

# PHRASAL VERBS

**Definition:** is a phrase (such as take-off or look down on) that combines a verb with a preposition or adverb or both and that functions as a verb whose meaning is different from the combined meanings of the individual words.








*Phrasal verbs are important because they are extremely common in informal English, and unless you are familiar with their meanings, understanding informal language will be difficult. In addition, learning to use phrasal verbs correctly will help you sound natural in casual conversation.*







**Talk up** – to describe something in a very positive way  
Exaggerating the good qualities

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# PHRASAL VERBS

Phrase Verbs	Meaning	Example
ask somebody out 	invite on a date	Brian asked Judy out to dinner and a movie.
ask 	ask many people the same question	I asked around but nobody has seen my wallet.
add up to something	equal	Your purchases add up to \$205.32.
back something up 	reverse	You'll have to back up your car so that I can get out.
back somebody up 	support	My wife backed me up over my decision to quit my job.
blow up 	explode	The racing car blew up after it crashed into the fence






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<p>blow something up</p> 	<p>add air</p>	<p>We have to blow 50 balloons up for the party.</p>
<p>break down</p> 	<p>stop functioning (vehicle, machine)</p>	<p>Our car broke down at the side of the highway in the snowstorm</p>
<p>break down</p> 	<p>get upset</p>	<p>The woman broke down when the police told her that her son had died.</p>
<p>break something down</p>	<p>divide into smaller parts</p>	<p>Our teacher broke the final project down into three separate parts</p>
<p>break in</p> 	<p>force entry to a building</p>	<p>Somebody broke in last night and stole our stereo.</p>
<p>break into something</p>	<p>enter forcibly</p>	<p>The firemen had to break into the room to rescue the children.</p>




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<p>break something in</p> 	<p>wear something a few times so that it doesn't look/feel new</p>	<p>I need to break these shoes in before we run next week.</p>
<p>break in</p> 	<p>interrupt</p>	<p>The TV station broke in to report the news of the president's death</p>
<p>break up</p> 	<p>start laughing (informal)</p>	<p>The kids just broke up as soon as the clown started talking</p>
<p>break out</p> 	<p>escape</p>	<p>The prisoners broke out of jail when the guards weren't looking.</p>
<p>break out in something</p> 	<p>develop a skin condition</p>	<p>I broke out in a rash after our camping trip.</p>
<p>bring somebody down make</p> 	<p>unhappy</p>	<p>This sad music is bringing me down.</p>

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<p>bring somebody up</p> 	<p>raise a child</p>	<p>My grandparents brought me up after my parents died.</p>
<p>bring something up</p> 	<p>start talking about a subject</p>	<p>My mother walks out of the room when my father brings up sports.</p>
<p>bring something up</p>	<p>vomit</p>	<p>He drank so much that he brought his dinner up in the toilet.</p>
<p>call around</p> 	<p>phone many different places/people</p>	<p>We called around but we weren't able to find the car part we needed</p>
<p>call somebody back</p> 	<p>return a phone call</p>	<p>I called the company back but the offices were closed for the weekend</p>
<p>call something off</p> 	<p>cancel</p>	<p>Jason called the wedding off because he wasn't in love with his fiancé</p>

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<p>call on somebody</p> 	<p>ask for an answer or opinion</p>	<p>The professor called on me for question #1.</p>
<p>call on somebody</p> 	<p>visit somebody</p>	<p>We called on you last night, but you weren't home.</p>
<p>call somebody up</p> 	<p>phone</p>	<p>Give me your phone number and I will call you up when we are in town.</p>

**calm down:**



relax after being angry.

You are still mad. You need to calm down before you drive the car.

**not care for somebody/ something:** not like (formal)

I don't care for his behavior.

**catch up:** get to the same point as somebody else.

You'll have to run faster than that if you want to catch up with Marty.



# PHRASAL VERBS

**check in:** arrive and register at a hotel or airport

We will get the hotel keys when we check in.



**check out:** leave a hotel

You have to check out of the hotel before 11:00 AM.



**check somebody/ something out:** look at carefully, investigate.

The company checks out all new employees.



**check out somebody/ something:** look at (informal)

Check out the crazy hair on that guy!

**cheer up:** become happier

She cheered up when she heard the good news.



**cheer somebody up:** make happier

I brought you some flowers to cheer you up.

**chip in:** help

If everyone chips in, we can get the kitchen painted by noon.

**clean something up:** tidy, clean

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Please clean up your bedroom before you go outside.

**come across something**: find unexpectedly

I came across these old photos when I was tidying the closet.

**come apart**: separate

The top and bottom come apart if you pull hard enough.

**come down with something**: become sick

My nephew came down with chicken pox this weekend.

**come forward** : volunteer for a task or to give evidence

The woman came forward with her husband's fingerprints.

**come from** (some place): originate in

The art comes from Asia.

**count on**: (somebody/ something): rely on

I am counting on you to make dinner while I am out.

**cross something out** : draw a line through.

Please cross out your old address and write your new one.

**cut back on something**: consume less

My doctor wants me to cut back on sweets and fatty foods.

**cut something down** : make something fall to the ground



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We had to cut the old tree in our yard down after the storm.

**cut in:** interrupt

Your father cut in while I was dancing with your uncle.

**cut in:** pull in too closely in front of another vehicle

The bus driver got angry when that car cut in.

**cut in:** start operating (of an engine or electrical device)

The air conditioner cuts in when the temperature gets to 22°C.

**cut something off** remove with something sharp The doctors cut off his leg because it was severely injured.

**cut something off:** stop providing

The phone company cut off our phone because we didn't pay the bill.

**cut somebody off:** take out of a will

My grandparents cut my father off when he remarried.

**cut something out:** remove part of something (usually with scissors and paper)

I cut this ad out of the newspaper.

**do somebody/ something over:** beat up

He's lucky to be alive. His shop was done over by a street gang.

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**do something over:** do again

My teacher wants me to do my essay over because she doesn't like my topic.

**do away with something:** discard

It's time to do away with all of these old tax records.

**do something up:** fasten, close

Do your coat up before you go outside. It's snowing!

**dress up:** wear nice clothing

It's a fancy restaurant so we have to dress up.

**drop back:** move back in a position/group

Andrea dropped back to third place when she fell off her bike.

**drop in/ by/ over:** come without an appointment

I might drop in/by/over for tea sometime this week.

**drop somebody/ something off:** take somebody/ something somewhere and leave them/it there

I have to drop my sister off at work before I come over.

**drop out** : quit a class, school etc.

I dropped out of science because it was too difficult.

**eat out:** eat at a restaurant I don't feel like cooking tonight. Let's eat out.

# PHRASAL VERBS

**end up**: eventually reach/do/decide

We ended up renting a movie instead of going to the theatre.

**fall apart**: break into pieces

My new dress fell apart in the washing machine.

**fall down**: fall to the ground

The picture that you hung up last night fell down this morning.

**fall out**: separate from an interior.

The money must have fallen out of my pocket.

**fall out** (of hair, teeth) become loose and unattached

His hair started to fall out when he was only 35.

**figure something out**: understand, find the answer

I need to figure out how to fit the piano and the bookshelf in this room.

**fill something in** to write information in blanks

Please fill in the form with your name, address, and phone number.

**fill something out**: to write information in blanks

The form must be filled out in capital letters.

**fill something up**: fill to the top

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I always fill the water jug up when it is empty.

**Fill out a form:** you write information in the spaces on it.



**Fill in a form:** complete

**Fill out a form by filling it in**

**find out:** discover

We don't know where he lives. How can we find out?

**find something out:** discover

We tried to keep the time of the party a secret, but Samantha found it out.

**get something across/ over** communicate, make understandable

I tried to get my point across/over to the judge but she wouldn't listen.

**get along/on :** like each other

I was surprised how well my new girlfriend and my sister got along/on.

**get around:** have mobility

My grandfather can get around fine in his new wheelchair.

**get away:** go on a vacation

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# PHRASAL VERBS

We worked so hard this year that we had to get away for a week.

**get away with something**: do without being noticed or punished

Jason always gets away with cheating in his math tests.

**get back**: return

We got back from our vacation last week.

**get something back**: receive something you had before

Liz finally got her science notes back from my roommate.

**get back at somebody**: retaliate, take revenge

My sister got back at me for stealing her shoes. She stole my favorite hat.

**get back into something**: become interested in something again

I finally got back into my novel and finished it.

**get on something**: step onto a vehicle

We're going to freeze out here if you don't let us get on the bus.

**get over something**: recover from an illness, loss, difficulty

I just got over the flu and now my sister has it.

# PHRASAL VERBS

**get over something**: overcome a problem

The company will have to close if it can't get over the new regulations.

**get round to something**: finally find time to do

I don't know when I am going to get round to writing the thank you cards.

**get together**: meet (usually for social reasons)

Let's get together for a BBQ this weekend.

**get up**: get out of bed

I got up early today to study for my exam.

**get up**: stand

You should get up and give the elderly man your seat.

**give somebody away**: reveal hidden information about somebody

His wife gave him away to the police.

**give somebody away**: take the bride to the altar

My father gave me away at my wedding

**give something away**: ruin a secret

My little sister gave the surprise party away by accident.

**give something away** : give something to somebody for free



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The library was giving away old books on Friday.

**give something back:** return a borrowed item

I have to give these skates back to Franz before his hockey game.

**give in** reluctantly stop fighting or arguing

My boyfriend didn't want to go to the ballet, but he finally gave in.

**give something out** give to many people (usually at no cost)

They were giving out free perfume samples at the department store.

**give something up** quit a habit I am giving up smoking as of January 1st.

**give up:** stop trying

My math's homework was too difficult, so I gave up.

**go after somebody:** follow somebody

My brother tried to go after the thief in his car.

**go after something:** try to achieve something

I went after my dream and now I am a published writer.

**go against somebody:** compete, oppose

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We are going against the best soccer team in the city tonight.

**go ahead**: start, proceed

Please go ahead and eat before the food gets cold.

**go back**: return to a place

I have to go back home and get my lunch.

**go out**: leave home to go on a social event

We're going out for dinner tonight.

**go out with somebody**: date

Jesse has been going out with Luke since they met last winter.

**go over something**: review

Please go over your answers before you submit your test.

**go over**: visit somebody nearby

I haven't seen Tina for a long time. I think I'll go over for an hour or two.

**go without something**: suffer lack or deprivation

When I was young, we went without winter boots.

**grow apart**: stop being friends over time

My best friend and I grew apart after she changed schools.

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**grow back:** regrow

My roses grew back this summer.

**grow into something:** grow big enough to fit

This bike is too big for him now, but he should grow into it by next year.

**grow out of something:** get too big for

Elizabeth needs a new pair of shoes because she has grown out of her old ones.

**grow up:** become an adult

When Jack grows up, he wants to be a fireman.

**hand something down:** gives something used to somebody else

I handed my old comic books down to my little cousin.

**hand something in** submit

I have to hand in my essay by Friday.

**hand something out:** to distribute to a group of people

We will hand out the invitations at the door.

**hand something over:** give (usually unwillingly)

The police asked the man to hand over his wallet and his weapons.

**hang in:** stay positive (informal)

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Hang in there. I'm sure you'll find a job very soon.

**hang on:** wait a short time (informal)

Hang on while I grab my coat and shoes!

**hang out:** spend time relaxing (informal)

Instead of going to the party we are just going to hang out at my place.

**hang up:** end a phone call

He didn't say goodbye before he hung up.

**hold somebody/ something back:** prevent from doing/going

I had to hold my dog back because there was a cat in the park.

**hold something back:** hide an emotion

Jamie held back his tears at his grandfather's funeral.

**hold on:** short time

Please hold on while I transfer you to the Sales Department.

**hold onto somebody/ something:** hold firmly using your hands or arms

Hold onto your hat because it's very windy outside.

**hold somebody/ something up:** rob

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A man in a black mask held the bank up this morning.

**keep on doing something:** continue doing

Keep on stirring until the liquid comes to a boil.

**keep something from somebody:** not tell

We kept our relationship from our parents for two years.

**keep somebody/ something out:** stop from entering

Try to keep the wet dog out of the living room.

**keep something up:** continue at the same rate

If you keep those results up, you will get into a great college.

**let somebody down:** fail to support or help, disappoint  
need you to be on time.

Don't let me down this time.

**let somebody in:** allow to enter

Can you let the cat in before you go to school?

**log in (or on):** sign in (to a website, database etc)

I can't log in to Facebook because I've forgotten my password.

**log out (or off):** sign out (of a website, database etc)

If you don't log off somebody could get into your account.

# PHRASAL VERBS

**look after somebody/ something:** take care of

I have to look after my sick grandmother.

**look down on somebody:** think less of, consider inferior

Ever since we stole that chocolate bar your dad has looked down on me.

**look for somebody/ something:** try to find

I'm looking for a red dress for the wedding.

**look forward to something:** be excited about the future

I'm looking forward to the Christmas break.

**look into something:** investigate

We are going to look into the price of snowboards today.

**look out:** be careful, vigilant, and take notice

Look out! That car's going to hit you!

**look out for somebody/ something:** be especially vigilant for

Don't forget to look out for snakes on the hiking trail.

**look something over :** check, examine

Can you look over my essay for spelling mistakes?

**look something up:** search and find information in a reference book or database



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We can look her phone number up on the Internet.

**look up to somebody:** have a lot of respect for

My little sister has always looked up to me.

**make something up:** invent, lie about something

Josie made up a story about why we were late.

**make up:** forgive each other

We were angry last night, but we made up at breakfast.

**make somebody up:** apply cosmetics to

My sisters made me up for my graduation party.



**mix something up:** confuse two or more things

I mixed up the twins' names again!

**pass away:** die

His uncle passed away last night after a long illness.

**pass out:** faint

It was so hot in the church that an elderly lady passed out.

**pass something out:** give the same thing to many people

The professor passed the textbooks out before class.

**pass something up:** decline (usually something good)

# PHRASAL VERBS

I passed up the job because I am afraid of change.

**pay somebody back:** return owed money

Thanks for buying my ticket. I'll pay you back on Friday.

**pay for something:** be punished for doing something bad

That bully will pay for being mean to my little brother.

**pick something out:** choose I picked out three sweaters for you to try on.

**point somebody/ something out:** indicate with your finger

I'll point my boyfriend out when he runs by.

**put something down:** put what you are holding on a surface or floor

You can put the groceries down on the kitchen counter.

**put somebody down:** insult, make somebody feel stupid

The students put the substitute teacher down because his pants were too short.

**put something off:** postpone

We are putting off our trip until January because of the hurricane.

**put something out:** extinguish

The neighbours put the fire out before the firemen arrived.

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**put something together:** assemble

I have to put the crib together before the baby arrives.

**put up with somebody/ something:** tolerate

I don't think I can put up with three small children in the car.

**put something on:** put clothing/ accessories on your body

Don't forget to put on your new earrings for the party.

**run into somebody/ something:** meet unexpectedly

I ran into an old school-friend at the mall.

**run over somebody/ something:** drive a vehicle over a person or thing

I accidentally ran over your bicycle in the driveway.

**run over/ through something:** rehearse, review

Let's run over/through these lines one more time before the show.

**run away:** leave unexpectedly, escape

The child ran away from home and has been missing for three days.

**run out:** have none left

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We ran out of shampoo, so I had to wash my hair with soap.

**send something back:** return (usually by mail)

My letter got sent back to me because I used the wrong stamp.

**set something up:** arrange, organize

Our boss set a meeting up with the president of the company.

**set somebody up**      trick, trap

The police set up the car thief by using a hidden camera.

**shop around:** compare prices

I want to shop around a little before I decide on these boots.

**show off:** act extra special for people watching (usually boastfully)

He always shows off on his skateboard

**sleep over:** stay somewhere for the night (informal)

You should sleep over tonight if the weather is too bad to drive home.

**sort something out:** organize, resolve a problem

We need to sort the bills out before the first of the month.

# PHRASAL VERBS

**stick to something:** continue doing something, limit yourself to one thing

You will lose weight if you stick to the diet.

**switch something off:** stop the energy flow, turn off

The lights are too bright. Could you switch it off?

**switch something on** : start the energy flow, turn on

We heard the news as soon as we switched on the car radio.

**take after somebody:** resemble a family member

I take after my mother. We are both impatient.

**take something apart:** purposely break into pieces

He took the car brakes apart and found the problem.

**take something back:** return an item

I have to take our new TV back because it doesn't work.

**take off:** start to fly

My plane takes off in five minutes.

**take something off:** remove something (usually clothing)

Take off your socks and shoes and come in the lake!

**take something out;** remove from a place or thing

Can you take the garbage out to the street for me?

# PHRASAL VERBS

**take somebody out:** pay for somebody to go somewhere with you

My grandparents took us out for dinner and a movie.

**tear something up:** rip into pieces

I tore up my ex-boyfriend's letters and gave them back to him.

**think back:** remember (often + to, sometimes + on)

When I think back on my youth, I wish I had studied harder.

**think something over:** consider

I'll have to think this job offer over before I make my final decision.

**throw something away:** dispose of

We threw our old furniture away when we won the lottery.

**turn something down:** decrease the volume or strength (heat, light etc.)

Please turn the TV down while the guests are here.

**turn something down:** refuse

I turned the job down because I don't want to move.

**turn something off:** stop the energy flow, switch off

Your mother wants you to turn the TV off and come for dinner.



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**turn something on:** start the energy, switch on

It's too dark in here. Let's turn some lights on.

**turn something up:** increase the volume or strength (heat, light etc.) Can you turn the music up? This is my favorite song.

**turn up:** appear suddenly

Our cat turned up after we put posters up all over the neighborhood.

**try something on:** sample clothing

I'm going to try these jeans on, but I don't think they will fit.

**try something out:** test

I am going to try this new brand of detergent out.

**use something up:** finish the supply

The kids used all of the toothpaste up, so we need to buy some more.

**wake up:** stop sleeping

We have to wake up early for work on Monday.

**warm somebody/ something up:** increase the temperature

You can warm your feet up in front of the fireplace.

# PHRASAL VERBS

**warm up:** reprepare body for exercise I always warm up by doing sit-ups before I go for a run.

**wear off:** fade away Most of my make-up wore off before I got to the party.

**work out:** exercise

I work out at the gym three times a week.

**work out:** be successful

Our plan worked out fine.

**work something out:** make a calculation

We have to work out the total cost before we buy the house.



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# PHRASAL VERBS

## WORK

### Burn out

Be extremely tired



If he doesn't stop working so hard, he'll burn himself out.

### Call off

Cancel



They have called off the meeting.

### Hand in

Give something to a person in authority



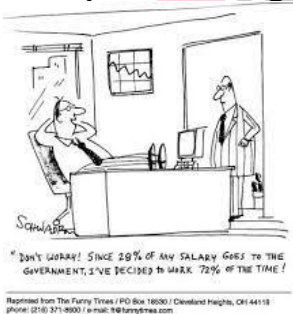
You must all hand in your projects by the end of next week.

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# PHRASAL VERBS

## WORK

**Knock off**  
Stop working



Let's knock off for lunch

**Knuckle down**  
Start working harder



I'm going to have knuckle down to some serious study.

**Take on**  
Employ someone



She was taken on as a trainee.

**Take over**  
Take control of something



I intend that you shall take over the business.

**Work out**  
Develop in successful way



Things have worked out quite well for us.

**Fill in for**  
Complete



E,g Could I fill in for him? He asked.

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# PHRASAL VERBS

## RELATIONSHIP

### Fall for

Begin to be in love with someone



They fell for each other instantly

### Go out

Date someone



I used to go out with Vince

### Make Up

Forgive each other after an argument



Break up- Split up  
end a relationship



My boyfriend and I broke up before I moved to America.

Get back together  
re-start a relationship an  
ex-lover

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