

Intransitive phrasal verbs

Some phrasal verbs are always intransitive. This means that they are only used without an object.

In the *Collins COBUILD Phrasal Verbs Dictionary*, intransitive phrasal verbs are shown in the following way:

⊕ **grow 'up**

1 When a child **grows up**, they gradually change into being an adult. □ *I grew up in New York.* □ *She grew up on a farm outside Albany.*

In these exercises, we look at some common intransitive phrasal verbs.

- 1** Read Anna's message to her sister, Rebecca. Find six intransitive phrasal verbs and write the infinitive form of each.

1 *settle in*

4

2

5

3

6



Hi Rebecca,

Just a quickie to say hi. I hope your course is going well and you're settling in okay. We're all fine here. Oliver had flu last week – I think Mum told you – but he's bounced back and is as lively as ever! I'm good, but working too hard 😩.

Btw, Carla dropped in for a coffee and a chat this afternoon. She wanted to know how you were doing.

Right, I'm going to curl up on my bed and read my book. I'm *completely* exhausted. I'm so pleased tomorrow is Saturday – I'm going to lie in till lunchtime. Going shopping in the afternoon for a new coat. My old brown one is falling apart.

Take care.

Big hugs,

Anna x

2 Match the phrasal verbs from exercise 1 with these definitions.

1 to return quickly to your normal activities after a bad experience or illness

bounce back
.....

2 to visit someone informally, usually without having arranged it

3 to lie down bringing your arms, legs, and head in towards your stomach

.....

4 to become used to a new place or new job

5 to break into pieces

6 to intentionally stay in bed later than usual in the morning

3 Replace the underlined words with these intransitive phrasal verbs. Use the correct form of the verb.

die down own up move out break down
mess around blend in set out stand out

- 1 Most of the performances were okay but one was very much better.
..... *stood out*
- 2 At six o'clock the next morning we started our journey on horseback.
.....
- 3 Who broke my favourite plate? Come on, admit it!
- 4 When a marriage fails, the children often suffer.
- 5 The animal's colouring allows it to appear so similar to its surroundings that it becomes difficult to see it separately.
- 6 Stop doing unimportant or silly things when you should be working!
.....
- 7 Philip stopped living here three months ago.
- 8 It's a lot warmer now that the wind has become quieter and weaker.
.....

Intransitive phrasal verbs – Answer key

Exercise 1

- 1 settle in
- 2 bounce back
- 3 drop in
- 4 curl up
- 5 lie in
- 6 fall apart

Exercise 2

- 1 bounce back
- 2 drop in
- 3 curl up
- 4 settle in
- 5 fall apart
- 6 lie in

Exercise 3

- 1 stood out
- 2 set out
- 3 own up
- 4 breaks down
- 5 blend in
- 6 messing around
- 7 moved out
- 8 died down