

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are a useful and mysterious part of English! They combine verbs & preposition to create functional phrases. Just a change in preposition can change the meaning completely and if that isn't confusing enough, a lot of phrasal verbs have multiple meanings!

There are three main types:

1) **Intransitive** – no object:

- Watch out!
- Look out!
- Take care.
- Get up!

2) **Transitive (inseparable)** - object at the end

- **Look after** my cats

not ~~Look my cats after.~~

- He is going to **look into** my case

not He is going to ~~look my case into.~~

- I **get on well with** my father-in-law

not I ~~get on well~~ my father-in-law **with**.

3) **Transitive (separable)** – object at the end or in the middle

Turn that music **down!** / **Turn down** the music!

Put your shoes **on.** / **Put on** your shoes.

See below for exercises:

Fill the dialogues below with the correct phrasal verbs

pick up kick out turn over break out in count on call in put down
 break down bring up check out clean up come down with bring in cut out

Exercise 1

Receptionist: Hi Elbow Lane Surgery.

Parent: Hi there. I'd like to make an appointment.

Receptionist: Ok. Who is it for?

Parent: My son.

Receptionist: Ok. What is the problem?

Parent: Well, he 1)..... a cough and a tight chest around 3 or 4 days ago. I wasn't worried at first but the symptoms haven't improved. Also, it seems that he has 2)..... a rash, so I thought I should ring and see if we can 3)..... to see the doctor today?

Receptionist: OK. I agree. I'll see if he is free. Yep. He is free. Why don't you 4) him..... this morning so the doctor can 5) him?

Exercise 2

Ok, let me 6)..... how you should 7) a heavy object..... First, you always bend at the knees. Never with your back. Then, try and get your hands under the object. At that stage you can decide to 8)..... it if you want to. Alternatively, you can continue lifting and then 9)..... it..... where you want to, remembering at all times that it is your legs and arms that do the work, not your back!

Exercise 3

I didn't really want to 10) this, Sarah but since you have been living here, you haven't been very tidy. I am 11) you to keep this place nice for both of us. If you spill something, please 12) it! If you don't 13) this unclean behaviour, I will have to 14)..... you and find a new housemate!

Answers

Exercise 1

Receptionist: Hi Elbow Lane Surgery.

Parent: Hi there. I'd like to make an appointment.

Receptionist: Ok. Who is it for?

Parent: My son.

Receptionist: Ok. What is the problem?

Parent: Well, he 1) **came down with** a cough and a tight chest around 3 or 4 days ago. I wasn't worried at first but the symptoms haven't improved. Also, it seems that he has 2) **broken out in** a rash, so I thought I should ring and see if we can 3) **call in** to see the doctor today?

Receptionist: OK. I agree. I'll see if he is free. Yep. He is free. Why don't you 4) **bring him in** this morning so the doctor can 5) **check him out**?

Exercise 2

Ok, let me 6) **break down** how you should 7) **pick** a heavy object **up**. First, you always bend at the knees. Never with your back. Then, try and get your hands under the object. At that stage you can decide to 8) **turn it over** if you want to. Alternatively, you can continue lifting and then 9) **put it down** where you want to, remembering at all times that it is your legs and arms that do the work, not your back!

Exercise 3

I didn't really want to 10) **bring this up**, Sarah but since you have been living here, you haven't been very tidy. I am 11) **counting on** you to keep this place nice for both of us. If you spill something, please 12) **clean it up**! If you don't 13) **cut out** this unclean behaviour, I will have to 14) **kick you out** and find a new housemate!