**Phrasal Verbs List**

Phrasal verbs are usually two-word phrases consisting of **verb + adverb** or**verb + preposition**. Think of them as you would any other English vocabulary. Study them as you come across them, rather than trying to memorize many at once. Use the list below as a reference guide when you find an expression that you don't

| **phrasal verb** | **meaning** | **example sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ask** *someone* **out** | invite on a date | Brian **asked** Judy **out** to dinner and a movie. |
| **ask around** | 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** *someone* **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. |
| **blow** *something* **up** | add air | We have to **blow** 50 balloons **up** for the party. |
| **break down** | stop functioning (vehicle, machine) | Our car **broke down** at the side of the highway in the snowstorm. |
| **break down** | get upset | The woman **broke down** when the police told her that her son had died. |
| **break** *something* **down** | divide into smaller parts | Our teacher **broke** the final project **down** into three separate parts. |
| **break in** | force entry to a building | Somebody **broke in** last night and stole our stereo. |
| **break into** *something* | enter forcibly | The firemen had to **break into** the room to rescue the children. |
| **break** *something* **in** | wear something a few times so that it doesn't look/feel new | I need to **break** these shoes **in** before we run next week. |
| **break in** | interrupt | The TV station **broke in**to report the news of the president's death. |
| **break up** | end a relationship | My boyfriend and I **broke up** before I moved to America. |
| **break up** | start laughing (informal) | The kids just **broke up** as soon as the clown started talking. |
| **break out** | escape | The prisoners **broke out** of jail when the guards weren't looking. |
| **break out in** *something* | develop a skin condition | I **broke out in** a rash after our camping trip. |
| **bring** *someone* **down** | make unhappy | This sad music is**bringing** me **down**. |
| **bring** *someone* **up** | raise a child | My grandparents**brought** me **up** after my parents died. |
| **bring** *something* **up** | start talking about a subject | My mother walks out of the room when my father **brings up** sports. |
| **bring** *something* **up** | vomit | He drank so much that he **brought** his dinner**up** in the toilet. |
| **call around** | phone many different places/people | We **called around** but we weren't able to find the car part we needed. |
| **call** *someone* **back** | return a phone call | I **called** the company**back** but the offices were closed for the weekend. |
| **call** *something* **off** | cancel | Jason **called** the wedding **off** because he wasn't in love with his fiancé. |
| **call on** *someone* | ask for an answer or opinion | The professor **called on**me for question 1. |
| **call on** *someone* | visit someone | We **called on** you last night but you weren't home. |
| **call** *someone* **up** | phone | Give me your phone number and I will **call**you **up** when we are in town. |
| **calm down** | relax after being angry | You are still mad. You need to **calm down**before you drive the car. |
| not **care for***someone/something* | not like (formal) | I don't **care for** his behaviour. |
| **catch up** | get to the same point as someone else | You'll have to run faster than that if you want to**catch up** with Marty. |
| **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***someone/something***out** | look at carefully, investigate | The company **checks out** all new employees. |
| **check out***someone/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** *someone* **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 | 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 finger prints. |
| **come from**somewhere | originate in | The art of origami**comes from** Asia. |
| **count on***someone/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 | 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** *someone* **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***someone/something***over** | beat up, ransack (BrE, informal) | He's lucky to be alive. His shop was **done over** by a street gang. |
| **do** *something* **over** | do again (AmE) | 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***someone/something***off** | take someone/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**. |
| **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, as on a form (BrE) | Please **fill in** the form with your name, address, and phone number. |
| **fill** *something* **out** | to write information in blanks, as on a form (AmE) | The form must be **filled out** in capital letters. |
| **fill** *something* **up** | fill to the top | I always **fill** the water jug **up** when it is empty. |
| **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 | 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 maths 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 room-mate. |
| **get back at** *someone* | retaliate, take revenge | My sister **got back at**me for stealing her shoes. She stole my favourite 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. |
| **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 (AmE: **get around to***something*) | 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** *someone* **away** | reveal hidden information about someone | His wife **gave** him**away** to the police. |
| **give** *someone* **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 someone for free | 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 maths homework was too difficult so I**gave up**. |
| **go after** *someone* | follow someone | 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** *someone* | compete, oppose | 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** *someone* | 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 someone 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. |
| **grow back** | regrow | My roses **grew back**this summer. |
| **grow up** | become an adult | When Jack **grows up**he wants to be a fireman. |
| **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 into** *something* | grow big enough to fit | This bike is too big for him now, but he should**grow into** it by next year. |
| **hand** *something***down** | give something used to someone 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) | **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***someone/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** | wait a short time | Please **hold on** while I transfer you to the Sales Department. |
| **hold onto***someone/something* | hold firmly using your hands or arms | **Hold onto** your hat because it's very windy outside. |
| **hold***someone/something***up** | rob | 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***someone* | not tell | We **kept** our relationship **from** our parents for two years. |
| **keep***someone/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** *someone* **down** | fail to support or help, disappoint | I need you to be on time. Don't **let** me**down** this time. |
| **let** *someone* **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. |
| **look after***someone/something* | take care of | I have to **look after** my sick grandmother. |
| **look down on***someone* | think less of, consider inferior | Ever since we stole that chocolate bar your dad has **looked down on**me. |
| **look for***someone/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***someone/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 | We can **look** her phone number **up** on the Internet. |
| **look up to** *someone* | 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** *someone* **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) | I **passed up** the job because I am afraid of change. |
| **pay** *someone* **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***someone/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** *someone* **down** | insult, make someone 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. |
| **put** *something***together** | assemble | I have to **put** the crib**together** before the baby arrives. |
| **put up with***someone/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***someone/something* | meet unexpectedly | I **ran into** an old school-friend at the mall. |
| **run over***someone/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 | 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** *someone* **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. |
| **stick to** *something* | continue doing something, limit yourself to one particular thing | You will lose weight if you **stick to** the diet. |
| **switch** *something* **off** | stop the energy flow, turn off | The light's 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** *someone* | 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? |
| **take** *someone* **out** | pay for someone 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. |
| **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 favourite song. |
| **turn up** | appear suddenly | Our cat **turned up** after we put posters up all over the neighbourhood. |
| **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***someone/something***up** | increase the temperature | You can **warm** your feet**up** in front of the fireplace. |
| **warm up** | prepare 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. |