

Phrasal verbs with put

CEFR B1 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

The everyday meanings of put on, put off, put up, put out, put down and put away, with the separable word order.

The rule

Put on: clothes and lights

- Put on a coat, a hat or shoes means dress yourself: "Put your shoes on."
- Put on a light, the television or music means start it: "Put the news on."
- The opposite is take off for clothes, and turn off for devices.
- Put on weight means become heavier; put on a voice or an accent means pretend.

Put off: postpone or distract

- Put off an event means move it to a later time: "They put the match off until Sunday."
- Put someone off something means make them lose interest or concentration: "The noise put me off my work."
- A smell or a taste can put you off a food for years.
- Do not confuse put off with put out. Put off is about time; put out is about a fire or a light.

Put up: build, raise or host

- Put up a building, a wall or a shelf means build or fix it: "We put up a fence last summer."
- Put up a picture means hang it on the wall.
- Put up the price or the rent means raise it.
- Put someone up for the night means let them stay at your home.

Put out: fires, lights and inconvenience

- Put out a fire, a candle or a cigarette means make it stop burning.
- Put the light out means switch it off.
- Put someone out means cause them extra work or trouble: "Would it put you out to drive me?"
- Put out a statement or a product means publish or release it.

Put down, put away and put back

- Put down means stop holding something: "Put down your phone."
- Put down an animal means end its life; put someone down means insult them.
- Put away means return things to their place: "Put your toys away."
- Put back means return something to where it was: "Put the book back on the shelf."

Word order: regular and pronoun objects

- Put on is separable: "Put on your hat" and "Put your hat on" are both correct.
- A pronoun must go between the verb and the particle: "Put it on", never "Put on it".
- The same rule applies to put off, put out, put down, put away and put back.
- A few combinations are inseparable, such as put up with (tolerate): "I cannot put up with the noise."

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. It is cold. ___ your coat on.

2. They ___ off the match because of the rain.

3. I cannot ___ up with this noise any longer.

4. We ___ up a fence around the garden.

5. The firefighters ___ out the fire in ten minutes.

6. Please ___ your phone down and listen to me.

7. She put the milk ___ in the fridge.

8. Put your toys ___ before dinner.

9. Your shoes are muddy. ___ them on the mat.

10. The noise ___ me off my homework.

11. Can you ___ me up for the night?

12. The light is still on. Please ___ it out.

13. ___ on your shoes; we are leaving.

14. I cannot find my keys. Have you ___ them away?

15. They had to ___ off the wedding until spring.

16. He ___ up his hand to answer the question.

17. Please ___ the book back on the shelf.

18. The company is putting ___ the price of tickets next month.

19. Do not ___ me off my food with that story.

20. She ___ on a brave face after the bad news.

Answer key

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1. **Put** — Put on means start wearing clothes.
2. **put** — Put off means postpone, and put does not change to putted.
3. **put** — Put up with is the three-word phrasal verb meaning tolerate.
4. **put** — Put up a fence means build or fix it.
5. **put** — Put out a fire means extinguish it.
6. **put** — Put down means stop holding something.
7. **back** — Put back means return something to its place.
8. **away** — Put away means tidy things into their place.
9. **Put** — Put means place something; here the object stays after put.
10. **put** — Put someone off something means break their concentration.
11. **put** — Put someone up means let them stay at your home.
12. **put** — Put out a light means switch it off.
13. **Put** — Put on is the action of dressing. Wear describes the state after.
14. **put** — Put away means tidied something into its place, and put stays the same after have.
15. **put** — Put off an event means postpone it.
16. **put** — Put up your hand means raise it.
17. **put** — Put back means return something to where it was.
18. **up** — Put up a price means raise it.
19. **put** — Put someone off their food means make them lose their appetite.
20. **put** — Put on a brave face is a fixed phrase meaning hide your feelings.