

200 Most Common Phrasal Verbs In English With Examples

200 most common phrasal verbs in english with examples Understanding and mastering phrasal verbs is essential for anyone looking to improve their English language skills. Phrasal verbs are combinations of a verb and one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs) that, together, create new meanings different from the original verb. They are widely used in everyday conversations, informal writing, and even in professional contexts. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the 200 most common phrasal verbs in English, complete with clear definitions and practical examples to help you incorporate them confidently into your language repertoire.

What Are Phrasal Verbs?

Phrasal verbs are multi-word expressions formed by combining a base verb with a particle (preposition or adverb). Their meanings are often idiomatic, making them tricky for learners but also enriching their expressive potential. Example: - Turn on the lights. (to activate) - Give up smoking. (to quit) - Look after children. (to take care of)

Why Are Phrasal Verbs Important?

- Common in spoken and written English: Phrasal verbs frequently appear in everyday conversations, TV shows, and informal writing. - Enhance fluency: Using them correctly can make your speech sound natural and fluent. - Express ideas concisely: Phrasal verbs often replace longer phrases.

Categories of Phrasal Verbs

Understanding the types of phrasal verbs can help learners grasp their meanings more easily: - Transitive Phrasal Verbs: Require an object. Example: Pick up the phone. - Intransitive Phrasal Verbs: Do not require an object. Example: Break down. - Separable Phrasal Verbs: The object can go between the verb and particle. Example: Turn off the TV / Turn the TV off. - Inseparable Phrasal Verbs: The object must follow the entire verb-particle combination. Example: Look after the children.

The 200 Most Common Phrasal Verbs in English with Examples

Below is a categorized list of the most frequently used phrasal verbs, along with their definitions and example sentences.

1. Common Phrasal Verbs for Actions and Movement

1. Get up – To rise from bed or a seated position. Example: I get up at 7 a.m. every day. 2. Go out – To leave home to go somewhere. Example: We went out for dinner last night. 3. Come in – To enter. Example: Please come in and take a seat. 4. Run away – To escape. Example: The dog ran away from home. 5. Turn around – To change direction. Example: He turned around when he saw me. 6. Jump in – To enter quickly or suddenly. Example: She jumped in the car and drove off. 7. Walk out – To leave angrily or suddenly. Example: He walked out of the meeting. 8. Drive off – To leave quickly by car. Example: The car drove off before I could say goodbye. 9. Come back – To return. Example: When will you come back from vacation? 10. Move in – To start living in a new place. Example: They moved in last weekend.

2. Common Phrasal Verbs for Communication

11. Pick up – To answer a phone call or learn a new skill. Example: I need to pick up the phone. 12. Speak up – To speak louder. Example: Could you speak up? I can't hear you. 13. Tell off – To scold someone. Example: She was told off for being late. 14. Ask out – To invite someone on a date. Example: He asked her out last night. 15. Bring up – To mention or start discussing a topic. Example: She brought up the issue during the meeting. 16. Call back – To return a phone call. Example: I will call you back later. 17. Get through – To reach someone on the phone or overcome a difficulty. Example: I finally got through to customer service. 18. Talk over – To discuss thoroughly. Example: We need to talk over the plan. 19. Listen up – Pay attention. Example: Listen up, everyone! 20. Fill in – To complete a form or provide missing information. Example: Please fill in this application form.

3. Common Phrasal Verbs Related to Daily Routines

21. Wake up – To stop sleeping. Example: I wake up at 6:30 every morning. 22. Get ready – To prepare oneself. Example: I need to get ready for work. 23. Look after – To take care of. Example: She looks after her younger brother. 24. Take off – To remove clothing or for an aircraft to leave the ground. Example: The plane took off at 9 a.m. 25. Set up – To establish or arrange. Example: They set up a new business. 26. Clean up – To tidy or make clean. Example: Please clean up your room. 27. Pick out – To choose or select. Example: She picked

out a nice dress. 28. Drop off – To take someone or something to a place. Example: I will drop off the package at the post office. 29. Check in – To register upon arrival. Example: We checked in at the hotel at noon. 30. Check out – To leave a hotel or examine. Example: We checked out of the hotel at 11 a.m.

4. Phrasal Verbs for Relationships and Social Interactions

31. Catch up – To update someone on recent events. Example: Let's meet to catch up soon. 32. Break up – To end a relationship. Example: They decided to break up after five years. 33. Go out with – To date someone. Example: She's going out with her college friend. 34. Hang out – To spend time relaxing with friends. Example: We like to hang out at the mall. 35. Make up – To reconcile after an argument. Example: They finally made up after their fight. 36. See off – To say goodbye to someone departing. Example: I went to the airport to see off my sister. 37. Turn down – To refuse or reject. Example: He turned down the job offer. 38. Ask out – To invite someone on a date. Example: He asked her out to dinner. 39. Come across – To find by chance. Example: I came across an old friend at the store. 40. Pick on – To bully or tease. Example: Stop picking on your sister.

5. Phrasal Verbs for Work and Business

41. Carry out – To perform or execute. Example: The team carried out the plan successfully. 42. Fill out – To complete a form. Example: Please fill out this application. 43. Bring in – To generate income or profits. Example: The new marketing strategy brought in more sales. 44. Lay off – To dismiss employees. Example: The company had to lay off workers. 45. Set up – To establish or arrange. Example: They set up a new office in the city. 46. Take over – To assume control. Example: The manager took over the project. 47. Deal with – To handle or manage. Example: I have to deal with a difficult client. 48. Work out – To exercise or find a solution. Example: Things will work out in the end. 49. Follow up – To pursue further action. Example: I will follow up on that email. 50. Hand in – To submit. Example: Please hand in your reports by Friday.

6. Phrasal Verbs for Emotions and States

51. Calm down – To become less angry or upset. Example: You need

200 Most Common Phrasal Verbs in English with Examples: A Comprehensive Guide

Mastering 200 most common phrasal verbs in English is a crucial step for anyone aiming to achieve fluency and naturalness in their language skills. Phrasal verbs—combinations of a verb and one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs)—are an integral part of everyday speech and writing. They often carry idiomatic meanings that are not always predictable

from the individual words, making them both challenging and essential for learners. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore these common phrasal verbs, providing clear definitions and example sentences to help you understand and incorporate them into your language use effectively.

Why Are Phrasal Verbs Important?

Phrasal verbs are pervasive in informal spoken language, media, and even formal contexts. They enable speakers to express ideas more succinctly and naturally. For example, instead of saying “postpone a meeting,” someone might say “put off the meeting.” Recognizing and using phrasal verbs correctly can dramatically improve your comprehension and conversational skills.

How to Approach Learning Phrasal Verbs

1. Start with the most common ones: Focus on the 200 most frequently used phrasal verbs.
2. Learn in context: Use example sentences to understand their meaning.
3. Group similar verbs: Categorize based on function or meaning (e.g., movement, communication).
4. Practice regularly: Incorporate them into speaking and writing.

Categorization of Common Phrasal Verbs

For better understanding, we categorize these 200 phrasal verbs into thematic groups:

1. Movement and Position
2. Communication and Information
3. Daily Activities
4. Emotional States
5. Work and Business
6. Health and Well-being
7. Others

Now, let's explore each category with detailed lists and examples.

Movement and Position

These phrasal verbs describe physical movement or changes in position.

1. Get up

Definition: To rise from bed or a seated position.

Example: I get up at 7 a.m. every day.

1. Sit down

Definition: To take a seat.

Example: Please sit down and relax.

1. Turn around

Definition: To rotate one's body in a different direction.

Example: He turned around when he heard his name.

1. Come in

Definition: To enter a place.

Example: She came in late to the meeting.

1. Go out

Definition: To leave a place, often to socialize.

Example: We're going out tonight with friends.

1. Move in/out

Definition: To change residence.

Example: They moved out of their apartment last week.

1. Run over

Definition: To hit something with a vehicle.

Example: Be careful or you might run over the curb.

1. Walk away

Definition: To leave a place or situation by walking.

Example: She decided to walk away from the argument.

Communication and Information

These phrasal verbs relate to transmitting, receiving, or managing information.

1. Call back

Definition: To return a phone call.

Example: I missed his call; I need to call back later.

1. Look up

Definition: To search for information (e.g., in a dictionary or online).

Example: I need to look up the meaning of this word.

1. Speak up

Definition: To speak louder or more clearly.

Example: Please speak up, I can't hear you.

1. Get through

Definition: To make contact with someone by phone or email.

Example: I finally got through to customer service.

1. Write down

Definition: To record information in writing.

Example: Can you write down your email address?

1. Break down

Definition: To stop functioning (machine) or become overwhelmed (person).

Example: My car broke down on the highway.

1. Fill in

Definition: To complete a form or document.

Example: Please fill in this application form.

1. Pass on

Definition: To transmit information or pass something to someone else.

Example: She passed on the message to her boss.

Daily Activities

These phrasal verbs describe routine tasks and daily life actions.

1. Wake up

Definition: To stop sleeping.

Example: I wake up at 6:30 every morning.

1. Turn on/off

Definition: To start or stop a device.

Example: Could you turn off the lights?

1. Look after

Definition: To take care of someone or something.

Example: She looks after her younger brother.

1. Hang up

Definition: To end a phone call.

Example: I forgot to hang up after the conversation.

1. Take off

Definition: To remove clothing or for an airplane to leave the ground.

Example: The plane will take off at 3 p.m.

1. Pick up

Definition: To collect someone or something.

Example: I will pick up the kids from school.

1. Get ready

Definition: To prepare oneself.

Example: I'm getting ready for the meeting.

1. Set up

Definition: To arrange or establish something.

Example: They set up a new office in the city.

Emotional States

These verbs describe feelings or emotional reactions.

1. Calm down

Definition: To become less angry or upset.

Example: You need to calm down and think clearly.

1. Break down

Definition: To become very emotional or to fail.

Example: She broke down after hearing the news.

1. Cheer up

Definition: To become happier.

Example: He bought her flowers to cheer her up.

1. Feel out

Definition: To sense or gauge someone's feelings or intentions.

Example: I tried to feel out his opinion on the project.

1. Stand by

Definition: To support or wait for someone.

Example: I will stand by you no matter what.

Work and Business

These phrasal verbs are common in professional settings.

1. Carry out

Definition: To perform or complete a task.

Example: The scientists carried out an experiment.

1. Follow up

Definition: To pursue or check back on a matter.

Example: I will follow up with the client tomorrow.

1. Take on

Definition: To accept responsibility or hire someone.

Example: The company is taking on new staff.

1. Set up

Definition: To establish or organize.

Example: We need to set up a meeting for next week.

1. Work out

Definition: To find a solution or to exercise.

Example: We need to work out the details of the project.

Health and Well-being

These verbs relate to physical and mental health.

1. Look after

Definition: To care for health or well-being.

Example: She looks after her mother who is ill.

1. Feel better

Definition: To recover or improve health.

Example: I hope you feel better soon.

1. Catch up

Definition: To reach the same level or to update oneself.

Example: I need to catch up on my health checkups.

1. Work out

Definition: To exercise or find a solution.

Example: I work out at the gym three times a week.

Other Common Phrasal Verbs

A selection of versatile phrasal verbs used across various contexts.

1. Give up

Definition: To stop doing something.

Example: Don't give up on your dreams.

1. Bring up

Definition: To mention or introduce a topic.

Example: She brought up an interesting point during the meeting.

1. Come across

Definition: To find or encounter by chance.

Example: I came across an old friend at the mall.

1. Look into

Definition: To investigate or examine.

Example: The police are looking into the case.

1. Turn out

Definition: To result or happen in a certain way.

Example: It turned out to be a sunny day.

Conclusion

The 200 most common phrasal verbs in English form the backbone of fluent and natural speech. By understanding their meanings and practicing their usage through examples, learners can significantly enhance their communication skills. Remember, the key to mastery is consistent practice and exposure in various contexts. Incorporate these phrasal verbs into your daily conversations, writing, and listening exercises to become more comfortable with their use. With dedication, you'll find yourself speaking more confidently and understanding native speakers effortlessly.

Start integrating these phrasal verbs today and watch your English skills soar!

Questions & Answers About 200 most common phrasal verbs in english with examples

No	Question	Answer
1	What are phrasal verbs, and why are they important in English?	Phrasal verbs are combinations of a verb and one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs) that together create a new meaning. They are important because they are frequently used in everyday English, making conversations more natural and expressive.
2	Can you give an example of a common phrasal verb and its meaning?	Sure! For example, 'look up' means to search for information. Example: 'I need to look up the address before we leave.'
3	How can I effectively learn the 200 most common phrasal verbs?	You can learn them by practicing in context, using flashcards, watching videos, and incorporating them into your daily conversations and writing to reinforce understanding and usage.

4	What are some common challenges learners face with phrasal verbs?	Learners often find phrasal verbs confusing because their meanings are not always obvious from the individual words, and many have multiple meanings depending on context. Practice and exposure are key to mastering them.
5	Can you provide an example sentence for the phrasal verb 'turn off'?	Yes! Example: 'Please turn off the lights before you leave the room.'

phrasal verbs, English grammar, common phrases, language learning, idiomatic expressions, verb combinations, usage examples, ESL resources, verb meanings, sentence constructions