



Common Mistakes with Phrasal Verbs

B2 First / C1 Advanced Worksheet

Exercise 1: Choose the Correct Option

Choose the correct phrasal verb to complete each sentence.

1. She finally _____ smoking after many attempts. a) gave up b) gave out c) gave in
2. I don't really _____ well with my new manager yet. a) get over b) get on c) get by
3. The meeting was _____ until next Monday. a) put up b) put off c) put out
4. This machine often _____ when it's very cold. a) breaks up b) breaks down c) breaks out
5. He had to _____ his younger sister while their parents were away. a) look after b) look for c) look into

Exercise 2: Correct the Mistakes

Each sentence contains **one mistake** with a phrasal verb. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. She turned off it before leaving the room.
2. I'm trying to keep on with the latest technological changes.
3. He explained me the problem and asked me to help.
4. They didn't want to bring up about the issue during the meeting.
5. We carried out talking for hours after the class.

Exercise 3: Formal or Informal?

Decide whether the phrasal verb is **appropriate** for a formal context. If not, rewrite the sentence using a more formal verb.

1. The company decided to put off the launch of the new product.
2. The committee brought up several concerns during the discussion.
3. The scientist looked into the results very carefully.
4. The report points out several weaknesses in the system.

Exercise 4: Sentence Transformation (Exam Style)

Rewrite each sentence using the word given. **Do not change the word given.**

1. She stopped eating sugar last year.

GAVE

She _____ last year.

2. I have a good relationship with my neighbours.

GET

I _____ with my neighbours.

3. The teacher cancelled the lesson.

CALLED

The teacher _____.

4. He is trying to stay informed about new technology.

KEEP

He is trying to _____ technological developments.

Exercise 5: Complete the Sentences

Use a suitable phrasal verb from the box. Use the correct form.

carry on – look after – put off – break down – give up

1. If you don't service your car regularly, it may _____ unexpectedly.
2. She decided to _____ her studies despite the difficulties.
3. We had to _____ the trip because of bad weather.
4. He promised to _____ the children while I was at work.
5. Don't _____ now — you're making great progress.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. a) gave up
2. b) get on
3. b) put off
4. b) breaks down
5. a) look after

Exercise 2 (Suggested Answers)

1. She turned it off before leaving the room.
2. I'm trying to keep up with the latest technological changes.
3. He explained the problem to me and asked me to help.
4. They didn't want to bring up the issue during the meeting.
5. We carried on talking for hours after the class.

Exercise 3 (Suggested Answers)

1. Correct (acceptable in neutral/formal English).
2. Correct.
3. Correct.
4. Correct.

Exercise 4 (Suggested Answers)

1. She **gave up eating sugar** last year.
2. I **get on well** with my neighbours.
3. The teacher **called off the lesson**.
4. He is trying to **keep up with** technological developments.

Exercise 5

1. break down
2. carry on with
3. put off
4. look after
5. give up

Teacher's Note

This worksheet targets the most common B2–C1 issues with phrasal verbs: word order, formality, verb–particle meaning, and exam-style transformations.