



A Free English Learning Guide

55 common phrasal verbs for everyday conversations





What are phrasal verbs?

Welcome to our free guide which will help you understand and remember 55 very common phrasal verbs in English.

Phrasal verbs are a big part of everyday communication in English. If you want to:

- understand native speakers, films and TV series;
 - speak English in a natural way,
- you need to master at least 300 English phrasal verbs.

What is a phrasal verb?

These are everyday verbs (*get, go, take, bring, come, look, put* and others) used together with particles (prepositions and adverbs: *about, down, up, etc.*) Together they form new, more emotional, meanings. Sometimes the meaning of a phrasal verb is very different from its original verb.

So, forming phrasal verbs is a popular way to make up new words in English.



What is important to know

1. Who is this guide for?

This Guide is created for those who have already studied English before - **not for beginners**. The optimum levels are A2-B2.

This Guide will be helpful if you:

- want to expand your vocabulary;
- have little knowledge of phrasal verbs;
- want to understand natural English and use English in speaking.

2. Which phrasal verbs should I learn?

There are thousands phrasal verbs in English. It's very easy to get overwhelmed by this huge amount of information. Don't panic!

You need to start from **the most frequently used** verbs. That's why I created this Guide - to help you learn the most common phrasal verbs used in everyday conversations.

3. How can I remember these phrasal verbs?

Practise the verbs in small groups. Use good dictionaries to read as many example sentences with these phrasal verbs as possible:

[Oxford's Learner's Dictionary](#)

[Collins English Dictionary](#) (the most complete dictionary online)

Link to flashcards in a free app Quizlet (use their games for memorising)



Phrasal verb

Definition

Example

be about to

be ready to start doing something

I am about to go - speak faster. (=I am ready to go now...)

be back

come back, return

I'll be back in an hour. (=I'll return in an hour.)

bring smth up

start talking about a topic in conversation

Why are you bringing it up now? (=Why are you talking about it now?)

bring smb up

raise or take care of a child

He was brought up by his aunt. (=His aunt raised him.)

bump into = run into

meet somebody by chance

She ran into her ex in the street. (=She met her ex boyfriend by accident...)

call back

phone somebody again or return the call

I've got to call you back later. (=I'll phone you (again) later.)

calm down

become or help somebody become calm

Calm down for a minute and listen to me. (=Stop being nervous...)

chip in

give money to buy or to pay for something as a group

Well, we should all chip in, I guess. (=We should all give some money...)

come off

be able to be removed

I bought a cheap suitcase, and its wheels came off after a couple of weeks. (=its wheels became detached...)

come up with

find or think of an answer, an idea, etc.

Can you come up with a better idea? (=Can you think of a better idea?)



Phrasal verb

Definition

Example

come with	go together with something	French fries and a cola come with the burger. (=French fries and a cola are included...)
cut off	get disconnected because of the problem with connection	We got cut off during the conversation. (=We got disconnected during the conversation.)
dress up	wear your best clothes for some special occasion	Look at you - all dressed up! (=...You wear such beautiful clothes!)
drop by	visit someone informally	He dropped by my office this morning. (=He visited me in my office this morning.)
drop off	leave someone in a place	Can you drop me off here? (=I'll leave your car here.)
end up	find yourself in a situation you didn't plan	If you don't know what you want, you might end up getting something you don't want. (=...you might get the result you didn't plan)
figure out	understand	It took me an hour to figure out how to turn it on. (=It took me an hour to understand how to start it.)
find out	get some information about something	I found it out by accident - why didn't you tell me? (=I learnt about it by accident...)
get by	manage to live or do something	My sister gets by on her little salary. (=My sister manages to live on very little money.)
get in / get out of	place yourself into / out of (cars, taxis, etc.)	Driver, I'd like to get out at the next crossing, please. (=...I'd like to leave the car at the next crossing, please.)



Phrasal verb

Definition

Example

get on / get off

place yourself into / out of (public transport)

Get off the bus right now! (=Leave the bus now!)

get rid of

be free of something that you don't want

You can't get rid of me so easily - I am patient. (=You can't get free of me so easily...)

get through

make contact with someone by phone

I tried calling a few times, but I couldn't get through. (=...I couldn't get connected)

get together

meet with someone socially

I thought we could get together and talk. (=I thought we could meet and talk.)

give up

stop doing something, stop trying

Even if it's difficult, you shouldn't give up. (=Even if it's difficult, you shouldn't stop trying.)

go ahead

begin doing something (also as encouragement)

You go ahead, say what you think. (=You do it, say what you think.)

go over

check something carefully

Let's go over the plan again. (=Let's check the plan again.)

hang up

finish a phone conversation by disconnecting

Don't hang up! We're not finished. (=Don't disconnect!...)

hear (back) from

receive a message, a letter, or an email from somebody

I am afraid I never heard back from him. (=I am afraid he didn't contact me.)

hold up

delay or block the progress of something

You are holding everyone up! (=You are making everybody wait.)



Phrasal verb

Definition

Example

key in

type on the keyboard

Can you key your password in? (=Can you type your password?)

look into

examine something

I will look into your issue. (=I will investigate your issue.)

look up

look for information in the dictionary or using the internet

You can look up who owns the company online. (=You can find the information on who owns the company online.)

make up

invent a story

I'm not making it up. It's true! (=I'm not inventing a story here. It's true!)

make up your mind

make a decision

You can't make up your mind about anything. (=You can't make any decision)

move on

start doing or discussing something new; change your life

She ran this shop for ten years before deciding to move on to something new. (=...before deciding to change her life)

move up

move to an earlier time or date

The deadline was Friday but they moved it up to Thursday. (=...they changed it to Thursday (one day earlier)

pick up

collect someone in a car

I will pick you up at ten - be ready. (=I will come for you at ten...)

plug in

connect to electricity

He went to plug in his phone for the night. (=He went to connect his phone to electricity for the night)

put away

put something in the place where it's kept or in storage

My kids always put their toys away after they're finished playing. (=My kids always clean after themselves by putting their toys in their places...)



Phrasal verb

Definition

Example

put on / take off

dress yourself in something / remove your clothes, glasses, etc.

Maximo put on a pair of glasses.
(=Maximo placed a pair of glasses on his nose.)

put up with

accept something or somebody's behaviour without complaining

I can't put up with his behaviour any longer. (=I can't tolerate his behaviour any longer.)

run out of

If a supply of something runs out, it's finished

We are running out of envelopes - there are only three left. (=There are almost no more envelopes...)

sell out > sold out

be all sold

Their concerts are always sold out.
(=There are usually no available tickets to their concerts.)

show around

be a guide for somebody when they first visit a place

You're new here. Let me show you around. (=...Let me show you how everything is organised.)

show off

try to impress others

Naomi was showing off her engagement ring. (=Naomi was showing her engagement ring to everybody.)

show up

arrive at a place where you have plans to do something

He never showed up at my party last Saturday. (=He didn't come to my party last Saturday.)

sleep in

sleep longer than usual, enough

On Sundays I like to sleep in. (=On Sundays I like to sleep a bit longer.)

stand for

be an abbreviation of something, mean

ASAP stands for 'as soon as possible'.
(=ASAP means 'as soon as possible'.)

step out (Am)

go out, leave

I need to step out for a minute. (=I need to leave for a minute.)



Phrasal verb

Definition

Example

stay up

postpone going to bed

I like to stay up late and watch TV series. (=I like to stay awake till late and watch TV series.)

take apart

separate something into parts

When the clock stopped, he took it apart and found what was wrong. (=...he took it to pieces...)

think over

consider something carefully before making a decision

She said she needed time to think it over. (=She said she needed time to consider it carefully.)

throw away

put something to waste or into rubbish

Don't throw away this magazine. I haven't read it yet. (=Don't put this magazine to rubbish...)

watch out

is used to warn somebody about danger

When you swim in the ocean, watch out for sharks. (=When you swim in the ocean, be careful about sharks.)

wrap up

complete something

So, I'll wrap up here and meet you outside. (=So, I'll finish here and meet you outside.)

If you speak Russian, you can study these verbs with translation and more examples in a blog post ["55 полезных фразовых глаголов для общения"](#)



This guide was made for you by Daria Storozhilova

I created *Smart English Learning* online school in 2016. Since then, we have already helped over 3200 people to improve their English.

I make online courses which:

- help to understand casual English better (regardless of the accent)
- help people with A2-B2 level of English improve their listening skills, grammar, and vocabulary.

Let's connect!

Facebook [@smartlanguagelearning](#)

Instagram [@smartenglishlearning](#)

Twitter [@StordarLearn](#)

Pinterest [@stordar](#)

Youtube [@smartenglishlearning](#)

www.stordar.com