

Phrasal Verbs: Interpersonal Relationships, Habits, & Debate

The phrasal verbs with an asterisk (*) are **INSEPARABLE**. When the direct object is a **PRONOUN**, it must be placed in the middle of a two-word phrasal verb. *Example: Jane put them away. NOT: Jane put away them.*

| Phrasal Verb | Meaning | Example |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Act on | To take action | If you have a gut instinct, you should act on it. |
| Cut back/down on | To restrict consumption | Sally needs to cut back on butter. |
| Deck out | To decorate | Hugh's apartment is decked out in chic furniture. |
| Die down | To slowly end | The party died down around midnight. |
| Do away with | To put an end to, remove | The government wants to do away with the penny. |
| Ease in(to) | To gradually acclimate | Don't just start a new diet, you should ease into it. |
| Fall apart | To break down | My parents' marriage fell apart when I was a toddler. |
| Knuckle down | To get serious | Sam needs to knuckle down and burn those calories. |
| Look up to | To admire | Larry looks up to Denis. |
| Man up | To exert masculine power | Man up and do what you promised! |
| Measure up (to) | To compare to | Oscar finds it difficult to measure up to his track star brother. |
| Mess around | To not be serious, to joke | When he turned 29, Jim stopped messing around and got married. |
| Mess up | To botch | My wife always has to cook dinner because I can mess up the simplest meals. |
| Nod off | To fall asleep | As the jet landed in Kyoto, I finally nodded off. |
| Rally around | To support | Conservatives rally around gun rights. |
| Stand by | To support To wait | Tammy Wynette said you have to stand by your man. The train is approaching the station, please stand by. |
| Wear out | To exhaust | I wore my shoes out. They have holes in them! |

Phrasal Verbs: Interpersonal Relationships, Habits, & Debate... Continued

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| Air out | To expose to fresh air | That quilt is rank, Mark! Go air it out. |
| Back down | To relent | You can stand me up at the gates of hell and I won't back down. |
| Back off | To stop being involved | Michelle's ex-husband needs to back off. |
| Blow up | To explode, to detonate | The lit cigarette made the lawnmower blow up. |
| Buy into | To invest, to believe | Why do so many celebrities buy into scientology? |
| Cut in | To interrupt | Stephan's online-poker habit is cutting into his work. |
| Dawn on | To realize | It just dawned on me that I can't go to the Keys this weekend, I forgot that I have a wedding to attend. |
| Hang up | To end a phone call | When telemarketers call me, I just hang up. |
| Hear out | To allow someone to finish talking | If you just hear him out, we might make some cash. |
| Heat up | To intensify | The debate around gun control is really heating up. |
| Look into | To research | I don't know much about that, but I'll look into it. |
| Run out of | To use all of something | We always run out of coffee on Sunday evening. |
| Stand for | To represent | The "v sign" stands for peace.. |
| Stand up to | To resist | Whatever you do, don't stand up to the police! |
| Talk into | To persuade sb to do sth | Somehow, Denis talked me into working Saturday. |
| Talk out of | To persuade sb not to do sth | His family talked him out of joining the Peace Corps. |
| Work out | To resolve | Todd and Mary worked out their problems. |