

# Phrasal verb dictionary

This phrasal verb dictionary contains the meanings of the phrasal verbs in both the Student's Book and the Practice Book. Please note that many of the phrasal verbs listed here have additional meanings. For comprehensive coverage of phrasal verbs, *Collins Cobuild Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs* is recommended.

**break down** When a machine or a vehicle **breaks down**, it stops working. *Mum's TV has broken down.*  
If you have a **breakdown** when you are travelling in a car, the car stops working.

**break off** If you **break off** a relationship or agreement, you end it. *Men seem to be more skilled at breaking off relationships than women.*

**bring about** To **bring about** something **about** means to cause it to happen. *The Administration helped bring about a peaceful settlement.*

**bring along** If you **bring** someone or something **along**, you bring them with you when you come to a place. *He brought along several examples of his work.*

**bring back**<sup>1</sup> If something **brings back** an event or memory from your past, it makes you think about it. *Seeing the place again would bring all the horrors back to me.*

**bring back**<sup>2</sup> When people **bring back** something that existed in an earlier time, they introduce it again. *He was all for bringing back the cane as a punishment in schools.*

**Revive** is a more formal word for **bring back**.

**bring down**<sup>1</sup> If people or events **bring down** a government or ruler, they cause them to lose their power. *A national strike would bring the government down.*

**bring down**<sup>2</sup> To **bring down** the level of something means to reduce it. *The promised measures included steps to bring down prices.*

**bring off** If someone **brings off** something difficult, they do it successfully; an informal expression. *The Ghost is the hardest thing to bring off in 'Hamlet'.*

**Pull off** means almost the same as **bring off**.

**bring out** When a person or company **brings out** a new product, they produce it and sell it. *I've just brought out a little book on Dostoevski.*

**bring up**<sup>1</sup> When you **bring up** a child, you look after it until it is grown up and you try to give it particular beliefs and attitudes. *Tony was brought up strictly.*

**Raise** means almost the same as **bring up**.

**bring up**<sup>2</sup> When you **bring up** a particular subject, you mention it or introduce it into a discussion or conversation. *I advised her to bring the matter up at the next meeting.*

**call back** If you **call** someone **back**, you telephone them again in return for a telephone call they have made to you. *I shall make some enquiries and call you back.*

**call off** If you **call off** an event or an arrangement that has been planned, you cancel it. *Classes will be called off on Thursday and Friday.*

**carry on** If you **carry on** with an activity, you continue doing it. *The guest speaker was not in the least disturbed, but carried on reading from his prepared script.*

**catch on** If something **catches on**, it becomes popular. *The idea is catching on.*

**catch up**<sup>1</sup> If you **catch up** with someone, you reach the same standard or level as they are. *Most leaders were obsessed with catching up with the West.*

**catch up**<sup>2</sup> If you **catch up** with someone who is in front of you, you reach them by walking faster than they are walking. *She stood still, allowing him to catch her up.*

**catch up on** When you **catch up on** something, you spend time doing something that you have not had time to do properly until now. *They will be going to the office to catch up on some correspondence.*

**come across** If you **come across** someone or something, you find or meet them by chance, without having expected to or without having thought about it. *Everyone has come across the sort of problem which seems impossible to solve.*

**come down** If the cost, level or amount of something **comes down**, it becomes cheaper or less than it was before. *Prices could come down only if wages came down.*

**Decrease** is a more formal word for **come down**, and **go up** means the opposite.

**come off** If an event or action **comes off**, it is successful or effective. *I hope this business comes off all right.*

**come up** If something **comes up** in a conversation or meeting, it is mentioned or discussed. *His name came up at a buffet lunch.*

**come up with** If you **come up with** a plan, idea or solution, you think of it and suggest it. *It didn't take her long to come up with a very convincing example.*

**count on**<sup>1</sup> If you **count on** or **upon** something, you expect it to happen and include it in your plans. *The campaign can count on the public support of a few Labour MPs.*

**Rely on** means almost the same as **count on**.

**count on**<sup>2</sup> If you **count on** or **upon** someone, you rely on them to support you or help you. *They count upon their parents for leadership and love.*

**Depend on** means almost the same as **count on**.

**cut back on** If you **cut back on** something such as expenditure, you try to reduce it, often because you can no longer afford it. *The government has had to cut back on public expenditure.*

**cut down** If you **cut** something **down**, you reduce it or do it less often. *The text was too long so we cut it down.*

**cut up** If you **cut** something **up**, you cut it into several pieces. *He has to have his food cut up for him.*

**do away with** To **do away with** something means to get rid of it. *You cannot do away with violence by using violence.*

**Eliminate** is a more formal word for **do away with**.

**do up**<sup>1</sup> If you **do** something **up**, you fasten it. *'Don't talk to me like that,' she said, doing up her suitcase.*

**do up**<sup>2</sup> If you **do up** an old building, you repair and decorate it and put in modern facilities. *They wanted payment in cash for doing up the kitchen of one of his cottages.*

**do with** If you say you could **do with** something, you mean that you need it or would like it. *I think we could all do with a good night's sleep.*

**do without** If you **do without** something, you manage or survive in spite of not having it. *If you don't have cigarettes, you must simply do without.*

**Go without** means almost the same as **do without**.

**draw up** When you **draw up** a document, list or plan, you prepare it and write it out. *The committee drew up a five-point plan to revive the economy.*

**Formulate** is a formal word for **draw up**.

**drop in** If you **drop in** on someone, you visit them without making any formal arrangement to do so. *I thought I'd just drop in and see how you were.*

**drop off** When you are driving, if you **drop** one of your passengers **off**, you take them to where they want to go and leave them there. *I can drop Daisy off on my way home.*

**drop out** If you **drop out** of a group, you stop belonging to it. If you **drop out** of school or college, you leave before finishing your course. *He had dropped out of college in the first term.*

A **drop-out** is someone who leaves school or college before finishing their course; sometimes used to show disapproval.

**fall behind** If you **fall behind** when moving with a group of people, you move more slowly than them, so

they get ahead of you. *Don't fall behind the leaders or you'll never catch up.*

**fall out** If you **fall out** with someone, you have an argument and are no longer friendly with them. *I've fallen out with certain members of the band.*

**get across** If an idea or argument **gets across**, or if you **get it across**, you succeed in making other people understand it. *We managed to get our message across.*

**Get over** and **put across** mean almost the same as **get across**.

**get ahead** If you **get ahead**, you are successful in your career. *You've got to be sharp to get ahead.*

**Get on** means almost the same as **get ahead**.

**get along** If you **get along** with someone, you have a friendly relationship with them; a very informal use. *They just can't get along together.*

**Get on** means almost the same as **get along**.

**get around** If you **get around**, you go to a lot of different places as part of your way of life. *Getting around will help to increase your experience.*

**get at** If you **get at** something, you manage to reach or obtain it. *Keep your tool box where you can get at it.*

**get away**<sup>1</sup> If you **get away** from a place or a person's company, you succeed in leaving them. *She wanted to get away, but didn't want to appear rude.*

**get away**<sup>2</sup> If you **get away**, you go away to have a holiday. *It's nice to get away in the autumn.*

**get away**<sup>3</sup> When someone or something **gets away** from a place, or when you **get** them **away**, they escape. *I was determined not to let him get away.*

If someone makes a **getaway**, they leave a place in a great hurry, often after committing a crime.

**get away with** If you **get away with** something that you should not have done, you are not criticized or punished for doing it. *I'm not going to allow Anne to get away with an offensive remark like that.*

**get back**<sup>1</sup> If you **get back** to a place or position, you return there after you have been somewhere else. *What time have you got to get back?*

**get back**<sup>2</sup> If you **get** something **back** after you have lost or lent it, you have it once again. *All he wants to do is get his girlfriend back.*

**get by** If you **get by**, you just manage to survive and have a fairly satisfactory life. *Khan's father had just enough to get by.*

**get down**<sup>1</sup> If you **get down** what someone is saying, you write it down. *I keep repeating myself so that you can get it down.*

**Take down** means almost the same as **get down**.

**get down**<sup>2</sup> If something **gets** you **down**, it makes you unhappy. *The loneliness really started to get my mother down after a few months.*

**Depress** is a slightly less informal word for **get down**.

**get down to** When you **get down to** something, you start doing it seriously and with a lot of attention. *Let's get down to business.*

**get off** If you **get off** a bus, train or plane, you leave it. *When the train stopped, he got off.*

**get on**<sup>1</sup> If you **get on** in your career, you are successful. *You have to push yourself to get on in the academic world.*

**Get ahead** means almost the same as **get on**.

**get on**<sup>2</sup> If you say that someone is **getting on**, you mean that they are old. *Now I'm getting on, these stairs are a little difficult for me.*

**get on**<sup>3</sup> If you **get on** with someone, you like them and have a friendly relationship with them. *You seem to be getting on well with the chairman.*

**Get along** means almost the same as **get on**.

**get on**<sup>4</sup> If you ask how someone is **getting on** with an activity, you are asking about their progress. *Sylvia asked politely how Paul was getting on at school.*

**Get along** means almost the same as **get on**.

**get out** If you **get out** of a place, you leave it. *She got out and slammed the door.*

**get over** If you **get over** an illness or other unpleasant experience, you recover from it. *I'm glad to hear you have got over your cold.*

**get round**<sup>1</sup> If you **get round** or **around** a difficulty or restriction, you find a way of avoiding it or of escaping its effects. *Irving got round the problem in a novel way.*

**Bypass** is a more formal word for **get round**.

**get round**<sup>2</sup> If news **gets around**, **about** or **round**, a lot of people hear about it and it becomes well-known. *Gossip gets round the film industry much faster than in other places.*

**get round**<sup>3</sup> If you **get round** someone, you persuade them to let you do or have something, by flattering them. *She could always get round him in the end.*

**get through**<sup>1</sup> If you **get through** to someone on the telephone, you succeed in contacting them. *I've been trying for a whole hour to get through to you.*

**get through**<sup>2</sup> If you **get through** a task, you succeed in finishing it. *It is difficult to get through this amount of work in such a short time.*

**get through**<sup>3</sup> If you **get through** an examination, or if someone or something **gets you through** it, you pass it. *He qualifies if he gets through his two exams this year.*

**give away** If you **give** something **away**, you give it to someone without taking money in return. *She has given away jewellery worth millions of pounds.*

**give back** If you **give** something **back**, you return it to the person who gave it to you or who it belongs to. *Did you give me the keys back?*

**give up** If you **give up** an activity or belief, you stop doing it or believing in it. *I want to give up smoking.*

**go after** If you **go after** someone, you follow them or chase them, sometimes in order to attack them. *Luca Brasi went after them and the story is that he killed six men.*

**go ahead** When someone **goes ahead** with something which they planned, promised or asked permission to do, they begin to do it. *The case will be discussed and he will be told whether or not he can go ahead.*

**Proceed** is a more formal word for **go ahead**.

**go back** If you **go back**, you return to a place where you were before. *I went back to the kitchen and poured my coffee.*

**go back on** If you **go back on** a promise, agreement or statement, you do not do what you promised or agreed, or you deny what you said. *I can't go back on my word.*

**go by**<sup>1</sup> If someone **goes by** a place, they go there for a short time in order to do or get something. *Let's go by the store for a minute.*

**Drop by** means almost the same as **go by**.

**go by**<sup>2</sup> If someone or something **goes by**, they pass you without stopping. *I saw a car come along the street and I paused to let it go by.*

**go down**<sup>1</sup> If the cost, level, standard or amount of something **goes down**, it becomes cheaper, lower or less than it was before. *We expect the price of food to go down, not up.*

**go down**<sup>2</sup> When something **goes down** in a particular way, it gets a particular kind of reaction from a person or group of people. *This court ruling would go down badly in Britain and Germany.*

**go down with** If you **go down with** an illness, you catch it or develop it. *I was feeling tired and ill and finally went down with gastric flu.*

**Contract** is a more formal word for **go down with**.

**go off**<sup>1</sup> If a gun **goes off**, it is fired. If a bomb **goes off**, it explodes. *The probability of a nuclear weapon going off by accident is slight.*

**go off**<sup>2</sup> If food or drink **goes off**, it becomes stale, sour or rotten. *You must drink it up within a fortnight or it will go off.*

**Decay** is a more formal word for **go off**.

**go off**<sup>3</sup> If you **go off** somewhere, you leave the place where you were, usually in order to do something. *She went off to look at the flowers.*

**go off**<sup>4</sup> If something such as an alarm, bell or flashbulb **goes off**, it operates, making a sudden loud noise or flash. *Every Sunday morning Donald's alarm went off in time for him to go to church.*

**go on**<sup>1</sup> If you **go on** doing something or **go on** with an activity, you continue to do it. *While she was pouring out their drinks, she went on talking.*

**Carry on** means almost the same as **go on**.

**go on**<sup>2</sup> If you say that something is **going on**, you mean that it is taking place at the present time. *When I asked what was going on, she refused to say anything.*

**Happen** means almost the same as **go on**.

**go out**<sup>1</sup> If a light **goes out**, it stops shining. *Stay there. The light's gone out and I won't be able to find you if you move around.*

**Come on** means the opposite of **go out**.

**go out**<sup>2</sup> If you are **going out** with someone, you spend time with them socially and have a romantic or sexual relationship with them. *My parents wouldn't let me go out with boys.*

**go over** If you **go over** something, you examine, discuss or think about it very carefully and systematically. *We could go over the whole project and see if there are any problems.*

**go through**<sup>1</sup> If you **go through** an event or period of time, especially an unpleasant one, you experience it. *Doctors and teachers both have to go through a long period of expensive professional training.*

**Undergo** means almost the same as **go through**.

**go through**<sup>2</sup> If you **go through** a list, story or plan, you say, describe or discuss it from beginning to end. *Could you go through roughly what's required?*

**Run through** means almost the same as **go through**.

**go up**<sup>1</sup> If the cost, level, standard or amount of something **goes up**, it becomes more expensive, higher or greater than it was before. *The price of petrol and oil-related products will go up steadily.*

**Rise** means almost the same as **go up**, and **come down** and **go down** mean the opposite.

**go up**<sup>2</sup> If you **go up** to a place, you visit it or travel there; often used when the place is further north than you or is in a city. *We'll go up to London early next week.*

**go up**<sup>3</sup> If something **goes up**, it explodes or suddenly starts to burn. *In seconds it had gone up in flames.*

**hand back** If you **hand** something **back** to someone, you return it to them after you have borrowed or taken it from them. *He handed back his room key to the receptionist.*

**Give back** means almost the same as **hand back**.

**hand on** If you **hand** something **on** to someone, you give it or leave it to them. *Property is something handed on from generation to generation.*

**Pass on** means almost the same as **hand on**.

**hang around** If you **hang around, about** or **round** a place, you spend a lot of time there, often doing very little. *They hang around street corners.*

**have on** If you **have on** a piece of clothing, you are wearing it. *She had on an old bathrobe.*

**have out** If you **have out** a tooth, your appendix and so on, a dentist or doctor removes them from your body. *I had gone to hospital to have my tonsils out.*

**hold back**<sup>1</sup> If you **hold back** information, you do not reveal it. *I can see you are holding certain things back, things you haven't said.*

**Suppress** is a more formal word for **hold back**.

**hold back**<sup>2</sup> If you **hold** a person or their career **back**, you prevent them from making progress. *If she is ambitious, don't try to hold her back.*

**hold on** If you ask someone to **hold on**, you want them to wait for a short time. *Hold on a moment please.*

**Hang on** means almost the same as **hold on**.

**hold up**<sup>1</sup> If something or someone **holds up** an activity or arrangement, they delay it or make it late. *The EEC threatened to hold up the negotiations.*

A **hold-up** is a delay or something which causes a delay.

**hold up**<sup>2</sup> If someone **holds** you **up**, they point a weapon at you in order to make you give them money or valuables. *Banks were held up with pistols and sawn-off shotguns.*

**join in** If you **join in** an activity with other people, such as a meeting, you become involved in what they are doing. *Then they began to sing and in a moment all the voices joined in.*

**join up** If someone **joins up**, they become a member of the army, the navy or the air force; used in British English. *Just before joining up and going abroad I met Elizabeth.*

**Enlist** means almost the same as **join up**.

**keep at** If you **keep at** it, or keep someone at it, you continue or make them continue working at a job or task or trying hard, even if it is very difficult or unpleasant. *It is hard, but you've just got to keep at it.*

**Persevere** is a more formal word for **keep at**, and **stick at** and **stick to** mean almost the same.

**keep back** If you **keep** some information **back**, you do not tell all that you know about something. *You can't write an autobiography without keeping something back.*

**Withhold** is a more formal word for **keep back**.

**keep in** If a parent or a teacher **keeps** children **in**, they make them stay indoors or they make them stay late at school, usually as a punishment. *John was kept in at school one day last week.*

**keep off** If you **keep** someone or something **off** a particular area, you prevent them from going onto it. If you **keep off** an area, you do not go there yourself. *In Scotland you have no right to keep people off your land unless they are doing damage.*

**keep on** If you **keep on** doing something, you continue to do it and do not stop. *Mike reckoned he could keep on talking for one and a half hours.*

**Carry on** means almost the same as **keep on**.

**keep out** If a sign says '**Keep Out**', it is warning you not to go onto that piece of land. *'Private property. Keep out.'*

**keep up**<sup>1</sup> If you **keep it up**, you continue working hard, trying hard or achieving the standard that you have in the past. *Being human, he can only keep it up for eight hours a day.*

**keep up**<sup>2</sup> If you **keep someone up**, you delay them going to bed. *I am sorry. I won't keep you up a minute longer.*

**keep up**<sup>3</sup> If you **keep up** with someone else, you move at the same speed as them. *I started to run a bit so that she had to hurry to keep up with me.*

**kick off** When football players **kick off**, they start the game by kicking the ball from the centre of the pitch. *The first goal was scored within twenty seconds of kicking off.*

**kick out** If you **kick someone out** of a place or an organization, you force them to leave it. *He started at university but he got kicked out.*

**Throw out** means almost the same as **kick out**.

**knock down** If a car or other vehicle **knocks someone down**, it hits them so that they fall to the ground and may be injured or killed. *A bus came screeching to a stop, practically knocking him down.*

**Knock over** means almost the same as **knock down**.

**knock out** If a person or team is **knocked out** of a competition, they are defeated, so that they take no more part in the competition. *Connors just avoided being knocked out in the second round.*

**Eliminate** is a more formal word for **knock out**.

**let down** If someone or something **lets you down**, they fail to do something that you have been relying on them to do. *It would be best to run away now but she could not let Jimmie down: he needed help.*  
If you say that something is a **letdown**, you mean that it is disappointing.

**let out** If you let something out, you say something that you should have kept secret. *'She's gone to buy the paper.' As soon as I said this I cursed myself for letting it out.*

**look after** If you **look after** someone or something, you take care of them and do what is necessary for them to stay in good condition. *Does your husband accept that he ought to be looking after the baby?*

**look back** If you **look back** on something, you think about something that happened in the past. *The past always seems better when you look back on it.*

**look down on** If you **look down on** someone or something, you think they are inferior or unimportant. *Why do the English look down on everything foreign?*

**Despise** means almost the same as **look down on**.

**look for** If you are **looking for** something, you are trying to find it. *We've started looking for a new house.*

**look forward to** If you **look forward to** something that is going to happen, you want it to happen because you expect to enjoy it. *I looked forward to leaving school.*

**look into** If you **look into** a particular problem, subject or situation, you find out and examine the facts relating to it. *They wanted an independent financial controller to look into the city's accounts.*

**Investigate** is a more formal word for **look into**.

**look on**<sup>1</sup> If you **look on** while something happens, you watch it without taking part yourself. *Police boats appeared and sped down the river while families picnicking on the banks looked on in amazement.*

**Onlookers** are the people watching an event take place, without taking part in it.

**look on**<sup>2</sup> If you **look on** or **upon** something in a particular way, you think of it in that way. *Houses are looked upon as investments.*

**look out** You say or shout '**Look out**' to warn someone that they are in danger. *'Look out,' I said. 'There's someone coming.'*

**Watch out** means almost the same as **look out**.

**look out for** If you **look out for** something that you want or expect, you pay attention to things around you so that you notice it and can take action when it occurs or is there. *'It's worth a visit if you're interested.'*  
*'Thank you. I'll look out for it.'*

**look over** If you **look something or someone over**, you examine or inspect them in order to get a general idea of what they are like. *If you're worried, get the vet to look it over.*

**look through** If you **look through** a group of things or a place, such as a cupboard, box or room, you examine all the things there, usually because you are trying to find something. *They'll look through the applications and pick out the ones that seem promising.*

**Go through** means almost the same as **look through**.

**look up** If you **look up** a piece of information in a book, or on a timetable or map, you look there to find the information. *He consulted his dictionary to look up the meaning of the word 'apotheosis'.*

**look up to** If you **look up to** someone, you respect and admire them. *The students look up to you and admire you.*

**make for** If you **make for** a place, you move towards it, usually rather hurriedly. *The best thing now would be to make for the top of Brill Hill.*

**Head for** means almost the same as **make for**.

**make of** If you ask a person what they **make of** someone or something you want to know what their impression, understanding or opinion of them is. *He perplexed people – they didn't know quite what to make of him.*

**make off** If you **make off**, you leave somewhere as quickly as possible, often in order to escape; a fairly informal expression. *She released the child suddenly and he made off.*

**make out**<sup>1</sup> If you can **make** something **out**, you manage to see or hear it. *He could just make out the number plate of the car.*

**make out**<sup>2</sup> When you **make out** a form or cheque, you write on it all the necessary information. *I made a cheque out for £1200.*

**Write out** means almost the same as **make out**.

**make out**<sup>3</sup> If you **make out** that something is the case, you try to cause people to believe it. *People tried to make out that the play was about Britain.*

**make out**<sup>4</sup> If you **make out** something that is difficult to understand, you manage to understand it. *I can't make out if Neil likes him or not.*

**make up**<sup>1</sup> If you **make up** something such as a story, you invent it, sometimes in order to deceive people. *He was a good storyteller, and used to make up tales about animals.*

**make up**<sup>2</sup> The people or things that **make up** something form that thing. *All substances are made up of molecules.*

**Comprise** is a more formal word for **make up**.

**make up**<sup>3</sup> If you **make up**, or if you **make** yourself **up**, you put substances such as lipstick, powder and eye-shadow on your face. *She spent two hours making herself up.*

**Make-up** is substances such as lipstick, powder and eye-shadow, which women use to make themselves look more attractive, or which actors use when they are acting.

**Cosmetics** is a more formal word for **make-up**.

**make up**<sup>4</sup> If two people **make up** with each other or **make** it **up**, they become friends again after they have had a quarrel. *They had a quarrel but later Marsha wanted to make it up.*

**pick up**<sup>1</sup> If you are driving a vehicle and you **pick** someone or something **up**, you stop the vehicle so that you can take them somewhere. *I'll pick it up on my way to work.*

**pick up**<sup>2</sup> If you **pick up** a skill, habit or attitude, you learn it or start having it without making any effort. *Did you pick up any Swedish?*

**play back** When you **play back** a tape or film on which you have recorded sound or pictures, you operate the machine it is in so that you can listen to it or watch it. *Let's play the tape back and hear the conversation again.*

**play up** If a group of children are **playing up** or are **playing** you **up**, they are being naughty and are difficult to control; an informal use. *The kids are playing up again.*

**pull down** If a building or other structure is **pulled down**, it is deliberately destroyed, so that the land it is on can be used. *The council said it would close the flats and pull them down.*

**put away** If you **put** something **away**, you place it tidily somewhere, for example in a cupboard, drawer or pocket. *Albert folded the newspaper neatly and put it away on the side table.*

**put back**<sup>1</sup> To **put back** an event, appointment or task means to postpone it happening or being done until a later time. *The effect is to put back the date of opening of the third airport.*

**Defer** is a more formal word for **put back**, and **bring forward** means the opposite.

**put back**<sup>2</sup> If you **put** something **back** somewhere, you place it in the position it was in before it was moved. *Shall I put it back in the box for you?*

**put down** When you **put down** words or numbers, you write or type them somewhere. *You haven't put Professor Mangel's name down on the list.*

**put forward** If you **put forward** an idea or proposal, you state it or publish it so that people can consider it and discuss it. *The idea was first put forward by J. Good.*

**Set out** means almost the same as **put forward**.

**put off**<sup>1</sup> If you **put off** an event or appointment, you delay or postpone it. If you **put** a person **off**, you delay seeing them or doing what they want you to do by telling them that you are too busy. *Sollozzo can't be put off any more. You'll have to see him this week.*

**put off**<sup>2</sup> If something or someone **puts** you **off** what you are doing, they cause you to stop concentrating by making a sudden noise or distracting you in some other way. *Play stopped for nearly a minute when McEnroe was put off by a low-flying plane.*

**put off**<sup>3</sup> To **put** someone **off** doing something or having something means to cause them to change their mind so that they no longer want to do it or have it. *Don't be put off because something doesn't have instant results.*

**put on**<sup>1</sup> When a person or group **puts on** a play, concert or other entertainment, they organize it or perform it. *A production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was being put on at the school.*

**put on**<sup>2</sup> If someone **puts on** weight, they become heavier. *I can quickly spot whether they are putting weight on or losing it.*

**Gain** means almost the same as **put on**, and **lose** means the opposite.

**put on**<sup>3</sup> When you **put on** a piece of clothing, you place it over a part of your body and wear it. *She put her glasses on.*

**put on**<sup>4</sup> If someone is **putting** you **on**, they are teasing you by trying to make you believe something that is

not true; used mainly in informal American English.  
*'You're putting me on,' said Deidre.*

**put out**<sup>1</sup> If you **put out** a light, you cause it to stop shining by pressing or turning a switch. *'Will you put the lights out or shall I?' 'You put them out, dear.'*

**Switch off** and **turn off** mean almost the same as **put out**.

**put out**<sup>2</sup> If you **put out** something that is burning, you cause it to stop burning. *I lit another cigarette, but immediately put it out.*

**Extinguish** is a more formal word for **put out**.

**put through** If you **put through** a phone call or the person making the call, you connect them with the person they want to speak to. *Please don't put any calls through until this class is over.*

**put up** If someone **puts you up** or if you **put up** somewhere, you stay with them or stay there for one or more nights. *She was put up at the Grand Hotel.*

**put up with** If you **put up with** something or someone, you tolerate or accept them, even though you find it difficult or unpleasant. *'Why do the people put up with it?' demanded Hilary.*

**Endure** is a more formal word for **put up with**.

**run into** If you **run into** someone, you meet them unexpectedly. *You might run into him one of these days.*

**Bump into**, **run across** and **come across** mean almost the same as **run into**.

**run out** If you **run out** of something, you have no more of it left. *We were rapidly running out of money.*

**see off** When you **see** someone **off**, you go with them to the station, airport or port that they are leaving from, and say goodbye to them there. *She saw him off at the station.*

**see through** If you **see through** a person or **see through** what they are doing, you realize what their intentions are, even though they are trying to hide them. *Her excuses were weak but he did not see through them.*

**send off** If a football player is **sent off**, the player is made to leave the field during a game as a punishment for seriously breaking the rules. *Henry was sent off after allegedly punching Graham.*

**send up** If you **send** someone **up**, you imitate them in a way that makes them appear foolish; an informal expression. *He is the sort of person it is only too easy to send up.*

**Take off** means almost the same as **send up**.

**set off** When you **set off**, you start a journey. *She reversed off the grass and set off down the road.*

**Set out** means almost the same as **set off**.

**set up** If you **set** something **up**, you make the arrangements and preparations that are necessary for it to start. *The first thing to do in a crisis is to set up a committee.*

**take after** If you **take after** a member of your family, you resemble them in your appearance, behaviour or character. *He took after his grandfather where character was concerned.*

**take away** If you **take** one number or amount **away** from another, you subtract the first from the second. *This last amount is then taken away from each annual figure of earnings.*

**take back**<sup>1</sup> If you **take back** something which you borrowed or bought, you return it to the place or person that you got it from, for example because you have finished using it or because it is damaged. *We're going to take the typewriter back to the shop.*

**take back**<sup>2</sup> If you **take** someone **back** after a quarrel or separation, you agree to let them live with you or work with you again. *Her father would never take her back.*

**take back**<sup>3</sup> If you say that something **takes** you **back**, you mean that it reminds you of a period in your past, and makes you think about it again; a fairly informal use. *There was a smell of hot jam that took Tom back to his childhood.*

**take down**<sup>1</sup> If you **take down** something that is attached to a wall, post or other object, you unfasten or disconnect it, and remove it. *He was prosecuted for refusing to take the sign down.*

**Put up** means the opposite of **take down**.

**take down**<sup>2</sup> If you **take down** what someone is saying, you listen to them and write it down to record it. *He sat next to Peter's bed to take down anything he might say.*

**Get down** means almost the same as **take down**.

**take in**<sup>1</sup> If you **take in** something that you see, hear or read, you pay attention to it and are able to understand it, remember it or evaluate it. *I didn't take in all that he was saying.*

**take in**<sup>2</sup> If you **take in** something such as a film, a museum or a place while you are on holiday or travelling somewhere, you go to see it or visit it. *I flew on to California, deciding to take in Florida on the way home.*

**take off**<sup>1</sup> When an aeroplane or bird **takes off**, it leaves the ground and starts flying. *After refuelling we took off.*

**Land** means the opposite of **take off**. **Takeoff** is the beginning of a flight, when an aircraft leaves the ground.

**take off**<sup>2</sup> If you **take off** your clothes or something that you are wearing, you undress or remove it. *She took off the amber necklace.*

**Put on** means the opposite of **take off**.

**take off**<sup>3</sup> If you **take off** something such as an amount of money or a mark, you subtract it from a total. *Half a point would be taken off for a mistake in spelling.*

**Add on** means the opposite of **take off**.

**take off**<sup>1</sup> If you **take** someone **off**, you imitate their appearance or behaviour, usually in order to make other people laugh; an informal use. *Mike can take off his father to perfection.*

**Mimic** means almost the same as **take off**.

**take off**<sup>2</sup> If something such as a product or activity **takes off**, it suddenly becomes very successful and popular. *It will be interesting to see how the campaign takes off.*

**take on**<sup>1</sup> If you **take on** a job, task or responsibility, you accept it and try to do what is required. *She takes on more work than is good for her.*

**take on**<sup>2</sup> If someone **takes** you **on** at a place of work, they employ you. *Employers take on fewer young people nowadays.*

**take on**<sup>3</sup> If you **take on** a rival or opponent, especially one who is bigger or more powerful than you, you fight or compete against them. *British Leyland plans to take on the competition at home and abroad.*

**take out**<sup>1</sup> If you **take** someone **out**, for example to a restaurant or film, they go there with you, and you pay for everything. *I took Andrea out to dinner one evening.*

**take out**<sup>2</sup> To **take** something **out** means to remove it from the place where it was, often because it is unwanted or damaged. *If you don't like the fireplace, you can take it out.*

**take over** If you **take over** a job or responsibility, you start doing it or being responsible for it after someone else has finished. *Thornaby took over as secretary in 1976.*

**take to** If you **take to** someone or something, you begin to like them. *I didn't think at first I'd take to him – but I did.*

**Take against** means the opposite of **take to**.

**take up**<sup>1</sup> If you **take up** an activity or job, you start doing it. *She decided to take up medicine as a career.*

**Go in for** means almost the same as **take up**.

**take up**<sup>2</sup> If you **take up** an activity that was interrupted, you continue doing it from the point where it had stopped. *Nicola was taking up where she had left off.*

**Pick up** means almost the same as **take up**.

**take up**<sup>3</sup> If something **takes up** a particular amount of time, space or effort, it uses that amount. *The baby took up all her energy and attention.*

**Occupy** is a more formal word for **take up**.

**take up**<sup>4</sup> If you **take up** an offer, challenge or opportunity, you accept it. *She wished Jane would take up Derek's offer to decorate the house.*

**try on** If you **try on** a piece of clothing, you put it on to see if it fits you or if it looks nice. *She tried it on for size.*

**turn back** If you **turn back** or **are turned back** when you are travelling somewhere, you stop and return to

the place you started from. *A lot of the cars had been turned back at the border.*

**turn down**<sup>1</sup> If you **turn down** a person, their request or their offer, you refuse their request or offer. *I turned down an invitation for Saturday.*

**Reject** means almost the same as **turn down**.

**turn down**<sup>2</sup> When you **turn down** something, such as a radio or a heater, you adjust the controls and reduce the amount of sound or heat being produced. *It's a bit hot in here – turn it down.*

**Turn up** means the opposite of **turn down**.

**turn off** When you **turn off** a device, machine or appliance, you adjust the controls in order to stop it working. *He must have turned off the radio.*

**Switch off** means almost the same as **turn off**, and **turn on** means the opposite.

**turn on** When you **turn on** a device, machine or appliance, you adjust the controls so that it starts working. *I have a radio too, but I seldom turn it on except for concerts.*

**Switch on** means almost the same as **turn on**, and **turn off** means the opposite.

**turn out** If something **turns out** a particular way, it happens in that way. *It turned out to be a fairly sensational evening.*

**Work out** means almost the same as **turn out**.

**turn up** If someone **turns up**, they arrive somewhere. *When you didn't turn up on Friday we tried to get in touch with you.*

**Show up** means almost the same as **turn up**.

- **First Certificate Star, Luke Prodromou, Macmillan**