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...

...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 .......................................................
2 .......................................................
3 .......................................................
4 .......................................................
5 .......................................................
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 ....................................................

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

**Transitive phrasal verbs**

| set aside | snap up | take up | 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