

Quick reference

- Phrasal verbs are usually two-word verbs (verb + adverbial particle): *go out, put on, give up*, etc.
- We can use different particles with the same verb. The meaning changes.
I got up at 7.00 this morning. (= got out of bed)
The police arrested the thief, but he got away. (= escaped)
- Most phrasal verbs can take an object. The object can usually go before or after the particle.
I turned on the radio. OR *I turned the radio on.*
- But if the object is a pronoun, the pronoun always goes before the particle.
Here's your coat. Put it on. (NOT Put on it.)
- 'Long' objects go after the particle.
Why don't you throw away the clothes you don't wear any more.
(NOT Why don't you throw the clothes you don't wear any more away.)
- Some phrasal verbs are three-word verbs (verb + particle + preposition): *get on with, run out of*, etc. Here, the object must go after the preposition.
I don't get on with my parents. *I don't get on with them.*

1 A girl is describing the first episode of a TV series she has just watched. Replace the words in italics with the correct forms of these phrasal verbs.

pick up (x2) think over get out hand over come back get up wake up set off get away from
run out of go on go down get on with lie down go out with take off come up to talk over

Brad, an American teenager, *had a bad relationship with* (1) his parents. He wanted to *escape* (2) from them. He *considered it* (3) for several days before he finally decided to *leave* (4) He said to himself he would never *return* (5) He *was having a relationship with* (6) Donna, a girl who was also unhappy at home. One night he *got out of bed* (7) at 3 a.m. He took his father's car. He *collected his girlfriend* (8) and they *started their journey* (9) for the Mexican border. They *suddenly had no more* (10) petrol in the middle of Texas. What were they going to do? They *discussed it* (11) for a long time, and finally they started to walk. They *continued* (12) for hours in the hot sun. Brad *removed* (13) his shirt so Donna could put it over her head. They tried to get a lift, but no-one stopped to *take them* (14) The nearest town was 25 miles away and the sun *was sinking* (15) They *stretched out on the ground* (16) by the side of the road and fell asleep. Two hours later a man *approached* (17) them. His voice *wakened them* (18) It was a truck driver. Would he take them to Mexico, or would he *let the police have them* (19) to the police?