

Verbal Phrases

Very common

Can have several different meanings

Especially associated with the verbs

- Get
- Put
- Take
- Look
- Make
- Go
- Come
- Break


Some Examples with “Get”

- **Get out** An escape clause (noun)
- **Get-away** A vehicle used in an escape (noun)
- **Get away *with it*** To escape punishment
- **Get at** To criticize an aspect of a person
- **Get round *to it*** To do something after a long wait
- **Get up** Unusual (usually smart) clothing

Some Examples with “Put”

- **Put off** To delay / postpone
- **Put on** To impose on someone
- **Put down** To humanely kill an animal
A phrase designed to humiliate (noun)
- **Put up** To construct / to give a temporary home
- **Put up *with*** To tolerate something undesirable
- **Put aside** To store something for later use

Some Examples with “Take”

- **Take in** To offer a home for someone in need
- **Take on** To volunteer for a (not very nice?) task
- **Take off** To imitate someone
To ascend ()
- **Take down** To dis-assemble
- **Take up** To accept an offer
- **Take out** A meal collected from a restaurant (noun)
- **Take away** To collect food from a fast-food restaurant
- **Take over** To start control of what someone else stops

Use a verbal phrase to say

- **The plane ascended from the runway into the sky.** The plane took off
- **Because Susan was ill, I collected her clothes and washed them for her.** Because Susan was ill, I took in her laundry
- **Please find out how to make a pork pie.** Please look up a pork pie recipe
- **Johnny – keep running and you can win.** Come on, Johnny
- **Check the Amazon web site regularly for a low price.** Look out for a low price on Amazon
- **When she gets very stressed, she may suddenly start to cry.** When she gets very stressed, she may break down in tears

Use a verbal phrase to say

- **He pretended that hammer hadn't hurt him at all.** He made out that he wasn't hurt by the hammer
- **When I stopped working at the shop, Bill started to do my job.** Bill took over from me at the shop
- **She stole my diamonds, but she will be caught.** She stole my diamonds, but she won't get away with it / She stole my diamonds, and she will be found out
- **Paul and Sally planned to marry this summer, but they are delaying their wedding until Chinese New Year.** Paul and Sally planned to marry this summer, but they have put off their wedding until Chinese New Year
- **You want £100? Don't be ridiculous! My purse is empty.** You want £100? Come off it! My purse is empty
- **My cat was so ill, the vet euthanized her.** My cat was so ill, the vet put her down

Use a verbal phrase to say

- **Why must I tolerate his rude comments?** Why do I have to put up with his rude comments?
- **Let's collect a meal from McDonalds to eat at home.** Let's get a takeaway from McDonalds
- **Teacher gave us a printed list of verbs.** Teacher handed out a list of verbs / Teacher gave us a handout with the verbs listed on it
- **The negotiations stopped when the delegates started arguing.** The negotiations broke down when delegates started arguing with each other
- **This milk has begun to decay.** This milk has gone off
- **Tell me the story; please continue.** Please go on with the story