Phrasal verbs with “pull”

The verb “to pull” (pull/pulled/pulled) means “puxar” in Portuguese. There are some phrasal verbs and expressions using the verb ‘pull’. Many of the phrasal verbs are related to driving.

<u>Driving</u>

1) **to pull over** – temporarily stop the car at the side of the road
Examples: Can you **pull over**? I need to pee.
I **was pulled over** by the cops yesterday for speeding.

2) **to pull up** – stop the car / lift the airplane
Examples: As soon as I **pulled up** at the lights, the engine died.
The pilot had to **pull up** to avoid the storm.

3) **to pull away** – leave your parking position / or start the car moving again
Example: *Driving instructor to student:* You can **pull away** when you’re ready.

4) **to pull in** – park the car
Example: You can **pull in** here – I need to buy some bananas.

5) **to pull out** – change lanes
Example: You must indicate whenever you **pull out**.

<u>Other</u>

1) **to pull in** – earn money
Example: My company **pulls in** over a million dollars per year.

2) **to pull out** – withdraw from an agreement
Example: The investors **pulled out** at the last minute.

3) **to pull through** – survive
Example: The operation was extremely complicated. It was touch and go, but he **pulled through** in the end.

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

1. A: How much do you _____ as a driving instructor?
   B: Around 500 dollars a week.

2. You should always _____ when you see a ‘Stop’ sign.

3. Can you _____ to the supermarket, please. I need to use the bathroom.

4. There’s a police car behind us with its lights flashing. I think you should _____.

5. My cousin was shot by a burglar last week, but he _____.

6. Please _____ slowly, because there are bottles of beer in the trunk.

7. Yesterday I _____ without signalling and a speeding car clipped my bumper.

Expressions using the verb "pull"

1) **Pull yourself together** – regain composure or self-control
Example: After hearing the bad news, he had to **pull himself together** before going to work.

2) **Pull the plug** – stop something by cutting support or financial help
Example: The company **pulled the plug** on the project due to financial problems.

3) **Pull someone's leg** – joke with someone in a friendly way
Example: I didn't really win the lottery. I was just **pulling your leg**!

4) **Pull out all the stops** – use every effort or resource to achieve something
Example: They **pulled out all the stops** to make the wedding unforgettable.

5) **Pull rank** – use your authority or position to achieve something (often disrespectfully)
Example: He **pulled rank** to get a better hotel room. ("Do you know who I am?")

6) **Pull strings** – use influence or connections to achieve a goal
Example: She **pulled some strings** to get her son admitted to the school. ("Do you know that the mayor is my friend?")

7) **Pull the wool over someone's eyes** – deceive or trick someone
Example: Don't try **to pull the wool over my eyes** – I know what's going on!

8) **Pull a fast one** – deceive or trick someone
Example: He **pulled a fast one** on the shopkeeper – he used a fake 100-dollar bill.

9) **Pull your weight** – do your fair share of work
Example: Everyone in the team **must pull their weight** if we're going to succeed.

10) **Pull a rabbit out of the hat** – do something seemingly impossible
Example: The coach **pulled a rabbit out of the hat** with his last-minute change of strategy.

11) **Pull the rug out from under your feet** – sabotage somebody's intentions
Example: My boss **pulled the rug out from under my feet** when he cancelled my vacation.