

Special Vocab Sheet 4 : les *phrasal verbs* 1

Verb	Meaning	Example
abide by	To respect or obey a decision, a law or a rule	If you want to keep your job here, you must abide by our rules.
account for	To explain, give a reason	I hope you can account for the time you were out!
add up	To make sense, seem reasonable	The facts in the case just don't add up.
allow for	To take into consideration	We need to allow for unexpected charges along the way.
back away	To move backwards, in fear or dislike	When he saw the bear, he backed away in fright.
back down	To withdraw, concede defeat	Local authorities backed down on their threats to build on that part of the beach.
back up	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To give support or encouragement 2. To make a copy of (file, program, etc.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I'm going to be very strict with him. I hope you'll back me up on this? 2. You should back up all your computer files in a secure location.
bank on	To base your hopes on something / someone	I'm banking on you to help with the charity event.
black out	To faint, lose consciousness	Jenna fell in the parking lot and blacked out.
blow up	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To explode 2. To get angry 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tommy blew up the red balloon. 2. Don't blow up at me. It's not my fault.
break down	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To go out of order, cease to function 2. To lose control of one's emotions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The washing machine broke down so we had to call in the repair technician. 2. John broke down when he heard the news.
break into	To enter by force	Burglars broke into my car last night.
break out	To start suddenly	Rioting broke out after the government raised the fuel prices again.
break up	To come to an end (marriage, relationship)	She broke up with Daniel after dating him for five years.
bring up	To raise (a child)	Sara is bringing up her children by herself.
brush up on	To improve, refresh one's knowledge of something	I must brush up on my French before going to Paris next month.
call off	To cancel	The game was called off because of bad weather.
calm down	To become more relaxed, less angry or upset	It took Kylie several hours to calm down after she saw the accident.
carry on	To continue	The soldiers carried on walking in order to get to their post before dark.
check in	To register at a hotel or airport	They said I must check in at least three hours before my flight.
clam up	To refuse to speak	When the police started asking questions, the suspect clammed up.

Verb	Meaning	Example
clamp down on	To act strictly to prevent something	The local authorities have decided to clamp down on illegal parking in handicapped parking places.
come across	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To find by chance To appear, seem, make an impression 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I was cleaning up and came across some old photos of you. The politician came across as a complete fool during the TV interview.
come forward	To present oneself	Has the owner of the winning lotto ticket come forward?
cut down on	To reduce in number or size	I've decided to cut down on the amount of sweets I eat.
deal with	To handle, take care of (problem, situation)	Catherine is not good at dealing with stress.
die down	To calm down, become less strong	After the storm died down, we went outside to see the damage it had caused.
drag on	To last longer than expected	The suspect's trial dragged on longer than we had expected!
dress up	wear elegant clothes	Their wedding gave us a chance to dress up and get out of the house.
drop in	To visit, usually on the way somewhere	Why don't you drop in to see us on your way home?
drop off	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To deliver someone or something To fall asleep 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I'll drop off the papers later today. I often drop off in front of the TV.
drop out	To leave school without finishing	Zack dropped out of college and joined the army.
fill out	To complete (a form/an application)	Please fill out the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible.
get along (with)	To be on good terms; work well with	It's important to get along with your team supervisor.
get at	To imply	What are you getting at? Do you think I'm to blame?
get away	To escape	I think we should get away for the weekend.
get by	To manage to cope or to survive	Students without jobs have a hard time getting by.
get on with (something)	To continue to do; make progress	After they split up, she had a hard time getting on with her life.
get on (well) with (somebody)	To have a good relationship with	He doesn't get on very well with the other members of the committee.
get over	To recover from (illness, disappointment)	Mary had the chickenpox last week but she got over it.
give in	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To cease opposition; yield To hand in; submit 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> We will never give in to the terrorists' demands. I'll give in my paper tomorrow.
give up	To stop doing something	Morris gave up drinking 10 years ago.