

## Focus: Syntax (Transitive/Intransitive), Object Placement, and Continuity/Completion Verbs

In this lesson, we look at how to construct sentences with phrasal verbs correctly, specifically focusing on where to put the object (noun or pronoun). We also explore specific verbs used for **continuity** (continuing an action) and **completion** (finishing an action).

### 1. Transitive vs. Intransitive Phrasal Verbs

- **Intransitive:** These verbs **do not** take a direct object. You just use the verb.
  - *Examples:* run out (expire/exhaust supply), get on (progress), go on (continue happening).
  - *Usage:* "The time **ran out**." (Correct) / "The time ran out the clock." (Incorrect).
- **Transitive:** These verbs **need** a direct object (a noun or pronoun).
  - *Examples:* finish off (something), work out (a problem), turn on (a light).

### 2. Separable Phrasal Verbs & Pronoun Placement

Many transitive phrasal verbs are **separable**. This means the object can move.

#### Rule A: With Noun Objects

The noun can go **after** the particle OR **between** the verb and the particle.

- *Option 1:* I need to **finish off** the report. (After)
- *Option 2:* I need to **finish** the report **off**. (Between)

#### Rule B: With Pronoun Objects (it / them / me / you)

If the object is a **pronoun**, it **MUST** go in the middle. It cannot go at the end.

- *Correct:* I need to **finish it off**.
- *Incorrect:* ~~I need to finish off it.~~
- *Correct:* Can you **work it out**?
- *Incorrect:* ~~Can you work out it?~~

### 3. Verbs of Continuity and Movement (-ON)

The particle **ON** often adds the meaning of "continuing" or "moving forward."

- **carry on / keep on / go on:** To continue doing something.
  - *Example:* "Please **carry on** working."
- **drive on / walk on / play on:** To continue moving or playing in a specific direction or despite an interruption.
  - *Example:* "We were tired, but we **walked on** until we found the hotel."
- **get on:** To progress or handle a situation (often in a job or life).
  - *Example:* "How are you **getting on** in your new job?"

### 4. Verbs of Completion and Calculation (-OFF / -OUT)

- **finish off:** To complete the last part of something completely (often food or a task).
  - *Example:* "We need to **finish off** these leftovers."
- **work out:**
  1. To calculate or find a solution (Separable). ("*I worked the answer out.*")
  2. To exercise (Intransitive). ("*He works out every day.*")
- **run out:** To use all of a supply so there is none left.
  - *Example:* "We have **run out** of milk."

# Practice Exercises

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## Instructions

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the phrasal verb.

- Pay close attention to **word order** if a pronoun (**it/them/me**) is provided.
- For **negatives (-)**, use the cue (not/verb).
- For **questions (?)**, use the subject provided in the cue.

1. Although it was raining heavily, the football team \_\_\_\_\_ the match. (**play on**)
2. We need to find a solution. \_\_\_\_\_ how to fix this problem yet? (**you/work out**)
3. There is only one piece of cake left. I am going to \_\_\_\_\_. (**finish off/it**)
4. I'm afraid we cannot make coffee because we \_\_\_\_\_ of beans. (**run out**)
5. The noise was terrible, but he just \_\_\_\_\_ reading his book. (**carry on**)
6. New employees often worry about how they \_\_\_\_\_ in their first week. (**get on**)
7. That radio is too loud! Please \_\_\_\_\_ immediately. (**turn down/it**)
8. She was tired of the argument, so she \_\_\_\_\_ listening to him. (**not/keep on**)
9. After the accident, the police signaled the traffic to \_\_\_\_\_. (**drive on**)
10. Mathematics is difficult for me. I can never \_\_\_\_\_ the correct answers. (**work out**)
11. \_\_\_\_\_ the leftovers from dinner, or should I put them in the fridge? (**you/finish off**)
12. We \_\_\_\_\_ for another hour, hoping to see the village soon. (**walk on**)
13. The presentation was boring and it seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ for hours. (**go on**)
14. He looks very unfit. He definitely \_\_\_\_\_ at the gym enough. (**not/work out**)
15. \_\_\_\_\_ discussing this topic, or should we change the subject? (**we/go on**)

## **Answer Key**

1. played on
2. Have you worked out / Did you work out
3. finish it off
4. have run out / ran out
5. carried on
6. will get on / are getting on
7. turn it down
8. did not keep on / didn't keep on
9. drive on
10. work out
11. Did you finish off / Have you finished off
12. walked on
13. go on
14. does not work out / doesn't work out
15. Shall we go on / Should we go on / Can we go on