

What are Inseparable Phrasal Verbs?

Worksheet

Inseparable phrasal verbs cannot split—the object must follow both the verb and the particle together. Example: 'Look after a child' (not 'Look a child after'). The particle always comes directly after the verb.

Questions

1. Which is correct: 'look after your pets' / 'look your pets after'?
 - A) Only look after your pets
 - B) Only look your pets after
 - C) Both are correct
 - D) Neither is correct
2. Is 'run into' (encounter) separable or inseparable?
 - A) Separable
 - B) Inseparable
 - C) Both
 - D) Neither
3. 'Get along with her friends' — can you move 'her friends'?
 - A) Yes, get with her friends along
 - B) Yes, get her friends along with
 - C) No, it must stay after along
 - D) Maybe sometimes
4. Which is an inseparable phrasal verb?
 - A) pick up
 - B) put on
 - C) run into
 - D) turn on
5. The children run into a problem. What is 'run into'? Is it separable?
6. She gets along with her colleagues. Can we say 'She gets her colleagues along with'?
7. Rewrite: 'We ran across an old friend.' Make sure the phrasal verb form is correct.
8. Define: What is an inseparable phrasal verb?
9. Define: Can you separate an inseparable phrasal verb?
10. Define: What's an example of an inseparable phrasal verb?

Answer Key

1. A) Only look after your pets — 'Look after' is inseparable, so only 'look after your pets' is correct.
2. B) Inseparable — 'Run into' is inseparable. Say 'run into a problem' (not 'run a problem into').
3. C) No, it must stay after along — 'Get along with' is inseparable. The object stays at the end: 'get along with her friends.'
4. C) run into — 'Run into' is inseparable. The others (pick up, put on, turn on) are separable.
5. 'Run into' is an inseparable phrasal verb meaning 'encounter.' The object must follow both words: 'run into a problem' (not 'run a problem into'). It's inseparable.
6. 'Get along' is inseparable. Object must come after: 'get along with colleagues' (not 'get colleagues along with'). The answer is NO—inseparable verbs can't split.
7. 'Run across' is inseparable (meaning 'meet by chance'). Correct form: 'We ran across an old friend.' Can't separate: 'We ran an old friend across' is wrong.
8. A phrasal verb where the verb and particle must stay together; the object always comes after both. Example: run into, look after, get along with.
9. No. The object must come after the particle, not between the verb and particle.
10. 'Look after' (care for). You must say 'Look after your siblings' (never 'Look your siblings after').

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