

What are Separable Phrasal Verbs?

Worksheet

Separable phrasal verbs allow the object noun to go between the verb and the particle: 'Put on a shirt' or 'Put a shirt on' are both correct. Pronouns must go between: 'Put it on' (not 'Put on it').

Questions

1. Which is correct: turn on the TV / turn the TV on?
A) Only turn on the TV
B) Only turn the TV on
C) Both are correct
D) Neither is correct
2. With a pronoun, 'turn on it' is...
A) correct
B) incorrect - use turn it on
C) incorrect - use on it turn
D) none of these
3. Which phrasal verb is separable?
A) run into
B) pick up
C) look after
D) run over
4. Complete: 'Wake ___ children?' (call, wake) If using 'wake up'...
A) Wake up the children / Wake the children up
B) Only Wake up the children
C) Only Wake the children up
D) Wake up them
5. I put on my shoes this morning. Rewrite separated: ____
6. Turn on the lights. Replace the noun with 'them': ____
7. Pick up your toys. Is this separable? Can we say 'Pick your toys up'?
8. Define: What is a separable phrasal verb?
9. Define: Can the object always go between the verb and particle?
10. Define: Where must pronouns go in separable phrasal verbs?

Answer Key

1. C) Both are correct — 'Turn on' is separable, so both word orders work: 'turn on the TV' and 'turn the TV on.'
2. B) incorrect - use turn it on — Pronouns must go between: 'turn it on' (never 'turn on it').
3. B) pick up — 'Pick up' is separable: 'pick up a book' / 'pick a book up.' Others are inseparable.
4. A) Wake up the children / Wake the children up — 'Wake up' is separable. Both 'Wake up the children' and 'Wake the children up' are correct.
5. The phrasal verb 'put on' is separable. Object 'my shoes' can go between: 'I put my shoes on this morning.' Both are correct.
6. With pronouns, MUST separate. 'Turn on' becomes 'Turn them on' (never 'Turn on them').
Answer: Turn them on.
7. 'Pick up' is a separable phrasal verb. Both 'Pick up your toys' and 'Pick your toys up' are correct. Yes, it's separable.
8. A phrasal verb where the object can appear between the main verb and the particle. Example: put on / put on a shirt / put a shirt on.
9. No, only with separable phrasal verbs. Inseparable ones must stay together.
10. Always between the verb and particle. 'Turn on it' is wrong; 'Turn it on' is correct.

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