ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Phrasal Verbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 28

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1	D	2	A	3	A	4	B	5	B	6	D	7	C	8	A	9	B	10	C

Explanations

1. **Choose the best alternative to replace the underlined words.**

We had to **cancel** the party last week.
✓ **D) call off**
Call off means to cancel a planned event: **They called off the match because of rain.** Not **put off**, which means to postpone, not to cancel.

2. Let's **postpone** the meeting till Friday.
✓ **A) put off**
Put off means to postpone, or move something to a later time. The clue is **till Friday**: the meeting will still happen, just later. Not **call off**, which means to cancel completely.

3. I've had flu for a week now: I just can't **get rid of it**.
✓ **A) shake it off**
Shake off means to get rid of an illness or a bad feeling: **I can't shake off this cold.** The other options do not have this meaning.

4. His father often **criticizes him**.
✓ **B) runs him down**
Run somebody down means to criticise them, often unfairly: **She's always running her colleagues down.** Not **let him down**, which means to disappoint somebody.

5. My father was **raised** in a small village.
✓ **B) brought up**
Bring up means to raise a child, that is, to look after and educate them until they are an adult: **I was brought up by my grandparents.**

6. It's never too late to **start** a new sport.
✓ **D) take up**
Take up means to start a new hobby, sport or activity: **He took up golf when he retired.** Not **take** alone, because we don't say **take a sport** to mean starting it.

7. The meeting **ended in disorder**.
✓ **C) broke up**
When a meeting or gathering **breaks up**, it comes to an end and the people leave: **The meeting broke up in disorder.** Not **broke off**: we use it for talks or a relationship that stop suddenly, or for a person who suddenly stops speaking. Not **broke out**, which is used when something bad suddenly starts, such as a war or a fire.

8. His project has **failed to be completed**.
✓ **A) fallen through**
Fall through means that a plan or project fails and does not happen or is not completed: **Our holiday plans fell through.** Not **fallen behind**, which means being late or slower than planned. A project that has fallen behind can still be finished.

9. She **pretended** that she couldn't swim.
✓ **B) made out**
Make out can mean to pretend or claim that something is true when it isn't: **He made out that he was ill.** Not **made up**, which means to invent a story or an excuse.

10. My father has **stopped** smoking.
✓ **C) given up**
Give up means to stop doing something, especially a habit: **She gave up chocolate for a month.** It is followed by the **-ing** form, as in **given up smoking**.

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