ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Phrasal Verbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 01

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Explanations

1. While they were on holiday their house was broken _____ and some valuable paintings were stolen.
✔ **B) into**
Break into a building means to enter it by force, usually to steal something. Here the passive form is used: **their house was broken into**. Not **broken down**, which is used for machines that stop working.

2. By the way, I've just heard that Sally and Chris have _____ their engagement.
✔ **D) broken off**
Break off an engagement or a relationship means to end it. Example: **They have broken off their engagement.** Not **broken up**: we say **they broke up**, but we do not say **broke up their engagement**.

3. After a bitter discussion they went _____ each other.
✔ **B) at**
Go at someone means to attack them, physically or with angry words. The clue is **a bitter discussion**: the argument turned into a fight. **Go over** means to check or review, so it does not fit here.

4. A: The new boss looks a bit serious, doesn't he? I don't think I'm going to like him.

B: Oh, come on, Joyce, you can't go _____ appearances. He's probably very nice.
✔ **B) by**
Go by means to judge something from or rely on something. **You can't go by appearances** means you can't judge people from how they look. Not **go after**, which means to chase.

5. No one really believed it when the news came that the Titanic had _____.
✔ **B) gone down**
When a ship **goes down**, it sinks. The **Titanic** is a famous ship that sank in 1912. Not **gone out**, which is used for lights and fires.

6. I've been afraid of dogs ever since a large canine _____ me when I was a child.
✔ **A) went for**
Go for someone means to attack them. Example: **The dog went for me.** (A **canine** is a dog.) Not **went after**, which means chased or tried to get, not attacked.

7. By the way, Bill, how much did that Regency desk go _____ in the auction on Saturday?
✔ **B) for**
Go for a price means to be sold for that amount, especially at an auction. Example: **The desk went for £2,000.** Not **go off**, which has meanings like explode or become bad.

8. The dog went _____ the beggar and he shouted, "Help!"
✔ **C) for**
Go for someone means to attack them. The clue is that the man shouted **Help!**. Not **went over**, which means to check something.

9. A: And another thing I'd like to say is that ...

B: Sorry to _____, Mr Green, but you're wanted on the phone. It's your wife.
✔ **A) butt in**
Butt in means to interrupt someone who is speaking. B interrupts Mr Green in the middle of his sentence, so **Sorry to butt in** is the polite phrase. Not **get through**, which means to reach someone on the phone.

10. I'm afraid Mr Brown's been _____ (asked to go somewhere else) on business.
✔ **B) called away**
Call away means to ask someone to leave and go somewhere else, often for work. Example: **He was called away on business.** Not **called for**, which means to collect someone or to need something.

11. By the way, Clive _____ (paid a short visit) but you were out. So I told him to come and see you tomorrow.
✔ **B) called by**
Call by means to visit a place for a short time, usually on your way somewhere else. Example: **Clive called by, but you were out.** Not **got by**, which means to manage with little money or help.

12. Shall I _____ (collect) you on my way to work?
✔ **C) call for**
In British English, **call for** someone means to go to their home and collect them. Example: **I'll call for you at eight.** Not **call off**, which means to cancel.

13. I was just getting out of the bath when the lights _____.
✔ **B) went off**
When lights **go off**, they stop working or are switched off. Not **went down**, which is used for prices, ships or the sun, not for lights.

14. A firework _____ (exploded) right next to us and gave everyone a fright.
✔ **B) went off**
Go off means to explode. It is used for bombs, fireworks and guns, and also for alarms that start ringing. Not **set off**: you **set off** a firework (you make it explode), but the firework itself **goes off**.

15. Don't eat that cheese - it's _____!
✔ **C) gone off**
When food **goes off**, it becomes bad and is not safe to eat. Example: **The milk has gone off.** Not **gone out**, which is used for lights and fires.

16. It’s difficult to see through this windscreen - I can’t even make _____ where the road is.
✔ **B) out**
Make out means to see something with difficulty. The clue is **difficult to see through this windscreen**. Not **make up**, which means to invent a story.

17. He had such a strong accent that it was very difficult to _____ what he was saying.
✔ **B) make out**
Make out also means to hear or understand something with difficulty. The clue is **a strong accent**. Not **make for**, which means to move towards a place.

18. A sudden draught caused the candle to _____ (stop burning).
✔ **D) go out**
When a candle or fire **goes out**, it stops burning. Not **go off**: lights and alarms go off, but a flame **goes out**.

19. When the meeting had finished, they went _____ the plan once again.
✔ **C) over**
Go over something means to look at it or check it carefully again. Example: **Let's go over the plan once more.** Not **went on**, which means continued.

20. Have a piece of cake, everyone. There should be enough to _____.
✔ **C) go round**
Go round (British English) means to be enough for everyone to have some. Example: **There's enough cake to go round.** Not **go along**, which means to go somewhere with someone or to agree with them.

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