Phrasal verbs

Understand the patterns.

Move the object.

Speak with confidence.

START HERE

What is a phrasal verb?

VERB + PARTICLE = NEW MEANING

get + up → get up (leave your bed)

turn + on → turn on (start a device)

look + after → look after (take care of)

STEP 1

Find the object

An object answers WHO? or WHAT?

I turned on the lamp. → What? THE LAMP

She looked after her sister. → Who? HER SISTER

He woke up. → No object

STEP 2

Two families

INTRANSITIVE → no object

She got up early. • The bus broke down.

TRANSITIVE → has an object

He put on his coat. • I looked for my phone.

Intransitive: stay together

No object to move.

come back • go away • grow up

stand up • hurry up • get along

Talk: What time do you usually get up?

Transitive + separable

With a NOUN, both positions work:

Turn on the light. ✓

Turn the light on. ✓

Other verbs: take off, put on, throw away, write down

The pronoun rule

With it / them / him / her, put the object IN THE MIDDLE.

Turn it on. ✓ Turn on it. ✗

Take them off. ✓ Take off them. ✗

Memory trick: PRONOUN = MIDDLE

PATTERN C

Transitive + inseparable

Keep the verb and particle together:

look for my keys ✓ look for them ✓

look my keys for ✗ look them for ✗

More: look after, get on with, take care of

Compare the patterns

INTRANSITIVE: She grew up.

SEPARABLE: She wrote the number down.

SEPARABLE + PRONOUN: She wrote it down.

INSEPARABLE: She looked after the baby.

Practice 1 · Choose

1. I (turned on it / turned it on).
2. She (looks after them / looks them after).
3. We (got up / got it up) at seven.
4. He (put his jacket on / put on his jacket).
5. I (looked for my wallet / looked my wallet for).

Practice 2 · Rewrite

Rewrite using the pronoun in brackets.

1. Turn off the television. (it)
2. Pick up the bags. (them)
3. Look after the children. (them)
4. Write down the address. (it)
5. Put on your shoes. (them)

Practice 3 · Fix the mistake

Some sentences are already correct.

1. Please turn off it.
2. I looked for my phone.
3. She took them off.
4. We get with our neighbours on.
5. They called off it.
6. He grew up in London.

Practice 4 · Complete

Use: look after / turn down / go away / fill in / get up / throw away

1. Please _____ this form.
2. Can you _____ the music? It is loud.
3. I _____ at 6:30 every day.
4. Don’t _____ those old photos!
5. Can you _____ my dog this weekend?
6. We want to _____ for a few days.

Speaking challenge · Real life

Answer in full sentences.

- What do you do when your alarm goes off?
- What do you usually put on in winter?
- Who do you get on with in your family?
- When did you last look for something you lost?
- What do you often throw away?

SPEAK

Role-play · A busy morning

STUDENT A: You are late. Your phone, keys and jacket are missing.

STUDENT B: Help your friend get ready.

Use at least FIVE phrasal verbs.

Switch roles after two minutes.

Answer key · 1 and 2

P1: 1 turned it on; 2 looks after them; 3 got up; 4 BOTH; 5 looked for my wallet.

P2: 1 Turn it off. 2 Pick them up. 3 Look after them. 4 Write it down. 5 Put them on.

Answer key · 3 and 4

P3: 1 turn it off; 2 correct; 3 correct; 4 get on with our neighbours; 5 called it off; 6 correct.

P4: 1 fill in; 2 turn down; 3 get up; 4 throw away; 5 look after; 6 go away.

YOUR TURN

Exit ticket

Explain the difference between:

- get up
- turn on
- look after

Then make one sentence with “it” or “them” for each transitive verb.