

Unit 24 Phrasal Verbs 2

Explanations

This unit (and Units 23 and 25) assume that a wide range of phrasal verbs, and their grammatical types, are already known. These units focus on multiple meaning, and alternative ways of expressing meanings of phrasal verbs. Note that there may be other meanings for the verbs listed here.

Give away (betray)

*His false identity papers **gave him away**.*

Give off (send off a smell – liquid or gas)

*The cheese had begun to **give off** a strange smell.*

Give out (be exhausted)

*When our money **gave out** we had to borrow.*

Give over (abandon, devote)

*The rest of the time was **given over** to playing cards.*

(stop – colloquial)

*Why don't you **give over**! You're getting on my nerves!*

Give up (surrender)

*The escaped prisoner **gave herself up**.*

(believed to be dead or lost)

*After ten days the ship was **given up** for lost.*

Go back on (break a promise)

*The management has **gone back on** its promise.*

Go in for (make a habit of)

*I don't **go in for** that kind of thing.*

(enter a competition)

*Are you thinking of **going in for** the race?*

Go off (become bad – food)

*This milk has **gone off**.*

Go on (happen – usually negative)

*Something funny is **going on**.*

Go round (be enough)

*There weren't enough life-jackets to **go round**.*

Go through with (complete a promise or plan – usually unwillingly)

*When it came to actually stealing the money, Nora couldn't **go through with** it.*

Grow on (become more liked – colloquial)

*This new record is **growing on** me.*

Hang onto (keep – colloquial)

*I think we should **hang onto** the car until next year.*

Have it in for (be deliberately unkind to someone – also as *have got*)

*My teacher **has (got) it in for** me.*

- Have it out with (express feelings so as to settle a problem)
I put up with the problem for a while but in the end I had it out with her.
- Have someone on (deceive – colloquial)
I don't believe you. You're having me on.
- Hit it off (get on well with – colloquial)
Mark and Sarah really hit it off at the party.
- Hit upon/on (discover by chance – often an idea)
They hit upon the solution quite by chance.
- Hold out (offer – especially with hope)
We don't hold out much hope that the price will fall.
- Hold up (delay)
Sorry I'm late, I was held up in the traffic.
(use as an example – ie a model of good behaviour)
Jack was always held up as an example to me.
- Hold with (agree with – an idea)
I don't hold with the idea of using force.
- Keep up (continue)
Well done! Keep up the good work!
- Lay down (state a rule – especially lay down the law)
The company has laid down strict procedures for this kind of situation.
- Let down (disappoint, break a promise)
Sorry to let you down, but I can't give you a lift today.
- Let in on (allow to be part of a secret)
We haven't let Tina in on the plans yet.
- Let off (excuse from punishment)
As Dave was young, the judge let him off with a fine.
- Let on (inform about a secret – colloquial)
We're planning a surprise for Helen, but don't let on.
- (not) Live down (suffer a loss of reputation)
If City lose, they'll never live it down.
- Live up to (reach an expected standard)
The play quite lived up to my expectations.
- Look into (investigate)
The police have promised to look into the problem.
- Look on (consider)
We look on this town as our real home.
- Look someone up (visit when in the area)
If you're passing through Athens, look me up.
- Make for (result in)
The power steering makes for easier parking.
- Make off with (run away with)
The thief made off with a valuable necklace.
- Make out (pretend)
Tim made out that he hadn't seen the No Smoking sign.

- (manage to see or understand)
*I couldn't quite **make out** what the notice said.*
- Make someone out (understand someone's behaviour)
*Janet is really odd. I can't **make her out**.*
- Make up (invent)
*I think you **made up** the whole story!*
- Make up for (compensate for)
*Our success **makes up for** all the hard times.*
- Miss out (fail to include)
*You have **messed out** a word here.*
(lose a chance – colloquial)
*Five people got promoted, but I **messed out** again.*
- Own up (confess – colloquial)
*None of the children would **own up** to breaking the window.*
- Pack in (stop an activity – colloquial)
*John has **packed in** his job.*
- Pay back (take revenge – colloquial)
*She **paid him back** for all his insults.*
- Pick up (improve – colloquial)
*The weather seems to be **picking up**.*
- Pin someone down (force to give a clear statement)
*I asked Jim to name a suitable day, but I couldn't **pin him down**.*
- Play up (behave or work badly)
*The car is **playing up** again. It won't start.*
- Point out (draw attention to a fact)
*I **pointed out** that I would be on holiday anyway.*
- Pull off (manage to succeed)
*It was a tricky plan, but we **pulled it off**.*
- Push on (continue with some effort – colloquial)
*Let's **push on** and try to reach the coast by tonight.*
- Put across (communicate ideas)
*Harry is clever but he can't **put his ideas across**.*
- Put down to (explain the cause of)
*Diane's poor performance was **put down to** nerves.*
- Put in for (apply for a job)
*Sue has **put in for** a teaching job.*
- Put oneself out (take trouble – to help someone)
*Please don't **put yourself out** making a meal. A sandwich will do.*
- Put off (discourage, upset)
*The crowd **put the** gymnast **off**, and he fell.*
- Put up (offer accommodation)
*We can **put you up** for a few days.*
- Put up with (tolerate, bear)
*I can't **put up with** all this noise!*