Phrasal Verbs List

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Verb	Meaning	Example
ask *someone* **out**	invite on a date	Brian **asked** Judy **out** to dinner and a movie.
ask around	ask many people the same question	I **asked around** but nobody has seen my wallet.
add up to *something*	equal	Your purchases **add up to** $205.32.
back *something* **up**	reverse	You'll have to **back up** your car so that I can get out.
back *someone* **up**	support	My wife **backed** me **up** over my decision to quit my job.
blow up	explode	The racing car **blew up** after it crashed into the fence.
blow *something* **up**	add air	We have to **blow** 50 balloons **up** for the party.
break down	stop functioning (vehicle, machine)	Our car **broke down** at the side of the highway in the snowstorm.
break down	get upset	The woman **broke down** when the police told her that her son had died.
break *something* **down**	divide into smaller parts	Our teacher **broke** the final project **down** into three separate parts.
break in	force entry to a building	Somebody **broke in** last night and stole our stereo.
break into *something*	enter forcibly	The firemen had to **break into** the room to rescue the children.
break *something* **in**	wear something a few times so that it doesn't look/feel new	I need to **break** these shoes **in** before we run next week.
break in	interrupt	The TV station **broke in** to report the news of the president's death.
break up	end a relationship	My boyfriend and I **broke up** before I moved to America.
break up	start laughing (informal)	The kids just **broke up** as soon as the clown started talking.
break out	escape	The prisoners **broke out** of jail when the guards weren't looking.
break out in *something*	develop a skin condition	I **broke out in** a rash after our camping trip.
bring *someone* **down**	make unhappy	This sad music is **bringing** me **down**.
bring *someone* **up**	raise a child	My grandparents **brought** me **up** after my parents died.
bring *something* **up**	start talking about a subject	My mother walks out of the room when my father **brings up** sports.
bring *something* **up**	vomit	He drank so much that he

		brought his dinner **up** in the toilet.
call around	phone many different places/people	We **called around** but we weren't able to find the car part we needed.
call *someone* **back**	return a phone call	I **called** the company **back** but the offices were closed for the weekend.
call *something* **off**	cancel	Jason **called** the wedding **off** because he wasn't in love with his fiancé.
call on *someone*	ask for an answer or opinion	The professor **called on** me for question 1.
call on *someone*	visit someone	We **called on** you last night but you weren't home.
call *someone* **up**	phone	Give me your phone number and I will **call** you **up** when we are in town.
calm down	relax after being angry	You are still mad. You need to **calm down** before you drive the car.
not **care for** *someone/something*	not like (formal)	I don't **care for** his behaviour.
catch up	get to the same point as someone else	You'll have to run faster than that if you want to **catch up** with Marty.
check in	arrive and register at a hotel or airport	We will get the hotel keys when we **check in**.
check out	leave a hotel	You have to **check out** of the hotel before 11:00 AM.
check *someone/something* **out**	look at carefully, investigate	The company **checks out** all new employees.
check out *someone/something*	look at (informal)	**Check out** the crazy hair on that guy!
cheer up	become happier	She **cheered up** when she heard the good news.
cheer *someone* **up**	make happier	I brought you some flowers to **cheer** you **up**.
chip in	help	If everyone **chips in** we can get the kitchen painted by noon.
clean *something* **up**	tidy, clean	Please **clean up** your bedroom before you go outside.
come across *something*	find unexpectedly	I **came across** these old photos when I was tidying the closet.
come apart	separate	The top and bottom **come apart** if you pull hard enough.
come down with *something*	become sick	My nephew **came down with** chicken pox this weekend.
come forward	volunteer for a task or to give evidence	The woman **came forward** with her husband's finger prints.
come from somewhere	originate in	The art of origami **comes from** Asia.

count on *someone/something*	rely on	I am **counting on** you to make dinner while I am out.
cross *something* **out**	draw a line through	Please **cross out** your old address and write your new one.
cut back on *something*	consume less	My doctor wants me to **cut back on** sweets and fatty foods.
cut *something* **down**	make something fall to the ground	We had to **cut** the old tree in our yard **down** after the storm.
cut in	interrupt	Your father **cut in** while I was dancing with your uncle.
cut in	pull in too closely in front of another vehicle	The bus driver got angry when that car **cut in**.
cut in	start operating (of an engine or electrical device)	The air conditioner **cuts in** when the temperature gets to 22ºC.
cut *something* **off**	remove with something sharp	The doctors **cut off** his leg because it was severely injured.
cut *something* **off**	stop providing	The phone company **cut off** our phone because we didn't pay the bill.
cut *someone* **off**	take out of a will	My grandparents **cut** my father **off** when he remarried.
cut *something* **out**	remove part of something (usually with scissors and paper)	I **cut** this ad **out** of the newspaper.
do *someone/something* **over**	beat up, ransack (Br.E., informal)	He's lucky to be alive. His shop was **done over** by a street gang.
do *something* **over**	do again (N.Amer.)	My teacher wants me to **do** my essay **over** because she doesn't like my topic.
do away with *something*	discard	It's time to **do away with** all of these old tax records.
do *something* **up**	fasten, close	**Do** your coat **up** before you go outside. It's snowing!
dress up	wear nice clothing	It's a fancy restaurant so we have to **dress up**.
drop back	move back in a position/group	Andrea **dropped back** to third place when she fell off her bike.
drop in/by/over	come without an appointment	I might **drop in/by/over** for tea some time this week.
drop *someone/something* **off**	take someone/something somewhere and leave them/it there	I have to **drop** my sister **off** at work before I come over.
drop out	quit a class, school etc	I **dropped out** of Science because it was too difficult.
eat out	eat at a restaurant	I don't feel like cooking tonight. Let's **eat out**.
end up	eventually reach/do/decide	We **ended up** renting a movie instead of going to the theatre.

fall apart	break into pieces	My new dress **fell apart** in the washing machine.
fall down	fall to the ground	The picture that you hung up last night **fell down** this morning.
fall out	separate from an interior	The money must have **fallen out** of my pocket.
fall out	(of hair, teeth) become loose and unattached	His hair started to **fall out** when he was only 35.
figure *something* **out**	understand, find the answer	I need to **figure out** how to fit the piano and the bookshelf in this room.
fill *something* **in**	to write information in blanks (Br.E.)	Please **fill in** the form with your name, address, and phone number.
fill *something* **out**	to write information in blanks (N.Amer.)	The form must be **filled out** in capital letters.
fill *something* **up**	fill to the top	I always **fill** the water jug **up** when it is empty.
find out	discover	We don't know where he lives. How can we **find out**?
find *something* **out**	discover	We tried to keep the time of the party a secret, but Samantha **found** it **out**.
get *something* **across/over**	communicate, make understandable	I tried to **get** my point **across/over** to the judge but she wouldn't listen.
get along/on	like each other	I was surprised how well my new girlfriend and my sister **got along/on**.
get around	have mobility	My grandfather can **get around** fine in his new wheelchair.
get away	go on a vacation	We worked so hard this year that we had to **get away** for a week.
get away with *something*	do without being noticed or punished	Jason always **gets away with** cheating in his maths tests.
get back	return	We **got back** from our vacation last week.
get *something* **back**	receive something you had before	Liz finally **got** her Science notes **back** from my room-mate.
get back at *someone*	retaliate, take revenge	My sister **got back at** me for stealing her shoes. She stole my favourite hat.
get back into *something*	become interested in something again	I finally **got back into** my novel and finished it.
get on *something*	step onto a vehicle	We're going to freeze out here if you don't let us **get on** the bus.
get over *something*	recover from an illness, loss, difficulty	I just **got over** the flu and now my sister has it.
get over *something*	overcome a problem	The company will have to close if it can't **get over** the new regulations.

get round to *something*	finally find time to do (N.Amer.: **get around to** *something*)	I don't know when I am going to **get round to** writing the thank you cards.
get together	meet (usually for social reasons)	Let's **get together** for a BBQ this weekend.
get up	get out of bed	I **got up** early today to study for my exam.
get up	stand	You should **get up** and give the elderly man your seat.
give *someone* **away**	reveal hidden information about someone	His wife **gave** him **away** to the police.
give *someone* **away**	take the bride to the altar	My father **gave** me **away** at my wedding.
give *something* **away**	ruin a secret	My little sister **gave** the surprise party **away** by accident.
give *something* **away**	give something to someone for free	The library was **giving away** old books on Friday.
give *something* **back**	return a borrowed item	I have to **give** these skates **back** to Franz before his hockey game.
give in	reluctantly stop fighting or arguing	My boyfriend didn't want to go to the ballet, but he finally **gave in**.
give *something* **out**	give to many people (usually at no cost)	They were **giving out** free perfume samples at the department store.
give *something* **up**	quit a habit	I am **giving up** smoking as of January 1st.
give up	stop trying	My maths homework was too difficult so I **gave up**.
go after *someone*	follow someone	My brother tried to **go after** the thief in his car.
go after *something*	try to achieve something	I **went after** my dream and now I am a published writer.
go against *someone*	compete, oppose	We are **going against** the best soccer team in the city tonight.
go ahead	start, proceed	Please **go ahead** and eat before the food gets cold.
go back	return to a place	I have to **go back** home and get my lunch.
go out	leave home to go on a social event	We're **going out** for dinner tonight.
go out with *someone*	date	Jesse has been **going out with** Luke since they met last winter.
go over *something*	review	Please **go over** your answers before you submit your test.
go over	visit someone nearby	I haven't seen Tina for a long time. I think I'll **go over** for an hour or two.
go without *something*	suffer lack or deprivation	When I was young, we **went without** winter boots.
grow apart	stop being friends over time	My best friend and I **grew**

		apart after she changed schools.
grow back	regrow	My roses **grew back** this summer.
grow up	become an adult	When Jack **grows up** he wants to be a fireman.
grow out of *something*	get too big for	Elizabeth needs a new pair of shoes because she has **grown out of** her old ones.
grow into *something*	grow big enough to fit	This bike is too big for him now, but he should **grow into** it by next year.
hand *something* **down**	give something used to someone else	I **handed** my old comic books **down** to my little cousin.
hand *something* **in**	submit	I have to **hand in** my essay by Friday.
hand *something* **out**	to distribute to a group of people	We will **hand out** the invitations at the door.
hand *something* **over**	give (usually unwillingly)	The police asked the man to **hand over** his wallet and his weapons.
hang in	stay positive (N.Amer., informal)	**Hang in** there. I'm sure you'll find a job very soon.
hang on	wait a short time (informal)	**Hang on** while I grab my coat and shoes!
hang out	spend time relaxing (informal)	Instead of going to the party we are just going to **hang out** at my place.
hang up	end a phone call	He didn't say goodbye before he **hung up**.
hold *someone/something* **back**	prevent from doing/going	I had to **hold** my dog **back** because there was a cat in the park.
hold *something* **back**	hide an emotion	Jamie **held back** his tears at his grandfather's funeral.
hold on	wait a short time	Please **hold on** while I transfer you to the Sales Department.
hold onto *someone/something*	hold firmly using your hands or arms	**Hold onto** your hat because it's very windy outside.
hold *someone/something***up**	rob	A man in a black mask **held** the bank **up** this morning.
keep on doing *something*	continue doing	**Keep on** stirring until the liquid comes to a boil.
keep *something* **from** *someone*	not tell	We **kept** our relationship **from** our parents for two years.
keep *someone/something* **out**	stop from entering	Try to **keep** the wet dog **out** of the living room.
keep *something* **up**	continue at the same rate	If you **keep** those results **up** you will get into a great college.
let *someone* **down**	fail to support or help, disappoint	I need you to be on time. Don't **let** me **down** this time.

let *someone* **in**	allow to enter	Can you **let** the cat **in** before you go to school?
look after *someone/something*	take care of	I have to **look after** my sick grandmother.
look down on *someone*	think less of, consider inferior	Ever since we stole that chocolate bar your dad has **looked down on** me.
look for *someone/something*	try to find	I'm **looking for** a red dress for the wedding.
look forward to *something*	be excited about the future	I'm **looking forward to** the Christmas break.
look into *something*	investigate	We are going to **look into** the price of snowboards today.
look out	be careful, vigilant, and take notice	Look out! That car's going to hit you!
look out for *someone/something*	be especially vigilant for	Don't forget to **look out for** snakes on the hiking trail.
look *something* **over**	check, examine	Can you **look over** my essay for spelling mistakes?
look *something* **up**	search and find information in a reference book or database	We can **look** her phone number **up** on the Internet.
look up to *someone*	have a lot of respect for	My little sister has always **looked up** to me.
make *something* **up**	invent, lie about something	Josie **made up** a story about about why we were late.
make up	forgive each other	We were angry last night, but we **made up** at breakfast.
make *someone* **up**	apply cosmetics to	My sisters **made** me **up** for my graduation party.
mix *something* **up**	confuse two or more things	I **mixed up** the twins' names again!
pass away	die	His uncle **passed away** last night after a long illness.
pass out	faint	It was so hot in the church that an elderly lady **passed out**.
pass *something* **out**	give the same thing to many people	The professor **passed** the textbooks **out** before class.
pass *something* **up**	decline (usually something good)	I **passed up** the job because I am afraid of change.
pay *someone* **back**	return owed money	Thanks for buying my ticket. I'll **pay** you **back** on Friday.
pay for *something*	be punished for doing something bad	That bully will **pay for** being mean to my little brother.
pick *something* **out**	choose	I **picked out** three sweaters for you to try on.
point *someone/something* **out**	indicate with your finger	I'll **point** my boyfriend **out** when he runs by.
put *something* **down**	put what you are holding on	You can **put** the groceries

	a surface or floor	**down** on the kitchen counter.
put *someone* **down**	insult, make someone feel stupid	The students **put** the substitute teacher **down** because his pants were too short.
put *something* **off**	postpone	We are **putting off** our trip until January because of the hurricane.
put *something* **out**	extinguish	The neighbours **put** the fire **out** before the firemen arrived.
put *something* **together**	assemble	I have to **put** the crib **together** before the baby arrives.
put up with *someone/something*	tolerate	I don't think I can **put up with** three small children in the car.
put *something* **on**	put clothing/accessories on your body	Don't forget to **put on** your new earrings for the party.
run into *someone/something*	meet unexpectedly	I **ran into** an old school-friend at the mall.
run over *someone/something*	drive a vehicle over a person or thing	I accidentally **ran over** your bicycle in the driveway.
run over/through *something*	rehearse, review	Let's **run over/through** these lines one more time before the show.
run away	leave unexpectedly, escape	The child **ran away** from home and has been missing for three days.
run out	have none left	We **ran out** of shampoo so I had to wash my hair with soap.
send *something* **back**	return (usually by mail)	My letter got **sent back** to me because I used the wrong stamp.
set *something* **up**	arrange, organize	Our boss **set** a meeting **up** with the president of the company.
set *someone* **up**	trick, trap	The police **set up** the car thief by using a hidden camera.
shop around	compare prices	I want to **shop around** a little before I decide on these boots.
show off	act extra special for people watching (usually boastfully)	He always **shows off** on his skateboard
sleep over	stay somewhere for the night (informal)	You should **sleep over** tonight if the weather is too bad to drive home.
sort *something* **out**	organize, resolve a problem	We need to **sort** the bills **out** before the first of the month.
stick to *something*	continue doing something, limit yourself to one particular thing	You will lose weight if you **stick to** the diet.
switch *something* **off**	stop the energy flow, turn	The light's too bright. Could

	off	you **switch** it **off**.
switch *something* **on**	start the energy flow, turn on	We heard the news as soon as we **switched on** the car radio.
take after *someone*	resemble a family member	I **take after** my mother. We are both impatient.
take *something* **apart**	purposely break into pieces	He **took** the car brakes **apart** and found the problem.
take *something* **back**	return an item	I have to **take** our new TV **back** because it doesn't work.
take off	start to fly	My plane **takes off** in five minutes.
take *something* **off**	remove something (usually clothing)	**Take off** your socks and shoes and come in the lake!
take *something* **out**	remove from a place or thing	Can you **take** the garbage **out** to the street for me?
take *someone* **out**	pay for someone to go somewhere with you	My grandparents **took** us **out** for dinner and a movie.
tear *something* **up**	rip into pieces	I **tore up** my ex-boyfriend's letters and gave them back to him.
think back	remember (often + to, sometimes + on)	When I **think back** on my youth, I wish I had studied harder.
think *something* **over**	consider	I'll have to **think** this job offer **over** before I make my final decision.
throw *something* **away**	dispose of	We **threw** our old furniture **away** when we won the lottery.
turn *something* **down**	decrease the volume or strength (heat, light etc)	Please **turn** the TV **down** while the guests are here.
turn *something* **down**	refuse	I **turned** the job **down** because I don't want to move.
turn *something* **off**	stop the energy flow, switch off	Your mother wants you to **turn** the TV **off** and come for dinner.
turn *something* **on**	start the energy, switch on	It's too dark in here. Let's **turn** some lights **on**.
turn *something* **up**	increase the volume or strength (heat, light etc)	Can you **turn** the music **up**? This is my favourite song.
turn up	appear suddenly	Our cat **turned up** after we put posters up all over the neighbourhood.
try *something* **on**	sample clothing	I'm going to **try** these jeans **on**, but I don't think they will fit.
try *something* **out**	test	I am going to **try** this new brand of detergent **out**.
use *something* **up**	finish the supply	The kids **used** all of the toothpaste **up** so we need to buy some more.
wake up	stop sleeping	We have to **wake up** early

		for work on Monday.
warm *someone/something* **up**	increase the temperature	You can **warm** your feet **up** in front of the fireplace.
warm up	prepare body for exercise	I always **warm up** by doing sit-ups before I go for a run.
wear off	fade away	Most of my make-up **wore off** before I got to the party.
work out	exercise	I **work out** at the gym three times a week.
work out	be successful	Our plan **worked out** fine.
work *something* **out**	make a calculation	We have to **work out** the total cost before we buy the house.

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