

PHRASAL VERB DICTIONARY

Break down When a machine or a vehicle breaks down, it stops working

Break off If you break off a relationship or agreement, you end it.

Bring about To bring something about means to cause it to happen

Bring along If you bring something or someone along, you bring them when you come to a place

Bring back (1) If something brings back an event or memory from your past, it makes you think about it

Bring Back(2) When people bring back something that existed in the earlier time, they introduce it again (=Revive)

Bring down (1) If people or events bring down a government or ruler, they cause them to lose their power

Bring down(2) To bring down the level of something means to reduce it

Bring off If someone brings off something difficult they do it successfully (=pull off)

Bring out When a person or company brings out a new product, they produce it and sell it

Bring up (1) When you bring up a child, you look after it until it is grown up and you try to give it particular beliefs and attitudes (=Raise)

Bring up(2) When you bring up a particular subject, you mention it or introduce it into a discussion or conversation.

Call Back If you call someone back, you telephone them again in return for a telephone call they have made to you

Call off If you call off an event or an arrangement that has been planned, you cancel it.

Carry on If you carry on with an activity, you continue doing it.

Catch on If something catches on, it becomes popular

Catch up(1) If you catch up with someone, you reach the same standard or level as they are.

Catch up(2) If you catch up with someone who is in front of you, you reach them by walking faster than they are walking.

Catch up on When you catch up on something, you spend time doing something that you have not had time to do properly until now.

Come across If you come across someone or something, you find or meet them by chance, without having expected to or without having thought about it.

Come down If the cost, level or amount of something comes down, it becomes cheaper or less than it was

before. (=Decrease, and go up means the opposite).

Come off If an event or action comes off, it is successful or effective.

Come up If something comes up in a conversation or meeting, it is mentioned or discussed.

Come up with If you come up with a plan, idea or solution, you think of it and suggest it.

Count on(1) If you count on or upon something, you expect it to happen and include it in your plans.(=Rely on)

Count (2) If you count on or upon someone, you rely on them to support you or help you (=Depend on)

Cut back on If you cut something down, you reduce it or do it less often.

Cut up If you cut something up, you cut into several pieces.

Do away with To do away with something means to get rid of it.(=Eliminate)

Do up(1) If you do something up, you fasten it.

Do up (2) If you do up an old building, you repair and decorate it and put in modern facilities.

Do with If you say you could do with something, you mean that you need it or would like it

Do without If you do without something, you manage or survive in spite of not having it.(=Go without)

Draw up When you draw up a document, list or plan, you prepare it and write it out.(=formulate)

Drop in If you drop in on someone, you visit them without making any formal arrangement to do so

Drop off When you are driving, if you drop one of your passengers off, you take them to where they want to go and leave them there.

Drop out If you drop out of a group, you stop belonging to it.

Fall behind If you fall behind when moving with a group of people, you move more slowly than them, so they get ahead of you.

Fall out If you fall out with someone, you have an argument and are no longer friendly with them.

Get across If an idea or argument gets across, or if you get it across, you succeed in making other people understand it.

Get ahead If you get ahead, you are successful in your career (= get on)

Get along If you get along with someone, you have a friendly relationship with them.(=get on)

Get around If you get around, you go to a lot of different places part of your way of life.

Get at If you get at something, you manage to reach or obtain it.

Get away(1) If you get away from a place or a person's company, you succeed in leaving them.

Get away(2) If you get away, you go away to have a holiday

Get away(3) When someone or something gets away from a place, or when you get them away, they escape.(getaway– they leave place in a great hurry, often after committing a crime).

Get away with If you get away with something that you should not have done, you are not criticised or punished for doing it.

Get back(1) If you get back to a place or position, you return there after you have been somewhere else.

Get back(2) If you get something back after you have lost or lent it, you have it once again.

Get by If you get by, you just manage to survive and have a fairly satisfactory life.

Get down(1) If you get down what someone is saying , you write it down.(=Take down)

Get down(2) If something gets you down, it makes you unhappy (=Depress)

Get down to When you get down to something, you start doing it seriously and with a lot of attention.

Get off If you get off a bus, train or plane, you leave it.

Get on (1) If you get on in your career, you are successful (=Get ahead)

Get on (2) If you say that someone is getting on, you mean that they are old.

Get on (3) If you get on with someone, you like them and have a friendly relationship with them.(=Get along)

Get on (4) If you ask how someone is getting on with an activity, you are asking about their progress.(=Get along)

Get out If you get out of place, you leave it

Get over If you get over an illness or other unpleasant experience, you recover from it

Get round/around If you get round a difficulty or restriction, you find a way of avoiding it or of escaping its effects.(=Bypass)

Get round(2) If news gets around, about or round, a lot of people hear about it and it becomes well-known

Get round(3) If you get around someone, you persuade them to let you do or have something, by flattering them.

Get through(1) If you get through to someone on the telephone, you succeed in contacting them.

Get through(2) If you get through a task, you succeed in finishing it

Get through(3) If you get through an examination, or if someone or something gets you through it, you pass it

Give away If you give something away, you give it to someone without taking money in return.

Give Back If you give something back, you return it to the person who gave it to you or who it belongs to.

Give up If you give up an activity or belief, you stop doing it or believing in it.

Go after If you go after someone, you follow them or chase them, sometimes in order to attack them

Go ahead When someone goes ahead with something which they planned, promised or asked permission to do, they begin to do it(=Proceed)

Go back If you go back, you return to a place where you were before

Go back on If you go back on a promise, agreement or statement, you do not do what you promised or agreed, or you deny what you said.

Go by(1) If someone goes by a place, they go there for a short time in order to do or get something.(Drop by)

Go by (2) If someone or something goes by, they pass you without stopping.

Go down(1) If the cost, level, standard or amount of something goes down, it becomes cheaper, lower or less than it was before

Go down(2) When something goes down in a particular way, it gets a particular kind of reaction from a person or group of people.

Go down with If you go down with an illness, you catch it or develop it.(=Contract)

Go off(1) If a gun goes off, it is fired. If a bomb goes off, it explodes

Go off(2) If food or drink goes off, it becomes, stale, sour or rotten (Decay)

Go off(3) If you go off somewhere, you leave the place where you were, usually in order to do something

Go off(4) If something such as an alarm, bell or flashbulb goes off, it operates, making a sudden loud noise or flash

Go on(1) If you go on doing something or go on with an activity, you continue to do it (=Carry on)

Go on(2) If you say that something is going on, you mean that it is taking place at the present time. (=Happen)

Go out(1) If a light goes out, it stops shining(=Come on)

Go out(2) If you are going out with someone, you spend time with them socially and have a romantic or sexual relationship with them

Go over If you go over something, you examine, discuss or think about it very carefully and systematically

Go through(1) If you go through an event or period of time, especially an unpleasant one, you experience it.

Go through(2) If you go through a list, story or plan you say, describe or discuss it from the beginning to end(Run through)

Go up(1) If the cost, level, standard or amount of something goes up, it becomes more expensive higher or

greater than it was before(=rise)

Go up(2) If you go up to a place you visit it or travel there;often used when the place is further north than you or is in a city

Go up(3) If something goes up, it explodes or suddenly starts to burn.

Hand back If you hand something back to someone, you return it to them after you have borrowed or taken it from them(give back)

Hand on If you hand something on to someone, you give it or leave it to them.(=pass on)

Hang around If you hang around, about or round a place, you spend a lot of time there, often doing very little.

Have on If you have on a piece of clothing, you are wearing it

Have out If you have out a tooth, your appendix and so on, a dentist or doctor removes them from your body.

Hold back(1) If you hold back information, you do not reveal it.(=Suppress)

Hold Back(2) If you hold a person or their career back, you prevent them from making progress.

Hold on If you ask someone to hold on, you want them to wait for a short time(=hang on)

Hold up(1) If something or someone holds up an activity or arrangement, they delay it or make it late.

Hold up(2) If someone holds you up, they point a weapon at you in order to make you give them money or valuables.

Join in If you join in an activity with other people such as meeting, you become involved in what they are doing

Join up If someone joins up, they become a member of the army, the navy or their air force(=Enlist)

Keep at If you keep at it, or keep someone at it, you continue or make them continue working at a job or a task trying hard, even if it is very difficult or unpleasant(=Persevere, Stick at, Stick to)

Keep back If you keep some information back, you do not tell all that you know about something (=Withhold)

Keep in If a parent or a teacher keeps children in, they make them stay indoors or they make them stay late at school.

Keep off If you keep someone or something off a particular area, you prevent them from going onto it. If you keep off an area, you do not go there yourself.

Keep on If you keep on doing something, you continue to do it and do not stop. (=Carry on)

Keep out If a sign says this, it is warning you not go onto that piece of land

Keep up If you keep it up, you continue working hard, trying hard or achieving the standard that you have in the past

Keep up(2) If you keep someone up, you delay them going to bed.

Keep up(3) If you keep up with someone else, you move at the same speed as them.

Kick off When football players kick off, they start the game by kicking the ball from the centre of the pitch.

Kick out If you kick someone out of place or an organisation, you force them to leave it(=throw out)

Knock down If a car or other vehicle knocks someone down, it hits them so that they fall to the ground and may be injured or killed(=knock over)

Knock out If a person or team is knocked out of a competition, they are defeated, so that they take no more part in the competition(=Eliminate).

Let down If someone or something lets you down, they fail to do something that you have been relying on them to do .

Let out If you let something out, you say something out, you say something that you should have kept secret.

Look after If you look after someone or something, you take care of them and do what is necessary for them to stay in good condition

Look back You think about something that happened in the past

Look down on If you look down on someone or something, you think they are inferior or unimportant(=Despise)

Look for If you're looking for something, you are trying to find it.

Look forward to If you look forward to something that is going to happen, you want it to happen because you expect to enjoy it.

Look into If you look into a particular problem, subject or situation, you find out and examine the facts relating to it.(=investigate)

Look on (1) If you look on while something happens, you watch without taking part yourself.

Look on(2) If you look on or upon something in a particular way, you think of it in that way.

Look out You say or shout look out to warn someone that they are in danger(=Watch out)

Look out for If you look out for something that you want or expect, you pay attention to things around you so that you notice it and can take action when it occurs or is there.

Look over If you look something or someone over, you examine or inspect them in order to get a general idea of what they are like.

Look through If you look through a group of things or a place, such as a cupboard, box or room, you examine all the things there, usually because you are trying to find something.(=go through)

Look up If you look up a piece of information in a book, or on a timetable or map, you look there to find the information.

Look up to If you look up to someone, you respect and admire them.

Make for If you make for a place, you move towards it, usually rather hurriedly. (=head for)

Make of If you ask a person that they make of someone or something you want to know what their impression, understanding or opinion of them is.

Make off If you make off, you leave somewhere as quickly as possible, often in order to escape.

Make out(1) If you can make something out you manage to see or hear it.

Make out(2) When you make out a form or cheque, you write on it all the necessary information.(=write out)

Make out (3) If you make out that something is the case, you try to cause people to believe it.

Make out(4) If you make out something that is difficult to understand, you manage to understand it.

Make up(1) If you make up something such as a story, you invent it, sometimes in order to deceive people.

Make up(2) The people or things that make up something form that thing(= composed something)

Make up(3) If you make up or if you make yourself up, you put substances such as lipstick, powder and eye-shadow on your face.

Make up(4) If two people make up with each other or make it up, they become friends again after they have had a quarrel.

Pick up(1) If you are driving a vehicle and you pick someone or something up, you stop the vehicle so that you can take them somewhere.

Pick up(2) If you pick up a skin, habit or attitude, you learn it or start having it without making any effort.

Play back Rebobinar.

Play up If a group of children are playing up or are playing you up , they are being naughty and are difficult to control.

Pull down Destroy a building or structure deliberately.

Put away If you put something away, you put it tidily somewhere.

Put back (1) To put back an event , appointment or task means to postpone it happening or being done until a later time.(=Defer)

Put back(2) If you put something back somewhere, you put it in the position it was in before it was moved.

Put down When you put down words or numbers, you write or type them somewhere.

Put forward If you put forward an idea or proposal, you state it or publish it so that people can consider it and discuss it.(=set out)

Put off(1) If you put off an event or appointment , you delay or postpone it. If you put a person off, you delay

saying them or doing what they want you to do by telling them that you are too busy.

Put off(2) If something or someone puts you off what you are doing, they cause you to stop concentrating by making a sudden noise or distracting you in some other way.

Put off(3) To put someone off doing something or having something means to cause them to change their mind so that they no longer want to do it or have it.

Put on(1) When a person or group puts on a play, concert or other entertainment, they organise it or perform it

Put on(2) If someone puts on weight, they become heavier(=gain)

Put on(3) When you put on a piece of clothing, you place it over a part of your body and wear it

Put on(4) If someone is putting you on, they are teasing you by trying to make you believe something that is not true.

Put out(1) If you put out a light, you cause it to stop shining by pressing or turning a switch(=switch off, turn off)

Put out(2) If you put out something that is burning you cause it to stop burning(=extinguish).

Put through If you put through a phone call or the person making the call, you connect them with the person they want to speak to.

Put up If someone puts you up or if you put up somewhere, you stay with them or stay there for one or more nights.

Put up with If you put up with something or someone, you tolerate or accept them even though you find it difficult or unpleasant.(=endure)

Run into If you run into someone, you meet them unexpectedly.(=run across, come across)

Run out If you run out of something, you have no more of it left.

See off When you see someone off, you go with them to the station, airport or port that they are leaving from, and say goodbye to them there.

See through If you see through a person or see through what they are doing, you realise what their intention is, even though they are trying to hide them.

Send off If a football player is sent off, the player is made to leave the field during a game as a punishment for seriously breaking the rules.

Send up If you send someone up, you imitate them in a way that makes them appear foolish. (=Take off)

Set off When you set off, you start a journey (=set out)

Set up If you set something up, you make the arrangements and preparations that are necessary for it to start.

Take after If you take after a member of your family, you resemble them in your appearance, behaviour or character

Take away If you take one number or amount away from another, you subtract the first from the second

Take back(1) If you take back something which you borrowed or bought, you return it to the place or person that you got it from, for example because you have finished using it or because it is damaged

Take back(2) If you take someone back after a quarrel or separation, you agree to let them live with you or work with you again

Take back(3) If you say something takes your back, you mean that it reminds you of a period in your past, and makes you think about it again.

Take down(1) If you take down something that is attached to a wall, post or other object, you unfasten or disconnect it, and remove it (=put)

Take down(2) If you take down what someone is saying, you listen to them and write it down to record it.(=Get down)

Take in(1) If you take in something that you see, hear or read, you pay attention to it and are able to understand it, remember it or evaluate it.

Take in(2) If you take in something such as a film, a museum or a place while you are on holiday or travelling somewhere, you go to see it or visit it.

Take off(1) When an aeroplane or bird takes off, it leaves the ground and starts flying

Take off(2) If you take off your clothes or something that you are wearing, you undress or remove it.

Take off(3) If you take off something such as an amount of money or a mark, you subtract it from a total

Take off(4) If you take someone off, you imitate their appearance or behaviour, usually in order to make other people laugh (=Mimic)

Take off(5) If something such as a product or activity takes off, it suddenly becomes very successful and popular.

Take on If you take on a job, task or responsibility, you accept it and try to do what is required.

Take on(2) If someone takes you on at a place of work, they employ you.

Take on(3) If you take on a rival or opponent, especially one who is bigger or more powerful than you, you fight or compete against them.

Take out(1) If you take someone out, for example to a restaurant or film, they go there with you, and you pay for everything.

Take out(2) To take something out means to remove it from the place where it was, often because it is unwanted or damaged

Take over If you take over a job or responsibility, you start doing it or being responsible for it after someone else has finished.

Take to If you take to someone or something you begin to like them

Take up(1) If you take up an activity or job, you start doing it (=Go in for)

Take up(2) If you take up an activity that was interrupted, you continue doing it from the point where it had stopped (=Pick up)

Take up(3) If something takes up a particular amount of time, space or effort, it uses that amount (=Occupy)

Take up(4) If you take up an offer, challenge or opportunity, you accept it

Try on If you try on a piece of clothing, you put it on to see it fits you or if it looks nice.

Turn back If you turn back or are turned back when you are travelling somewhere, you stop and return to the place you started from.

Turn down(1) If you turn down a person, their request or their offer, you refuse their request or offer.
(=Reject)

Turn down(2) When you turn down something, such as a radio or a heater, you adjust the controls and reduce the amount of sound or heat being produced.

Turn off When you turn off a device, machine or appliance, you adjust the controls in order to stop it working
(=Switch off)

Turn on When you turn on a device, machine or appliance, you adjust the controls so that it starts working(=Swicth on)

Turn out If something turns out a particular way, it happens in that way (=Work out)

Turn up If someone turns up, they arrive somewhere (=Show up).