterday.
A- with B- of C- about D- into

7. Could you turn the radio? I can't hear it.
A- down **B-** in **C-** up **D-** at
8. You are very nervous. You need to calm
A- down **B-** up **C-** in **D-** on
9. Turn the TV. There is a program I want to watch.
A- down **B-** of **C-** out **D-** on
10. Look ! There is a car coming!
A- in **B-** out **C-** at **D-** for
11. Slow! You are driving fast.
A- down **B-** up **C-** in **D-** out