



A Short Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs: Verbs paired with a preposition or adverb

Separable: *you may insert a noun or pronoun between these verbs and their prepositions/adverbs.*

Correct: Sam passed on the news to Jay.

Correct: Sam passed the news on to Jay.

add up - add
back up - cause to move backwards; support; blow up; cause to explode; destroy by explosives
break down - analyze; list the parts of separately
break into - go into a house or room forcibly; suddenly; begin; bring about - cause to happen
bring off - accomplish
bring on - cause
bring out - publish; emphasize
bring over - bring
bring to - revive
bring up - raise; care for from childhood
brush out - brush the inside of
burn down - destroy by burning
burn up - consume by fire
buy out - by the other person's share of a business
buy up - buy the whole supply of
call off - cancel; order away
call up - telephone; summon for military service
calm down - become calm
carry on - continue
carry out - fulfill; complete; accomplish; perform
carry over - carry; continue at another time or place
cheer up - cause to become cheerful
chew up - chew thoroughly
chop up - chop into small pieces
clean off - clean the surface of
clean out - clean the inside of
clean up - clarify; tidy
clear out - clear the surface of
clear up - clear the inside of
close down - close permanently
close up - close temporarily
count in - include
count out - exclude
count up - calculate; count; add to a total
cross out - eliminate
cut off - interrupt; sever; amputate
cut out - eliminate; delete

cut down - reduce in quantity
draw up - write; compose (a document)
dress up - put clothes on; adorn
dust out - dust the inside of
eat up - eat completely
figure out - interpret; understand
figure up - compute
fill in - complete (a printed form)
fill out - complete (a printed form)
fill up - fill completely (a container)
find out - discover
fix up - repair; arrange in a suitable manner
get across - cause to be understood
give back - return
give out - distribute; announce
give up - surrender something
hand down - deliver; pronounce formally; leave as an inheritance
hand over - yield control of
hang up - suspend
have on - be dressed in
have over - entertain someone informally at one's home
hold off - delay; restrain
hold up - delay; rob; threaten with a weapon
keep up - continue; keep the same pace
leave out - omit
let down - disappoint
let out - release from confinement; make larger (in sewing)
light up - light; illuminate thoroughly
live down - live in such a way as to cause something to be forgotten
make over - remake
move over - move to the side
pass out - distribute
pass up - not take advantage of (as an opportunity)
pass on - transmit
pay back - repay
pay off - discharge a debt completely; give someone his final pay
pick up - come to meet an escort; lift with hands or fingers; learn casually;
initiate an association publicly

play down - minimize
 play up - emphasize
 point out - indicate
 pull down - pull in a downward direction; raze
 push across - cause to be understood or accepted
 put off - postpone
 put on - dress in; deceive or fool
 put up - preserve (food); receive as an overnight guest
 quiet down - be quiet
 ring up - the telephone
 rinse off - rinse the surface of
 rinse out - rinse the inside of
 rule out - eliminate
 run down - trace; disparage; hit with a vehicle
 run off - cause to depart; reproduce mechanically
 save up - accumulate
 see through - complete; in spite of difficulties
 see off - accompany someone to the beginning of a trip
 send back - send to a place where formerly located
 send over - send to where someone is
 set up - arrange
 show off - exhibit ostentatiously
 shut off - cause to cease functioning
 slow up - cause to move more slowly
 spell out - enumerate; state in detail
 stand up - fail to keep an appointment with
 sweep out - sweep the inside of
 take back - return; retract a statement
 take down - remove from a high position; write from dictation
 take in - understood; fool; deceive; make smaller (in sewing)
 take over - take; assume command of
 tear down - destroy
 tear up - tear into small pieces
 tell off - scold; reprimand
 think over - consider
 think through - consider from beginning to end
 think up - create; invent
 throw away - discard
 throw over - reject
 tie up - tie securely or tight
 tire out - cause to be exhausted
 touch up - repair
 try on - put on a garment to verify the fit
 try out - test
 turn down - refuse; lower the volume

turn out - produce; force into exile, extinguish (a light)
 wash off - wash the surface of
 wash out - wash the inside of
 wear out - use until no longer usable; tire greatly
 wind up - finish, tighten the spring of a watch or machine
 wipe off - wipe the surface of
 wipe out - wipe the inside of; decimate
 work out - solve
 write down - record
 write out - write down every detail; spell out
 write up - compose; prepare (a document)

Inseparable: *you cannot separate these verbs from their prepositions/adverbs with any words.*

<p> <i>Correct:</i> Becky is reliable; you can <u>count on</u> her. <i>Incorrect:</i> You can <u>count</u> her <u>on</u>. </p>

back out of - desert; fail to keep a promise
 bear down on - lean on; browbeat
 bear on - have to do with
 bear up under - endure
 break in on - interrupt
 break into - interrupt
 call for - come to get; require
 care for - like; guard; supervise; maintain
 carry on with - continue
 catch up with - cover the distance between oneself and
 check up on - examine; verify
 come across - find accidentally
 come along with - accompany; make progress
 come by - find accidentally
 come down with - become ill with
 come out with - utter; produce
 come up with - utter; produce
 count on - rely on
 cut in on - interrupt
 disagree with - cause illness or discomfort to
 do away with - abolish
 do without - deprive oneself of
 drop in at/on - visit casually without planning
 drop out of - leave; quit
 face up to - acknowledge
 fall behind in - lag; not progress at required pace
 fall back on - use for emergency purpose
 fall out with - quarrel with
 fill in for - substitute for

get ahead of - surpass; beat
 get around - evade; avoid
 get away with - do without being caught or punished
 get by with - manage with a minimum of effort
 get down to - become serious about; consider
 get in - enter (a vehicle)
 get off - descend from; leave
 get on - enter (a vehicle); mount
 get on with - proceed with
 get through with - terminate, finish
 go back on - desert; fail to keep (a promise)
 go for - like a great deal
 go in for - be interested in; participate in
 go on with - continue
 go over - review
 go with - harmonize with; look pleasing together
 go without - abstain from
 hang around - remain idly in the vicinity of
 hear from - receive a communication from
 hear of - learn about (sometimes accidentally)
 hit on - discover accidentally
 hold on to - grasp tightly
 hold out against - resist
 keep at - persevere at
 keep to - persist in; continue
 keep up with - maintain the pace of
 lie down on - evade; fail to do
 live on - support or sustain oneself by means of
 live up to - maintain the standard demanded of
 look after - take care of
 look back on - remember nostalgically
 look down on - feel superior to
 look forward to - anticipate
 look up to - respect; admire
 make up for - compensate for
 pass on - transmit
 pick on - tease; bully
 play up to - flatter for personal advantage
 put up with - tolerate
 read up on - search out information on
 run against - compete against in an election
 run away with - leave; escape from
 run for - campaign for
 see about - consider; arrange
 see to - arrange; supervise
 settle on - decide on; choose
 stand for - represent; permit
 stand up for - support; demand

stand up to - resist
 stick to - persist
 stick up for - support; defend
 take after - resemble
 talk back to - answer impolitely
 talk over - discuss
 tell on - report misbehavior to authority
 touch on - mention briefly
 turn into - become
 wait on - serve
 wait up for - not go to bed while waiting for
 watch out for - be careful for

Intransitive: *these phrasal verbs cannot take a direct object. They may be separated by a noun or pronoun.*

Correct: We are having dinner. Come over.
Incorrect: Come over dinner.
Correct: Come over for dinner.
 (“for” makes “dinner” an indirect object)

back down - retreat from a position in an argument
 back out - desert; fail to keep a promise
 back up - move backwards
 bear up - endure
 blow in - drop in to visit unexpectedly
 blow over - pass without doing harm
 blow up - explode; lose one's temper
 call up - telephone
 calm down - become calm
 carry on - continue as before; misbehave
 catch on - understand
 catch up - cover the distance between oneself and a moving goal
 check up - investigate
 check out - leave; pay one's bill
 cheer up - become cheerful
 clear out - leave
 clear up - become clear
 close down - close permanently
 close up - close temporarily
 came about - happen
 come along - accompany; make progress
 come back - return
 come by - visit someone
 come out - appear; make a social debut
 come over - come to someone's house, to where someone is
 come through - succeed
 come to - regain consciousness

cut in - interrupt
die away - fade; diminish
die down - fade; diminish
die off/out - disappear; become extinct
dress up - don fancy or unusual clothes
drive back - return by car
drop in - visit someone casually without planning
drop out - abandon some organized activity; leave;
quit
drop over - visit someone casually
fall behind - not progress at required pace
fall off - decrease; lose weight
fall through - fail; not be accomplished
fill in - substitute
find out - learn
fly back - return by air
fly over - fly to where someone is
get ahead - make progress
get along - have a friendly relationship
get around - circulate; move about
get away - escape
get by - manage; either just barely or with a
minimum of effort
get in - enter
get off - descend from leave
get on - enter (a vehicle); mount (a horse, etc.)
get on/along - progress; be compatible
get up - rise
get through - finish
give out - become exhausted
give up - surrender; fail to finish
go back - return
go off - explode
go on - happen; continue
go out - stop burning; leave one's residence
go over - go; succeed
grow up - mature
hang around - remain idly; dawdle
hang up - replace a telephone receiver on its hook
hold on - grasp tightly; persevere; wait while
telephoning
hold out - continue to resist; persevere; persist
keep on - continue
keep up - maintain the required pace or standard;
continue
let up - diminish in intensity
lie down - recline
look on - be a spectator
make out - progress; succeed

make up - become reconciled
move over - move to the side
pan out - turn out well; be successful
pass out - become unconscious
pass on - die
pick up - grow; increase
pull in - arrive
pull out - depart
pull through - survive (barely)
ride over - ride to where someone is
run away - escape; leave; leave quickly without
permission
run down - slowly lose power so as to stop
functioning
run off - depart running; drain
sell out - sell the ownership or responsibility
settle up - pay one's bills or debts
show off - boast by words or actions
show up - arrive; appear unexpectedly
shut up - stop talking
slow up - reduce speed
stand by - wait; be prepared to assist
stand up - stand; rise from sitting; last; endure
stay over - remain at someone's house overnight or
longer
step aside - move to one side
take off - leave the ground
take over - assume command
talk back - answer impolitely
throw up - vomit
turn around - turn so that one is facing another
direction
turn in - go to bed
turn out - succeed; come; appear, as at a public
meeting
turn up - arrive; be found unexpectedly
wait up - remain awake in anticipation
wake up - awaken
walk back - return on foot to where one was
walk over - walk to where someone is
wash out - fade or disappear from washing
watch out - be careful
wear off - fade; disappear through use or time
wear out - become unusable through use; become
used up
work out - be successful