Material on Phrasal Verbs for Out of English Translators-Lydia Stone

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MY CONCEPT OF ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS



Meanings and Components of Phrasal Verbs

1. Basic meaning or both verb and particle preserved:

*know about, look around, send away, put back, come in, move out, knock over, go through, jump up*

1a. Addition of the phrasal particle may change a transitive verb into an intransitive one or vice versa. This in itself should not cause additional problems to translator, but is worth noting. The transitivity of a phrasal verb depends on the particle and some particles may be used in either transitive or intransitive ways. *Take* is transitive but *take off* in *the plane is about to take off* is intransitive. *Sit* is intransitive, as are most of the phrasal verbs derived from it but *sit through* as in *sit through* *this presentation* is transitive.

2. Particles (acting as adverbs) may give the verb a perfective, “action completed” nuance: *clean up*, *wash away, chop down, settle down, kick in, fight off, call off, figure out, wear out, get over, plug up.*

3. Particles with spatial meaning may refer to an analogous dimension --physical e.g., sound intensity, or metaphorical, e.g. mood, *cool down, quiet down, speak up, sleep off, back out, figure out (extract meaning or an answer), cheer up, heat up, butt in, dumb down*

4. The meaning of a phrasal may be one that the verb alone does not imply, certainly not in its basic sense: *put someone down (insult), blow -s.o. away (amaze), butter s.o. up (flatter), shoot down an idea (prove it wrong or foolish), write something off (accept it as a lost cause)*

5. The phrasal verb may take its meaning from an unusual or culturally specific situation. *put up fruit or vegetables-preserve them for later (from putting them on a shelf); strike out –fail (baseball); pan out (from panning for gold).* Others may be references to culturally specific full idioms, or allusions. *Wig out, e.g.,* is a shortening of the idiom *flip one’s wig* , the shortening making it considerably less transparent.

6. Some phrasals seem to be vestiges of totally obsolete old English verbs or verbs borrowed into it and not now used alone without a particle. *bone up (to study in a hurry)source disputed; egg on (encourage to greater effort) borrowed from Norse word meaning urge.*

7. The verb itself may be a slang usage or a distorted or shortened form: *Geek out is based on the slang word geek; fess up (confess); rev up intensify a process; rev=engine revolutions).*

8. Nouns can be used as the verbs in phrasal verbs with no change in form. They then take on regular verb endings. Their-meaning will have some relation to the use or assumed behavior of the noun, although perhaps deriving from some very specific or peripheral characteristic or situation.

8a. Tools: *rake it in (make lots of money; from the rake used to gather bets on a gambling table); buckle up (as an imperative:-get ready for a metaphoric rough ride); pencil someone in (set up a meeting likely to be cancelled);* some of course are easier to figure out*: hammer in-to drill something into someone’s head; towel off: to dry off with a towel.*

8b. Animals: beaver away *(work assiduously at); pig out (overeat); bull through (persist despite opposition or obstacles); horse around (play roughly or fool around); squirrel away (hide to save for later)*

8c. People: *cop out (back out because of fear); lawyer up (hire lawyer(s) in anticipation of a legal problem); soldier on (persist bravely despite danger or difficulties).*Note the relation of phrasal meaning to the typical function/behavior of the person is quite different.

9. In rare cases adjective are used as the verb in phrasal*: Black out (lose consciousness. or memory); white out (impeded visibility through snow or fog), cozy up to (curry favor).*

9a. Some phrasals are used only with the past participles of their verbs. These always act as adjectives or predicate adjectives describing the verb’s object with no subject specified or specifiable. *Stuck up (conceited); buttoned up (conservative and repressed); Put upon (constantly taken advantage of); Fed up (disgusted, no longer able to tolerate); wrapped up in (obsessed with to the exclusion of everything else); pent up (repressed; pent is the past participle of pen).*

9b) The only two phrasals primarily using present participles I found are *teeming with* and *crawling with*: full of movement of life forms (the first is positive the second negative)

10. In some cases the verb is followed by two particles.

Sometimes the verb and the first particle are a phrasal on their own and the second particle is introduced to link the phrasal to an object, *she ran away; or she ran away from home.* In such cases the noun is the object of the second particle and. the basic meaning of the phrasal verb is not changed by the addition of the second particle and its object.

11. In other cases the second particle is an integral part of the phrasal; without it the verb + first particle has a different meaning.

*Put up with-tolerate, boil down to-amount to; get around to-eventually do after procrastinating; stand up for: defend publically or effectively; take something out on someone: displace bad feelings onto your treatment of someone not to blame for them; make up for-compensate for.*

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The Syntax of Phrasal Verbs

I. The Three Types of Particles

a. Prepositions, which must be followed immediately by an object and cannot be followed by another particle: (these are: *about (in the US sense), after, among, as, at, between, for, into, onto, toward, upon, with*)

b. Adverbs, which do not require an object and must be followed by another preposition if an object is used: *(aside (from), ahead (of), away (from), back, forward, out (of), together (with))*

c. Particles that can be used either as an adverb or a preposition: *across, along, around, behind, down, in, off, on, over, past, through, under, up.* They either have no object or are followed by a direct object with no additional preposition needed.

II. Syntax

a) If the phrasal verb ends in a preposition, an object, either noun or pronoun, must follow that preposition. *She ran after her dog (or after him).*

b) If the phrasal verb is followed by an adverb, it can be followed by a second preposition and an object or no object at all. *She was working away. She was working away* ***on*** *her ATA presentation (or it).* In these cases the phrasal retains its original meaning. The object, whether it is noun or pronoun follows the second particle, i.e. the preposition.

c) If the entire phrasal verb is followed by a particle that can act as either adverb or preposition, it can be used either 1) with no object. *The plane took off*. or 2) *with an object and no additional preposition.* (A noun object can be placed directly after the particle or after the verb but a pronoun object only after the verb. *She took off her coat. She took her coat off*. But only *She took it off.* NOT: *She took off it.*

III. In some cases of two particle phrasals, the second preposition does not affect the meaning but simply adds an object. In other cases the meaning of the whole is changed:

a) *She ran away. She ran away* ***from*** *home. She ran away from it.* No meaning change.

b) *She put up the picture. She put up* ***with*** *her old car. She put up with it*. Major meaning change.

12. EXAMPLES OF TWO PARTICLE PHRASAL VERBS THAT HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS FROM THE CORRESPONDING SINGLE PARTICLE ONES

a)*live up to*- to meet expectations about one’s performance or accomplishments

b*) make up for*/*make up with* - compensate for/ become on good terms again after a quarrel

c) take someone up on—ask someone to make good on a previously made offer, promise, etc.

d) *stick up for*-verbally defend someone from criticism

e) *hold out for*-refuse to accept less desirable alternatives until the one you want is offered

f) get ahead of-surpass someone

g) get back to s.o./get back at s.o.-contact someone at a later time/get revenge on someone

h) look forward to—anticipate with pleasure

13 **Examples of Phrasal Verbs That Have Become Nouns** Note that some are run together others hyphenated while some have meanings uncommon for the corresponding phrasal verb.

a. *Takeaway-*a lesson or idea one has gained from an experience of the like. *It was an interesting lecture but there was no real takeaway*. One of the basic phrasal verb meanings is retained. As adjective this is British for takeout (food)

b Comedown –a decline to lower level or status. Not generally used as verb or adjective in this meaning.

c Fallback-something to resort to if other measures, plans fail. Sole meaning of the phrasal fall back on. Frequently used as an adjective.

d. Break-in-an unauthorized and possibly destructive entry into a building usually for the purpose of theft. This is one meaning of the phrasal verb, generally not used as adjective.

e Turn-on something that is exciting or sexually arousing for someone. Slang. Used in this meaning as a verb, rare as adjective.

f Handout-1) identical paper(s) given to students or an audience usually before a class or lecture 2)a charitable donation. Only #1 used as verb, adjectives possible.

g Do-over-the opportunity or act of making another attempt or taking another turn when the first one was not successful. Phrasal verb used in this meaning, adjective possible.

14. EXAMPLES OF PHRASAL ADJECTIVES. May not exist in this meaning as verbs or nouns.

a.*Go-to*-designates a person, place, procedure, tool, etc. that one regularly resorts to for a particular purpose (e.g . my go-to tech person or hairdresser). No noun or verb with this sense.

b. *See-through*-transparent as of clothes (e.g. transparent blouse). The phrasal verb exists but there’s no noun.

c. *Live-in* (e.g., babysitter), refers to a domestic employee or in some cases romantic partner who lives with one. Exists as a verb but unless the person’s role is assumed not as a noun.

d. *Stand-up a)* something done while standing up as in *stand-up comedy; b) stand-up guy* –a loyal friend, one who will stand up for you even to the point of fighting. First usage can be used to designate that type of comedy as a noun. Second usage seems only to be used with guy, but it is quite new. The verb *stand up for* has the second meaning.

15. In some cases an indefinite or at least semi-indefinite **it** finds its way into phrasal, verbs. In most cases “it” refers either to “things in general” or whatever we are or were discussing or you are doing

a) *Cut it out/knock it off* (stop whatever you are doing that annoys me)

b) *Live it up-*engage in extravagant and/or exciting pleasures

c) *Go for it*-I encourage you to do whatever we are talking about and in a big way

d) I have to (gotta*) hand it to someone*-I am forced to praise/acknowledge s.o. for some quality or achievement

e) *Leave it to someone to do something* (a statement that something the person has done is characteristic; can be either positive or negative).

f*)) Play it cool* (do not let your emotions show)

g) *Snap out of it*—get out of the mood or state you are in

h*) Step on it*-hurry up (reference is to the gas pedal)

i) *Take it from me* (I assure you that I know what I am talking about when I say whatever I am about to say or have said.)

j) *To ask for it* (to be inviting trouble/retaliation whether intentionally or not)

k)*To be at it again*- (to be doing the same habitual thing that has caused problems before)

l)*To get away from it all* (take a break from all the things in someone’s normal life that cause stress)

m) *To have it in for someone* (to dislike someone and behave hostilely or even try to harm that person)

n) *To hit it off* (of two or more people: to immediately like each other and begin to interact in a friendly way)

o) *To sleep on it*-decide about something mentioned after you have slept a night

p) *Would not put it past someone* -this (typically negative action, is not at all unlikely for that person)

16. Phrasals also make their way into IDIOMS even if they are not used in the same meaning otherwise; these might be particularly difficult for translators.

a) What goes around comes around. Essentially what you sow, you will reap, i.e., how you treat others will eventually be how you are treated or how the world behaves toward you.

b). *Go along to get along*. The doctrine that in, order to achieve acceptance and success, you have to conform to the prevailing standards and expectations of a milieu.

c). *Put up or shut up* (rude; imperative). Either do what you are talking about or stop talking about it.

d) *Give someone the runaround*.To delay, dodge, or frustrate (someone), especially by providing useless information or directions.

e). *Go big or go home*: very recent: In some undertaking either make a maximum effort or quit altogether. These two may not be considered phrasal verbs but they act like them.

f) Where does someone get off saying or doing something? Why does that person think he has the right to do or say that thing?

17. Why are unfamiliar phrasal verbs so difficult to understand and translate.?

A) See above Also each has a unique etymological history.

B) They are based on verbs that are very old and have taken on all kinds of different meanings. The meaning and connotation of a verb in one phrasal may be quite different from those in another.

In *get up, get in, get off, get out-- get* means move the body or something else in the direction suggested.

In *get by and get along*—get means essentially manage to live.

In *get someone down or really gets to me*—get means cause a person to have a certain mood.

In *get sick* get means develop or succumb.

Yet, the principal meanings of get is to obtain (transitive) or to become (intransitive).

C) The same particles (adjectives or prepositions) can have different even opposite meanings when used with different same verbs. Prepositions and adjectives that are opposites when used literally can have the opposite meanings, unrelated meanings but also virtually identical meanings when used with the same verb.

a) *Crack up* means to shatter and metaphorically to have a nervous breakdown and the reference of crack is to cracks in e.g. a sidewalk. *Crack down* means to become very strict; the verb crack refers to the cracking sound made by a whip.

b). *Write up* and *write down* using spatially opposite particles involve the same action as do *slow up and slow down* But you cannot say speed down!!

c). *Settle up (to pay a bill) and settle down (to become calm) are based on completely different meanings of settle and non-opposite meanings of up and down. (If anything paying in full should have a calming effect.)*

d).*Show u*p somewhere means to arrive somewhere where you are expected. But *Show someone up* means to reveal the true negative nature of someone. A *showdown* is a confrontation.

*C.* You cannot assume that verbs that start with an adverb or preposition have a similar meaning to the phrasal with the same components but the order of verb and particle reversed*.*

*a) Outlook (noun) -*means prediction for the future or attitude towards things in general. *Look out: means beware .*

*b) Undergo* means to experience usually passively; *go under;* means to succumb to anesthesia or disappear from view in a body of water.

*c) Offhand (adjective*)-means causal*; hand off* means to give something to someone from your hand or to transfer a task

*d) Upend* means to turn something upside down:*, end up* refers to what ultimately happens.

*e) Upset means* to disrupt; *set up* means to create the appropriate conditions for

*\e) Outrun* means to run faster than another or others*, run out* means to exhaust your supply of.

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*OMITTED MATERIAL*

*1.* Particles used in the most phrasal verbs, according to a 1989 British Phrasal Verb Dictionary. Second number is meaning categories attributed to particle.

*1. Up (482; 12), 2.Out (410, 14); 3) Off (233; 14) 4.In (209, 11); 5. On (199; 11); 6. Down (191; 10); 7. Away (134; 7); 8. Into (112; 9); 9. Over (11: 7); 10: Around (104; 6)*

2. Particles listed as used in fewer than 10 phrasal verbs combinations*. Between, past, without: 3; above, before:4; across 6; as: 8; under: 9.*

3.As an illustration of range of particle meaning, here are the 14 identified meanings for *out* with example phrasal verbs:

a. Leaving from an enclosed space or beginning a journey: back out, take out of, start out. Either trans or int.

b. Removing, excluding, preventing: *throw out, wash out, breathe ou*t Trans.

c. Searching, finding and obtaining from a medium or collection of options or information. *figure out, dig out, fish out, ferret out.* Either trans or in.

d Appearing from a (possibly concealing) medium or place, *break out (rash), pop out, stick out, jut out*. Either.

e. At a location not home or outdoors: *ask out; dine out, camp out. Either.*

f. Producing objects, sounds, smell, light, heat etc. *cry out, blurt out, shine out, churn out, flash out. Usually intrans.*

g. Increasing in size, shape, or extent: *draw out, let out (a garment), spread o*ut, Usually transitive.

h Thoroughness and completeness (perfective meaning*): argue out, carry out (a task), clean out.* Transitive.

i. Tolerating through time to the end: *sweat out, ride out, hold out, wait out.* Transitive.

j Arranging, distributing, selecting: *lay out, parcel out, hand out, pick out*. Transitive.

k. Paying attention to the outside world: *look out, watch out*. Intransitive.

l

l, Supporting and helping ; *help out; bail out*. Note I disagree I think these refer to extricating someone from a bad situation. Either transitive or intransitive

m. Ending or disappearing: *fizzle out, run out.* Intransitive.

n. Attacking, criticizing and protesting. *Chew out, lash out, hit out.* Transitive.

4. Example of Particles Used with Only a Few Verbs and their Meanings *(Transparent meanings not cited.)*

a) about-used in British English as we use around (e.g. sit around-> sit about); in US English used to mean happen in; *come about-happen; bring about-cause to happen; go about (not primary meaning (work on);set about-(start to work on)*

b)above- *rise above (surmount circumstances, or disadvantages*

c)across-find something without searching for it: *stumble across; run across; convey a meaning or emotion: get across; come across*

d) after-chase (go after); inquire about: ask after,

*named or resembling someone older (name after, take after)*

e) along-*progress (go along); accompaniment (tag along, bring along); compatibility real or feigned (get along, play along)*

f) at-*targets of actions real (aim at, grab at) or metaphorical (guess at, marvel at)*

g)behind-just one non-transparent: *get behind (support a person or cause)*

h) *between-go-between (mediator, liaison, marriage broker)*

i)possibly home home used metaphorically for a metaphorical target-*bring home e.g. the truth of something, or strike home*

5. Certain well-established phrasal particles appear to have connotations of tone or register that may need to be considered in translation. Note: the connotation suggested here occurs only with a subset of verbs using a particular particle.

a). *Away*-*as in working away, typing* away, etc.-has the denotation of continuous activity but may have the additional derogatory or at least condescending connotation of uninspired drudgery or annoying length possibly because of association with verbs such *as slog away, plod away, jabber away*

b) . *Around*- with a number of verbs (*run around, walk around, fool around, horse around, stand around, wait around, and sit around, fiddle around)* is likely to have the somewhat to markedly negative connotations of unfocused, aimless, continued activity and/or idleness). Note the negative meaning is not always present: *On our last night, we just walked around and admired they city. We sat around talking until 2 a.m.—it was wonderful.*

c). *Out*-some phrasals containing out, usually meaning to experience the extreme of a mood , state or type of behavior, suggest, to some, the hippie culture of the 1960s and 70s during which many of these terms were coined (examples: *freak out, bliss out, peace out*).This phrasing is very consistent with the idea of altered states. Slang/informal



**WHY ARE YOU DRIVING TRANSLATORS CRAZY?**

MATERIAL IN ATA TALK NOT ON HANDOUT

BONING UP ON ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

* The administrators of the Slavic Languages Division asked me to do a podcast on the presentations I was giving. Here is what I replied to the question. What is your advice to translators working from English who are stumped by phrasal verbs?

What I am going to be doing is talking about the different ways that phrasal verbs work to create nuances of meaning, not to mention confusion, particularly to competent non-native English speakers. I will be giving many examples. There is no way to use reason to interpret a particular phrasal verb. Nor does experience with other such verbs work infallibly. Just because a phrasal verb you encounter seems similar to one whose meaning you know or even is identical in form but used in a different context does not mean the meaning is going to be the same or highly similar. In addition sometimes nouns or adjectives based on phrasal verbs have quite different meanings than those of their sources.

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The most valuable help a non-native English speaker can have when confronted with a confounding phrasal verb is a translation partner or at least consultant who is a native speaker of English working in the opposite language pair. Beyond that, I would suggest concentrating on trying to internalize the possible meanings of at least the most common prepositions and adverbs as they are used in phrasal combinations. There are many fewer of those than of the verbs entering into the combinations. Several of my dictionaries have good relatively brief surveys of these meanings and I will see about scanning and posting one.

When I was creating the dictionary I just told you about, I used Google search in English for the phrasal verb including in the search prompt the word define or meaning or both and had 100% success finding a meaning I felt to be correct, but then I already knew the approximate meaning and was only checking on it. Non-native speakers may not. Nevertheless, Google searches will point to definitions in a number of dictionaries and individuals may develop a favorite they can access directly. I imagine a search engine would do better than any paper dictionary for finding a meaning of a particular new or unusual phrasal verb. I do think that the explanatory material at the back of the Collins and Oxford Dictionaries can be very helpful and I do not know how to find such material on the Internet. This reminds me to say that the best dictionaries of phrasal verbs are British the Oxford and Collins Cobuild series and may not cover and certainly do not focus on US Usage.

I would also advise translators who have to translate English material containing phrasals to read as much similar English material as possible. New phrasals are always popping up and most of us native speakers simply learn them through context.

One more thing: I see no reason in most cases for translators into English from another language to feel compelled to use any phrasal verb at all. If you need to convey a less formal or even slangy tone there are other ways to do so, I would think. The only thing necessary in my view is for translators and interpreters out of English to understand them and I hope that this talk will help at least somewhat with that.

First thing, many dictionaries of phrasal verbs include verbs of Latinate form: e.g. acclimatize to, alternate with. These are not true phrasal verbs but simply collocations. Although they may present some difficulties to translators, the appropriate preposition, usually no more than one or at least two (which never modifies or metaphorizes the meaning of the verb in the way that phrasal do) can be found in any dictionary. I do not know why phrasal verb dictionaries include them—perhaps they think to be respectable they have to have a certain number of pages, or include verbs of higher Latinate style.

I assume most of you know that English has two strata-the native Germanic words (developed from Old and Middle English) and those borrowed from Latin and French. It is the former that give English learners all the trouble (for example, by having irregular past forms or forms that are not morphologically marked for part of speech).

Witnessing non-English native speakers struggling with the Germanic stratum of English I have a recurrent image of the two strata which comes from a comic strip in my local paper about a family who has two children an older girl who obeys rules and curries adult favor, though she is prissy and a tattle tale, and a younger boy who never met a rule he didn’t want to break and whose mischief is impossible to predict much less control. I have included a picture of Hammie on page 1 of the handout sheet.

Hammie is always carrying on, acting up and goofing around. Oh, the things he gets up to! When there is a real muck up and he is caught out, he never faces up or fesses up but tries to weasel out, claiming that everyone is picking on him. Meanwhile he gets off on grossing out his older sister, cracking up when she freaks out. Their parents wonder why the two cannot get along, and try to laugh off his antics, often copping out on punishment to avoid a showdown but they themselves sometimes seem to be on the verge of breaking down. I wonder how much more they can put up with. This relatively brief 113 word description contained 21 phrasals comprising 47 words nearly 50% of those in the paragraph and yet a normal speaker of English recognizing the informal tone, might not even notice anything unusual.

More or less this is how I conceptualize the behavior of phrasal verbs. And more or less why non-native speakers need to know about them

Because they are Germanic the verbs that form phrasals are either one syllable or, much less often, two syllables with an ending inherited from the Germanic core of English --le: bundle up, whittle away; -ow—follow through, burrow in, --er: clutter up; simmer down, -en batten down, lighten up;; -y-cozy up to, carry off;; ish-finish up, polish off, .

Verbs with semantically or grammatically meaningful prefixes; or verbs that have suffixes morphologically marking them as verbs do not form real phrasals although they may have one or more preferred preposition collocations. Phrasal verbs that are derived from nouns may of course have other endings: bottom out; monkey around, ratchet up. It is striking that, although modern coiners of new phrasals, while probably not giving a thought to the two strata of English, seem to obey these rules. I know of no new phrasal that contains a prefix, or a morphological indicator that it is a verb (e.g., ize, ify, ate). Two interesting verbs: fess up (confess), and divvy up (divide among) show at least a slight tendency of English speakers to transform verbs of later Latin origin to conform to the rules stated above. I hope it is of use to nonnative speakers to know what verbs are nearly 100% unlikely to have the meaning altering characteristics of phrasals.

Etymologies

1. Bailout (noun>verb>phrasal verb> phrasal noun). In old English there were two nouns that developed into the verb in American English known as bail. One meant a pot or receptacle, and the phrase bail out meant to use a pot to remove water from a boat or less frequently from elsewhere. The other meant something like jurisdiction and could be used to refer to transferring the custody of a prisoner to the jurisdiction of another after payment of what we call today a security deposit so that on bail began to mean not in someone’s custody but released upon payment of a security deposit (known as bail). Seeming by sheer coincidence both of these verbs have the senses of getting someone or something out of something (jail or a boat); and of averting unpleasantness for that person (sinking, remaining in prison). Probably because of the boat meaning when military personnel had to jump from an aircraft in trouble they referred to it as bailing out, reinforcing the meaning of saving from peril. After a while to bail someone out came to mean to abandon an enterprise as the pilots abandoned their aircraft. After a while the noun bailout was formed meaning to abandon a harmful of dangerous enterprise, and later to describe paying money to save an enterprise because of fear of disastrous consequences.—this meaning of the word was used frequently when the government bailed out savings and loan associations in 1989.

2. Check out. (foreign phrase>misinterpretation of it>noun>verb>phrasal verb)The word check comes from the Persian word shah (shah mat meaning the king is dead is the origin of check mate in chess.) As a verb check first meant to restrict the movement of as in checking the king in chess. Gradually the verb also began to cover stopping temporarily to undergo some kind of official control or verification—thus check in and check out at a hotel or airport. Check gradually developed along with its impeded movement meaning, the meaning of verify as in go check on the baby, or check the time the film starts. The phrasal verb check out seems to partake of the “thoroughly, completely” meaning of out as in figure out, argue out. When a teenaged male suggests that another check out a passing female, the request signifies that the second one looks her over thoroughly to verify that she is indeed sexually attractive.

PHRASALVERBS I COULD NOT FIND ON MULTRANS

1. airbrush out-to remove the appearance of blemishes (however defined) for public display
2. amp up-to increase the power or emotional force of something
3. ante up-to contribute what is considered one’s due
4. bail on someone-to walk out on someone, or refuse to do what you have promised or owe
5. bake into-to make something an inherent part of something, used especially as a past participle adjective
6. bake off-originally a baking contest, used for a final round of any competition where products of any kind are compared
7. barrel into-to collide with or confront suddenly and violently
8. barrel through-to move quickly and determinedly through a process, possibly without considering any possible subtleties or obstacles
9. bat away-to avoid (topics) without dealing with them—generally in public and repeatedly
10. bleach out-no figurative definition found-probably to remove the appearance of “stains” interpreted metaphorically
11. blow past-to move forward quickly and recklessly, ignoring all inherent dangers, objections or prohibitions
12. blow through—either the same as blow past or to go through resources quickly and recklessly
13. bone up on-to master or at least try to master relevant information quickly
14. bottom out-to reach the lowest point in a situation, after which you begin to improve. Compare with the seemingly opposite top off or up-to refill a drink or other container so that it is again full
15. brace for – (here the phrasal makes the usually transitive verb an intransitive with reflexive meaning)-prepare oneself physically or mentally for some unpleasant and jarring event
16. breakout – noun and adjective a or pertaining to a sudden marked improvement; adjective only used to describe a session at a meeting or similar, where a smaller group convenes separately for discussion
17. breeze by-to pass by or consider something paying little attention (synonym: breeze past); not to be confused with breeze through which means to successfully pass a test or something similar with little problem
18. bristle at-to take sudden offense at something said or done by another
19. brush past-similar to breeze by (note all of these can refer to something given little attention in any way, for example, a perfunctory mention in a speech)
20. bubble up-to become stronger of manifest, especially after suppression
21. buckle up – used figuratively to mean: get ready to be shocked or otherwise strongly affected
22. build on itself-to increase by virtue of internal energy
23. bum out-to thoroughly upset or distress someone
24. burst onto-usually followed by “the scene”; to suddenly gain significant attention, fame or recognition
25. buttoned down-past participle only: conservatively traditional or conventional; especially : adhering to conventional norms in dress and behavior.
26. buzz about - noun phrase a great deal of talk in the media and elsewhere about a person or subject
27. come down, comedown (noun) loss of prestige or face;
28. come down to-ultimately amount to no more than
29. come off as; give the impression of being
30. come off it!—(interjection) stop pretending or lying
31. call (someone) out—call attention to someone’s unacceptable actions or behavior
32. camp out (especially on someone’s doorstep)-to persistently contact or accost someone in order to break down resistance to e.g. providing information
33. cap off (by, or with)-to complete or finish something with or by, most frequently with a particularly bad or (less often) good measure or step
34. chalk up to-ascribe to
35. check out-most modern usage (not the only one) to look over another person in order to assess or admire sexual attractiveness
36. chewed up-in very bad shape, physically or mentally; chew out-means to scold harshly
37. chill out-to relax; as an imperative: take it easy! relax
38. chip away-relentlessly little by little erode or weaken something
39. choke up-to be unable to speak because of tears or strong emotion; may also be used, with or without up, to mean be unable to act at a crucial point because of anxiety or other emotion
40. chuck off-to expel someone from a place, position or relationship
41. chisel away-to diminish something little by little
42. chisel someone out of-to cheat someone out of something
43. churn through-go through a process or task steadily in a somewhat mechanical fashion
44. coax out-to persuade someone to do or give one something through persistent flattery, pleading etc. By analogy to get a machine or body of data to yield performance or information through steady manipulation.
45. comb through-to meticulous search a physical area or body of data
46. come around (change mind, be convinced)-to change one’s mind or opinion as a result of persuasion etc.
47. come up (e.g. empty)-despite attempts, to fail to produce a solution to a problem or the answer to a question (not one of the common meanings of come up)
48. comeuppance- due retribution, the bad fate someone deserves—seemingly unrelated to other meanings of come up
49. coming out (party)-originally the name of a party given to introduce young women of a marriageable age to society—currently probably refers to a celebration of someone’s revelation of a non-traditional sexual identity or some analog
50. count someone out-decide that someone is no longer a viable figure in what ever is being talked about—frequently used in the negative don’t count him (or her) out
51. countdown-(noun) enumeration or performance of the steps or preliminary events happening before or in preparation for a big event such as an election—may simply be a statement that the big event is close at hand.
52. cozy up-to ingratiate oneself with someone in order to achieve one’s own ends.
53. cracked up to be-phrases all or not all something is cracked up to be means that something does or does not live up to its general reputation
54. creep someone out-give someone a feeling of repulsion, fear, unease etc.
55. cue up-admonition to be prepared for whatever follows the verb-implication of a more or less staged performance
56. curl up-refers to a bent or reclining position of the body—can either imply relaxation (I just want to curl up with a good book) or fetal position adopted out of fear or embarrassment (I wanted to curl up and die)
57. cut something (legs, ground) out from under someone-to cause problems for someone usually by removing the support or justification for their ideas or actions
58. cut to (the chase)-hurry up and get to the main point of what you are saying (from advice to movie makers that chase scenes are the most attractive to audience.)
59. cut through—to directly solve or describe something that has been presented as complicated and difficult
60. dial (it) up-to make something more forceful or extreme
61. dial down-to reduce the level of tension in a situation-to calm things down
62. dig in (short for dig in one’s heels)-to be obstinate and refuse to compromise—not to be confused with imperative Dig in! start eating
63. dine out on –to obtain information or experience something so interesting to others that one’s invitation to dinner parties sharply increases (always used ironically)
64. ding up-to cause (or in passive sustain) minor injuries of any kind
65. dish out—to dispense something usually verbally and usually negative, e.g., criticism or gossip
66. ditch for- to abandon someone for someone else
67. divvy up-divide up with some connotation of illicit spoils
68. do over (noun)- a chance or request for the opportunity to redo something that one has failed at or messed up
69. dope out-to solve or figure out something—usually with at least some difficulty
70. double down-to significantly increase effort, investment or resolve especially after criticism or opposion
71. drive-by- adjective (from drive-by shooting) and act performed recklessly or carelessly without concern for consequences
72. drive down-to cause something to decrease significantly and rapidly
73. drool over-to feel great (sexual or other) desire for something
74. duke it out-to fight with directly physically or otherwise to resolve an issue
75. dumb down-to lower the level of difficulty of something with the implication that much of importance is thus lost
76. dust up-a quarrel or fight (usually not major)
77. edge out-defeat an opponent by a narrow margin or gradually gain an advantage over another
78. face off-(verb or noun) assume an attitude of confrontation especially at the beginning of a conflict
79. falling out (noun)-a quarrel or parting of the ways
80. fallout from-adverse side effects of a situation
81. fawn over-to give someone a great deal of flattery, attention etc., implied by the term not to be sincere
82. fed up-annoyed or upset with ongoing treatment or situation: note used only in the past participle in this meaning
83. feed off-to gain strength, energy, support etc. from some other situation or reaction
84. fess up-confess, somewhat ironic tone using mock rural register
85. fill in: ambiguous without word order: to fill in for someone is to substitute for someone in a particular role; to fill someone in is to provide someone with additional needed information.
86. fire up- to motivate someone; all fired up=highly motivated or enthusiastic
87. flip off-to express disdain for someone by or as if by making an obscene gesture (flip may be considered a euphemism)
88. fluff up-to artificial make something appear bigger, more attractive or more impressive
89. fly by- (noun) a very brief and nonsubstantive to a place by a public figure for the sake of appearances
90. fork over-to give someone something (usually money) reluctantly or under compulsion
91. f--- over-to badly exploit another person
92. futz around-to fool around (usually without accomplishing anything); to futz (around) with someone may mean to waste someone’s time (futz is a euphemism)
93. game out-(verb) to consider various alternative scenarios for action in order to decide which one will be the most advantageous
94. gavel in-to initiate something (usually a group proceeding) by the person with authority to do so
95. gavel down-to cut off or prevent discussion by a person with authority to do so
96. get out in front of-to be proactive, forestall problems
97. gin up-to create something, increase or exaggerate the utility or attractiveness of something, or to create excitement or enliven-frequently with implication or use of dubious or artificial means
98. gird for-to prepare oneself for something difficult (from the Biblical phrase gird one’s loins)
99. give of oneself-to unselfishly devote one’s time and energy to a cause
100. glom onto-to strongly attach or associate yourself with something, to adopt or take something as your own
101. go all in for-to stake everything on something
102. go at it –to attack one another strongly physically or verbally (short for go at it with hammer and tongs); may also be used as a euphemism for engaging in sex
103. go (up) against- to confront or oppose someone (be up against it-likely to confront severe difficulties or problems)
104. go-alongers-those who always or routinely express agreement with or follow the lead of others in general or a particular person or faction, without judging issues for themselves.
105. go around –in phrase (*not) enough to go around*-(in)sufficient for everyone in a group to partake
106. go around-in phrase *what goes around comes around*-what a person does or how he treats others will eventually be the way he is treated-what you sow, you will reap
107. go-between (noun)-intermediary, agent, etc.
108. go by – a person goes by a certain name-uses as his name
109. (will) go down in (history)-will be famed long-term-usually for something specific
110. go for (the jugular)-fight to kill or at least destroy
111. go-to (adjective)-used for a person or thing that is routinely sought out to solve a problem or for a particular purpose
112. gobble up-to eat greedily, to eagerly consume without necessarily destroying (as a piece of news), to engulf and destroy (as in a hostile takeover)
113. go off and do something--used in phrases like he just went off and started a company-you can’t just go off and hire someone because you like them-meaning seems to be do something suddenly and unexpectedly without preparation or consultation
114. gum up-ruin or bungle something
115. gut (it) out-to succeed or complete a task although it is terribly difficult/unpleasant
116. hand something off to someone-to pass a task you were doing to someone else
117. hand (e.g., the election) to make it possible for someone to win, posess etc. something without having to work for or earn it
118. hang in there-(imperative)-don’t give up, persevere
119. hash out-discuss or work out in great detail
120. head on (adjective-not based on verb)-through direct confrontation
121. hobnob with-socialize with/be on friendly terms with
122. hold forth-to speak lengthily, and probably tediously on some subject
123. hum along-to proceed smoothly and without problems (can also mean to accompany music by humming)
124. hung up on-while hand up on means to abruptly disconnect a call; the past participle hung up on, means obsessed by (probably to the point where progress is impeded) hang up (noun)-means and obsession usually a negative one
125. hunker down-nonphysical meaning- to be prepared to stay in a difficult situation until it is over-to stubbornly hold to an opinion despite opposition
126. keep someone up nights, does or does not—bother (or not bother) someone greatly
127. kick in-begin to take effect
128. kiss up to-act sycophantic to
129. knock it off-to easily and quickly accomplish some task-imperative: stop it (rather impolitely
130. knock it out of (the park)-baseball metaphor—perform a particular thing brilliantly (hit a homerun)
131. lay down the law-assert something assertively and dogmatically especially to people over whom one has authority
132. lace into-vehemently attack (someone) or less often some problem
133. lead with-to start with something, as put a story first in the newspaper; may have connotations of the boxing term lead with the right (or left) and so suggest the first (or emphasized) move in an attack
134. lean in-be assertive, attempt to lead not follow—especially addressed to women (from the title of a recent bestseller)
135. leave someone for—to dessert a partnership or association in order to form an analogous one with another person or organization
136. limp along-progress or continue slowly and with considerable difficulty
137. line up behind-for a significant number of people to voice usually unqualified support of a candidate or position (implication is that they may well have been organized to do so)
138. lineup (noun)-either an ordered set of people waiting for something or scheduled to do something (such as bat in baseball) may also be a reference a line of people presented to crime victims or witnesses for identification, in which case with rather negative connotations
139. locked in-committed to something, as a binding agreement
140. lurch toward-approach inexorably either in an awkward way or with the implication of something monstrous approaching
141. mail it in-To deliver a performance without commitment or effort, with lackluster results
142. makeover-a transformation meant to be for the better of the appearance and possibly other qualities of someone or something-with regard to a public figure may imply superficial changes
143. man up-especially imperative, show courage forbearance, etc. in a difficult situation-may be used ironically or perceived as antifeminist
144. mashup-a mixture or fusion of disparate elements, may or may not have negative connotations
145. max out-reach a point where no more profit or benefit can be expected without significant changes or added resource
146. melt down-(noun primarily) a disastrous event such as a stock market crash or nuclear reactor failure, also an extreme emotional reaction/breakdown-usually temporary
147. mix it up-to engage in a quarrel or fist fight
148. morph into-to transform into something different-frequently used with irony with respect to the fundamental or permanent nature of the change
149. move beyond-throw off or grow past the effects of something negative
150. move on her (put a move on her)-attempt to seduce or pick up a woman—may be used for non-sexual seduction in which case him is also appropriate
151. paint into—only in the idiom paint into a corner (although possibly some near analog of corner might be used with the same meaning-similarly another verb might be substituted for paint e.g. talk oneself into a corner) to create a predicament or unpleasant situation for oneself whereby there are no or very few favorable solutions or outcomes.
152. pare back-reduce the amount of, usually gradually by smallish amounts
153. patch together-to create something by (usually carelessly or even recklessly) putting together components from different sources. Note: patch up means to fix, resolve, or cure.
154. payback-(noun or adjective) may mean any direct result including the return of a loan but usually used in the negative sense of revenge
155. peel away-may mean to remove from the surface of something, particularly a misleading appearance or to quickly and vehemently separate oneself from a group
156. peel back-reverse a policy
157. pent up-adjective-(pent is the past participle of pen = put in an enclosure)-repressed, held in check, with the implication that as time goes on the repression process becomes more difficult
158. perk up-to become or make more lively, cheerful, or vigorous
159. pick oneself up – by one’s own efforts recover from a setback (pickmeup (noun) a tonic or food or drink that provides energy or mood elevation)
160. pick-up (noun)-1)an increase or improvement-2) (noun or verb) an attempt (or make an attempt) to address an attractive stranger and convince them to consider you as a potential romantic partner-3) (adjective or noun) a type of small open-bed truck
161. pick up (lift)-to lift, increase or improve
162. picked over (adjective)-of a group of things on offer-already considered by a number of people so that what remains is of potentially poor quality
163. pine for-miss or long for something or someone
164. play for – to work to further the interests of a particular team (metaphorically defined) or individual
165. play someone for-to manipulate someone and make a fool or dupe of them-usually phrase ends for a fool but another similar word, such as dupe, idiot may be used
166. play itself out-of a situation to develop until nothing more can happen and thus become of little importance
167. play into someone’s hands-do something or act in some way that rather than benefitting you helps an opponent or competitor
168. play to (a group of people)-to perform or behave in a particular way in order to earn the approval of a specific group of people
169. plug away at-to continue working at something in a determined way despite difficulties
170. plugged in (adjective)- up to date; aware of the latest developments or trends.
171. pony up-pay or provide a stipulated amount of money for something-frequently used as an imperative
172. power past/power through-to devote a great deal of effort and/or energy to solving a seemingly insurmountable problem?? no definition on internet
173. pushback noun-resistance or opposition in response to a policy or regulation especially by those affected (verb used in same sense)
174. pushover (noun) a person or obstacle that is very easy to overcome or fool
175. push for-advocate strongly
176. pussyfoot around-to behave or speak in an annoying cautious evasive way
177. put away–to discard or get rid of including through killing; to eat or drink a large amount
178. put off -to postpone-to repel, or at least disconcert; but offputting (adjective)is only repellant disconcerting
179. put something over on someone-to successfully deceive or fool someone
180. ramp up-increase (relatively new usage)
181. ratchet down-to reduce in controlled stages over a period of time-ratchet up is used the same way
182. reach out-to try to help other people, or to contact someone in order to get something (may be something nefarious) accomplished-outreach (noun) provision of services to people in need of them
183. reel in—to attract or gain control of someone or something, possibly through deceptive means
184. resonate with –to evoke shared emotions, beliefs, opinions etc.(note rare use of verb of Latin origin in a phrasal)
185. riff off –to improvise variations of something
186. rile up –to make someone excited and angry
187. roll along-to move forward easily and rapidly without
188. roll-out –implementation or introduction of something
189. roll over –to stop showing resistance and do what someone else wants
190. root against-to verbally and otherwise wish for and encourage the defeat of someone or something you oppose
191. rough up – to use physical violence or force against someone ( may also be used for vehement non-physical offense) Compare to rough out-to make a preliminary, unfinished plan for something
192. round out-to add to completing and or enhancing something-round off has a similar meaning but emphasizes adding an enhancing detail to something more or less complete
193. round up-to gather together or organize a group of people or things
194. run away with-to be the overwhelmingly best participant in something
195. rundown-(noun) an summary of something that happened in order to bring someone up to date-rundown (adjective) of a person, tired and with depleted energy and other resources
196. run-up (noun)- the period of time leading up to an event or occurence
197. run with it-To take the initiative to do something independently
198. scale back-to reduce something by degrees
199. salivate over-to be very excited or interested in/about something-elegant way to say drool over
200. screw around-to engage in frivolous or aimlessly activity-to aimlessly tinker with something-screw around with someone means, harass, deceive or bother someone usually for one’s own amusement
201. scuff up-to make something that was previous shiny and new looking look worn out and tarnished
202. seep in- to enter someone’s consciousness or thoughts very slowly through constant exposure
203. serve up-to offer or provide food or some experience
204. shill for-to publicly aid or give credibility to a person or organization without disclosing a close relationship with the person or organization.
205. shoo in-(noun) a person or team considered certain to win a competition of some sort
206. shout-out-a public announcement of thanks to someone (who need not be present)
207. showdown-(noun) the final confrontation between two opponents in which only one can be winner
208. show up-1) to appear or be visible 2) to embarrass or humiliate someone by defeating him or revealing something negative about him
209. shutout-to defeat an opponent without allowing him to score a single point
210. sit-down –a face to face meeting for discussion, frequently between opposing sides
211. sit on (one’s hands)-take no action or refuse to take any
212. skate by-to do or achieve something easily with minimal effort
213. slam into-to suddenly and forcefully attack someone (not necessarily physically)
214. slated for-scheduled to do something or considered extremely likely to do it
215. slink away-depart furtively or as a result of being humiliated
216. snap back-1) to quickly give an angry response to an insult, statement etc. 2) to quickly return to one’s original good state after a setback
217. sniff at- to dismiss or belittle someone or something as being not worthwhile, important, or valuable.
218. sock away-to save or reserve something (money especially) for future use or in case of emergency
219. spiral down-decrease, worsen rapidly
220. sputter along-function awkwardly, inefficiently or badly but continue to function
221. squeak by –to succeed, survive etc. by a very narrow margin
222. stacked against- adjective-(have odds or cards stacked against one) not likely to win or succeed in some other way
223. standoff-noun – a stalemate, deadlock or impasse between opponents 2) standoffish-of a person-distant, cold, unfriendly
224. stand on (e.g. principle) scrupulously adhere to
225. stand up - 1) (followed by two) withstand criticism, argument or of a physical object rough treatment; 2) to fail to keep an appointment with someone without apology or explanation. 3) stand-up (adjective) usually followed by guy-someone who is and willing to fight to defend his friends 4)upstanding (adjective)-honest and respectable
226. stay put –not precisely a phrasal though put acts something like an adverb-frequently imperative-stay where you are now or have been asked to be; (of objects) remain where they are
227. step aside-to voluntarily relinquish –a position or role allowing someone else to assume it
228. stick by-remain loyal to a position or commitment
229. stick it to-defeat, confront, or damage an opponent or competitor or enemy
230. stitch together-to create something out of different components (less negative than patch together)
231. stiffed by-adjective-cheated or deprived by someone of something owed, expected or promised
232. suck it up –to stick with or endure something despite attendant unpleasant or painful features
233. suck up to-behave obsequiously, especially for one's own advantage. Crude possibly obscene
234. swipe at - to harshly attack someone verbally –but swipe left or right-to reject or accept respectively something or someone (from the potential match acceptance procedure on the Tinder website)
235. switch out-to exchange something (or someone) for an alternative
236. swoon over-to be very emotionally effect by one’s admiration for someone or something
237. swoop in –to arrive suddenly in to do something or try to do something
238. takeaway (noun)-a useful or important piece(s) of information/lesson derived from usually a meeting, class, or lecture
239. take down – to make a scathing and effective verbal attack on someone-takedown (noun) such an attack
240. talk down to someone-to speak to someone as if that person is less intelligent or capable than you are or than appropriate-to talk someone down-to verbally calm someone in a highly emotional state or high on drugs
241. tear (someone) down-to severely criticize or degrade someone either to their face or to another person
242. tear into-attack verbally-2) make an enthusiastic start on something e.g. eating
243. throw oneself at-to try too hard and obviously to attract the attention of (usually someone one is sexually attracted to)
244. throw in with someone or something-to join someone's activity or enterprise; to become associated with someone or something.
245. tick down-to gradually approach the zero hour for something
246. ticked up –to increase gradually by small amounts at a time-uptick – one such increase
247. tiptoe around-o be very [careful](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/careful) about how you [behave](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/behave) toward someone because you are [afraid](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/afraid) of [offending](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/offending) or [annoying](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/annoying) them 2) to avoid talking about or dealing with a problem
248. tilt toward a preference, if not an overwhelming one, for something or someone
249. toggle back-to change back to a previous choice or position
250. tone down-make something less extreme or severe
251. toss aside-to rather lightly reject or abandon something a principle, conviction or person that had previously seemed important
252. trickle down-gradually help the poorest in a society by concentrating on increase the wealth of the riches
253. turn on someone-to suddenly attack or harshly criticize someone to whom you had previously treated positively 2) turn someone on-make someone excited about something (frequently sexually)
254. unload on someone-either pass an unpleasant or burdensome task or responsibility to someone else-or burden someone by excessively speaking to them of your problems
255. usher in: of an event to signal or be the beginning of something new, e.g., a new era
256. vault to e.g. the front/top–to advance to the front of a set of competitors, frequently “over the heads” of other who had previous been favored over you
257. waffle over-to keep changing your mind over a significant issue-or to repeatedly say one thing and then something that contradicts it
258. wakeup adjective in wakeup call-something that serves to alert a person to a problem, danger, or need
259. walk back-to retreat from or distance oneself from (a previously stated opinion or position)
260. walk someone through something-to carefully step by step explain a procedure or complex idea to someone
261. waltz through-to complete or do something usually considered difficult with relatively little effort or difficulty
262. wander off-to lose attention or when speaking go off topic
263. whale on-to criticize someone harshly-or actually beat them
264. wilt under (usually pressure but could be something else such as scrutiny)-to lose resolve and be weakened by whatever the object is
265. wink at-to pretend not to see something; condone or at least fail to condemn something wrong
266. wipe out-verb to lose control and fail; noun an instance of this
267. yoke oneself to-to firmly associate oneself to something or someone, either actually or in the public eye

TWENTY FIRST CENTURY PHRASAL VERBS

Here is a list of some of the newest phrasal verbs in current use with their meanings and the date their usage peaked by 2008 (Google Ngram only goes up that far).

1. Mouse over-to pass ones’ computer cursor over something on a screen using the mouse. 2008
2. Man up-to start behaving in a strong and courageous (manly) way. 2008
3. Woman up-to start behaving in a strong and courageous way addressed to a woman.2008.
4. Buttoned up-conservative and possibly inhibited. 2008
5. Peace out-to experience and altered peaceful state of consciousness, as an imperative may simply mean goodbye-2008
6. Clap back- To respond vehemently to an insult or criticism, sometimes in a vengeful manner. 2008
7. Give back-to perform work for the good of others or society, typically without reward 2008
8. Peace out-to experience an altered peaceful state of consciousness, as an imperative may simply mean goodbye-2008
9. Pay it forward-(from the title of a 2000 movie)-return the good that has been done to one by doing good to a another person 2008
10. Bring it on-imperative: a challenge acceptance of a challenge or defiant reply to a threat 2008
11. Swipe left/right-From the tinder dating site procedure for using the cursor to indicate whether one is willing to date or wants to reject a potential candidate-right is accept, left is reject-swipe left means reject something proposed 2008
12. Lean in-from a book title-be assertive, seek to lead. Especially when addressed to a woman. 2007.
13. Screw someone over-to cheat someone or ruin his or her chances at something. 2007.
14. Send-up-an imitation of someone intended asridicule-2007
15. Weirded out-feeling thoroughly uneasy and uncomfortable as a result of exposure to something. 2007.
16. Clawback- finding a way to take money back from people that they had been given in another way;2007
17. Grossed out- feeling thoroughly disgusted as a result of exposure to something.2007
18. Green up-make more ecologically acceptable-2007.
19. Geek out to become enthusiastically immersed in some technical subject-or to talk incessantly about it-2007
20. Dumb down-make something simpler and easier to understand. 2007.
21. Walk back- To withdraw or **back**-pedal on a statement or promise; retract. 2007
22. Lawyer up-to hire one or more lawyers in anticipation of a foreseen need to be legally represtented-2007
23. Takeaway-the useful lesson or principle one learns from an event or story.2005, 2007
24. Shoutout-noun, a public expression of thanks or admiration for someone- 2006.
25. Stressed out- under or feeling so much stress that one is in a state of (near) desperation 2006
26. Knockoff-a cheap imitation of an expensive brand of something usually clothing-2006
27. Edge out-to gradually become more popular or successful than an opponent or rival-2006
28. Voiceover-a piece of narration in a movie or broadcast, not accompanied by an image of the speaker 2006
29. Phone (it) in – To perform ones work or obligation in a less than wholehearted manner. 2005
30. Mike up-to supply someone or oneself with a microphone 2005
31. Glom onto-to become very enthusiastic about something, seize upon it, or appropriate it as your own 2005
32. Listen up-imperative-used to get the attention of a noisy or otherwise inattentive group
33. Game out-To consider various scenarios so as to foresee what decisions will likely to lead to what further decisions or actions, especially those of an opponent-2004
34. Flip off- to give someone the finger either metaphorically or actually -2004
35. Butt out-imperative usually: stop interfering/ this is none of your business-2003
36. Big up-to praise someone 2001
37. Sitdown a long meeting between the leaders of two parties, nations or factions. 2000
38. Baked in-incorporated as an integral part.-2000
39. Butt out-imperative usually: stop interfering/ this is none of your business-2003
40. Scroll down (up)-to move down (up) a screen of a computer or cell phone 2003
41. Click-through is the process or fact of a visitor **clicking** on a web advertisement and going to the advertiser's Web site.2002
42. Tip off-to give someone secret or private information about an impending action that give them an advantage or helps them avoid a disadvantage-2001
43. Driveby-of a shooting, shooting at someone from a moving car and then escaping-2001
44. Hack into-to gain unauthorized entry into a computer system. 2002
45. Key in-to enter something into a computer or similar device by means of a keyboard or keypad 2002
46. Mellow out-become more tolerant and calm-2003
47. pop-up/popup-adjective denoting a store or other business that opens quickly in a temporary location and is intended to operate for only a short period of time.2003 2004
48. Double down-to increases one’s investment or vehemence in the face of a challenge, opposition or threat 2000

More verbs peaking between 2000 and 2008 (note numbers based on usages in books only)

1. airbrush out 2003
2. amp up 2006
3. bail on s.o. 2005
4. bake into 2007
5. barrel into 2003
6. barrel through 2005
7. bat away 2007
8. blow past 2008
9. blow through 2008
10. bone up on 2003
11. brace for 2003
12. breakout 2005
13. breeze by 2008
14. bristle at 2003
15. brush past 2006
16. bubble up 2006
17. bundle for 2004
18. burst onto 2004
19. buttoned down 2005
20. buzz about 2008
21. come off as 2005
22. camp out 2008
23. cap off by 2007
24. check out 2005
25. chill out 2007
26. chip away 2006
27. choke up 2008
28. chucked off 2008
29. chisel away 2001
30. comb through 2005
31. come up empty 2005
32. comeuppance 2005
33. coming out 2008
34. countdown 2003
35. course through 2008
36. cozy up 2005
37. cue up 2003
38. curl up 2005
39. cut through 2008
40. dial it up 2001
41. dial down 2008
42. dig in 2007
43. dine out on 2005
44. dish out 2005
45. ditch for 2008
46. fired up 2005
47. fork over 2002
48. f--- over 2005
49. futz with 2005
50. game out 2008
51. gavel in 2003
52. gavel down 2006
53. get out in front 2007
54. gin up 2008
55. glom onto 2005
56. go at it 2008
57. go by 2008
58. go-to 2008
59. go off and (do something) 2008
60. gum up 2004
61. hang in there 2005
62. line up behind 2003
63. lurch toward 2002
64. makeover 2008
65. mashup 2007
66. max out 2003
67. melt down 200t
68. mix it up 2005&7
69. morph into 2002
70. move beyond 2002
71. paint into 2003
72. pare back 2001
73. patch together 2003
74. payback 2005
75. peel away 2003
76. peel back 2007
77. pent up 2008
78. hash out 2004
79. hold forth 2008
80. hum along 2005
81. hung up on 2005
82. hunker down 2005
83. kick in 2005
84. knock it off 2008
85. laid down the law 2008
86. lead with 2008
87. lean in 2007
88. pine for 2008
89. play for 2005
90. play (itself) out 2001
91. play into 2007
92. play to 2008
93. plugged in 2003
94. pony up 2007
95. power through 2000
96. pushback 2007
97. pussyfoot around 2002
98. ramp up 2007
99. reach out 2005
100. resonate with 2007
101. ride around 2005
102. riff off (not noted before 2008)
103. rile up 2003
104. roll along 2008
105. roll all over 2003
106. roll out 2007
107. rolled up 2008
108. roll over 2002
109. root against 2005
110. round up 2005
111. ran away with 2008
112. rundown 2005
113. run-up 2007
114. run with 2005
115. scale back 2002
116. salivate over 2006
117. screw around 2003
118. serve up 2003
119. shill for 2007
120. shoo in 2007
121. showdown 2005
122. show up 2004
123. shut out 2008
124. skate by 2004
125. slam into 2005
126. slingshot into 2004
127. slink away 2008
128. snap back 2003
129. sniff at 2008
130. sock away 2004
131. sock into 2005
132. spiral down 200
133. squeak by 2003
134. stacked against 2007
135. stand apart 2008
136. standalone 2008
137. standoff 2004
138. stand on 2008
139. stay put 2003
140. step all over 2003-4
141. step aside 2008
142. stick by 2008
143. stick it to 2005
144. stitch together 2004
145. stiffed by 2003
146. suck up 2007
147. suck up to 2005
148. swipe at 2006
149. switch out 2002
150. swoon over 2002
151. swoop in 2006
152. takeaway 2008
153. take down 2005
154. tear down 2008
155. tear into 2002
156. throw (oneself ) at 2008
157. tick down 2004
158. ticked up 2008
159. tiptoe around 2005
160. toggle back 2002
161. unload on 2004
162. vault to the front 2008
163. waffle over 2003
164. wakeup call 2006
165. walk back 2006
166. waltz through 2008
167. weave into 2008
168. wilt under 2008
169. wink at 2008
170. wipe out 2003
171. yoke…to (2008)

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| Phrasal verb | Sport or Game | General Meaning |
| 1. angle for | Fishing | to deviously try to attain some advantage or goal; from to fish with a hook |
| 1. ante up | Poker or other games where participants must put money in a common pot | to contribute required share one’s share to a group game or project, usually but not always of money. |
| 1. bat around | Baseball and possibly Cricket | to offer and discuss the pros and cons of various options before settling on a plan; usually referring to a group of people |
| 1. bounce back | Any game involving a ball | to recover from an illness or setback rapidly |
| 1. bowl over | Bowling | to physically knock someone over as if a pin by a bowling ball; to stun or amaze someone leaving them metaphorically speechless |
| 1. bulk up | Weight Lifting and Physical Combat Sports | to intentionally (usually) or unintentionally add significant weight to one’s body, preferably in muscle |
| 1. call off | Games which can be officially cancelled by officials | to order or put an end to an event, procedure, etc. |
| 1. cash in | Gambling games involving chips | to exchange one’s winning or other valuable non-monetary assets for money |
| 1. chalk up | Billiards, Pool | to accumulate indicators of success; to attribute; from the practice of keeping score using chalk |
| 1. chip in | Gambling games involving chips | to contribute to a joint enterprise; differs from ante up because the chipping in is framed as voluntary |
| 1. clean up | Gambling games | to be very successful in a monetary sense, take all the prizes; from a winning gambler sweeping up all the money or chips left on a table |
| 1. count (someone) out | Boxing | to decide that someone or oneself is no longer a contender or participant; from the practice of counting to 10 to decide if a fallen combatant has officially lost a match |
| 1. deal someone in | Card games | to allow someone to participate in a joint endeavor |
| 1. do over | Any sport or game where participants take turns | to repeat an attempt that has failed especially; more common as noun that verb |
| 1. double down | Blackjack (card game) | to increase the vehemence of an assertion usually after it has been subjected to criticism or doubt |
| 1. face off | Ice Hockey | to confront one or more opponents directly in confrontation. from the opening face to face position in ice hockey |
| 1. fake out | Basketball | to deceive someone as to your motivations or intentions; in basketball to use body language to trick an opposing player as to what your next move might be (possibly general meaning preceded sports use) |
| 1. ferret out | Hunting | to discover something through thorough and persistent effort; from use of ferrets to flush out prey |
| 1. flush out | Hunting | to force or trick someone to reveal concealed or secret truths or intentions: from the hunting practice of scaring concealed birds to fly up making them easier to hunt |
| 1. follow through | Golf and other sports requiring strokes | to pursue to the end; check up on a task even after it seems to be completed; from the recommended practice of continuing the arc of a stroke after the ball is hit |
| 1. go over | Tennis and other games involving nets | be received (well or badly) by the intended recipient(s) (of particularly a speech or idea) |
| 1. hand off | Relay racing, Football | to transfer the responsibility for a task to a colleague |
| 1. hooked on | Fishing | addicted to, either literally or metaphorically |
| 1. keel over | Sailing | to faint or fall down; from the capsizing of a boat |
| 1. knuckle down | Marbles | to apply oneself conscientiously to a task; from the position assumed when shooting a marble |
| 1. kick off | Football | to formally start a project of event; from the first play in a football game |
| 1. letter in | Any sport played by high school or college athletes | to succeed or specialize in an activity; from the insignia (usually the first letter of the school name) awarded to successful school team members |
| 1. line up | Baseball | Noun: the order of a sequence of future participants or events; from the projected order in which team members will bat |
| 1. loaded against | Games involving dice | having the chances of success naturally or unfairly not in one’s favor; from loaded (unevenly weighted) dice |
| 1. nose out | Horse racing | to defeat someone for something by the smallest margin; from horses being said to win “by a nose” |
| 1. play for | Any team game | to have allegiance to or act in the interests of any formal or informal group, e.g. a political party |
| 1. play off | Many sports | to decide the winner of a competitive situation by one final winner-take-all contest; more common as a noun than as a verb |
| 1. pit against | Bear baiting or other animal contest sports | to put (or be) in a situation of over competition or combat: from sporting events involving fighting animals taking place in pits from which combatants could not escape |
| 1. rain out | Baseball | to cancel something because of weather or other uncontrollable circumstances |
| 1. rake off | Casino games | to take an illegal or unfair percentage of earned or paid money; from the rake used in casinos to clear a table of chips |
| 1. reel in | Fishing | to attract/obtain/tempt by employing  a series of steps or ploys |
| 1. root for | Games that attract audiences and fans | to favor one side or another in any competition; originally referred to making loud encouraging noises but in general use need not refer to producing any sound |
| 1. rope in | Rodeo | to persuade someone to take part in an activity generally at least somewhat against their will |
| 1. run off | Track?? | See “play off,” used almost exclusively for election results |
| 1. sail through | Sailing | to go through some procedure (possibly considered challenging) very smoothly and without difficulty |
| 1. shut out | Baseball | to prevent an opponent in any situation from gaining even the slightest advantage over you; to win all that is available to be won |
| 1. stacked against | Cards | See loaded against. Definitely from the concept of a stacked deck (card deck unfairly arranged in favor of one player) |
| 1. stack up against | Cards?? | to measure up against a competitor or opponent; possibly either from a stack of cards or a pile of chips on a gaming table |
| 1. strike out | Baseball | completely fail to achieve one’s objective |
| 1. tee off | Golf | to start an endeavor (Note: the phrase teed off meaning annoyed is probably of euphemistic origin and not related.) |
| 1. toss up | Coin tossing | to decide an outcome or confer an advantage on the basis of tossing a coin; used as a noun to describe outcomes with even odds of occurrence |
| 1. touchdown | Football | used to as a noun to describe a major even spectacular success |
| 1. track down | Hunting | to find after sustained effort or discover the truth after similar effort |
| 1. trot out | Horse racing | to bring out or show for the purpose of inspection or admiration; from roses being taken out to display to the race spectators |
| 1. weigh in | Boxing, Wrestling | to add your opinion or comment; from the need for certain sports combatants to be weighed before the compete |
| 1. wipe out | Surfing | to fail utterly; from term used for being swept off your surfboard |
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