



EduTap

TOP 50 PHRASAL VERBS

English



ENGLISH

Top 50 Phrasal Verbs English

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Top 50 Phrasal Verbs

- **Abide by**

Meaning: Accept or follow a decision or rule

Usage: We have to abide by what the court says.

- **Ache for**

Meaning: Want something or someone a lot

Usage: My partner's been away for a fortnight; I am aching for her.

- **Take out**

Meaning: To remove something from inside somebody's body, especially a part of it; or to go out; obtain a document etc.

Usage: The police have taken out a summons against the driver of the car.

- **Get by**

Meaning: To manage to live or do a particular thing using the money, knowledge, equipment, etc. that you have.

Usage: My arithmetic isn't very good, but I get by.

- **Go over**

Meaning: To do something

Usage: Why don't you go over and say hello?

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- **Put out**

Meaning: Extinguish

Usage: I hope our arriving late didn't put them out.

- **Went off**

Meaning: To go forth, out or away or leave

Usage: He woke before the alarm went off and took his shower.

- **Tell apart**

Meaning: To see what the differences are between (people or things); to identify (people or things that look similar to each other)

Usage: The two gray sisters are tabby and look so much alike they are hard to tell apart except one is a little bit smaller.

- **Turn out**

Meaning: Intransitive to develop in a particular way, or to have a particular result

Usage: Obviously, I'm disappointed at the way things have turned out.

- **Catch up**

Meaning: To go fast enough to join

Usage: She ran as fast as she could, but she couldn't catch up to her brother.

- **Carry out**

Meaning: To perform a task

Usage: I wish he could afford to carry out his plan.

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- **Put off**

Meaning: To change something to a later time or date synonym postpone, delay

Usage: We've had to put off our wedding until September.

- **Add on**

Meaning: To include in a calculation

Usage: Speakers are sold as add-ons for personal stereos.

- **Bliss out**

Meaning: To be extremely relaxed or happy

Usage: I blissed out on the beach all week.

- **Chase off**

Meaning: Force a person to leave or go away

Usage: The dog chased off the postal worker.

- **Clog up**

Meaning: Block; slow movement right down

Usage: The traffic's so bad the roads get clogged up at rush hour.

- **Dash down**

Meaning: Write something quickly

Usage: He dashed down a memo and sent it to everybody.

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- **Dish up**

Meaning: Serve food

Usage: He dished up a great dinner when we got back.

- **Fool about**

Meaning: Not be serious

Usage: They were fooling about and wouldn't settle down.

- **Frown on**

Meaning: Disapprove

Usage: He frowns on people making personal calls at work.

- **Gag for**

Meaning: Want something a lot

Usage: I am gagging for a drink.

- **Get down**

Meaning: Reduce

Usage: If taken care, the doctor says I may get my cholesterol levels down.

- **Get to**

Meaning: Start discussing a topic

Usage: We asked him to get to the point but he just waffled away.

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- **Iron out**

Meaning: Remove small problems or irregularities

Usage: They met to iron out the details of the contract.

- **Jabber away**

Meaning: Talk fast or incomprehensibly

Usage: They started jabbering away about the file systems and lost me completely.

- **Keel over**

Meaning: Surrender or give in

Usage: He was going to confront his boss but keeled over and didn't mention the matter.

- **Leave on**

Meaning: Not turn off

Usage: Leave the TV on, I want to know about the match results.

- **Live off**

Meaning: Use money earned

Usage: They find it hard to live off the money they make.

- **Moggie off**

Meaning: Leave

Usage: We moggied off early.

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- **Mooch about**

Meaning: Spend time doing little or nothing

Usage: I mooched about the whole afternoon because I didn't feel like working.

- **Mount up**

Meaning: Increase over time

Usage: My debts mounted up while I was at university.

- **Nerd out**

Meaning: Discuss something in great detail

Usage: I had to nerd out when they asked.

- **Pad down**

Meaning: Sleep somewhere for the night

Usage: I am too tired to go home, can I pad down here tonight?

- **Pair off**

Meaning: Begin a romantic relationship

Usage: They paired off shortly after starting university.

- **Pick at**

Meaning: Criticize

Usage: There were few problems that could be picked at, but it was generally good.

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- **Pit against**

Usage: The civil war pitted brother against brother.

Meaning: Compete or forced to compete

- **Split out**

Meaning: Say something angrily

Usage: He spat her name around when he saw her arrive.

- **Water down**

Meaning: Make something weaker and less effective

Usage: The freedom of information act was watered down by the government and didn't give ordinary people much access to official data files.

- **Well up**

Meaning: Experience an emotion or feeling; start to cry

Usage: Tears welled up, when I heard they had died.

- **Whip out**

Meaning: Remove quickly

Usage: The police officer whipped out her radio and called for backup.

- **Top up**

Meaning: To refill something that's not completely empty.

Usage: Do you want to top up your glass of water?

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- **Blurt out**

Meaning: To say something suddenly, usually without thinking.

Usage: I was excited and blurted out the answer to the question before my turn.

- **Rack up**

Meaning: To accumulate or collect over time, usually referring to wining or losing.

Usage: She has done it again! She has racked up 10 wins in a month.

- **Allow of**

Meaning: Make possible or permit

Usage: The rules don't allow of any exceptions.

- **Big up**

Meaning: Exaggerate the importance

Usage: He bigs himself up all the time.

- **Hit on**

Meaning: Have an idea

Usage: I suddenly hit on the solution.

- **Kick about**

Meaning: Discuss

Usage: We kicked the idea about the meeting

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- **Nail down**

Meaning: Succeed in getting, achieve

Usage: They are having trouble nailing down the contract.

- **Pal up**

Meaning: Become friends with

Usage: We palled up when I started working with her.

- **Pop off**

Meaning: Talk loudly, complain

Usage: He's always popping off when things don't suit him.

Practice Packet

Directions: In the following question, out of four alternatives, select the one which best fits in the blank.

Q.1) As I have just had a tooth____, I am not allowed to eat or drink anything for two hours.

- (a) run out
- (b) tried on
- (c) crossed out
- (d) taken out

Answer: (d)

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Q.2) You need to ___ your essay for spell-check before you hand in your exam paper.

- (a) hang out
- (b) point out
- (c) cut off
- (d) go over

Answer: (d)

Q.3) The summit was earlier to be held in March but was ___ due to tsunami disaster that hit India, Sri Lanka & Maldives.

- (a) Paid off
- (b) Turned out
- (c) Dropped in
- (d) Put off

Answer: (d)

Q.4) The first National food and nutrition survey was ___ in 1980 and the most recent one in 1992.

- (a) Checked in
- (b) Figured out
- (c) Dropped out
- (d) Carried out

Answer: (d)

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Q.5) I find it hard to ___ with the other students in French class as they have been attending the classes more regularly than I do.

- (a) Do away
- (b) Call in
- (c) Catch up
- (d) Come up

Answer: (c)

Q.6) I thought the party was going to be boring, but it ___ to be the most unforgettable evening of my life.

- (a) Looked around
- (b) Turned out
- (c) Passed away
- (d) Fell back on

Answer: (b)

Q.7) There is an easy way to___ four species of wild cats living in this region by their tail patterns.

- (a) See to
- (b) Tell apart
- (c) Clear up
- (d) Back up

Answer: (b)

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Q.8) Jane found it hard to get up from the bed after the alarm clock ____ at seven.

- (a) Broke in
- (b) Took out
- (c) Sent out
- (d) Went off

Answer: (d)

Q.9) You'd better ____ your cigarette as it is dangerous to smoke at a gas station.

- (a) Put out
- (b) Hang up
- (c) Get through
- (d) Pull through

Answer: (a)

Q.10) It is not easy for many civil servants to ____ on their salaries as inflation rate is extremely high.

- (a) Get by
- (b) Turn up
- (c) Wear out
- (d) Run over

Answer: (a)



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