

Phrasal verbs – turn down/break up

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 turn down* has several meanings:

a) *to turn down* means to turn the switch on a machine (e.g. an oven, radio etc.) so that it produces less heat, sound etc. (opposite to *to turn up*).

*Can you **turn down** the TV? I'm trying to study.*
*I'll **turn down** the heater. It's too hot in the room.*

b) *to turn down* means to refuse an offer, request, or invitation.

*Ann offered Peter the job but he **turned it down**.*

c) *to turn down* means to refuse someone's offer of marriage.

*We were shocked to hear that Lilly **turned him down**.*

d) if *the economy turns down* it means that the level of activity falls, companies become less profitable etc.

*After the crisis in 2008 **the economy has turned down**.*

The phrasal verb *to break up* has several meanings:

a) *to break up* means to break into a lot of small pieces.

*The vase just **broke up** in my hands.*

b) *to break up* means to separate something into several smaller parts.

*I think that their intention is to **break up** our company into several smaller ones.*

c) *to break up* means to stop a fight.

*Their mom was the one to **break up** fights.*

d) *to break up* means to make people leave a place where they have been meeting or protesting.

*Police **broke up** the demonstration.*

e) *to break up (with) (when speaking of marriage, group of people, or relationship)* indicates that the people in this relationship separate and do not live or work together anymore.

*I was so sad to hear that my favourite band **broke up**.*

*James **broke up with** Kate broke up last year.*

Short Story Dialogue

– *Have you heard the latest news?*

– *No, what's up?*

– ***Sam and Alice broke up!***

– *What? No way! How did it happen?*

– *Apparently, Sam proposed to Alice in public and **she turned him down**.*

– *That's heartbreaking. I thought they were going to get married soon. They had been talking about that for months!*

– *I know! **Their break-up is sad news for everyone.***

Independent Practice - Phrasal verbs – turn down/break up

1) Fill in the gaps with *turn down* or *break up*. You can change the form if necessary.

- a. Emily the offer because she didn't want to move to another state.
- b. Do you mind if I the music? It's a bit distracting.
- c. I asked July for help but she me..... I don't know what to do now.
- d. If the company, Todd will lose his job.

2) Match the sentences.

a. I am afraid that we have to turn down your offer.	1. The police is breaking up the people in front of the parliament building.
b. Breaking news!	2. I'll get a new one.
c. I'm sorry! I must have broken it up.	3. It is not financially feasible for us right now.

3) Answer the questions.

a. Do you turn down your friends' requests?
b. Would you ask a stranger to turn down the music in his headphones?
c. Do you believe that the majority of couples breaks up within a month?

Independent Practice: Answers - Phrasal verbs – turn down/break up

1) Fill in the gaps with *turn down* or *break up*. You can change the form if necessary.

- a. Emily **turned down** the offer because she didn't want to move to another state.
- b. Do you mind if I **turn down** the music? It's a bit distracting.
- c. I asked July for help but she **turned me down**. I don't know what to do now.
- d. If the company **breaks up**, Todd will lose his job.

2) Match the sentences.

a. I am afraid that we have to turn down your offer.	3. It is not financially feasible for us right now.
b. Breaking news!	1. The police is breaking up the people in front of the parliament building.
c. I'm sorry! I must have broken it up.	2. I'll get a new one.

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. No, I don't turn down my friends' requests.
- b. No, I wouldn't ask a stranger to turn down the music in his headphones.
- c. Yes, I believe that the majority of couples breaks up within a month.