

# English e-book



# 50 Phrasal Verbs

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Definitions and example sentences. Images and illustrations. Use these phrasal verbs right away in your own conversations. Blog post link. Video link.

*“Native speakers often use phrasal verbs in conversation.”*

42  
pages

# What is a phrasal verb?

In English, a **phrasal verb** is a combination (mixture) of two or three words to make a phrase with a single meaning. **Phrasal verbs** combine a verb and an adverb or a preposition.

*verb + preposition = phrasal verb*

<b>look</b>	<b>up</b>	"Let's <b>look up</b> the meaning in the dictionary."
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**look up** - **phrasal verb** - to look for information in a dictionary or reference book, or by using a computer



In English, a phrasal verb is a combination (mixture) of two or three words to make a phrase with a single meaning. Phrasal verbs combine a verb and an adverb or a preposition.

## Why should I learn phrasal verbs?

Phrasal verbs are very common in spoken English.

But they can be difficult to understand.

A phrasal verb's meaning can be very different from the meaning of the words by themselves.



**Look out!**  
**(Be careful)**



**LOOK OUT** is a common phrasal verb. We know the verb *look* means to actively see, but when you add the preposition *out* you make the phrasal verb **look out**.

The meaning becomes: *Be careful, something dangerous is coming.*

“Ball is coming! Look out!” 🏀

“There’s a snake in that tree! Look out!” 🐍

Enjoy this PDF and thank you for reading my English blog!

# A list of **50** common English **Phrasal Verbs**

Let's begin this list with 4 more common phrasal verbs using look.

**Phrasal Verbs**  
with **look**

I'm really **looking forward** to my spring vacation this year.

The new Tesla model 3 will go on sale in August. I want Scott and Nathan to **look after** promotion.



## **look after**

~ To be responsible for someone or something, or to take care of someone or something

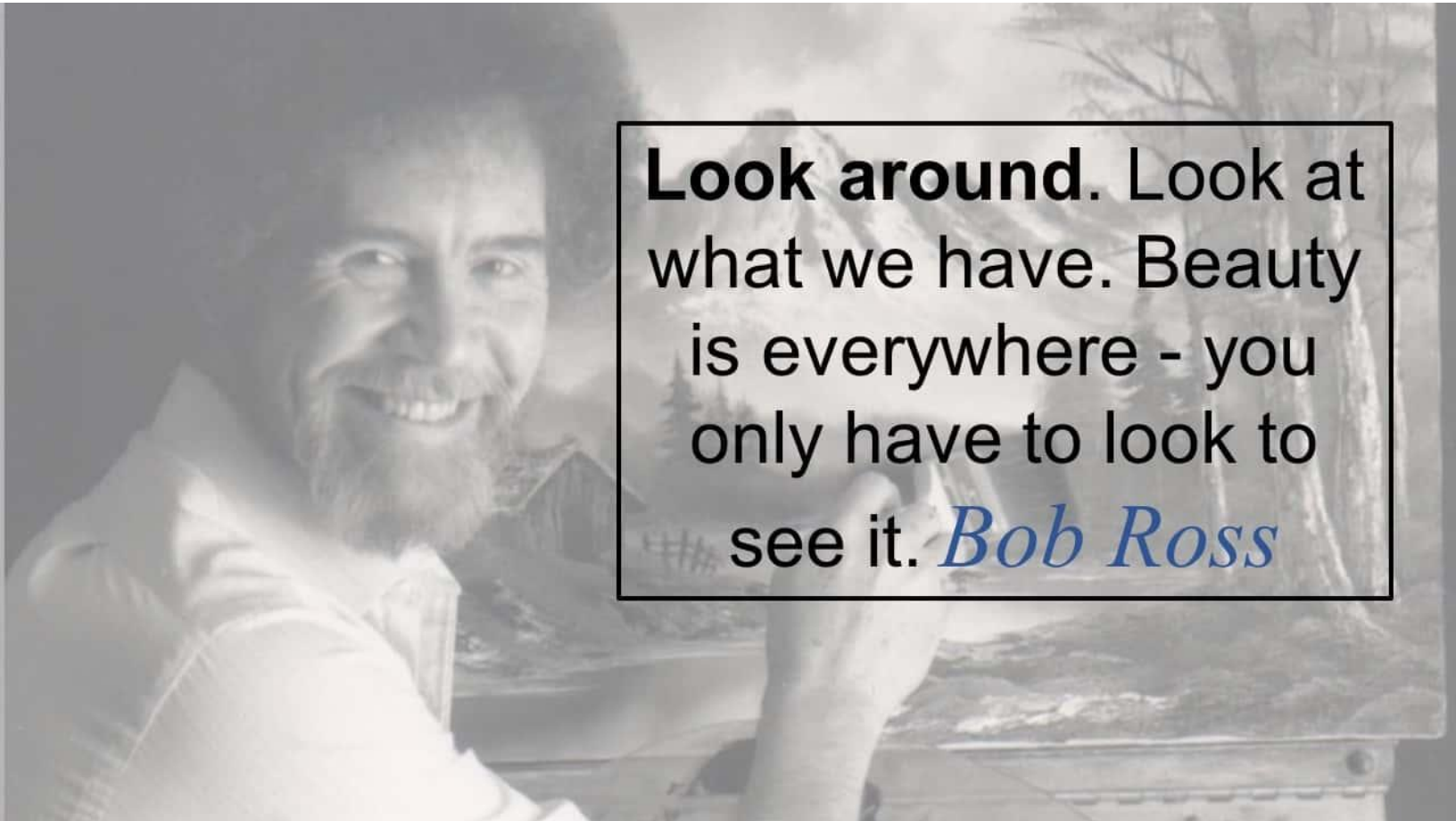
“My sister will **look after** my kids while my wife and I are on vacation.” = *My sister will take care of my children during our vacation.*

“The new Tesla Model 3 will go on sale in August. I want Scott and Nathan to **look after** promotion.” = *Scott and Nathan will be responsible for advertising our new car.*

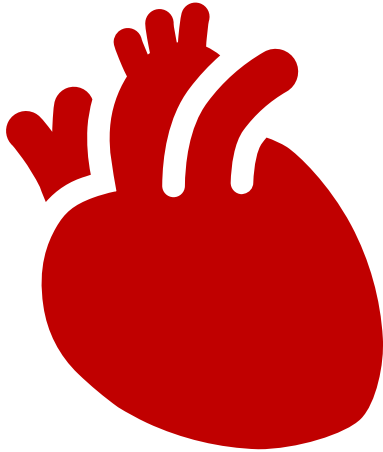
## look around

~ To go someplace (an area or building etc.) and move around it to see what is there

“I enjoy visiting new places and *looking around*. You can learn a lot about an area by its buildings, stores, and people.” = *I like traveling to new places and seeing what is there.*



**Look around.** Look at what we have. Beauty is everywhere - you only have to look to see it. *Bob Ross*



## look into

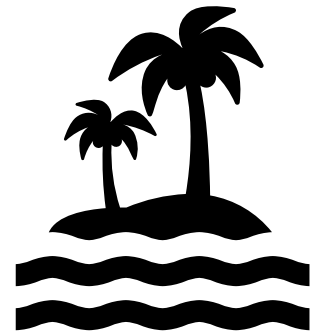
~ To examine something

“Scientists are *looking into* using spider silk for heart surgery.” = *Scientists are examining the idea of using spider silk for future heart surgeries.*

## look forward to

~ To be thinking with pleasure about something that is going to happen (because you expect to enjoy it) *\*this phrasal verb is very common.*

“I’m really *looking forward to* my spring vacation this year. My family is going to Hawaii.” = *I’m excited to travel to Hawaii, thinking about it makes me happy.*



“Keiko always *looks forward to* her English lessons. Her teacher is very handsome.” = *Keiko feels good to think about her future English lessons.*

# Phrasal Verbs

with

# put

After you use the TV remote please **put** it **back** on the coffee table.

I **put aside** time every morning to do yoga.



## put aside

① ~ To ignore or forget something, usually a feeling or difference of opinion

“Many people are hoping that America and North Korea can **put aside** their differences and have useful meetings in the future.” = *People hope that the 2 countries can forget the problems of the past and work together for peace.*

② ~ To save something or keep it available to use

“I **put** money **aside** every month for when I retire.” = *Every month I save money so I can use it when I stop working.*



“I **put aside** time every morning to do yoga.” = *I keep time in the morning just for doing yoga.*

**put away**

**put somebody away**

①~ To send someone to prison, to a mental hospital, etc.

“Allen was *put away* for 10 years for stealing from his job.” = *Allen was sent to jail for 10 years.*



**put something away**

②~ To put something in the place where it is kept because you have finished using it

“In Canada, we *put* our barbeques (BBQ) *away* for the winter. Usually in our garage.” = *During the cold winter we keep our barbeque in the garage because we won't use it.*





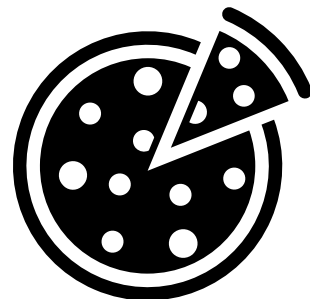
③~ To save money to spend later (this is similar in meaning to put aside)

“I *put away* \$1200 every month for when I retire.” = *Every month I save \$1200 so I can use it when I stop working.*

“Oliver *puts* \$50 *away* every week. He’s saving up to buy a new computer.” = *Oliver is saving money every week until he has enough to buy a computer.*



④~ To eat or drink large quantities of something  
“I was so hungry last night. I *put away* a whole large pizza by myself.” = *I ate a large quantity (a lot) of pizza.*



After you use the TV remote please  
**put it back** on the coffee table.



## put back

~ To return something to its usual place or to the place where it was before it was moved

“After you use the TV remote please **put it back** on the coffee table.” = *Please return the remote to the place it was (coffee table) before you used it (moved it).*

## put (something) behind you

~ To try to forget about an unpleasant experience and think about the future

“I just ended a bad relationship, but I’m trying to stay positive. I will **put that experience behind me** and focus on finding the right person for me.” = *I will forget about the unpleasant relationship I just had and think about finding a positive relationship in the future.*

## put off

### put *something* off

~ To change something to a later time or date

“Brian had to **put off** his trip to Hawaii because his mother became ill. He needed to stay home and take care of her.” = Brian had to change the date of his vacation because of his mother’s poor health.



### put off **doing something**

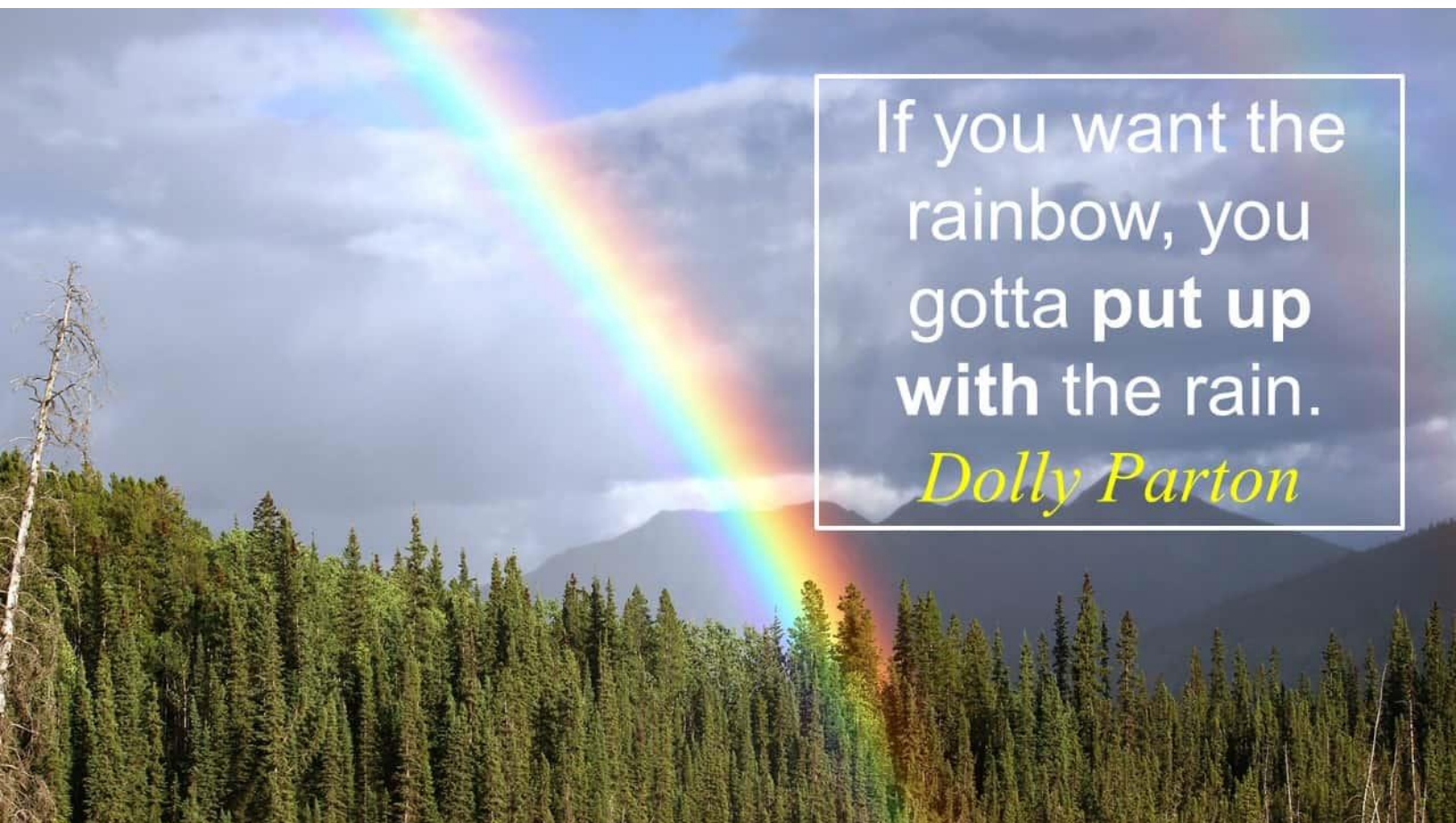
“Many people **put off doing** their taxes until the last minute. But if you do this, tax time becomes very stressful.” = *People plan to do something at a later date, (tomorrow, next week etc.) but soon there is no time (taxes are due!) and the situation becomes very stressful.*



## **put up with**

~ To accept someone or something that is annoying, unpleasant, etc. without complaining

“My neighbor is very noisy. He often plays loud music late at night. I’m not going to *put up with* it any longer. I’m calling our landlord tomorrow morning.” = *I’m not going to accept this unpleasant situation anymore. (noisy neighbor)*



If you want the  
rainbow, you  
gotta **put up  
with** the rain.

*Dolly Parton*

# Phrasal Verbs

with

# get

I want to improve my English. I really hope to **get** my ideas **across** to my coworkers in Canada.

What time did you **get back** from the party last night?



There are a lot of phrasal verbs with **get**! A lot! I chose 21 common examples for this list

## **get across**

~ To be communicated or understood; to succeed in communicating something

“I want to improve my English. I really hope to **get** my ideas **across** to my coworkers in Canada.” = *I want to communicate and be understood by my staff at my company’s Canadian office.*

## **get along with**

~ To have a friendly relationship with someone

“Jordan is close with most of his family, but he doesn’t **get along with** his brother.” = they don’t have a close relationship, their relationship is not good.

## get around

~ To move from place to place or from person to person

“My great uncle can’t walk anymore, but he *gets around* with an electric scooter.” = *My great uncle is able to move from place to place with the help of an electric scooter.*



“News of Mike’s divorce soon *got around* the office.” = *Many people talked about Mike’s divorce at the office. The information went from person to person.*

## get around to

~ To find the time to do something

“I was so busy with my private students that I didn’t write a blog post last week. I wanted to, but I never *got around to* it.”

## get away

①~ To have a vacation

“I hope to *get away* for a couple of days next month. Work has been busy.” = *I want to take a short vacation (a couple of days) next month.*

get away (from...)

②~ To succeed in leaving a place

“I won’t be able to *get away* from the office before 7:30.” = *I won’t be able to leave the office before 7:30.*

get away with (something)

①~ To steal something and escape with it

“Thieves *got away* with computer equipment worth \$30,000.” = *The thieves took \$30,000 worth of computer equipment and they haven’t been caught yet.*



②~ To get a light punishment, especially if the punishment could have been stronger.

“Kirk drove his car into a street lamp! He was lucky to *get away* with only a fine.” = *Kirk’s punishment was light, it could have been much stronger.*

③~ To do something wrong and not be punished for it

“Walter tried to cheat on the test by using his smartphone, but of course the teacher saw him. I can’t believe he thought he would *get away* with it.” = *Walter thought he wouldn’t be caught (and punished) cheating on the test.*







What time did you **get back** from the party last night?



### get back

~ To return, especially to your home

“What time did you **get back** from the party last night?” = *When did you return home?*

“My parents **got back** from their trip on Friday.” = *My parents returned home on Friday.*

### get (something) back

~ To have something again after you lost it

“Betty left work for 2 months to look after her ill Father. Her father is better now and Betty **got her job back**.” = *Betty left her job for 2 months but now she has it again.*

Glad to have you back Betty.



**get back at somebody** (informal)

~ To do something bad to someone who has done something bad to you; to get revenge on someone

“My brother ate all my Halloween candy. I **got back at** him by hiding his school bag in the basement. Now he can't find it.”

**get back to somebody**

~ To answer a question or a message later, to reply later

A: “Is Patrick coming to the party?”

B: “I'm not sure. I'll find out and **get back to you.**” = *I'll get the information and tell you later.*

“I sent Richard 4 emails already, I hope he **gets back to me soon.**” = *I hope that Richard answers my emails soon.*



**get back to something**

~ To return to something

“Why are we talking about the company dress code? This meeting is about our new budget, let’s **get back to that.**” = *The topic of the meeting is the company budget but then we started talking about the company dress code. Let’s return to the main subject of our meeting.*

If you fall, **get  
back up.** That’s  
what life is about.

*Keith Sweat*



**get back together** (*with somebody*)

~ To start a relationship with someone again, especially a romantic relationship, after having ended a previous relationship with the same person

“I hope that Derrick and Michelle **get back together**, I was sad when they **broke up.**” = *I hope that Derrick and Michelle start a relationship again.*



**get down to something**

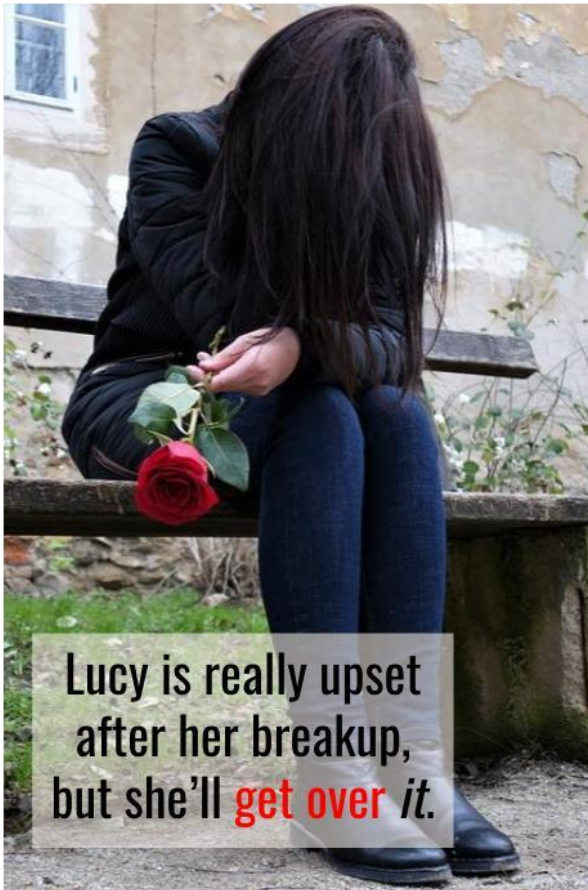
~ To begin to do something; to give serious attention to something

“No more wasting time, let’s **get down to business.** We have work to do.” = *we need to give serious attention to our work now.*

**get out of something**

~ To avoid a responsibility or duty

“We have a group meeting tomorrow after work but I’m trying to **get out of it.**” = *attending the meeting is my job duty but I don’t want to go. I’m trying to avoid going.*



# Get over (something)



**get over** *something/somebody*

~ To return to your usual state of health, happiness, etc. after an illness, a shock, the end of a relationship, etc.

“Lucy is really upset after her breakup, but she’ll **get over** it. She’ll meet a nice guy soon, I’m sure.” = *Lucy is sad now but she will be happy again soon.*

“I spent the weekend in bed trying to **get over** a bad cold.” = *I rested so my body could recover and return to a healthy condition.*

## get over yourself

~ To stop thinking that you are so important; to stop being so serious

“Many politicians feel like they are very important, but they should **get over themselves** and start focusing on helping the people who elected them.” = *politicians need to stop being so proud and just do their jobs, help their people and their countries.*

## get something over with

~ To complete something unpleasant but necessary

“I have to see the dentist to fix a cavity. I’m not looking forward to it! I’ll be glad to **get it over with.**” = *I will be happy when my cavity is fixed and I don’t have to visit see the dentist anymore. It’s necessary but unpleasant to fix a cavity.*



## **get through something**

~ To manage to do or complete something

“After 2 weeks of research and work, I finally *got through* making this phrasal verb blog. I really hope it helps people learning English.” = *After lots of work I managed to complete this post for my blog readers.*

Just **get through** this day.  
That's all you have to do.

*Alexander Dolgun*

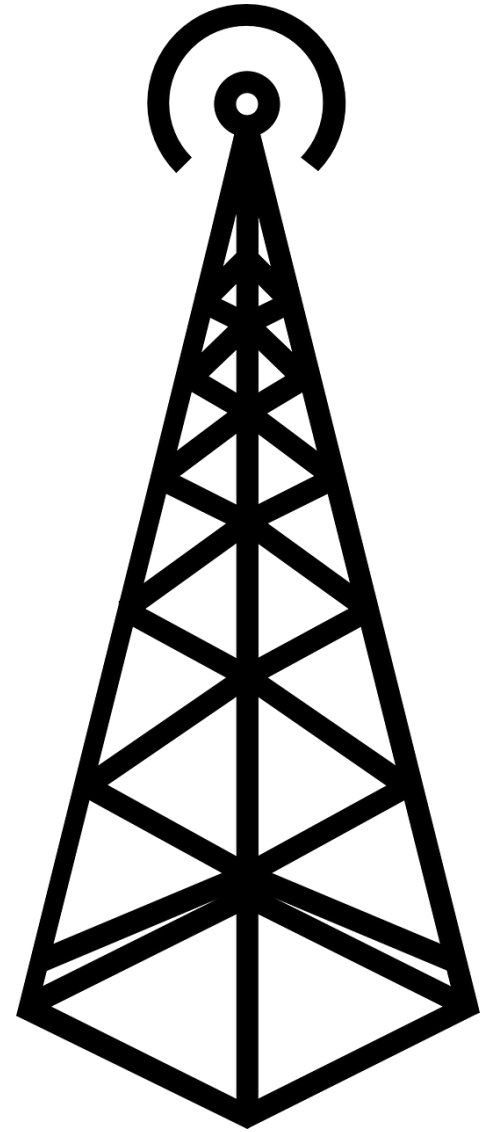
**get through** (*to somebody*)

①~ To reach someone

“The United Nations wants to send aid into countries affected by war, but it’s hard to **get through** the fighting.” = *It’s hard to reach the people who need help because of the fighting.*

②~ To make contact with someone by telephone

“After the big earthquake of 2010 I tried to call my wife but I couldn’t **get through**. All the cellular lines were too busy. Everyone was calling their families.”



**overload** – to put too great a demand on a computer, an electrical system, etc. causing it to fail “The lights went out because the system was **overloaded**.”



**get through** (*to something*)

~ (of a player or team) To reach the next stage of a competition

“Germany lost their first game to Mexico. Many people are wondering if they will **get through** to the next stage.” = *People aren't sure if Germany will reach the next stage of the World Cup.*



# Phrasal Verbs

with

# blow

Mark's work on the project **blew** everyone **away**! It was awesome!

Happy birthday! **Blow out** your candles and make a wish!



## **blow somebody off**

~ To deliberately not meet someone when you said you would

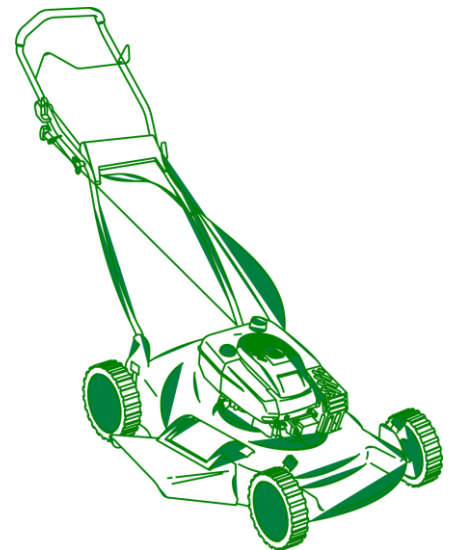
*“I can't believe Ryan **blew** us **off** again. This is the last time I make plans with him.” = Ryan said he would meet us but he didn't. I can't believe he did it again!*

## **blow something off**

~ To deliberately not do something that you said you would

A: *“Let's go play soccer. It's a nice day.”*

B: *“I told my Dad that I would cut the grass today, but I can **blow** it **off**. Let's play!” = I won't cut the grass even though I said I would.*



## blow out

~ If a flame, etc. blows out, it is put out by the wind, etc.

“It was windy so it was hard to light the lantern. The wind kept **blowing** my matches **out**.” = *The wind put out the flame of my matches.*

## blow something out

~ To put out a flame, etc. by blowing

“Happy birthday! **Blow out** your candles and make a wish.” = *Blow on the candles and put out the flame.*

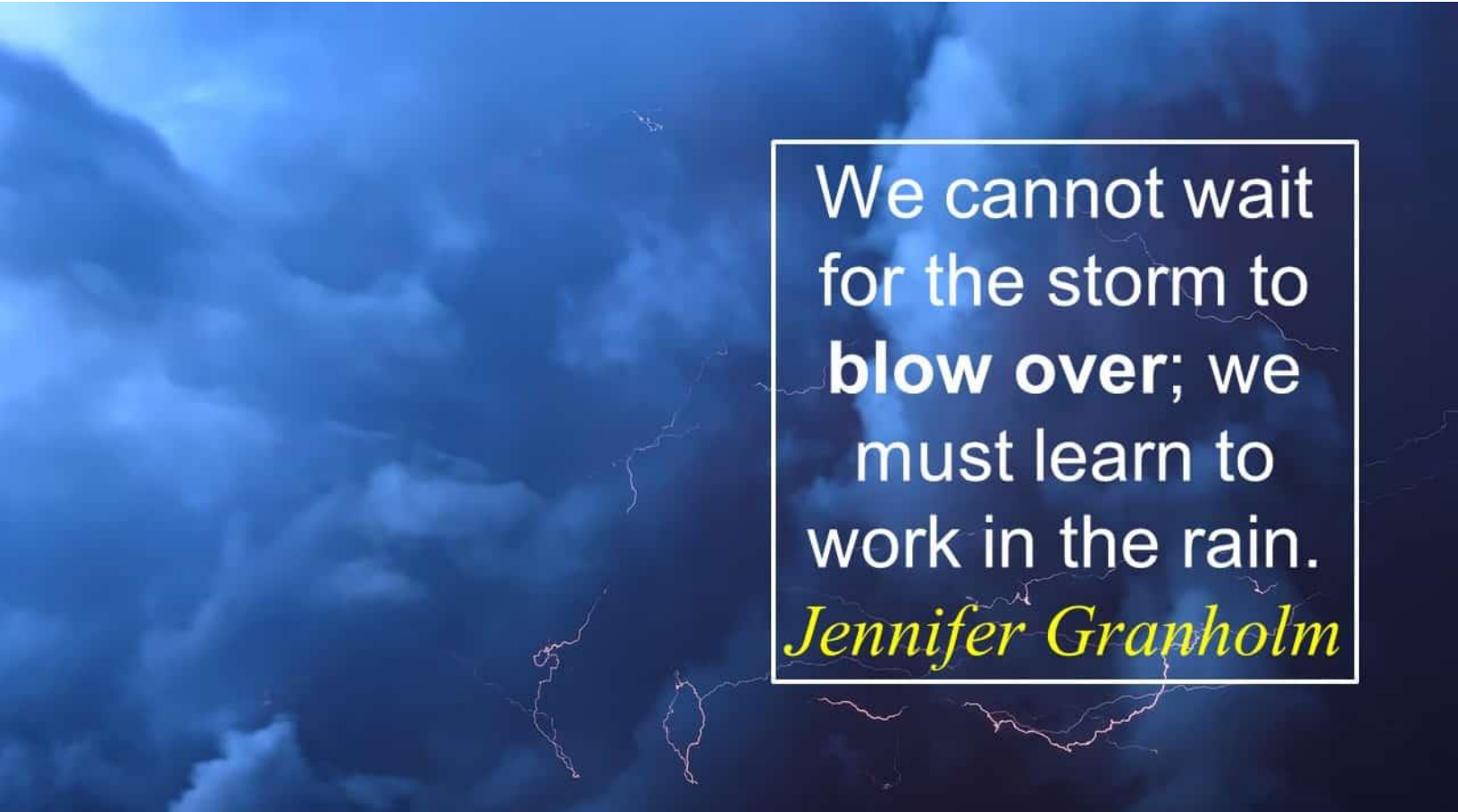


## blow over

~ To go away without having a serious effect

“The typhoon *blew over* in the night. By the morning or wasn't even raining hard.” = *The typhoon came and went without having a serious effect.*

“The president's scandal was all over the news for 3 days, then it *blew over* and no one seemed interested.” = *After a few days the scandal was forgotten, it didn't have much effect on the president.*



We cannot wait  
for the storm to  
**blow over**; we  
must learn to  
work in the rain.  
*Jennifer Granholm*

## blow up

①~ To explode; to be destroyed by an explosion

“The bomb *blew up*, but luckily no one was hurt.” =  
*The bomb exploded.*



②~ To fill something with air or gas so that it becomes firm  
“Help me *blow up* these balloons for Gene’s birthday party.” = *help me fill these balloons with air*

## blow up (at somebody)

~ To get very angry with someone

“I’m sorry I *blew up* at you. I’m under a lot of pressure at work. It won’t happen again.” = *I’m sorry for getting angry with you.*

# Phrasal Verbs

with

## kick/punch

It's Friday night! The work week is done and now it's time to **kick back** and enjoy the weekend!

You have to **punch in** the security code to open the front door.



### kick back

~ To relax

“It’s Friday night! The workweek is done and now it’s time to **kick back** and enjoy the weekend.” = *I can relax now because work is finished and I have Saturday and Sunday off.*



### kick off

~ To start

It’s 4:00. Let’s **kick** this meeting **off** and hopefully, we can be finished by 5:30. We can all go home after that.” = *Let’s start the meeting now and maybe finish before 5:30.*

## kick out

~ To make someone leave or go away (from somewhere)

“Jeff had too many drinks, started a fight, and got *kicked out* of the pub.” = *Jeff was made to leave the pub (bar) because he was causing problems (fighting).*



## kick in

~ To begin to take effect



“We have to prepare for the coming changes. The new laws will *kick in* this September.” = *New laws will take effect (begin, start to be effective) so we need to prepare.*



### **kick in** *something*

~To give your share of money or help  
“If we collect \$50.00 for a new coffee machine the boss said the company will ***kick in*** another \$50.00. We can buy a nice machine for \$100.00.” = *If the staff can collect \$50.00 the company will help with \$50.00 more.*

### **punch in** *something* /

### **punch** *something in*

~ To put information into a device by pressing the keys or buttons

“My apartment building has a security system. You have to ***punch in*** the security code to open the front door.” = *you have to put the information (security code) into the panel beside the door to open it.*





# Phrasal Verbs

with **lay** **catch**  
**reach** **check**



## catch on

~ To become popular or fashionable

“I see many people wearing shirts with floral prints again. I hope they *catch on*, I’ve got 3 in my closet.” = *If floral shirts become popular again it’s great! I have 3 shirts that I can wear again!*

“Pokemon Go *caught on* like crazy in Tokyo when it was released. I saw people playing it everywhere.” = *Pokemon Go became very popular.*

*like crazy* = really or very (in a strong way)

It caught on **like crazy**. = it really became popular.

It’s raining **like crazy**. = It’s really raining a lot.



## catch up

①~ To spend extra time doing something because you have not done it earlier

“After my vacation, I always have a lot of work to **catch up** on at the office.” = *I have been away from the office and I am behind on my work tasks. It will take extra time to do it after I go back to work.*

②~ To find out about things that have happened

“I saw Jim today for the first time in ages. We had coffee and **caught up** for 2 hours this afternoon.” = *Jim and I spent 2 hours telling each other about all the things that have happened in our lives since we last saw each other.*



\**in ages* = in a long time

the first time **in ages** = the first time in a long time

“I haven’t been to a live concert **in ages**.”

③~ To reach someone who is ahead by going faster – catch up (with somebody)

“Don’t wait for me. You guys go ahead and I’ll **catch up** with you later.” = *I will reach you (get to where you will be) after.*

④~ To reach the same level or standard as someone who was better or more advanced

“Jason was sick for 6 weeks and missed school. When he went back to class he had to work hard to **catch up**.” = *Jason had to work very hard to reach the same level as his classmates. His classmates had 6 weeks of school that Jason didn’t have so they were more advanced.*



reach out (to somebody)

~ To show someone that you are interested in them and/or want to help them

“Social media is a good way to *reach out* to people who are studying English.” = *Using social media is a good way to connect with English students that I can help.*



Reach out and help others. If you have the power to make someone happy, do it.

*Germany Kent*

**lay into** (*somebody/something*)

~ To attack someone violently, physically or with words

“My Dad **laid into** me for scratching his car last night.” = *My Dad really yelled at me because I scratched his car.*



**lay off** (*somebody/something*)

~ Used to tell someone to stop doing something

“We should **lay off** Peter, it wasn’t his fault.” = *We should stop blaming Peter, he doesn’t deserve our anger. He didn’t do anything.*

lay somebody off

~ To stop employing someone because there is not enough work for them to do

“The company lost money last year so they need to **lay off** 50 workers next month. I hope my job is safe.” = *50 people will lose their jobs because the company doesn’t have enough money.*

## lay off *something*

~ To stop using something

“I had a terrible hangover this morning. I need to *lay off* beer for a while.” = *I have to stop drinking (using beer.) I felt terrible this morning (because I drank too much).*



## lay out

① ~ To plan how something should look and arrange it in this way

“This is a well *laid out* web page.” = *The web page is arranged well. It’s clear and easy to follow. All pages and links are easy to find.*

related noun *layout*

“This page has a nice *layout*.”



②~ To present a plan, an argument, etc. clearly and carefully

“My fee, job description and responsibilities are all ***laid out*** in the contract.” = *the details of my job are presented clearly on the contract.*

**check somebody/something off**

To put a mark (✓) beside a name or an item on a list to show that something has been dealt with

“I love having a to-do app on my smartphone. It’s great for reminding me what I have to do each day. After I complete a task I

can ***check it off***.” = *I like to have a list of things to do. I can put a mark (or click a button on my phone) to show that something has been done.*



**check on** *somebody/something*

~ To make sure that there is nothing wrong with someone or something

“Can you go downstairs and **check on the kids?** It’s very quiet down there.” = *Can you go downstairs and make sure that the children are okay?*

**check out**

~ To be found to be true or acceptable after being examined

“He said that he had to work late but his secretary said he left the office at 4:30. His story doesn’t **check out.**”

= *After I examined the details of his story I found that it wasn’t true.*





**check out** (*of...*)

~ To pay your bill and leave a hotel

“It’s almost 11:00, we have to **check out** now.” = *You need to pay your bill and leave your room by 11:00.*

related noun **checkout**

“I always ask for a late **checkout**. I like to sleep in.”

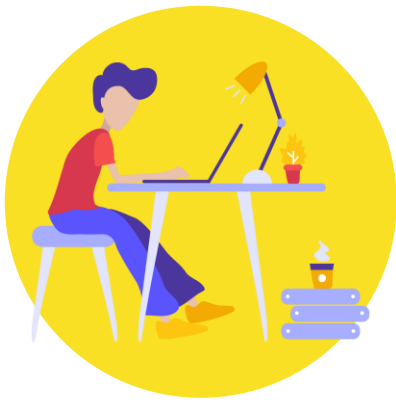
**check somebody/something out**

~ To look at or examine a person or thing that seems interesting or attractive

“There’s a sale at the car dealership near my house. I’m going to go this afternoon and **check out** the new cars.” = *I will go to the car dealership and look at the new cars.*



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