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Most Common Phrasal Verbs in English

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Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
pick up		to lift something	Pick up the pencil.
take off		to remove clothing or for a plane to begin flight	Please take off your shoes before entering.
get out		to leave a place, vehicle, or situation	I need to get out of this boring meeting.
turn off		to stop a machine or device from operating	Could you turn off the lights when you leave?
go on		to continue or happen	The show must go on despite the rain.
come back		to return to a place	I'll come back home before midnight.
look up		to search for information (in a dictionary or online)	I need to look up that word's meaning.
find out		to discover or learn new information	She found out the truth about the accident.
set up		to arrange or establish something	They set up the tent quickly before sunset.
get up		to rise from bed or stand up	I usually get up at 6 a.m.
come on		used to encourage someone or express disbelief	Come on, you can do it!
go out		to leave home for social activities	Let's go out for dinner tonight.
turn out		to result in a particular way	The party turned out better than expected.
take out		to remove something from a place or take someone somewhere	Can you take out the trash?
put on		to dress oneself in clothing	He put on his jacket and left.
work out		to exercise or find a solution	I work out at the gym three times a week.
show up		to arrive or appear, often unexpectedly	He finally showed up late for the meeting.
take on		to accept a responsibility or challenge	She took on the task of organizing the event.
bring up		to mention a topic or raise a child	Don't bring up politics at dinner.
look out		to be careful or watch for danger	Look out! There's a car coming.
give up		to stop trying or surrender	I won't give up until I succeed.
carry out		to perform or complete a task	The team carried out the experiment successfully.
end up		to eventually be in a particular situation	We ended up staying home due to rain.
grow up		to become an adult	When I grow up, I want to be a doctor.
figure out		to understand or solve something	I can't figure out how to fix this error.
point out		to draw attention to something	She pointed out the mistake in the report.
move in		to start living in a new home	They moved in next door yesterday.
go back		to return to a previous place or state	Let's go back to the earlier topic.
come up		to arise, appear, or be mentioned	A new problem came up during the meeting.
turn up		to appear or increase volume	He didn't turn up for work this morning.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
make up		to invent, compose, or reconcile	She made up a story to explain her lateness.
get back		to return to a place or regain something	I'll get back to you with an answer later.
take over		to assume control or responsibility	The new manager will take over next week.
break up		to end a relationship or separate	They decided to break up after years of fighting.
run out		to be used up or exhausted	We ran out of milk, can you buy some?
hold up		to delay or block something	Traffic held us up for an hour.
shut down		to close or cease operations	The factory shut down due to low demand.
turn on		to start a machine or become hostile	Please turn on the air conditioning.
check out		to examine, leave a hotel, or borrow from library	I need to check out this book from the library.
bring in		to introduce or earn money	They brought in a new policy to improve sales.
show off		to display proudly or boastfully	He loves to show off his new car.
come out		To be revealed or become known.	The truth finally came out after years of secrecy.
go through		To experience or examine something thoroughly.	She went through a difficult time after the accident.
look for		To search for something or someone.	I'm looking for my keys, have you seen them?
put out		To extinguish something or inconvenience someone.	Please put out your cigarette before entering.
pick out		To choose or select from a group.	He picked out the ripest tomatoes at the market.
take up		To start a new hobby or occupy space/time.	She took up painting to relax after work.
set out		To begin a journey or task with intention.	They set out early to avoid traffic.
get off		To leave a vehicle or avoid punishment.	We need to get off the bus at the next stop.
turn down		To refuse an offer or reduce volume.	He turned down the job offer because of the low salary.
break down		To stop functioning or lose control emotionally.	My car broke down on the highway yesterday.
call off		To cancel an event or plan.	The match was called off due to heavy rain.
go up		To increase or be built.	Gas prices have gone up again this week.
bring out		To reveal or make something noticeable.	That dress really brings out the color of your eyes.
carry on		To continue doing something.	Please carry on with your work while I'm away.
come in		To enter a place or become available.	Come in and make yourself comfortable.
hold on		To wait or grip something tightly.	Hold on a moment, I'll check my schedule.
look after		To take care of someone or something.	Can you look after my cat while I'm away?
put back		To return something to its original place.	Please put the books back on the shelf.
run off		To leave quickly or produce copies.	The kids ran off to play in the park.
sit down		To move from standing to sitting.	Let's sit down and discuss the issue calmly.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
stand up		To rise from a seated position.	Everyone stood up when the judge entered.
take back		To return something or retract a statement.	I take back what I said earlier; I was wrong.
turn around		To change direction or improve a situation.	The company turned around its finances dramatically.
work on		To try to improve or complete something.	I need to work on my presentation skills.
write down		To record something in writing.	Write down the address before you forget it.
go off		To explode, ring, or spoil.	The alarm went off at 6 AM sharp.
come down		To descend or decrease.	Prices usually come down after the holidays.
put down		To place something down or insult someone.	Put down your luggage and rest for a while.
get along		To have a good relationship with someone.	Do you get along with your coworkers?
look around		To explore or search an area visually.	We looked around the new store for an hour.
pass out		To lose consciousness or distribute items.	He passed out from the heat during the hike.
pull up		To bring to a stop or retrieve information.	The car pulled up right in front of the house.
send out		To distribute or dispatch something.	We sent out invitations to all our friends.
set off		To start a journey or trigger something.	We set off on our road trip at dawn.
step up		To increase effort or take more responsibility.	You need to step up your game if you want to win.
take apart		To disassemble or criticize severely.	He took apart the engine to find the problem.
throw away		To discard something as trash.	Don't throw away those bottles; recycle them.
turn over		To flip or transfer control.	Turn over the page to see the next chapter.
watch out		To be careful or cautious.	Watch out! There's a car coming.
clean up		To tidy or make something clean.	Let's clean up the kitchen after dinner.
bring back		to return something or make something return	Can you bring back the book you borrowed?
cut off		to stop the supply of something, or to interrupt	The storm cut off electricity to the whole neighborhood.
fill out		to complete a form with information	Please fill out this application before the interview.
hang up		to end a phone call	She hung up before I could explain.
pay off		to finish paying money owed, or to bring success	Hard work usually pays off in the end.
wake up		to stop sleeping	I wake up at six every morning.
dress up		to wear formal or special clothes	We need to dress up for the wedding.
drop off		to take someone or something to a place, or to decrease	I'll drop off the kids at school on my way to work.
fall apart		to break into pieces or stop working properly	The old chair fell apart when I sat on it.
get over		to recover from an illness or upset	It took her weeks to get over the flu.
hang out		to spend time relaxing with friends	We used to hang out at the mall after school.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
keep up		to move at the same speed, or to continue	It's hard to keep up with all the new technology.
let down		to disappoint someone	I promise I won't let you down this time.
log in		to enter your name and password to access a computer	You need to log in to check your email.
pay back		to return money that was borrowed	Can I pay you back next week?
put off		to delay doing something	Don't put off your homework until the last minute.
run into		to meet someone by chance, or to hit something	I ran into an old friend at the grocery store.
slow down		to reduce speed	Slow down! You're driving too fast.
start out		to begin a journey or activity	We started out early to avoid traffic.
throw out		to discard something no longer needed	I need to throw out these old magazines.
try on		to put on clothes to see if they fit or look good	She tried on several dresses before choosing one.
use up		to consume completely, leaving none	We used up all the milk, so I'll buy more.
wait up		to stay awake until someone arrives	My parents used to wait up for me when I was a teenager.
warm up		to prepare the body for exercise, or to heat food	Always warm up before you start running.
move on		to leave the past behind and start something new	It's time to move on and forget about the argument.
write up		to write a report or description of something	The officer will write up a report of the accident.
add up		to calculate the total, or to seem logical	These numbers just don't add up.
blow up		to explode, or to inflate, or to become angry	The bomb didn't blow up as planned.
break out		to start suddenly, like a war or a rash	She broke out in hives after eating the nuts.
call up		to telephone someone	I'll call up the doctor and make an appointment.
calm down		to become less upset or angry	Calm down and tell me what happened.
check in		to register at a hotel or airport	We need to check in two hours before the flight.
cut down		to reduce the amount of something	I'm trying to cut down on sugar.
die out		to become extinct or disappear gradually	Some traditions are dying out.
do over		to repeat something, or to redecorate	This work is messy; you need to do it over.
eat out		to have a meal at a restaurant	We rarely eat out; we prefer cooking at home.
fall down		to lose balance and hit the ground	The toddler fell down but didn't hurt himself.
fill in		to complete blanks, or to temporarily replace someone	Can you fill in for me while I'm on vacation?
give back		to return something to the owner	Please give back my pen when you're done.
hand in		to submit something to a person in authority	Students must hand in their assignments by Friday.
catch up		reach the same level as others	I need to catch up on my homework.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
come over		visit someone's house	Why don't you come over for dinner tonight?
get through		succeed in contacting or finishing	I finally got through to customer service after an hour.
look into		investigate	The police promised to look into the matter.
go over		review or examine	Let's go over the instructions one more time.
give away		give something free of charge or reveal a secret	She gave away all her old clothes to charity.
hold back		restrain or keep from advancing	She struggled to hold back her tears.
go for		choose or try to achieve	I think I'll go for the chocolate cake.
bring down		cause to fall or reduce	The scandal could bring down the government.
drop out		quit a course or school	He dropped out of college after one year.
fall for		be deceived or fall in love	I can't believe you fell for that old trick.
cut out		remove or stop suddenly	The engine cut out in the middle of the highway.
come across		find by chance or seem	I came across an interesting article online.
get down		make sad or descend	The rainy weather really gets me down.
go with		accompany or match	That shirt doesn't go with those pants.
hand out		distribute	The teacher handed out the test papers.
let go		release or dismiss from job	The company had to let go of several employees.
live on		subsist on a particular food or income	They live on a diet of rice and beans.
get by		manage with difficulty	We barely get by on my salary.
hold out		resist or last	The town held out against the siege.
kick off		start or begin	The concert kicks off at 8 p.m.
lay off		stop employing someone	The factory laid off 200 workers.
call out		shout or criticize publicly	She called out his name across the street.
drop in		visit informally	Feel free to drop in anytime.
come along		accompany or make progress	How's your project coming along?
go around		circulate or be sufficient for everyone	There aren't enough chairs to go around.
leave behind		forget to take or abandon	He left behind his wallet at the restaurant.
hook up		connect equipment or meet someone	He hooked up the DVD player to the TV.
catch on		become popular or understand	The new fashion trend is starting to catch on.
give in		yield or surrender	After hours of arguing, she finally gave in.
close down		stop operating permanently	The local bakery closed down last month.
draw up		prepare a document	The lawyer drew up the contract.
fall through		fail to happen	Our vacation plans fell through.
get across		communicate successfully	I couldn't get my point across.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
get ahead		make progress in life or career	She's determined to get ahead in her career.
do without		manage without something	We'll have to do without a car for a while.
drag on		continue boringly for a long time	The meeting dragged on for hours.
let in		allow to enter	She opened the door to let in the cat.
come by		obtain or visit	Good jobs are hard to come by in this town.
go along with		agree to	I'll go along with whatever you decide.
come up with		devise or think of an idea	She came up with a great solution to the problem.
put up with		tolerate something unpleasant	I can't put up with his complaining any longer.
run over		hit with a vehicle	Be careful not to run over that cat on the road.
look forward to		anticipate eagerly	I look forward to meeting you next week.
deal with		handle or manage a situation	We need to deal with these issues before they escalate.
count on		rely on someone or something	You can count on me to finish the project on time.
get rid of		discard or eliminate	Let's get rid of all these old newspapers.
break in		enter forcibly or train	Thieves broke in and stole the jewelry.
call for		require or pick up someone	This recipe calls for three eggs.
bring about		cause something to happen	The new law brought about significant changes.
cut back		reduce spending or consumption	We need to cut back on unnecessary expenses.
fall behind		fail to keep up with progress	He fell behind in his studies due to illness.
go after		pursue or chase	The police went after the suspect immediately.
make out		discern with difficulty or kiss	I couldn't make out what she was saying in the noise.
pass away		die politely	Her grandfather passed away quietly in his sleep.
put away		store something in its place	Please put away your toys before dinner.
pull off		succeed in achieving something difficult	She managed to pull off the surprise party.
run across		find by chance	I ran across some old photos while cleaning the attic.
set aside		reserve for a specific purpose	They set aside funds for their vacation.
settle down		calm down or establish a stable life	After years of traveling, he decided to settle down.
sign up		register for a service or activity	I signed up for the cooking class online.
split up		separate from a relationship	They split up after five years of marriage.
stand for		represent or tolerate	This emblem stands for peace and unity.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
stand out		be noticeable or remarkable	Her red dress made her stand out in the crowd.
take after		resemble a family member	He takes after his father with those eyes.
take down		dismantle or write notes	She took down the main points during the meeting.
take in		understand, deceive, or provide shelter	It took a while to take in all the information.
talk over		discuss something thoroughly	We should talk over our plans before deciding.
tear up		rip into pieces	She tore up the letter in frustration.
think over		consider carefully	I need some time to think over your proposal.
throw up		vomit	He felt sick and threw up after the ride.
try out		test to see if suitable	They want to try out the new software before buying.
turn into		become something different	The caterpillar turned into a beautiful butterfly.
wear out		exhaust or make threadbare	The long hike wore me out completely.
wind up		end up in a particular situation	We wound up at a charming little café.
wipe out		eliminate or destroy completely	Heavy rains wiped out the entire crop.
work up		develop or gradually excite	She worked up the courage to ask for a raise.
write off		cancel as a loss or dismiss	The company wrote off the unpaid debts.
hang on		wait briefly or grip tightly	Hang on a second while I grab my coat.
shut up		stop talking (informal)	He told them to shut up during the movie.
act up		Misbehave or malfunction.	My computer started to act up right before the deadline.
back down		Retreat from a position or claim.	He wouldn't back down even when proven wrong.
back off		Move backwards or stop interfering.	The police told the crowd to back off.
bail out		Rescue from financial trouble or a situation.	The government decided to bail out the failing bank.
beat up		Physically assault someone.	The bully threatened to beat up the smaller kid.
blend in		Look similar to surroundings or people.	He tried to blend in with the locals by wearing simple clothes.
bounce back		Recover after a setback.	She managed to bounce back quickly after the surgery.
burn out		Become exhausted from overwork.	Many nurses burn out due to long hours.
butt in		Interrupt a conversation rudely.	Please don't butt in while others are speaking.
call back		Return a phone call.	I'll call back as soon as I get the information.
cave in		Collapse or finally agree under pressure.	After hours of negotiation, the company finally caved in.
cheer up		Become happier or make someone happier.	I brought you some flowers to cheer you up.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
chip in		Contribute money or help.	Everyone chipped in to buy a gift for the boss.
clam up		Become silent suddenly.	Whenever we ask about the accident, he clams up.
clean out		Remove everything from a place or steal all money.	We need to clean out the garage this weekend.
cool off		Become calmer or less angry.	Take a walk to cool off before we continue the discussion.
cover up		Conceal the truth.	They tried to cover up the scandal but were caught.
crack down		Enforce laws or rules more strictly.	The police are cracking down on drunk driving.
crop up		Appear or happen unexpectedly.	Problems kept cropping up during the project.
cut in		Interrupt or enter a line ahead of others.	He rudely cut in while I was talking to a friend.
dawn on		Occur to someone; to suddenly realize.	It dawned on me that I had left the keys inside the car.
die down		Become quieter or less intense.	The storm finally died down in the evening.
dig in		Start eating enthusiastically or entrench oneself.	The food arrived and we all dug in.
drag out		Prolong unnecessarily.	They dragged out the meeting for another hour.
dream up		Invent or imagine something.	She dreamed up a brilliant marketing plan overnight.
dry up		Become completely dry or stop talking.	The river dried up during the drought.
dwell on		Think or talk about something too much.	Don't dwell on past mistakes; focus on the future.
fade away		Slowly disappear or become weaker.	The sound of the music faded away as we drove off.
fan out		Spread out over an area.	The search team fanned out to cover more ground.
fill up		Make completely full.	Please fill up the tank before returning the car.
fit in		Be accepted by a group or match.	It took him a while to fit in at the new school.
fizzle out		End or fail weakly.	Their enthusiasm for the project fizzled out after a month.
flare up		Suddenly become angry or violent.	Tensions flared up between the two countries.
freak out		Become very anxious, upset, or excited.	She freaked out when she saw the huge spider.
get around		Travel to many places or avoid a problem.	We got around town using the new metro.
get away		Escape or go on a vacation.	We need to get away for a weekend trip.
get back at		Take revenge on someone.	He wants to get back at his brother for pranking him.
give off		Produce or emit something like smell, light.	The roses gave off a lovely fragrance.
go ahead		Proceed or happen.	You can go ahead and start without me.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
go down		Sink, crash, or be received in a particular way.	The sun went down behind the mountains.
back up		To support someone or move a vehicle backwards.	You should back up your claims with evidence.
blow out		To extinguish a flame or burst a tire.	She blew out the candles on her birthday cake.
break off		To end a relationship or separate a piece from something.	They decided to break off their engagement.
build up		To accumulate or strengthen gradually.	Exercising regularly will build up your stamina.
burn down		To be destroyed by fire.	The old warehouse burned down last night.
clear up		To become sunny or solve a misunderstanding.	Let's clear up any confusion before the meeting.
come off		To occur successfully or become detached.	The handle came off the door.
cool down		To calm down or lower temperature.	Give her time to cool down after the argument.
dry out		To become or make something dry.	Leave the towel outside to dry out.
eat up		To finish all the food or use resources.	The kids ate up all the cookies.
fall back		To move back or depend on something as a backup.	We had to fall back on our savings.
fight back		To resist attack or suppress tears.	She fought back tears during the speech.
finish off		To end or consume the remainder.	Let's finish off this project by Friday.
fix up		To repair or make a place nicer.	They fixed up the old house and sold it.
follow through		To do what you said you would do.	If you make a promise, follow through.
get on		To enter a bus or train, or make progress.	Hurry up and get on the bus!
give out		To hand out or become exhausted.	The teacher gave out the test papers.
go about		To begin to do or deal with.	How should we go about solving this problem?
go by		To pass by or use a name.	Time goes by so quickly.
hand over		To give something to someone in authority.	Hand over your license and registration.
help out		To give assistance.	Can you help out with the dishes?
hold off		To postpone something or keep at a distance.	Let's hold off on making a decision.
hurry up		To do something faster.	Hurry up or we'll be late!
lay down		To set rules or stop fighting.	The company laid down new safety regulations.
leave out		To not include someone or something.	Don't leave out any important details.
let out		To allow to escape or make a noise.	She let out a sigh of relief.
line up		To stand in a queue or schedule something.	The students lined up outside the classroom.
look back		To reflect on past events.	Looking back, I have no regrets.
mess up		To do something wrong or make untidy.	I messed up the recipe and had to start over.
mix up		To combine or mistake one for another.	I always mix up the twins' names.

Word	IPA	Meaning	Example
move out		To leave a house or apartment permanently.	They plan to move out by the end of the month.
open up		To start business or become communicative.	He finally opened up about his problems.
pass on		To die or give something to someone else.	Our neighbor passed on last week.
pick on		To repeatedly annoy or criticize someone.	Why do you always pick on your little brother?
pile up		To form a heap or a multi-vehicle accident.	Dirty dishes piled up in the sink.
put aside		To keep something for future use or disregard.	Put aside some money each month.
rip off		To overcharge or forcefully remove.	They ripped off tourists with high prices.
rule out		To decide something is not possible.	We can't rule out the possibility of rain.
save up		To keep money for a future purpose.	She's saving up for a new car.