

# Phrasal verbs

This is a list of some common English phrasal verbs. Note that it ISN'T a complete list - there are always more to learn! And some of these have additional meanings not listed here.

For more information on structure, see the grammar rule.

## Intransitive verbs -- verbs that don't take an object

| Verb        | Meaning  | Examples   |
|-------------|--|--|
| add up      | to seem reasonable or likely   | James said he was at a meeting when the money was stolen, but the police said his story didn't <b>add up</b> . |
| blow up     | to suddenly become very angry  | The boss <b>blew up</b> when we told him we'd lost the contract.   |
| break down  | to fail because of a problem or disagreement (a relationship or discussion, etc.)            | Unfortunately, the negotiations <b>broke down</b> on the second day.   |
| break down  | to stop working (a machine or vehicle)   | Sorry I'm late - my car <b>broke down</b> .  |
| break off   | to suddenly stop talking   | She was complaining to a colleague but <b>broke off</b> when her boss walked in.                               |
| butt in     | to interrupt someone who is talking  | I was trying to explain something to Carla but Simon kept <b>butting in</b> .                                  |
| call in     | to briefly and informally visit someone  | Why don't you <b>call in</b> on your way home from work?   |
| carry on    | to continue an activity  | I need to leave. Can you <b>carry on</b> without me?   |
| catch on    | to become fashionable or popular   | It's an unusual product but we hope it will <b>catch on</b> !  |
| catch up    | to reach someone or something by moving faster than them                                     | She's running too fast - I can't <b>catch up</b> with her.   |
| catch up    | to do something you should have done earlier   | I'm going to try to <b>catch up</b> with my emails today - I've got 150 in my inbox!                           |
| catch up    | to reach the same standard as someone or something else                                      | I don't think our company will ever <b>catch up</b> with the innovations of Japanese manufacturers.            |
| close down  | to permanently stop operating [a business]   | The shop <b>closed down</b> because it wasn't getting enough customers.  |
| come to     | to regain consciousness  | When I <b>came to</b> after the operation, I didn't know where I was!  |
| come across | to behave in a way that makes people believe you have a particular characteristic            | I hope I didn't <b>come across</b> as too serious.   |
| come out    | to be published, or become available for people to buy or see [a book, magazine, film, etc.] | When does their new catalogue <b>come out</b> ?  |
| come up     | to be mentioned or talked about in conversation, perhaps unexpectedly                        | Which points <b>came up</b> at the meeting   |

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| cut back         | to spend, do or use less of something   | If exercise is causing you pain, you should <b>cut back</b> .   |
| cut down         | to do or use less of something  | He eats too much sugar - he needs to <b>cut down</b> .  |
| dress up         | to wear formal or special clothes for a particular occasion   | There's no need to <b>dress up</b> for the party - jeans will be fine.  |
| dress up         | to wear a special costume for fun   | My children <b>dressed up</b> as vampires for Halloween.  |
| drop by/in       | to briefly and informally visit someone   | My daughter's <b>dropping by</b> later so I'm making her favourite cake.  |
| eat out          | to eat in a restaurant  | I'm too tired to cook; let's <b>eat out</b> tonight.  |
| end up           | to finally be in a place or situation   | We couldn't get a table anywhere so we <b>ended up</b> ordering a pizza!  |
| fall off         | to become smaller or lower [amount, rate or quality of something]   | Sales have been <b>falling off</b> recently.  |
| find out         | to get information because you want to know more about something  | Can you <b>find out</b> when the next train leaves, please?   |
| find out         | to learn a fact for the first time  | I just <b>found out</b> that Bill's leaving the company.  |
| get about/around | to be able to go to different places without difficulty, perhaps if you are old or ill                      | It's easier to <b>get around</b> in this town now there are more buses. My grandmother's finding it harder to get about these days. |
| get away         | to leave or escape from a person or place, sometimes when it is difficult to do this                        | We walked to the next beach to <b>get away</b> from the crowds. I worked through my lunch break so I can get away early tonight.    |
| get away         | to go somewhere to have a holiday, often because you need to rest   | I just needed to <b>get away</b> for a few days, so we had a long weekend in Prague.  |
| get back         | to return   | We <b>got back</b> from our holiday late last night.  |
| get by           | to be able to deal with a situation, but with difficulty because you only just have enough of what you need | We don't earn much money but we <b>get by</b> ; we can't afford holidays but we always pay our bills!                               |
| get off          | to leave a bus, train or plane, etc.  | You need to <b>get off</b> at the next stop and change to Line B.   |
| get off          | to leave a place, usually in order to start a journey   | Let's try to <b>get off</b> by 7.00, the roads will be clearer.   |
| get off          | to leave work, usually at the end of the day  | What time can you <b>get off</b> this afternoon? It would be nice to go for a drink.  |
| get off          | to escape (severe) punishment for something that you have been accused of in court                          | He was accused of dangerous driving but <b>got off</b> with a £100 fine.  |
| get on           | to enter a bus, train or plane etc.   | They <b>got on</b> the wrong bus and ended up in the town centre!   |
| get on           | to have a (good) relationship   | She doesn't <b>get on</b> with her sister at all.   |
| get on           | to manage or deal with a situation, especially successfully   | How are you <b>getting on</b> in your new job?  |
| get on           | to give your time to something and make progress with it, perhaps after stopping                            | I'll leave you to get on then, shall I? We don't have all day to finish this job, so can we just <b>get on</b> with it, please?     |
| get up           | to leave your bed after sleeping  | I always <b>get up</b> later at the weekend.  |

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| get through | to succeed in talking to someone on the phone  | I tried to call her but couldn't <b>get through</b> .   |
| give in     | to finally agree to what someone wants, after refusing for a period of time                      | OK, I <b>give in</b> ! I don't agree with you but I don't have the energy to argue.                         |
| give up     | to stop trying to do something before you have finished, usually because it is too difficult     | I tried everything to fix it myself but no luck. So I <b>gave up</b> and called technical support.          |
| go ahead    | to start to do something   | The management told us we can <b>go ahead</b> with the new system.  |
| go on       | to continue  | Let's <b>go on</b> to the next item.  |
| go without  | to experience a lack or be deprived of something   | I'm sorry but we've run out of sugar, so you'll have to <b>go without</b> for now.                          |
| hand over   | to give someone else control of or responsibility for something                                  | He decided to <b>hand over</b> to a new director.   |
| hang on     | to wait for a short time   | We <b>hung on</b> for a while but Jack didn't turn up so we started without him.                            |
| hang up     | to end a phone call  | He started shouting so I <b>hung up</b> !   |
| hold on     | to tell someone to wait for a short time   | <b>Hold on</b> , I'll just find out for you.  |
| keep on     | to do something repeatedly, or to persist  | The phone just <b>keeps on</b> ringing today! If you keep on trying, I'm sure you'll succeed.               |
| keep up     | to stay level or equal with someone or something   | You run too fast - I can't <b>keep up</b> !   |
| keep up     | to understand or deal with something that is happening or changing quickly                       | I can't <b>keep up</b> with new technology - as soon as I learn something new, something else changes.      |
| kick off    | to start [informal]  | Our marketing campaign <b>kicked off</b> last week.   |
| log in/on   | to start using a computer system or program by giving a password                                 | I can't <b>log on</b> - I've forgotten my password!   |
| log out/off | to stop a computer being connected to a system or program, usually when you want to stop working | For security purposes, make sure you <b>log off</b> when you've finished.                                   |
| look on     | to watch something happen but not become involved in it  | She <b>looked on</b> in surprise when her shy colleague stood up and spoke at a meeting for the first time. |
| look out    | to be careful and take notice  | <b>Look out</b> when you go in - there are some loose cables on the floor.                                  |
| pick up     | to increase or improve   | Sales aren't good at the moment, but we expect things to <b>pick up</b> in the summer.                      |
| pop in      | to briefly and informally visit someone  | If you have time later, <b>pop in</b> for a coffee.   |
| pull out    | to stop being involved in an activity  | A lack of funding leaves us with no choice but to <b>pull out</b> .   |
| press on    | to continue doing something in a determined way  | Gerald could tell that the manager didn't like his suggestions but he <b>pressed on</b> anyway.             |
| run out     | to finish, use or sell all of something, so that there is none left                              | I need to get more coffee - we've <b>run out</b> .  |

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| show off   | to do something in order to attract attention or admiration, possibly something that others will find annoying | She bought that sports car just to <b>show off</b> .   |
| show up    | to arrive somewhere in order to join a group of people, especially late or unexpectedly                        | We told everyone it started at 7.00 but most of them didn't <b>show up</b> until after 9.00.   |
| slow down  | to reduce speed  | You need to <b>slow down</b> as you approach the traffic lights.   |
| slow down  | to be less active and relax more   | The doctor told him to <b>slow down</b> or he'd have a heart attack.   |
| switch off | to stop giving your attention to someone or something  | The presentation was so long that eventually I just <b>switched off</b> . A lot of people in stressful jobs find it difficult to <b>switch off</b> when they get home. |
| take off   | to suddenly start to be successful or popular  | We were worried at the beginning of the year, but in March, sales really <b>took off</b> .   |
| turn out   | to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result, perhaps an unexpected one                        | The seminar <b>turned out</b> to be more enjoyable than we expected.   |
| turn up    | to arrive, either somewhere where people have been invited, or unexpectedly                                    | How many people <b>turned up</b> at the meeting?<br>You'll never believe who <b>turned up</b> in my office yesterday - Tim! I haven't seen him for years.              |
| turn in    | to go to bed at the end of the day   | I'm really tired; I think I'll <b>turn in</b> .  |
| wake up    | to become awake after sleeping   | It's difficult to <b>wake up</b> on Mondays.   |
| wear off   | to gradually disappear [a feeling or effect]   | The anaesthetic <b>wears off</b> after about an hour.  |
| work out   | to happen or develop in a particular way   | I hope your new job <b>works out</b> well for you.   |
| work out   | to exercise in order to improve the strength or appearance of your body  | You look great. <b>Have</b> you been <b>working out</b> ?  |

## Transitive verbs -- verbs that take an object

NOTE THAT two-word transitive phrasal verbs vary according to where the object can or cannot be placed. There are three groups:

### <color blue>Group 1</color>

The object can be placed between the verb and the particle, OR after the verb and particle.

- I **picked my friend up** from the station.
- I **picked up my friend** from the station.

Pronouns can only be used between the verb and the particle.

- I **picked him up**.
- I picked up **him**.

| Verb                          | Meaning  | Examples  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| block something out           | to arrange to have time for something by planning in advance   | She <b>blocked out</b> an hour every day in her diary to talk to her team.  |
| block something out           | to prevent the ability to receive or remember something  | Some people are able to <b>block out</b> every sound and distraction when they're working.  |
| break something down          | to separate something into several parts   | To make it easier to understand the statistics, I'm going to <b>break them down</b> into clear and specific units.  |
| bring something about         | to cause something to happen   | We're working hard to <b>bring about</b> some changes in the company.   |
| bring something or someone in | to attract someone or something to a place or business   | We're hoping that the price reductions <b>will bring</b> more customers <b>in</b> . The new sales team <b>has brought in</b> a lot of new business.   |
| bring something or someone in | to introduce something or someone new, often a law or a product  | The government <b>has brought in</b> new tax rules. The company's getting bigger so we're <b>bringing in</b> an additional senior manager.  |
| bring something off           | to succeed in doing something difficult  | Terry was nervous about giving the presentation but he <b>brought</b> it <b>off</b> without any problems.   |
| bring something up            | to introduce a topic in order to discuss it  | We need some better equipment - let's <b>bring</b> that <b>up</b> at the next meeting.  |
| buy someone or something out  | to buy a part of a company or building from someone else so that you own all of it                       | The bank announced that it wanted to <b>buy out</b> the publicly owned shares of its stock. The group owns most of the five-storey building, and now they want to <b>buy out</b> the owner of the second floor. |
| call something off            | to cancel an event or activity   | They decided to <b>call off</b> the match because of the weather.   |
| carry something out           | to do or complete something, especially that you have said you would do or that you have been told to do | We're <b>carrying out</b> tests to find out what's causing the problem. We need to <b>carry out</b> a customer satisfaction survey.   |
| chase someone up              | to ask someone to do something that they promised to do but that have not yet done                       | If you don't hear from the builders this week, make sure you <b>chase</b> them <b>up</b> .  |
| cross something off           | to remove something from a list by drawing a line through it   | Wendy can't go to the seminar after all so you can <b>cross</b> her name <b>off</b> .   |
| cross something out           | to draw a line through something you have written, usually because it is wrong                           | If you make a mistake on the form, just <b>cross</b> it <b>out</b> and write it again.  |
| cut something out             | to stop eating, drinking or doing something, usually to improve your health                              | Her doctor advised her to <b>cut out</b> caffeine.  |
| draw something up             | to prepare something, usually official, in writing   | I've <b>drawn up</b> a list of candidates that I'd like to interview.   |

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| drop someone or something off  | to take someone or something to a particular place, usually by car, as you travel to a different place  | I'll <b>drop</b> you <b>off</b> at the station on my way to work.   |
| even something out             | to become equal, or to make something equal   | It's not fair that Carl has more clients than you, so let's give you two more and <b>even</b> things <b>out</b> a bit.  |
| fill something in/out          | to write the necessary information on an official document  | We asked our customers to <b>fill in</b> a questionnaire so we could get some feedback.   |
| follow something up            | to find out more about something, or take more action connected with it                                 | The idea sounded interesting so I decided to <b>follow</b> it <b>up</b> .   |
| give something away            | to tell people something secret, often without intending to   | His retirement party was supposed to be a surprise, but Simon <b>gave</b> it <b>away</b> .  |
| give something up              | to stop doing or using something, often a habit   | He <b>gave up</b> smoking on his doctor's advice.   |
| hand something in/out          | to give something to someone in a position of authority for their attention                             | We <b>handed in</b> the report before the deadline.   |
| hand something over            | to pass responsibility for something to someone   | The founder <b>handed</b> the company <b>over</b> to his sons.  |
| keep something down            | to control the amount or number of something and prevent it from increasing                             | We need to work hard to <b>keep</b> our prices <b>down</b> . I'm going to make a call, so can you <b>keep</b> the noise <b>down</b> , please?                         |
| keep something up              | to make something continue at its present level and not allow it to fall                                | You're all doing a great job - <b>keep</b> it <b>up</b> !   |
| kick something off             | to start something  | Let's <b>kick</b> the meeting <b>off</b> earlier today.   |
| lay someone off                | to stop employing someone, especially for reasons not connected to the worker's performance             | The company reluctantly <b>laid off</b> 100 people when they had to move to smaller premises.   |
| leave someone or something out | to not include something or someone; to omit  | Leila feels that she's <b>left out</b> of all the major decision making. You can <b>leave</b> last year's figures <b>out</b> of the report - they're not relevant.    |
| let someone down               | to disappoint someone, often because you have failed to do what you promised                            | He said he'd come with me, but he <b>let</b> me <b>down</b> at the last minute!   |
| look over something            | to quickly examine something  | I asked Marie to <b>look over</b> these figures for me and see if there are any obvious mistakes.   |
| look something up              | to check a fact or get information about something from the appropriate place - a book or database etc. | If you're not sure what a word means, <b>look</b> it <b>up</b> in a dictionary.   |
| make something out             | Manage with some difficulty to see or hear something clearly  | My doctor's handwriting is terrible; I can't <b>make out</b> what he's written. We were sitting at the back, so it was hard to <b>make out</b> what they were saying. |
| make something up              | to invent something, such as an excuse or a story, sometimes in order to deceive                        | You don't have to tell the truth in a speaking exam - you can just <b>make</b> something <b>up</b> .  |

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| pass something on             | to give something to someone, after someone else gave it to you, or tell someone something you have heard | Can you <b>pass</b> this report <b>on</b> to Amanda when you've read it, please? The senior managers told the team leaders but they didn't <b>pass</b> the news <b>on</b> to the workers. |
| pick someone or something up  | to lift someone or something using your hands   | I found a €20 note in the street and <b>picked</b> it <b>up</b> .   |
| pick someone or something up  | to collect, or to go and get, someone or something  | I always <b>pick</b> the children <b>up</b> from school. I need to <b>pick up</b> a parcel from the post office.  |
| point something out           | to give someone information, sometimes because you think they don't know or have forgotten it             | He was planning a meeting for next week until I <b>pointed out</b> that half the team will be on holiday.   |
| put something back            | to change the time or date of an event so that it happens later than originally planned                   | We've <b>put</b> the trip <b>back</b> until June now because two people will be on holiday in May.  |
| put something back            | to make something happen later than it should happen  | The fire <b>put back</b> the opening of the factory by several months.  |
| put someone down              | to make someone feel silly or not important by criticising them   | I know that Terry made a mistake, but his boss shouldn't have <b>put</b> him <b>down</b> in front of his colleagues.  |
| put something off             | to delay an event or activity until a later time or date  | Can we <b>put</b> our meeting <b>off</b> until next week? I'm really busy at the moment.  |
| put something in              | to submit something, to offer it for consideration, often a request                                       | She <b>put in</b> an application to attend the seminar.   |
| put something down            | to record something in writing  | Can you all <b>put down</b> your ideas and let me have a list for the next meeting?   |
| put something on              | to place an item of clothing, jewellery etc. on your body   | She <b>put on</b> a scarf before she left because it was colder.  |
| put something together        | to prepare a piece of work by collecting ideas and suggestions and organising them                        | The management <b>are putting together</b> a plan to rescue the company.  |
| see someone off               | Go to their point of departure with someone who is leaving  | I <b>saw off</b> our visitors at the station.   |
| see someone out               | to go with someone to the door when they're leaving   | I'll <b>see</b> you <b>out</b> - it's not easy to find your way back to reception from here.  |
| set something aside           | to save something for a particular purpose  | He <b>sets aside</b> some time every day to talk to the new recruits.   |
| set something up              | to establish a new company, organisation, system, etc.  | She plans to <b>set up</b> her own business.  |
| set something up              | to arrange for an event or activity to happen   | We need to <b>set up</b> a meeting to discuss the changes.  |
| show someone or something off | to show something or someone you are proud of to other people, so that they will admire it or them        | He invited us to dinner because he wanted to <b>show off</b> his new car!   |
| sort something out            | to successfully deal with a problem or situation  | There was a mix-up with the guest list but Molly <b>sorted</b> it <b>out</b> .  |
| take someone on               | to recruit someone  | We've got too much work at the moment so we're <b>taking on</b> another assistant.  |
| take something off            | to remove an item of clothing or jewellery, etc. from your body   | I <b>took</b> my coat <b>off</b> because it was really warm.  |

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| take something off        | to remove something from something   | I'm buying this as a gift so could you <b>take off</b> the price tag, please?            |
| take something up         | to take an interest in and start to do something [a sport or leisure activity] | I'm not very good at golf - I only took it up recently.                                  |
| think something over      | to consider an idea or plan carefully before making a decision                 | They offered him a job but he's going to think it over before accepting.                 |
| throw something away      | to get rid of something you don't want any more                                | We threw away the old chairs and bought new ones.  |
| turn something down       | to refuse an offer   | He decided to turn the job down because there was too much travelling.                   |
| switch/turn something off | to stop something working by using by a tap, switch or button etc.             | Don't forget to turn off the lights before you go.                                       |
| switch/turn something on  | to cause something to start working by using by a tap, switch or button etc.   | Can you turn the radio on? I want to listen to the news.                                 |
| try something out         | to use something to discover if it works or if you like it                     | Don't forget to try out the audio-visual equipment before the presentation.              |
| try something on          | to put on a piece of clothing to see if it fits you or if you like it          | I loved the dress when I saw it but I tried it on and it wasn't the right colour for me. |
| use something up          | to finish a supply of something  | I can't take any more days off - I've used up all my holiday for this year.              |
| wake someone up           | cause someone to become awake after sleeping                                   | It's difficult to wake my son up for school on Mondays.                                  |
| wrap something up         | to complete or conclude something such as a discussion [informal]              | It's getting late so let's wrap it up now and make a decision.                           |

## Group 2

The object has to be placed BETWEEN the verb and particle.

- I backed my boss up because I think he's right.
- I backed up my boss because I think he's right.

Both nouns and pronouns can be used.

- I backed my boss up.
- I backed her up.

| Verb             | Meaning  | Examples  |
|------------------|--|---|
| back someone up  | to support or help someone                       | I know you're nervous about telling the boss so I'll come with you and back you up. |
| back someone up  | to say that someone is telling the truth         | I know you don't believe me, but ask Claire - she'll back me up on this.            |
| count someone in | to include someone in an activity or arrangement | If you're going out to lunch today, count me in.                                    |

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| draw someone into something / in | to make someone become involved in a conversation or situation, perhaps difficult or unpleasant [often passive] | They tried to draw me into their argument, but I refused. I tried not to watch the film but I got drawn in! |
| get something across             | to manage to make someone understand or believe something   | It's important that we get this message across to all the staff.  |
| show someone round/around        | to lead someone through a place   | After lunch, I'll show you round the factory, and the town too later if you have time.                      |

### Group 3

The object has to be placed AFTER the verb and particle.

- I can count on Lucy to deal with the problem.
- I can count Lucy on to deal with the problem.

Both nouns and pronouns can be used.

- I can count on Lucy.
- I can count on her.

| Verb                             | Meaning   | Examples   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| break into something             | to begin being successful in a particular type of work, activity or area                  | We're hoping to break into the Asian market next year. After a successful career as an actor, he broke into politics and became an MP. |
| come across something or someone | to find something or someone by chance  | I was looking for my glasses when I came across some old photos.   |
| come to something                | to be a particular total when numbers or amounts are added together:                      | Altogether, the accommodation and food came to £600. When we added up the number of guests, it came to over 200.                       |
| count on someone                 | to be confident that you can depend on someone  | I can always count on my team mates in an emergency  |
| deal with something              | to take action in order to achieve something or to solve a problem                        | General enquiries are dealt with by our head office.   |
| deal with someone or something   | to do business with a person or company   | I prefer to deal with the same salesperson each time.  |
| gain on someone or something     | to get nearer to someone or something that is ahead in a pursuit or competitive situation | Our competitors are still selling more than us, but this month's figures show that we're starting to gain on them.                     |
| get at something                 | to suggest or express something in a way that is not direct or clear                      | You mean I shouldn't come tonight - is that what you're getting at?  |
| get onto someone                 | to contact someone in order to ask them for help or to do something for you               | Can you get onto the supplier? The delivery is two days late.  |
| get onto something               | to start talking about a subject  | Let's get onto the next item on our agenda. How did we get onto cheese?!   |

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| get over something                | to recover from an unusual or upsetting experience, or an illness  | It took her a long time to get over the flu.  |
| get through something             | to use (all of a supply) of something  | We're getting through a lot of coffee at the moment because we're working longer hours.   |
| go after something                | to try to get something  | Are you planning to go after Paul's job when he leaves?   |
| go over something                 | to examine or look at something in a careful or detailed way   | I went over my report to check for spelling mistakes before I handed it in.   |
| hang on something                 | to listen very carefully to someone's speech   | She hung on every word of the presentation.   |
| hang onto something               | to keep something, often when you have to make an effort to do this  | The President tried, but failed, to hang onto his reputation after the scandal.   |
| look after someone or something   | to take care of someone or something   | We looked after their cat when they were on holiday.  |
| look after something              | to be in charge of something   | John's going to look after the accounts while I'm away.   |
| look for someone/something        | to try to find something or someone  | I'm looking for my keys - they're not where I usually keep them.  |
| look into something               | to investigate, or try to find out about something   | I don't know why there was a delay, but I'm going to look into it.  |
| look on/upon someone or something | to consider or think of someone or something in a certain way  | Let's look on it as a challenge, rather than a problem!   |
| look through something            | to read something quickly, not every word, especially to find information you need                                   | I looked through these files but I couldn't find the figures for January.   |
| pop into somewhere                | to visit there briefly, usually for a purpose  | Can you pop into the post office on your way home and get some stamps?  |
| rely on someone or something      | to need a particular thing or the help and support of someone in order to continue, to work correctly, or to succeed | The success of this project relies on everyone making an effort. I'm relying on the garage to fix the car by tomorrow.  |
| rely on someone or something      | to trust someone or something or to expect him, her, or it to behave in a particular way                             | I can always rely on Jamie to cover for me when I'm on holiday - I never come back to any problems. Don't rely on finding me here when you get back - I might have to go out. |
| run into someone                  | to meet someone you know]] when you are not expecting to   | I ran into an old school friend the other day.  |
| see to something                  | to do something that has to be done  | The printer's not working; Jeremy's going to see to it later.   |
| stand by someone                  | to support or remain loyal to someone, especially in a time of difficulty  | We all stood by our team leader when he had family problems and had to take some time off.  |

|                     |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| stand by something  | to show that you still believe or support something                        | We stand by our view that rates may need to rise to 5% next year. The Government failed to stand by its election promises.         |
| stand for something | to represent something   | FYI stands for 'for your information'.   |
| stand for something | to support or represent certain principles or values                       | This presidential candidate stands for diversity and opportunities for everyone. Our company stands for quality and affordability. |
| stick to something  | to continue with a subject, activity, or plan without changing             | He never sticks to the agenda at meetings - he always brings up new topics.  |
| take after someone  | to be similar to an older member of your family in appearance or character | He takes after his mum - they're both tall with brown hair.  |
| turn over something | to make a certain amount of money during a stated period [a business]      | We turned over £2m in our first year but there was very little profit because of the expenses.                                     |

### Three-word phrasal verbs

| Verb                     | Meaning  | Examples  |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| check up on someone      | to make sure that someone is doing what they should be doing, or that everything is alright with them                | I haven't heard from my son for a few weeks - I'm going to check up on him.   |
| come down with something | to begin to suffer from an illness   | I think I'm coming down with a cold.  |
| come up with something   | to suggest or think of an idea or plan   | He came up with a great idea for a new marketing campaign.  |
| get away with something  | to escape blame or punishment when you do something wrong, or to avoid harm or criticism for something you did       | She thought she could get away with cheating on her taxes   |
| get back at someone      | to punish someone because that person has done something wrong to you  | I think he's trying to get back at her for what she said in the meeting.  |
| get back to someone      | to communicate with someone again in order to give information, or because you were not able to speak to them before | I couldn't answer her question so I'm going to look into it and get back to her later. Sorry I can't take your call; please leave a message and I'll get back to you. |
| get down to something    | to start to direct your efforts and attention towards something  | I've got a lot of work to do, but I can't seem to get down to it.   |
| get out of something     | to avoid doing something that you do not want to do, or to escape responsibility for something                       | If I can get out of going to the meeting tonight, I will.   |
| get up to something      | to do something, often something that other people would disapprove of [informal]                                    | What did you get up to at the weekend? I wonder what the children are getting up to in the garden - let's go and see.   |

|                                    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| get round/around to something      | to do something that you have intended to do for a long time                    | I still haven't got round to writing that report.   |
| go along with something or someone | to support an idea, or to agree with someone's opinion                          | Katie's already agreed, but it's going to be hard to persuade Mike to go along with it.                           |
| grow out of something              | to stop having an interest in something or stop doing it as you become older    | My son said he wants to be an astronaut but I expect he'll grow out of it.  |
| grow out of something              | to become too tall or too big to wear or use something                          | I give my children's clothes to their younger cousins when they grow out of them.                                 |
| look back on something             | to think about past events  | We can look back on our past mistakes and learn something from them.  |
| look down on someone               | to think that you are better than someone                                       | His colleagues look down on him because he didn't go to one of the top schools.                                   |
| look out for someone or something  | to look carefully around you in order to try to find a specific person or thing | Take the second turning on the left and look out for a big red building on the right; my office is opposite that. |
| look out for someone               | to take care of someone and make sure that they are treated well                | My friend's son is starting at my company next week. It's his first job and she's asked me to look out for him.   |
| look up to someone                 | to admire and respect someone, usually someone older                            | My children look up to their grandfather because he's had such an interesting and productive life.                |
| look forward to something          | to feel pleasure because an event or activity is going to happen                | We're all looking forward to our holiday.   |
| make up for something              | to compensate for something missing, lost, or lacking                           | I've been working late most evenings but I'm taking two days off next week to make up for it.                     |
| put something down to something    | to think that a problem or situation is caused by a particular thing            | I put the failure of the project down to bad management.  |
| put in for something               | to make an official request to have or do something                             | I'm putting in for a job at the hospital. Richard's finally put in for his driving test.                          |
| put up with someone or something   | to accept or tolerate an unpleasant situation or person                         | I don't know how you put up with your boss - he's so rude!  |

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Last update: 2023/02/14 14:21

