

# PHRASAL VERBS ARE FUN! (A – B)

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Example
<b>abide by</b>	To respect or obey a decision, a law or a rule	If you want to keep your job here, you must <b>abide by</b> our rules.
<b>account for</b>	To explain, give a reason	I hope you can <b>account for</b> the time you were out!
<b>add up</b>	To make sense, seem reasonable	The facts in the case just don't <b>add up</b> .
<b>advise against</b>	To recommend not doing something	I <b>advise against</b> walking alone in this neighborhood.
<b>agree with</b>	To have the same opinion as someone else.	I <b>agree with</b> you. I think you should go as well.
<b>allow for</b>	To take into consideration	We need to <b>allow for</b> unexpected charges along the way.
<b>appeal to</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To plead or make a request</li> <li>To be attractive or interesting</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He <b>appealed to</b> the court to change its decision.</li> <li>A vacation of sunbathing doesn't <b>appeal to</b> me.</li> </ol>
<b>apply for</b>	To make a formal request for something (job,	He <b>applied for</b> a scholarship for next

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	permit, loan etc.)	semester.
<b>back away</b>	To move backwards, in fear or dislike	When he saw the bear, he <b>backed away</b> in fright.
<b>back down</b>	To withdraw, concede defeat	Local authorities <b>backed down</b> on their threats to build on that part of the beach.
<b>back up</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To give support or encouragement</li> <li>To make a copy of (file, program, etc.)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm going to be very strict with him. I hope you'll <b>back me up</b> on this?</li> <li>You should <b>back up</b> all your computer files in a secure location.</li> </ol>
<b>bank on</b>	To base your hopes on something / someone	I'm <b>banking on</b> you to help with the charity event.
<b>black out</b>	To faint, lose consciousness	Jenna fell in the parking lot and <b>blacked out</b> .
<b>block off</b>	To separate using a barrier.	The police <b>blocked off</b> the street after the explosion.
<b>blow up</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explode</li> <li>To get angry</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tommy <b>blew up</b> the red balloon.</li> <li>Don't <b>blow up</b> at me. It's not my fault.</li> </ol>
<b>boil down to</b>	To be summarized as	It all <b>boils down to</b> who has more power.
<b>boot up</b>	To start a computer by loading an operating	You need to <b>boot up</b> your computer before you

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	system or program	begin to work.
<b>break away</b>	To separate from a crowd	One of the wolves <b>broke away</b> from his pack.
<b>break down</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To go out of order, cease to function</li> <li>To lose control of one's emotions</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The washing machine <b>broke down</b> so we had to call in the repair technician.</li> <li>John <b>broke down</b> when he heard the news.</li> </ol>
<b>break into</b>	To enter by force	Burglars <b>broke into</b> my car last night.
<b>break out</b>	To start suddenly	Rioting <b>broke out</b> after the government raised the fuel prices again.
<b>break out of</b>	To escape from a place by force	Several prisoners <b>broke out</b> of jail.
<b>break up</b>	To come to an end (marriage, relationship)	She <b>broke up</b> with Daniel after dating him for five years.
<b>bring up</b>	To raise (a child)	Sara is <b>bringing up</b> her children by herself.
<b>brush up on</b>	To improve, refresh one's knowledge of something	I must <b>brush up on</b> my French before going to Paris next month.
<b>bump into</b>	To meet by chance or unexpectedly	I <b>bumped into</b> Adam at the bank. He says "hello".
<b>burn out</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stop (something) working</li> <li>become exhausted from</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The light bulb <b>burnt out</b>. Please change it.</li> <li>She needs to work fewer</li> </ol>

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	over-working	hours. Otherwise she will <b>burn out</b> .