

English Grammar: Unusual Phrasal Verbs

There are many phrasal verbs in the English language – some we use every day and some we use less often. Here are some examples that are not frequently used and that could be difficult to understand for non-English natives:

to drag out	to prolong or extend an activity “Our maths teacher really knows how to drag out his classes.”
to cotton on	to understand a technique or concept “The new apprentice is finally cottoning on! ”
to beef up	to make something stronger or more powerful “I bought an old car and I intend to beef it up. ”
to clam up	to stay silent in the face of pressure “The witness has clammed up . She must have been threatened.”
to plod along	to move slowly but steadily A: “How are your studies going?” B: “I’m plodding along. ”
to wipe out	to drive to extinction “The flightless Dodo bird was wiped out due to hunting.”
to mull over	to think about something carefully and without pressure A: “Have you read the contract yet?” B: “Give me time to mull it over. ”