

Phrasal verbs 4 **on/off (1)**

A

**On and off** for lights, machines etc.

We say: the light **is on** / **put** the light **on** / **leave** the light **on** etc.  
**turn** the light **on/off** or **switch** the light **on/off**

- ☐ Shall I **leave** the lights **on** or **turn** them **off**?
- ☐ 'Is the heating **on**?' 'No, I **switched** it **off**.'
- ☐ We need some boiling water, so I'll **put** the kettle **on**.

Also **put on** some music / a CD etc.

- ☐ I haven't listened to this CD yet. Shall I **put** it **on**? (= shall I play it)

B

**On and off** for events etc.

**go on** = *happen*

- ☐ What's all that noise? What's **going on**? (= what's happening)

**call something off** = *cancel it*

- ☐ The open air concert had to be **called off** because of the weather.

**put something off, put off** doing something = *delay it*

- ☐ The wedding has been **put off** until January.
- ☐ We can't **put off** making a decision. We have to decide now.

C

**On and off** for clothes etc.

**put on** clothes, glasses, make-up, a seat belt etc.

- ☐ My hands were cold, so I **put** my gloves **on**.

Also **put on** weight = *get heavier*

- ☐ I've **put on** two kilograms in the last month.

**try on** clothes (to see if they fit)

- ☐ I **tried on** a jacket in the shop, but it didn't fit me very well.

**take off** clothes, glasses etc.

- ☐ It was warm, so I **took off** my jacket.

D

**Off** = away from a person or place

**be off** (to a place)

- ☐ Tomorrow I'm **off** to Paris / I'm **off** on holiday.  
 (= I'm going to Paris / I'm going on holiday)

**walk off / run off / drive off / ride off / go off** (similar to **walk away / run away** etc.)

- ☐ Diane got on her bike and **rode off**.
- ☐ Mark left home at the age of 18 and **went off** to Canada.

**set off** = *start a journey*

- ☐ We **set off** very early to avoid the traffic. (= We left early)

**take off** = *leave the ground (for planes)*

- ☐ After a long delay the plane finally **took off**.

**see somebody off** = *go with them to the airport/station to say goodbye*

- ☐ Helen was going away. We went to the station with her to **see her off**.