

## Phrasal verbs

In academic English phrasal verbs are not as common as in spoken and less formal written English. For example, *We **found out** that the internal structure was stronger afthis treatment* would be written not only in the passive voice but also the verb would be changed. *It was **found/ascertained/discovered** that the internal structure was stronger after this treatment.*

Sometimes it does not matter if you use a phrasal verb or not. For example, the very commonly used phrasal verbs *turn on* and *turn off* can be replaced by *activated* and *deactivated* but it is not necessary.

Below is a list of phrasal verbs commonly used in informal English and their formal equivalents. Study the list carefully before you do the exercises.

break down	<b>fail</b>	go down	<b>decrease</b>
break down	<b>categorize</b>	go on (with)	<b>continue</b>
bring about	<b>cause</b>	go up	<b>increase</b>
call off	<b>cancel</b>	go through	<b>be approved</b>
carry out	<b>conduct</b>	go up	<b>increase</b>
come out	<b>be published</b>	make up	<b>constitute</b>
come up with	<b>design/invent/originate/</b>	make up for	<b>compensate</b>
come up with	<b>present/produce/propose</b>	mix up	<b>confuse</b>
cut down (on)	<b>reduce</b>	pick up	<b>receive</b>
cut off	<b>disconnect</b>	put off	<b>postpone</b>
find out	<b>find/discover/ascertain</b>	set up	<b>arrange/organize</b>
get hold of	<b>contact</b>	take on	<b>employ</b>
get hold of	<b>acquire</b>	turn on/switch on	<b>activate</b>
get in	<b>be admitted</b>	turn off/switch off	<b>deactivate</b>
get in touch	<b>contact</b>	turn up	<b>arrive</b>
get round	<b>avoid</b>	work out	<b>calculate</b>

### EXERCISES

#### I. Substitute the phrasal verbs in the following sentences with their more formal equivalents.

1. We took on three new members of staff and they all *turned up* late on their first day.

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2. The results *were broken down* into four groups .

.....

3. We must *cut down on* our expenses.

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4. The destruction of the rain forest *has brought about* environmental damage.

.....

5. The first edition *came out* in 2000.

.....

6. We *found out* that the new equipment cost £2,500.

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7. It took a long time to *get hold of* the supplier.

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8. The equipment *broke down* after three months.

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9. Only 40% of the applicants *got in*.

.....  
10. The equipment *turned up* 3 weeks late.  
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11. The results *were worked out* using our own software.  
.....

12. If you have any problems, please *get in touch*.  
.....

13. The conference *has been called off*.  
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14. We need to *carry out* more research.  
.....

15. With the new method we were able to *get round* that problem.  
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**II. Use phrasal verbs instead of their formal equivalents in the following sentences.**

1. The temperature *decreased* to 10°C.  
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2. They *continued* their research in spite of the lack of funding.  
.....

3. Their grant application *was not approved*.  
.....

4. They had their electricity *disconnected* because they did not pay the bill.  
.....

5. Prices *have increased*.  
.....

6. We *designed* a new arrangement for the system.  
.....

7. These losses *constitute* about 30% of the total loss.  
.....

8. The machine *was deactivated* after completing 14 cycles.  
.....

9. What are you going to do to *compensate for* the losses?  
.....

10. You should not *confuse* these two issues.  
.....

11. We *arranged* a meeting for the end of January.  
.....

12. The grant allows us to *employ* two new researchers.  
.....

13. After isolating the circuit, the system *was activated*.  
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