Phrasal Verbs Practice

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. The coach called off the practice because the gym flooded. What did the coach do?
   - A. Canceled the practice
   - B. Shortened the practice
   - C. Joined the practice
   - D. Moved the practice to another gym

   Correct answer: A. Canceled the practice
   To call off an event means to cancel it. No replacement venue is implied.

2. The council put off the vote until Friday. What happened to the vote?
   - A. It was held ahead of schedule.
   - B. It was counted twice.
   - C. It was postponed.
   - D. It was made private.

   Correct answer: C. It was postponed.
   Here put off means to postpone. The vote is planned for a later time.

3. After several guesses, Lin figured out why the lamp would not switch on. What did Lin do?
   - A. Reported the lamp missing
   - B. Found the explanation
   - C. Wrote down a new guess without checking it
   - D. Turned the lamp off

   Correct answer: B. Found the explanation
   To figure something out means to understand or solve it. Lin discovered the reason the lamp failed.

4. Jon will look after the greenhouse plants while Rae is away. What will Jon do?
   - A. Watch Rae leave
   - B. Search for missing plants
   - C. Compare the plants’ prices
   - D. Take care of the plants

   Correct answer: D. Take care of the plants
   Look after means take care of. Here Jon is responsible for the plants while Rae is away.

5. The volunteers ran out of tape before making the last sign. Which statement has the same meaning?

A. They found an extra roll of tape.
B. They had no tape left.
C. They removed tape from the last sign.
D. They hurried out to deliver the tape.

Correct answer: B. They had no tape left.
To run out of a supply means to use all of it. The volunteers had none left for the last sign.

6. While sorting receipts, Ali came across a postcard she had forgotten. What does came across mean here?

A. Found by chance
B. Sent by mail
C. Removed from the mail
D. Designed as a gift

Correct answer: A. Found by chance
Come across can mean encounter something unexpectedly. Ali was sorting receipts when she found the postcard.

7. During a budget discussion, Miro brought up the broken window. What did Miro do?

A. Removed it from the list of topics
B. Carried the window upstairs
C. Repaired it during the discussion
D. Introduced it as a topic

Correct answer: D. Introduced it as a topic
With a discussion topic as its object, bring up means to mention or introduce the topic.

8. Ana turned down the invitation. Which version correctly replaces the invitation with it?

A. Ana it turned down.
B. Ana turned down it.
C. Ana turned it down.
D. Ana down turned it.

Correct answer: C. Ana turned it down.
Turn down is separable. The personal pronoun it belongs between turned and down.

9. Ravi had agreed to join the panel, but he backed out before the event. What did he do?

A. Withdrew from the commitment
B. Moved the panel to another room
C. Agreed to chair the panel
D. Asked to join a second panel

Correct answer: A. Withdrew from the commitment
To back out means to withdraw from an earlier agreement or commitment. Ravi had already agreed to take part.

10. Maya’s grin gave away the surprise before she said anything. What did the grin do?

A. Gave the surprise to another person as a gift
B. Made the surprise happen later
C. Kept the surprise secret
D. Revealed the surprise

Correct answer: D. Revealed the surprise
Give away can mean reveal information. Maya’s expression let someone work out the surprise.

11. Eva used to read sheet music. Before rehearsal, she wants to brush up on it. Which action fits her goal?

A. Teach herself an unrelated instrument
B. Completely stop using written music
C. Review the notation she previously learned
D. Put the printed scores away without reading them

Correct answer: C. Review the notation she previously learned
To brush up on a skill is to refresh or improve it through review or practice. Eva already learned to read the notation.

12. The club promised to put signs along the route. Which action shows that the club followed through on its promise?

A. Members repeated the promise at another meeting.
B. Members installed signs along the route as promised.
C. Members suggested that the signs might be useful.
D. Members held a vote on whether to keep the promise.

Correct answer: B. Members installed signs along the route as promised.
To follow through on a commitment is to complete the action. Installing the signs fulfills the promise.

13. Dara put up with the noisy fan. Which version keeps the same meaning and correctly uses it?

A. Dara put with it up.
B. Dara put it up with.
C. Dara put up it with.
D. Dara put up with it.

Correct answer: D. Dara put up with it.
Put up with means to tolerate. Its three parts stay together, and the object pronoun follows with.

14. The team wrote a plan and then carried out the plan. How can the second part use it without changing the meaning?

A. The team wrote a plan and then carried it out.
B. The team wrote a plan and then carried out it.
C. The team wrote a plan and then carried it away.
D. The team wrote a plan and then carried on with it.

Correct answer: A. The team wrote a plan and then carried it out.
Carry out means to execute or complete. As a separable verb, it takes it between carried and out.

15. Which sentence correctly uses look forward to to say that Ren is excited about meeting the new coach?

A. Ren looks to forward meeting the new coach.
B. Ren looks forward to meet the new coach.
C. Ren looks forward to meeting the new coach.
D. Ren looks meeting forward to the new coach.

Correct answer: C. Ren looks forward to meeting the new coach.
In look forward to, to is a preposition. When an action follows it, use the -ing form meeting.