**GRAMMAR**

**Phrasal verbs**

**What are phrasal verbs?**

Phrasal verbs are mainly used in spoken English and informal texts. (The more formal a conversation or text, the less phrasal verbs are found.)  
Phrasal verbs consist of a verb and a particle (preposition, adverb). The particle can change the meaning of the verb completely. For example::

* look up – consult a reference book (look a word up in a dictionary)
* look for – seek (look for her ring)
* look forward – anticipate with pleasure (look forward to meeting someone)

There are no rules that might explain the meaning of phrasal verbs. All you can do is look them up in a good dictionary and study their meanings.

**Position of the Particle:**

In some cases the particle is placed either after the verb or after the object.

Example:

* Write ***down*** the word
* Write the word ***down***

If the object is a pronoun, however, the particle has to be placed after the pronoun (object).

Example:

* Write it ***down***.
* Your photo album. Put it ***down***
* Your jacket. Take it ***off***

List of phrasal verbs (alphabetical order)

**A**

### abide by

#### Definition

to accept and obey a decision, a rule, law..., even though you may not agree with it.

#### Example

You have to abide by the referee's desision.

### account for

#### Definition

1. To explain by relating circumstances; to show that some one, thing or members of a group are present or have been processed.  
2. To be the primary cause of  
3. To constitute in amount or portion.

#### Example

1. The storekeeper was expected to account for any material removed.2. The torrential downpour would account for the saturated state of the land.3. German speakers accounted for 37% of the population.

### act up

#### Definition

behave or function improperly

#### Example

I think I need to take my car to the mechanic because it's acting up again.

**B**

### back off

#### Definition

To retreat.

#### Example

The security guard told the protester to back off.

### bail out

#### Definition

1. To secure the release of an arrested person by providing bail money.  
2. To remove water from a boat by scooping it out.  
3. To rescue, especially financially.  
4. To exit an aircraft while in flight; to parachute from an aircraft; eject.

#### Example

1. He called his wife to bail him out.2. They bailed out the boat as it was leaking.3. The government had to bail out the industrial sector because of recession.4. The pilot bailed out of his fighter and parachuted onto a forest.

### break out

### Definition

-to start.

-to escape from prison.

Example

*War broke out in 1914.*

*Prisoners dug a tunnel and broke out.*

### buy into

#### Definition

believe; accept an idea.

#### Example

I don't buy into all this propaganda.

**C**

### call off

#### Definition

To recall; to cancel or call a halt to.

#### Example

1. Please call off your dog.2. They called off the picnic because of the rain.

### cap off

#### Definition

To finish.

#### Example

He capped off the meeting with important decisions.

### carry out

#### Definition

To accomplish, to do or to complete something.

#### Example

The secret agent carried out his orders exactly as planned.

### catch up

#### Definition

To make up for lost time

#### Example

I will never catch up. I am too behind in my work.

### check in

#### Definition

To announce or record one's arrival at a hotel, airport etc

#### Example

They need to check in before noon.

### check out

#### Definition

1. To examine, inspect, look at closely, ogle; to investigate.  
2. (The opposite of check in) to leave a hotel...

#### Example

1. He checked out the rumor, and managed to verify that it was true.2. We checked out before noon.

### come across

#### Definition

1. To give an appearance or impression; to project a certain image.  
2. To find, usually by accident.

#### Example

1. Loose clothes help him to come across as a hip hop singer.2. He came across a rare flower in the forest.

### cut down

#### Definition

1. To bring down by cutting.  
2. To reduce the amount of something.

#### Example

1. It's a pity that they cut down those trees.2. I'm trying to cut down on sugar.

**D**

### dive in

#### Definition

to start doing something suddenly and energetically, often without planning.

#### Example

When she heard about the project, she just dived in without much preparation.

### drop by

#### Definition

To pay a short visit.

#### Example

Mary and her husband dropped by on their way to the theater.

### drop in

#### Definition

To arrive unannounced or with little or no warning.

#### Example

I was having a shower when my grandparents dropped in for a visit.

### drop out

#### Definition

Prematurely and voluntarily leave a course (at school, college...)

#### Example

He dropped out of college because he couldn't afford the expenses.

### drop off

#### Definition

1. To deposit or leave.  
2. To fall asleep.  
3. To lessen or reduce.

#### Example

1. I dropped the kids off at school before I went to work.2. Because the movie was so boring I dropped off and woke up only after it ended.3. Sales have dropped off this year because of the recession.

**E**

### eat up

#### Definition

To consume completely.

#### Example

He was so hungry that he ate up everything on his plate.

### eke out

#### Definition

To supplement; to add to something.

#### Example

The old man eked out his pension by selling vegetables from his garden.

### end up

#### Definition

1. To conclude, turn out, sometimes unexpectedly.  
2. To arrive at a destination, sometimes unexpectedly.

#### Example

1. Their friendship ended up with a marriage.2. She ended up in the Himalayas.

### eye up

#### Definition

To look at something or someone you are interested in.

#### Example

The dog was eyeing up my steak.

**F**

### face off

#### Definition

To confront (each other)

#### Example

Some policemen and hooligans faced off during the match.

### face up to

#### Definition

To accept a condition or situation, typically one that is unpleasant or uncomfortable.

#### Example

We must all face up to the fact that we're not getting any younger.

### fall out

#### Definition

To quarel, to argue.

#### Example

He left home after falling out with his parents.

### fall through

#### Definition

To fail; to be unsuccessful; to come to nothing.

#### Example

Their plan to go on a picnic fell through because it rained.

### flip out

#### Definition

to become angry or upset about something

#### Example

When she discovered the truth, she flipped out.

**G**

### get about

#### Definition

 1. To be mobile, physically active.   
2. To become known.

#### Example

1. Since she broke her leg in that terrible accident, she can't get about so much.2. The bad news got about quickly.

### get away with

#### Definition

To avoid punishment.

#### Example

He thought he could get away with it, but everyone knew he would be punished for his crimes.

### get back at

#### Definition

To retaliate against; to take revenge on.

#### Example

He was trying to get back at her for what she did to him.

### get off

#### Definition

1. To disembark from mass transportation, such as a bus or train.  
2. To leave a place.   
3. To avoid punishment.

#### Example

1. Get off the bus at the third stop.2. If we get off now. We'll arrive before 9:00 pm.3. The lawyer managed to get him off.

### get over

#### Definition

1. To overcome  
2. To recover (from)  
3. To forget and move on

#### Example

1. He can't get over his fear of being alone in the dark.2. I got over a bad cold and went to work.3. She hasn't got over our last argument yet. She still feels hurt by I told her.

### get rid of

#### Definition

to remove, or dispose of, or abolish something

#### Example

The new president want to get rid of his enemies.

### give in

#### Definition

1. to collapse or fall  
2. to relent, yield, surrender or admit defeat

#### Example

1. Because of the heavy rain, the roof gave in.2. Her husband finally gave in and admitted he was wrong.

**H**

### hand in

#### Definition

to submit (something)

#### Example

I have to hand in an offer by March 12.

### hand out

#### Definition

To distribute

#### Example

The teacher handed out our tests after he had corrected them.

### hang on

#### Definition

1. To wait a moment (usually imperative).  
2. To hold, grasp, or grip.

#### Example

1. Hang on. Let me answer the phone first.2. Hang on to the handle.

### hinge on

#### Definition

To depend on, depend upon, be contingent upon.

#### Example

The success of this plan hinges upon his participation.

### hold out

#### Definition

1. To survive, endure.  
2. To hold (something) out; to extend (something) forward.

#### Example

1. How long can they hold out without water?2. I held up my hand as she came in.

### hold out for

#### Definition

To wait, or refuse in hopes of getting something better (from a negotiation, etc.)

#### Example

I am holding out for more money.

**I**

### inquire after

#### Definition

To ask about the health of someone.

#### Example

He inquired after her friend's health.

### inquire of

#### Definition

To ask someone.

#### Example

You should inquire of them to know their policy.

**J**

### jack up

#### Definition

1. To raise, hoist, or lift a thing using a jack, or similar means.  
2. To raise, increase, or accelerate; often said of prices, fees, or rates. See also jack up the price.

#### Example

1. He jacked the car up to change the tire.2. I can't believe they're going to jack up the price of gasoline again.

### jot down

#### Definition

to write down hurriedly;

#### Example

Let me jot down your number on this scrap of paper so as not to forget it.

### jump off

#### Definition

1. To move from an elevated place by one jump.  
2. To be very noticeable, interesting, exciting in a writing painting, picture etc.

#### Example

1. The cat jumped off the wall.2. The story is so realistic that the characters jump off the page.

### jump in

#### Definition

To enter something quickly.

#### Example

1. I jumped in the car, and we sped off to the meeting.2. Feel free to jump in at any moment while we are talking.

**K**

### keep in with

#### Definition

To maintain good relations with someone.

#### Example

She tried to keep in with her ex-employer.

### keep off

#### Definition

To stay or cause to stay at a distance (from).

#### Example

Keep off the grass.

### kick off

#### Definition

1. To make the first kick in a game or part of a game.  
2. To start; to launch.  
3. To die or quit permanently.

#### Example

1. The players kicked off for the second half of the game.2. Let's kick off this project with a planning meeting.3. It's a wonder that this old dog hasn't kicked off yet.

### knock out

#### Definition

1. To strike or bump (someone or something) out.  
2. To render unconscious, as by a blow to the head.  
3. To put to sleep.  
4. To exhaust.  
5. To complete, especially in haste; knock off.  
6. To cause a mechanism to become non-functional by damaging or destroying it.

#### Example

1. I accidentally knocked out the glass in my picture frame.2. The boxer knocked out his opponent in the third round.3. The pill knocked me out for a good three hours.4. Working all day really knocked me out.5. They knocked out the entire work in just two hours.6. The military attack knocked out the enemy aircrafts.

**L**

### lace up

#### Definition

To fasten the laces of something (clothes or footwear)

#### Example

She laced up her corset.

### live up to

#### Definition

To fulfil the expectations placed upon.

#### Example

He never lived up to her reputation.

### look after

#### Definition

To watch or protect; to keep safe.

#### Example

He asked me to look after his dog while he was on vacation.

### look down on

#### Definition

To regard with a feeling of superiority

#### Example

She thinks they look down on her because she didn't go to university.

### look up to

#### Definition

To respect

#### Example

He looks up to his father.

**M**

### make off

#### Definition

To run away; to exit.

#### Example

He was so frightened that he made off again.

### make up for

#### Definition

To compensate.

#### Example

The money he earned in the new project will make up for this year's losses.

### measure up

#### Definition

To meet the required standard, to be as good as.

#### Example

He didn't measure up in his new job. So they had to find a substitute.

### mouth off

#### Definition

To complain or express oneself angrily.

#### Example

He's always mouthing off about the state of hospitals.

**N**

### nail down

#### Definition

1. To attach with nails  
2. To make something (e.g. a decision or plan) firm or certain

#### Example

1. Nail down the shelf, then paint it.2. Have you nailed down your plans?

### narrow down

#### Definition

Make more specific.

#### Example

He was offered a lot of job opportunities. But he tried to narrow down his choices to only the most interesting ones.

### note down

#### Definition

To write down, especially hurriedly.

#### Example

I noted down his phone number.

**O**

### open up

#### Definition

1. To open.  
2. To reveal oneself; to become communicative.  
3. To commence firing weapons.

#### Example

1. Some vacancies have opened up due to retirements.2. She opened up as a result of our questions.

### order in

#### Definition

to order food (such as a pizza...) to be brought to your home or to the place where you work.

#### Example

I think I'll saty home and order a pizza in.

**P**

### pack off

#### Definition

To send someone away to a place.

#### Example

We packed off the kids to camp for the spring holiday.

### pan out

#### Definition

If something pans out it develops in a successful way.

#### Example

She tried to set up a company but it didn't pan out.

### pass on

#### Definition

1. To transmit, to communicate.  
2. To give an infectious illness to another person.  
3. To skip or decline.  
4. To die.

#### Example

1. Please pass this message on to your partner.2. Nurses have to pay attention because thi

### pay back

#### Definition

To pay someone the money he owes.

#### Example

Will you pay me back?

### pay off

#### Definition

1. To become worthwhile.  
2. To pay back the entirety of a loan.

#### Example

1. Her studies paid off when she was appointed the head of a famous company.2. The loan will be paid off in eight years.

### pay out

#### Definition

1. To slacken a rope by lengthening it.  
2. To pay money; to disburse.

#### Example

1. Pay out the nylon line2. Funds will be paid out over a three-year period.

### pick apart

#### Definition

To criticize or refute.

#### Example

He picked the testimony apart.

### play along

#### Definition

To pretend to cooperate.

#### Example

I had to play along and be polite so as to avoid an argument.

### pop out

#### Definition

To leave a room or building for a short time.

#### Example

She popped out for a quick phone call.

### pull out

#### Definition

To leave.

#### Example

when I arrived to the station the train was pulling out. So I had to wait for the next train.

### put in for

#### Definition

To officially request to be a candidate for something.

#### Example

She put in for the job of secretary in the company.

### put out

#### Definition

To extinguish fire, light...

#### Example

The firemen managed to put the fire out.

### put up with

#### Definition

To tolerate; to accept.

#### Example

I don't know why she puts up with his irresponsible behavior.

**Q**

### quiet down

#### Definition

1. To become quieter  
2. To reduce intensity of an activity.  
3. To make someone or something become quieter.

#### Example

1. The noise quieted down.2. We hope that the violence quiets down.3. He tried to quiet the children down.

**R**

### rally around

#### Definition

(also rally round) to unite in order to support a fellow group member.

#### Example

When she is ill all the family rally around.

### rely on

#### Definition

1. To be confident in.  
2. To be dependent upon.

#### Example

1. She can rely on him.2. The city relies on the water from the new dam.

### run away

#### Definition

To flee by running

#### Example

He had to run away from the criminal.

### run into

#### Definition

1. To enter by running.  
2. To collide with.  
3. To encounter or meet unexpectedly (literally or figuratively).

#### Example

1. He ran into the building.2. He lost control of the car and ran into a wall.3. He ran into a person he used to know when he was a child.

### run out of

#### Definition

To use up; to consume all of something.

#### Example

I've run out of milk/money/ideas/patience.

**S**

### screw up

#### Definition

To make a mess of; to ruin; to blunder; to make a mistake.

#### Example

I screwed up the test.

### show off

#### Definition

To exhibit; to demonstrate one's skill, talent, etc. for its own sake.

#### Example

He loves to show off her new clothes.

### stand for

#### Definition

1. To mean; to symbolize; to represent  
2. To tolerate

#### Example

1. The abbreviation CIA stands for "Central Intelligence Agency".2. We won't stand for that type of behaviour.

### step down

#### Definition

To resign from office.

#### Example

Pressure has been mounting on Mubarak to step down as the president of Egypt.

**T**

### take after

#### Definition

To resemble a parent or relative

#### Example

I take after my father. Who do you take after?

### take apart

#### Definition

1. to divide into parts; to dismantle something into it's component pieces.  
2. to soundly defeat someone, or a team.  
3. to move someone away from others to be able to talk to, or give them something in private.

#### Example

1. He carefully took the car engine apart to clean it.2. He took them apart when they were arguing.3. He took her apart and asked her for marriage.

### take away

#### Definition

To remove.

#### Example

The waiter took our plates away and came back with some fruit for us to eat.

### take off

#### Definition

1. To remove.  
2. TO leave.

#### Example

1. I took off my jacket because it was too hot.2. When he saw me, he took off in the other direction.

### take in

#### Definition

To decieve.

#### Example

He was taken in by her kindness.

### talk back

#### Definition

To reply impertinently;

#### Example

The little girl was punished because she talked back to her mother.

### turn down

#### Definition

To reject.

#### Example

He offered her a trip to Australia but she turned it down.

### turn off

#### Definition

To power down; to stop a device by switching it off.

#### Example

Turn off the light before you go to sleep.

**U**

### urge on

#### Definition

To motivate; to encourage.

#### Example

The crowd urged the players on.

### use up

#### Definition

use all of something

#### Example

I used up all of the soap, so we need to buy some more

**V**

### vote in

#### Definition

To collectively approve a nominee into an office or position as a result of voting.

#### Example

Why vote a man in who is not reliable at all?

### vote out

#### Definition

To expel the holder of an office or other position through an act of voting.

#### Example

Impeachment is the only way to vote the White House residents out.

**W**

### wait on

#### Definition

To serve.

#### Example

Each waitress waits on three different tables in the restaurant.

### warm up

#### Definition

1. To become warmer.  
2. To make an event become more interesting.  
3. To prepare yourself for an activity.

#### Example

1. The house warmed up.2. The discussion started to warm up.3. The team is warming up for the match.

### wear off

#### Definition

To disappear after a period of time.

#### Example

The affects of the medicine will wear off after a few hours.

### wear out

#### Definition

To cause to be very tired

#### Example

The kids just wore me out.

### work out

#### Definition

1. To calculate.  
2. To make sense of.  
3. To extract gradually.  
4. To succeed.  
5. To habitually exercise rigorously, especially by lifting weights, in order to increase strength or muscle mass or maintain fitness.

#### Example

1. I can't you work out this mathematical operation.2. I can't work these instructions out.3. He worked the bee sting out of his hand.4. Our project worked out perfectly well.5. You look great! Do you work out?

**X**

### x out

#### Definition

to cross out with letter X's, or with scribble, or with lines.

#### Example

He Xed out his name from the list.

**Y**

### yak on

#### Definition

to continue talking in an annoying way ("on" can be repeated for emphasis)

#### Example

He just yakked on and on and on.

**Z**

### zoom in

#### Definition

To focus.

#### Example

You need a telephoto lens to zoom in.