

# Phrasal Verbs List

This is a list of about 200 common phrasal verbs, with meanings and examples. 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 recognize. The examples will help you understand the meanings. If you think of each phrasal verb as a separate verb with a specific meaning, you will be able to remember it more easily. Like many other verbs, phrasal verbs often have more than one meaning. As well as learning their meanings, you need to learn [how to use phrasal verbs](#) properly. Some phrasal verbs require a direct object (*someone/something*), while others do not. Some phrasal verbs can be separated by the object, while others cannot. Review the [grammar lesson on phrasal verbs](#) from time to time so that you don't forget the rules!

Most phrasal verbs consist of two words, but a few consist of **three** words, which always stay together.

Verb	Meaning	Example
<b>ask someone 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 someone 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.
<b>bring someone down</b>	make unhappy	This sad music is <b>bringing</b> me <b>down</b> .
<b>bring someone 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 someone 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 someone</b>	ask for an answer or opinion	The professor <b>called on</b> me for

		question 1.
<b>call on</b> <i>someone</i>	visit someone	We <b>called on</b> you last night but you weren't home.
<b>call someone up</b>	phone	Give me your phone number and I will <b>call you 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> <i>someone/something</i>	not like (formal)	I don't <b>care for</b> his behaviour.
<b>catch up</b>	get to the same point as someone 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 someone/something out</b>	look at carefully, investigate	The company <b>checks out</b> all new employees.
<b>check out someone/something</b>	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 someone up</b>	make happier	I brought you some flowers to <b>cheer you up</b> .
<b>chip in</b>	help	If everyone <b>chips in</b> we can get the kitchen painted by noon.
<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> somewhere	originate in	The art of origami <b>comes from</b> Asia.
<b>count on</b> <i>someone/something</i>	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</b> <i>something</i>	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 someone 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 someone/something over</b>	beat up, ransack (Br.E., 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 (N.Amer.)	My teacher wants me to <b>do</b> my essay <b>over</b> because she doesn't like my topic.
<b>do away with</b> <i>something</i>	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!
<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 some time this week.
<b>drop someone/something off</b>	take someone/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 (Br.E.)	Please <b>fill in</b> the form with your name, address, and phone number.
<b>fill something out</b>	to write information in blanks (N.Amer.)	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.
<b>get away with something</b>	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 someone</b>	retaliate, take revenge	My sister <b>got back at</b> me for stealing her shoes. She stole my favourite hat.
<b>get back into something</b>	become interested in something again	I finally <b>got back into</b> my novel and finished it.
<b>get on something</b>	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 something</b>	recover from an illness, loss, difficulty	I just <b>got over</b> the flu and now my sister has it.
<b>get over something</b>	overcome a problem	The company will have to close if it can't <b>get over</b> the new regulations.
<b>get round to something</b>	finally find time to do (N.Amer.: <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 someone away</b>	reveal hidden information about someone	His wife <b>gave him away</b> to the police.
<b>give someone 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 someone 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> .
<b>go after someone</b>	follow someone	My brother tried to <b>go after</b> the thief in his car.
<b>go after something</b>	try to achieve something	I <b>went after</b> my dream and now I am a published writer.
<b>go against someone</b>	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>someone</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 someone 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 up</b>	become an adult	When Jack <b>grows up</b> he wants to be a fireman.
<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 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>hand something down</b>	give something used to someone else	I <b>handed</b> my old comic books <b>down</b> to my little cousin.
<b>hand something in</b>	submit	I have to <b>hand in</b> my essay by Friday.
<b>hand something out</b>	to distribute to a group of people	We will <b>hand out</b> the invitations at the door.
<b>hand something 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 (N.Amer., 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.

<b>hang up</b>	end a phone call	He didn't say goodbye before he <b>hung up</b> .
<b>hold someone/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 someone/something</b>	hold firmly using your hands or arms	<b>Hold onto</b> your hat because it's very windy outside.
<b>hold someone/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 someone</b>	not tell	We <b>kept</b> our relationship <b>from</b> our parents for two years.
<b>keep someone/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 someone down</b>	fail to support or help, disappoint	I need you to be on time. Don't <b>let me down</b> this time.
<b>let someone in</b>	allow to enter	Can you <b>let</b> the cat <b>in</b> before you go to school?
<b>look after someone/something</b>	take care of	I have to <b>look after</b> my sick grandmother.
<b>look down on someone</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 someone/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!
<b>look out for</b> <i>someone/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>someone</i>	have a lot of respect for	My little sister has always <b>looked up to</b> me.
<b>make something up</b>	invent, lie about something	Josie <b>made up</b> a story about 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 someone 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 someone back</b>	return owed money	Thanks for buying my ticket. I'll <b>pay you 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</b> <i>someone/something out</i>	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 someone down</b>	insult, make someone 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.
<b>put up with someone/something</b>	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 someone/something</b>	meet unexpectedly	I <b>ran into</b> an old school-friend at the mall.
<b>run over someone/something</b>	drive a vehicle over a person or thing	I accidentally <b>ran over</b> your bicycle in the driveway.
<b>run over/through something</b>	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 someone 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	You should <b>sleep over</b> tonight

	(informal)	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</b> it <b>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 someone</b>	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.
<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 someone out</b>	pay for someone to go somewhere with you	My grandparents <b>took</b> us <b>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	Please <b>turn</b> the TV <b>down</b> while

	strength (heat, light etc)	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 someone/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.
<b>work out</b>	be successful	Our plan <b>worked out</b> fine.
<b>work something out</b>	make a calculation	We have to <b>work out</b> the total cost before we buy the house.

Br.E.: British English; N.Amer.: North American