

Phrasal verbs with “hang”

The verb “to hang” (hang/hung/hung) has two meanings:

1. to hang – to suspend in the air
2. to hang someone – to kill someone using a rope around the neck

Examples: The monkey is **hanging** from a branch.
Please **hang** the clothes on the clothes line.
Let's **hang** the decorations on the Christmas tree.
The murderer was **hung** at dawn.

Phrasal verbs are verbs that are combined with one or two articles (usually a preposition or an adverb). Here are some examples using the verb “hang”:

1) to hang on

to wait

The teacher told me to **hang on** a minute.

2) to hang about (very informal)

to wait

Can you **hang about** while I make a quick call?

3) to hang with / to hang around with / to hang out with

to spend time with (someone)

I like to **hang with** my friends at the weekends.

I like to **hang around with** my friends at the weekends.

I like to **hang out with** my friends at the weekends.

Let's **hang out**!

4) to hang on to

to keep

It's difficult to **hang on to** money – it's so easy to spend!

Can I **hang on to** your book for one more week? I haven't finished it yet.

5) to hang up

to terminate a telephone call

I'm sorry, I need to **hang up** – I have a meeting in 5 minutes.

6) to hang up on (someone)

to prematurely terminate a telephone call in a rude manner

OMG! He **hung up on** me! How rude!

Exercise. Complete the following with a phrasal verb, conjugating as necessary.

1. Can you _____ a minute, please, I'll be right back.
2. (On the telephone) Please don't _____ – I need to talk to you.
3. I think I'll just _____ here for a few more minutes.
4. Do you want to _____ me after school? I don't want to go home too early.
5. I don't know how long I can _____ my girlfriend, Elizabeth, as so many boys are attracted to her. She will probably find someone better than me soon.
6. I'm sorry – I didn't mean to _____ you – I dropped my phone.

Expressions using the verb "hang"

hang in there	stay strong / be optimistic Ex. Hang in there! You can do it!
to get the hang of something	to develop a skill Ex. I can't get the hang of this game – it's so complicated.
to hang by a thread	to be close to disaster Ex. The fates of the refugees are hanging by a thread.
to hang your head in shame	to be ashamed Ex. You should hang your head in shame! You are disgraceful!
to hang a left/right (<i>informal English</i>)	to turn left/right Hang a left here, then hang a right. You'll see it on the corner.
to let it all hang out	to relax completely Ex. John rarely lets it all hang out. He's usually so tense.
to hang loose	to relax and have fun Ex. Let's hang loose tonight – all the tests are finished!
to hang tight	to wait patiently Ex. I'll call you tomorrow and tell you, so hang tight!
to hang someone out to dry	to condemn someone Ex. The evidence is enough to hang him out to dry.
to hang together	to be coherent Ex. If the rules don't hang together, nobody will enjoy the game.
to hang in the balance	to be undecided Ex. The jury is out. My fate is hanging in the balance.