

# Phrasal Verbs List

200 common phrasal verbs, with meanings and example sentences

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>ask somebody out</b>	invite on a date	Brian <b>asked</b> Judy <b>out</b> to dinner and a movie.
<b>ask around</b>	ask many people the same question	I <b>asked around</b> but nobody has seen my wallet.
<b>add up to something</b>	equal	Your purchases <b>add up to</b> \$205.32.
<b>back something up</b>	reverse	You'll have to <b>back up</b> your car so that I can get out.
<b>back somebody up</b>	support	My wife <b>backed me up</b> over my decision to quit my job.
<b>blow up</b>	explode	The racing car <b>blew up</b> after it crashed into the fence.
<b>blow something up</b>	add air	We have to <b>blow 50 balloons up</b> for the party.
<b>break down</b>	stop functioning (vehicle, machine)	Our car <b>broke down</b> at the side of the highway in the snowstorm.
<b>break down</b>	get upset	The woman <b>broke down</b> when the police told her that her son had died.
<b>break something down</b>	divide into smaller parts	Our teacher <b>broke</b> the final project <b>down</b> into three separate parts.
<b>break in</b>	force entry to a building	Somebody <b>broke in</b> last night and stole our stereo.
<b>break into something</b>	enter forcibly	The firemen had to <b>break into</b> the room to rescue the children.
<b>break something in</b>	wear something a few times so that it doesn't look/feel new	I need to <b>break</b> these shoes <b>in</b> before we run next week.
<b>break in</b>	interrupt	The TV station <b>broke in</b> to report the news of the president's death.
<b>break up</b>	end a relationship	My boyfriend and I <b>broke up</b> before I moved to America.
<b>break up</b>	start laughing (informal)	The kids just <b>broke up</b> as soon as the clown started talking.
<b>break out</b>	escape	The prisoners <b>broke out</b> of jail when the guards weren't looking.
<b>break out in something</b>	develop a skin condition	I <b>broke out in</b> a rash after our camping trip.

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>bring somebody down</b>	make unhappy	This sad music is <b>bringing</b> me <b>down</b> .
<b>bring somebody up</b>	raise a child	My grandparents <b>brought</b> me <b>up</b> after my parents died.
<b>bring something up</b>	start talking about a subject	My mother walks out of the room when my father <b>brings up</b> sports.
<b>bring something up</b>	vomit	He drank so much that he <b>brought</b> his dinner <b>up</b> in the toilet.
<b>call around</b>	phone many different places/people	We <b>called around</b> but we weren't able to find the car part we needed.
<b>call somebody back</b>	return a phone call	I <b>called</b> the company <b>back</b> but the offices were closed for the weekend.
<b>call something off</b>	cancel	Jason <b>called</b> the wedding <b>off</b> because he wasn't in love with his fiancé.
<b>call on somebody</b>	ask for an answer or opinion	The professor <b>called on</b> me for question 1.
<b>call on somebody</b>	visit somebody	We <b>called on</b> you last night but you weren't home.
<b>call somebody up</b>	phone	Give me your phone number and I will <b>call</b> you <b>up</b> when we are in town.
<b>calm down</b>	relax after being angry	You are still mad. You need to <b>calm down</b> before you drive the car.
not <b>care for</b> somebody/ something	not like (formal)	I don't <b>care for</b> his behaviour.
<b>catch up</b>	get to the same point as somebody else	You'll have to run faster than that if you want to <b>catch up</b> with Marty.
<b>check in</b>	arrive and register at a hotel or airport	We will get the hotel keys when we <b>check in</b> .
<b>check out</b>	leave a hotel	You have to <b>check out</b> of the hotel before 11:00 AM.
<b>check somebody/ something out</b>	look at carefully, investigate	The company <b>checks out</b> all new employees.
<b>check out</b> somebody/ something	look at (informal)	<b>Check out</b> the crazy hair on that guy!
<b>cheer up</b>	become happier	She <b>cheered up</b> when she heard the good news.
<b>cheer somebody up</b>	make happier	I brought you some flowers to <b>cheer</b> you <b>up</b> .
<b>chip in</b>	help	If everyone <b>chips in</b> we can get the kitchen painted by noon.

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>clean something up</b>	tidy, clean	Please <b>clean up</b> your bedroom before you go outside.
<b>come across something</b>	find unexpectedly	I <b>came across</b> these old photos when I was tidying the closet.
<b>come apart</b>	separate	The top and bottom <b>come apart</b> if you pull hard enough.
<b>come down with something</b>	become sick	My nephew <b>came down with</b> chicken pox this weekend.
<b>come forward</b>	volunteer for a task or to give evidence	The woman <b>came forward</b> with her husband's finger prints.
<b>come from</b> some place	originate in	The art of origami <b>comes from</b> Asia.
<b>count on somebody/ something</b>	rely on	I am <b>counting on</b> you to make dinner while I am out.
<b>cross something out</b>	draw a line through	Please <b>cross out</b> your old address and write your new one.
<b>cut back on something</b>	consume less	My doctor wants me to <b>cut back on</b> sweets and fatty foods.
<b>cut something down</b>	make something fall to the ground	We had to <b>cut</b> the old tree in our yard <b>down</b> after the storm.
<b>cut in</b>	interrupt	Your father <b>cut in</b> while I was dancing with your uncle.
<b>cut in</b>	pull in too closely in front of another vehicle	The bus driver got angry when that car <b>cut in</b> .
<b>cut in</b>	start operating (of an engine or electrical device)	The air conditioner <b>cuts in</b> when the temperature gets to 22°C.
<b>cut something off</b>	remove with something sharp	The doctors <b>cut off</b> his leg because it was severely injured.
<b>cut something off</b>	stop providing	The phone company <b>cut off</b> our phone because we didn't pay the bill.
<b>cut somebody off</b>	take out of a will	My grandparents <b>cut</b> my father <b>off</b> when he remarried.
<b>cut something out</b>	remove part of something (usually with scissors and paper)	I <b>cut</b> this ad <b>out</b> of the newspaper.
<b>do somebody/ something over</b>	beat up, ransack (BrE, informal)	He's lucky to be alive. His shop was <b>done over</b> by a street gang.
<b>do something over</b>	do again (AmE)	My teacher wants me to <b>do</b> my essay <b>over</b> because she doesn't like my topic.
<b>do away with something</b>	discard	It's time to <b>do away with</b> all of these old tax records.
<b>do something up</b>	fasten, close	<b>Do</b> your coat <b>up</b> before you go outside. It's snowing!

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>dress up</b>	wear nice clothing	It's a fancy restaurant so we have to <b>dress up</b> .
<b>drop back</b>	move back in a position/group	Andrea <b>dropped back</b> to third place when she fell off her bike.
<b>drop in/ by/ over</b>	come without an appointment	I might <b>drop in/by/over</b> for tea sometime this week.
<b>drop somebody/ something off</b>	take somebody/ something somewhere and leave them/it there	I have to <b>drop</b> my sister <b>off</b> at work before I come over.
<b>drop out</b>	quit a class, school etc	I <b>dropped out</b> of Science because it was too difficult.
<b>eat out</b>	eat at a restaurant	I don't feel like cooking tonight. Let's <b>eat out</b> .
<b>end up</b>	eventually reach/do/decide	We <b>ended up</b> renting a movie instead of going to the theatre.
<b>fall apart</b>	break into pieces	My new dress <b>fell apart</b> in the washing machine.
<b>fall down</b>	fall to the ground	The picture that you hung up last night <b>fell down</b> this morning.
<b>fall out</b>	separate from an interior	The money must have <b>fallen out</b> of my pocket.
<b>fall out</b>	(of hair, teeth) become loose and unattached	His hair started to <b>fall out</b> when he was only 35.
<b>figure something out</b>	understand, find the answer	I need to <b>figure out</b> how to fit the piano and the bookshelf in this room.
<b>fill something in</b>	to write information in blanks, as on a form (BrE)	Please <b>fill in</b> the form with your name, address, and phone number.
<b>fill something out</b>	to write information in blanks, as on a form (AmE)	The form must be <b>filled out</b> in capital letters.
<b>fill something up</b>	fill to the top	I always <b>fill</b> the water jug <b>up</b> when it is empty.
<b>find out</b>	discover	We don't know where he lives. How can we <b>find out</b> ?
<b>find something out</b>	discover	We tried to keep the time of the party a secret, but Samantha <b>found it out</b> .
<b>get something across/ over</b>	communicate, make understandable	I tried to <b>get</b> my point <b>across/over</b> to the judge but she wouldn't listen.
<b>get along/on</b>	like each other	I was surprised how well my new girlfriend and my sister <b>got along/on</b> .
<b>get around</b>	have mobility	My grandfather can <b>get around</b> fine in his new wheelchair.
<b>get away</b>	go on a vacation	We worked so hard this year that we had to <b>get away</b> for a week.

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>get away with</b> <i>something</i>	do without being noticed or punished	Jason always <b>gets away with</b> cheating in his maths tests.
<b>get back</b>	return	We <b>got back</b> from our vacation last week.
<b>get something back</b>	receive something you had before	Liz finally <b>got</b> her Science notes <b>back</b> from my room-mate.
<b>get back at</b> <i>somebody</i>	retaliate, take revenge	My sister <b>got back at</b> me for stealing her shoes. She stole my favourite hat.
<b>get back into</b> <i>something</i>	become interested in something again	I finally <b>got back into</b> my novel and finished it.
<b>get on</b> <i>something</i>	step onto a vehicle	We're going to freeze out here if you don't let us <b>get on</b> the bus.
<b>get over</b> <i>something</i>	recover from an illness, loss, difficulty	I just <b>got over</b> the flu and now my sister has it.
<b>get over</b> <i>something</i>	overcome a problem	The company will have to close if it can't <b>get over</b> the new regulations.
<b>get round to</b> <i>something</i>	finally find time to do (AmE: <b>get around to something</b> )	I don't know when I am going to <b>get round to</b> writing the thank you cards.
<b>get together</b>	meet (usually for social reasons)	Let's <b>get together</b> for a BBQ this weekend.
<b>get up</b>	get out of bed	I <b>got up</b> early today to study for my exam.
<b>get up</b>	stand	You should <b>get up</b> and give the elderly man your seat.
<b>give somebody away</b>	reveal hidden information about somebody	His wife <b>gave him away</b> to the police.
<b>give somebody away</b>	take the bride to the altar	My father <b>gave me away</b> at my wedding.
<b>give something away</b>	ruin a secret	My little sister <b>gave</b> the surprise party <b>away</b> by accident.
<b>give something away</b>	give something to somebody for free	The library was <b>giving away</b> old books on Friday.
<b>give something back</b>	return a borrowed item	I have to <b>give</b> these skates <b>back</b> to Franz before his hockey game.
<b>give in</b>	reluctantly stop fighting or arguing	My boyfriend didn't want to go to the ballet, but he finally <b>gave in</b> .
<b>give something out</b>	give to many people (usually at no cost)	They were <b>giving out</b> free perfume samples at the department store.
<b>give something up</b>	quit a habit	I am <b>giving up</b> smoking as of January 1st.
<b>give up</b>	stop trying	My maths homework was too difficult so I <b>gave up</b> .

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>go after</b> <i>somebody</i>	follow somebody	My brother tried to <b>go after</b> the thief in his car.
<b>go after</b> <i>something</i>	try to achieve something	I <b>went after</b> my dream and now I am a published writer.
<b>go against</b> <i>somebody</i>	compete, oppose	We are <b>going against</b> the best soccer team in the city tonight.
<b>go ahead</b>	start, proceed	Please <b>go ahead</b> and eat before the food gets cold.
<b>go back</b>	return to a place	I have to <b>go back</b> home and get my lunch.
<b>go out</b>	leave home to go on a social event	We're <b>going out</b> for dinner tonight.
<b>go out with</b> <i>somebody</i>	date	Jesse has been <b>going out with</b> Luke since they met last winter.
<b>go over</b> <i>something</i>	review	Please <b>go over</b> your answers before you submit your test.
<b>go over</b>	visit somebody nearby	I haven't seen Tina for a long time. I think I'll <b>go over</b> for an hour or two.
<b>go without</b> <i>something</i>	suffer lack or deprivation	When I was young, we <b>went without</b> winter boots.
<b>grow apart</b>	stop being friends over time	My best friend and I <b>grew apart</b> after she changed schools.
<b>grow back</b>	regrow	My roses <b>grew back</b> this summer.
<b>grow into</b> <i>something</i>	grow big enough to fit	This bike is too big for him now, but he should <b>grow into</b> it by next year.
<b>grow out of</b> <i>something</i>	get too big for	Elizabeth needs a new pair of shoes because she has <b>grown out of</b> her old ones.
<b>grow up</b>	become an adult	When Jack <b>grows up</b> he wants to be a fireman.
<b>hand</b> <i>something</i> <b>down</b>	give something used to somebody else	I <b>handed</b> my old comic books <b>down</b> to my little cousin.
<b>hand</b> <i>something</i> <b>in</b>	submit	I have to <b>hand in</b> my essay by Friday.
<b>hand</b> <i>something</i> <b>out</b>	to distribute to a group of people	We will <b>hand out</b> the invitations at the door.
<b>hand</b> <i>something</i> <b>over</b>	give (usually unwillingly)	The police asked the man to <b>hand over</b> his wallet and his weapons.
<b>hang in</b>	stay positive (informal)	<b>Hang in</b> there. I'm sure you'll find a job very soon.
<b>hang on</b>	wait a short time (informal)	<b>Hang on</b> while I grab my coat and shoes!
<b>hang out</b>	spend time relaxing (informal)	Instead of going to the party we are just going to <b>hang out</b> at my place.

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>hang up</b>	end a phone call	He didn't say goodbye before he <b>hung up</b> .
<b>hold somebody/ something back</b>	prevent from doing/going	I had to <b>hold</b> my dog <b>back</b> because there was a cat in the park.
<b>hold something back</b>	hide an emotion	Jamie <b>held back</b> his tears at his grandfather's funeral.
<b>hold on</b>	wait a short time	Please <b>hold on</b> while I transfer you to the Sales Department.
<b>hold onto somebody/ something</b>	hold firmly using your hands or arms	<b>Hold onto</b> your hat because it's very windy outside.
<b>hold somebody/ something up</b>	rob	A man in a black mask <b>held</b> the bank <b>up</b> this morning.
<b>keep on doing something</b>	continue doing	<b>Keep on</b> stirring until the liquid comes to a boil.
<b>keep something from somebody</b>	not tell	We <b>kept</b> our relationship <b>from</b> our parents for two years.
<b>keep somebody/ something out</b>	stop from entering	Try to <b>keep</b> the wet dog <b>out</b> of the living room.
<b>keep something up</b>	continue at the same rate	If you <b>keep</b> those results <b>up</b> you will get into a great college.
<b>let somebody down</b>	fail to support or help, disappoint	I need you to be on time. Don't <b>let</b> me <b>down</b> this time.
<b>let somebody in</b>	allow to enter	Can you <b>let</b> the cat <b>in</b> before you go to school?
<b>log in (or on)</b>	sign in (to a website, database etc)	I can't <b>log in</b> to Facebook because I've forgotten my password.
<b>log out (or off)</b>	sign out (of a website, database etc)	If you don't <b>log off</b> somebody could get into your account.
<b>look after somebody/ something</b>	take care of	I have to <b>look after</b> my sick grandmother.
<b>look down on somebody</b>	think less of, consider inferior	Ever since we stole that chocolate bar your dad has <b>looked down on</b> me.
<b>look for somebody/ something</b>	try to find	I'm <b>looking for</b> a red dress for the wedding.
<b>look forward to something</b>	be excited about the future	I'm <b>looking forward to</b> the Christmas break.
<b>look into something</b>	investigate	We are going to <b>look into</b> the price of snowboards today.
<b>look out</b>	be careful, vigilant, and take notice	Look out! That car's going to hit you!

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>look out for</b> <i>somebody/ something</i>	be especially vigilant for	Don't forget to <b>look out for</b> snakes on the hiking trail.
<b>look something over</b>	check, examine	Can you <b>look over</b> my essay for spelling mistakes?
<b>look something up</b>	search and find information in a reference book or database	We can <b>look</b> her phone number <b>up</b> on the Internet.
<b>look up to</b> <i>somebody</i>	have a lot of respect for	My little sister has always <b>looked up</b> to me.
<b>make something up</b>	invent, lie about something	Josie <b>made up</b> a story about why we were late.
<b>make up</b>	forgive each other	We were angry last night, but we <b>made up</b> at breakfast.
<b>make somebody up</b>	apply cosmetics to	My sisters <b>made me up</b> for my graduation party.
<b>mix something up</b>	confuse two or more things	I <b>mixed up</b> the twins' names again!
<b>pass away</b>	die	His uncle <b>passed away</b> last night after a long illness.
<b>pass out</b>	faint	It was so hot in the church that an elderly lady <b>passed out</b> .
<b>pass something out</b>	give the same thing to many people	The professor <b>passed</b> the textbooks <b>out</b> before class.
<b>pass something up</b>	decline (usually something good)	I <b>passed up</b> the job because I am afraid of change.
<b>pay somebody back</b>	return owed money	Thanks for buying my ticket. I'll <b>pay</b> you <b>back</b> on Friday.
<b>pay for something</b>	be punished for doing something bad	That bully will <b>pay for</b> being mean to my little brother.
<b>pick something out</b>	choose	I <b>picked out</b> three sweaters for you to try on.
<b>point somebody/ something out</b>	indicate with your finger	I'll <b>point</b> my boyfriend <b>out</b> when he runs by.
<b>put something down</b>	put what you are holding on a surface or floor	You can <b>put</b> the groceries <b>down</b> on the kitchen counter.
<b>put somebody down</b>	insult, make somebody feel stupid	The students <b>put</b> the substitute teacher <b>down</b> because his pants were too short.
<b>put something off</b>	postpone	We are <b>putting off</b> our trip until January because of the hurricane.
<b>put something out</b>	extinguish	The neighbours <b>put</b> the fire <b>out</b> before the firemen arrived.
<b>put something together</b>	assemble	I have to <b>put</b> the crib <b>together</b> before the baby arrives.



phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>put up with</b> <i>somebody/ something</i>	tolerate	I don't think I can <b>put up with</b> three small children in the car.
<b>put something on</b>	put clothing/ accessories on your body	Don't forget to <b>put on</b> your new earrings for the party.
<b>run into</b> <i>somebody/ something</i>	meet unexpectedly	I <b>ran into</b> an old school-friend at the mall.
<b>run over</b> <i>somebody/ something</i>	drive a vehicle over a person or thing	I accidentally <b>ran over</b> your bicycle in the driveway.
<b>run over/ through</b> <i>something</i>	rehearse, review	Let's <b>run over/through</b> these lines one more time before the show.
<b>run away</b>	leave unexpectedly, escape	The child <b>ran away</b> from home and has been missing for three days.
<b>run out</b>	have none left	We <b>ran out</b> of shampoo so I had to wash my hair with soap.
<b>send something back</b>	return (usually by mail)	My letter got <b>sent back</b> to me because I used the wrong stamp.
<b>set something up</b>	arrange, organize	Our boss <b>set</b> a meeting <b>up</b> with the president of the company.
<b>set somebody up</b>	trick, trap	The police <b>set up</b> the car thief by using a hidden camera.
<b>shop around</b>	compare prices	I want to <b>shop around</b> a little before I decide on these boots.
<b>show off</b>	act extra special for people watching (usually boastfully)	He always <b>shows off</b> on his skateboard
<b>sleep over</b>	stay somewhere for the night (informal)	You should <b>sleep over</b> tonight if the weather is too bad to drive home.
<b>sort something out</b>	organize, resolve a problem	We need to <b>sort</b> the bills <b>out</b> before the first of the month.
<b>stick to something</b>	continue doing something, limit yourself to one particular thing	You will lose weight if you <b>stick to</b> the diet.
<b>switch something off</b>	stop the energy flow, turn off	The light's too bright. Could you <b>switch it off</b> .
<b>switch something on</b>	start the energy flow, turn on	We heard the news as soon as we <b>switched on</b> the car radio.
<b>take after</b> <i>somebody</i>	resemble a family member	I <b>take after</b> my mother. We are both impatient.
<b>take something apart</b>	purposely break into pieces	He <b>took</b> the car brakes <b>apart</b> and found the problem.
<b>take something back</b>	return an item	I have to <b>take</b> our new TV <b>back</b> because it doesn't work.
<b>take off</b>	start to fly	My plane <b>takes off</b> in five minutes.

phrasal verb	meaning	example sentence
<b>take something off</b>	remove something (usually clothing)	<b>Take off</b> your socks and shoes and come in the lake!
<b>take something out</b>	remove from a place or thing	Can you <b>take</b> the garbage <b>out</b> to the street for me?
<b>take somebody out</b>	pay for somebody to go somewhere with you	My grandparents <b>took us out</b> for dinner and a movie.
<b>tear something up</b>	rip into pieces	I <b>tore up</b> my ex-boyfriend's letters and gave them back to him.
<b>think back</b>	remember (often + to, sometimes + on)	When I <b>think back</b> on my youth, I wish I had studied harder.
<b>think something over</b>	consider	I'll have to <b>think</b> this job offer <b>over</b> before I make my final decision.
<b>throw something away</b>	dispose of	We <b>threw</b> our old furniture <b>away</b> when we won the lottery.
<b>turn something down</b>	decrease the volume or strength (heat, light etc)	Please <b>turn</b> the TV <b>down</b> while the guests are here.
<b>turn something down</b>	refuse	I <b>turned</b> the job <b>down</b> because I don't want to move.
<b>turn something off</b>	stop the energy flow, switch off	Your mother wants you to <b>turn</b> the TV <b>off</b> and come for dinner.
<b>turn something on</b>	start the energy, switch on	It's too dark in here. Let's <b>turn</b> some lights <b>on</b> .
<b>turn something up</b>	increase the volume or strength (heat, light etc)	Can you <b>turn</b> the music <b>up</b> ? This is my favourite song.
<b>turn up</b>	appear suddenly	Our cat <b>turned up</b> after we put posters up all over the neighbourhood.
<b>try something on</b>	sample clothing	I'm going to <b>try</b> these jeans <b>on</b> , but I don't think they will fit.
<b>try something out</b>	test	I am going to <b>try</b> this new brand of detergent <b>out</b> .
<b>use something up</b>	finish the supply	The kids <b>used</b> all of the toothpaste <b>up</b> so we need to buy some more.
<b>wake up</b>	stop sleeping	We have to <b>wake up</b> early for work on Monday.
<b>warm somebody/ something up</b>	increase the temperature	You can <b>warm</b> your feet <b>up</b> in front of the fireplace.
<b>warm up</b>	prepare body for exercise	I always <b>warm up</b> by doing sit-ups before I go for a run.
<b>wear off</b>	fade away	Most of my make-up <b>wore off</b> before I got to the party.
<b>work out</b>	exercise	I <b>work out</b> at the gym three times a week.



phrasal verb	meaning
<b>work out</b>	be successful
<b>work</b> <i>something</i> <b>out</b>	make a calculation

**example sentence**  
Our plan **worked out** fine.  
We have to **work out** the total cost before we buy the house.