

PHRASAL VERBS ARE FUN! (A – B)

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

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

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

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	over-working	hours. Otherwise she will burn out .