

Phrasal verb list

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

The dictionary www.phrasalverbdemon.com/dictionarya.htm will give you more detailed information and you can find plenty of examples in the Generator www.phrasalverbdemon.com/generator.htm

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.

Go 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.- Wear: Put on your coat. It's cold.

Put out.- Extinguish: Please, put out your cigarette.

Put up with.- Accept an unpleasant behaviour or situation: His children play their music so loud - I don't know how he puts up with it.

Run out.- Use something until it's finished: Oh no! We're running out of petrol.

Sell out.- Sell something until it's finished: Last year, reportedly, all 40,000 of these tickets sold out in the first 40 minutes.

Set off.- Start a journey: They set off early in the morning.

Set up.- Start or prepare something: The Government is expected to set up an inquiry into allegations of corruption.

Settle down.- Start living a quiet life somewhere: At the age of 32, he decided to stop travelling and settle down in a quiet town in England.

Slow down.- Become slow or slower. Move more slowly: If you don't slow down, you will have an accident.

Sort out.- Find a solution: There's nothing more you can do. You should let the lawyers sort it out.

Speak up.- Speak in a loud voice. Speak without hesitation: I'm sorry, I can't hear you very well. Could you speak up?

Take after.- Be like or look like a member of your family: She takes after her dad.

Take off.- Remove your clothes: He was hot so he took off his jacket.

Take up.- Develop an interest: The children have taken up tennis and they're really enjoying it.

Tell off.- Speak angrily to somebody when they have done something wrong: I came home late and my mother told me off.

Throw away.- Get rid of something: Don't throw away that magazine. I want to keep it.

Turn down.- 1 Reduce the volumen: Could you turn down the music, please? 2 Not accept: Pamela turned down his offer of marriage.

Turn off.- Disconnect: Please turn off the lights.

Turn on.- Start or connect: As soon as I got downstairs I turned on the television.

Turn over.- Change something so that it faces a different direction: Turn the paper over and reload it to print on the other side.

Turn up.- 1 Appear: I was so happy when you turned up! 2 Increase the volumen or intensity: Could you turn up the radio, please?

Wake up.- 1 Stop sleeping: Don't wake up the baby. 2 Become aware: One day they will wake up to the truth.

Wear out.- 1 Make you tired: The heat was starting to wear me out. 2 Damage something after long use: Contact lenses wear out with time and should be replaced regularly.

Work out.- 1 Be successful or find a solution: I'm sorry things haven't worked out for you. 2 Do exercise to get fit: I work out in a gym because it helps to reduce stress.

Write out.- Write something in detail or complete the information on something: Ring me when it is ready and I will write out a cheque.

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