

# 1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context

a self-study guide for  
intermediate to advanced students

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ **MATT ERREY**

- 2000 example sentences
- Read the sentence, get the meaning
- Phrasal verbs colour highlighted
- Grammar and usage tips
- Easy-to-use alphabetical listing
- Write your own notes and examples
- Designed for self-study or classroom use

*plus*

**1000 QUIZ QUESTIONS  
WITH ANSWERS**

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1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context **A a**

(1/3)

<b>account for</b>	How can we <b>account for</b> the high electricity bill this month? Did we use the air-conditioning more than usual?	account for sth
Part of her job is to record and account for all the company's expenses.		
<b>act as</b>	Bobby is a big guy and he has studied boxing, so he can <b>act as</b> my bodyguard as well as my driver.	act as sth
The hairs in the nose act as filters to help keep dust out of our lungs.		see also: <b>function as</b>
<b>act on</b>	You should <b>act on</b> your teacher's advice and try to learn these phrasal verbs.	act on sth
We're acting on our tax lawyer's advice to set up an offshore company.		
<b>act up</b> (informal)	My computer was <b>acting up</b> , so I took it a repair shop near my house and had it fixed.	act up
I'll have to miss golf as my knee is acting up again and it's very sore.		see also: <b>play up</b> (inf)
<b>add to</b>	On the film's opening night, the surprise appearance of several famous movie stars <b>added to</b> the excitement.	add to sth add sth to sth
It's reputation for friendly staff added a lot to the hotel's value.		see also: <b>contribute to</b>
<b>add up</b>	I don't believe his story. There are too many things that don't make sense and the whole thing just doesn't <b>add up</b> .	add up (Usually negative, as in 'It doesn't add up.')
The boss's claim that he didn't know doesn't add up. He must have known.		
<b>add up to</b>	What do 10, 7 and 6 <b>add up to</b> ? Do they <b>add up to</b> 22, or is it 23?	add up to add up to sth
I've checked the receipts for expenses, and they add up to over \$10,000.		see also: <b>come to</b>
<b>aim at</b>	The new ads for Levi jeans are <b>aimed at</b> young people in particular and, like all ads, they're <b>aimed at</b> increasing sales.	(be) aimed at sb/sth (be) aimed at doing sth aim sth at sb/sth
We've aimed this book at people who really want to learn phrasal verbs.		
<b>allow for</b>	When you figure out what time to leave for the airport, <b>allow time for</b> traffic jams, and also take the weather into account.	allow for sth allow sth for sth
When you make the budget, don't forget to allow for rising prices.		see also: <b>factor in</b>
<b>amount to</b>	A music CD needs to sell 100,000 copies or more to be a hit. Selling 10,000 copies doesn't really <b>amount to</b> success in the music business.	amount to sth
Does having had two books published amount to a career as a writer?		





1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context **A a**

(2/3)

<b>answer back</b>	My son got into trouble at school for being impolite by <b>answering back</b> to his teacher.	answer back to sb answer sb back
One of our players was sent off for answering back to the referee.		 see also: <b>talk back</b>
<b>appeal for</b>	After the earthquake, the government <b>appealed for</b> emergency aid and assistance from neighbouring countries.	appeal for sth appeal for sth from sb appeal to sb for sth
After she disappeared, the girl's family appealed to the public for help.		 see also: <b>ask for</b>
<b>appeal to</b>	Teenagers are a major market for mobile phones, so we need to design a range of cool phones that will <b>appeal to</b> them.	appeal to sb
The small apartments will appeal to single people more than families.		
<b>apply to</b>	The company's new regulation to ban smoking in offices <b>applies to</b> everyone, from cleaners and guards to the CEO.	apply to sb
Some young people from rich families think the law doesn't apply to them.		
<b>arrive at</b>	After doing research into diet, he <b>arrived at</b> the conclusion that a good diet included fish and seafood but didn't include animals or birds.	arrive at sth
They arrived at the retail price by considering all their production costs.		
<b>ask after</b>	I got an email from Elisa and she <b>asked after</b> you. I said you were fine and doing well in your new job.	ask after sb
Whenever I meet James, he asks after you and I tell him you're fine.		
<b>ask for</b>	If you get lost, <b>ask</b> someone <b>for</b> directions to your hotel and they'll tell you where to go.	ask for sth ask sb for sth
I tell my staff not to be afraid of asking for help or advice if they need it.		
<b>ask out</b>	If you like Mirka, you should <b>ask</b> her <b>out</b> . Tell her you'd like to take her to dinner and then see a movie or go dancing or whatever.	ask sb out ask sb out for sth
Do you think it's strange for a girl to ask a guy out for dinner or for a date?		 see also: <b>invite out</b>
<b>ask over / around</b>	We're <b>asking</b> some friends <b>over</b> to our new apartment for dinner on Saturday night.	ask sb over ask sb around
Let's ask a few people from work around to play cards on Sunday.		 see also: <b>invite over / around</b>
<b>attach to</b>	You shouldn't <b>attach</b> too much importance <b>to</b> what the critics say about your book. What really matters is what your readers think.	attach sth to sth
I think our boss attaches too much significance to how someone looks.		

1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context **A a**

(3/3)

<b>attend to</b>	We have to make sure there are enough sales staff in our stores to <b>attend to</b> all the customers who need help, especially at busy times.	attend to sb/sth
There're two more issues that we should attend to in today's meeting.		 see also: <b>deal with, see to</b>
<b>average out</b>	Some days we sell more, some days we sell less, but sales <b>average out</b> at about 150 units a day.	average out average sth out average out at sth
His income depends on sales, but it averages out at about \$3,000 a month.		

1000 Phrasal Verb Quiz Questions **A a**

Complete the sentences so that each includes a phrasal verb beginning with 'a'...

- 1 We'll have to account \_\_\_ the missing money somehow. (3 letters)
- 2 Maria sometimes has to \_\_\_ as our babysitter as well as our maid. (3 letters)
- 3 You should act \_\_\_ your doctor's advice to eat more fruit and vegetables. (2 letters)
- 4 My printer was \_\_\_\_\_ up so I had to get it fixed. (6 letters)
- 5 A good light show adds a lot \_\_\_ the excitement of a rock concert. (2 letters)
- 6 I don't believe his story. It just doesn't add \_\_\_ . (2 letters)
- 7 The electricity and telephone bills \_\_\_ up to \$325.00. (3 letters)
- 8 The ads for the new jeans are aimed \_\_\_ teenagers. (2 letters)
- 9 Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_ enough time for traffic jams on the way to the airport. (5 letters)
- 10 Having one book published doesn't really amount \_\_\_ a career as a writer. (2 letters)
- 11 He got into trouble for answering \_\_\_\_\_ to his teacher. (4 letters)
- 12 The Red Cross had to appeal \_\_\_ more money to help people after the earthquake. (3 letters)
- 13 Our new line of watches is designed to \_\_\_\_\_ to young professional people. (6 letters)
- 14 The tax increases only \_\_\_\_\_ to people in the top income brackets. (5 letters)
- 15 We arrived \_\_\_ our conclusions after studying all the evidence. (2 letters)
- 16 I got an email from Mark and he \_\_\_\_\_ after you, so I said you were fine. (5 letters)
- 17 If you get lost, \_\_\_ someone for directions. (3 letters)
- 18 If you like her, you should ask her \_\_\_ on a date. (3 letters)
- 19 We're going to \_\_\_ some friends over for dinner tomorrow night. (3 letters)
- 20 You shouldn't attach any importance \_\_\_ what people say when they've been drinking. (2 letters)
- 21 She has to \_\_\_\_\_ to two customers at once if there aren't enough sales staff. (6 letters)
- 22 Her income depends on sales of her books, but it averages \_\_\_ at about \$10,000 a month. (3 letters)





















1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context **B b**

(1/7)

<b>back down</b>	The workers refused to <b>back down</b> on their demand for higher wages and voted to continue their strike.	back down back down on sth
The president wouldn't back down on his decision despite its unpopularity.		
<b>back out</b>	Before the election, the president promised to cut taxes if he won. But after being elected he <b>backed out</b> , saying they couldn't afford to.	back out
They'd agreed to increase wages, but backed out when their profits fell.		see also: <b>go back on</b> (esp. 'Go back on one's word')
<b>back out of</b>	The company <b>backed out of</b> the agreement it had signed to cut down on carbon emissions, saying the cost was now too high.	back out of sth
The government backed out of the deal to release the prisoners.		see also: <b>pull out (of)</b>
<b>back up</b>	When writing your essay, state your thesis and then <b>back up</b> what you say with examples to show that it's true.	back up sth back sth up
The prosecutor backed his claim up with enough evidence to prove it.		
<b>back up</b>	I'll <b>back</b> you <b>up</b> if anyone says you're lying. I know what you're saying is true and I'll do whatever I can to help you.	back sb up
We trust Sue and backed her up when the company accused her of stealing.		see also: <b>stand up for</b> , <b>stick by</b>
<b>bail out</b>	After he called and said he'd been arrested and locked up in a cell, I went to the police station and <b>bailed out</b> my troublesome son.	bail out sb bail sb out
Whenever Jim gets into debt, his parents bail him out by giving him money.		
<b>bank on</b>	We couldn't set up the computer network ourselves, so we're <b>banking on</b> an IT engineer from the university to set it up for us.	bank on sth / sb bank on sb to do sth bank on sb doing sth
They say the only two things we can bank on in life are death and taxes.		see also: <b>count on</b> , <b>depend on</b>
<b>base on</b>	They always <b>base</b> their new designs <b>on</b> the latest market research.	base sth on sth (be) based on sth
Our prices are based on the cost of production and customer expectations.		
<b>bear down on</b>	The protesters looked scared as police <b>bore down on</b> them, waving their batons as they moved in.	bear down on sb / sth
Everyone was worried as the cyclone bore down on their city.		see also: <b>close in (on)</b>
<b>bear on / upon</b>	The judge said that the new evidence didn't <b>bear on</b> the case and couldn't be presented in court.	bear on sth bear upon sth
We only need information that bears directly upon the issue being looked at.		

1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context **B b**





















(2/7)

<b>bear up</b>	Naomi <b>bears up</b> well when she's in a difficult situation. She stays calm and deals with the situation as well as she can.	bear up
Mike's a good designer, but he doesn't bear up well under pressure.		
<b>beat down</b>	I got the car for a good price. They wanted \$10,000 at first, but I <b>beat</b> them <b>down</b> to \$8,400.	beat sb down
We can usually beat our suppliers down by at least 10% from their first price.		
<b>beat up</b>	Brad told us about the time he was <b>beaten up</b> on the street by a gang of thugs and had to go to hospital.	beat up sb beat sb up (be) beaten up by sb
He said the police beat him up to make him sign the confession.		 see also: <b>rough up</b> (inf)
<b>become of</b>	Does anyone know what <b>became of</b> Mary after she left school? I've never heard anything about her.	become of sb/sth
What became of that game for learning English? Is it still available?		 see also: <b>happen to</b>
<b>beef up</b>	The Australian government decided to <b>beef up</b> security at all their embassies after a terrorist attack on their embassy in Jakarta.	beef up sth beef sth up
The coach decided to buy some players to beef up the team's weak defence.		
<b>begin with</b>	All of our classes <b>begin with</b> some conversation practice. The teacher comes in and asks us how we are and what we've been doing.	begin with sth
His first name is Rick, which begins with the letter 'r'.		 see also: <b>start off (with)</b>
<b>believe in</b>	Not many people <b>believe in</b> ghosts these days, but when I was young many people <b>believed in</b> them.	believe in sth
Our boss believes in the power of positive thinking and teaches us about it.		
<b>belong to</b>	Who does that big Harley Davidson motorbike in the carpark <b>belong to</b> ? Is it yours?	belong to sb/sth
The DVD isn't mine. It belongs to the school, so I can't lend it to anyone.		
<b>bet on</b>	Sue said she'd help us make food for the party, but I wouldn't <b>bet on</b> it. She often promises to do things, but then says she can't for some reason.	bet on sth/sb (Usually negative, as in 'Don't bet on it.')
It might be a good day for golf, but I wouldn't bet on it. It could easily rain.		 see also: <b>bank on, count on</b>
<b>black out</b>	The storm <b>blacked out</b> the city and there wasn't any electricity for over an hour.	black out sth
The city was blacked out when the power plant workers went on strike.		





















1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context **B b**

(3/7)

<b>black out</b>	Jim drank so much whisky that he <b>blacked out</b> . We had to throw water on his face to wake him up.	black out
I don't remember anything about it, so I must have blacked out.		 see also: <b>pass out</b>
<b>block out</b>	It's too bright in here. Let's close the curtains to <b>block out</b> the sunlight.	block out sth block sth out
Close the windows to block sounds out before you start to meditate.		 see also: <b>shut out</b>
<b>block up</b>	It smells really bad in the bathroom. The pipes must be <b>blocked up</b> again.	(be) blocked up block up sth block sth up
He couldn't hear properly because wax was blocking his ears up.		 see also: <b>clog up</b>
<b>blow away</b>	I lost my favourite hat today. I was standing on a cliff when a strong gust of wind <b>blew it away</b> and it went sailing down into the sea.	blow away blow sth away blow away sth
If you stand downwind your cigarette smoke will be blown away from us.		
<b>blow out</b>	Becky <b>blew out</b> the candles on her birthday cake, and then she made a wish.	blow out blow out sth blow sth out
Make sure the flame in the lamp doesn't blow out. Lighting it isn't easy.		
<b>blow over</b>	The story was in the newspapers for a while, but it soon <b>blew over</b> and nobody heard anything more about it.	blow over
In politics, scandals blow over fairly quickly unless they involve crime.		 see also: <b>die down</b>
<b>blow up</b>	The terrorists planned to <b>blow up</b> the bridge, but they were killed when the bomb <b>blew up</b> in their truck on the way.	blow up blow up sth blow sth up
The police blew the bag up because they thought it contained a bomb.		
<b>blow up</b>	Could you come to the party early and help me <b>blow the balloons up</b> ?	blow sth up blow up sth
Check the pressure in your car's tyres and blow them up if it's too low.		
<b>bounce back</b>	It's been a bad year for our company, but I'm sure we'll <b>bounce back</b> and do better than ever next year.	bounce back
It didn't take David Beckham long to bounce back after his injury.		
<b>bow out</b>	After being captain of the team for ten years, Roberto <b>bowed out</b> so that a younger player could take over.	bow out bow out of sth
After leading the Labor Party for ten years, Bob bowed out of politics.		 see also: <b>step down, stand down</b>

1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context **B b**

(4/7)

<b>bowl over</b>	Ken was <b>bowled over</b> by the news that Barbie was having a baby. He was very surprised and happy.	(be) bowled over (be) bowled over by sth
As we sat on the beach, we were bowled over by the beauty of the sunset.		 see also: <b>(be) knocked out</b> (inf.)
<b>branch out</b>	Karl has always written about science, but now he's <b>branching out</b> into other areas such as philosophy and history.	branch out branch out into sth
We should branch out into other types of business to diversify.		
<b>break away</b>	The people in the south of the country wanted to <b>break away</b> and form their own separate state.	break away break away from sth
After the conflict, a few politicians broke away to form their own party.		
<b>break down</b>	When Katie was driving to work her car <b>broke down</b> , so she left it on the side of the road and took a taxi instead.	break down
Talks between the army and rebels broke down after more bomb attacks.		
<b>break down</b>	She <b>broke down</b> at the funeral, so I gave her a tissue to wipe the tears from her eyes.	break down
He broke down and cried when his son's body was returned from the war.		
<b>break in</b>	You should <b>break in</b> your new football boots by wearing them at training for a while before using them in a real match.	break in sth break sth in
I got blisters on my feet while I was breaking my new running shoes in.		
<b>break in</b>	Martina was having a conversation but I had to <b>break in</b> and tell her that her daughter was on the phone and needed to talk to her urgently.	break in break in on sth
They broke in on our meeting to tell us we had to evacuate the building.		 see also: <b>butt in</b>
<b>break into</b>	The thieves <b>broke into</b> the house and stole some valuable paintings and jewellery.	break into sth
Someone broke into our computer network and stole some important data.		
<b>break off</b>	William <b>broke off</b> his engagement to Kate after they'd had an argument, but they soon made up and eventually got married.	break off sth break sth off
The two sides couldn't agree, so they broke the negotiations off.		 see also: <b>call off</b>
<b>break out</b>	Many people were angry when the government increased the price of oil and petrol, and protests <b>broke out</b> on the streets of the city.	break out break out in sth
My father's skin broke out in a rash when he was giving up cigarettes.	