

Phrasal Verb Dictionary

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

Example:

I ran into my teacher at the movies last night.

NOTE:

You didn't physically run into your teacher, but you met your teacher unexpectedly.

2. A phrasal verb can be **transitive** or **intransitive**.

A **transitive** verb is followed by an object.

Example:

I made up the story.

An intransitive verb is not followed by an object.

Example:

He suddenly showed up.

3. Transitive phrasal verbs can be **separable** or **non-separable**.

Separable verbs take the object between the verb and the preposition:

Example:

I talked into my mother letting me borrow the car. **Not Correct**

I talked my mother into letting me borrow the car. **Correct**

Note: "talk into" is separable

Non-separable verbs take the object after the preposition:

Example:

I ran my sister into. **Not Correct**

I ran into my sister. **Correct**

Note: "run into" is non-separable

Some phrasal verbs can take a preposition in both places.

Example:

I made an excuse up. **Correct**

I made up an excuse. **Correct**

Note: make up is both separable and non-separable

4. In this phrasal verb dictionary, the following symbols will be used with transitive phrasal verbs to indicate whether they are separable, non-separable or take prepositions in both places:

+ **non-separable**

Example: run into +

* **separable**

Example: talk * into

* + **Indicates that an object can be placed in both positions**

Example: made * up +

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
act up	behave or function improperly	I think I need to take my car to the mechanic because it's acting up again.
add * up +	calculate a sum	I added up the receipts and it totaled \$135.46.
add up to +	equal an amount	The total expenses added up to \$325.00.
add up	make sense	Her story doesn't add up. I think she is lying.
ask * out +	invite on a date	I can't believe that Joe finally asked me out on a date!
ask * over +	invite to one's home	Why don't we ask the Johnsons over for dinner?

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
back down	stop defending your opinion in a debate	Jane never backs down. She always wins arguments.
back out	not keep (a promise, agreement, deal)	Sam backed out at the last second.
back out of +	not keep (a promise, agreement, deal)	Sam backed out of the agreement at the last second.
back * up +	give support	You need examples to back up your opinion.
back up	move backwards, reverse	Could you back up a little so I can open this drawer.
bawl * out	criticize, reprimand (inf.)	She bawled him out for arriving late.
bear down on +		

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
call for +	require (as in a recipe)	This recipe calls for milk, not water.
call * off +	cancel something	They called the picnic off because of the rain.
call * off +	order to stop (an invasion, guard dogs)	He called off the dogs when he saw it was his neighbor.
call on +	visit	Mark called on Naomi while he was in town.
call on +	invite someone to speak in a meeting or a classroom	Professor Tanzer called on Tim to answer the question.
call * up +	telephone	I called Sam up to see if he wanted to go to the movies.
calm * down +	make someone relax	You can calm the baby down by rocking her gently.
care for +	nurse someone or something	He cared for the bird until its wing healed.
care for +	like someone or something	I don't care for sour cream on my potato.
carry on +	continue (a conversation, a game)	Please, carry on. I didn't mean to interrupt you.
carry on about +	continue in an annoying way	He kept carrying on about how much money he makes.

carry on with +	continue	I want you to carry on with the project while I am out of town.
carry * out +	complete and/or accomplish something	The secret agent carried out his orders exactly as planned.
carry * over +	continue on a subsequent day, page, etc.	The meeting carried over into lunch time.
catch on	slowly start to understand (inf.)	He caught on after a few minutes.
catch up	make up for lost time	I will never catch up. I am too behind in my work.
catch up with +	speed up to be at the same place as a person or thing in front of you	I had to run to catch up with the others.
catch up on +	become up-to-date	I need to catch up on world events. I haven't seen the news in ages.
check out		

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
die away	diminish in intensity	The applause died away after 5 minutes.
die down	diminish in intensity	The controversy about the president's affair finally died down.
die off/out	become extinct	Whales are in danger of dying off.
disagree with +	cause to feel sick due to food or drink	Spicy food disagrees with me.
do away with +	abolish	Some Americans want to do away with the death penalty.
do * over +	repeat	You made many mistakes, so I want you to do the report over.
do without +	manage without something one wants or needs	I couldn't do without a car in California.
draw * up +	create (a contract)	Let's draw an agreement up before we go any further with this project.
dress * down	reprimand severely	The mother dressed her son down for skipping school.
dress down	dress casually	I am dressing down because we're going to a barbecue by the beach.
dress * up +	decorate	You could dress this house up with some bright colors
dress up	wear elegant clothes	She always dresses up at work.
drive * back +	repulse	The invaders were driven back by the army.
drop in	visit someone unexpectedly	Meg dropped in yesterday after dinner.
drop in on +	visit someone unexpectedly	Let's drop in on Julie since we're driving by her house.
drop out	quit an organized activity	Yuri isn't on the team any more. He dropped out.
drop out of +	quit an organized activity (school)	It's difficult to get a good job if you drop out of high school.

drop over	visit someone casually	Drop over any time you feel like talking.
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Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
eat away	gradually destroy, erode	The heavy rains ate away at the sandstone cliffs.
eat * up +	devour	Ken ate the cookies up.
eat in	eat inside the home	We usually eat in instead of going out for dinner.
eat out	eat outside the home	They eat out once a week.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
face up to +	acknowledge something difficult or embarrassing	I'll never be able to face up to my colleagues after getting so drunk last night at the work party.
fall back on +	be able to use in case of emergency	Yuki can fall back on her degree in biology if she doesn't succeed in her acting career.
fall behind	go slower than scheduled, lag	Hurry up or you will fall behind!
fall behind in +	go slower than scheduled, lag	Cheryl has missed several days of school and now she is falling behind in her homework.
fall off	decrease	Interest in the project fell off when they realized it wouldn't be profitable.
fall out with +	have an argument with	I had a falling out with my sister last month and we haven't talked to each other since.
fall through	fail to happen	Unfortunately, my trip to Indonesia fell through because I couldn't save enough money.
feel * up +	grope	She sued her boss for sexual harassment after he felt her up.
feel up to +	have the energy to do something	I don't feel up to going out tonight because I had a long day at work.
figure on +	expect	Where do you figure on living when you move to the the U.S.A.?
figure * out +	solve something, understand	I finally figured the joke out. Now I understand why everybody was laughing.
figure * up +	calculate	I need to figure my expenses up before I give you an estimate.
fill * in +	complete	Don't forget to fill in all the blanks on the application.
fill in	substitute	Who is going to fill in while you're gone?
fill in for +	substitute for	Miguel filled in for me at the meeting yesterday because I was sick.
fill * out +	complete (an application)	I filled out an application to rent the apartment last week.
fill out	mature, get breasts	Now that you're filling out honey, we need to get you a bra.
fill * up +	fill to the top	Fill the car up with unleaded gas, please.
find out +	discover	You will never find out all my secrets!
find out	discover	Vicky's parents are going to be so mad when they find out she got a tattoo.

fix * up +	repair, renovate, remodel	My neighbors are fixing their house up.
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Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
get * across +	cause to be understood	It's difficult to get humor across in another language.
get ahead	make progress	I can't get ahead even though I work two jobs.
get ahead of +	surpass	You need to work overtime in order to get ahead of schedule.
get along	have a good relationship	Do you and your sister get along?
get along with +	have a good relationship	Giovanna doesn't get along with her two brothers.
get around +	avoid someone or something	Some people get around paying taxes by hiring a good accountant.
get around	go many places	It's easy to get around town with public transportation.
get away	escape	The bank robbers got away.
get away with +	do something against the rules or illegal and not get caught or punished	My sister gets away with everything!
get by	survive without having the things you need or want	I lost my job, so I am having a hard time getting by this year.
get by on +	survive with minimal resources	It's nearly impossible to get by on making minimum wage.
get by with +	manage with	You don't need a computer. You can get by with the typewriter.
get down to +	get serious about a topic	Enough small talk. Let's get down to business.
get in +	enter (a car, a small boat)	Get in the front seat. You will have more leg room.
get in	enter	Get in. I will give you a ride to school
get * off +	send (a package)	I finally got my sister's birthday present off yesterday.
get * off	remove (a spider from your shirt)	Can you get this spider off my shirt?
get off +	leave (a bus, plane, train, boat)	We need to get off the bus at the next stop.
get off	leave	It's dangerous to sit on the roof. Get off!
get off	idiomatic phrase - How does he justify saying that?!	Where does he get off saying that?!
get * on	put on (clothes)	You should get your jacket on because it's going to be cold.
get on	enter (a bus, train), mount (a horse, a bike)	The train is leaving. Quick, get on!
get on +	enter (a bus, train), mount (a horse, a bike)	Get on my bike and I will give you a ride home.
get on	have a good relationship	Natasha doesn't get on with her co-workers.
get on with +	have a good relationship	Do you get on with your neighbors?
get on with +	continue an activity	Now that the police have left, let's get on with the

		party!
get out of +	exit (a small boat, car, an enclosed area)	I fell into the water when I tried to get out of the canoe.
get over +	recover (a cold, a disease, an ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend)	Jennifer still hasn't gotten over her breakup with Peter.
get through +	complete	We will never get through all of these boxes by 9:00 PM.
get through +	penetrate	We need a stronger drill to get through this wall.
get through	penetrate	The door was jammed, so we couldn't get through.
get through (with) +	finish	Have you gotten through with your homework yet?
get through to +	make contact	It's hard to get through to Janet because her telephone line is always busy.
get * up	cause someone to rise (from a sitting position or a lying position)	Ahmed got Abdul up at 5:30 in the morning by turning the music up really loud.
get up	rise (from sitting position or a bed)	What time did you get up this morning?
give * away +	give something without asking for anything in exchange	Why did Nancy give all of her furniture away?
give * away +	betray (a secret)	We are having a surprise party for Susan next Saturday, so don't give our surprise away by acting suspicious.
give * back +	return something you borrowed	When are you going to give that book back to your teacher?
give in	stop trying	Never give in! You can do it!
give off +	release (a smell, light)	That white flower gives off a beautiful smell.
give * out +	distribute	I earn extra money by giving out brochures on the street.
give out	become very tired (inf.)	I hope this car doesn't give out in the middle of the desert.
give * up +	surrender something	The police told the thief to give his gun up.
give up	surrender	Never give up learning English!
go back	return	When are you going back to your house?
go back on +	not keep (one's word, a promise)	Don't trust him. He always goes back on his promises.
go for +	try to achieve	Our team is going for the gold medal in the Olympics.
go for	idiomatic phrase - I am craving pepperoni pizza.	I could go for pepperoni pizza.
go in for +	participate (inf.)	Are you going to go in for soccer this year at school?
go off	explode	The bomb could go off at any moment.
go off	become angry	Maria went off last night after I told her about

		losing her bike.
go on	continue	Please, go on. Don't let me interrupt you.
go on	happen	This place is a mess! What went on here last night?
go on with +	continue (a plan, a conversation)	I think we should go on with the meeting and stop wasting time.
go out	stop burning (a fire)	The fire went out after three days.
go over +	review	Do you usually go over your notes before class?
go over	succeed	That didn't go over well.
go through with +	persevere despite difficulties	I have decided to go through with the operation.
go with +	match (clothing)	That shirt doesn't go with those pants.
go with +	accompany a person	I am going with Alejandro to the party.
go with +	have a boyfriend/girlfriend	I am going with Yuri.
go without +	abstain from something you want or need	A person can go without water for three days.
grow up	mature	Your brother needs to grow up and start thinking about his future.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
hand * back +	return	Is the teacher going to hand back our tests today?
hand * down +	pronounce formally	The president is going to hand his decision down on health care tonight.
hand * down +	give as an inheritance	When my clothes got too small for me as a child, I handed them down to my sister.
hand * in +	submit	I have to hand in an offer by March 12.
hand * out +	distribute	We should hand the concert fliers out at school.
hand * over +	relinquish control of	Hand your car keys over. You're too drunk to drive.
hang around +	stay in a place for fun (inf.)	Maria and Salvador usually hang around the beach after school.
hang around	stay in a place for fun	Those guys just hang around all day.
hang * up +	suspend (clothes on a hanger)	You can hang your jacket up in the front closet.
hang up	put down the telephone receiver	Don't hang up. I'm going to change phones.
hang out +	stay in a place for fun (inf.)	Let's go hang out at the mall tonight.
hang out	stay in a place for fun	What are you doing? - - I'm just hanging out.
have * on +	wear	Do you have your hiking boots on?
have * over	invite guests to your home	Why don't we have Mr. and Mrs. Jones over for dinner tonight.
hear from +	receive news from (a letter, an e-mail)	Have you heard from Steve lately?
hear of +	know about something or somebody	Have you heard of chocolate covered ants?

hit on +	find on accident	I hit on the idea while watching the Simpsons show.
hit on +	flirt with	Jay's friend Marc was trying to hit on my sister last night.
hold * back +	restrain	The police held the demonstrators back while the politicians entered the building.
hold back	not allow to advance in school	The teacher held Frank back a year, so he couldn't enter fifth grade.
hold * off +	restrain	Mr. Johnson held the dog off while we crossed the yard.
hold off on +	delay	We should hold off on making dinner until your parents arrive.
hold on	grasp tightly	Hold on tight! The roller coaster is about to take off.
hold on	tell someone to wait on the telephone	Hold on a minute. I'll get Carol.
hold on to +	grasp tightly	Make sure you hold on to the hand rail as you walk down the stairs.
hold out	not give in, continue to resist	Stop holding out and tell us where you found all of these old records.
hold out against +	not give in, resist	They held out against enemy attack.
hold * up +	delay (a flight, traffic);	The accident held traffic up for an hour.
hold * up +	rob (a bank, a person) with a weapon	Five men held the bank up yesterday.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
iron * out	eliminate	We need to have a meeting this week in order to iron out the distribution problems.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
jack up +	to raise	We need to jack up the car before we change the tire.
joke around	to be humorous	Mike is always joking around at work.
jump in	enter a conversation	Feel free to jump in at any moment while we are talking.
jump to +	make a quick, poorly thought out decision	You shouldn't jump to conclusions.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
keep at +	not give up (an activity), to persevere	You should keep at your studies.
keep on	continue	He kept on talking after everybody asked him to stop.
keep to +	continue, persist in (an activity)	Everybody said she would never finish the puzzle, but she kept to it until it was done.
keep up	stay on the required schedule	You have to keep up if you want to work here.
keep * up	continue	You are doing a great job! Keep it up.

+		
keep up with +	stay on schedule with (a person, the workload, homework)	I have so much reading that I can't keep up with the writing exercises.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
lay away +	save for the future	Why don't you lay away your wedding outfit?
lay down +	establish (laws, rules)	Lori lays down the law in her class. English only!
lay in on +	scold or criticize severely	My mom really laid in on me when I got home at 4:00 in the morning last night.
lay into +	scold or criticize severely	I saw Reto's mom lay into him when he came home late last night.
lay * off +	suspend someone from a job (during a slow period)	The company was losing money, so they had to lay off 100 workers.
lay * out +	arrange	Why don't we lay the pieces of the table out before we put it together.
leave * out +	not include, omit	Why did your parents leave you out of their vacation plans?
let * down	disappoint	I felt let down when I didn't receive a birthday card from my sister.
let * down	lengthen (pants in sewing)	My uncle is a tailor, so he can let your pants down.
let * out	release	I am happy my brother was let out of prison early.
let * out	make bigger (in sewing)	I need to let out this skirt because I have gained weight.
let up	weaken in intensity	I told her NO a thousand times, but she won't let up.
lie down	rest, recline	I need to lie down before we go out tonight.
lie down on +	rest, recline (on a couch, bed)	I'm going to lie down on the sofa for a while.
lie with +	be decided by	Whether or not you can go to the party lies with your father.
light * up +	illuminate	Let's get some candles to light this room up.
light up +	to smoke	Do you have to light up another cigarette? I thought you were trying to cut down.
live * down +	live in a way that a shameful or embarrassing event is forgotten	Jose will never live down singing that song at the karaoke bar.
live on +	survive from	I could live on bread and cheese.
live up to +	keep a standard	It would be hard to live up to her parent's expectations. They are so demanding.
look after +	take care of (a child, a house, a pet)	When my sister goes on vacation, I look after her dog.
look back on +	to remember nostalgically	When I look back on my childhood, I often feel angry.
look down on +	see as inferior	She's so conceited. She looks down on everybody else.
look for +	to seek or search for	I'm looking for my keys. Have you seen them?
look forward to	anticipate with pleasure	I am looking forward to traveling to New York

+		next year.
look into +	investigate	The police are looking into the murder.
look on	observe as a spectator	Everybody just looked on as the two men fought.
look * over +	examine, review	When I'm camping, I look my shoes over before I put them on.
look * up +	search for (in a dictionary)	I takes time to look up new vocabulary words.
look * up +	locate and visit	If you ever travel to California, you should look me up.
look up to +	respect, admire someone	He looks up to his father.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
lay away +	save for the future	Why don't you lay away your wedding outfit?
lay down +	establish (laws, rules)	Lori lays down the law in her class. English only!
lay in on +	scold or criticize severely	My mom really laid in on me when I got home at 4:00 in the morning last night.
lay into +	scold or criticize severely	I saw Reto's mom lay into him when he came home late last night.
lay * off +	suspend someone from a job (during a slow period)	The company was losing money, so they had to lay off 100 workers.
lay * out +	arrange	Why don't we lay the pieces of the table out before we put it together.
leave * out +	not include, omit	Why did your parents leave you out of their vacation plans?
let * down	disappoint	I felt let down when I didn't receive a birthday card from my sister.
let * down	lengthen (pants in sewing)	My uncle is a tailor, so he can let your pants down.
let * out	release	I am happy my brother was let out of prison early.
let * out	make bigger (in sewing)	I need to let out this skirt because I have gained weight.
let up	weaken in intensity	I told her NO a thousand times, but she won't let up.
lie down	rest, recline	I need to lie down before we go out tonight.
lie down on +	rest, recline (on a couch, bed)	I'm going to lie down on the sofa for a while.
lie with +	be decided by	Whether or not you can go to the party lies with your father.
light * up +	illuminate	Let's get some candles to light this room up.
light up +	to smoke	Do you have to light up another cigarette? I thought you were trying to cut down.
live * down +	live in a way that a shameful or embarrassing event is forgotten	Jose will never live down singing that song at the karaoke bar.
live on +	survive from	I could live on bread and cheese.
live up to +	keep a standard	It would be hard to live up to her parent's expectations. They are so demanding.
look after +	take care of (a child, a house, a	When my sister goes on vacation, I look after her

	pet)	dog.
look back on +	to remember nostalgically	When I look back on my childhood, I often feel angry.
look down on +	see as inferior	She's so conceited. She looks down on everybody else.
look for +	to seek or search for	I'm looking for my keys. Have you seen them?
look forward to +	anticipate with pleasure	I am looking forward to traveling to New York next year.
look into +	investigate	The police are looking into the murder.
look on	observe as a spectator	Everybody just looked on as the two men fought.
look * over +	examine, review	When I'm camping, I look my shoes over before I put them on.
look * up +	search for (in a dictionary)	I takes time to look up new vocabulary words.
look * up +	locate and visit	If you ever travel to California, you should look me up.
look up to +	respect, admire someone	He looks up to his father.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
make * out	decipher	I can't make out your handwriting. What does this say?
make * out +	write a check or other document	Who should I make this check out to?
make out	succeed	He really made out in the stock market last year.
make out	progress	How is your son making out in his new job?
make out	kiss passionately	I saw Benno and Isabelle making out in the movie theater last night!
make out with +	kiss someone passionately	Did you make out with Sally?
make * over	do again	The teacher made me do my homework over.
make * up +	invent (a story)	Don't believe anything she says. She always makes things up.
make * up +	complete what was missed	Fortunately, my professor let me make up the exam I missed yesterday.
make * up +	put on cosmetics	I takes me 10 minutes to make my face up.
make up	reconcile	You two have been friends for so long that I think you should make up.
make up for +	compensate for	Allen made up for being late by getting me flowers.
mix * up +	confuse	I sometimes mix the verb tenses up.
mix * up +	blend	We need to mix up these different kinds of nuts before we put them in a bowl.
mix * up +	make lively (a party)	Let's mix up this party with a little disco music.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
name * after +	name a child using another family	I was named after my grandfather.

	member's name	
nod off	fall asleep	The movie was so boring that I nodded off before it was finished.
nose around +	sneak around	I hate it when my mother noses around my room.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
occur to +	pop into one's mind, come to one's mind	It didn't occur to us that we had left the iron on.
open up	share feelings	I'm glad that John feels comfortable enough around me to open up.
out to + verb	try to	She is out to get revenge now that her husband left her for another woman.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
pan out	be successful, turn out well	The trip to Vegas didn't pan out.
pass away	die	After battling cancer for several years, he finally passed away at the age of 87.
pass * out +	distribute	We need to pass out these flyers for the concert tomorrow.
pass out	become unconscious	He passed out because the room was too hot.
pass * up +	not take advantage (of an opportunity)	I can't believe she passed up the opportunity to study in Rome.
pass * on +	transmit	Please pass this message on to your co-workers.
pass on +	not accept (an invitation to eat or do something)	Jennifer passed on the invitation to join us for dinner.
pass on	die	I am afraid Professor Johnson has passed on.
pay * back +	repay	If I loan you money, will you pay me back.
pay * off +	complete payment on a debt	It took me ten years to pay off my credit card debt.
pay * off +	to bribe	Don't try to pay the police officer off if you get pulled over for speeding.
pick on +	to tease, bully	She keeps picking on me! Make her stop.
pick * out +	choose	Diane picked out a lovely dress for the dance.
pick * up +	to lift an object with the hands	Keep your back straight when you lift the TV up.
pick * up +	come and get someone in a car	What time are you going to pick me up.
pick * up +	learn something without effort	It's possible to pick up enough English in two weeks to get by on your trip to Los Angeles.
pick * up +	try to initiate a relationship with someone (often in a bar)	Some weird guy tried to pick Patricia up at the bar.
pick up	grow, increase (inf.)	Business is really picking up this quarter.
play * down +	make less important (inf.)	The President played down his affair with the intern.
play * up	highlight something (inf.)	She played up her part in the new movie, but it was actually a very small role.

play up to +	flatter someone for your personal advantage	She has been playing up to the boss because she wants a promotion.
point * out +	indicate	I'd like to point out that figures in column two might be outdated.
pull down	earn	He pulls down about \$300,000 a year.
pull in	park (a vehicle)	Mark pulled in too quickly and crashed into the wall.
pull out	depart (a vehicle)	Our train pulls out at 8:00, so don't be late.
pull through	barely survive	I didn't think she was going to make it, but she pulled through in the end.
put * across +	communicate (an idea or suggestion) clearly so that it is understood	I thought Ms. Smith put her ideas across rather clearly in the meeting.
put * away +	store	I told you kids to put your toys away.
put * off +	postpone	Don't put off your homework - do it now!
put * on +	wear	Make sure you put on a sweater before you go outside.
put * on +	deceive	I didn't believe a thing he said. I think he was putting me on.
put * out +	extinguish (a fire)	Don't use water to put out a grease fire.
put * out +	inconvenience someone	I don't want to put you out, but could you pick me up at the airport.
put * up	have a guest stay in your house for a short time	Can you put me up while I'm in town.
put up with +	tolerate	Sandy will not put up with smoking in her house.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
quiet * down +	be quiet, or cause to be quiet	The neighbors told us to quiet down last night or they would call the police.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
read up on +	research a topic for a reason	I need to read up on the company before I go on the job interview.
ring * up	telephone	Jack rung me up last night at 3:00 in the morning.
rule * out +	eliminate	I wouldn't rule out the possibility of moving to another country if I get a good job offer.
run across +	find or meet unexpectedly	I ran across some old photos while I was cleaning my house.
run against +	compete in an election	Gore ran against Bush in the 2000 elections in the U.S.A.
run away	leave home permanently before you are a legal adult	The child ran away because her parents beat her.
run away from +	escape from	The child ran away from its parents.
run * down	trace	Have you run down those phone numbers I asked for last week?

run * down	criticize	My boss runs everyone down.
run * down	hit with a car	My dog was run down by a bus.
run down	lose power, be very tired	You need to wind your watch so it doesn't run down.
run for +	campaign for a government position	Gore is running for president of the U.S.A.
run into +	meet unexpectedly	I ran into my English teacher at the movies last night. She's so nice!
run * off +	make leave	The new government is trying to run the drug traffickers off.
run * off	reproduce (photocopies)	Would you mind running off 10 copies of this document for me?
run off	leave quickly	Why did you run off after the party?
run off	waste water	You shouldn't swim where the sewage runs off into the ocean.
run out of +	not have any more of something	We ran out of milk this morning, so we need to go to the store.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
save * up +	accumulate (money)	I hope I will be able to save up enough money to go to school.
see about +	arrange or consider something	My dad said he was going to see about buying me a car.
see * off	say good-bye to someone at the beginning of their trip (at the airport, train station)	Did you see your sister off at the train station?
see to +	make sure something happens, arrange	I'll see to it that Mr. Ramirez gets your message.
see * through	finish something despite difficulties	Are you going to be able to see your studies through now that you have a baby?
sell * out	tell on someone	My partner in crime sold me out for a reduced jail sentence.
set * up	arrange a relationship	My mom set me up with her friend's son.
set * up	falsely incriminate a person	I don't think he killed those men. Somebody set him up.
set up +	arrange (an appointment, a meeting, etc.)	I set up an appointment with my doctor at 3:30 this afternoon.
settle on +	make a decision after a period of time	I settled on the job at the oil company.
settle up	pay one's debts	We need to settle up before you move.
show * off +	show to everybody with a lot of pride	He always shows off his new things.
show off	boast, draw attention to oneself	Young boys show off in order to impress girls.
show * up	make someone seem inferior	He's always trying to show up his co-workers in order to get ahead.
show up	arrive without previous notice	I hadn't seen my cousin for years, and all of a sudden, he showed up at my

		workplace yesterday!
shut * off	stop from functioning	If you don't pay your electric bill, your power is going to get shut off.
shut * up	make quiet	Would someone shut him up! He's talking so loudly that we're going to get in trouble.
slow * down +	make move more slowly	Because Mary's level in English is lower than the rest of the students, she slows the class down.
slow * up +	make move more slowly	Because Mary's level in English is lower than the rest of the students, she slows the class up.
spell * out +	to explain something in a detailed way so that the meaning is clearly understood	He's so stupid that you have to spell everything out for him.
stand by	wait	I need you to stand by and answer the phone when my broker calls.
stand for +	represent	SCUBA stands for "self contained underwater breathing apparatus."
stand for +	tolerate	I won't stand for people criticizing me.
stand out	be very noticeable	Soledad is so beautiful! She really stands out in a crowd.
stand * up	not arrive to a date or an appointment (inf.)	I arranged to meet Joe at the library at 8:00, but he stood me up. I hope he has a good excuse.
stand up for +	defend (something one believes in)	Every individual must stand up for what they believe in.
stand up to +	defend oneself against someone or something	I think you should stand up to your older brother and tell him to stop pushing you around.
stay over	spend the night at a person's house	It takes you so long to take the bus home, so why don't you just stay over?
stick it to +	severely criticize a person (inf.)	My boss really stuck it to me when I arrived late to work for the third time this week.
stick to +	persevere, keep trying	Even though English is a hard language to master, you must stick to it!
stick up for +	defend oneself or opinions	Joseph joined the army because he believes he must stick up for his country.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
take after +	resemble a parent or relative	I take after my father. Who do you take after?
take * back +	retract something you said	I demand that you take back what you said.
take * back +	return an item to a store	The dress my grandmother bought for me didn't fit, so I took it back and exchanged it for a pair of pants.
take * down +	write down what is said	Would you mind taking down my messages while I

		am on vacation?
take * down +	remove (from a high place)	The city government made the shop take down their bright, neon sign.
take * in +	learning	Are you taking in all of these phrasal verbs?
take * in +	deceive a person	He was taken in by the con artist.
take * in +	make smaller when sewing	I lost weight, so I need to take some of my skirts to the tailor to have them taken in.
take * off	when a plane leaves the ground	My stomach felt funny when the plane took off.
take * off +	remove	In many cultures, it is appropriate to take off your shoes when entering a house.
take * off +	leave work or school for a period of time	I was sick last week, so I took a few days off of work.
take off	leave	We took off after dinner.
take * over +	take control of	Who is going to take over the family business when Aretha's father dies?
take over	take control of	If the President is assassinated, the Vice-president will take over.
take * out +	accompany a person on a date (for dinner, the movies)	I can't meet you tonight because I am taking Fernanda out to dinner.
take * up +	begin a new hobby	Have you taken up any new hobbies since you moved here?
take * up +	discuss (at a later date)	We should take this issue up in the meeting tomorrow.
take * up +	shorten a garment when sewing	This dress is too long, I am going to take it up.
take up +	occupy space	This couch takes up too much space in the living room.
talk back	respond in an impolite way to an adult	Don't talk back!
talk back to +	respond in an impolite way to an adult	Children should not talk back to their parents.
talk * over +	discuss	I hope my parents talk their relationship problems over before they get divorced.
tear * down +	destroy	The county decided to tear down the dilapidated school and build a new one.
tear * up +	tear or rip into small pieces	I always tear up my personal papers before I throw them out.
tell * off +	criticize a person severely, reprimand (inf.)	Carolina told me off when she found out I was gossiping about her date with Martin.
tell on +	report a crime to the police or bad behavior to a parent	Every time I did something wrong when I was a child, my sister would tell on me.
think * over +	consider	Think over the offer before you sign the contract.
think * through +	consider carefully	You need to think this through carefully before you make a decision.
think * up +	create or invent a false story	I need to think up an excuse for not going to her party.

throw * away +	discard	Don't throw away those bottles; we can recycle them.
throw * out +	discard	I asked him not to throw out the Sunday newspaper because I wanted to save an article.
throw * out +	remove by force from (a room, school, a house, etc.)	Mary threw out her roommate because she stopped paying rent.
throw up	vomit	If you drink too much alcohol, you might throw up.
tie * up +	tie securely	When we dock, make sure you tie the boat up.
tire * out	cause someone to be very tired	Speaking English all day tires me out.
touch on +	talk about for a short time	The presidential candidates touched on the subject of health care during the debates.
touch * up	make the final improvements	We didn't paint the whole kitchen, we just touched up the cabinets.
try * on +	put on to make sure a piece of clothing fits	Try on the pants before you buy them.
try * out	test	Try out this massage chair - it feels great!
turn * away	refuse to deal with or give service	They turned us away at the border because we didn't have visas.
turn * down +	refuse an offer	She turned down the new job in New York, because she didn't want to move.
turn * down +	lower the volume of a TV, radio	I'm studying! Please turn down the TV.
turn * in	submit	You need to turn your essays in next week.
turn in	go to bed (inf.)	It's getting late. I think it is about time to turn in.
turn into +	become something different	When she kissed the frog, it turned into a handsome prince.
turn * off +	stop the function	

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
use * up	use all of something	I used up all of the soap, so we need to buy some more.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
wait on +	serve, service (a table)	Each waitress waits on three different tables in the restaurant.
wait up	not sleep because you are waiting for something or someone	Don't wait up.
wait up for +	not sleep because you are waiting for someone or something	Let's wait up for Mary to see how her date went.
wake * up +	awaken someone	The car alarm woke me up at 6:00 in the morning.
wake up	awaken	Wake up. It's time to get ready for work.
wash up	clean oneself	Make sure you wash up before dinner.
wash * up +	clean	If we work together, we can wash the kitchen up in a few minutes.

watch out	be careful	Watch out - there's a rattlesnake!
watch out for +	be careful of	Watch out for snakes while you are hiking in the desert.
wear off	disappear after a period of time	The affects of the medicine will wear off after a few hours.
wear * out	use until something is not useable anymore	If you wear the same shoes everyday, you'll wear them out.
wear * out	cause to be very tired	Her three kids wore me out.
wind up +	finish (inf.)	If he doesn't get his act together, he is going to wind up in jail.
wind * up +	tighten the spring of a watch or similar machine	He wound up the toy dog and set it on the floor.
wind * up +	cause an animal or a child to behave wildly	The kids always get wound up when Uncle Henry comes over.
wipe * out +	massacre or destroy	The tidal wave wiped out the small fishing village.
wipe * out	cause to be very tired	After surfing all day, I was completely wiped out.
work * out +	solve	I hope you two can work out your problems.
work out	exercise	I work out three times a week at the fitness center.
work out	be successful	I am glad your new catering business is working out.
write * down +	record	Write down the directions so you don't forget them.
write * out +	write down every word or letter	He wrote out the lyrics so I could understand what the singer was saying.
write * up +	prepare a report	He wrote up a business proposal in order to get a loan.

Phrasal Verb	Definition	Example
zero in on +	discover, pinpoint	I think I have zeroed in on what has been causing the problem.
zip around +	move quickly from place to place	I zipped around town after work today.
zone out	stop paying attention	He zoned out during class.
zonk out	fall asleep	Jill was so exhausted after taking the TOEFL test that she zonked out before dinner.
zoom in	focus	You need a telephoto lens to zoom in.
zoom in on +	focus on something, pinpoint	She zoomed in on his face while taking the picture.