

Transitive phrasal verbs can be separable or inseparable.

If a phrasal verb is separable, that means you CAN separate the two words and put the direct object in the middle. If it is inseparable, then you CAN'T do this.

Separable Phrasal Verb Example: TURN OFF

Please turn off the TV. = CORRECT

Please turn the TV off. = CORRECT

Inseparable Phrasal Verb Example: LOOK AFTER

I'll look after your dog while you're on vacation. = CORRECT

I'll look your dog after while you're on vacation = INCORRECT

More eThey'll pick him up from the airport. = CORRECTxamples will help!

Click here for 15 separable phrasal verbs with example sentences.

Click here for 15 inseparable phrasal verbs with example sentences.

Word Order for Separable Phrasal Verbs

There's one important thing to know. When the direct object is the specific name of a thing or person, it can be located after the phrasal verb OR in the middle:

I threw away the old pizza. = CORRECT

= I threw the old pizza away. = CORRECT

However, when the direct object is a pronoun (me, you, him, her, us, them, it), then it MUST go in the middle:

I threw it away. = CORRECT

I threw away it. = INCORRECT

Here's an example with a person:

They'll pick up John from the airport. = CORRECT

They'll pick John up from the airport. = CORRECT

ical criticism of details.