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# Grammar in Context: Telephone Phrasal Verbs

1 The following are common phrasal verbs we often use while on the telephone. Match the correct meaning with each phrasal verb.

- |              |                       |  |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. <u>g</u>  | hold on               | a. put the receiver down                                       |
| 2. <u>e</u>  | put (a call) through  | b. return someone's call                                       |
| 3. <u>j</u>  | get through           | c. answer a call, lift the receiver to take a call             |
| 4. <u>a</u>  | hang up               | d. stop talking on the phone                                   |
| 5. <u>l</u>  | call up               | e. connect one caller to another                               |
| 6. <u>m</u>  | hang on               | f. deactivate (a cell phone)                                   |
| 7. <u>b</u>  | call back             | g. wait  |
| 8. <u>c</u>  | pick up               | h. talk louder   |
| 9. <u>d</u>  | get off (the phone)   | i. to be disconnected abruptly during a telephone conversation |
| 10. <u>k</u> | get back to (someone) | j. to be connected to someone on the phone                     |
| 11. <u>i</u> | cut off               | k. return someone's call                                       |
| 12. <u>f</u> | switch off/turn off   | l. make a telephone call                                       |
| 13. <u>h</u> | speak up              | m. wait  |

2 Some phrasal verbs are separable (e.g., *call someone back*); others are not. Complete the chart below by putting the phrasal verbs above in the correct column.

Separable	Not separable
<i>Put a call through</i>	<i>hold on</i>
<i>call back</i>	<i>get through</i>
<i>get back to (someone)</i>	<i>hang up</i>
<i>pick up</i>	<i>hang on</i>
<i>switch off/turn off</i>	<i>get off (the phone)</i>
<i>call up</i>	<i>cut off</i>
	<i>speak up</i>

### 3 | Fill in the blanks with the correct phrasal verbs.

1. **Caller:** Hello. Could I speak to Lucia Rodriguez, please?  
**Receptionist:** She's not in the office at the moment. Can I put you through to her voice mail?  
**Caller:** Yes, thank you.
2. **Caller:** Could I speak to Emma, please?  
**Emma's mother:** Sure. Hold on a second and I'll get her.
3. **Automated Operator:** Please hang up and try your call again. This is a recording.
4. **Mother:** Magdalena, could you get off the phone? I need to call Dad.  
**Daughter:** Okay, mom.
5. **Chairperson of a meeting:** I would appreciate if everyone could switch off their cell phones. We have a lot of important things to discuss and we don't want to be interrupted.
6. **Caller:** Hi, it's Ahmed Mohamed calling. Could I speak to Martin Switzer please?  
**Receptionist:** I'm sorry. He's not in at the moment. Can I take a message?  
**Caller:** Yes, could you ask him to call me back when he gets in?  
**Receptionist:** It's urgent.  
Certainly.
7. **Voice mail recording:** Hi, you've reached Josh Wills in Accounting. I will be out of the office until July 2 but will be picking up my messages while I'm away. So please leave yours at the sound of the tone. Thanks and have a great day!
8. **Voice mail recording:** You've reached Julia and Ben. We're not available to take your call right now, but if you leave a message, we'll get back to you as soon as we can. Thanks.
9. **Caller:** I can't seem to get through. The line is always busy.