

What are phrasal verbs?

1. A phrasal verb is a verb plus a preposition or adverb which creates a meaning different from the original verb.

Example:

I ran into my teacher at the movies last night. **RUN + INTO = MEET**
He ran away when he was 15. **RUN + AWAY = LEAVE HOME**

2. Some phrasal verbs are intransitive. An intransitive verb cannot be followed by an object.

Example:

He suddenly showed up. **"SHOW UP" CANNOT TAKE AN OBJECT**

3. Some phrasal verbs are transitive. A transitive verb can be followed by an object.

Example:

I made up the story. **"STORY" IS THE OBJECT OF "MAKE UP"**

4. Some transitive phrasal verbs are separable. The object is placed between the verb and the preposition. In this Phrasal Verb Dictionary, separable phrasal verbs are marked by placing a * between the verb and the preposition / adverb.

Example:

I talked my mother into letting me borrow the car.
She looked the phone number up.

5. Some transitive phrasal verbs are inseparable. The object is placed after the preposition. In this Phrasal Verb Dictionary, inseparable phrasal verbs are marked by placing a + after the preposition / adverb.

Example:

I ran into an old friend yesterday.
They are looking into the problem.

6. Some transitive phrasal verbs can take an object in both places. In this Phrasal Verb Dictionary, such phrasal verbs are marked with both * and + .

Example:

I looked the number up in the phone book.
I looked up the number in the phone book.

7. WARNING! Although many phrasal verbs can take an object in both places, you must put the object between the verb and the preposition if the object is a pronoun.

Example:

I looked the number up in the phone book.
I looked up the number in the phone book.
I looked it up in the phone book. **CORRECT**
I looked up it in the phone book. **INCORRECT**

Practice:

<http://www.stuff.co.uk/phrasal.htm>

Phrasal Verb List:

A simple list of phrasal verbs for students who are in a hurry to learn just a few basic verbs.

The [dictionary](#) will give you more detailed information and you can find plenty of examples in the [corpus](#).

Be off.- [1](#) Be cancelled: The meeting is off. [2](#) Leave: I'll be off then. See you later.

Be over.- Be finished: My holidays are nearly over.

Be up to.- [1](#) Be somebody's responsibility: It's up to him to make that decision. [2](#) Be doing or thinking of doing something bad: I knew Paul was up to no good.

Blow up.- [1](#) Explode: A suicide bomber blew himself up near a crowded market. [2](#) Inflate: More volunteers are needed to blow up the balloons. [3](#) Become angry: He blew up when a reporter asked him about his drinking.

Break down.- [1](#) Stop working: Sorry I'm late. The car broke down on the way here. [2](#) Lose control and cry: He broke down and admitted that he couldn't cope with the situation.

Break up.- End: The couple argued constantly and finally broke up.

Bring up.- Take care of children until they're adults: He was brought up by his aunt.

Brush up.- Revise something you've partly forgotten: I want to brush up my English because I haven't studied it for 5 years.

Call back.- Return a phone call or call later: Just leave your contact information below, and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Calm down.- Relax: Don't get so angry! Just calm down.

Carry out.- Do a task: According to a survey carried out in 1999 one in five Britons are now opting for alternative medicine.

Catch up.- Reach somebody or reach certain level: She tried to catch up with the other competitors, but they were just too fast.

Check in.- Report that you have arrived at a hotel or airport: We checked into the hotel a little after midnight.

Check out.- [1](#) Check that something is true: Don't forget to check out the information. [2](#) Pay your bill and leave: After breakfast, I checked out of the hotel.

Cheer up.- Feel happier: I took him to the party because he needed cheering up.

Come across.- Find by chance: I came across an old friend in the street.

Come on.- Make progress: How's dinner coming on? I'm starving.

Come round.- **1** Visit: Would you like to come round on Saturday? We'll be in all day.
2 Recover consciousness: I had no idea what had happened to me when I came round.

Come up with.- **1** Think of: You're going to have to come up with something to tell her.
2 Produce: It was impossible for me to come up with the money that was needed by Friday.

Cut down.- Reduce: You should at least cut down on the amount you smoke.

Cut off.- Disconnect: We were cut off in the middle of our telephone conversation.

Do up.- Improve: I spent a month doing up the flat and I think it's quite nice now.

Drop off.- **1** Fall asleep: The girl was so tired that she dropped off to sleep at once. **2** Take somebody in your car: Come on. I'll drop you off at your flat.

Fall over.- Fall to the ground: She slipped on the ice and fell over.

Fill in.- Complete: She gave me a form and told me to fill it in.

Fall out.- Stop being friends: They fell out and didn't talk to each other for nine months.

Fill up.- Become full: Places are filling up fast on courses starting in the new year.

Find out.- Discover: She's going to find out sooner or later.

Get in.- **1** Enter: Get into the car. We're leaving. **2** Arrive: Can you tell Mr Harrison to phone me as soon as he gets in?

Get off.- Leave a vehicle: Just as we got off the bus, it started to rain.

Get on.- **1** Have a good relationship: David's nice, but I don't get on with Mark. **2** Go aboard a vehicle: I got on the train and travelled all the way to Kings Cross.

Get out.- **1** Leave: A security guard told him to get out. **2** Become known: Word got out that a nuclear submarine was coming into port.

Get over.- Recover: She's slowly getting over her illness.

Get up.- Get out of bed: She gets up at seven every morning.

Give away.- Give something for free: I had a lot of books I didn't want to keep so I gave them away to a friend.

Give out.- Distribute: Her job is to answer questions and give out leaflets.

Give up.- Stop trying to do something or stop using something: Eating healthfully does not mean you have to give up everything that you enjoy.

Go off.- **1** Explode: The bomb went off just metres from the market entrance. **2** Not good anymore: Put the milk in the fridge or it will go off.

Get through.- Pass: We're sure that you will get through your exam.

Grow up.- Develop from child to adult: He grew up in a small village in the country.

Hold on.- Wait: All our lines are busy, but please hold on.

Hold up.- **1** Delay: The march held up traffic in the city centre but there was no trouble or arrests. **2** Rob: He was held up at gunpoint.

Lay off.- Sack: They will have to lay off some of their staff.

Let down.- Disappoint: I was supposed to travel with a friend but she let me down at the last moment.

Let off.- **1** Not punish or punish lightly: She was let off with a fine. **2** Make something explode: Make sure you let off fireworks in an open space.

Look after.- Take care: He's looking after the children.

Look forward to.- Be excited about something that's going to happen: I'm looking forward to the concert.

Look up.- Search for information: He looked up all the new words in the dictionary.

Make up.- Invent: I'm not making it up. It's true.

Own up.- Admit you've done something wrong: After 3 days in the police station he finally owned up and admitted that he had committed the crime.

Pick up.- **1** Lift someone or something: I couldn't even begin to pick it up, it was too heavy. **2** Collect: I'll pick you up at your house at seven. **3** Win: Cameron Diaz picked up two awards for Charlie's Angels.

Put away.- **1** Put something where it's usually kept: After they use something, it's their responsibility to put it away. **2** Eat or drink: I can put away quite a few pints of Guinness. **3** Save: He's put away a decent sum of money. **4** Send to prison: I hope he gets put away for life.

Put down.- Stop holding: He finished the book and put it down on the table.

Put off.- Do later: Let's put off the meeting until Monday.

Put on.-

Put out.-

Put up with.-

Run out.-

Sell out.-

Set off.-

Set up.-

Settle down.-

Slow down.-

Sort out.-

Speak up.-

Take after.-

Take off.-

Take up.-

Tell off.-

Throw away.-

Turn down.-

Turn off.-

Turn on.-

Turn over.-

Turn over.-

Turn up.-

Wake up.-

Wear out.-

Work out.-

Write out.-