

Common Phrasal Verbs

1. Thank you for your letter. We will **look into** your complaint immediately. (investigate)
2. If you want to know the meaning of a word you should **look it up** in the dictionary.
3. Julia **takes after** her mother – they've got exactly the same eyes. (inherit a characteristic from a parent or grandparent)
4. Rob was **brought up** in the country. (be raised)
5. We're **doing up** our house at the moment because we want to sell it. (repair, renovate)
6. When I **look back** on my childhood I think that in many ways I was very lucky. (think about the past)
7. Can you **speak up** a bit please? I can't hear you very well. (speak more loudly)
8. What do the letters NATO **stand for**? (mean, be an abbreviation of)
9. Oh no! The photocopier's **broken down** again. (stopped working because of a mechanical problem)
10. Tom and Alice had an argument but they've **made it up** now. (become friends again after a quarrel)
11. You must **drop in** and see us the next time you're in the area. (pay a surprise visit)
12. I **ran into** Sophie the other day – I hadn't seen her for ages. (meet someone by chance)
13. Roger **came into** a lot of money when his rich uncle in Canada died. (inherit)
14. I **came across** this old photo album when I was tidying out a cupboard. (find something by chance)
15. You should put ice on your wrist until the swelling **goes down**. (reduces in size)
16. It took her many years to **get over** the loss of her husband. (recover from)
17. We have a problem. We need to **work out** what we're going to do now.. (invent a plan to solve a problem)
18. It was so dark in the room that I couldn't **make out** what the people were doing. (see clearly)

19. Diane is very good at **making up** bedtime stories for her children. (inventing)
20. Sorry I'm late. I got **held up** by the traffic. (delayed)
21. Can you **drop me off** by the hospital? (stop the car so someone can get out)
22. Our flight **took off** two hours late because of fog. (for a plane - to leave)
23. When my cousin Betty went to America we all went to the airport to **see her off**. (say goodbye to someone at an airport, station etc)
24. Give me a call when your train gets in and I'll **pick you up** at the station. (give a lift in a car to someone who is waiting)
25. We need to **set off** early tomorrow to beat the traffic. (start a journey)
26. They had to **call off** the match because of snow. (cancel)
27. I was rather **taken aback** to learn that Bill had been promoted to Sales Manager. (surprised)
28. Never **put off** till tomorrow what you can do today. (postpone)
29. The teacher **gave out** the photocopies to the students. (distributed)
30. I like this pullover. Can I **try it on**? (put on an item of clothing in a shop to see if it is the right size)
31. I need a new overcoat. This old one is completely **worn out** (in a bad condition because of age)
32. Do you think this scarf **goes with** this jacket? (looks good with)
33. I'm going to **try out** this recipe for chicken breasts I saw on that TV cooking programme. (experiment with something)
34. I wasn't able to make much progress with Chinese and after a couple of months I **gave up**. (abandon an attempt)
35. The doctor told Pete that he really ought to **give up** smoking. (abandon a habit)
36. I was so tired last night that I **dropped off** in front of the TV. (fall asleep)
37. Pooh! I think that milk has **gone off**. (of meat, milk etc - become too old to eat)

38. The security guard at the airport **went through** all my luggage. (examine carefully)
39. She pretended to be ill but she didn't **take me in** for a moment. (deceive)
40. Jack really **looks up to** his older brother Simon. (admires)
41. Could you turn the music down? I'm trying to study and it's really **putting me off**.
42. I'm really **looking forward to** the school reunion. It'll be great to see everyone again. (thinking with pleasure about something in the future)
43. I can't **put up with** your rudeness any longer! (tolerate)
44. When Tommy broke the vase his mother **told him off**. (talk to a child in an angry way)
45. After he'd read the letter he slowly **tore it up** and put the pieces in the bin. (tear into pieces)
46. When my uncle retired he **took up** golf. (begin to do a leisure activity)
47. Please **fill in** this form and return it to the office. (complete a form)
48. Joan's grandmother **passed away** in 2002. (died)
49. I need to **brush up** my French – I'm going to a conference in Paris next month. (make a quick improvement to a skill)
50. Scientists are still arguing as to why exactly the dinosaurs **died out**. (became extinct)
51. It really annoys me when people cheat in exams and **get away with** it. (escape punishment)
52. Please make sure you **carry out** my instructions to the letter. (execute an order, follow instructions)
53. The bomb **went off** near a supermarket. Fortunately there were no casualties. (exploded)
54. Fighting has **broken out** between rival groups near the border. (of wars, fighting etc, - started)
55. Could you get some more milk – we've nearly **run out**. (finish the supply of something)
56. I've been playing tennis for nearly three hours – I'm absolutely **worn out**. (exhausted)

57. I was talking on the phone to my father last night when we suddenly got **cut off**. (on the phone, to lose the connection)
58. After two years of university Clive **dropped out** and is now a carpenter. (abandon a course of study etc)
59. They used to be best friends but they **fell out** when Sheila started going out with Claire's ex-boyfriend. (stop being friends)
60. He was feeling unhappy but he **cheered up** when he heard he'd passed his exams. (become happier)
61. **Look out!** There's a car coming. (be careful)
62. You're walking too fast. I can't **keep up with** you. (maintain the same pace)
63. Do you want to keep these old magazines or can I **throw them away**? (put them in the rubbish)
64. This is a no-smoking area. Please **put out** your cigarette. (extinguish)
65. Nobody believed him at first, but he **turned out** to be right. (was revealed to be)
66. What's all that noise? What's **going on**? (happening)
67. He **keeps on** criticising me. I'm fed up with it. (continues)
68. Look at that boy riding his bicycle with no hands. He's just **showing off** (trying to impress)
69. A real friend will never **let you down**. (disappoint you)
70. The two friends **set up** the company with \$5,000 they borrowed from their parents. (start an organisation)
71. People over 60 **make up** a large proportion of the population. (constitute)
72. We arranged to meet Jim last night but he didn't **turn up**. (arrive, appear)
73. You shouldn't have **brought up** the subject of his weight – you know how sensitive he is. (introduce a topic into the conversation)
74. It was raining yesterday morning but it **cleared up** later on. (of the weather, become brighter)
75. **Keep away** from the pond – you might fall in. (don't go near)