

Phrasal verbs

PHRASAL VERBS ARE common in conversational English. Read the definitions on the right and use the phrasal verbs to complete the sentences. You will have to use some verbs more than once, and you may have to change the form of the verb to fit the grammar of the sentence. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. The company ACT has been broken
up into seven autonomous divisions.
2. He had a factory which manufactured cheap sports clothes which he _____ as high-quality designer goods.
3. He _____ all of us _____ with his promise of quick profits and low risks.
4. He was caught _____ to a clothes shop at night.
5. He _____ the meeting with a vote of thanks to the chairman
6. I'm very busy on Wednesday: can I _____ our meeting _____ to Tuesday?
7. John is leaving in June and there will be a gap of one month before the new manager _____
8. Management and unions could not agree and negotiations _____ at midnight yesterday.
9. Payment will be _____ until the contract is signed.
10. Shares in ACT have increased in price by 35 pence with the news that they are to be _____ by Giant PLC
11. The car was still under guarantee when it _____
12. The company was insolvent and the court ordered it to be _____
13. The share price _____ well through the summer and then fell in September.
14. They are accused of _____ a security van and stealing £45,000.
15. This watch was _____ to me from my great-grandfather.
16. When he lost his job he _____ his savings _____ into opening a design studio.
17. You have to _____ £200 _____ now and then pay £100 a month for eighteen months.

Verbs & definitions

1. **break down:** to stop because of failure
2. **break in:** to go into a building by force in order to steal
3. **break off:** to stop a discussion or negotiation
4. **break up:** to divide (a company) into separate units
5. **bring forward:** to change to an earlier date
6. **hand down:** to give to the next generation through inheritance
7. **hold up:** (1) to rob from a bank or vehicle using weapons, (2) to stay at a high level, (3) to delay
8. **pass off:** to pretend something is not what it is to cheat a customer
9. **put down:** to pay as a deposit
10. **put into:** invest
11. **take in:** to trick, to deceive
12. **take over:** (1) to start to do something in place of someone else, (2) to buy a company
13. **wind up:** (1) to end a meeting, (2) to put a company into liquidation

Extension. Work with a partner. Test each other: One person closes the book, the other asks questions. For example: "Tell me a verb which means 'to divide a company into separate units'"