

Transitive phrasal verbs

Some phrasal verbs are always transitive. This means that they are only used with an object.

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

The object can come between the verb and particle...

❖ tell 'off

If you **tell** someone **off**, you speak to them angrily because they have done something wrong.

tell someone off □ [+ for] The headmistress told the girls off for wearing the wrong colour blouse.

tell off someone □ [+ for] I broke a plate, and my mum told me off.

...and also after the verb and particle.

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

1 Read the dialogue. Find six transitive phrasal verbs and write the infinitive form of each.

1 *bump into*

4

2

5

3

6

Alice: Hey, I just bumped into Anthony Green in town.

Ben: Really?

Alice: Yes, he's just moved into a really smart apartment next to the river.

Ben: Has he? Nice.

Alice: I noted down his phone number, if you'd like it. I'm sure he'd be pleased if you got in touch.

- Ben:** Yeah, I don't have a pen with me right now. Could you text it to me?
- Alice:** Sure. Oh, by the way, I hope you're going to Isabel's party on Friday. I won't know anyone else there so I'm banking on you!
- Ben:** I'll be there. I won't let you down, I promise.
- Alice:** Oh, one other thing – did you decide on a date for coffee with Amanda?
- Ben:** Yes, sorry. I meant to tell you – it's the 18th of December.
- Alice:** Great – thanks!

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

- 1 to write something so that you can remember it later *note down*
- 2 to need someone in order to achieve something
- 3 to meet someone you know by chance
- 4 to fail to do something that someone wants you to do
- 5 to choose something after thinking carefully about the different options
.....
- 6 to start to live in a place

- 3** Replace the underlined words with these transitive phrasal verbs. Use the correct form of the verb.

set aside
snap up

take up
settle for

hand out
opt for

- 1 I really wanted the green shirt but they didn't have it in my size so I had to accept though
I did not really want the red shirt. *settle for*
- 2 I've just started doing jogging.
- 3 I wasn't sure what to study at college but in the end, I decided to take chemistry.
.....
- 4 If I saw a coat like that for under two hundred dollars, I'd buy it very quickly.
.....
- 5 I keep for a particular purpose a little money from my wages every month.
.....
- 6 She gave to a group of people leaflets at the end of the talk.

Transitive phrasal verbs – Answer key

Exercise 1

- 1 bump into
- 2 move into
- 3 note down
- 4 bank on
- 5 let down
- 6 decide on

Exercise 2

- 1 note down
- 2 bank on
- 3 bump into
- 4 let down
- 5 decide on
- 6 move into

Exercise 3

- 1 settle for
- 2 taken up
- 3 opted for
- 4 snap [it] up
- 5 set aside
- 6 handed out