

Phrasal verbs database

set out/off	start a journey: <i>As the sun rose, we took down our tents and set out across the desert.</i>	take on	start to employ: <i>There's so much work to do in the office that maybe we should take on a secretary.</i>
set to	start doing sth in a determined or enthusiastic way: <i>We only had a few hours to get the party ready so we set to work quickly.</i>	take on	accept (work or responsibility): <i>I haven't got time to take on any more projects at the moment.</i>
set up	start (a business, organisation, etc): <i>You're such a good cook that I think you should set up a restaurant.</i>	take over	take control of (a business, etc): <i>When Mr Barker retired, his daughter took over the family business.</i>
settle down	become calm after being upset, etc: <i>When his mum left him at school on the first day, Charlie was quite upset, but he soon settled down and started to enjoy himself.</i>	take to	begin to like: <i>The class took to Mrs Openshaw straight away.</i>
settle down	stay in one place or get married and live quietly: <i>She spent her twenties travelling round the world and then settled down in a quiet village in Sussex.</i>	take to	start (as a habit): <i>I've taken to going for a five-mile run every morning.</i>
show (a)round	take sb on a tour of a place: <i>Let me show you round the garden.</i>	take up	start (a hobby, sport, etc): <i>Why don't you take up a hobby, like collecting something?</i>
show off	try to attract people's attention and make them admire you (usually used negatively): <i>My sister thinks she's a good singer and she's always showing off when people come to visit.</i>	take up	fill an amount of space/time: <i>Studying takes up most of my time at the moment.</i>
slow down	decrease speed: <i>The train started to slow down as it approached the station.</i>	tear down	destroy or remove (for buildings, statues, etc): <i>That beautiful old building was torn down to make way for a new supermarket.</i>
speed up	increase speed: <i>I realised that I might not have enough time to finish the exam so I started to speed up.</i>	tear up	rip into pieces: <i>Robin suddenly grabbed the letter out of my hand and tore it up.</i>
stand for	represent (for abbreviations and symbols): <i>BBC stands for 'British Broadcasting Corporation'.</i>	think over	consider: <i>When I asked Theresa to marry me, she said she'd have to think it over.</i>
stand for	put up with: <i>I wouldn't stand for it if someone spoke that rudely to me.</i>	throw away	get rid of, discard: <i>The CD wouldn't play any more, so I threw it away.</i>
stand in for	do sb's job for them while they are not available: <i>Mr Howard will be standing in for Mrs O'Connell while she's ill.</i>	try on	put on (a piece of clothing) to see how it looks and whether it fits: <i>Debra took the skirt into the changing room to try it on.</i>
stand out	be easy to see because of being different: <i>Molly has bright red hair, so she always stands out in a crowd!</i>	try out	experiment with: <i>England need to try out a few new players before the World Cup starts.</i>
stand up for	support in an argument or fight: <i>I know that my best friend will always stand up for me.</i>	turn down	not accept (an offer, request, etc): <i>I applied to join the Air Force, but they turned me down because of my eyesight.</i>
take aback	surprise (usually in passive voice): <i>We were all taken aback by the news.</i>	turn into	change into sth different: <i>It started as the holiday of a lifetime but soon turned into a nightmare.</i>
take after	look or behave like an older relative: <i>George really takes after his grandfather, doesn't he?</i>	turn off	stop a machine working: <i>Would you please turn that stereo off and get your homework done?</i>
take down	write down what someone says: <i>Could I just take down your details?</i>	turn out	develop in a particular way or have a particular result: <i>I was late for the interview, but it turned out all right in the end and I got the job.</i>
take in	trick sb into believing sth that is not true: <i>The man at the door claimed to be a policeman, but the old woman wasn't taken in.</i>	turn over	turn a page so that the other side is towards you: <i>If you all turn over, you'll see a table that shows how sales have gone this year.</i>
take off	become successful or popular very fast: <i>The iPod has really taken off over the last couple of years.</i>	turn round	go back in the opposite direction: <i>I realised I'd forgotten my phone so I turned round and went back to get it.</i>
take off	leave the ground: <i>As the plane took off, I looked down at the houses below us.</i>	turn up	appear unexpectedly or without making a firm arrangement: <i>Victor hadn't been invited to the party but he just turned up anyway.</i>
take off	remove (a piece of clothing): <i>Carl took off his coat and started to warm himself by the fire.</i>	wear off	stop being effective (for a drug, etc): <i>My arm started to hurt again as the effects of the painkiller wore off.</i>
		wear out	become old and unusable: <i>I had to get a new pair of trainers because my old pair had worn out.</i>
		work out	find the solution to a problem, etc: <i>If you look at the context, maybe you can work out what the word means.</i>