A Short Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs
Verbs paired with a preposition or adverb

Separable: You may insert a noun or pronoun between these verbs and their prepositions/adverbs.
Correct: Sam passed on the news to Jay.
Also correct: Sam passed the news on to Jay.

add up: add/put together; sum
back up: cause to move backwards; support
blow up: cause to explode; destroy by explosives
break down: analyze; separately list the parts; collapse
break into: separate into (pieces)
bring about: cause to happen
bring on: cause
bring out: emphasize; publish
bring over: bring
bring to: revive
bring up: raise; mention; care for from childhood
brush out: brush, esp. the inside of
burn down: destroy by burning
burn up: consume by fire
buy out: buy the other holder’s share of a business
buy up: buy the whole supply of
call off: cancel; order away
call up: telephone; summon, esp. for military service
calm down: become peaceful or tranquil
carry on: continue
carry out: fulfill; complete; accomplish; perform
carry over: carry; continue to another time or place
cheer up: cause to become cheerful or happy
chew out: scold
chew up: chew thoroughly
chop down: remove (a plant)
chop up: cut into small pieces
clean off: remove (a plant)
clean out: clean the inside of
clean up: tidy; clarify
clear out: clear the inside of
clear up: clear the surface of
close down: close permanently
close up: close temporarily
count in: include
count out: exclude
count up: calculate; count; add to a total
cross out: eliminate
cut off: interrupt; sever; amputate
cut out: eliminate; delete
cut down: reduce in quantity; kill, esp. plants
draw up: write; compose (a document)
dress up: put clothes on; adorn
dust off: dust the surface of
dust out: dust the inside of
eat up: consume completely
figure out: interpret; understand
fill in: complete (a printed form)
fill out: fill completely (a container)
find out: discover
fix up: repair; arrange in a suitable manner
get across: cause to be understood
give back: return
give out: distribute
give up: surrender something
hand down: deliver; pronounce formally; leave as inheritance
hand over: yield control of
hang up: suspend
have on: be dressed in
have over: entertain someone informally at one’s home
hold off: delay; restrain
hold up: delay; rob; threaten with a weapon
keep up: continue; keep the same pace
leave out: omit
let down: disappoint
let out: release from confinement; make larger (in sewing)
light up: light; illuminate thoroughly
live down: act in such a way as to cause something to be forgotten
make over: remake
move over: move to the side
pass on: transmit
pass out: distribute
pass up: not take advantage of (an opportunity)
pay back: repay
pay off: discharge a debt completely; give final pay
pick up: come to meet an escort; lift with hands or fingers; learn causally
play down: minimize
play up: emphasize
point out: indicate
pull down: pull in a downward direction; raze
pull off: accomplish; succeed
push across: cause to be understood or accepted
put off: postpone
put on: dress in; deceive or fool
put up: preserve (food); receive as an overnight guest
quiet down: become/make quiet
ring up: call on the telephone
rinse off: rinse the surface of
rinse out: rinse the inside of
rule out: eliminate; disqualify
run down: trickle; disparage; hit with a vehicle
run off: cause to depart
save up: accumulate
see through: complete in spite of difficulties
see off: accompany someone to the beginning of a trip
send back: send to a place where formerly located
send over: send to where someone is
set up: arrange
show off: exhibit blatantly or ostentatiously
shut off: cause to cease functioning
slow up: cause to move more slowly
spell out: enumerate; state in detail
stand up: fail to keep an appointment with
sweep out: sweep the inside of
take back: return; retract a statement
take down: remove from a high position; write notes
take in: understand; shelter and care for; make smaller
  (in sewing)
take over: take; assume command of
tear down: destroy
tear up: rip into small pieces
tell off: scold; reprimand
think over: consider
think through: consider from beginning to end
think up: create; invent
throw away: discard
tie up: secure with rope
tire out: cause to be exhausted
touch up: repair
try on: put on a garment to verify the fit
try out: test
turn down: refuse; lower the volume
turn out: produce; force into exile; extinguish (a light)
wash off: wash the surface of
wash out: wash the inside of
wear out: use until no longer useable; tire greatly
wind up: finish; tighten the spring of a watch or machine
wipe off: wipe the surface of
wipe out: wipe the inside of; decimate
work out: solve
write down: record
write out: write down every detail; spell out
write up: compose; prepare (a document)
Inseparable: You cannot separate these verbs from their
propositions/adverbs with any words.
Correct: Becky is reliable; you can count on her.
Incorrect: Becky is reliable; you can count her on.
back out of: desert; fail to keep a promise
bear down on: lean on; browbeat
bear on: have to do with
bear up under: endure
blow over: pass without doing harm
break in on: interrupt
break into: enter forcibly
call for: come to get; require
care for: like; guard; supervise; maintain
carry on with: continue
catch up with: update self to current information
come across: find accidentally
come along with: accompany; make progress
come by: find accidentally
come down with: become ill with
come out with: utter; say; produce
come up with: create; think of
count on: rely on
cut in on: interrupt
disagree with: differ from; cause illness or discomfort
  (with food)
do away with: abolish
do without: deprive oneself of
drop in on: visit casually without prior planning
drop out of: leave; quit
face up to: acknowledge; confront
fall behind in: lag; not progress at required pace
fall back on: use for emergency purpose; default to
fall out with: quarrel with
fill in for: substitute for
get ahead of: surpass; beat
get around: evade; avoid
get away with: do without being caught or punished
get by with: manage with minimum effort
get down to: become serious about; consider
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intransitive: These phrasal verbs cannot take a direct object. They may be separated by a noun or pronoun. Correct: We are having dinner. Come over. Incorrect: Come over dinner. Correct: Come over for dinner. (“for” makes “dinner” an indirect object)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>get in:</strong> enter</td>
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<td><strong>get off:</strong> descend from; leave</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>get on:</strong> enter (a vehicle); mount</td>
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<td><strong>get on with:</strong> proceed with</td>
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<td><strong>get through with:</strong> terminate; finish</td>
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<td><strong>go back on:</strong> desert; fail to keep (a promise)</td>
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<td><strong>go for:</strong> try for; take advantage of an opportunity</td>
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<td><strong>go in for:</strong> be interested in; participate in</td>
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<td><strong>go on with:</strong> continue</td>
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<td><strong>go over:</strong> review</td>
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<td><strong>go with:</strong> harmonize with; look pleasing together; match</td>
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<td><strong>go without:</strong> abstain from</td>
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<td><strong>hang around:</strong> remain idly in the vicinity</td>
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<td><strong>hear from:</strong> receive a communication from</td>
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<td><strong>hear of:</strong> learn about</td>
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<td><strong>hit on:</strong> discover accidentally</td>
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<td><strong>hold on to:</strong> grasp tightly</td>
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<td><strong>hold out against:</strong> resist</td>
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<td><strong>keep at:</strong> persevere at</td>
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<td><strong>keep to:</strong> persist in; continue</td>
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<td><strong>keep up with:</strong> maintain the pace of</td>
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<td><strong>live on:</strong> support or sustain oneself by means of</td>
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<td><strong>live up to:</strong> maintain the standard demanded of</td>
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<td><strong>look after:</strong> take care of</td>
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<td><strong>look back on:</strong> remember nostalgically</td>
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<td><strong>look down on:</strong> feel superior to; condescend toward</td>
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<td><strong>look forward to:</strong> anticipate, esp. eagerly or excitedly</td>
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<td><strong>look up to:</strong> respect; admire</td>
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<td><strong>make up for:</strong> compensate for</td>
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<td><strong>pass on:</strong> transmit</td>
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<td><strong>pick on:</strong> tease; bully</td>
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<td><strong>play up to:</strong> flatter for personal advantage</td>
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<td><strong>put up with:</strong> tolerate</td>
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<td><strong>read up on:</strong> search out information on</td>
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<td><strong>run against:</strong> compete against in an election</td>
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<td><strong>run away with:</strong> leave with; get carried away with</td>
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<td><strong>run for:</strong> campaign for</td>
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<td><strong>see about:</strong> consider; arrange; explore the possibility</td>
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<td><strong>see to:</strong> arrange; supervise</td>
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<td><strong>settle on:</strong> decide on; choose</td>
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<td><strong>stand for:</strong> represent; permit</td>
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<td><strong>stand up for:</strong> support; demand for</td>
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<td><strong>stand up to:</strong> resist against</td>
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<td><strong>stick to:</strong> persist with</td>
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<td><strong>stick up for:</strong> support; defend</td>
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<td><strong>take after:</strong> resemble</td>
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<td><strong>talk back to:</strong> answer impolitely</td>
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<td><strong>talk over:</strong> discuss; interrupt conversationally</td>
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<td><strong>tell on:</strong> report misbehavior to authority</td>
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<td><strong>touch on:</strong> mention briefly</td>
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<td><strong>turn into:</strong> become</td>
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<td><strong>wait on:</strong> serve</td>
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<td><strong>wait up for:</strong> stay awake waiting for</td>
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<td><strong>watch out for:</strong> be careful of</td>
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