

TO PUT OFF
TO BREAK DOWN
TO GO AHEAD
TO TAKE OVER
TO FILL IN
TO CARRY ON
TO STAND OUT
TO GET ALONG
TO TURN UP
TO DO WITHOUT

PHRASAL VERBS

TO SET UP
TO COME ACROSS
TO PASS BY
TO LOOK AFTER
TO TEAR DOWN
TO HOLD ON
TO CHEER UP
TO BE ABOUT
TO BRING ROUND
TO LAY OFF
TO WRITE OFF
TO GO FOR
TO WIND UP
TO RULE OUT
TO STAY IN

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What's a phrasal verb?

1. Verb + Adverb Particle: *get back*

Many English verbs can be followed by small adverbs ('adverb particles'). These two-part verbs are often called 'phrasal verbs'.

Get back! *She walked out.* *I switched the lights off.*

Common adverb particles: *about, across, ahead, along, (a)round, aside, away, back, by down, forward, in, home, off, on, out, over, past, through, up.*

I switched the light off. (adverb particle)
I jumped off the wall. (preposition)

2. Idiomatic meanings: *break out, turn up*

The meaning of a two-word verb is often very different from the meanings of the two parts taken separately.

War broke out in 1939. (*Broke out* is not the same as *broke + out*.)
Joe turned up last night. (= appeared – not the same as *turned + up*.)
I looked the word up in the dictionary. (*Look up* is not the same as *look + up*.)
We had to put off the meeting till Tuesday. (*Put off* is not the same as *put + off*.)

3. Phrasal verbs with and without objects

Some phrasal verbs are intransitive (they do not have an object).

I got up at 7.00 today. *That colour really stands out.*

Others are transitive.

Could you switch the light off. *I helped Ann to fill in the form.*

4. Word order with objects

Adverb particles can go either before or after noun objects.

She switched off the light. OR *She switched the lights off.*

But they can only go after pronoun objects.

She switched it off. (NOT *She switched off it*.)

5. Verbs with prepositions and particles together

A few verbs can be used with both an adverb particle and a preposition (making them three-part verbs.)

*I **get on with** her quite well.*

*Stop talking and **get on with** your work.*

*It's hard to **put up with** people who won't stop talking.*

*I'm **looking forward to** reading your letter.*

Swan, Michael. *Practical English Usage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005, pp. 591-2.

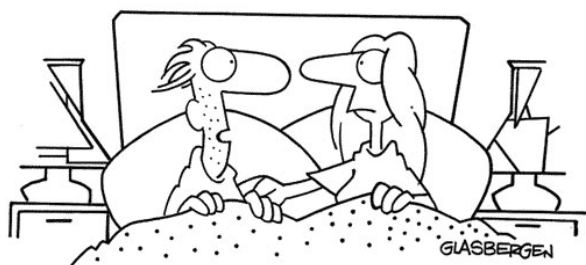
■ Vocabulary

to switch sth off/on (lights)
to break out (war)
to turn up (a person)
to look up (a word)
to put off (a date)
to get up (in the morning)
to stand out (from the crowd)
to fill in (a form)
to get on with sb
to get on with sth
to put up with sth
to look forward to (doing sth)

to turn off/on
to start
to arrive, appear
to check
to delay, postpone
to get out of bed
to be easily seen
to complete
to have a friendly relationship
to successfully complete a task
to tolerate
to be thinking with pleasure
about sth that is going to happen

to go ahead (doing sth)
to listen up
to hear sb out
to be over sb

to continue (doing sth)
to pay attention and listen carefully
to listen until sb has finished
to be ready to forget sb



**“Let’s try getting up every night at 2:00 AM
to feed the cat. If we enjoy doing that,
then we can talk about having a baby.”**

Phrasal Verbs with *be*

Complete these sentences by adding the correct particle from the box.

about – after – around – away – back – for – from – into
like – off – on – over – through – up – with

1. “Is your boss in?”
“No, I’m afraid she’s _____ on leave at the moment.”
2. “When will she be _____?”
“Not until next Wednesday.”
3. “What a complicated instrument panel! What’s this red button _____?”
“It’s the ejector seat. Please don’t pre...”
4. “Shall we watch some television?”
“If you like. What’s _____?”
5. “Where are you _____?”
“Birmingham.”
6. “What is Birmingham _____?”
“I don’t know. I left there when I was three months old, and I’ve never been back since.”
7. “I’m reading a novel called *Moby Dick*.”
“What’s it _____?”
“Whales.”
“*Moby Dick* doesn’t sound like a Welsh name to me!”
8. The traffic was so bad that by the time we got to the theatre, the concert was almost _____.
9. “Haven’t you finished yet?”
“Don’t worry, I’m nearly _____.”

10. "Please hurry up!"
"OK, I'll be _____ you in just a second."
11. "What's _____? You look as if you had seen a ghost!"
"Who said that?"
12. It's getting late. I'd better be _____ before my father sends out a search party.
13. *People chatting to each other online:*
"I'm busy chatting to someone at the moment, but I'd love to have a chat with you too. Will you be _____ for a while yet?"
"I won't log off for at least half an hour, I promise."
14. Rob is forever changing hobbies. Last year it was bird-watching. Now, he's really _____ stamp collecting.
15. "That's the third time this week that my sister has phoned me. I wonder what she's _____."
"Maybe she isn't _____ anything. Maybe she just wants to talk to you."

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"I was into Hip Hop long before
it was popular."

Phrasal Verbs with *come*

Complete these sentences by adding the correct particle from the box.

about – across – along – back – before – forward – from
in – into – off – with – on – out – round – to – up

1. A boomerang is a hunting weapon. It is shaped so that it will come _____ to the person who throws it.
2. “Where do you come _____?”
“Ireland.”
3. Please come _____.! Make yourself at home.
4. F comes _____ G in the alphabet.
5. Why don’t you come _____ to our house for dinner on Saturday?
6. The sergeant asked for volunteers, but only three came _____.
7. Just look at these old photographs. I came _____ them when I was clearing out an old cupboard.
8. “What magazine is that?” “It’s a literary magazine called *The Bookworm*.”
“How often does it come _____?” “Monthly”
9. Oh dear! Pollution, global warming, and the hole in the ozone layer: I don’t know what the world is coming _____!
10. “Come _____, Philip. Everyone else has finished except you!”
11. We’re all going out for a pizza. Would you like to come _____?
12. I hear that Michelle has come _____ a lot of money. Her rich aunt died and left her half a million.

13. Every time the subject of holidays comes _____, Ruth and her husband have an argument.
14. Pauline is working on a plan to convert her farmhouse into a bed and breakfast place. She reckons she'll make a fortune if it comes _____.
15. There has been another big crash on the freeway just south of LA. How did it come _____?
16. The camera comes _____ a nice leather case.



■ Vocabulary

- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| to come about | _____ |
| to come across | _____ |
| to come by | _____ |
| to come into | _____ |
| to come off | _____ |
| to come off | _____ |
| to come out | _____ |
| to come up | _____ |

Phrasal Verbs with *get*

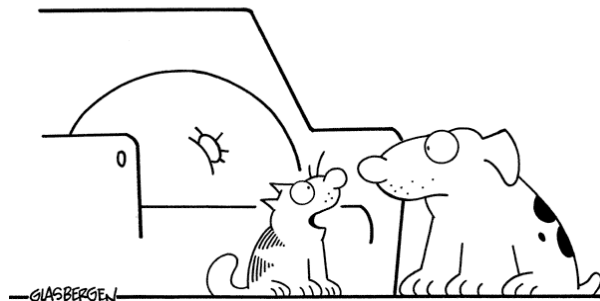
Complete these sentences by adding the correct particle from the box.

across – away with – back – behind – down – into – on – over – round – to – out

The river was flooded and Carole and I weren't sure how we would be able to get _____. "Let's take that boat we saw upstream," I suggested. "No way!" Carole replied. "That's stealing, and anyway, we'd never get _____ it!" We decided to make a raft out of some logs. Carole tore her shirt into strips to tie them together, and then the two of us got _____ to the raft. Just at that moment, a huge log came floating downstream and Carole shouted to me to get _____. We managed to leap back on to the bank just as the log hit our raft and smashed it to pieces. "We'll never get _____ the other side now!" I said in despair. "Don't worry, every problem has a solution. We'll think of something. We'll get _____ it somehow," Carole said cheerfully. She went to the water's edge and stepped in. It wasn't very deep but the current was really swift. "Come on, silly!" she said, "I got you _____ this mess and I'll get you _____ of it!" She turned and smiled at me. "Get _____ me and hold me round the waist," she said, "until I can find out how deep it is." With the water up to her knees, she signalled to me to climb on her shoulders. She went slowly, pausing with each step to make sure she had a firm foothold. Suddenly, I felt her slip. I screamed, but fortunately she regained her balance. When we were in shallow water, she told me it was safe for me to get _____. I think we both realised how close we had come to drowning in the swirling waters, and it took us a long time to get _____ the experience.

Phrasal Verbs with *get*

1. Fiona and I have always liked / _____ each other.
2. I just recovered from / _____ the flu and now my sister has it.
3. Let's meet / _____ for a BBQ this weekend.
4. I got out of bed / _____ early today to study for my exam.
5. We're going to freeze out here if you don't let us board / _____ the bus.
6. We need to leave / _____ the bus at the next stop.
7. How does she manage to survive with / _____ such a small salary?
8. That's a good question! I'll find out and talk to / _____ you later.
9. Let's start—there's a lot to do / _____.
10. Stop talking and continue / _____ with your work!



"I can get by on just 2 hours of sleep every day, as long as I nap for 14 hours."

■ Vocabulary

_____	to rise (out of bed in the morning)
_____	to board / leave (e.g. a train)
_____	to meet sb
_____	to manage to complete sth (e.g. an exam)
_____	to progress well (e.g. in one's studies)
_____	to have a friendly relationship with sb
_____	to recover (e.g. from an illness)
_____	to escape punishment
_____	to manage to survive (e.g. little money)
_____	to dispose of sth, to dismiss sb
_____	to speak or write to sb again later



"Cinderella got married and lived happily ever after until she got back from her honeymoon and stepped on the scales."



"Our computer is practically like a member of the family. Maybe that's why it's so hard to get along with."

Phrasal Verbs with go

A phrasal verb is wrong in each of the following sentences. Write the correct words.

1. One by one, the street lights went on, leaving us in total darkness.

2. The letter was returned to the sender with the words “Gone over, no longer at this address” written on it.

3. There’s an awful flu virus going up. I hope you don’t catch it.

4. What a fascinating story. Do go away!

5. Mark was sure that he had picked up his key, but when he went outside his pockets, he couldn’t find it anywhere.

6. I don’t think that red blouse really goes for your orange miniskirt, Sophie.

7. “Did you know that camels can go under water for thirty days?” “They must get very thirsty.”

8. What a lot of people! Do you think there will be enough food to go without?

9. This is a very complex computer program. You might need to go by the instructions again before you get the hang of it.

■ Vocabulary

to go ahead	_____
to go into	_____
to go off	_____
to go off	_____
to go off	_____
to go off	_____
to go on (with)	_____
to go out	_____
to go over	_____
to go through	_____
to go through	_____
to go together	_____
to go up	_____



"When I'm dieting, my doctor says it's okay to cheat once in a while. I'm going out with your friend Larry tonight."

Phrasal Verbs with *put*

Replace the underlined words with a phrasal verb containing the verb **put**. Choose from the particles in the box (some may be used more than once). In some cases, you will need to change the tense or form of the verb and add the pronoun in brackets.

back – away – up with – out – down – off – about – on – up

1. It's just about time you stored / _____ those garden tools for the season.
But if you store them / _____ dirty they'll be in rough shape come next spring.
2. She looks like she has gained / _____ weight again.
3. You have been rumoured to be involved in the crime. / Someone has been _____ (it) that you are involved in the crime.
4. If you use something, return it to where it was before / _____ (it)!
5. We've had to delay / _____ our wedding until September.
6. The meeting's on the 22nd. Write / _____ (it) in your diary.
7. He keeps postponing / _____ going to the dentist.
8. The military government is determined to crush / _____ all opposition.
9. Hurry up! Dress yourself in your coat! / _____ (your coat)!

10. Firefighters soon extinguished / _____ (the fire).
11. We can accommodate / _____ (you) for the night.
12. I'm not going to tolerate / _____ their smoking any longer.

■ Vocabulary

to put about	_____
to put away	_____
to put back	_____
to put down	_____
to put down	_____
to put off	_____
to put on	_____
to put on	_____
to put out	_____
to put up	_____
to put up with	_____

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"I've put on a lot of weight, but I'll lose it all in the spring."

Phrasal Verbs with *take*

Replace the underlined words with a phrasal verb containing the verb *take*. Choose from the particles in the box. In some cases, you will need to change the tense or form of the verb.

after – back – down – in – off – on – over – up

1. “Why have you removed / _____ all the pictures in the sitting-room?” – “Because I’m going to decorate it.”
2. “This radio I bought only picks up Radio Ulan Bator.” – “Why don’t you return / _____ it to the shop where you bought it, then?”
3. I’m not very fit, so I’ve decided to adopt / _____ an active hobby, such as squash or jogging.
4. The Worldwide Chemicals Company has recently been bought / _____ by its biggest rival.
5. “What did you think of Tanga airport?” – “Very nice, but our plane couldn’t leave / _____ until all the goats had been chased off the runway.
6. “Does John resemble / _____ his mother or his father?” – “Well, he looks just like his father, but he has his mother’s ears.”
7. One day, I painted little red spots all over my face, and told my father that I had caught measles. For a moment he was completely fooled / _____, but then he realised that it was a joke.
8. “Dad, is it all right if I leave school and get married?” – “I can’t advise you on that. You’d better discuss / _____ it with your mother.”

9. Because nobody else wanted to do it, Ms Van Winkle agreed to assume /
_____ the role of Director of Public Relations in
the Ministry of Industry.
10. He removed / _____ my wet boots and made me
sit by the fire.

■ Vocabulary

to take after	_____
to take down	_____
to take down	_____
to take for	_____
to take in	_____
to take off	_____
to take off	_____
to take on	_____
to take over	_____
to take to	_____
to take up	_____

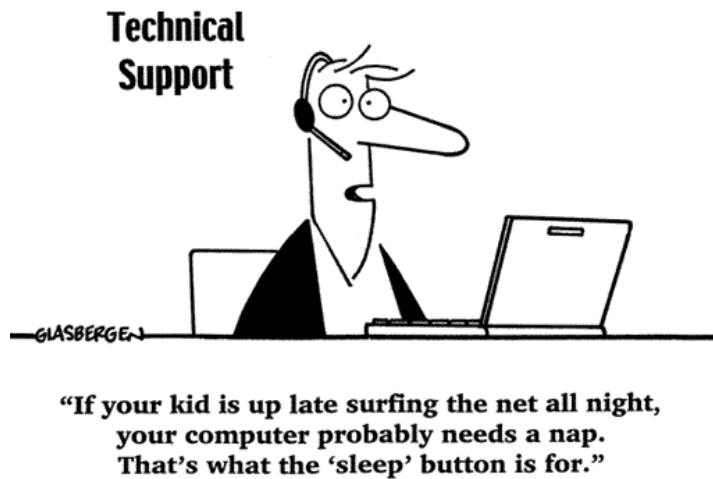
Mixed Phrasal Verbs

Complete these sentences by adding the correct verb from the box. In some cases, you will need to change the tense or form of the verb.

be about – be for – be like – come back – come from
come off – get back – get in – get up – go away – go on
go with – take back – take down – take off

1. “There was a strange bird in the garden the other day.” “What _____ it _____?” “It was grey with long legs and a long beak.”
2. “Do you like my new green-and purple shirt?” “Well, it’s very nice, but it doesn’t really _____ your pink-and-orange trousers.
3. I lost the keys to my apartment, so I had to _____ through a window.
4. I bought a mobile phone, but it didn’t work, so I _____ it _____ to the shop and they gave me another one.
5. I asked my father where babies _____, and he said ‘the Maternity Hospital.’
6. “Leave my house at once, and never _____!”
7. As I was walking down the stairs, I met a man who wasn’t there. He wasn’t there again today: Oh, how I wish he’d _____!
8. “Right now, I am reading a book called *Fermat’s Last Theorem*.” “How interesting. What _____ it _____?” “I have no idea!”
9. If I invest in the Flat Earth Company, I’ll be lucky to _____ my money _____, let alone make a profit.
10. We put up a poster to advertise our concert, but so many people complained about it that we had to _____ it _____.

11. There is a key on computer keyboards labelled 'Alt Gr', but nobody knows what it _____ !
12. They say a plane _____ from O'Hare Airport in Chicago every four seconds. It must be a very busy airport.
13. "I'd really like to ask Michael for a date, but I am afraid he will say no."
"_____, ask him. I know for a fact that he really likes you."
14. I hit a stone while I was cycling, the wheel _____ and I went head over heels into the hedge!
15. I like to sleep late on Sundays because I have to _____ so early during the week.



More Phrasal Verbs I

Complete each sentence using a verb from A (in the correct form) and a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A fly / get / go / look / sit / speak B away / by / down / on / out / round / up

The bus was full. We couldn't _____.

I've been standing for the last two hours. I'm going to _____
for a bit.

A cat tried to catch the bird, but it _____ just in time.

We were trapped in the building. We couldn't _____.

I can't hear you very well. Can you _____ a little?

"Do you speak German?" – "Not very well, but I can _____."

House prices are very high. They've _____ a lot in the last
few years.

I thought there was somebody behind me, but when I _____,
there was nobody there.

Complete each sentence using a word from A and a word from B. You can use a word more than once.

A away / back / forward / in / up B at / through / to / with

You're walking too fast. I can't keep _____ you.

My holidays are nearly over. Next week I'll be _____ work.

We went _____ the top floor of the building to admire the
view.

Are you looking _____ the party next week?

There was a bank robbery last week. The robbers got _____
£ 50.000.

I love to look _____ the stars in the sky at night.

I was sitting in the kitchen when suddenly a bird flew _____
the open window.

Out – *Fill in the correct verb.*

“Why did James leave the company?” – “Things didn’t _____ out.”

Soldiers are expected to _____ out order.

David _____ out with his father and left home.

At the end of the lecture the speaker _____ out information sheets.

We _____ out of petrol.

There are a few problems we need to _____ out.

Nobody believed Paul at first, but he _____ out to be right.

The police never _____ out who committed the murder.

On and off – *Fill in the correct verb.*

Shall I leave the lights on or _____ them off.

What’s all that noise? What’s _____ on?

My hands are very cold, so I _____ my gloves on.

I _____ on a jacket in the shop, but it didn’t fit me very well.

I’m going on holiday. I _____ off on holiday.

It was warm, so I _____ off my jacket.

Please, _____ the lights on.

We can’t _____ off making a decision. We have to decide now.

The open air concert had to be _____ off because of the weather.

I’ve _____ on two kilograms in the last month.

Helen was going away. We went to the station with her to _____ her off.

More Phrasal Verbs II

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the underlined words by a phrasal verb.

1. We've had to postpone / _____ our party until late August.
2. She inherited / _____ a fortune when her uncle died.
3. The light system suddenly stopped working / _____.
4. The doctor told him to reduce / _____ his drinking.
5. This machine won't disappoint you / _____.
6. When is her new novel appearing (being published) / _____?
7. The game was cancelled / _____ because of bad weather.
8. How does she manage to live / _____ on such a small salary?
9. Don't be tempted to cheat – you'll be punished for / you'll never _____ it.
10. Passengers are waiting to board / _____ the train.
11. He can't manage without / _____ a secretary.
12. She'd been seeing the boy for a while, but didn't want her parents to discover it / _____.
13. She raised / _____ five children.
14. I checked it / _____ in the dictionary.

15. He genuinely worries about / _____ his employees.
16. Has the trip to Rome ever taken place / _____?
17. Peter takes care of / _____ the children.
18. Your daughter doesn't resemble / _____ you at all.
19. He invented / _____ some excuse about his daughter being sick.
20. He's not capable of doing the job. _____ the job.
21. Be careful not to confuse / _____ quantity with quality.
22. He was disappointed at not getting the job, but he'll recover from / _____ it.
23. Could you return / _____ my pen?
24. They're testing / _____ a new presenter for the show.

■ Vocabulary

_____	to be capable of doing sth
_____	to cancel (e.g. a meeting)
_____	to confuse
_____	to disappoint
_____	to invent (e.g. a story, an excuse)
_____	to manage without
_____	to raise (e.g. children)
_____	to recover (e.g. from an illness)
_____	to reduce
_____	to stop working properly

More Phrasal Verbs III

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the underlined words by a phrasal verb.

1. He has just ended his relationship with / _____ Moira.
2. Soldiers simply obey / _____ orders.
3. Recently she has started to learn to play / _____ the drums.
4. Last night, two members resigned / _____ from the board in protest.
5. It's high time we abolished / _____ the death penalty.
6. She was chosen / _____ from dozens of applicants for the job.
7. The implications of the new law will need to be examined / _____ thoroughly.
8. Jeremy likes to boast about / _____ how well he speaks French.
9. Don't be fooled / _____ by his charm—he's ruthless!
10. I'll repay / _____ the money I owe them next week.
11. I went to the station to say goodbye to / _____ Julia.
12. They are a dangerous gang. You had better not go near / _____ them.
13. By chance, she found / She _____ some old photographs in a drawer.
14. She spent her childhood / _____ in Kildare.

15. In order to apply, please complete / _____ all the required forms.
16. How can you tolerate / _____ your child's table manners?
17. She phoned / _____ to invite me out for dinner.
18. Please mention / _____ this question at the meeting.
19. I feel like not going out / _____ tonight.

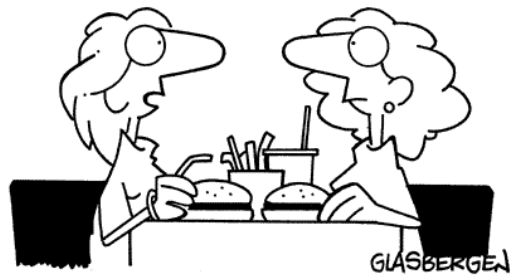
■ Vocabulary

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| _____ | to abolish |
| _____ | to boast about |
| _____ | to choose |
| _____ | to complete a form |
| _____ | to complete a task |
| _____ | to deceive, to fool |
| _____ | to end a relationship with sb |
| _____ | to end a relationship with sb |
| _____ | to examine carefully |
| _____ | to find (accidentally) |
| _____ | to mention a subject |
| _____ | not to go somewhere |
| _____ | to phone |
| _____ | to say goodbye |
| _____ | to start to do sth as a hobby |
| _____ | to reduce |
| _____ | to repay |
| _____ | to resign |
| _____ | to tolerate |

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



"Kenny hasn't spoken to me in six months, he won't return my calls and he goes out with all my friends. Do you think I should break up with him?"

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"You're going to school like that? When I was a kid, I used to have nightmares about showing up at school in my underwear."



"I'm looking up some important stuff: Does tail wagging count as aerobic exercise? How long should you know someone before you lick their face? What do the etiquette rules say about drinking from the toilet?"