

# Phrasal Verbs Analysis





You are an English expert.  
For the following phrasal verbs, please identify whether each has polysemy.  
Then, determine whether it is separable.  
Then, show how non-native English speakers can pronounce it properly and naturally.



1. Bring about
2. Build up
3. Tear down
4. Carry out
5. Catch up
6. Fall behind





## 1. Bring about

- **Polysemy:** No significant polysemy. It generally means "to cause something to happen."
- **Separable:** No. It is inseparable.
  -  "He brought about a change."
  -  "He brought a change about."
- **Pronunciation Tips:**
  - **IPA:** /brɪŋ ə'baʊt/
  - Focus on linking the words: "bring\_about." The stress falls on "about," so emphasize that syllable slightly.
  - Practice: "brin-ga-bout" (say it smoothly without pausing between words).



## 2. Build up

- **Polysemy:** Yes. It can mean:
  1. To accumulate or increase something (e.g., "build up confidence").
  2. To strengthen or develop something (e.g., "build up muscles").
  3. To praise or hype someone or something (e.g., "build up his reputation").
- **Separable:** Yes. It is separable.
  -  "She built up her savings." / "She built her savings up."
  -  "She built her up savings."
- **Pronunciation Tips:**
  - **IPA:** /bɪld ʌp/
  - The "d" in "build" connects with the "u" sound in "up."
  - Practice: "bild-up" (say it quickly so it sounds like one word).



## 3. Tear down

- **Polysemy:** Yes. It can mean:
    1. To demolish a building or structure (e.g., "tear down the old house").
    2. To criticize someone harshly (e.g., "tear down his self-confidence").
  - **Separable:** Yes. It is separable.
    -  "They tore down the wall." / "They tore the wall down."
    -  "They tore down the it."
  - **Pronunciation Tips:**
    - **IPA:** /tɛr daʊn/
    - Focus on the smooth transition between "tear" and "down."
    - Practice: "tehr-down" (merge the words slightly).
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## 4. Carry out

- **Polysemy:** Yes. It can mean:
    1. To perform or execute a task (e.g., "carry out an experiment").
    2. To fulfill or obey instructions (e.g., "carry out orders").
  - **Separable:** Yes. It is separable.
    -  "She carried out the task." / "She carried the task out."
    -  "She carried out it."
  - **Pronunciation Tips:**
    - **IPA:** /'kæri aʊt/
    - Link the "y" in "carry" with the "a" in "out."
    - Practice: "carr-ee-out" (keep the flow smooth).
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## 5. Catch up

- **Polysemy:** Yes. It can mean:
    1. To reach the same level as others (e.g., "catch up with the group").
    2. To get updated on missed information (e.g., "catch up on the news").
    3. To meet and talk (e.g., "Let's catch up soon").
  - **Separable:** No. It is inseparable.
    -  "He needs to catch up with his work."
    -  "He needs to catch his work up."
  - **Pronunciation Tips:**
    - **IPA:** /kætʃ ʌp/
    - The "tch" sound in "catch" should blend into the "up."
    - Practice: "catch-up" (pronounce as one continuous word).
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## 6. Fall behind

- **Polysemy:** Yes. It can mean:
  1. To lag or move slower than others (e.g., "fall behind the schedule").
  2. To fail to meet a standard or deadline (e.g., "fall behind in payments").
- **Separable:** No. It is inseparable.
  -  "He fell behind on his project."
  -  "He fell his project behind."
- **Pronunciation Tips:**
  - **IPA:** /fɔl bi'haɪnd/
  - Emphasize the "behind" part and link it smoothly with "fall."

- Practice: "fall-behind" (say it as if it's one phrase).



using all the phrasal verbs above, please generate a conversation between a professor and his student.



**Setting:** A professor is meeting with his student in the office to discuss the student's progress on a research project.

**Professor:** Good afternoon, Alex. How are you doing?

**Student:** Hi, Professor! I'm doing well, thanks. I've been trying to catch up on the reading you assigned last week.

**Professor:** That's good to hear. But remember, you don't want to fall behind on the experiments. They're crucial for your thesis.

**Student:** Absolutely, I know. I've been working on them, but I've hit a few roadblocks. I'm trying to build up my understanding of the new methodology you suggested. It's taking a bit longer than expected.

**Professor:** That's understandable. These new techniques can be tricky. However, once you build up your confidence, it will be much easier to carry out the experiments effectively.

**Student:** I agree. I've been trying to bring about some changes to the way I'm analyzing the data, but it hasn't been easy.

**Professor:** It's normal to struggle a bit when you're trying something new. But don't tear down all your initial progress. Sometimes, refining what you've already done is better than starting from scratch.

**Student:** You're right. I was just frustrated because I feel like I should be further along by now.

**Professor:** Don't worry too much about that. Research takes time. Focus on catching up with the timeline we set, but don't rush to the point where it compromises the quality of your work.

**Student:** Thanks, Professor. I'll try to carry out your advice. I'll go over my notes tonight and see how I can improve.

**Professor:** That's the spirit. Just keep building up your momentum, and you'll see results soon. If you need any help, I'm here to guide you.

**Student:** I appreciate that. I'll make sure not to fall behind again. Thanks for the encouragement!

**Professor:** Anytime, Alex. Now, go bring about some great results!



using all the phrasal verbs, please generate a funny story, and involve some quantitative things.



## Title: The Great Science Fair Fiasco

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It was the annual school science fair, and Sam, the most ambitious student in his class, was determined to **bring about** a groundbreaking project this year. Last year, he had only managed to score 5th place with his baking soda volcano, but this time, he had a new plan to **build up** his reputation: a robot that could deliver pizza.

But things were off to a rocky start.

Sam's little brother, Timmy, had used his robot to play fetch with their dog, and now the robot was completely torn apart. It had been **torn down** into what looked like 137 pieces scattered all over the garage.

"I'm going to fall behind everyone else if I don't fix this!" Sam panicked, looking at the calendar. He only had 3 days left before the science fair.

So, Sam spent the next 48 hours non-stop trying to **carry out** the repairs, surviving on 7 cans of energy drinks and 2 hours of sleep. By some miracle, he managed to put all the pieces back together—but something was off.

Instead of delivering pizza, the robot kept trying to vacuum the floor and sing the national anthem. "I must have **mixed up** the coding script with my mom's Roomba!" Sam groaned.

Determined to **catch up**, Sam reprogrammed the robot with the speed of a caffeinated squirrel. He managed to get it functioning just in time for the fair.

On the day of the fair, Sam was ready. He presented his robot to the judges and confidently said, "This robot will **bring about** the future of pizza delivery." But as soon as he hit the 'start' button, the robot decided to **build up** speed, zooming around the gymnasium at 20 miles per hour. It knocked over 12 displays, sent 5 judges diving for cover, and managed to toss 10 pizzas into the air like frisbees.

The principal screamed, "Stop that thing before it destroys the gym!" Sam chased after his creation, trying to **carry out** an emergency shutdown. But the robot had other plans.

"I can't let this **tear down** my project!" Sam thought. He tried to catch it, but he kept **falling behind**, slipping on a rogue pepperoni slice. The robot finally crashed into the school's trophy case, bringing down 50 years' worth of dusty awards.

The chaos resulted in \$3,000 worth of damage, 27 pizzas splattered on the walls, and one very bewildered janitor who had to **catch up** on his cleaning duties for the next week.

In the end, Sam didn't win the science fair, but he did receive a special award: "Most Entertaining Disaster." His teacher said, "Sam, next time, maybe just stick to baking soda volcanoes."

As Sam walked home, he couldn't help but laugh. He may not have impressed the judges, but he certainly **brought about** a day no one would forget!

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.