

The Department of Humanities and Social sciences, NIT, Goa
Professional Communication I
Handout on Phrasal Verbs

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| call on | ask to recite in class | The teacher <u>called on</u> students in the back row. |
| call on (2) | visit | The old minister continued to <u>call on</u> his sick parishioners. |
| get over | recover from sickness or disappointment | I <u>got over</u> the flu, but I don't know if I'll ever <u>get over</u> my broken heart. |
| go over | review | The students <u>went over</u> the material before the exam. They should have <i>gone over</i> it twice. |
| go through | use up; consume | They country <u>went through</u> most of its coal reserves in one year. Did he <u>go through</u> all his money already? |
| look after | take care of | My mother promised to <u>look after</u> my dog while I was gone. |
| look into | investigate | The police will <u>look into</u> the possibilities of embezzlement. |
| run across | find by chance | I <u>ran across</u> my old roommate at the college reunion. |
| run into | meet | Carlos <u>ran into</u> his English professor in the hallway. |
| take after | resemble | My second son seems to <u>take after</u> his mother. |
| wait on | serve | It seemed strange to see my old boss <u>wait on</u> tables. |
| break in on | interrupt (a conversation) | I was talking to Mom on the phone when the operator broke in on our call. |
| catch up with | keep abreast | After our month-long trip, it was time to catch up with the neighbors and the news around town. |
| check up on | examine, investigate | The boys promised to check up on the condition of the summer house from time to time. |

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| come up with | to contribute (suggestion, money) | After years of giving nothing, the old parishioner was able to come up with a thousand-dollar donation. |
| cut down on | curtail (expenses) | We tried to cut down on the money we were spending on entertainment. |
| drop out of | leave school | I hope none of my students drop out of school this semester. |
| get along with | have a good relationship with | I found it very hard to get along with my brother when we were young. |
| get away with | escape blame | Janik cheated on the exam and then tried to get away with it. |
| get rid of | eliminate | The citizens tried to get rid of their corrupt mayor in the recent election. |
| get through with | finish | When will you ever get through with that program? |
| keep up with | maintain pace with | It's hard to keep up with the Joneses when you lose your job! |
| look forward to | anticipate with pleasure | I always look forward to the beginning of a new semester. |
| look down on | despise | It's typical of a jingoistic country that the citizens look down on their geographical neighbors. |
| look in on | visit (somebody) | We were going to look in on my brother-in-law, but he wasn't home. |
| look out for | be careful, anticipate | Good instructors will look out for early signs of failure in their students |
| look up to | respect | First-graders really look up to their teachers. |
| make sure of | verify | Make sure of the student's identity before you let him into the classroom. |
| put up with | tolerate | The teacher had to put up with a great deal of nonsense from the new students. |

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| run out of | exhaust supply | The runners ran out of energy before the end of the race. |
| take care of | be responsible for | My oldest sister took care of us younger children after Mom died. |
| talk back to | answer impolitely | The star player talked back to the coach and was thrown off the team. |
| think back on | recall | I often think back on my childhood with great pleasure. |
| walk out on | abandon | Her husband walked out on her and their three children. |

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| break in on | interrupt (a conversation) | I was talking to Mom on the phone when the operator <u>broke in on</u> our call. |
| catch up with | keep abreast | After our month-long trip, it was time to <u>catch up with</u> the neighbors and the news around town. |
| check up on | examine, investigate | The boys promised to <u>check up on</u> the condition of the summer house from time to time. |
| come up with | to contribute (suggestion, money) | After years of giving nothing, the old parishioner was able to <u>come up with</u> a thousand-dollar donation. |
| cut down on | curtail (expenses) | We tried to <u>cut down on</u> the money we were spending on entertainment. |
| drop out of | leave school | I hope none of my students <u>drop out of</u> school this semester. |
| get along with | have a good relationship with | I found it very hard to <u>get along with</u> my brother when we were young. |
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| look in on | visit (somebody) | We were going to <u>look in on</u> my brother-in-law, but he wasn't home. |
| look out for | be careful, anticipate | Good instructors will <u>look out for</u> early signs of failure in their students |
| look up to | respect | First-graders really <u>look up to</u> their teachers. |
| make sure of | verify | <u>Make sure of</u> the student's identity before you let him into the classroom. |
| put up with | tolerate | The teacher had to <u>put up with</u> a great deal of nonsense from the new students. |
| run out of | exhaust supply | The runners <u>ran out of</u> energy before the end of the race. |
| take care of | be responsible for | My oldest sister <u>took care of</u> us younger children after Mom died. |
| talk back to | answer impolitely | The star player <u>talked back to</u> the coach and was thrown off the team. |
| think back on | recall | I often <u>think back on</u> my childhood with great pleasure. |
| walk out on | abandon | Her husband <u>walked out on</u> her and their three children. |

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| break down | stop functioning | That old Jeep had a tendency to <u>break down</u> just when I needed it the most. |
| catch on | become popular | Popular songs seem to <u>catch on</u> in California first and then spread eastward. |

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| come back | return to a place | Father promised that we would never <u>come back</u> to this horrible place. |
| come in | enter | They tried to <u>come in</u> through the back door, but it was locked. |
| come to | regain consciousness | He was hit on the head very hard, but after several minutes, he started to <u>come to</u> again. |
| come over | to visit | The children promised to <u>come over</u> , but they never do. |
| drop by | visit without appointment | We used to just <u>drop by</u> , but they were never home, so we stopped doing that. |
| eat out | dine in a restaurant | When we visited Paris, we loved <u>eating out</u> in the sidewalk cafes. |
| get by | survive | Uncle Heine didn't have much money, but he always seemed to <u>get by</u> without borrowing money from relatives. |
| get up | arise | Grandmother tried to <u>get up</u> , but the couch was too low, and she couldn't make it on her own. |
| go back | return to a place | It's hard to imagine that we will ever <u>go back</u> to Lithuania. |
| go on | continue | He would finish one Dickens novel and then just <u>go on</u> to the next. |
| go on (2) | happen | The cops heard all the noise and stopped to see what was <u>going on</u> . |
| grow up | get older | Charles <u>grew up</u> to be a lot like his father. |
| keep away | remain at a distance | The judge warned the stalker to <u>keep away</u> from his victim's home. |
| keep on (with gerund) | continue with the same | He tried to <u>keep on singing</u> long after his voice was ruined. |
| pass out | lose consciousness, faint | He had drunk too much; he <u>passed out</u> on the sidewalk outside the bar. |

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| show off | demonstrate haughtily | Whenever he sat down at the piano, we knew he was going to <u>show off</u> . |
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