

## Using the telephone

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There are quite a lot of phrasal verbs with *call*, *phone*, or *ring* that relate to using the telephone. These exercises include some of these, as well as a number of other phrasal verbs that describe things that you do, and things that happen, when you are telephoning someone.

**1** Match the phrasal verbs in bold with their definitions (a–h).

- 1 I need to **top up** my mobile. ....<sup>c</sup>
  - 2 I've just called Chris, but he's not **picking up**. ....
  - 3 The signal isn't very strong – my phone keeps **dropping out**. ....
  - 4 I'll **call** you **back** later. ....
  - 5 He **called in** to say he was sick. ....
  - 6 He **rang off** before I could explain the problem. ....
  - 7 She **phoned in** to the Andy Charles show. ....
  - 8 We got **cut off** while we were talking. ....
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- a to telephone someone again in return for a telephone call they have made to you
  - b to stop someone being connected when they are having a telephone conversation
  - c to make more money available to be spent on calls on a mobile phone
  - d to end a telephone conversation
  - e to call a radio or television station because you want to talk on a programme that is being broadcast at the time
  - f to telephone the place where you work, usually to say that you are not able to go there
  - g to answer a phone
  - h (of a mobile phone) to lose its signal

2 Complete the phrasal verbs in Beth and Jack's conversations.

Beth

Jack

1 Where's Amy? She's usually in the office by now.

She just **called** .....*in*..... to say that she's ill.

2 I'm afraid I'm in a meeting now and can't talk.

Okay – I'll **call** you ..... later.

3 Could I have a quick word with Peter while he's on the phone?

Sorry – he just **rang** .....

4 Is there an ATM around here? I need to **top** ..... my mobile.

Why don't you just do it online?

5 Did you call Kerry?

Yes, I did, but she's not **picking** .....

6 Is that Harry on the phone?

Well it **was** Harry – we just got **cut** .....

7 What did she say?

I'm not sure. My phone kept **dropping** ....., so I couldn't hear her very well.

8 I disagreed with all the callers on that programme.

Well why didn't you **phone** ..... and tell them?

**3** Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from exercises 1 and 2.  
Use the correct form of the verb.

- 1 Anita just ..... *called in* ..... sick – she said she has a cold.
- 2 I need to ..... my phone. It's low on credit.
- 3 I think Nick must be in a meeting. I just called him, but he didn't .....
- 4 I was in the middle of a phone call to Ava when we got .....
- 5 I'm a bit busy right now, Chris. Can I ..... you  
..... later?
- 6 A guy ..... to the show, complaining about footballers' salaries.
- 7 There's not a very good signal here – my phone keeps ..... in the  
middle of calls.
- 8 I was going to say no, but he ..... before I could reply.

## Using the telephone – Answer key

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### Exercise 1

- 1 c
- 2 g
- 3 h
- 4 a
- 5 f
- 6 d
- 7 e
- 8 b

### Exercise 2

- 1 in
- 2 back
- 3 off
- 4 up
- 5 up
- 6 off
- 7 out
- 8 in

### Exercise 3

- 1 called in
- 2 top up
- 3 pick up
- 4 cut off
- 5 call [you] back
- 6 phoned in
- 7 dropping out
- 8 rang off