

Phrasal verbs – carry on/put off

Introduction

1) A phrasal verb is a verb that is made up of a main verb together with an adverb or a preposition, or both. Typically, their meaning is not obvious from the meanings of the individual words themselves.

2) The phrasal verb *to carry on* has several meanings:

a) *to carry on doing something/with something* means to continue doing something.

*Sorry, I interrupted you. **Carry on**, please.*

*You'll put on weight if you **carry on** eating fast food.*

*I want to **carry on with** my business idea.*

b) *to carry on* means to continue moving.

***Carry straight on** until you see the red building.*

c) *to carry on something* means to do or take part in a particular kind of work or activity.

*It was so noisy there that it was difficult for us to **carry on** a conversation.*

d) (*spoken*) *to carry on about* means to speak with overwhelming enthusiasm.

*I wish my friends would stop **carrying on** about their trip.*

The phrasal verb *to put off* has several meanings:

a) *to put something off/to put off doing something* means to delay doing something or to arrange to do something at a later time or date, especially because there is a problem or you do not want to do it at that time.

*The game **has been put off** until tomorrow because of bad weather.*

*I've been **putting off** working on my thesis because I'm never in the mood.*

b) *to put somebody off/put somebody off (doing) something* means to make you dislike something or not want to do something.

*Don't let his humour **put you off** – he's a nice guy actually.
I don't want my fears **put you off** finding a job in another state.*

c) *to put somebody off* means to make someone wait because you do not want to meet them, talk to them etc. until later.

*If my brother calls, **put him off** as long as possible.*

d) *to put somebody off (something)* means to make it difficult for someone to pay attention to what they are doing by talking, making a noise etc.

*It **puts me off** when you're listening to music while I'm talking to you.*

Short Story Dialogue

- Can you **carry on** a project together with Alice?
- I'd rather work alone. There's something about her that **puts me off**.
- What are you talking about? She's the nicest person I've ever met.
- Well, maybe this is exactly what **puts me off**. I can't **carry on** a conversation with her.

*And she is constantly **carrying on about** random things.*

- Sorry, but you have to **carry on with** it. We can't **put off** this whole project because of that.

Independent Practice - Phrasal verbs – carry on/put off

1) Fill in the gaps with *carry on* or *put off*. You can change the form if necessary.

- a. straight until you see a huge monument to your left.
- b. You should doing physical exercises. It can also improve your mood.
- c. We can't our trip. We've already booked everything.
- d. This music really me..... I can't seem to concentrate.

2) Match the sentences.

a. It's so hard to carry on going to the gym.	1. Please, carry on.
b. They can't put off their wedding just like that.	2. I always feel sore.
c. Sorry that I interrupted you.	3. The guests are on their way.

3) Answer the questions.

a. Why can't some students carry on attending morning classes?
b. Would you put off your vacation if you were asked to do some urgent work?
c. What puts you off when you're talking to someone?

Independent Practice: Answers - Phrasal verbs – carry on/put off

1) Fill in the gaps with *carry on* or *put off*. You can change the form if necessary.

- a. **Carry** straight **on** until you see a huge monument to your left.
- b. You should **carry on** doing physical exercises. It can also improve your mood.
- c. We can't **put off** our trip. We've already booked everything.
- d. This music really **puts** me **off**. I can't seem to concentrate.

2) Match the sentences.

a. It's so hard to carry on going to the gym.	2. I always feel sore.
b. They can't put off their wedding just like that.	3. The guests are on their way.
c. Sorry that I interrupted you.	1. Please, carry on.

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. Some students can't carry on attending morning classes because they like sleeping.
- b. No, I wouldn't put off my vacation if I were asked to do some urgent work.
- c. Inappropriate jokes put me off.