

# English Phrasal Verbs Exercises



## PHRASAL VERBS

Match the words to the pictures. Then read the definitions about some of them and write the verbs on the line.

- 1 break down
- 2 throw away
- 3 break up
- 4 pay for
- 5 look after
- 6 laugh at
- 7 agree with
- 8 look for
- 9 hold on
- 10 go out with
- 11 look at
- 12 give up
- 13 run out
- 14 come round
- 15 let down
- 16 forget about

Have somebody as a boyfriend or girlfriend: \_\_\_\_\_

Stop being with somebody, for example a husband or wife, boyfriend or girlfriend: \_\_\_\_\_

Put something in the dustbin because you don't want it: \_\_\_\_\_

Not do something that you promised to do for somebody: \_\_\_\_\_

Have the same idea as another person about something: \_\_\_\_\_

Not remember something; not have something in your mind any more: \_\_\_\_\_

Have no more of something: \_\_\_\_\_

Stop trying to do something, because you know that you cannot do it: \_\_\_\_\_

Take care of somebody or something: \_\_\_\_\_

Try to find somebody or something: \_\_\_\_\_

English phrasal verbs exercises are essential tools for learners aiming to master the complexities of the English language. Phrasal verbs, which consist of a verb combined with one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs), can often confuse non-native speakers due to their idiomatic meanings. This article will explore the significance of phrasal verbs, various types of exercises to enhance understanding, and practical strategies to incorporate them into everyday language practice.

## Understanding Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are an integral part of English, commonly used in both spoken

and written forms. They can convey a range of meanings and are often more expressive than their single-word counterparts.

## Definition and Structure

A phrasal verb is formed when a verb is combined with a preposition or an adverb. The meaning of this combination can differ significantly from the original verb. For example:

- Look up: to search for information (e.g., "I need to look up the definition.")
- Give up: to stop trying (e.g., "He decided to give up smoking.")

Phrasal verbs can be classified into two main categories:

1. Transitive Phrasal Verbs: These require an object (e.g., "She turned down the job offer.")
2. Intransitive Phrasal Verbs: These do not take an object (e.g., "He woke up suddenly.")

## Importance of Phrasal Verbs

Understanding phrasal verbs is crucial for several reasons:

- Natural Communication: They are commonly used by native speakers, making conversations more natural and fluent.
- Idiomatic Expressions: Many phrasal verbs have meanings that are not easily inferred from their individual words, which can enhance comprehension.
- Language Proficiency: Mastery of phrasal verbs contributes significantly to achieving a high level of English proficiency.

## Types of Phrasal Verbs

To effectively learn and practice phrasal verbs, it's helpful to categorize them. Here are some common types:

### Separable Phrasal Verbs

These phrasal verbs allow the object to be placed between the verb and the particle.

- Example: "She picked up the book." or "She picked the book up."

### Inseparable Phrasal Verbs

Inseparable phrasal verbs do not allow the object to separate them. The object must always follow the particle.

- Example: "He ran into an old friend." (not "He ran an old friend into.")

## Three-Word Phrasal Verbs

Some phrasal verbs consist of three words, typically a verb followed by two particles.

- Example: "He takes care of the children."

## Effective Exercises for Learning Phrasal Verbs

Practicing phrasal verbs through various exercises can significantly aid retention and understanding. Here are some effective exercises:

### 1. Fill-in-the-Blank Exercises

These exercises help learners understand the context in which a phrasal verb can be used.

Example Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with the correct phrasal verb from the list below:

- (give up, look after, run into, turn down)

1. When she asked if I wanted to join, I had to \_\_\_\_\_ her invitation.
2. I often \_\_\_\_\_ my grandmother when she needs help.
3. I hope to \_\_\_\_\_ my bad habits this year.
4. Yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ an old friend at the mall.

Answers: 1. turn down, 2. look after, 3. give up, 4. ran into.

### 2. Matching Exercises

This type of exercise is effective for connecting phrasal verbs with their meanings.

Example Exercise:

Match the phrasal verbs on the left with their meanings on the right:

1. Break down
  2. Call off
  3. Get along
  4. Put off
- 
- a. To cancel
  - b. To delay
  - c. To have a good relationship
  - d. To stop functioning

Answers: 1-d, 2-a, 3-c, 4-b.

### 3. Multiple Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions can test comprehension and recognition of phrasal verbs.

Example Exercise:

Choose the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence:

1. She finally decided to \_\_\_\_\_ her bad habits.

- a) break out
- b) give up
- c) take off

Answer: b) give up.

### 4. Sentence Creation

Encourage learners to create their own sentences using specific phrasal verbs. This exercise promotes creativity and application.

Example Exercise:

Using the following phrasal verbs, create sentences:

- Look forward to
- Turn up
- Run out of

Sample Answers:

1. I look forward to meeting you next week.
2. She turned up late to the party.
3. We ran out of milk, so I need to go shopping.

### 5. Role-Playing Scenarios

Role-playing can be an engaging way to practice phrasal verbs in context.

Example Scenario:

- Situation: Two friends discussing their plans for the weekend.
- Phrasal Verbs to Use: hang out, give up, look forward to, run into.

Sample Dialogue:

A: "What do you want to do this weekend?"

B: "I can't wait to hang out at the beach! I heard we might run into some old classmates there."

A: "That sounds great! I was thinking of giving up my plans to catch a movie instead."

# Strategies for Mastering Phrasal Verbs

In addition to exercises, several strategies can help learners master phrasal verbs more effectively:

## 1. Use a Phrasal Verb Dictionary

A dedicated phrasal verb dictionary can be a valuable resource, providing definitions, examples, and usage notes.

## 2. Keep a Phrasal Verb Journal

Maintain a journal to record new phrasal verbs learned, along with their meanings and example sentences. Regularly review this journal to reinforce learning.

## 3. Watch English Movies and Series

Exposure to natural language use in movies and TV shows can help familiarize learners with common phrasal verbs in context.

## 4. Engage in Conversation Practice

Finding language exchange partners or participating in conversation clubs can provide opportunities to use phrasal verbs in real-life situations.

## 5. Consistent Review and Practice

Regular practice is key to retention. Set aside time each week to review phrasal verbs and complete exercises.

## Conclusion

Incorporating English phrasal verbs exercises into language studies is vital for mastering this challenging yet essential aspect of English. By utilizing various exercises, understanding the types of phrasal verbs, and applying effective strategies, learners can enhance their fluency and confidence in using English. As with any language skill, consistency, exposure, and practice are the keys to success. With time and effort, phrasal verbs can become a natural and integral part of your English vocabulary.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are phrasal verbs and why are they important in English?**

Phrasal verbs are combinations of verbs with prepositions or adverbs that create a new meaning. They are important because they are commonly used in everyday English, and understanding them can improve both conversational and written communication.

### **What are some effective exercises to practice phrasal verbs?**

Effective exercises include fill-in-the-blank sentences, matching phrasal verbs with their meanings, and using them in context through role-play or writing short stories. Online quizzes and flashcards are also helpful.

### **How can I remember the meanings of different phrasal verbs?**

To remember phrasal verbs, try grouping them by themes or contexts, using mnemonic devices, or creating visual associations. Regular practice and exposure through reading and listening can also reinforce memory.

### **Are there any online resources for practicing phrasal verbs?**

Yes, there are many online resources such as websites like EnglishClub, BBC Learning English, and Quizlet that offer exercises, quizzes, and interactive games specifically focused on phrasal verbs.

### **Can you suggest a simple phrasal verb exercise for beginners?**

A simple exercise for beginners is to provide a list of common phrasal verbs and definitions, then ask learners to write sentences using each verb. Alternatively, they can fill in blanks in sentences with the correct phrasal verb from a list.

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