

## English Grammar – Some Common Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are verbs that are combined with one or two articles (usually prepositions and/or adverbs) to make new meanings. They often cannot be literally translated.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning(s)	Example(s)
blow up	<i>explodir</i> <i>inflar</i>	The terrorists blew up an airplane at the airport. We had to blow up 100 balloons for the party.
check in	<i>cadastrar (hotel)</i>	We must check in before midday.
check out	<i>sair (hotel)</i> <i>investigar</i>	We must check out before 2pm. We should check out her story.
cut down on	<i>reduzir</i>	You really should cut down on smoking.
cut off	<i>desconectar</i> <i>isolar</i> <i>remover</i>	He cut me off in the middle of the conversation! He preferred to cut himself off than retain contact. The French executioner cut off his head.
cut out	<i>eliminar</i>	The doctor said to cut out sugar from my diet.
find out about	<i>descobrir</i>	She found out about the surprise party.
get in/on	<i>entrar/embarcar</i>	Never get in a stranger's car. We have to get on the airplane immediately.
get out/off	<i>sair/desembarcar</i>	Please get off the bus now. I want you to get out of my house now!
get on (well) with	<i>se dar (bem)</i>	I always get on well with my colleagues.
get over	<i>superar</i>	I can't get over my dog's death.
get up	<i>levantar-se</i>	I always get up at 6am.
go off	<i>despertar</i> <i>estragar (comida)</i>	My alarm clock goes off at 6am. If you don't put the milk in the fridge, it will go off.
go on	<i>continuar</i> <i>acontecer</i>	I can't go on. My feet are killing me! What's going on over there?
go out	<i>sair</i> <i>apagar</i>	I will go out - I need fresh air. While I was taking a shower, the lights went out.
go out with	<i>namorar</i>	Are you going out with Mary?
keep up with	<i>acompanhar</i>	I can't keep up with my classmates.
leave out	<i>deixar de fora</i>	Please don't leave me out of the game.
let down	<i>decepcionar</i>	She rarely lets me down with her school grades.
log in/on	<i>fazer login</i>	You need to log in before using the system. You need to log on before using the system.
log out/off	<i>fazer logout/sair/ desconectar</i>	Always log out when you finish. Always log off when you finish.
look after	<i>cuidar</i>	Can you please look after my cats next weekend?
look for	<i>procurar</i>	I am looking for my phone. Have you seen it?
make up make up with make up to	<i>inventar</i> <i>reconciliar</i> <i>compensar</i>	My little boy always makes up stories about ghosts. I always make up with my brother after a fight. How can I make it up to you?
pick up	<i>buscar</i>	Every day I pick up my son from school at 12:30.
put away	<i>guardar</i>	Please put away your clothes before you go to bed.

put down	<i>sacrificar</i>	The vet wants to put George down.
put off	<i>desanimar</i> <i>distrair</i> <i>adiar</i>	Don't put him off learning the guitar. Stop it – you're putting me off my homework. Let's put off the wedding until we have more money.
put on	<i>vestir/colocar</i> <i>(roupas)</i>	Wait! I need to put my shoes on.
put out	<i>incomodar</i> <i>apagar</i>	I hope we're not putting you out. The fire brigade always puts out the fires.
put up with	<i>aguentar</i>	I can't put up with your tantrums anymore.
take after	<i>puxar</i>	You take after your mother – you're so patient!
take care of	<i>cuidar</i>	Can you please take care of my cats next weekend?
take off	<i>decolar</i> <i>tirar (roupas)</i>	My airplane takes off at 2pm. I always take off my shoes when I arrive at home.
take out	<i>retirar</i> <i>levar para sair</i> <i>assassinar</i>	I need to take out the trash. Bob always takes his wife out on Fridays. We want you to take out the leader of North Korea.
throw out	<i>jogar fora</i>	We should throw out all our old magazines.
try on (clothes)	<i>provar/experimentar</i> <i>(roupas)</i>	Can I try on this shirt?
turn up	<i>aumentar</i>	Please turn up the TV volume.
turn down	<i>diminuir</i>	Please turn down the TV volume.
turn on turn off or switch on switch off	<i>ligar</i> <i>desligar</i>  <i>ligar</i> <i>desligar</i>	Can you please turn the light on? I always turn the TV off when I go to bed.  Can you please switch the light on? I always switch the TV off when I go to bed.
wake up	<i>acordar</i>	It's difficult to wake up in the morning.
wear out	<i>desgastar</i> <i>cansar</i>	Stop skidding – you'll wear out the tires. You're wearing me out with all this extra work!
work out	<i>dar certo</i> <i>calcular</i> <i>resolver</i> <i>entender</i> <i>exercitar/malhar</i>	I'm sure that the project will work out in the end. A: How much is 7 times 42? B: I'll work it out. We need to work out our problems. I can't work out why he doesn't want to learn English. Do you work out at the gym every day?

**Source:** Aprenda Definitivamente 50 Phrasal verbs (Livro 2) – Coquetel (Oxford University Press)

**Exercise.** Investigate the meanings of these phrasal verbs and translate these sentences/questions to Portuguese:

1) Did you **make out with** Suzy last night?

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2) The thief **made off with** her purse.

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3) I can't **get rid of** the mice in my basement.

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4) My son finds it difficult to **cotton on** when he is in maths class.

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5) I want you to **take out** the leader of the gang.

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**Clip from “The Interview” (2014) (confusion over “take out”):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDRZ7QY8lwk> (1 min)

The phrasal verb “**take out**”:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. tirar/retirar    | The dentist wants to <b>take out</b> two of my teeth.       |
| 2. levar para fora  | Please <b>take out</b> the trash.                           |
| 3. levar para sair  | I'm going to <b>take out</b> my wife on Friday, for dinner. |
| 4. assassinar/matar | I want you to <b>take out</b> the leader of the gang.       |

CIA agent:	The CIA would love it if you two could <b>take him out</b> .
Dave:	Mmm?
CIA agent:	Take him out.
Dave:	Take him out?
Aaron:	For drinks?
CIA agent:	No, no, no. Take him out.
Dave:	Take out. Like, to dinner?
Aaron:	Take him out to a meal?
CIA agent:	Take him out.
Aaron:	On the town?
Dave:	Party?
CIA agent:	No. Er .... take him .... out.
Aaron:	You want us to assassinate the leader of North Korea?
CIA agent:	Yes!
Dave:	Whaaaaaaaaaaaa ..... ?!