

69 put something off; put off doing something

Study Read these sentences carefully.

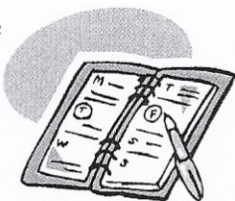
- ▶ They've decided to **put off** their wedding until March.
- ▶ It's very easy to **put** difficult decisions **off**.
- ▶ You'll have to go to the dentist eventually. Why keep **putting it off**?
- ▶ Some couples **put off** having children until they are older.
- ▶ They were going to start building, but the work has **been put off** again.

Check Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

MEANING

Which of these verbs means the same as *put something off*?

- a to cancel something
- b to delay something
- c to refuse something
- d to prevent something



GRAMMAR

Which of these are grammatically possible?

- a She put her visit off.
- b She put off her visit.
- c She put it off.
- d She was put off her visit.
- e Her visit was put off.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Practise

1 Rewrite the parts of the sentences in *italics* so that the meaning stays the same, using a form of *put something off* or *put off doing something* and an object (a noun or a pronoun).

a I have no time for the meeting today. *Can we leave it until tomorrow?*

b This job must be done today – *it cannot be delayed any longer.*

c *I always wait until the last minute to do my work.*

d My friends were going to visit today, *but now they are coming next weekend.*

2 What do you *put off*? Look at the two examples and write three more sentences that are true for you.

a I hate cleaning the bathroom so I always put it off.

b I never put off paying my bills.

c _____

d _____

e _____

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Build your vocabulary

SYNONYMS

Delay something, delay doing something is more formal:

- ▶ They've decided to *delay* their wedding until March.