



## PHRASAL VERBS

**add up to** combine to produce a particular result or effect: *These new measures do not add up to genuine reform.*

**add up to** if separate amounts add up to a total amount, together they form that total: *His business expenses add up to around £4,000 a year.*

**answer back** reply rudely to someone who has more authority than you: *I got into trouble for answering the teacher back.*

**ask out** invite someone to go with you to a cinema, restaurant, etc because you want to start a romantic or sexual relationship with them: *Fred asked Vanessa to go out with him but she said no.*

**back down** stop asking for something or stop saying that you will do something, because a lot of people oppose you: *I'm not going to back down just because a few people disagree with me.*

**back up** give support to someone by telling other people that you agree with them *backup (n): I didn't believe Simon's story until Janice backed him up.*

**back up** make a copy of information on your computer *backup (n): Make sure you back all your data up, just in case you get a virus.*

**black out** make a place dark by turning off all the lights, for example so that the enemy cannot see a place at night *blackout (n): The whole city was blacked out for nights on end during the war.*

**black out** suddenly become unconscious: *He had blacked out as his car hit the tree.*

**blend in** if someone or something blends in, they are similar to the other people, objects, buildings, etc around them, and so they seem appropriate or you do not notice them: *The building doesn't really blend in very well with the others around it.*

**blurt out** say something suddenly and without thinking about the effect it will have, usually because you are nervous or excited: *She blurted out his name, then gasped as she realised what she'd done.*

**board up** cover a window or door with wooden boards: *We boarded the house up because we knew a bad storm was coming.*

**break down** divide something such as a total amount into separate parts *breakdown (n): The amount doesn't seem quite so bad when you break it down into monthly payments.*

**break up** break something to make smaller pieces: *Break that old wardrobe up; then I can put it on the fire.*

**break up** if a meeting or other event breaks up, or if you break it up, it ends and people leave: *The meeting finally broke up after three hours.*

**break up** if two people break up, they end their relationship: *When did Diana and James break up?*

**brighten up** if the weather brightens up, it becomes sunnier: *It's brightening up, at last.*

**brighten up** start looking or feeling happier: *Sarah brightened up considerably as she thought of Emily's words.*

**brighten up** start to have more colour or light, give something more colour or light: *You could brighten up that skirt with a red blouse.*

**bring about** make something happen, especially to cause changes in a situation: *It's not something we can bring about overnight.*

**bring out** make someone or something show a quality that they have: *That dress really brings out the green in your eyes.*

**bring out** produce a new product and start to sell it: *They've brought out a new 3D video camera.*

**bring together** create a situation in which people meet and do something together, especially when they would not usually do so: *The attack on the city really brought people together.*

**brush up (on)** practise and improve your skills or knowledge of something: *I took a class to brush up (on) my German before the trip.*

**build up** gradually develop: *Many popular writers built up their reputations during the war.*

**build up** increase or make something increase: *The food industry needs to build up consumer confidence again.*

**build up** make someone bigger, healthier and stronger, especially by making them eat more *build-up (n): You need lots of fresh fruit to help build you up.*

**build up** talk about someone or something in a very positive way so that people are impressed with them: *They've built him up to be something that he isn't.*

**bump into** accidentally hit against something: *It was dark and I bumped into the table.*

**bump into** meet someone unexpectedly: *Guess who I bumped into in town?*

**buy off** give someone money so that they do not act against you: *Efforts to buy her off have failed.*

**buy out** pay money to your business partner so that you can control all of a business you previously owned together *buyout (n): The other directors have offered to buy me out.*

**buy up** buy large amounts of something or all of it that is available: *Developers have been buying up old theatres and converting them into cinemas.*

**cancel out** stop something from having any effect: *These headphones cancel out any other noise so all you can hear is the music.*

**carry over** take something that you earn or are given in one year or period of time into the next one *carry-over (n): You are not allowed to carry over holiday entitlement from one year into the next.*

**catch on** become popular or fashionable: *Sports drinks have caught on as consumers have become more health-conscious.*

**catch on** understand: *He didn't catch on at first.*

**centre around** if something centres around someone or something, or you centre something around them, they are its main subject of attention or interest: *The book centres around a woman who becomes an astronaut.*

**chance upon** find or see someone or something when you did not expect to: *We chanced upon a charming little restaurant.*

**change around** move things so that they are in different places or positions: *My friends had changed all the furniture in my room around as a joke.*

**change into** stop being in one state, condition or form and start being in another, or make something do this: *The film was about a man who changes into a werewolf during the full moon.*

**change into** take off the clothes or a piece of clothing you are wearing and put on different ones: *Let me just change into something a bit more comfortable.*

**change out of** take off the clothes or a piece of clothing you are wearing and put on different ones: *Come inside and change out of those wet things.*

**check out** examine someone or something in order to be certain that everything is correct, true or satisfactory: *I've been taking loads of photographs, just to check out the camera.*

**check out** if information checks out, you feel that it is true after examining it: *Their story just didn't check out.*





- clock up** reach a particular number or amount: *Dawson has clocked up 34 years as a police officer.*
- close up** lock the doors of a building or business: *The newsagent was closing up for the evening.*
- club together** if people club together, each of them gives some money so all the money collected can be used to buy something: *Let's all club together and get her a nice present.*
- come across** meet someone or find something by chance: *I came across a reference to my grandfather in an old book.*
- come (a)round (to)** change your opinion or decision because someone has persuaded you to agree with them: *I didn't agree at first but I've come (a)round to the idea now.*
- come between** cause a disagreement or argument between people: *I would never let anything come between us.*
- come out** be removed from something such as clothing or cloth by washing or rubbing: *The stain finally came out, but I had to wash the T-shirt three times.*
- come out** be spoken, heard or understood in a particular way: *That came out wrong. Let me rephrase it.*
- come out** become available to buy or see: *The magazine comes out every Thursday.*
- come out** become easy to notice: *These differences don't come out until you put the two groups in a room together.*
- come out** become known: *He said it'll all come out in court.*
- come out** have a particular result or end in a particular way: *Everything came out all right in the end.*
- come out in** become covered in spots because you are ill or your body reacts to a food or medicine: *She can't eat shellfish without coming out in spots.*
- come out with** say something suddenly, usually something that surprises or shocks people: *You never know what the children are going to come out with.*
- come round** become conscious again after being unconscious: *I felt sick when I came round after the operation.*
- come round** change your opinion or decision because someone has persuaded you to agree with them: *We were sure she'd come round in the end.*
- come round** go to a place where someone is, especially their house, in order to visit them: *Why don't you come round after work?*
- come round** if a regular event comes round, it happens again: *Jean's annual garden party must be coming round again soon.*
- come up with** think of something such as an idea or a plan: *Is that the best you can come up with?*
- cool down** become cooler, or make something cooler: *It's cooled down a lot in the last couple of days.*
- cordon off** stop people from entering an area by putting something such as a rope around it: *Why have they cordoned off the city centre?*
- cotton on** begin to realise or understand something: *Suddenly I cottoned on. She'd been lying from the start.*
- crack down (on)** start dealing with someone or something much more strictly *crackdown (n)*: *It's about time they cracked down on people who drop litter.*
- crease up** laugh a lot, or make someone laugh a lot: *You really crease me up!*
- creep up on** move towards someone quietly and slowly, especially because you want to surprise them: *I watched a cat as it crept up on a bird.*
- crop up** appear or happen suddenly or unexpectedly: *Ben had to go back to work – something's cropped up there.*
- crowd around** move to a particular place at the same time as a lot of other people: *Everyone crowded around the actor as he signed autographs.*
- cut back (on)** reduce the amount of something, especially money that you spend: *I'm trying to cut back on groceries.*
- cut out** remove something from a larger piece by cutting: *Cut out the material you need and make sure it's the right size.*
- cut out** stop eating something or doing something, especially because it is bad for your health: *I'm going to have to cut coffee out because it gives me indigestion.*
- die out** become weaker or less common and then disappear completely: *There used to be wolves here but they've died out.*
- dig up** dig holes in an area of land: *Police have dug the garden up looking for evidence.*
- dig up** find information by searching carefully: *See what you can dig up on the Internet on Mr Anderson.*
- dig up** remove something from under the ground by digging: *Archaeologists have dug up a bag of coins from Roman times.*
- dive in** start doing something in a very enthusiastic way: *Sometimes you've just got to take a chance and dive in.*
- do away with** get rid of: *Did you hear that they're going to do away with private universities altogether?*
- do up** fasten (an item of clothing): *Do your coat up or you'll catch cold.*
- do up** repair, paint and improve an old building, car, boat, etc: *We bought an old farmhouse in France, intending to do it up.*
- drum up** try to make people support you or buy something from you: *Advertisements should help to drum up some business.*
- dry up** if something dries up or is dried up, all the water comes out of it: *The river has completely dried up.*
- dry up** stop being available: *I'm a TV repairman, but work seems to have dried up lately.*
- dry up** stop talking because you have forgotten what you were going to say: *I hope I don't dry up in the middle of my speech.*
- end up** be in a particular place or state after doing something or because of doing it: *Keep on doing that and you'll end up in serious trouble.*
- face up to** accept something and try to deal with it: *He was the only one who faced up to the problem.*
- fade away** disappear slowly: *To my amazement, the letters on the page slowly faded away.*
- fall behind** make less progress or be less successful than other people who are doing a similar job or activity: *I was off school for two months with my illness and I fell behind the others.*
- fall behind** move more slowly than other people so that you are behind them: *I got tired on the walk and gradually fell behind the rest.*
- figure out** be able to understand something or solve a problem or understand what someone is like and why they behave in the way they do: *We had to figure out the connection between the two events.*
- fix up** clean, repair or decorate something: *Why don't we try to fix up that old bike of yours?*
- follow up** check the health of someone who has received medical treatment in order to be certain that it was effective: *The study followed up over 200 heart patients.*
- follow up** try to find out more about something or do something more to deal with it *follow-up (n)*: *The police are now following up some new leads.*
- get across** make people understand something: *We've got to get the message across more clearly.*
- get (a)round** if news gets (a)round, a lot of people hear it: *The rumours got around town very quickly, didn't they?*
- get down** make someone feel sad or lose hope, start feeling sad or losing hope: *Doing the same thing every day can get you down.*





- get in** be elected for a political job: *If I get in, there'll be a few changes around here.*
- get into** become involved in a bad situation: *Craig started to get into crime while he was still at school.*
- get into** if a train, plane, etc gets into a place, it arrives there: *What time do we get into Norwich?*
- get into** start enjoying something or become enthusiastic about it: *It took me a while to get into this CD, but now I listen to it all the time.*
- get off** have a particular period of time as a holiday: *Will you get Easter off?*
- get off** not be punished severely or at all for something you have been accused of in court: *I can't believe he got off when there was so much evidence against him.*
- get off** send something, for example in the post: *I'll get those invitations off tomorrow.*
- get over** find a way to solve or deal with a difficult problem: *There are many hurdles still to get over before the new restaurant can open.*
- get over** start to feel happy or well again after something bad has happened to you, start to forget someone and feel happy again after a relationship has ended: *It can take weeks to get over an illness like that.*
- get through** finish dealing with some work, a subject, etc: *I've got a lot of work to get through.*
- get through** manage to deal with a difficult situation or stay alive until it is over: *How we got through it I'll never know.*
- get through** use or finish something: *We get through a litre of milk a day.*
- get through (to)** be connected to a place by telephone: *I tried calling him but I couldn't get through for some reason.*
- get through (to)** make someone understand what you are trying to say: *The teacher feels he is not getting through to some of the kids in his class.*
- give in** if you give in to something, you can no longer control the feeling of wanting it: *I finally gave in and had a cream cake.*
- give in** stop competing or arguing and accept that you cannot win: *In the end, I gave in and accepted that she was right.*
- go astray** become lost or go to the wrong place: *We went astray but soon found our way again.*
- go down (well/badly) (with sb)** produce a particular reaction: *The plan to put rents up has not gone down well with tenants.*
- go in for** choose something as a subject of study or as your career: *I'm going to go in for dentistry.*
- go in for** enjoy a particular thing or activity: *My dad doesn't really go in for parties.*
- go off** explode or be fired: *A bomb has gone off in the shopping mall.*
- go off** if food or drink goes off, it is no longer fresh: *Does this milk smell like it's gone off to you?*
- go off** leave a place, especially for a particular purpose: *Pete's just gone off to get some chewing gum.*
- go off** stop liking someone or something: *I've gone off peanuts, for some reason.*
- go together** if two or more things go together, they frequently exist together: *Why do poverty and crime seem to go together so often?*
- go together** if two things go together, they seem good, natural or attractive in combination with each other: *Do this skirt and this top go together?*
- grow on** if something or someone grows on you, you start to like them more: *I didn't like that painting at first, but it's growing on me.*
- hang out** lean out of a window so that the top part of your body is outside: *Don't hang out of the window or you'll fall!*
- hang out** spend time in a particular place or with particular people *hang-out (n): We often just hang out at each other's houses.*
- head off** prevent someone from going somewhere by getting in front of them: *One police officer chased the robber while the other went to head him off.*
- head off** prevent something from taking place: *The UN has sent emergency aid into the area to head off a catastrophe.*
- heat up** make something hot; become hot: *Heat up the baby's milk, would you?*
- hit back** criticise someone who has criticised you: *The Minister hit back at his critics.*
- hit back** deliberately hurt someone who has hurt you: *If someone hits you, think before you hit back next time.*
- hit upon** discover something by chance: *She was scared he might hit upon the truth.*
- hit upon** suddenly have an idea: *They hit upon the idea of celebrating the occasion with a concert.*
- hold back** stop someone or something from moving forwards: *The police held back the crowd.*
- keep up** continue to do something: *I don't think I can afford to keep up my piano lessons.*
- keep up** move at the same speed as someone or something: *Dan walks so fast that it's not easy to keep up with him.*
- key in** put information into a computer or other electronic machine using keys or a keyboard: *All you have to do is key your details in and the computer does the rest.*
- kick off (with)** begin (with): *I'd like to kick off with a quick look at last month's sales figures.*
- kill off** destroy living things so that most or all of them are dead: *The pollution killed off all the fish in the lake.*
- knock off** stop working: *Do you want to knock off early tonight?*
- knock/pull/tear down** destroy a building or wall: *I see they've finally knocked the old factory down.*
- knuckle down** start working hard, especially when you should have done this earlier: *It's time for me to knuckle down and get this finished.*
- lash out** speak angrily to or against someone: *They lashed out at the council's move to stop free parking.*
- lash out** try to hit or attack someone suddenly and violently: *Occasionally the patients will lash out at the nurses.*
- lay off** end someone's employment, especially temporarily, because there is not enough work for them: *They've had to cut back production and lay off workers.*
- lay off** stop doing or using something, especially for a short period of time: *Lay off teasing your brother, Julie!*
- laze around** relax and enjoy yourself, doing no work: *I'm just planning to laze around this weekend.*
- let on** talk about something that is intended to be a secret: *He knows more than he lets on.*
- lie ahead** if something lies ahead, it is going to happen to you in the future: *A bright future lies ahead of him.*
- liven up** give something a more interesting appearance, taste or other quality: *You can liven up a plain shirt with a colourful scarf.*
- liven up** make something more interesting or exciting, or become more interesting or exciting: *What we needed was some music to liven things up.*
- lock up** lock all the doors and windows of a building so that no one can get in: *I must have forgotten to lock up when I left this morning.*





**lock up** put someone in a prison: *They should lock him up for a very long time, if you ask me.*

**make into** change someone or something so that they become something else: *It's as if my parents are trying to make me into the ideal student, so I'm under a lot of pressure.*

**make out** see, hear or understand someone or something with difficulty: *Can you make out a face here in the photograph?*

**make out** suggest, imply: *It's not as simple as some people make out.*

**make over** change or improve the appearance of someone or something *makeover* (n): *They made over three contestants on the show. When they'd finished, they looked completely different.*

**make up** work at different times from usual because you have not worked enough at the normal times: *Sorry I'm late; I'll make up the time this evening.*

**meet up** come together with someone, either unexpectedly or as planned: *Why don't we meet up when I'm in Berlin, since it's not far from you?*

**mess about/around** behave in a silly way: *Mrs Evans asked the children to stop messing around.*

**mess about/around** spend time doing things in a relaxed way: *There's nothing I like better than messing about in the garden.*

**mess up** be the cause of someone's physical, emotional or mental problems: *Drugs really messed her up.*

**mess up** make a mistake or do something badly: *She says she completely messed up the interview.*

**mess up** make something dirty or untidy: *The wind had messed her hair up.*

**mix up** put things together without any order: *If you put different colas into different glasses and mixed them up, could you tell which was which?*

**mix up** think that one person or thing is another person or thing *mix-up* (n): *I've only ever mixed the Hampson twins up once, but it was really embarrassing!*

**mount up** get much larger: *The costs are beginning to mount up.*

**move in (with)** start living in a different house or flat (with): *When he got divorced, John moved in with me.*

**move on** leave one place and travel to another: *My job means that I tend to stay in one city for a year or two and then move on.*

**move on** stop discussing or doing something and begin discussing or doing something different: *I think we should move on, or we'll never finish the meeting on time.*

**move out** permanently leave the house or flat where you live or the place where you have your business: *I hear you've finally moved out of your parents' place.*

**move over** change your position in order to make space for someone or something: *The woman moved over so that I could sit on the bench.*

**mull over** think carefully about something over a period of time: *They'll need time to mull over the proposals.*

**open up** make it easier to travel or do business in a country: *You'd be amazed at how much China has opened up since you were there.*

**open up** open a locked door, container or building: *When we opened the box up, we found a puppy inside.*

**open up** talk more about your personal feelings and experiences: *Henry doesn't find it easy to open up.*

**opt out (of)** decide not to take part in something or stop taking part in it: *Quite a few of the students have opted out of the school trip.*

**paper over** hide a problem or disagreement rather than finding a satisfactory solution to it: *Fundamental problems were papered over, not resolved.*

**pass away/on** die (used to avoid saying 'die' when you think this might upset someone): *He passed away in his sleep at the age of 84.*

**pass on** give someone something, for example a message, that someone else has given you: *When you've read this message, please pass it on.*

**patch up** become friends with someone again after a disagreement: *The meeting was intended to patch up relations between the two sides.*

**patch up** give basic medical treatment to someone who is injured: *The nurses managed to patch her up temporarily.*

**patch up** repair something, often quickly and not very well: *The road needs resurfacing, not just patching up.*

**pay back** give someone the same amount of money that you borrowed from them: *I'll be able to pay you back next week.*

**pay out** provide money from an amount invested over a period of time: *It'll be a few years before our investments start paying out.*

**pay out** spend or pay money, especially a lot of money: *We've paid out thousands of pounds in health insurance over the years.*

**phase out** gradually stop using something: *They're phasing out the old style driving licence.*

**pick on** keep treating someone badly or unfairly, especially by criticising them: *Why don't you pick on someone your own size?*

**pick up** go and meet someone or something that you have arranged to take somewhere in a vehicle: *I'll pick you up at twelve.*

**pick up** improve: *They won't let him out of hospital until his health has picked up quite a lot.*

**pick up** learn a new skill or start a habit without intending to: *I picked Chinese up when I was living there.*

**piece together** learn the truth about something by considering all the separate bits of information you have: *Detectives are still piecing together the circumstances surrounding the incident.*

**pile up** if something piles up or someone piles it up, the amount of it increases a lot: *The washing-up is beginning to pile up, so let's do it together.*

**play up** cause difficulties or pain for someone: *The printer's playing up again.*

**play up** if children play up or play someone up, they behave badly: *I'm exhausted! The children have been really playing up this afternoon.*

**press ahead/on (with)** continue doing something in a determined way, despite difficulties, opposition or interruptions: *They pressed ahead regardless of objections.*

**prop up** help a government, system, organisation, etc continue to exist, especially by providing financial or military support: *The US has been propping the government up in that country for years.*

**prop up** stop something from falling by putting something under it or against it: *I had to use some books to prop my desk up.*

**pull over** stop by the side of the road in a car or other vehicle: *Could you just pull over for a second?*

**pull through** manage to stay alive after you have been very ill or very badly injured: *Don't worry, your dad's going to pull through.*

**pull through** succeed in a very difficult situation, or help someone do this: *He said the support of his fans pulled him through.*

**push around** keep telling someone what to do in an unfair or unpleasant way: *You really shouldn't let her push you around like that.*





- put across/over** explain an idea, belief, etc in a way that is easy to understand: *Television can be a useful way of putting across health messages.*
- put down to** if you put something down to a particular reason, you think it has happened for that reason: *What do you put your success down to?*
- put in** fix something such as equipment in the place where it will be used and make it ready to use: *We're having air conditioning put in tomorrow.*
- put in** make an official request, claim, offer, etc: *Don't forget to sign the form when you put in your application.*
- put in** spend a particular amount of time doing something, or make a particular amount of effort in order to do something  
**input (n):** *Bob's put in a lot of hard work on this project.*
- put together** choose people or things to form a team or group: *I'm putting together an expedition to the Andes.*
- put together** make something by joining all its parts: *How long did it take you to put that jigsaw together?*
- put together** produce or organise something using many different things: *I really enjoyed putting the exhibition together.*
- put up** build something such as a wall, fence or house: *Dad's putting a fence up around the garden.*
- put up** let someone stay in your house: *Yes, I can put you up for a few days.*
- puzzle out** solve a confusing or complicated problem by thinking carefully about it: *She seemed to be trying to puzzle out who the caller might be.*
- read up (on/about)** get information on a particular subject by reading a lot about it: *I need to read up on my British history.*
- run down** if an organisation or area is run down, its size, importance and activity is reduced  
**run-down (adj):** *They've been running the factory down for the last five years.*
- scrape through** succeed in doing something, but not in a very impressive way: *He just managed to scrape through the entrance exam.*
- seek out** find someone or something by looking for them in a determined way: *The dogs are trained to seek out drugs.*
- set down** state officially how something should be done: *These conditions were set down by the United Nations.*
- set down** write something on a piece of paper so that it will not be forgotten and can be looked at later: *She set all these events down in her diary.*
- set out** start doing or working on something in order to achieve an aim  
**outset (n):** *Did you set out to become a millionaire?*
- set up** build a structure or put it in a particular place: *Let's set the tent up over there.*
- set up** make a piece of equipment ready for use: *How do you set the pieces up at the start of a game of chess?*
- shout down** make it difficult to hear what someone says by shouting while they are speaking: *The Minister was shouted down as he tried to justify the government's decision.*
- shrivel up** become smaller and thinner than usual and not look fresh and healthy: *The leaves had shrivelled up in the summer heat.*
- shrivel up** become weaker or smaller in amount: *Funding for the project eventually shrivelled up.*
- single out** choose one person from a group for special attention: *The actor thanked everyone who had helped him and singled out his manager for special thanks.*
- size up** think carefully and form an opinion about a person or a situation: *He sized up the situation and then decided what to do.*
- slip away** leave secretly: *After an hour at the party, I managed to slip away without anyone noticing.*
- slip up** make a careless mistake  
**slip-up (n):** *We can't afford to slip up this time.*
- smarten up** if you smarten up or smarten yourself up, you make yourself look tidy and clean: *I'm going to smarten myself up a bit before the meeting.*
- smarten up** improve the appearance of something, for example by cleaning or painting it: *This room needs smartening up.*
- snow under** if you are snowed under, you have too much of sth to deal with: *I'm snowed under with work at the moment.*
- sound out** try to find out someone's opinions, ideas, feelings, etc by talking to them: *The council decided to sound out local opinion.*
- speak out** state your opinion firmly and publicly about something, especially in order to protest against or defend something: *He had always spoken out in favour of women's rights.*
- spread out** if people in a group spread out, they move away from one another so that they cover a large area: *We've got more chance of finding him if we spread out.*
- spring up** appear or be produced suddenly and quickly: *A lot of cafés have sprung up around here lately.*
- stand out** be easy to see or notice because of being different: *His turquoise tie stood out against his black suit.*
- stand out** be much more impressive or important than others  
**outstanding (adj):** *Germany stands out as the leader in environmental reporting.*
- stand up to** not allow yourself to be treated badly, especially by someone in authority: *Why don't you stand up to your boss a bit more?*
- step aside** leave a job so that sb else can take over: *The chairman stepped aside to allow a younger person to take over.*
- step aside** move so that sb can pass you: *We stepped aside to let someone in a wheelchair through.*
- stop off** visit somewhere before continuing to another place: *We can stop off at the bakery on the way to school.*
- store up** do something that will cause problems in the future: *If you ignore it, you're just storing up problems for the future.*
- store up** keep a lot of something so that you can use it later: *Squirrels store up nuts for the winter.*
- summon up** manage to produce a quality or a reaction that helps you deal with a difficult situation: *He couldn't summon up the strength to carry on fighting.*
- switch on/off** start/stop a machine/light/etc working: *It's boiling in here – switch the air conditioning on.*
- swot up (on)** study something very hard, especially for an examination: *I've got to swot up the French Revolution for tomorrow's test.*
- take after** look or behave like an older relative: *Doesn't she take after her mother?*
- take apart** separate an object into pieces: *I took my computer apart completely, but I still didn't find the problem.*
- take away** remove one number or quantity from another number or quantity: *If you take three away from five, you're left with two.*
- take down** separate a large structure into pieces: *After the play, we had to take down all the scenery.*
- take down** write down information or a statement: *The police took down my details.*
- take in** accept something as real or true: *He still hasn't really taken in his father's death.*
- take in** include something: *The tour takes in some incredible scenery.*
- take in** trick someone into believing something that is not true: *Don't be taken in by their promises.*





**take in** understand and remember something that you hear or read: *I'm not sure how much of his explanation she took in.*

**take off** become successful or popular very fast **take-off** (n): *The new design took off immediately.*

**take off** have a particular amount of time away from work: *Can I take next Friday off?*

**take on** accept some work or responsibility: *I can't take on any more work at the moment.*

**take on** start to employ someone: *We're not taking on any new staff at the moment.*

**take out** take someone to a place like a cinema or a restaurant and usually pay for them: *On my birthday, I took everyone out bowling.*

**take over** begin to do something that someone else was doing: *When Ivy got tired, I took over the driving.*

**take over** take control of something: *Whenever we start organising something, you always want to take over.*

**take to** begin to like someone or something: *I didn't take to living here straight away.*

**take to** start doing something as a habit: *I've taken to getting up much earlier.*

**talk down to** talk to someone as if you think they are not as clever or important as you are: *I hate the way Belinda talks down to people.*

**talk over** discuss a problem or a plan: *I know you're still angry; let's talk it over tonight.*

**talk round** discuss something in a general way and without dealing with the most important issues: *We're just talking round the problem at the moment; let's try to come up with some concrete solutions.*

**talk round** succeed in persuading someone to agree to something: *I'm sure I can talk her round.*

**test out** try using something such as a machine or product to find out whether it works correctly or is satisfactory: *I'm taking my new model aeroplane to the park to test it out.*

**think over** consider a problem or decision carefully: *Let's think over his proposal before we see him again.*

**think through** consider the facts about something in an organised and thorough way: *Have you had time to think things through?*

**think up** invent or imagine something, especially an excuse: *She'd have to think up a good reason for being late.*

**throw out** force someone to leave a place or group: *Charlie was thrown out of the Scouts.*

**throw out** get rid of something that you no longer want, for example by putting it in a dustbin: *Are you throwing these things out?*

**throw out** if someone in authority throws out a plan, proposal, etc they refuse to accept it: *The Minister threw out the proposed changes.*

**throw up** cause something such as dust or water to rise into the air: *As the helicopter landed, it threw up a lot of dust.*

**throw up** produce something new or unexpected: *The new rules have thrown up a few problems.*

**tide over** help someone to get to the end of a difficult period of time, especially by giving them money until they can get some more: *Could you lend me £50 to tide me over until pay day?*

**tip up** (of an object) have one end move upwards, especially because something heavy has been put at the other end: *The bench began to tip up when I sat on it.*

**tip up** turn a container upside down so that the things inside it come out: *I tipped the box up and emptied everything onto the table.*

**touch up** make a surface look better with small improvements: *Touch up the paintwork before you try and sell the house.*

**turn into** change or develop into something different: *The sofa turns into a bed, so you can stay with us, if you like.*

**turn into** make someone or something change or develop into something different: *Stop trying to turn me into someone I'm not!*

**use up** use all of a supply of something: *Did you use the butter up when you were making cakes?*

**walk out** leave a meeting, performance, etc before the end, usually because you are angry or bored: *I walked out halfway through the film.*

**walk out** suddenly leave a relationship, your family, your job, etc: *You can't just walk out like this!*

**ward off** do something to prevent someone or something from harming you: *Sheila carried a knife to ward off attacks.*

**warm up** prepare for a sport or activity by doing gentle exercises or practising just before it starts **warm-up** (n): *It's very important to warm up before you exercise.*

**waste away** gradually become thinner and weaker over a period of time, usually because of an illness: *He hadn't eaten properly for weeks and was starting to waste away.*

**water down** add water to a drink or liquid in order to make it less strong, dilute: *If it's too strong, water it down.*

**water down** make something such as a statement or newspaper article less offensive, powerful or detailed: *The editor watered my article down.*

**wear down** make someone gradually lose their energy or confidence: *This constant criticism at work is really wearing me down.*

**wear down** make something gradually disappear or become thinner by using or rubbing it: *These shoes are uncomfortable because the heel has worn down.*

**wear out** use something a lot so that it no longer works, or can no longer be used: *On my walking holiday, I wore out three pairs of boots.*

**weigh down** cause problems for someone or something or make someone worried: *The entire industry has been weighed down by economic uncertainty.*

**weigh down** make someone heavy and unable to move easily: *The waiters were weighed down by huge trays of food.*

**while away** spend time in a relaxed way when you have nothing else to do: *We whiled away the Saturday afternoon sitting by the lake.*

**wind down** end or finish something gradually: *The party started to wind down around two am.*

**wind down** gradually reduce work before stopping completely: *The factory will wind down production before closing next year.*

**wind down** relax after a period of excitement or worry: *It's hard to wind down after doing such a stressful job all day.*

**write off** damage a vehicle so badly that it is not worth repairing: *My uncle wrote his car off in an accident last weekend.*

**write off** decide that someone or something will not succeed and stop giving them your attention and energy **write-off** (n): *He felt hopeless; his teachers had written him off.*