



Phrasal Verbs: Phrasal Verbs vs Formal Equivalents & Mixed Review

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The meeting has been _____. (= postponed)
a) put on
b) put up
c) put out
d) put off
- We need to ____ how much this project will cost. (= calculate)
a) work up
b) work on
c) work out
d) work off
- The company plans to ____ 200 workers. (= dismiss / make redundant)
a) lay off
b) lay out
c) lay down
d) lay on
- She ____ a new word every day from reading. (= learns informally)
a) picks out
b) picks up
c) picks on
d) picks at
- Scientists are trying to ____ what causes the disease. (= discover)
a) check out
b) point out
c) look out
d) find out
- She ____ her father — they have the same smile. (= resembles)
a) takes on
b) takes over
c) takes after
d) takes up
- Please ____ your cigarette. There's no smoking here. (= extinguish)
a) put out
b) put off
c) put down
d) put away
- The government wants to ____ a new law against cyberbullying. (= introduce)
a) bring up
b) bring in
c) bring about
d) bring out
- We need to ____ this problem before it gets worse. (= solve / handle)
a) put up with
b) do away with
c) get on with
d) deal with
- The event has been ____ due to heavy rain. (= cancelled)
a) called on
b) called up
c) called off
d) called out
- The government plans to ____ the use of plastic bags by 2030. (= discontinue gradually)
a) phase out
b) phase in
c) carry out
d) bring out

12. The company decided to ____ the old policy. (= abolish)
- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| a) deal with | b) do away with |
| c) put up with | d) get away with |
13. The researchers will ____ the experiment next week. (= conduct)
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a) carry on | b) carry over |
| c) carry off | d) carry out |
14. I need a few days to ____ your offer before I give you an answer. (= consider)
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| a) think up | b) think back |
| c) think over | d) think ahead |
15. The building was ____ to make way for a new shopping centre. (= demolished)
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a) pulled down | b) pulled up |
| c) pulled out | d) pulled off |
16. He wants to ____ his own business one day. (= establish)
- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| a) set off | b) set up |
| c) set out | d) set in |
17. Please ____ with your work while I make a phone call. (= continue)
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a) carry out | b) carry over |
| c) carry off | d) carry on |
18. They had to ____ the building because of a bomb threat. (= evacuate)
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a) clear up | b) clear off |
| c) clear out | d) clear away |
19. She ____ the invitation because she already had plans. (= rejected / declined)
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a) turned down | b) turned off |
| c) turned up | d) turned out |
20. I can't ____ how to use this new software. (= understand after thinking)
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a) look out | b) figure out |
| c) sort out | d) make out |



Answers

1. d) put off
2. c) work out
3. a) lay off
4. b) picks up
5. d) find out
6. c) takes after
7. a) put out
8. b) bring in
9. d) deal with
10. c) called off
11. a) phase out
12. b) do away with
13. d) carry out
14. c) think over
15. a) pulled down
16. b) set up
17. d) carry on
18. c) clear out
19. a) turned down
20. b) figure out



Explanations

1. “put off” (d)

'Put off' is the phrasal verb equivalent of the formal word 'postpone'. 'Put on' = wear. 'Put out' = extinguish. 'Put up' = accommodate or build.

2. “work out” (c)

'Work out' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'calculate' or 'figure out'. 'Work on' = spend time improving. 'Work up' = develop gradually. 'Work off' = get rid of by effort.

3. “lay off” (a)

'Lay off' means to dismiss workers, usually because there is not enough work. Formal equivalent: 'make redundant'. 'Lay out' = arrange. 'Lay down' = establish rules. 'Lay on' = provide.

4. “picks up” (b)

'Pick up' is the informal phrasal verb for 'acquire' or 'learn casually'. 'Pick out' = choose/select. 'Pick on' = bully. 'Pick at' = eat without appetite.

5. “find out” (d)

'Find out' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'discover' — used with information, facts, or clauses (find out what/why/how). 'Point out' = draw attention to something already known. 'Look out' = be careful. 'Check out' = examine or leave a hotel.

6. “takes after” (c)

'Take after' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'resemble' a family member. 'Take on' = hire / accept challenge. 'Take over' = gain control. 'Take up' = start a hobby.

7. “put out” (a)

'Put out' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'extinguish'. 'Put off' = postpone. 'Put down' = place on surface / criticise. 'Put away' = store.

8. “bring in” (b)

'Bring in' means to introduce a new law, rule, or system. Formal equivalent: 'introduce' or 'implement'. 'Bring up' = raise children / mention. 'Bring about' = cause. 'Bring out' = publish.

9. “deal with” (d)

'Deal with' means to take action to solve a problem. Formal equivalent: 'handle' or 'address'. 'Do away with' = abolish. 'Get on with' = continue. 'Put up with' = tolerate.

10. “called off” (c)

'Call off' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'cancel'. 'Call on' = visit. 'Call up' = phone. 'Call out' = shout or summon.

11. “phase out” (a)

'Phase out' means to discontinue something gradually over time. 'Phase in' means to introduce gradually. 'Carry out' = conduct/perform. 'Bring out' = publish/release.

12. “do away with” (b)

'Do away with' means to abolish or eliminate something. 'Deal with' = handle. 'Put up with' = tolerate. 'Get away with' = avoid punishment.

13. “carry out” (d)

'Carry out' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'conduct' or 'perform'. 'Carry on' = continue. 'Carry off' = succeed in something difficult. 'Carry over' = transfer to another time.

14. “think over” (c)

'Think over' means to consider something carefully before making a decision. Formal equivalent: 'consider' or 'deliberate'. 'Think up' = invent or create an idea. 'Think back' = remember the past. 'Think ahead' = plan for the future.

15. “pulled down” (a)

'Pull down' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'demolish'. 'Pull up' = stop a vehicle. 'Pull out' = withdraw. 'Pull off' = succeed in something difficult.

16. “set up” (b)

'Set up' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'establish'. 'Set off' = begin a journey. 'Set out' = start with a purpose. 'Set in' = begin and seem likely to continue (weather).

17. “carry on” (d)

'Carry on' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'continue'. 'Carry out' = conduct/perform. 'Carry off' = manage successfully. 'Carry over' = transfer.

18. “clear out” (c)

'Clear out' means to evacuate or leave a place quickly. 'Clear up' = tidy / solve a mystery / improve (weather). 'Clear off' = go away (informal). 'Clear away' = remove items.

19. “turned down” (a)

'Turn down' is the phrasal verb equivalent of 'reject' or 'decline'. 'Turn off' = stop a device. 'Turn up' = arrive or increase. 'Turn out' = result.

20. “figure out” (b)

'Figure out' means to understand or solve something after careful thought. Formal equivalent: 'determine' or 'comprehend'. 'Look out' = be careful. 'Sort out' = organise or resolve. 'Make out' = see/hear with difficulty.