

PHRASAL VERBS

- **Break down:** stop working, usually a machine or vehicle. *If my car **breaks down** again, I am going to sell it.*
- **Break (something) down:** destroy something such as a door or wall. *The firemen **broke** the door **down** and ran inside to look for the children.*
- **Bring (someone) up:** look after and educate a child. *Do you think it is difficult to **bring** children **up** as a single parent?*
- **Carry on:** continue doing something. *He **carried on** watching TV even though his mother had told him to go to bed.*
- **Catch on (to something):** understand. *The teacher explained it at least three times, but Helen still didn't **catch on**.*
- **Close (something) down:** end an activity. *I read in the paper last night that they are **closing** my old school **down**.*
- **Come down:** fall to the ground. *Did you see that the apple tree next door **came down** in the night?*
- **Come out in (something):** often when your body develops spots or rashes. *He **came out in** red marks all over his face and neck.*
- **Cut (something) down:** bring to the ground. *If we don't **cut** that tree **down** soon, it will fall down.*
- **Cut down on (something):** reduce the amount. *You must **cut down on** all the chocolates and cakes you eat. It's not good for you.*
- **Cut (something) out:** remove. *If you **cut** some of these late nights **out**, you won't feel so tired in the mornings.*
- **Die down:** come to an end. *She waited until the laughter **died down** before she continued her speech.*
- **Eat out:** eat in a restaurant instead of at home. *I'd like to **eat out** tonight. How about going to that little Italian restaurant on the high street?*
- **Get (something) across:** communicate an idea. *He had an interesting plan for reducing the level of pollution in the city, but it took him a long time to **get** his ideas **across**.*
- **Get away with (something):** avoid being caught and punished. *He is always late for work. How does he **get away with** it?*
- **Get by:** survive. *It was hard to **get by** on one salary when Tom lost his job, but things are OK now.*
- **Get (something) down:** make a written record. *Simon, could you make sure you **get** his telephone number **down**?*
- **Get down to (something):** start doing seriously. *I really must **get down to** writing my Christmas cards otherwise it will soon be too late.*
- **Get on (with someone):** have a good relationship. *My brother and I are different kinds of people. I've never really **got on** with him.*
- **Get out:** have time outside the home. *You should **get out** more. It's not good always being inside with the children like this.*
- **Get over (something):** recover from. *Her grandmother died a couple of months ago and it's taking her long time to **get over** it.*
- **Get round (someone):** persuade someone to let you do something. *My father doesn't want to lend me his car, but I know how to **get round** him.*
- **Get through (to someone):** made contact, often by telephone. *I've been trying to **get through** to you all day, but your phone has been constantly engaged.*
- **Get up to (something):** do something, often naughty or bad. *OK, kids, what did you **get up to** while we were away?*
- **Give (something) away:** 1 Donate for free. *I think we should **give away** all these old toys to the local children's hospital.*

2 show, reveal. *His bored expression **gave away** how he really felt.*

- **Give (something) back:** return. *Lend me £10, will you? I promise I'll give it back tomorrow.*
- **Give in (to someone):** surrender, agree to what someone else wants. *You shouldn't give in to him if you think he is wrong.*
- **Give off (something):** produce. *Plastic gives off a horrible smell when it is burnt.* (Note that in this case the verb and the adverb cannot be separated.)
- **Give (something) out:** distribute. *The teacher gave files and books out to all the students.*
- **Give (something) up:** stop. *All my friends have given smoking up this year. It's incredible.*
- **Go down:** Fall. *The price of houses has gone down by five per cent in the last year.*
- **Go on:** continue doing something. *She went on talking while he made lunch.*
- **Grow up:** become an adult. *I grew up in the north of England, but I moved down to London for my first job.*
- **Hold on:** wait. *Could you hold on for a moment while I get a pen and paper?*
- **Keep on:** continue doing something. *It kept on raining for the rest of the day.*
- **Keep up (with someone):** maintain the same level. *It's very difficult to keep up with her because she walks so fast.*
- **Let (someone) off:** give someone a light punishment or no punishment at all for something they have done wrong. *As it was his first offence the judge let him off with a small fine.*
- **Look after (someone/something):** take care of. *Would you mind looking after our cats while we are away on holiday?*
- **Look out:** pay attention, be careful. *Look out! There's a car coming.*
- **Look (something) up:** find information, often in a reference book. *He looked up all of the new words in his bilingual dictionary.*
- **Look up to (someone):** admire, respect. *I have always looked up to my mother. She's do patient and kind.*
- **Make for (someone/something):** go towards. *They made for the nearest café when it started to rain.*
- **Make of (something):** think of. *What do you make of that new book by Jason Bryan? I couldn't understand a word of it!*
- **Make out:** pretend. *She made out that she had been at home all evening when in fact she had gone out to see Martin.*
- **Make (something) out:** See clearly. *I can see someone coming towards us, but I can't make out who it is.*
- **Make (something) up:** invent. *I don't believe what she told us about meeting Elton John. I think she is making it up.*
- **Make (a room, bed, etc.) up:** prepare. *We need to make the spare room up if Jim is going to stay her tonight.*
- **Make (time) up:** get back. *We left late, but if I drive fast, I think we can make up the lost time.*
- **Make up (with someone):** become friends again. *You shouldn't get angry with your sister. Please go and find her and make up.*
- **Mind out:** pay attention. *Mind out! You nearly walked in that puddle.*
- **Pick on (someone):** treat someone badly or unfairly. *The other boys are really horrible to Michael. They're always picking on him.*
- **Pick (something) up:** learn. *He's very quick. You just tell him how to do something once and he's picket it up.*
- **Put (money) by:** save. *I try and put a little by each month. We'd like to go on a holiday to the Greek islands next year.*
- **Put (an animal) down:** destroy. *It was very sad. Our horse broke its leg and was in terrible pain. We had to have it put down.*
- **Put (someone) down:** criticise someone or try and make them look stupid or insignificant. *I think he puts me down in meetings because he never has any ideas of his own.*
- **Put (something) off:** postpone, make later. *Can we put the football match off for a week because some of our team are ill with flu?*
- **Put (something) out:** extinguish. *Could you put your cigarette out, please/this is a no-smoking area.*

- **Put (someone) through:** connect (specially by telephone). *Could you put me through to Mr Jenkins' secretary, please? I need to change the time of my appointment.*
- **Put (someone) up:** give accommodation. *Of course we can put you up for a few days while you're looking for a flat. There's no problem – we've got a spare room.*
- **Put (the price) up:** increase. *If we put up our prices again, we're going to lose some of our best customers.*
- **Put up with (someone/something):** tolerate. *I can't put up with the noise from next-door's party anymore. I am going to ask them to turn the music down.*
- **Rub (something) out:** remove something (usually with a rubber or a cloth). *I think you should rub the first part of your essay out and try again.*
- **Run out (of something):** finish, have no more left. *Could you buy some more milk when you go to the shop. We have nearly run out.*
- **Sell out (of something):** finish because everything has been bought. *I'm sorry; we've sold out of bread. Why don't you try the supermarket?*
- **Slow down:** reduce speed. *Please slow down. You're driving so fast, it's making me frightened.*
- **Speak up:** say things more loudly. *You need to speak up a little, I'm afraid I can't hear very well.*
- **Stand out:** appear clearly. *He usually stands out in a crowd. He's well over two metres tall!*
- **Stay out:** remain away from home. *Your mother doesn't like you staying out all night. Please be home by midnight.*
- **Stick out:** appear clearly. *I'm going to really stick out at school. I'm the only person who hasn't got a pair of the right kind of trainers.*
- **Take after (someone):** be similar to in character. *He takes after his father, he's very friendly and outgoing.*
- **Take (something) down:** write, make a note of. *Sharon, could you take down the following letter for Brian Stevens at CBC)*
- **Take (someone) in:** make someone believe something which isn't true. *When he told her he had come to check the gas meter, she was completely taken in.*
- **Take off:** suddenly increase, do well. *Interest in the environment has taken off in the last couple of years and I don't really understand why.*
- **Take (someone) off:** imitate someone to make other people laugh. *You should hear Simon taking off the Prime Minister – he's very funny.*
- **Take (time) off:** have a holiday/change. *You should take a few days off work, you're not looking at all well.*
- **Take (someone) on:** employ. *I'm thinking of taking another secretary on. Do you know anybody suitable?*
- **Take (something) over:** take control. *He's very dominating. When he joins a discussion, he usually takes over and no one else has a chance to say anything.*
- **Take (something) up:** start a new hobby. *I've taken up yoga recently. It's changed my life.*
- **Take up (space/time):** occupy. *This sofa takes up far too much room in here. We should move it downstairs.*
- **Tell (someone) off:** speak to someone angrily because they have done something wrong. *My Maths teacher told me off for not paying attention in class.*
- **Throw (something) out:** get rid of. *Don't throw those boxes out. They might come in useful one day.*
- **Watch out:** pay attention. *Watch out! There's a car coming.*
- **Wear (someone) out:** to make very tired, no energy left. *I've spent the day shopping, cleaning and cooking and now I'm worn out.*
- **Work (something) out:** calculate. *You've been trying to do that puzzle for ages. Haven't you worked it out yet?*