

Phrasal verbs 4 **on/off (1)**

A

On and off for lights, machines etc.

We say: the light **is on** / **put** the light **on** / **leave** the light **on** etc.
turn the light **on/off** or **switch** the light **on/off**

- Shall I **leave** the lights **on** or **turn** them **off**?
- '**Is** the heating **on**?' 'No, I **switched** it **off**'.
- We need some boiling water, so I'll **put** the kettle **on**.

Also **put on** some music / a CD etc.

- I haven't listened to this CD yet. Shall I **put it on**? (= shall I play it)

B

On and off for events etc.

go on = *happen*

- What's all that noise? What's **going on**? (= what's happening)

call something off = *cancel it*

- The open air concert had to be **called off** because of the weather.

put something off, put off doing something = *delay it*

- The wedding has been **put off** until January.
- We can't **put off** making a decision. We have to decide now.

C

On and off for clothes etc.

put on clothes, glasses, make-up, a seat belt etc.

- My hands were cold, so I **put** my gloves **on**.

Also **put on** weight = *get heavier*

- I've **put on** two kilograms in the last month.

try on clothes (to see if they fit)

- I **tried on** a jacket in the shop, but it didn't fit me very well.

take off clothes, glasses etc.

- It was warm, so I **took off** my jacket.

D

Off = away from a person or place

be off (to a place)

- Tomorrow I'm **off** to Paris / I'm **off** on holiday.
(= I'm going to Paris / I'm going on holiday)

walk off / run off / drive off / ride off / go off (similar to **walk away / run away** etc.)

- Diane got on her bike and **rode off**.
- Mark left home at the age of 18 and **went off** to Canada.

set off = *start a journey*

- We **set off** very early to avoid the traffic. (= We left early)

take off = *leave the ground (for planes)*

- After a long delay the plane finally **took off**.

see somebody off = *go with them to the airport/station to say goodbye*

- Helen was going away. We went to the station with her to **see her off**.

Exercises

140.1 Complete the sentences using **put on** + the following:

a CD the heating the kettle ~~the light~~ the oven

- 1 It was getting dark, so I put the light on.
- 2 It was getting cold, so I
- 3 I wanted to bake a cake, so I
- 4 I wanted to make some tea, so I
- 5 I wanted to listen to some music, so I

140.2 Complete the sentences. Each time use a verb + **on** or **off**.

- 1 It was warm, so I took off my jacket.
- 2 What are all these people doing? What's
- 3 The weather was too bad for the plane to, so the flight was delayed.
- 4 I didn't want to be disturbed, so I my phone.
- 5 Rachel got into her car and at high speed.
- 6 Tim has weight since I last saw him. He used to be quite thin.
- 7 A: What time are you leaving tomorrow?
B: I'm not sure yet, but I'd like to as early as possible.
- 8 Don't until tomorrow what you can do today.
- 9 There was going to be a strike by bus drivers, but now they have been offered more money and the strike has been
- 10 Are you cold? Shall I get you a sweater to
- 11 When I go away, I prefer to be alone at the station or airport. I don't like it when people come to me

140.3 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.



Her hands were cold, so she put her gloves on.



The plane at 10.55.



Maria, but it was too big for her.



The match because of the weather.



Mark's parents went to the airport to



He took his sunglasses out of his pocket and

Phrasal verbs 5 on/off (2)

A

Verb + **on** = continue doing something**drive on / walk on / play on** = *continue driving/walking/playing etc.*

- Shall we stop at this petrol station or shall we **drive on** to the next one?

go on = *continue*

- The party **went on** until 4 o'clock in the morning.

go on / carry on doing something = *continue doing something*

- We can't **go on** spending money like this. We'll have nothing left soon.
 I don't want to **carry on** working here. I'm going to look for another job.

Also **go on with / carry on with** something

- Don't let me disturb you. Please **carry on with** what you're doing.

keep on doing something = *do it continuously or repeatedly*

- He **keeps on** criticising me. I'm fed up with it!

B

Get on

get on = *progress*

- How are you **getting on** in your new job? (= How is it going?)

get on (with somebody) = *have a good relationship*

- Joanne and Karen don't **get on**. They're always arguing.
 Richard **gets on** well **with** his neighbours. They're all very friendly.

get on with something = *continue doing something you have to do, usually after an interruption*

- I must **get on with** my work. I have a lot to do.

C

Verb + **off****doze off / drop off / nod off** = *fall asleep*

- The lecture wasn't very interesting. In fact I **dozed off** in the middle of it.

finish something **off** = *do the last part of something*

- A: Have you finished painting the kitchen?
 B: Nearly. I'll **finish it off** tomorrow.

go off = *explode*

- A bomb **went off** in the city centre, but fortunately nobody was hurt.

Also an alarm can **go off** = *ring*

- Did you hear the alarm **go off**?

put somebody **off** (doing something) = *cause somebody not to want something or to do something*

- We wanted to go to the exhibition, but we were **put off** by the long queue.
 What **put** you **off** applying for the job? Was the salary too low?

rip somebody **off** = *cheat somebody (informal)*

- Did you really pay £2,000 for that painting? I think you were **ripped off**.
 (= you paid too much)

show off = *try to impress people with your ability, your knowledge etc.*

- Look at that boy on the bike riding with no hands. He's just **showing off**.

tell somebody **off** = *speak angrily to somebody because they did something wrong*

- Clare's mother **told** her **off** for wearing dirty shoes in the house.

141.1 Change the underlined words. Keep the same meaning, but use a verb + **on** or **off**.

- Did you hear the bomb explode?
Did you hear the bomb go off?
- The meeting continued longer than I expected.
The meeting longer than I expected.
- We didn't stop to rest. We continued walking.
We didn't stop to rest. We
- I fell asleep while I was watching TV.
I while I was watching TV.
- Gary doesn't want to retire. He wants to continue working.
Gary doesn't want to retire. He wants to working.
- The fire alarm rang in the middle of the night.
The fire alarm in the middle of the night.
- Martin phones me continuously. It's very annoying.
Martin It's very annoying.

141.2 Complete each sentence using a verb + **on** or **off**.

- We can't go on spending money like this. We'll have nothing left soon.
- I was standing by the car when suddenly the alarm
- I'm not ready to go home yet. I have a few things to
- 'Shall I stop the car here?' 'No,
- Bill paid too much for the car he bought. I think he was
- 'Is Emma enjoying her course at university?' 'Yes, she's very well.'
- I was very tired at work today. I nearly at my desk a couple of times.
- Ben was by his boss for being late for work repeatedly.
- I really like working with my colleagues. We all really well together.
- There was a very loud noise. It sounded like a bomb
- I making the same mistake. It's very frustrating.
- I've just had a coffee break, and now I must with my work.
- Peter is always trying to impress people. He's always
- We decided not to go to the concert. We were by the cost of tickets.

141.3 Complete the sentences. Use the following verbs (in the correct form) + **on** or **off**. Sometimes you will need other words as well:

carry finish -get- get get go rip tell

- A: How are you getting on in your new job?
B: Fine, thanks. It's going very well.
- A: Have you written the letter you had to write?
B: I've started it. I'll in the morning.
- A: We took a taxi to the airport. It cost £40.
B: £40! Normally it costs about £20. You
- A: Why were you late for work this morning?
B: I overslept. My alarm clock didn't
- A: How in your interview? Do you think you'll get the job?
B: I hope so. The interview was OK.
- A: Did you stop playing tennis when it started to rain?
B: No, we The rain wasn't very heavy.
- A: Some children at the next table in the restaurant were behaving very badly.
B: Why didn't their parents ?
- A: Why does Paul want to leave his job?
B: He his boss.