

Phrasal verbs with up: finish, increase, arrive

CEFR A2-B1 • 20 questions • A4 / US Letter

The particle up often means completely, higher or appearing. Learn the verbs in meaning groups instead of one long list.

The rule

Up means complete or finished

- Eat up, drink up and finish up mean finish the food, the drink or the task.
- Use up means use all of something until none is left: "We used up the milk."
- Clear up has two jobs: tidy a place, or describe the weather improving.
- Wrap up means finish a meeting, a project or a job.

Up means increase or louder

- Go up means increase: "Prices went up again."
- Put up can mean raise a price or build a wall.
- Speak up means talk louder or give your opinion bravely.
- Turn up the volume makes the sound louder.

Up means appear or arrive

- Turn up and show up both mean arrive, often unexpectedly.
- Come up means a topic appears in conversation: "Your name came up at the meeting."
- Bring up can mean start a topic or raise a child.
- End up means finally be in a place or situation: "We ended up walking home."

Up means stop, tidy or separate

- Give up means stop trying: "She gave up learning the guitar."
- Hang up means end a phone call.
- Break up means end a relationship, and also means separate into pieces.
- Clean up means make a place tidy, and pack up means put things into bags.

Where does the object go?

- Many up-verbs are separable: pick up the children, or pick the children up.
- A pronoun must go between the verb and the particle: pick them up, never pick up them.
- Some up-verbs are inseparable, so the object follows the particle: look after, not look the children after.
- When you learn a separable verb, memorise the pronoun pattern with it: pick it up, use it up, wake her up.

Questions

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

1. Please ___ your dinner before it gets cold.

2. We have ___ all the coffee in the office.

3. The weather should ___ later this morning.

4. House prices ___ again last month.

5. Could you ___ ? I cannot hear you at the back.

6. He ___ an hour late for the interview.

7. She ___ a good point about the budget.

8. Do not ___ ; you are almost finished.

9. I will ___ at the station at six.

10. We ___ staying for dinner because of the rain.

11. Please ___ me ___ at seven tomorrow.

12. The meeting will ___ at four o'clock.

13. Please ___ your room before you go out.

14. She ___ learning the guitar after a year.

15. He ___ the phone without saying goodbye.

16. They ___ after three years together.

17. I cannot hear the radio. Could you ___ it ___ ?

18. Your name ___ at the meeting yesterday.

19. The company will ___ a new office block next year.

20. We should ___ soon or we will miss the bus.

Answer key

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1. **eat up** — Eat up means finish the food completely, which matches the warning about cold food.
2. **used up** — Use up means consume the whole supply, so the office has none left.
3. **clear up** — Clear up with weather means improve, so the morning should brighten.
4. **went up** — Go up means increase, and prices rising fit the sentence.
5. **speak up** — Speak up means talk louder, which answers the hearing problem.
6. **turned up** — Turn up means arrive, and arriving late fits the sentence.
7. **brought up** — Bring up means introduce a topic, here a point about the budget.
8. **give up** — Give up means stop trying, and the encouragement pushes against stopping.
9. **pick you up** — With the separable verb pick up, the pronoun goes between the verb and the particle up.
10. **ended up** — End up means finally be in a situation, here staying for dinner.
11. **wake ... up** — Wake up is separable, so the pronoun me goes between wake and up.
12. **wrap up** — Wrap up means finish, so the meeting ends at four.
13. **clean up** — Clean up means tidy a place, which fits the request about the room.
14. **gave up** — Give up means stop trying, followed by the gerund learning.
15. **hung up** — Hang up means end a phone call, which explains the missing goodbye.
16. **broke up** — Break up means end a relationship, and three years together shows a couple.
17. **turn ... up** — Turn up means increase the volume, which answers the hearing problem.
18. **came up** — Come up means appear in conversation, and a name becoming a topic fits.
19. **put up** — Put up can mean build, so a new factory rises on the site.
20. **pack up** — Pack up means put things into bags, which is what you do before leaving.