

Phrasal verbs with turn

CEFR B1 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

The main meanings of turn on, off, up, down, into, out and around, with the pronoun rule for separable verbs.

The rule

Turn on and turn off: machines and lights

- Turn on means start a device, a light or a tap: "Turn on the radio."
- Turn off means stop it: "Turn off the lights before you leave."
- A pronoun goes between the verb and the particle: "Turn it on", never "Turn on it".
- British speakers also say switch on and switch off with the same meaning.

Turn up and turn down: volume and levels

- Turn up means increase the sound, the heat or the light: "Turn up the music."
- Turn down means decrease it: "Turn the heating down."
- Both are separable: "Turn up the volume" and "Turn the volume up" are correct.
- Turn up also means arrive unexpectedly: "He turned up an hour late."

Turn down: refuse

- Turn down an offer, a job or an invitation means refuse it: "She turned down the job in London."
- Turn someone down means say no to their request or proposal.
- This meaning is common in business and in polite refusals.
- The object can go on either side of down when it is a noun.

Turn into and turn out: change and results

- Turn into means become: "The caterpillar turned into a butterfly."
- Turn out means the final result was: "The day turned out well."
- Turn out can also mean switch off a light: "Turn out the light."
- Turn out to be introduces a surprising fact: "The stranger turned out to be my uncle."

Turn around, turn over and turn to

- Turn around means face the opposite direction: "Turn around and look at me."
- Turn over means roll to the other side, or give something to someone: "Turn over the page."
- Turn to someone means ask them for help: "She turned to her teacher for advice."
- Turn against someone means become their enemy: "The crowd turned against the referee."

Separable, inseparable and three-word forms

- Separable: turn on, turn off, turn up, turn down, turn out, turn over, turn around.
- Inseparable: turn into, turn to and turn against keep the particle next to the verb.
- So we say "turn into a frog", not "turn a frog into".
- With pronouns, separable verbs split: "turn it down". Inseparable verbs do not: "turn into it" is the only order.

Questions

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

1. Please ___ on the light; it is dark in here.

2. Do not forget to ___ off the oven.

3. The music is too loud. Can you turn it ___?

4. I cannot hear the radio. Turn it ___.

5. She ___ down the job because it was too far away.

6. The caterpillar ___ into a butterfly.

7. The evening ___ out very well in the end.

8. He ___ up late for the meeting again.

9. She had nobody to ___ to for advice.

10. Please ___ around and look at the camera.

11. The crowd ___ against the referee after the goal.

12. Turn ___ the page and read the next question.

13. The light is on in the hall. Please turn it ___.

14. The stranger ___ out to be my old teacher.

15. He turned the volume ___ so the neighbours would not complain.

16. The company may ___ down our offer.

17. Water can ___ into ice in the freezer.

18. Nobody expected him to ___ up at the party.

19. She ___ to her parents when she needed money.

20. Please turn it ___; the battery is almost empty.

Answer key

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1. **turn** — Turn on means start a light or device.
2. **turn** — Turn off means stop a device.
3. **down** — Turn down means reduce the volume, and the pronoun goes between turn and down.
4. **up** — Turn up means increase the volume; the pronoun comes before up.
5. **turned** — Turn down means refuse an offer.
6. **turned** — Turn into means become, and it keeps the words together.
7. **turned** — Turn out means the final result was good or bad.
8. **turned** — Turn up means arrive, often later than expected.
9. **turn** — Turn to someone means ask them for help.
10. **turn** — Turn around means face the opposite direction.
11. **turned** — Turn against someone means become hostile to them.
12. **over** — Turn over means roll or move to the other side.
13. **out** — Turn out a light means switch it off.
14. **turned** — Turn out to be introduces a surprising fact about the result.
15. **down** — Turn the volume down means reduce it.
16. **turn** — Turn down an offer means refuse it.
17. **turn** — Turn into means change and become something else.
18. **turn** — Turn up means arrive, often when it was not expected.
19. **turned** — Turn to someone means ask for support.
20. **off** — Turn off means stop the device, and the pronoun goes before the particle.