

## Phrasal Verb Examples

Audio Lessons: 11 to 20

### Lesson 11: [Act like](#)

Alternative to the phrasal verb: to behave

Example 1:

- Why is John acting like a 5 year old? You can't always have what you want.
- Why is John behaving like a 5 year old? You can't always have what you want.

Example 2:

- Stop acting like an idiot! I don't want to be around you when you act like this.
- Stop behaving like an idiot! I don't want to be around you when you act like this.

### Lesson 12: [Back Up](#) – separable (1<sup>st</sup> meaning)

Alternative: to make a copy (of data or information)

Example 1:

- Luckily the company backed the computer system up every night because they lost all their data after the fire.
- Luckily the company backed up the computer system every night because they lost all their data after the fire.
- Luckily the company made a secure copy of their computer system every night because they lost all their data after the fire.

Example 2:

- The computer technician reminds every customer to back up their data regularly.
- The computer technician reminds every customer to make a copy of their data regularly.

### Lesson 12a: [Back Up](#) – separable (2<sup>nd</sup> meaning)

Alternative: confirm (something)

Example 1:

- Ask John about the story, he will back me up.
- Ask John about the story, he will confirm it.

Example 2:

- Amy backed up Curtis's story even though nobody believed it was true.
- Amy confirmed Curtis's story even though nobody believed it was true.

**Lesson 14: [Back Up](#)** – separable (3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> meaning)

Alternative: to reverse (a vehicle) / to move backwards (people)

Example 1:

- Everyday I back up the car from the driveway.
- Everyday I back the car up from the driveway.
- Everyday I reverse the car from the driveway.

Example 2:

- The customer accidentally backed up into the waitress and spilled the drinks.
- The customer accidentally moved backwards into the waitress and spilled the drinks.

**Lesson 15: [Own up to](#)**

Alternative: to confess

Example 1:

- I wish you would own up to the crime you committed.
- I wish you would confess the crime you committed.

Example 2:

- After months of pretending she have time to meet, she owned up to the fact that she didn't really like him.
- After months of pretending she have time to meet, she confessed to the fact that she didn't really like him.

**Lesson 16: [Slip Up](#)**

Alternative: to make a mistake

Example 1:

- Stay calm so you don't slip up in the interview.
- Stay calm so you don't make a mistake in the interview.

Example 2:

- I really slipped up with the way I asked for her phone number.
- I really made a mistake with the way I asked for her phone number.

**Lesson 17: [Back Down](#)**

Alternative: to leave an disagreement

Example 1:

- He backed down from the disagreement because his wife was getting really upset.
- He left the disagreement because his wife was getting really upset.

Example 2:

- John doesn't know when to back down, so he ends up in a lot of fist fights.
- John doesn't know when to leave a disagreement, so he ends up in a lot of fist fights.

**Lesson 18: [Pan Out](#)**

Alternative: to have a good result

Example 1:

- I studied all week I hope the test will pan out.
- I studied all week, I hope I will have a good result on the test.

Example 2:

- It seems like everything always pans out for Betty.
- It seems like everything always has a good result for Betty.

**Lesson 19: [Pass Out](#)**

Alternative: to be consciousness or fall asleep

Example 1:

- Bob drank too much alcohol at the party and was passed out before 11.
- Bob drank too much alcohol at the party and was unconscious before 11.

Example 2:

- I was so tired after my long day at work that I passed out when I got home.
- I was so tired after my long day at work that I fell asleep when I got home.

**Lesson 20: [Hand Out](#) (Separable)**

Alternative: to distribute

Example 1:

- Hand out all of the cookies until they are gone.
- Hand all the cookies out until they are gone.
- Distribute all of the cookies until they are gone.

Example 2:

- The teacher handed out the tests to the students at the beginning of class.
- The teacher handed the tests out to the students at the beginning of class.
- The teacher distributed the tests to the students at the beginning of class.

### Phrasal Verb Story

A few days ago I was having some problems with my cell phone. It was starting to **act like** (behaving) a piece of junk and the battery was dying really quickly.

I called for technical support and the cell company told me to reset the phone and to **back up** (make a secure copy) my cell phone in case something happened and it permanently died. I think I would feel like I would want to **pass out** (lose consciousness) if I lost all of my photos and phone numbers on my phone. The technical support person **backed me up** (supported) with the theory that it may be a battery problem.

I **backed up** (reversed) out of my driveway and went to the cell phone shop for a new one. The guy replaced my battery and **handed out** (gave) one of his business cards to me in case I had any questions.

When I got home the problem with the battery was still happening. They must have **slipped up** (mistake) on determining the problem with the phone. Initially, the guy that sold me the battery would not **back down** (leave the challenge) that it was in fact a problem with the phone, but eventually the guy **owned up** (confessed) to determining the issue was the incorrectly diagnosed.

I decided to get a new phone because I knew this one was old and things were not going to **pan out** (happen) very well with it for much longer.