

The background is a dark blue rectangle with a red border at the bottom. It features several white line-art icons of open books and small red paper scraps scattered around the text. The text is centered and reads: "DREAM BIG INSTITUTION", "English Grammar Made Easy", "Phrasal Verb", "Visit Daily", and "www.DreamBigInstitution".

**DREAM BIG INSTITUTION**

# **English Grammar Made Easy**

## **Phrasal Verb**

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## Dream Big Institution

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An Educational Institute for Preparation of Government Exam

# 50 COMMON ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

## BELIEVE IN

1. When you **believe in** something or somebody you are sure that something or somebody exists.

### Examples of use:

- a) Do you **believe in** God?
- b) I didn't **believe in** ghosts until I stayed in an old castle in Romania: now I'm certain they exist.
- c) My children still **believe in** fairies.

2. To **believe in** something is to have a strong belief that something is good or right.

### Examples of use:

- a) My grandparents **believed in** working hard and helping others.

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- b) They do not **believe in** the death penalty.
- c) We **believe in** discipline for our children, but we don't **believe in** hitting them.
- d) We don't **believe in** living together before marriage.

3. When you **believe in** somebody, you have confidence that they are a good trustworthy person, or that they can do something well.

### Examples of use:

- a) We still **believe in** you.
- b) I want to **believe in** you, but you lied to me about everything.
- c) Don't worry about your exams. We **believe in** you and we know you will do well.
- d) You can get through these problems. I **believe in** you.

**Infinitive** : believe in

**Present simple** : believe in and believes in

**-ing form** : believing in

**Past simple** : believed in

**Past participle** : believed in



## BLOW UP

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1. To **blow up** something (or blow something up) means to fill it with air; for example, a balloon, or a car or bicycle tyre.

### Example of use:

Can you blow these balloons up for the party, please?

2. **Blow up** also means to suddenly lose your temper (get very angry).

Informal English.

### Example of use:

- a) I broke her iPad and she **blew up** at me.
- b) We were having a discussion about the accounts and he suddenly **blew up** and stormed out.

3. When something **blows up** (or when somebody blows something up) it explodes.

**Examples of use:**

- a) The family were injured when their house **blew up** because of a gas leak.
- b) Fortunately the plane was empty when the hijackers **blew** it up.

**infinitive** : blow up

**present simple** : blow up and blows up

**-ing form** : blowing up

**past simple** : blew up

**past participle** : blown up

## BREAK DOWN

1. If a vehicle or machine **breaks down** it stops working.

**Examples of use:**

- a) Our car **broke down** on the way to the airport and we missed our flight.
- b) My washing machine has **broken down**.
- c) Sorry I'm late. The train **broke down**.

2. If you **break down** you are unable to control your feelings and you start to cry.

**Examples of use:**

- a) She **broke down** when she heard the sad news.
- b) He misses his mother very much, and he often **breaks down** when he talks about her.

3. To **break down** is also to become mentally or physically ill because of difficult or traumatic experiences.

**breakdown** (noun) – a physical or mental collapse.

**Examples of use:**

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- a) Not long after her husband died she **broke down** and had to take some time off work.
- b) She had a nervous **breakdown** after her son was kidnapped.
- c) He had a **breakdown** last year but he's much better now.

4. If a meeting, discussion or an agreement (including a relationship or marriage) **breaks down** it fails or stops working properly.

### Examples of use:

- a) The talks between the political parties have broken down.
- b) Our marriage has broken down and we are getting a divorce.

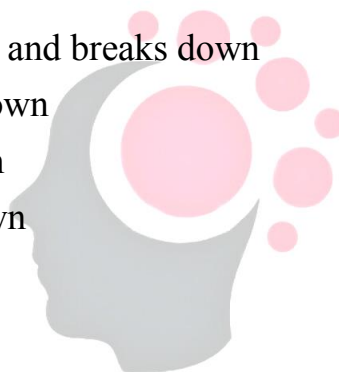
**infinitive** : break down

**present simple** : break down and breaks down

**-ing form** : breaking down

**past simple** : broke down

**past participle** : broken down



## CALL BACK

1. If you **call back** somebody (or **call** somebody **back**) you telephone someone who rang you earlier, or you telephone someone for a second time.

### Examples of use:

- a) Mr Evans telephoned while you were out: he wants you to **call** him **back**.
- b) He forgot to book a double room, so he had to **call** the hotel **back**.

2. To **call back** is to return to a place to see somebody again.

### Examples of use:

- a) Mrs Bottone is in a meeting. Can you **call back** this afternoon, please?

**infinitive** : call back

**present simple** : call back and calls back

**-ing form** : calling back  
**past simple** : called back  
**past participle** : called back

## CALL OFF

1. To **call off** something (or **call** something **off**) is to cancel a planned event, or an event that has already started.

### Examples of use:

- a) They are **calling off** the tennis match because of the rain.
- b) They **called off** their wedding.
- c) Mike is ill so we will have to **call** the party **off**.
- d) News headline: Spain airport strike **called off**.
- e) The police **called off** their search for the burglar after they found him hiding in a shed.
- f) The Bahrain Grand Prix has been **called off**.

2. To call off somebody or something (or **call** somebody or something **off**) is to give a command to somebody or something (e.g. a dog) to leave someone alone, or to stop attacking someone.

### Examples of use:

- a) **Call off** your dog!
- b) The General **called off** his troops.
- c) OK, I agree to your demands. You can **call** your lawyers **off** now.

**infinitive** : call off  
**present simple** : call off and calls off  
**-ing form** : calling off  
**past simple** : called off  
**past participle** : called off

## CALL ROUND

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To **call round** is to visit someone, usually for a short period of time.

British and Australian English.

### Examples of use:

- a) I think I'll **call round** and see if my grandmother needs anything.
- b) We **called round** yesterday, but you were out.
- c) Mrs Green's son **calls round** after work every day. She looks forward to his visits.
- d) Why don't you **call round** tomorrow? We can have a cup of tea and a chat.

**infinitive** : call round

**present simple** : call round and calls round

**-ing form** : calling round

**past simple** : called round

**past participle** : called round

## CHECK IN

1. To check in is to show your ticket at an airport so that the airline knows you have arrived, and they can put your bags on the aircraft.

### Examples of use:

- a) We have to check in at 8 o'clock.
- b) Please check in at least one hour before your flight leaves.

The check-in (noun) is the place at the airport where you show your ticket and let the airline know that you have arrived.

2. To check in (or check into something) is to arrive at a hotel reception desk and tell the hotel staff who you are, and collect your room key.

### Examples of use:

- a) We need to check into our hotel before 10pm.
- b) I'll meet you in the hotel restaurant in 10 minutes. I'll just check in and put my suitcase in my room.
- c) Where's dad?

He's checking in and collecting our room keys.

**Infinitive** : check in  
**present simple** : check in and checks in  
**-ing form** : checking in  
**past simple** : checked in  
**past participle** : checked in

## CHEER UP

1. To cheer up is to start to feel happier.

**Examples of use:**

- a) I wish he would cheer up.
- b) She was very unhappy last week, but she has cheered up now.
- c) He cheers up when he sees his girlfriend.

2. To cheer up somebody (or cheer somebody up) is to make them feel happier.

**Examples of use:**

- a) Harriet has had a very bad week. Let's buy her some flowers to cheer her up.
- b) You look sad. What can I do to cheer you up?

**Infinitive** :cheer up  
**present simple** :cheer up and cheers up  
**-ing form** :cheering up  
**past simple** :cheered up  
**past participle** :cheered up

## EAT OUT

To eat out is to eat away from home, at a cafe or restaurant.

**Examples of use:**

- a) I don't feel like cooking tonight so let's eat out.



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- b) We have eaten out every night this week!
- c) I don't like eating out. I prefer to eat at home.
- d) I enjoy eating out with friends and family.

**Infinitive** :eat out

**present simple** :eat out and eats out

**-ing form** :eating out

**past simple** :ate out

**past participle** :eaten out

### FALL OUT

1. To fall out with someone is to become upset or angry with them, and stop being friendly with them.

#### Examples of use:

- a) We fell out over something very small.
- b) I fell out with my sister because she broke my necklace.
- c) Ingrid and Beatrice fell out when Ingrid crashed Beatrice's car.
- d) Marcus and Akos have fallen out.

A falling-out (noun) is an argument or disagreement.

#### Example of use:

Jerry hasn't spoken to his brother for years. They had a falling-out over money.

2. If your hair falls out it becomes loose and unattached.

#### Examples of use:

- a) My hair fell out when I was ill.
- b) My father's hair started to fall out when he was only 30, and now he is completely bald.

**Infinitive** : fall out

**present simple** : fall out and falls out

**-ing form** : falling out

**past simple** : fell out

**past participle** : fallen out

## FALL OVER

1. To fall over is to fall to the ground from an upright position.

### Examples of use:

- a) The marathon runner fell over.
- b) He stood up quickly and his chair fell over.
- c) My son is learning to walk and he keeps falling over.
- d) Their grandmother has fallen over and broken her hip.

2. If you fall over yourself (or fall all over yourself) to do something, you are very keen to do it.

### Examples of use:

- a) Chris fell over himself trying to impress his new wife.
- b) The supermarkets are falling over themselves to attract customers to their shops.

**infinitive** :fall over

**present simple** : fall over and falls over

**-ing form** : falling over

**past simple** : fell over

**past participle** : fallen over

## GET UP

1. To get up is to wake up and get out of bed.

### Examples of use:

- a) It's 8 o'clock: time to get up.
- b) I want to get up early tomorrow.

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- c) We had a day off work yesterday so we got up very late.
- d) He's been getting up at 5am every day for years.
- e) She gets up early and goes for a run every morning.
- f) I get up at 7.30 every day.

2. To get up is also to stand up.

### Examples of use:

- a) Get up off the floor. Your clothes will get dirty.
- b) He fell over when he was playing football, but quickly got up again.

**Infinitive** : get up

**present simple** : get up and gets up

**-ing form** : getting up

**past simple** : got up past

**participle** : got up (American English also gotten)

## GIVE UP

1. If you give up something (or give something up) that is bad for you (for example alcohol, smoking, and eating fatty foods) you stop doing it or having it.

### Examples of use:

- a) Eric gave up smoking two years ago.
- b) We're trying to lose weight so we've given up eating cakes.
- c) He had to give up drinking alcohol because it made him ill.

2. To give up something (or give something up) is to stop doing a job, or something else you do regularly.

### Example of use:

He gave up work to look after his children.

3. To give up something (or give something up) is also to stop doing something

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because it is too difficult for you to continue.

### Examples of use:

- a) I gave up learning English because I was too busy with work and my family.
  - b) He wanted to finish the marathon but he had to give up after ten miles.
  - c) She had to give her job up because her elderly mother was ill.
4. To give up is to stop trying to think of the answer to a question or problem, or a joke.

### Examples of use:

- a) I give up. I don't know the answer. Tell me what it is.
- b) I gave up trying to remember the date of my friend's birthday, and asked her mother instead.

**infinitive** : give up

**present simple** : give up and gives up

**-ing form** : giving up

**past simple** : gave up

**participle** : given up



## GROW UP

1. To grow up is to become older or to become an adult.

### Examples of use:

- a) When I grow up I want to be a doctor.
- b) He grew up in Thailand.
- c) She's growing up fast.

2. Grow up is something you say to someone who is behaving in a childish or immature way.

### Examples of use:

- a) You're being stupid. Why don't you just grow up?
- b) Oh grow up! I've heard enough of your silly jokes.

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3. grown-up (adjective) – When children look or behave in a mature way they are grown-up.

**Example of use:**

She looked very grown-up in her new dress.

4. grown-up (noun) – a grown-up is an adult. Informal English – usually used by children.

**Example of use:**

He wanted to sit with the grown-ups but he had to look after his brother and sister.

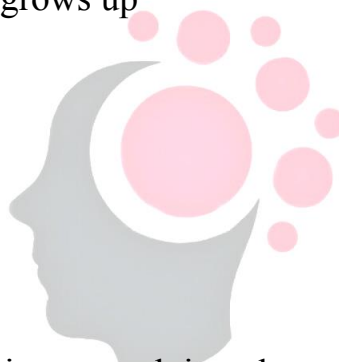
**infinitive** : grow up

**present simple** : grow up and grows up

**-ing form** : growing up

**past simple** : grew up

**past participle** : grown up



## HANG AROUND

1. To hang around somewhere is to spend time there doing very little.

Informal English.

This phrasal verb can also be hang round and hang about.

**Examples of use:**

a) Will you stop hanging around the kitchen and go and do something useful!

b) You go on ahead. I'll hang around here and wait for William to arrive.

c) I've been hanging round all day waiting for the plumber to arrive.

2. To hang around with someone is to spend time with them

Informal English.

This phrasal verb can also be hang round and hang about with somebody.

**Examples of use:**

a) We used to hang around together when we were children.

b) She hangs around with Alice and Jenny.

**infinitive** : hang around

**present simple** : hang around and hangs around

**-ing form** : hanging around

**past simple** : hung around

**past participle** : hung around

## HANG UP

1. To hang up something (or hang something up) means to hang something, especially clothes, on a hanger or hook.

### Examples of use:

- a) Your grandmother is coming to visit today, so don't forget to hang up your clothes when you tidy your room.
- b) Could you hang my coat up, please?
- c) I'll hang your coat up in the study.

2. To hang up also means to end a telephone conversation, especially suddenly or unexpectedly.

If you hang up you replace the part of the telephone you speak into back onto its normal place on the telephone – however, we also use this expression when referring to ending conversations on mobile phones.

### Examples of use:

- a) Don't hang up on me.
- b) Don't buy anything from that company: the lady from their customer service department hung up on me last week.
- c) How dare you hang up on me!
- d) My girlfriend is angry with me and she keeps hanging up on me.

3. To be hung up is to be very anxious about something and to spend a lot of time thinking about it.

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Informal English.

### Examples of use:

- a) Many women are hung up about their weight.
- b) There's no point getting hung up about it; there's nothing you can do.

4. A hang-up (noun, informal) is something that a person worries about a lot, or is afraid of.

### Examples of use:

- a) She has a real hang-up about being seen without her make-up on.
- b) He doesn't have any hang-ups.

**Infinitive** : hang up

**Present simple** : hang up and hangs up

**-ing form** : hanging up

**past simple** : hung up

**past participle** : hung up



## HURRY UP

When you hurry up you do something more quickly.

### Examples of use:

- a) Can you hurry up and put your coat on, please?
- b) It's nearly time for bed so hurry up and finish your homework.
- c) Hurry up. Our taxi is here.
- d) If you don't hurry up we'll miss the train.

**infinitive** : hurry up

**present simple** : hurry up and hurries up

**-ing form** : hurrying up

**past simple** : hurried up

**past participle** : hurried up

## JOIN IN

To join in something is to become involved in an activity with other people.

### Examples of use:

- a) Your brother is playing football. Why don't you go and join in?
- b) We're playing cards tomorrow night. Come and join in. Everyone is welcome.
- c) Amelia is very shy. She never joins in with the other children's games.

**Infinitive** : join in

**present simple** : join in and joins in

**-ing form** : joining in

**past simple** : joined in

**past participle** : joined in

## LIVE UP TO

To live up to is to be as good as someone hopes or expects.

If someone or something lives up to people's expectations, they are as good as they are expected to be.

### Examples of use:

- a) Our hotel was amazing and lived up to all our expectations.
- b) Last night's concert was good, but I don't think he lived up to his reputation as a world-class entertainer.
- c) Did the Harry Potter movie live up to your expectations?  
Yes! It was fantastic!
- d) I'm not living up to my parents' dreams: they want me to be a doctor like my father, but I want to be an actor.
- e) News headline: Barack Obama's speech failed to live up to his own high standards.
- f) Will the new McLaren Formula 1 car live up to expectations?
- g) Will the iPad live up to the hype?
- h) You're not living up to your potential - you should get a job, earn some money and do something with your life.



**infinitive** : live up to

**present simple** : live up to and lives up to

**-ing form** : living up to

**past simple** : lived up to

**past participle** : lived up to

## LOOK AFTER

If you look after somebody or something, you do whatever is needed to keep them healthy and well, or in good condition.

### Examples of use:

- a) Eric looks after his family very well.
- b) Look after your new shoes.
- c) Can you look after your sister while I'm busy with the housework, please?
- d) Look after yourself while I'm away.

Take care of has the same meaning.

**Infinitive** : look after

**present simple** : look after and looks after

**-ing form** : looking after

**past simple** : looked after

**past participle** : looked after

## LOOK UP (SOMEBODY)

To look somebody up (or look up somebody) is to locate and visit someone you have not seen for a long time.

### Examples of use:

- a) Look me up if you are ever in England.
- b) I went to Newcastle on business last week and I looked up an old friend.

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c) My friends were on holiday in my city, so they looked me up and we all went to a restaurant for a meal.

**infinitive** : look up

**present simple** : look up and looks up

**-ing form** : looking up

**past simple** : looked up

**past participle** : looked up

### LOOK UP (SOMETHING)

To look up something (or look something up) is to try and find a piece of information in a book (such as a dictionary, directory, thesaurus or encyclopaedia), or by using a computer.

#### Examples of use:

a) I'm looking up information about phrasal verbs.

b) Look up the meaning of new English words in your dictionary.

c) I looked up her telephone number in the telephone directory.

d) Q. What are you doing ?

A. I'm looking up the population of Brazil for my geography project.

**infinitive** : look up

**present simple** : look up and looks up

**-ing form** : looking up

**past simple** : looked up

**past participle** : looked up

### MAKE (SOMETHING) UP

To make up something (or make something up) is to invent a story or excuse. This can be something written or said in order to deceive (a lie), or a story or game to entertain.

#### Examples of use:

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- a) He made up lies about me.
- b) The politician said that the newspaper reporter made up the information about her expenses claim.
- b) The children made up a wonderful game about dragons and kings and queens.
- e) It's wrong to make up stories about people.

**infinitive** : make up

**present simple** : make up and makes up

**-ing form** : making up

**past simple** : made up

**past participle** : made up

### MEET UP

To meet up is to meet someone, or a group of people, in order to do something together.

#### Examples of use:

- a) Can we meet meet up for lunch next week to discuss your plans for the business?
- b) The accountant and I are meeting up at 2pm tomorrow to check the business accounts.
- c) I'm meeting up with my friends on Saturday.
- d) Are you free on Monday? It would be lovely to meet up for coffee.

**infinitive** : meet up

**present simple** : meet up and meets up

**-ing form** : meeting up

**past simple** : met up

**past participle** : met up

### MOVE IN

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1. To move in is to start living in a new place, and to put all your furniture and personal possessions into your new home.

### Examples of use:

a) Question. When are you moving house?

Answer. I moved in last week. Here's my new address.

b) Louise and Simon have bought a new house and they are moving in today.

c) Question: How long have you lived here?

Answer: We moved in in 1996.

2. To move in together is to start living with someone else – usually someone you are having a romantic relationship with.

### Example of use:

Peter and Carol got engaged yesterday, and they plan to move in together next month.

**infinitive** : move in

**present simple** : move in and moves in

**-ing form** : moving in

**past simple** : moved in

**past participle** : moved in



## MOVE OUT

To move out is to leave a place and take all your furniture and other possessions with you.

### Examples of use:

a) We're moving out on Sunday.

b) The lease on my flat expires at the end of the month and I have to move out.

c) Sarah has bought a new house and she is moving out of her old place today.

**Infinitive** : move out

**present simple** : move out and moves out

**-ing form** : moving out

**past simple** : moved out

**past participle** : moved out

## PHONE UP (AND RING UP)

To phone up somebody (or phone somebody up) is to telephone them.

### Examples of use:

a) Phone up Mr Hargreaves and arrange a meeting, please.

b) Max is late. Can you phone him up and ask him where he is?

To ring up somebody (or ring somebody up) means the same as phone up.

**infinitive** : phone up

**present simple** : phone up and phones up

**-ing form** : phoning up

**past simple** : phoned up

**past participle** : phoned up



## PICK UP

To pick up something or somebody (or pick something or somebody up) is to lift something or somebody by using your hands.

### Examples of use:

a) She picked the children's clothes up off the floor.

b) He picked up his suitcase and put it in the boot of the car.

c) The baby was crying so she picked her up.

**infinitive** : pick up

**present simple** : pick up and picks up

**-ing form** : picking up

**past simple** : picked up

**past participle** : picked up

**Note: this phrasal verb has many additional meanings**

## PUT OFF

1. To put off something (or put something off) is to decide to do something at a later time or date (to postpone it).

**Examples of use:**

- a) We were going to get married in March, but we put it off until June because my grandmother was ill.
- b) Can we put off the meeting until tomorrow, please? I am very busy today.

2. To put off someone (or put someone off) is to delay seeing them or doing something for them.

**Examples of use:**

- a) I don't want to see the salesman today. Can you put him off until next week?
- b) My parents were coming to visit this week, but we had to put them off because our heating is broken.

This phrasal verb has other meanings

**infinitive** : put off

**present simple** : put off and puts off

**-ing** : putting off

**past simple** : put off

**past participle** : put off

## QUEUE UP

1. To queue up for something is to wait in a line (a queue) in order to get something, do something, or go somewhere.

British and Australian English.

**Examples of use:**

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- a) They queued up to get their new work contracts.
- b) We had to queue up for more than an hour to get a taxi home.
- c) Fans queued up for hours to see the final Harry Potter film.
- d) Traffic is queueing up on the motorway.
- e) News headline: Hundreds queue up for Apple iPhone4.

2. To be queueing up to do something is to want to do it very much.

If people are queueing up for something or to do something, a lot of them want to do it or have it.

British and Australian English.

### Examples of use:

- a) Journalists are queuing up to interview Camden residents and business owners about the London riots.
- b) Model agencies are queueing up to sign up the French model.
- c) He's a fantastic singer. The recording companies will be queueing up to give him a contract.

**Infinitive** : queue up

**present simple** : queue up and queues up

**-ing form** : queueing up (or queuing up)

**past simple** : queued up

**past participle** : queued up

**Dream Big**  
Journey towards Destination

## READ OUT

To read out something (or read something out) is to read the words and say them so that people can hear you.

### Examples of use:

- a) Simon, can you read the instructions out for me, please?
- b) She read out the names of the winners.

**Infinitive** : read out

**present simple** : read out and reads out

**-ing form** : reading out

**past simple** : read out

**past participle** : read out

## RELY ON / UPON

1. To rely on (or rely upon) somebody or something is to trust someone or something to do what you need or expect them to do.

Often + to do something.

### Examples of use:

- a) I'm relying on you not to drop me!
- b) Can I rely on you to keep my secret?
- c) We need someone we can rely on to manage the business for us.
- d) I wish I could rely on my train arriving on time.
- e) I'm relying on my students to finish their English homework this week.
- f) We're relying on our old car to get us to the airport on time
- g) You can rely on Jasmine.

2. To rely on (or rely upon) somebody or something is to need or depend on someone or something in order to work correctly, to succeed, or to survive.

### Examples of use:

- a) We rely on our son to do our food shopping for us.
- b) He relies on the income from his writing for paying his bills.
- c) Our elderly neighbour relies on her children for help.
- d) I'm relying on all of you to work hard and make this team a success.
- e) The English students relied on their teachers to help them pass their English exams.
- f) Our business relies on government contracts.

Rely upon is a little more formal than rely on.

**infinitive** : rely on / upon

**present simple** : rely on / upon and relies on / upon



**-ing form** : relying on / upon

**past simple** : relied on / upon

**past participle** : relied on / upon

## RUB OUT

To rub out something (or rub something out) is to remove writing from a surface by rubbing or wiping it with an eraser or a piece of cloth.

### Examples of use:

- a) I made a mistake so I rubbed it out.
- b) You've made a spelling mistake here. Rub it out and correct it, please.
- c) Can you rub out the writing on the board, please?

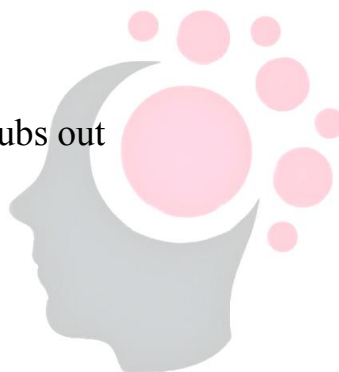
**infinitive** : rub out

**present simple** : rub out and rubs out

**-ing form** : rubbing off

**past simple** : rubbed off

**past participle** : rubbed off



## RUN OUT (OF)

1. To run out of something is to use all of it so that there is nothing left.

### Examples of use:

- a) I've run out of bread.
- b) We can't have coffee this morning because we've run out of milk.
- c) I ran out of petrol on my way to work this morning.
- d) News headline: Fresh water supplies are going to run out
- e) We're running out of orange juice. I'll buy some more today.

Run out has other meanings.

**infinitive run** : out of

**present simple** : run out of and runs out of

**-ing form** : running out of

**past simple** : ran out of

**past participle** : run out of

## SAVE UP

To save up something (or save something up) is to keep money so that you have enough to buy something in the future.

### Examples of use:

- a) We are saving up for a house.
- b) You will have to save up if you want to buy that expensive car.
- c) He saved up for a year for a new motorbike.
- d) She saved her allowance up to buy a ticket to see her favourite band.

**infinitive** : save up

**present simple** : save up and saves up

**-ing form** : saving up

**past simple** : saved up

**past participle** : saved up

## SELL OUT

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To sell out of something is to sell all of it and have no more left for people to buy.

### Examples of use:

- a) Their designer shoes are beautiful, but they have sold out in my size.
- b) We're selling out of iPhones very fast. We must order some more.
- c) I'm sorry. We have sold out of tickets for the show.
- d) He sells out of his homemade cakes every day.

When all the tickets to a play, film, concert, or other public performance have been sold the event is sold-out (adjective)

**Example of use:** We tried to buy tickets for their concert but it's sold-out.

sell-out (noun) - when all the tickets to an event have been sold it is a sell- out.

**Example of use:** Take That start their sell-out tour on Monday.

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When all the items for sale in a shop have been sold they are sold-out (adjective)

### Example of use:

Q. Could I buy one of your chocolate cakes, please?

A. I'm sorry. They are all sold-out.

infinitive sell out

**present simple** : sell out and sells out

**-ing form** : selling out

**past simple** : sold out

**past participle** : sold out

## SET OFF

1. To set off is to start a journey.

### Examples of use:

a) What time are we setting off?

b) They set off for home.

c) There are roadworks on the motorway so you'd better set off early.

d) He set off from Paris last Sunday.

e) We set off for London with only £20 in our pockets.

f) I'm looking forward to setting off on my summer holiday.

2. To set off something (or set something off) is to cause something to start or happen.

### Examples of use:

a) The loud music set off the baby's crying.

b) The proposed wage cuts set off a work-to-rule.

c) He came home with lipstick on his collar and this set off a huge argument.

d) News headline: Nick Clegg is about to set off an almighty row over universities.

3. To set off something (or set something off) is to cause something to explode or start to ring loudly.

### Examples of use:

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- a) The smoke from the fire set off the smoke alarm.
- b) They set a bomb off outside the building.
- c) A spark set off the fireworks.

infinitive set off

**present simple** :set off and sets off

**-ing form** :setting off

**past simple** :set off

**past participle** :set off

## SETTLE DOWN

1. To settle down is to start living in a place where you plan stay for a long time, especially after living in many different places or travelling a lot.

### Example of use:

I worked in many different countries when I was younger, but I came back to the UK in 2005 and settled down and got married.

2. When two people settle down together they set up a life together and perhaps get married, buy a house and start a family.

### Example of use:

a) Alice and Peter are settling down and buying a house together. They are getting married in June.

b) They make a lovely couple. I hope they settle down together.

3. To settle down is also to become calm and quiet.

### Examples of use:

a) I wish the children would settle down and go to sleep- I'm exhausted!

b) Settle down class, and get your books out. Today we're going to learn about phrasal verbs.

c) There was a fight between the rival football fans but the situation has settled down now.

**infinitive** :settle down

**present simple** :settle down and settles down

**-ing form** :settling down

**past simple** :settled down

**past participle** :settled down

## SHOW OFF

1. To show off is to try and make people notice and admire you in a way which is annoying.

**Examples of use:**

a) Stop showing off!

b) He's always showing off in the classroom and getting into trouble.

2. To show off somebody or something (or show somebody or something off) is to display it proudly.

**Examples of use:**

a) John showed off his new toy to his grandparents.

b) We were invited to their house so they could show off their valuable paintings.

c) She showed off her new pearl necklace to her work colleagues.

d) Oh no! Here comes our neighbour showing off his new car.

show-off (noun) - somebody who shows off

**infinitive** : show off

**present simple** : show off and shows off

**-ing form** : showing off

**past simple** : showed off

**past participle** : shown off

## SORT OUT

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1. To sort out something (or sort something out) is to organize or arrange things which are untidy.

### Examples of use:

- a) My bookcase is in a mess. I need to sort out my books.
- b) Your room is very untidy. Sort out your clothes and put them in your cupboard, please.

2. To sort out something (or sort something out) is also to resolve a problem or misunderstanding.

### Examples of use:

- a) I had a problem with my car brakes but my brother sorted them out.
- b) If my parents have any trouble with their computer their neighbour always sorts it out for them.
- c) Will you two stop arguing and sort out your disagreements?!

3. To sort out something (or sort something out) is to discuss it with someone and make a decision about what to do.

- a) We need to sort out the arrangements for our holiday.
- b) Let's sit down and sort out the guest list for the wedding.

**Infinitive** : sort out

**present simple** : sort out and sorts out

**-ing form** : sorting out

**past simple** : sorted out

**past participle** : sorted out

## TAKE UP

1. To take up something (or take something up) is to start doing a particular, activity, job or hobby etc.

### Examples of use:

- a) My grandmother has taken up knitting.

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- b) I've recently taken up photography.
  - c) You're good at writing stories. Why don't you take it up as a career?
  - d) He took up stamp collecting when he was a boy.
2. To take up something (or take something up) is to shorten a piece of clothing, such as a dress or trousers.

### Examples of use:

- a) My new trousers are too long - I need to take them up.
- b) My wedding dress had to be taken up 10cm.
- c) Your skirt is a bit long. Shall I take it up for you?

This phrasal verb has additional meanings – you can find some of them here.

**infinitive** :take up

**present simple** :take up and takes up

**-ing form** :taking up

**past simple** :took up

**past participle** :taken up



## TELL OFF

To tell off somebody (or tell somebody off) is to speak angrily to someone because they have done something wrong.

Informal English.

tick off has a very similar meaning.

### Examples of use:

- a) Mum will tell you off for breaking that window.
- b) Our English teacher told us off for throwing paper aeroplanes in class.
- c) He tells us off for the smallest things.
- d) Twitter update from the Mayor of London: Just been told off for cycling inside city hall. Sorry security!
- e) News headline: Woman told off for giving ducks wrong kind of bread.

**infinitive** :tell off

**present simple** :tell off and tells off

**-ing form** :telling off

**past simple** : told off

**past participle** :told off

## THROW AWAY

1. To throw away something (or throw something away) is to dispose of something you don't want by putting in a rubbish bin, waste-paper basket, waste-disposal unit etc.

### Examples of use:

- a) I threw my old coat away.
- b) Why don't you throw away those smelly old shoes?
- c) He has thrown away all of his rusty tools, and bought new ones.
- d) She doesn't like throwing things away.
- e) My mum threw my English essay away by mistake.

2. To throw away something (or throw something away) also means to ruin or lose something valuable or important, by doing something reckless or foolish.

### Examples of use:

- a) She went out with her friends every night instead of studying, and threw away her chance of a place at university.
- b) Don't throw away your marriage. You need to spend more time with your wife.
- c) William had a good career and a lovely home, but he threw it all away with his gambling and drinking.

**infinitive** :throw away

**present simple** :throw away and throws away

**-ing form** :throwing away

**past simple** : threw away

**past participle** :thrown away



## TRY ON

To try on something (or try something on) is to put an item of clothing on to find out whether it fits you or whether you like it, especially before buying it.

### Examples of use:

- a) I like these shoes. I think I'll try them on.
- b) I hate trying on new clothes.
- c) This shirt is too small: I should have tried it on before I bought it.
- d) School starts again next week so you must try on your new school uniform.
- e) She's tried on more than thirty wedding dresses, but she can't find one she likes.

infinitive try on

present simple try on and tries on

-ing form trying on

past simple tried on

past participle tried on



## TURN OFF

1. To turn off something (or turn something off) is to stop it from working or flowing with a switch or a tap.

Turn off is the opposite of turn on.

### Examples of use:

- a) Don't forget to turn the tap off when you've finished washing your hands.
- b) I've turned off all the lights and locked the door.
- c) This switch turns off the kitchen light.
- d) Turn the TV off now – it's time for bed.

2. To turn off a road is to leave it and travel along a different road.

### Example of use:

- a) Turn off here, please. My house is the last one on the right.
- b) If we turn off at the next junction I'm sure we'll get there sooner.

**Infinitive** : turn off

**present simple** : turn off and turns off

**-ing form** : turning off

**past simple** : turned off

**past participle**: turned off

## TURN UP

1. Turn up something or turn something up. When you turn up a machine or electrical device you change the controls so that it is producing more of something, for example sound or heat.

### Examples of use:

- a) Can you turn the television up, please? I can't hear it.
- b) The oven isn't hot enough. You need to turn it up.
- c) It's freezing in here. I'll turn the heating up.

2. When somebody, or something, turns up at a place they arrive there.

### Examples of use:

- a) I've invited twenty people to my party I wonder if they will all turn up.
- b) I hope the taxi turns up soon.

3. When something, or someone, turns up they appear unexpectedly, especially if they were lost.

### Example of use:

- a) My neighbour's dog ran away last week, and this morning it turned up on her doorstep.
- b) I thought I'd lost my English dictionary at college but it turned up at the Reception Desk.

4. To turn up something (or turn something up) also means to discover something, especially information, by investigating or by a lot of searching.

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### Examples of use:

- a) The police have been looking for clues all day. What have they turned up?
- b) Did your research into climate change turn up anything interesting?

**Infinitive** :turn up

**present simple:** turn up and turns up

**-ing form** :turning up

**past simple** : turned up

**past participle:** turned up

## WAIT UP

1. To wait up is to stay awake and not go to bed because you are waiting for someone.

### Examples of use:

- a) I'll be home late tonight. Don't wait up for me.
- b) What time did you get home last night? Your mother and I waited up for you until 2am.

2. Wait up! is something you say to someone if you want them to stop and wait for you.

Mainly American English

### Examples of use:

- a) Wait up! I'll get my coat and come with you.
- b) Wait up! I need to talk to you before you go.
- c) Wait up! You've forgotten your briefcase.

**infinitive** :wait up

**present simple** :wait up and waits up

**-ing form** :waiting up

**past simple** : waited up

**past participle** : waited up

## WAKE UP

1. To wake up is to stop sleeping.

**Examples of use:**

- a) I woke up at 6am this morning.
- b) I will wake up early tomorrow and practise my English.
- c) It's 11am and I've only just woken up.
- d) I keep waking up in the middle of the night.

2. To wake up somebody (or wake somebody up) is to stop them sleeping.

**Examples of use:**

- a) Go and wake your brother up, please.
- b) Can you wake me up before you go to work?
- c) Your snoring woke me up last night.

3. To wake up to something is to become aware of a problem, or understand the truth about it.

**Examples of use:**

- a) Why don't you wake up! He's been lying to you for years.
- b) Some scientists think we need to wake up to climate change.

**Infinitive** :wake up

**present simple** :wake up and wakes up

**-ing form** :waking up

**past simple** :woke up (American English also waked up)

**past participle** :woken up (American English also waked up)

## WASH UP

1. To wash up something (or wash something up) is to clean the dishes, saucepans and cutlery that you have used for cooking and eating a meal.

British and Australian English.

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### Examples of use:

- a) Can you help me wash up these dishes, please?
- b) I love cooking, but I hate washing up all the saucepans afterwards.

2. To wash up is to clean your hands with soap and water.

American English.

### Examples of use:

- a) Dinner is ready – go and wash up, please.
- b) Make sure you wash up before you eat your take-out.

3. Wash up something or wash something up. When something washes up it is carried to land by the sea or a river, and left there.

International English.

### Examples of use:

- a) The old boat washed up on the beach in the storm.
- b) The sea washes up old fishing nets in the winter.
- c) A whale carcass washed up on the beach last week.

**infinitive** : wash up

**present simple** : wash up and washes up

**-ing form** : washing up

**past simple** : washed up

**past participle** : washed up

## WRITE DOWN

To write down something (or write something down) is to write something on a piece of paper so that you do not forget it.

### Examples of use:

- a) They wrote down everything their teacher said about learning phrasal verbs.
- b) I wrote his telephone number down.
- c) Can you write down a list of things we need to take on holiday?
- d) Can you write that down, please? I don't want to forget it.

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e) I'll read it out, and you write it down.

**infinitive** :write down

**present simple** :write down and writes down

**-ing form** :writing down past

**simple** :wrote down

**past participle** :written down

### WORKSHEET

1) We \_\_\_\_\_ at 7am this morning.

- a) got in
- b) got out
- c) got up

2) I don't want to cook tonight – let's \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) eat out
- b) eat in
- c) eat up

3) The taxi \_\_\_\_\_ on the way to the airport and we missed our flight.

- a) broke off
- b) broke up
- c) broke down

4) I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ for a new computer.

- a) save up
- b) look up
- c) wait up

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**5) Do you \_\_\_\_\_ ghosts? (you are sure they exist)**

- a) make up
- b) believe in
- c) tell off

**6) I was very unhappy yesterday but I've \_\_\_\_\_ today.**

- a) looked up
- b) cheered up
- c) cheered on

**7) I've \_\_\_\_\_ smoking. (stopped)**

- a) given back
- b) given away
- c) given up

**8) We \_\_\_\_\_ from Rome at 7am. (We started our journey at 7am)**

- a) set in
- b) set up
- c) set off



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**9) The horse race has been \_\_\_\_\_ . (The horse race has been cancelled)**

- a) called off
- b) called out
- c) called on

**10) We \_\_\_\_\_ in a small flat in London.**

- a) grew up
- b) grew into
- c) grew on

11) They've decided to \_\_\_\_\_ their wedding until John has recovered from his accident. (They have postponed their wedding)

- a) put on
- b) put out
- c) put off

12) He \_\_\_\_\_ petrol on his way to work.

- a) ran off with
- b) ran out of
- c) ran over

13) Don't drop your coat on the floor - \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a) hang up!
- b) hang it up!
- c) hang on!

14) We've bought a new house and we're \_\_\_\_\_ next week.

- a) moving in
- b) moving along
- c) moving on

15) She's recently \_\_\_\_\_ photography. (she recently started doing something)

- a) taken up
- b) taken out
- c) taken over

16) She read out the names of the winners. (read aloud)

- a) read back
- b) read out
- c) read up on



17) My friend and I \_\_\_\_\_ over money. (we stopped being friendly)

- a) fell over
- b) fell in
- c) fell out

18) Dinner is ready – go and \_\_\_\_\_ please. (American English - clean your hands)

- a) wash down
- b) wash up
- c) wash out

19) \_\_\_\_\_ and get dressed – you're late for school.

- a) Hurry up
- b) Hurry on
- c) Hang on

20) I'm in London on Wednesday - let's \_\_\_\_\_ for lunch.

- a) meet with
- b) meet up
- c) hang around



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## ANSWERS

- 1) c   2) a   3) c   4) a   5) b  
6) b   7) c   8) c   9) a   10) a  
11) c   12) b   13) b   14) a   15) a  
16) b   17) c   18) b   19) a   20) b

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