

Phrasal Verbs: Turn

Language Builder

Preclass Activity: Choose the correct definition of the phrasal verb using the example sentences and the three possible definitions.

1. Michael turned his computer off at the end of the day.
to 'turn sth off' is to: 1. change direction 2. reject sth/sbd **3. switch sth off**
2. Jackie turned the job offer down because the conditions were very poor.
to 'turn sth/sbd down' is to: 1. transform 2. deny access **3. reject sth/sbd**
3. I had to turn back when I realised I had forgotten my suitcase.
to 'turn back' is to: 1. start to have negative feelings towards something
2. arrive or make an appearance
3. stop travelling and return in the direction you came from
4. The teacher was surprised that 90% of the class turned up to the extracurricular activities.
to 'turn up' is to: 1. increase or decrease the volume, brightness, or intensity of a device
2. start to have negative feelings towards something
3. arrive or make an appearance
5. This incredible toy turns into a car if you push this button.
to 'turn into' is to: **1. transform** 2. switch sth off 3. deny access
6. The big car was having trouble turning around in the small street.
to 'turn around' is to: 1. reject sth/sbd **2. change direction** 3. prove to be true
**Students may mix up 'turn back' and 'turn around'. 'Turn around' means to change to the opposite direction, but not necessarily return along the same path, whereas 'turn back' means to look back or to return along the same path as the way you came.*
7. She turned the music up because she liked it, but her brother turned it down so as to concentrate.
to 'turn up/down' is to: 1. stop travelling and return in the direction you came from
2. increase or decrease the volume, brightness, or intensity of a device
3. arrive or make an appearance
8. We all thought that Bernie had been fired, but it turned out he was just on sick leave.
to 'turn out' is to: **1. prove to be true** 2. switch sth off 3. switch sth on
In Spanish, this is easily translated as "resulta que..."
9. We were all turned away from the club because the guard said there were too many people inside.
to 'turn away' is to: 1. prove to be true **2. deny access** 3. change channels
10. When Sarah's boyfriend cheated on her, she spread rumours to turn all his friends against him.
to 'turn against' is to: 1. stop travelling and return in the direction you came from
2. increase or decrease the volume, brightness, or intensity of a device
3. start to have negative feelings towards something
11. Meredith turned the heating on because the room was starting to get cold.
to 'turn sth on' is to: **1. switch sth on** 2. change channels 3. change direction
12. As Greg doesn't really like the football, he always turns over as soon as it comes on the TV.
to 'turn over' is to: 1. transform 2. switch sth on **3. change channels**

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Introduction: How many uses of the word 'turn' can you think of?

Today's phrasal verbs are just part of all the uses of the word turn. Students might remember things like: "It's your turn!", "She turns seven today.", "the turn of the century" and many other uses.

Vocabulary Focus I:

Match the images and the sentences.

- A. He has cut the power to the switch. 8
- B. The chrysalis has become a butterfly. 9
- C. The vehicles are changing direction. 3
- D. They are discovering that she's pregnant! 5
- E. The influencer is looking back for the photo. 6
- F. He's making the music louder (or quieter). 1
- G. She rejected his marriage proposal. 2
- H. The air conditioning is running in the car. 7
- I. She is changing to the next page of the book. 4
- J. They are working to make people dislike racism. 12
- K. Her date never came to the dinner. 10
- L. The military guard is denying access. 11

Vocabulary Focus II:

Complete the sentences with the prepositions.

out	on	over	down
around	up / down	away	against
into	back	up	off

- A. He has turned the switch off.
- B. The chrysalis has turned into a butterfly.
- C. The vehicles are turning around.
- D. It turns out that she's pregnant!
- E. The influencer is turning back for the photo.
- F. He's turning the music up / down.
- G. She turned his marriage proposal down.
- H. The air conditioning is turned on in the car.
- I. She is turning the page over.
- J. They are working to turn people against racism.
- K. Her date never turned up to the dinner.
- L. The military guard is turning people away.

Speaking: Ask and answer the questions as a group.

Below are a number of unrelated questions which use 'turn' phrasal verbs. Answer them as fully as you can.

These questions are simply designed to get students to use the phrasal verbs they learnt. Depending on whether you have a one-to-one class or a group, you may want to ask them one by one, split them into groups, get them to ask each other in turns, or even write an answer and then read it out.

It's always a good idea to prepare an answer yourself for each of the questions in case they need some help.

1. Can you remember the last thing you turned down? e.g. a job offer, an invite
2. Have you ever been turned away from somewhere? e.g. a club, a restaurant that was fully booked
3. Do you often have to turn back in the morning because you forgot something at home? e.g. your phone
4. Have you ever discovered that a friend was trying to turn you against another friend? e.g. a manipulative person
5. When do you absolutely love turning the music up? e.g. when in the car, when you are cleaning
6. Can you think of one thing you believed as a child that turned out not to be true? e.g. that lions live in England
7. As a child, did you have any toys that turned into something else? e.g. Transformers, toys that fold into balls
8. Have you ever not turned up to class or work? e.g. because you overslept
9. When you're watching TV, what programme always makes you turn over? e.g. the golf because you find it boring
10. What do you leave turned on at home (or turned on standby) that you probably shouldn't? e.g. the TV
11. Do you know anybody who's really turned their life around? e.g. a friend who made a big change
12. Have you ever turned off the TV in the middle of a programme because you couldn't watch anymore? e.g. a horror