

What are Separable Phrasal Verbs?

Worksheet

Separable phrasal verbs allow the object to go between the verb and particle ('turn off the light' or 'turn the light off') but when the object is a pronoun, it must go between them ('turn it off', never 'turn off it').

Questions

1. 'I'll _____ the rubbish.' Use: take out. Correct form?
A) take out the rubbish
B) take the rubbish out
C) both (a) and (b)
D) neither
2. Replace with pronoun: 'turn off the light'
A) turn off it
B) turn it off
C) off turn it
D) it turn off
3. Which is separable?
A) look after
B) turn on
C) get over
D) carry on
4. Complete with 'write down': 'Can you _____ my number?'
A) write down my number
B) write my number down
C) both (a) and (b) are fine
D) neither is correct
5. Complete: 'I need to _____ the TV.' Use: turn on. Both word orders?
6. Use 'put on' in a sentence with noun object and pronoun object.
7. Complete: 'She _____ her coat.' Use: pick up. Show both forms.
8. Define: What is a separable phrasal verb?
9. Define: Pronoun rule for separable verbs?
10. Define: Examples of separable phrasal verbs?

Answer Key

1. C) both (a) and (b) — Separable phrasal verbs allow both orders with nouns. Both 'take out the rubbish' and 'take the rubbish out' are correct.
2. B) turn it off — With pronoun objects, the pronoun MUST go between verb and particle.
3. B) turn on — 'turn on' is separable (turn on the light / turn the light on). Others are inseparable.
4. C) both (a) and (b) are fine — Separable verb with noun — both word orders are acceptable.
5. Verb + particle + noun: turn on the TV Verb + noun + particle: turn the TV on (Both work!) But with pronoun: turn it on (never turn on it)
6. Noun (separable): Put on your shoes / Put your shoes on Pronoun (must separate): Put them on (NOT put on them)
7. Form 1: pick up her coat Form 2: pick her coat up With pronoun: pick it up
8. A phrasal verb whose particle can move to either side of a noun object (turn on the light / turn the light on).
9. The pronoun MUST go between verb and particle: turn it on (NOT turn on it).
10. turn on/off, put on/off, take out, pick up, look up, write down, turn up/down.

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