



ENGLISH GRAMMAR

(PHRASAL VERB LIST)

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A

Abide by	Accept or follow a decision or rule	We have to abide by what the court says
Account for	To explain	They had to account for all the money that had gone missing
Ache for	Want something or someone a lot.	My partner's been away for a fortnight- I am ACHING FOR her.
Act on	To take action because of something like information received.	The police were ACTING ON a tip from an informer and caught the gang red-handed.
Act on	Affect.	The medicine only ACTS ON infected tissue.
Act out	Perform something with actions and gestures..	They ACTED OUT the story on stage.
Act out	Express an emotion in your behavior.	Their anger is ACTED OUT in their antisocial behavior.
Act up	Behave badly or strangely.	My computer's ACTING UP; I think I might have a virus.
Aim at	To target.	The magazine is AIMED AT teenagers.
Aim at	Intend to achieve.	They're AIMING AT reducing costs by ten percent.
Allow for	Include something in a plan or calculation.	You should ALLOW FOR delays when planning a journey.
Angle for	Try to get something indirectly, by hinting or suggesting.	He's been ANGLING FOR an invitation, but I don't want him to come.
Answer back	To reply rudely to someone in authority.	Her mother was shocked when she started ANSWERING her BACK and refusing to help.
Answer for	Be held responsible for a problem.	The government should be made to ANSWER FOR their failure to sort out the problem.
Answer for	Speak on behalf of someone or from knowing them.	I can ANSWER FOR my partner because I know her position on this issue.
Argue down	Beat someone in a debate, discussion or argument.	The teacher tried to ARGUE the girl DOWN, but she couldn't.
Argue down	Persuade someone to drop the price of something they're selling.	She ARGUED him DOWN ten percent.
Argue down	Try to persuade people not to accept a proposition, motion, etc.	They tried to ARGUE DOWN the proposal.
Argue out	Argue about a problem to find a solution.	If we can't ARGUE our differences OUT, we'll have to take them to court.
Ask after	Enquire about someone's health, how life is going.	Jenny rang earlier and ASKED AFTER you, so I told her you were fine.
Ask around	Ask a number of people for information of help.	I have no idea, but I'll ASK AROUND at work and see if anyone can help.
Ask around	Invite someone.	We ASKED them AROUND for dinner.
Ask for	To provoke a negative reaction.	You're ASKING FOR trouble.
Ask for	Request to have or be given.	I ASKED FOR the menu.
Ask in	To invite somebody into your house.	'Jon's at the door.' 'ASK him IN.'
Ask out	To invite someone for a date.	He wanted to ASK her OUT but was too shy.
Ask over	Invite.	They have ASKED us OVER for drinks on Friday.
Ask round	Invite someone.	We ASKED John ROUND for diner.
Auction off	Sell something in an auction.	They AUCTIONED OFF their property as they were heavily in debt.



B

Back off	Retreat.	<i>The police told the protesters to BACK OFF.</i>
Back out	<i>Fail to keep an arrangement or promise.</i>	<i>He BACKED OUT two days before the holiday so we gave the ticket to his sister</i>
Back out of	<i>Fail to keep an agreement, arrangement.</i>	<i>She BACKED OUT OF the agreement at the last minute.</i>
Back out of	<i>Exit a parking area in reverse gear.</i>	<i>She BACKED the Rolls OUT OF its parking space.</i>
Bail up	<i>Talk to someone and delay them.</i>	<i>I was late because he BAILED me UP on the phone and wouldn't shut up.</i>
Bail up	<i>Rob someone at gunpoint.</i>	<i>He was BAILED UP by a couple of muggers as he came out of the bank.</i>
Bang about	<i>Move in a place making a lot of noise.</i>	<i>He's BANGING ABOUT in the kitchen.</i>
Bang around	<i>Move in a place making a lot of noise.</i>	<i>I can hear him BANGING ABOUT upstairs.</i>
Bang up	<i>Put someone in prison.</i>	<i>The judge BANGED him UP for eight years.</i>
Bang up	<i>Damage badly.</i>	<i>He BANGED his car UP last night.</i>
Bank on	<i>Count or rely on.</i>	<i>I'm BANKING ON your help; I can't do it alone.</i>
Bargain down	<i>Persuade someone to drop the price of something they're selling.</i>	<i>I BARGAINED her DOWN to half what she originally wanted.</i>
Bargain for	<i>Expect something to happen (usually negative).</i>	<i>I hadn't BARGAINED FOR so many people coming.</i>
Bargain on	<i>Expect something to happen (usually negative).</i>	<i>I hadn't BARGAINED ON him coming.</i>
Barge in	<i>Enter a place and interrupt.</i>	<i>He keeps BARGING IN and asking stupid questions when I'm trying to work.</i>
Barge into	<i>Enter a place and interrupt people rudely.</i>	<i>They BARGED INTO my office without knocking and started talking even though I was on the phone.</i>
Bash about	<i>Mistreat physically.</i>	<i>If you BASH your monitor ABOUT like that, it won't last long.</i>
Bash in	<i>Break, damage or injure by hitting.</i>	<i>The burglars BASHED the door IN to enter the house.</i>
Bash out	<i>Write something quickly without much preparation.</i>	<i>I BASHED the essay OUT the night before I had to hand it in.</i>
Bash up	<i>Break, damage or hurt by hitting.</i>	<i>They BASHED him UP in the fight in the pub last week and he had to go to hospital.</i>
Bawl out	<i>Scold, shout at someone.</i>	<i>She BAWLED me OUT for coming home drunk.</i>
Bear on	<i>Influence, affect.</i>	<i>The judge's character may well BEAR ON the final decision.</i>
Bear out	<i>Confirm that something is correct.</i>	<i>Statistics BEAR OUT the government's positions on the issue.</i>
Bear up	<i>Resist pressure.</i>	<i>How are you BEARING UP under the strain?</i>
Bear up under	<i>Cope with something difficult or stressful.</i>	<i>He's BEARING UP UNDER the pressure.</i>
Bear with	<i>Be patient.</i>	<i>Please BEAR WITH me a moment while I finish this email.</i>
Beat down	<i>Strong sunshine.</i>	<i>The sun WAS really BEATING DOWN and we couldn't stay outdoors.</i>
Beat down	<i>Get someone to lower the price of something.</i>	<i>I managed to BEAT him DOWN to fifty Euros.</i>
Beat out	<i>Narrowly win in competition.</i>	<i>The marathon runner barely BEAT OUT his rival at the tape.</i>
Beat up	<i>Attack violently.</i>	<i>The mugger BEAT him UP and stole his wallet.</i>
Beaver away	<i>Work hard.</i>	<i>She's BEAVERING AWAY before her exams.</i>
Beaver away at	<i>Work hard doing something.</i>	<i>I have to BEAVER AWAY AT it or else I will fail the course.</i>



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Bed down	<i>Sleep somewhere less comfortable than normal.</i>	<i>We had to BED DOWN on the floor for the night.</i>
Bed down	<i>Become established or successful over time.</i>	<i>The new government has found it hard to BED DOWN and become accepted.</i>
Bed out	<i>Move a plant outside.</i>	<i>I BEDDED the plants OUT when the weather warmed up.</i>
Beef up	<i>Make something stronger or more solid.</i>	<i>The company BEEFED UP their case when they saw that the public wouldn't accept their first explanation of the accident.</i>
Belt out	<i>Sing something loudly.</i>	<i>They BELTED OUT the national anthems before the game.</i>
Belt up	<i>Be quiet.</i>	<i>She told the students to BELT UP because they were making so much noise.</i>
Belt up	<i>Fasten your seatbelt.</i>	<i>I told the kids to BELT UP before I started the car.</i>
Big up	<i>Exaggerate the importance.</i>	<i>He BIGS himself UP all the time.</i>
Big up	<i>Increase the size of muscles by exercise.</i>	<i>They work out a lot to BIG themselves UP.</i>
Bitch up	<i>Spoil or ruin something.</i>	<i>I BITCHED UP the interview.</i>
Black out	<i>Fall unconscious.</i>	<i>He BLACKED OUT and collapsed on the floor.</i>
Black out	<i>Lose light.</i>	<i>Everything BLACKED OUT when the power supply failed.</i>
Blank out	<i>Censor text so that words cannot be read.</i>	<i>The email addresses were BLANKED OUT in the documents shown to the court.</i>
Blank out	<i>Have a temporary memory failure.</i>	<i>I was so nervous in the interview that I just BLANKED OUT and couldn't answer their questions properly.</i>
Blare out	<i>A loud sound or music.</i>	<i>The music was BLARING OUT and I couldn't get to sleep.</i>
Blast off	<i>Leave the ground- spaceship or rocket.</i>	<i>The space shuttle BLASTED OFF on schedule yesterday.</i>
Blaze away	<i>Fire a gun repeatedly.</i>	<i>The shooters BLAZED AWAY at the pheasants.</i>
Bleed out	<i>Cause sufficient blood loss to result in death.</i>	<i>They BLED OUT their calves.</i>
Bliss out	<i>Be extremely relaxed and happy.</i>	<i>I BLISSED OUT on the beach all week.</i>
Blow away	<i>Kill.</i>	<i>He grabbed a gun and BLEW the police officer AWAY.</i>
Blow away	<i>Beat rivals or competitors by a large margin.</i>	<i>Their new product has BLOWN all the others AWAY.</i>
Blow away	<i>Impress greatly.</i>	<i>Her first novel BLEW me AWAY.</i>
Blow away	<i>When the wind moves something from a place.</i>	<i>The flag BLEW AWAY in the storm; we'll have to buy a new one.</i>
Blow down	<i>When the wind forces something to fall.</i>	<i>A tree was BLOWN DOWN in the storm.</i>
Blow in	<i>Arrive, sometimes suddenly or unexpectedly.</i>	<i>He BLEW IN from Toronto early this morning.</i>
Blow off	<i>Not keep an appointment.</i>	<i>We were going to meet last night, but she BLEW me OFF at the last minute.</i>
Blow off	<i>Ignore, not do something.</i>	<i>I BLEW the homework OFF and did badly.</i>
Blow off	<i>Expel gas from the anus.</i>	<i>He BLEW OFF in front of everybody.</i>
Blow out	<i>Extinguish candles, matches, etc..</i>	<i>She BLEW the candles OUT on her birthday cake.</i>
Blurt out	<i>Say something quickly without thinking, especially if you shouldn't.</i>	<i>I was really angry when he BLURTED OUT the secret.</i>
Board out	<i>Arrange for pets to stay somewhere while you're away.</i>	<i>We BOARD our dog OUT with friends when we go abroad.</i>
Board up	<i>Cover windows or doors with wood, metal, etc..</i>	<i>They BOARDED UP all the windows to stop people getting into the empty houses.</i>
Bog down	<i>Slow make progress.</i>	<i>Yesinia got BOGGED DOWN in his research and didn't finish the project in time.</i>
Bog in	<i>Eat enthusiastically.</i>	<i>We were starving and BOGGED IN when the food was served.</i>



Bog into	<i>Eat something enthusiastically.</i>	<i>They BOGGED INTO the lunch.</i>
Bog off!	<i>Get lost.</i>	<i>He lost his temper and told her to BOG OFF.</i>
Build up	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Tension has been BUILDING UP ever since the government passed the unpopular law.</i>
Bulk up	<i>Gain weight, develop bigger muscles.</i>	<i>He's BULKED UP a lot since he got those steroids.</i>
Bump into	<i>Meet by chance.</i>	<i>I BUMPED INTO Helen on the underground the other day.</i>
Bump off	<i>Kill.</i>	<i>The drug dealer was BUMPED OFF by a rival gang.</i>
Bump up	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>They BUMP UP the prices in the high season.</i>
Bundle off	<i>Send someone somewhere.</i>	<i>He BUNDLED the kids OFF to bed.</i>
Brush off	<i>Ignore, pay little attention.</i>	<i>The minister BRUSHED OFF the criticism.</i>
Brush up	<i>Improve a skill quickly.</i>	<i>She took a two-week course to BRUSH UP her Spanish before she went travelling around South and Central America.</i>
Bubble over	<i>Become very excited.</i>	<i>She BUBBLED OVER with joy when she heard her exam results.</i>
Burst into	<i>Catch fire very quickly.</i>	<i>The car BURST INTO flames and the driver died as he didn't have time to get out.</i>
Burst into	<i>Laugh, cry or clap loudly.</i>	<i>She BURST INTO laughter when she heard the joke.</i>
Buzz off!	<i>Go away (imperative).</i>	<i>He told them to BUZZ OFF because they were annoying him.</i>

C



Call after	<i>Name someone after somebody else.</i>	<i>She was CALLED Rose AFTER her late grandmother.</i>
Call around	<i>Visit.</i>	<i>I CALLED AROUND but she wasn't in.</i>
Call back	<i>Return a phone call.</i>	<i>I must CALL her BACK when we get to the office.</i>
Call for	<i>Demand.</i>	<i>The Opposition party CALLED FOR the minister's resignation after the scandal broke.</i>
Call for	<i>Go to collect something.</i>	<i>The courier CALLED FOR your parcel, but I told him it wasn't ready yet.</i>
Call for	<i>Telephone for something.</i>	<i>I'll CALL FOR a cab right away.</i>
Call round	<i>Visit.</i>	<i>I CALLED ROUND on my way home but no one was in.</i>
Carried away	<i>Get so emotional that you lose control.</i>	<i>The team got CARRIED AWAY when they won the championship and started shouting and throwing things around.</i>
Catch out	<i>Put someone in an unexpected and difficult situation (often passive).</i>	<i>We were CAUGHT OUT in the storm.</i>
Catch up	<i>Get work, etc, up to date..</i>	<i>I was ill for a fortnight and now I've got to CATCH UP on the work I missed.</i>
Catch up	<i>Reach someone who was ahead of you.</i>	<i>He started well, but I CAUGHT him UP on the third lap.</i>
Catch out	<i>Put someone in an unexpected and difficult situation (often passive).</i>	<i>We were CAUGHT OUT in the storm.</i>
Catch up	<i>Get work, etc, up to date..</i>	<i>I was ill for a fortnight and now I've got to CATCH UP on the work I missed.</i>



Catch up	Reach someone who was ahead of you.	He started well, but I CAUGHT him UP on the third lap.
Cater for	To provide what is necessary.	The college CATERS FOR students of all ages.
Cave in	Collapse.	The roof CAVED IN because of the weight of the snow.
Cave in	Stop resisting or refusing.	The government has refused to CAVE IN despite the protests and demonstrations.
Chalk up	To achieve something good.	The company has CHALKED UP its highest ever profits.
Chance upon	Find something by accident.	I CHANCED UPON a very rare book in car boot sale and bought it for 65p.
Charge up	Put electricity into a battery.	I need to CHARGE my phone UP - the battery's dead.
Charge with	Accuse somebody of a crime.	She was arrested in customs last night and has been CHARGED WITH smuggling.
Chase down	Try hard to find or get something.	The press CHASED us DOWN when the story broke.
Chase off	Force a person to leave or go away.	The dog CHASED the postal worker OFF .
Cheer on	Encourage.	Their CHEERED their team ON throughout the match.
Chew out	Criticize someone angrily.	They CHEWED him OUT for being late.
Choke off	Stop or restrict.	These guerilla attacks are CHOKING OFF our food shipments.
Choke up	Become tearfully emotional.	Jeff CHOKED UP during his retirement speech.
Choose up	Form groups or teams.	We CHOSE UP to play the game.
Chop down	Fell or cut down a tree.	They CHOPPED DOWN most of the forest and now it looks like a desert.
Chop up	Cut into small pieces.	I CHOPPED UP the vegetables for the soup.
Churn out	Produce, usually quickly or in large amounts without much regard to quality.	The government CHURNS OUT educational policies every few months.
Clam up	Be quiet, refuse to speak.	Everybody CLAMMED UP when the Principal entered.
Claw back	Get money back.	The new tax will CLAW BACK what the government has given out in grants.
Claw back	Retake possession with difficulty.	The opposition parties are trying to CLAW BACK the voters they lost in the last election.
Claw back	Regain possession with difficulty.	They are CLAWING BACK their market share from their competitors.
Cling on	Hold tight.	He told me to CLING ON as the motorbike accelerated.
Cling on to	Try to keep something.	They CLUNG ON TO power despite the protests.
Cling to	Try to maintain beliefs, hopes, etc..	They CLING TO their old way of thinking.
Clog up	Block, slow movement right down.	The traffic's so bad the roads get CLOGGED UP at rush hour.
Close down	Close a shop, branch or business permanently.	The banks have CLOSED DOWN a lot of branches in villages over the last few years.
Coast along	Do something without making much effort or trying to improve.	She's been COASTING ALONG all year and hasn't made a lot of progress.
Come across	Find by accident.	I CAME ACROSS my old school reports when I was clearing out my desk.
Come along	Accompany.	May I COME ALONG on your trip tomorrow?
Come along	Move faster or keep up.	COME ALONG , we'll never get there if you don't keep up with us.
Come apart	Break into pieces.	It CAME APART when I tried to lift it off the floor and I had to glue it back together.
Come off	When something breaks off.	I picked it up and the handle CAME OFF in my hand.



Conk out	<i>Fall fast asleep.</i>	<i>I was exhausted and CONKED OUT on the sofa.</i>
Conk out	<i>Suddenly breakdown or stop working.</i>	<i>The printer CONKED OUT so I couldn't get a hard copy.</i>
Cozy up	<i>Make yourself comfortable.</i>	<i>It was cold and I COZIED UP by the fire.</i>
Crack up	<i>Burst out laughing.</i>	<i>Everybody CRACKED UP when he told the joke.</i>
Crack up	<i>Damage a car badly.</i>	<i>He CRACKED his car UP last night when he came off the road.</i>
Crop up	<i>Appear unexpectedly.</i>	<i>I'm going to be late tonight as something has just CROPPED UP at work.</i>
Cross off	<i>Delete, remove from a list.</i>	<i>She CROSSED him OFF her Christmas card list after they argued.</i>
Cut it out	<i>Stop your unfair or unreasonable behavior.</i>	<i>Will you two idiots CUT IT OUT and keep quiet.</i>
Cut off	<i>Disconnect.</i>	<i>The telephone's been CUT OFF because we didn't pay the bill.</i>
Cut off	<i>Isolate or make inaccessible.</i>	<i>The heavy snow has blocked many roads and CUT OFF a number of villages.</i>
Cut out	<i>Exclude.</i>	<i>I'm CUTTING OUT salt from my diet.</i>
Crumb down	<i>Clear a table in a restaurant.</i>	<i>The waiter CRUMBED DOWN before the coffee was served.</i>
Cruise through	<i>Pass or succeed easily.</i>	<i>He CRUISED THROUGH the exam.</i>
Cry out	<i>Shout because you are in pain.</i>	<i>He CRIED OUT when he dropped the box on his toes.</i>



D

Damp down	<i>Calm or reduce feelings, emotions.</i>	<i>They tried to DAMP DOWN the anger over the announcement.</i>
Damp down	<i>Make a fire burn less.</i>	<i>They tried to DAMP DOWN the flames before the fire spread.</i>
Dash down	<i>Write something quickly.</i>	<i>He DASHED DOWN a memo and sent it to everybody.</i>
Dash off	<i>Leave somewhere quickly.</i>	<i>It's late- I'm going to DASH OFF home.</i>
Dash off	<i>Do something quickly, especially writing.</i>	<i>He DASHED OFF the report in a couple of hours.</i>
Dawn on	<i>Finally realize or understand something.</i>	<i>The truth only DAWNED ON me much later.</i>
Die away	<i>Become quieter or inaudible (of a sound).</i>	<i>The last notes DIED AWAY and the audience burst into applause.</i>
Do without	<i>Manage without something.</i>	<i>There's no sugar, so you'll have to DO WITHOUT.</i>
Doze off	<i>Fall asleep.</i>	<i>The movie was a bit boring and I DOZED OFF halfway through.</i>
Drag on	<i>Be unnecessarily long.</i>	<i>The meeting DRAGGED ON for two and a half hours.</i>
Dredge up	<i>Discover things about someone's past.</i>	<i>The newspapers DREDGED UP the details of his affair with his research assistant.</i>
Drift apart	<i>Slowly cease to be close to or friends with someone.</i>	<i>We were great friends at school but DRIFTED APART when we went to different universities.</i>
Drift off	<i>Start to fall asleep.</i>	<i>I was DRIFTING OFF when the noise disturbed me.</i>
Drive off	<i>Drive away from a place.</i>	<i>She slammed the car door shut and DROVE OFF without saying a word.</i>
Drive out	<i>Force someone to leave a place.</i>	<i>The soldiers DROVE them OUT of their homes.</i>
Drone on	<i>Talk boringly for a long time.</i>	<i>The minister DRONED ON for an hour and the audience looked increasingly bored.</i>
Duff up	<i>Beat or hit someone repeatedly.</i>	<i>He was DUFFED UP in a night club last night.</i>



Dumb down	<i>Reduce the intellectual level of something in search of popularity.</i>	<i>Television has been DUMBING DOWN the news for years.</i>
Dump on	<i>Treat someone badly.</i>	<i>Her boss DUMPS ON everyone when things go wrong.</i>
Dump on	<i>Criticize heavily, often unfairly.</i>	<i>She DUMPS ON her family a lot.</i>
Dwell on	<i>Spend a lot of time on something.</i>	<i>The programme DWELLED ON little other than the scandal.</i>
Dwell upon	<i>Spend a lot of time on something.</i>	<i>She DWELT UPON the economic situation in her speech.</i>

E

Ease off	<i>Reduce pressure.</i>	<i>She EASED OFF the accelerator to let the car slow down.</i>
Ease up	<i>Relax, calm down.</i>	<i>She asked her teacher to EASE UP because she was feeling very stressed.</i>
Eat away	<i>Destroy slowly.</i>	<i>The disease EATS the liver AWAY.</i>
Eat in	<i>Eat at home.</i>	<i>We didn't feel like going to a restaurant so we ATE IN.</i>
Ebb away	<i>Disappear gradually.</i>	<i>His life was EBBED AWAY as the illness progressed.</i>
End up	<i>Become or do something unplanned.</i>	<i>We couldn't get tickets for Egypt so we ENDED UP going to Turkey instead.</i>
End up with	<i>Get as a result of something.</i>	<i>He tried hard but ENDED UP WITH a poor grade.</i>
Eye up	<i>Look carefully at someone.</i>	<i>The guy EYED the other man UP because he was behaving suspiciously.</i>

F



Face off	<i>Confront.</i>	<i>The company FACED OFF the competition.</i>
Face up to	<i>Accept an unpleasant truth.</i>	<i>Many people find it hard to FACE UP TO the fact that they are getting old.</i>
Faff about	<i>Behave indecisively.</i>	<i>He told her to stop FAFFING ABOUT and make her mind up.</i>
Faff around	<i>Behave indecisively.</i>	<i>She told him to stop FAFFING AROUND and make his mind up.</i>
Fall about	<i>Laugh a lot.</i>	<i>We FELL ABOUT when we heard what she'd done.</i>
Fall apart	<i>Break into pieces.</i>	<i>The box FELL APART when I picked it up.</i>
Fall apart	<i>Become emotionally disturbed and unable to behave normally.</i>	<i>He FELL APART when they sacked him.</i>
Fall back	<i>Retreat.</i>	<i>The army FELL BACK after losing the battle.</i>
Fall back on	<i>Be able to use in an emergency.</i>	<i>It was good to have some money in the bank to FALL BACK ON when I lost my job.</i>
Fall behind	<i>Make less progress.</i>	<i>I was ill for a week and FELL BEHIND with my work.</i>
Fathom out	<i>Understand something.</i>	<i>I couldn't FATHOM OUT what she wanted from me.</i>
Fawn on	<i>Praise someone in an excessive way to get their favor or something from them.</i>	<i>He's always FAWNING ON his boss to try to get promoted.</i>



Fawn over	<i>Praise someone in an excessive way to get their favor or something from them.</i>	<i>She FAWNED OVER the inspectors in the hope that they would give her a good grade.</i>
Feed on	<i>Grow stronger.</i>	<i>The opposition party's FEEDING ON the government's weaknesses.</i>
Feel up to	<i>Feel capable of doing something.</i>	<i>I'm so tired. I don't think I FEEL UP TO going out tonight.</i>
Fence in	<i>Enclose an area.</i>	<i>They FENCED the whole garden IN.</i>
Fence off	<i>Enclose an area to keep animals or people out.</i>	<i>They FENCED OFF one side of the park to keep dogs out.</i>
Fend for	<i>Take care of yourself or someone with help from other people.</i>	<i>The children had to FEND FOR themselves after their parents died.</i>
Fend off	<i>Resist something successfully.</i>	<i>He managed to FEND OFF the criticism in the press.</i>
Fend off	<i>Push an attacker away.</i>	<i>She FENDED OFF the dog when it attacked her.</i>
Ferret out	<i>Search and discover something.</i>	<i>The investigation finally managed to FERRET OUT the truth.</i>
Fess up	<i>Confess, admit something reluctantly.</i>	<i>The company FESSED UP after they were exposed in the newspapers.</i>
Fess up	<i>Give.</i>	<i>FESS UP your share of the bill.</i>
Fess up to	<i>Confess, admit reluctantly to something.</i>	<i>They FESSED UP TO the crime.</i>
Fiddle about	<i>Waste time doing silly things, or doing things unsuccessfully.</i>	<i>We spent the whole afternoon FIDDLING ABOUT with the computer but couldn't get it to work.</i>
Fiddle around	<i>Waste time doing silly things, or unsuccessful things.</i>	<i>I FIDDLED AROUND with the phone but couldn't get any signal.</i>
Fiddle around	<i>Make small movements with your hands.</i>	<i>He FIDDLED AROUND for something in his pockets.</i>
Fiddle away	<i>Waste time.</i>	<i>He FIDDLED AWAY the afternoon.</i>
Fight back	<i>Try to control and emotion and keep it hidden.</i>	<i>He tried to FIGHT BACK the tears when he heard the news of her death.</i>
Fight it out	<i>Struggle to see who wins, both by arguing or fighting.</i>	<i>Their FIGHTING IT OUT to see who will become the next CEO.</i>
Fight off	<i>Fight an attacker and force them back.</i>	<i>The old lady managed to FIGHT the muggers OFF and they didn't get her purse.</i>
Fight off	<i>Resist an illness or emotion.</i>	<i>I'm FIGHTING OFF a cold.</i>
Figure on	<i>Plan, expect.</i>	<i>What job do you FIGURE ON doing when you graduate?</i>
Figure out	<i>Find the answer to a problem.</i>	<i>The police couldn't FIGURE OUT how the burglars had got into the warehouse.</i>
File away	<i>Put a document in the correct place for storage in a filing system.</i>	<i>I FILED a copy of the letter AWAY for my records.</i>
File for	<i>Apply for something legally, like divorce or bankruptcy.</i>	<i>They FILED FOR divorce after two years of marriage.</i>
Fill in	<i>Complete a form.</i>	<i>I FILLED IN the application form and posted it off.</i>
Fill in for	<i>Substitute.</i>	<i>I was away for a few days, so they had to get someone to FILL IN FOR me.</i>
Filter in	<i>Move into a lane of traffic without making other cars stop.</i>	<i>The slip lane allows traffic to FILTER IN at the junction.</i>
Fire up	<i>Start a computer.</i>	<i>She FIRED UP the computer and printed out a hard copy of the files.</i>
Fire up	<i>Excite, become excited.</i>	<i>Everyone was FIRED UP and desperate to get it finished in time.</i>
Firm up	<i>Make things clearer in a negotiation or discussion.</i>	<i>We need to FIRM UP some aspects of the contract before we sign it.</i>
Firm up	<i>Exercise to make muscles harder and remove fat.</i>	<i>I go swimming every day to FIRM UP my body.</i>
Fish for	<i>Try to get some information or to get someone to say something.</i>	<i>He's always FISHING FOR compliments.</i>



Fish out	Remove something from a bag, pocket, etc.	She reached into her handbag and FISHED some coins OUT .
Fizzle out	End in an unsuccessful way.	The campaign started well, but FIZZLED OUT when they ran out of money.
Flake out	Fall asleep from exhaustion.	I worked till midnight then FLAKED OUT .
Flare out	Get angry suddenly.	He FLARED OUT when he saw the dreadful report.
Flare up	When trouble suddenly appears.	The argument FLARED UP when he was rude to them.
Flesh out	Add more details or information.	The recent government report FLESHED OUT the draft proposals.
Flick over	Change TV channels quickly.	She FLICKED OVER to see if the news had started.
Flip out	Become very excited and lose control.	He FLIPPED OUT when he won the final.
Flip through	Look quickly through a magazine, book, etc.	I FLIPPED THROUGH the latest issue of the magazine in the shop and decided to buy it.
Flog off	Sell something cheaply to get rid of it.	The council FLOGGED OFF the land cheaply to a developer who had close links to a few of the councilors.
Flounce off	Leave a place or walk away from someone angrily.	He FLOUNCED OFF when they laughed at him.
Flounce out	Leave a place angrily.	He FLOUNCED OUT when the press started criticizing him.
Fly by	When time appears to move quickly.	As I get older, the years just FLY BY .
Fool about	Not be serious.	They were FOOLING ABOUT and wouldn't settle down.
Fool about	Be unfaithful.	Their marriage broke down because he kept FOOLING ABOUT .
Fool around	Not be serious.	The teacher was angry because the class were FOOLING AROUND .
Fool around	Be unfaithful.	She suspects her husband is FOOLING AROUND with one of her friends.
Fool with	Play with something dangerous.	Don't FOOL WITH that- it could explode.
Freak out	Become very disturbed or angry.	She FREAKED OUT completely when she didn't get the grades to get into university.
Freeze out	Shut out or exclude by unfriendly treatment.	They tried to FREEZE me OUT of the conversation.
Freeze out	Force to retire or withdraw from membership, a job, etc.	After Jim was FROZEN OUT of the case, they hired a new lawyer.
Frown on	Disapprove.	He FROWNS ON people making personal calls at work.

G



Gad about	Visit a lot of different places for pleasure.	I spent the afternoon GADDING ABOUT in the West End.
Gad around	Visit different places for pleasure.	I spent the afternoon GADDING AROUND looking for some books.
Gag for	Want something a lot.	I'm GAGGING FOR a drink.
Gang up	Form a group against something or someone.	They GANGED UP to try to stop the new system.
Gang up against	Harass, bully (in a group).	They GANGED UP AGAINST me because I wouldn't accept their ideas.
Gang up on	Harass, bully.	They GANGED UP ON him because of the way he spoke.
Gear up	Get ready for a busy period.	The shops are GEARING UP for the New Year sales.





Get along	<i>Have a good relationship.</i>	<i>Why don't you two GET ALONG? You're always arguing.</i>
Get along	<i>Leave.</i>	<i>It's late; we must be GETTING ALONG.</i>
Get along	<i>Progress.</i>	<i>How's the homework GETTING ALONG?</i>
Get along in	<i>Progress.</i>	<i>How are you GETTING ALONG IN the company.</i>
Get at	<i>Criticize.</i>	<i>His boss is always GETTING AT him for arriving late.</i>
Get away	<i>Escape.</i>	<i>The robbers GOT AWAY in a stolen car, which the police later found abandoned.</i>
Get away	<i>Go on holiday or for a short break.</i>	<i>We love to GET AWAY from everything and relax in the country.</i>
Get away with	<i>Not get caught, criticized or punished for doing something wrong.</i>	<i>Thieves GOT AWAY WITH two Picassos, which were never found.</i>
Get away with	<i>Achieve something, despite not doing it correctly or properly.</i>	<i>Do you think we could GET AWAY WITH using the cheaper product?</i>
Ghost away	<i>Remove someone secretly or discreetly.</i>	<i>They GHOSTED him AWAY to a secret location before he could be arrested.</i>
Gin up	<i>Boost, increase or exaggerate.</i>	<i>The candidates tried to GIN UP support at the straw poll by transporting their supporters for free.</i>
Ginger up	<i>Make livelier.</i>	<i>They tried to GINGER UP the party to stop people leaving.</i>
Gnaw at	<i>Trouble, worry or annoy someone.</i>	<i>I know it was wrong and guilt has GNAWED AT me ever since I did it.</i>
Gnaw at	<i>Harm gradually.</i>	<i>The government's dishonesty has GNAWED AT people's trust in politicians.</i>
Gun for	<i>Try to destroy an opponent.</i>	<i>He's GUNNING FOR his rivals at work.</i>
Gussy up	<i>Dress smartly or improve the appearance of something.</i>	<i>They spent a fortune GUSSING UP the house.</i>
Goof around	<i>Fool around, not be serious.</i>	<i>We spent the weekend GOOFING AROUND.</i>
Goof off	<i>Avoid or leave work.</i>	<i>We GOOFED OFF for the afternoon to watch the match.</i>
Goof up	<i>Mess, spoil.</i>	<i>They GOOFED UP our plans.</i>
Grasp at	<i>Try to take hold of something quickly.</i>	<i>He GRASPED AT the rail when he fell.</i>
Grasp at	<i>Take an opportunity without hesitation.</i>	<i>They GRASPED AT the chance to speak to her.</i>
Grass on	<i>Report someone to a person in authority.</i>	<i>He GRASSED ON us and got us into a lot of trouble.</i>
Grass up	<i>Report someone to a person in authority.</i>	<i>She didn't to GRASS them UP, even though they'd been bullying her badly.</i>
Go off	<i>Explode (bomb), start ringing (alarm).</i>	<i>The fire alarm WENT OFF because someone was smoking in the toilets.</i>
Go off	<i>Go bad.</i>	<i>The milk WENT OFF because I forgot to put it in the fridge.</i>

H



Hack around	<i>Waste time.</i>	<i>I've been HACKING AROUND all morning because I can't get down to doing any revision.</i>
Hack into	<i>Break into a computer system.</i>	<i>He HACKED INTO the government database and stole a lot of data.</i>
Hack off	<i>Annoy.</i>	<i>He HACKS me OFF with his endless complaining.</i>
Hack up	<i>Chop or cut into small pieces.</i>	<i>They HACKED the table UP and burnt it.</i>
Hack up	<i>Expel by coughing.</i>	<i>I HACKED UP a lot of phlegm while I was ill.</i>



Ham up	<i>Perform or act in an excessive way to attract attention or amuse people.</i>	<i>He HAMMED the part UP to get the audience to laugh.</i>
Hammer away at	<i>Work relentlessly.</i>	<i>She HAMMERED AWAY AT her PC all night and finished the project.</i>
Hammer into	<i>Repeat something over a period of time to make someone remember it.</i>	<i>He HAMMERED the rules INTO me.</i>
Hammer out	<i>Negotiate and reach an agreement.</i>	<i>They HAMMERED OUT their differences and got the contract signed.</i>
Hand back	<i>Return.</i>	<i>The police officer checked my licence, then HANDED it BACK.</i>
Hand down	<i>Pass on to the next generation.</i>	<i>The jewellery has been HANDED DOWN in my family for generations.</i>
Hand down	<i>Give a formal decision.</i>	<i>The court HANDED DOWN its ruling yesterday.</i>
Hand in	<i>Submit work for appraisal.</i>	<i>I HANDED my homework IN late as usual.</i>
Hand on	<i>Give to someone else.</i>	<i>I HANDED the job ON to a colleague.</i>
Hand on	<i>Transmit knowledge to the next generation.</i>	<i>The secrets have been HANDED ON from generation to generation.</i>
Hand out	<i>Distribute.</i>	<i>The teacher HANDED OUT the worksheet to the class.</i>
Hand over	<i>Give.</i>	<i>The robbers told the clerk to HAND OVER all the money.</i>
Hang about	<i>Spend time somewhere not doing much.</i>	<i>They HANG ABOUT the station most of the day.</i>
Hang about!	<i>Stop what you're doing and pay attention to me.</i>	<i>HANG ABOUT! We're not allowed to do this.</i>
Hang around	<i>Stay in a place.</i>	<i>They HANG AROUND the station most of the day.</i>
Hang back	<i>Not move forwards to avoid doing something.</i>	<i>When they raced towards the entrance, I HUNG BACK till it was less crowded.</i>
Hang back from	<i>Delay or avoid doing something.</i>	<i>They were HANGING BACK FROM making the final decision.</i>
Hang in there	<i>Persevere, not give up.</i>	<i>We were doing badly, but we HUNG IN THERE till we finished.</i>
Hang it up	<i>Retire, quit.</i>	<i>I'm getting too old for this- I'm going to HANG IT UP starting next month.</i>
Hang on	<i>Wait.</i>	<i>Could you HANG ON for a moment till she's free.</i>
Hang on	<i>Hold tightly.</i>	<i>The driver told the passengers to HANG ON as the bus pulled off.</i>
Hang onto	<i>Keep.</i>	<i>I HUNG ONTO my old records even though I never played them.</i>
Hang out	<i>Spend time socially.</i>	<i>He HANGS OUT in the pub The Monarch; he's there most nights.</i>
Hang out for	<i>Wait or refuse to do something until you get what you want.</i>	<i>She's HANGING OUT FOR a big raise.</i>
Hang over	<i>Worry or trouble.</i>	<i>I have a lot of financial problem HANGING OVER my head.</i>
Hang together	<i>Work together when things are difficult.</i>	<i>We have to HANG TOGETHER if we're going to finish this project.</i>
Hang up	<i>End a phone call.</i>	<i>I lost my temper and HUNG UP.</i>
Hang up on	<i>End a phone call with someone.</i>	<i>A telesales person called, so I said something rude and HUNG UP ON them.</i>
Hang with	<i>Spend time with.</i>	<i>He has been HANGING WITH them for a few months.</i>
Hanker after	<i>Want something a lot, especially if you shouldn't want it or can't have it.</i>	<i>I'm supposed to be on a diet and I can't stop HANKERING AFTER some chocolate.</i>
Hanker for	<i>Want something a lot, especially if you shouldn't want it or can't have it.</i>	<i>I have always HANKERED FOR a soft-top car.</i>





Harp on	<i>Talk repeatedly about something.</i>	<i>I was late twice last week and my boss keeps HARPING ON about it.</i>
Hate on	<i>Be jealous, abuse or have an active hatred of someone.</i>	<i>She HATES ON people who disagree with her ideas.</i>
Have against	<i>Dislike, disagree or hold a grudge (Usually negative).</i>	<i>I HAVE nothing AGAINST their proposals.</i>
Have around	<i>Entertain someone in your home.</i>	<i>I HAD the neighbours AROUND for dinner last night.</i>
Have down as	<i>Think of someone or something in a particular way.</i>	<i>I HAD her DOWN AS a liberal, but I was very wrong.</i>
Have in	<i>Have a supply of something in a particular place.</i>	<i>Do we HAVE any beer IN?</i>
Have in	<i>Get someone to do some work.</i>	<i>We HAD the decorators IN last week.</i>
Have in	<i>Entertain people in your home.</i>	<i>We HAD them IN last night for dinner.</i>
Have it in for	<i>Hold a grudge.</i>	<i>He has HAD IT IN FOR me since I beat him last year.</i>
Have it off	<i>Have sex.</i>	<i>They HAD IT OFF after the party.</i>
Have it out with	<i>Discuss or argue an issue to improve a situation.</i>	<i>I'd been worried for ages, so I decided to HAVE IT OUT WITH them.</i>
Have off	<i>Take time off work.</i>	<i>I HAD a couple of days OFF last week to relax.</i>
Have on	<i>Be wearing.</i>	<i>What did Jennie HAVE ON at the party?</i>
Have on	<i>Have an electronic device switched on.</i>	<i>I HAVE my computer ON all the time.</i>
Have on	<i>Have an arrangement.</i>	<i>I HAVE a lot of meetings ON next week.</i>
Have on	<i>Tease, deceive.</i>	<i>They said they'd failed, but they were HAVING me ON.</i>
Have on	<i>Be in possession at a particular time.</i>	<i>I HAVEN'T any money ON me, but I can get some from the ATM.</i>
Have on	<i>Know something about someone that could harm them.</i>	<i>I HAVE a lot ON him because we used to work together.</i>
Have over	<i>Receive a guest.</i>	<i>Shall we HAVE them OVER for dinner?</i>
Have round	<i>Entertain someone in your home.</i>	<i>I HAD a few friends ROUND yesterday.</i>
Have up	<i>Make someone appear in court.</i>	<i>They HAD him UP for armed robbery.</i>
Head for	<i>Move or travel towards.</i>	<i>It's getting late- I'm HEADING FOR home.</i>
Head off	<i>Stop someone or force them to change direction.</i>	<i>The sheriff and his men HEADED the bandits OFF at the pass.</i>
Head off	<i>Prevent something bad happening.</i>	<i>The company made a better offer to HEAD OFF the moves for a strike.</i>
Head off	<i>Leave somewhere to go to another place.</i>	<i>After work, we all HEADED OFF to the pub.</i>
Head out	<i>Go out.</i>	<i>We're HEADING OUT at seven, so don't be late.</i>
Head up	<i>Be in charge.</i>	<i>He's HEADING UP the steering committee.</i>
Hear about	<i>Get to know some information.</i>	<i>Have you HEARD ABOUT the company takeover?</i>
Hear from	<i>Receive a phone call, email, letter or other communication from someone.</i>	<i>I haven't HEARD FROM them since we left university.</i>
Hear of	<i>Know of something or someone's existence.</i>	<i>I've HEARD OF the band, but don't know their music.</i>
Hear of	<i>Receive news, updates or information about someone.</i>	<i>I have HEARD nothing OF them since they moved house.</i>
Hear of	<i>In the negative, this can mean that someone refuse to accept, allow or acknowledge something.</i>	<i>I said it would be a positive step, but she wouldn't HEAR OF it.</i>
Hear out	<i>Listen to everything someone has to say.</i>	<i>I HEARD them OUT before I commented.</i>
Heat up	<i>Make food hot.</i>	<i>He HEATED the soup UP in the microwave.</i>
Help out	<i>Give assistance.</i>	<i>She really HELPED me OUT when I was going through my divorce.</i>
Hide away	<i>Put something in a place where it won't be found.</i>	<i>They HID the money AWAY in secret bank accounts.</i>





Hide away	Go or stay somewhere where you won't be found or away from people.	I'm renting a cottage where I can HIDE AWAY for the summer.
Hide out	Go or stay somewhere to avoid being caught or found.	The police think he's HIDING OUT in the woods.
Hinge on	Depend very much or completely.	Everything HINGES ON the results of the negotiations; if they go badly, we'll be in real trouble.
Hinge on	Be an essential point for the development of a story.	The film HINGES ON his not being recognised when he's in disguise.
Hinge upon	Depend very much or completely.	Everything HINGES UPON the results of the negotiations; if they go badly, we'll be in real trouble.
Hit back	Attack or criticise.	The president HIT BACK at her critics in a speech last night.
Hit for	Get someone to pay or donate money.	They HIT the sponsors FOR a lot of money.
Hit it off	Have a good relationship from the first time you meet a person.	We HIT IT OFF immediately and became firm friends.
Hit it off with	Like someone from the first time you meet them.	I HIT IT OFF WITH her immediately.
Hit on	Have an idea.	I suddenly HIT ON the solution
Hit on	Talk to someone to try to attract them sexually.	She HIT ON him at the party and they went back to her house.
Hit on	Ask for money.	A beggar HIT ON me when I left the restaurant.
Hit out at	Respond angrily to criticism.	The government HIT OUT AT the media for their negativity.
Hit up	Inject drugs.	She's been HITTING UP for years.
Hit up	Ask someone for some money.	He always tries to HIT me UP for money when we meet.
Hit upon	Inject drugs.	He's been HITTING UP ON heroin for years.
Hit upon	Have an idea.	It took us ages to HIT UPON a solution.
Hit upon	Try to attract someone sexually.	He tried to HIT UPON her at the pub.
Hit with	Surprise someone with some information or news.	He HIT me WITH the details of their demands.
Hive off	Separate part of a company or service, often by selling it.	They HIVED OFF the retail operations.
Hold against	Have a grudge against someone, or little respect.	He was very rude, but I won't HOLD it AGAINST him.
Hold back	Not show emotion.	It was really hard to HOLD BACK the tears.
Hold back	Prevent something moving forwards or progressing.	Lack of funding HELD the project BACK.
Hold back	Not disclose information or make it public.	The government HELD BACK the findings of the report for fear of alienating voters.
Hold back from	Not allow yourself to do something.	I had to HOLD BACK FROM losing my temper with them.
Hold down	Keep a job.	He's so unreliable that he can never HOLD DOWN a job for more than a couple of months.
Hold down	Stop someone or something from moving.	It took four of us to HOLD him DOWN and stop the fight.
Hold forth	State your opinions about something, especially when talking for a long time and boringly.	The manager HELD FORTH on the topic for about twenty minutes.
Hold off	When bad weather doesn't appear.	The rain HELD OFF until we'd got back home.
Hold off	Stop someone from attacking or beating you.	Chelsea couldn't HOLD their opponents OFF and lost the game.
Hold on	Wait.	Could you HOLD ON for a minute; she'll be free in a moment.
Hold on	To hold tightly.	We HELD ON as the bus started to move.



Hold on to	Hold tightly.	<i>I HELD ON TO my luggage while I was waiting for the taxi so that it didn't get stolen.</i>
Hold onto	Keep as long as possible.	<i>It tried to HOLD ONTO my cash during the holiday so I could buy some duty free stuff on the way back.</i>
Hold onto	Hold tightly.	<i>The mother HELD ONTO her daughter's hand to keep together in the crowd.</i>
Hold out	Resist.	<i>When the enemy attacked, they HELD OUT for six weeks.</i>
Hold out	Hold in front of you.	<i>I HELD OUT my hand when she walked in.</i>
Hold out against	Try to reject.	<i>The staff are HOLDING OUT AGAINST the plans to reduce the workforce.</i>
Hold out for	Wait for something better or refuse something now for something better in the future.	<i>We are HOLDING OUT FOR a much better deal than the one offered.</i>
Hold out on	Not pay someone or give them information.	<i>He's been HOLDING OUT ON me for weeks and I really need the money.</i>
Hold over	Delay.	<i>The meeting has been HELD OVER till Friday.</i>
Hold over	To continue something for longer than planned.	<i>It has been so successful that they have HELD it OVER for another fortnight.</i>
Hold together	Not break up.	<i>The society managed to HOLD TOGETHER despite the crisis.</i>
Hold up	Delay when travelling.	<i>I was HELD UP by the terrible traffic and arrived half an hour late for my appointment.</i>
Hold up	Rob with violence or threats thereof.	<i>Two armed men HELD UP the bank in High Street this morning and got away with £75,000.</i>
Hold with	Accept (usually negative).	<i>I don't HOLD WITH their plans.</i>
Hole up	Hide to avoid detection or an unpleasant situation.	<i>They HOLED UP in a remote cottage while the police were searching for them.</i>
Home in on	Target.	<i>The government is HOMING IN ON benefit fraud.</i>
Hone in on	Target, focus.	<i>The company HONED IN ON its rival and tried to take it over. (Some consider this verb to be wrong and that is confused with 'home in on.')</i>
Hook into	Persuade someone to do something they don't want to do.	<i>She HOOKED them INTO coming after all.</i>
Hook up	Meet someone.	<i>We HOOKED UP at the conference.</i>
Hook up to	Connect to a machine.	<i>He's HOOKED UP TO a ventilator in the hospital.</i>
Hoon around	Act in a dangerous or reckless way, especially when driving fast.	<i>He was HOONING AROUND in his new car last night and the police pulled him.</i>
Horse around	Not be serious.	<i>The class were HORSING AROUND when the teacher came in and told them to sit down.</i>
Hose down	Use a hose to wet, clean or wash something.	<i>They HOSED the patio DOWN.</i>
Hose down	Invest heavily in or throw a lot of money at something.	<i>They have HOSED DOWN an obscure start-up up with capital.</i>
Hound out	Force someone out of a place, job, position, etc..	<i>The press HOUNDED the minister OUT after the scandal broke.</i>
Hover around	Move about a place.	<i>She was HOVERING AROUND to see what we were talking about.</i>
Hunker down	Settle in a place as comfortably as possible to stay there.	<i>The troops HUNKERED DOWN in the building.</i>
Hunt down	Search for someone to punish or kill them.	<i>The police HUNTED the killer DOWN.</i>
Hunt out	Search until you find something.	<i>It took me ages to HUNT OUT the photos.</i>
Hunt up	Search for and manage to find something.	<i>He HUNTED UP a copy the book in the British library.</i>
Hush up	Try to keep something bad from becoming widely known.	<i>The company tried to HUSH UP the scandal, but it still got into the newspapers.</i>



I

<i>Iron out</i>	<i>Remove small problems or irregularities.</i>	<i>The management team IRONED OUT the tax problems before they gave the project the OK.</i>
<i>Issue forth</i>	<i>Come out of a place.</i>	<i>New initiatives ISSUE FORTH from the government on a daily basis.</i>



J

<i>Jabber away</i>	<i>Talk fast or incomprehensibly.</i>	<i>They started JABBERING AWAY about file systems and lost me completely.</i>
<i>Jack around</i>	<i>Make trouble for someone, fail to keep promises.</i>	<i>Don't listen to him- he always JACKS people AROUND.</i>
<i>Jack in</i>	<i>Quit, give up.</i>	<i>I JACKED my job IN because my boss refused to give me a raise.</i>
<i>Jack up</i>	<i>Raise a car to be able to do mechanical work.</i>	<i>We JACKED the car UP and changed the tyre.</i>
<i>Jack up</i>	<i>Increase sharply.</i>	<i>They have JACKED UP the price of oil this month.</i>
<i>Jam on</i>	<i>Apply or operate something forcefully.</i>	<i>Jack JAMMED ON the brakes when the rabbit ran in front of his car.</i>
<i>Jaw away</i>	<i>Talk just for the point of talking rather than having anything to say.</i>	<i>That shows that your interest is not in helping the student, but in JAWING AWAY.</i>
<i>Jazz up</i>	<i>Make something more interesting or attractive.</i>	<i>The show was getting stale so they JAZZED it UP with some new scenes.</i>
<i>Jerk around</i>	<i>Cause someone trouble, treat someone badly.</i>	<i>He was JERKING us AROUND and wouldn't give us the facts.</i>
<i>Jerk around</i>	<i>Behave stupidly.</i>	<i>They were JERKING AROUND during the lecture.</i>
<i>Jerk off</i>	<i>Waste time doing unimportant things.</i>	<i>You should get your work done and stop JERKING OFF.</i>
<i>Joke around</i>	<i>Be funny, or try to.</i>	<i>He's always JOKING AROUND in class.</i>
<i>Jot down</i>	<i>Make a quick note.</i>	<i>I JOTTED DOWN her number on a scrap of paper and I can't find it now.</i>
<i>Juice up</i>	<i>Make something more exciting or perform better.</i>	<i>I need to buy some memory to JUICE my computer UP.</i>
<i>Jump at</i>	<i>Accept eagerly.</i>	<i>I'd JUMP AT the chance to go and live in Japan.</i>
<i>Jump in</i>	<i>Enter a conversation.</i>	<i>He JUMPED IN and told them exactly what he thought.</i>
<i>Jump off</i>	<i>Start quickly, often well.</i>	<i>The IPO JUMPED OFF on the first day.</i>
<i>Jump on</i>	<i>Criticize, attack.</i>	<i>Everyone JUMPED ON me when I raised the issue.</i>

K

<i>Keel over</i>	<i>Turn upside down.</i>	<i>The boat KEELED OVER in the storm and the crew drowned.</i>
<i>Keel over</i>	<i>Surrender, give in.</i>	<i>He was going to confront his boss, but KEELED OVER and didn't mention the matter.</i>



Keel over	Fall to the ground.	The drunk KEELED OVER when trying to leave the pub.
Keep around	Keep something near you.	I KEEP a dictionary AROUND when I'm doing my homework.
Keep at	Continue with something difficult.	She found the course hard but she KEPT AT it and completed it successfully.
Keep away	Don't allow someone near something.	Medicines should always be KEPT AWAY from children.
Keep back	Maintain a safe distance.	The police told the crowd to KEEP BACK from the fire.
Keep down	Not vomit.	The food was so horrible that I struggled to KEEP it DOWN .
Keep from	Control yourself, refrain.	I couldn't KEEP FROM arguing with her.
Keep in	Not allow someone out.	The teacher KEPT the students IN after school because they had misbehaved.
Keep off	Not talk about.	She KEPT OFF the subject of her divorce.
Keep off	Not tread on something.	KEEP OFF the grass in the park, please.
Keep on	Continue.	He KEPT ON trying and succeeded in the end.
Keep out	Not allow someone to enter.	The police KEPT the demonstrators OUT of the building.
Keep to	Stay within limits.	Please KEEP TO the path.
Keep up	Not let someone go to bed.	My neighbors KEPT me UP till after 4 am with their loud music last night.
Keep up	Maintain a continuous action, persist.	First I phoned you and left a message that you should phone me; then you phoned and I was out, so you left a message; then...! How long can we KEEP this UP without ever speaking to each other directly?
Keep up at	Continue, not quit.	Learning a language is difficult, but if you KEEP UP AT it, you'll succeed in the end.
Keep up with	Move at the same rate.	He walks too fast and it's really hard to KEEP UP WITH him.
Keep up with	Stay up to date.	It's hard to KEEP UP WITH all the latest improvements and breakthroughs in technology nowadays.
Key down	Relax, unwind.	I need to KEY DOWN before I go to bed.
Key in	Enter numbers or information into a computer or electronic system.	It took me ages to KEY IN all the information into the database.
Key in on	Focus attention on, single out.	They KEYED IN ON the person they believed had done it.
Key on	Target, focus on (sport).	We will KEY ON the opposing team's lack of skills on defense.
Key to	Plan things to fit or suit people or situations.	Promotions are KEYED TO people's abilities.
Key up	Make someone excited or nervous.	The noise got us KEYED UP .
Kick about	Discuss.	We KICKED the idea ABOUT at the meeting.
Kick around	Discuss.	We KICKED the idea AROUND .
Kick around with	Spend time with.	I used to KICK AROUND WITH them, but haven't seen them for a while.
Kick back	Pay someone illegally as part of the price.	I had to KICK ten percent BACK to the government official to get the contract.
Kick back	Resist.	They KICKED BACK when we suggested downsizing.
Kick back	Relax.	Rather than go out tonight, we plan to KICK BACK and watch television.
Kick down	Break something with your feet.	The police KICKED the door DOWN .
Kick in	When a drug starts to take effect.	Her hayfever didn't feel half as bad once the antihistamines had KICKED IN .



Kick in	Break something with your feet.	They KICKED his head IN .
Kick in	Contribute money.	I'll KICK IN for some of the beer if you will buy the pizza.
Kick in	Start having an effect.	The budget cuts are starting to KICK IN and people are struggling.
Kick off	Start a game of football.	The match KICKS OFF at three o'clock.
Kick off	Die.	He KICKED OFF last month when he had a massive heart attack.
Kick off	When trouble starts.	The fight KICKED OFF when he insulted the guy's girlfriend.
Kick off	Argue, protest and refuse to co-operate.	He started KICKING OFF big time when the police tried to arrest him.
Kick out	Expel.	The family KICKED the au pair OUT when they found out that she was planning to move to work for another household.
Kick up	Cause trouble or pain.	My back KICKS UP when it gets cold.
Kill off	Reduce or exterminate a population by hunting, pollution, development, etc..	There used to be a lot of wolves around here, but most of them have been KILLED OFF .
Kip down	Sleep away from your home, often without planning to.	It's too late to get the train, so can I KIP DOWN here tonight?
Kip down on	Sleep on something other than a bed.	There were so many of us that we had to KIP DOWN ON the floor.
Kiss off	Used to tell someone to go away.	He was bugging us, so we told him to KISS OFF .
Kiss off	Consider something to be unimportant or inferior.	He KISSED the criticism OFF .
Kiss up to	Try to get into someone's favour.	He's a creep and is always KISSING UP TO the director.
Knock about	Beat someone.	He KNOCKED his brother ABOUT after they argued.
Knock around	Discuss casually.	We KNOCKED the idea AROUND a bit, but decided not to bother.
Knock back	Cost someone a lot of money.	Your holiday must have KNOCKED you BACK a bit.
Knock back	Finish a drink quickly, drink a lot of alcohol.	The pub was closing so we KNOCKED our drinks BACK and left.
Knock back	Shock.	It really KNOCKED me BACK when I heard they had been killed.
Knock down	Demolish.	They KNOCKED DOWN the old church and built a block of flats in its place.
Knock down	Hit and injure someone.	The car KNOCKED her DOWN and she broke her arm.
Knock it off!	Stop doing something annoying.	They were making too much noise, so I told them to KNOCK IT OFF .
Knock off	Finish work for the day.	We KNOCKED OFF early on Friday to avoid the rush hour queues.
Knock off	Reduce the price of something.	They KNOCKED ten pounds OFF when I asked for a discount.
Knock off	Reduce the time required to do something.	The new road KNOCKS an hour OFF the journey.
Knock off	Steal.	He KNOCKED it OFF and sold it.
Knock off	Produce or create something quickly.	I KNOCKED the essay OFF in an hour.
Knock out	Hit and make somebody unconscious.	The reigning middleweight champion KNOCKED OUT the challenger in the fourth round of the fight.
Knock out	Sell, distribute.	They're KNOCKING hundreds OUT a day in the sales.
Knock together	Join houses that had been separate.	They KNOCKED TOGETHER two outbuildings and turned them into a home.
Knock up	Become or get someone pregnant..	She got KNOCKED UP when she was on holiday.



Knock up	<i>Play a bit before a match to get ready.</i>	<i>The teams KNOCKED UP for a few minutes before the final.</i>
Knock up	<i>Produce or create something quickly.</i>	<i>They KNOCKED a model UP over the weekend.</i>
Knuckle down	<i>Make a great effort.</i>	<i>I've got my exams next week and I haven't done much work, so I'd better KNUCKLE DOWN.</i>
Knuckle under	<i>Submit to authority.</i>	<i>The teacher made the students KNUCKLE UNDER and hand their projects in on time.</i>



L

Land in	<i>Get someone into trouble.</i>	<i>He LANDED ME IN it when he told them what I had done wrong.</i>
Land up in	<i>Arrive, end a journey in a place, often without planning.</i>	<i>We set out for Manchester, but LANDED UP IN Liverpool.</i>
Land with	<i>Create a problem for someone.</i>	<i>He LANDED ME WITH the job of proofreading the whole thing.</i>
Lap up	<i>Appreciate something.</i>	<i>He LAPPED UP their praise.</i>
Large it up	<i>Have a good time when intoxicated.</i>	<i>They were LARGING IT UP in the rave.</i>
Lark about	<i>Behave in a silly way.</i>	<i>The children made me angry because they were LARKING ABOUT.</i>
Lark around	<i>Behave in a silly way.</i>	<i>The students wouldn't stop LARKING AROUND.</i>
Lark it up	<i>Enjoy yourself noisily and exuberantly.</i>	<i>After they won, they went to a bar to LARK IT UP.</i>
Lash down	<i>Fall heavily (rain).</i>	<i>The rain was LASHING DOWN all day and the roads were flooded.</i>
Lash down	<i>Secure something with ropes or cords.</i>	<i>We LASHED the tarpaulin DOWN to stop the wind blowing it away.</i>
Lash into	<i>Criticise someone strongly.</i>	<i>He LASHED INTO them for messing things up.</i>
Lash out	<i>Suddenly become violent.</i>	<i>He LASHED OUT and broke the man's nose.</i>
Lash out	<i>React angrily.</i>	<i>He LASHES OUT when things don't go his way.</i>
Lash out	<i>Spend a lot of money on luxuries.</i>	<i>I LASHED OUT in the sales last week.</i>
Lash out against	<i>Criticize something strongly.</i>	<i>The press has LASHED OUT AGAINST the policy.</i>
Lash out at	<i>Hit someone suddenly, usually without warning, or try to hit them.</i>	<i>He LASHED OUT AT me when I laughed at him.</i>
Lash out at	<i>Criticize someone or shout at them.</i>	<i>She LASHED OUT AT her colleagues when she was sacked.</i>
Lash out on	<i>Spend a lot of money buying something.</i>	<i>I LASHED OUT a lot ON a new car.</i>
Latch on	<i>Understand, often after a long time.</i>	<i>They were lying, but it took her ages to LATCH ON.</i>
Latch on to	<i>Understand something, often after a long time.</i>	<i>The police didn't LATCH ON TO what the crooks were doing for years.</i>
Latch onto	<i>Connect to something.</i>	<i>The gecko LATCHED ONTO the ceiling.</i>
Latch onto	<i>Decide or realize that something is good or profitable.</i>	<i>Oil companies have LATCHED ONTO environmental ideas.</i>
Laugh off	<i>Pretend something (an injury, news, etc.) isn't important.</i>	<i>He LAUGHED OFF the sprained finger but it obviously affected his golf game.</i>
Lay down	<i>Establish rules or procedures.</i>	<i>The rules of the sport were LAI D DOWN early in the nineteenth century.</i>
Lay down	<i>Kill, murder.</i>	<i>He got LAI D DOWN in a turf war about supplying drugs.</i>
Lay into	<i>Criticise angrily.</i>	<i>His partner LAI D INTO him when he arrived two hours late..</i>
Lay off	<i>Make an employee redundant.</i>	<i>The hotel LAI D OFF twenty staff because tourist numbers were down.</i>



Lay on	Organise, supply.	They LAID ON a buffet lunch at the conference.
Lay out	Spend money.	They LAID OUT thousands of pounds on their wedding reception.
Lead on	Falsely or cruelly raise hopes.	She LED HIM ON about her desire to get married.
Lead to	Result in.	The investigation LED TO the arrest of a number of suspects.
Leak out	Become public knowledge.	The company's plans to close the factory LEAKED OUT and they were very embarrassed.
Lean on	Put pressure on someone to get them to do what you want.	The government has denied LEANING ON the Attorney General to get his approval of the war.
Leap at	Take an opportunity enthusiastically.	He LEAPED AT the chance to visit.
Leap on	Show interest in or try to use something to your advantage.	They have LEAPT ON the bandwagon to increase sales.
Leap out at	Be very noticeable.	Her face LEAPT OUT AT me the second I saw the photo.
Leap upon	Show interest in or try to use something to your advantage.	They have LEAPT UPON a couple of errors in the document and want to invalidate the agreement.
Leave on	Not turn off.	LEAVE the TV ON; I want to hear the football results.
Leave out	Not include.	He was LEFT OUT of the side because he hasn't been playing too well lately.
Let down	Disappoint, fail to keep an arrangement.	She failed to turn up and I felt badly LET DOWN.
Let down	Make clothes longer.	He's grown so much, we'll have to LET his trousers DOWN.
Let in	Allow someone to enter.	The doorstaff didn't LET him IN the nightclub because he was wearing jeans.
Let off	Not punish.	The judge LET him OFF with a fine rather than a prison sentence since it was his first offence.
Let on	Tell a secret.	I didn't mean to LET ON about the party; I just said it without thinking.
Let out	Allow to leave or go out.	The convict was LET OUT of prison after serving five years of an eight-year sentence.
Let out	Make a sound.	He LET OUT a huge sigh of relief when he heard the results.
Let out	Make clothes bigger.	I've put on so much weight that I'm going to have to LET my suits OUT.
Level off	Stabilize the altitude of an airplane.	The pilot LEVELED OFF at 5,000 meters.
Level out	Stabilize the altitude of an airplane.	The pilot LEVELED OUT at 5,000 meters.
Lie around	Act in a lazy or unproductive way.	Most days he would usually just LIE AROUND the house.
Lie down	Rest.	I'm going to LIE DOWN for a few minutes before we have to go out.
Lie with	Have the right to make a decision.	The decision about the contract LIES WITH the courts.
Lift off	Leave the ground- rocket or spaceship.	5-4-3-2-1- we have LIFT-OFF!
Light out	Leave suddenly.	When Zeke found out they were coming for him he LIT OUT for the border.
Light up	Light or start smoking a cigarette.	Asif LIT UP as soon as he got out of the building.
Light up	Illuminate.	They LIGHT UP the streets at Christmas time.
Lighten up	Be less serious.	I told them to LIGHTEN UP but they continued complaining about it.
Limber up	Do some exercises to warm up before playing a sport or other physical activity.	The team LIMBERED UP for a few minutes before the game started.
Limber up for	Prepare for something that will require a great effort.	They are LIMBERING UP FOR the end of the financial year.
Line up	Arrange in a line.	The police got them to LINE UP against the wall.





Line up	Arrange something in a line.	He LINED the bottles UP against the wall.
Line up	Arrange events for someone.	We have LINED UP a lot of meetings for them.
Link up	Connect, join.	The train LINKS UP the cities.
Link up with	Connect with someone or contact them.	We LINKED UP WITH the firm over the web.
Listen out for	Listen for a particular noise or sound.	They put their coats on and LISTENED OUT FOR the minicab.
Listen up	Pay attention (often used as a command).	LISTEN UP , men! Here are your new assignments.
Live by	Follow a belief system to guide your behaviour.	He tries hard to LIVE BY the Bible.
Live down	Stop being embarrassed about something.	If I fail the test and everyone else passes, I'll never be able to LIVE it DOWN .
Live for	Believe something is extremely important.	He LIVES FOR football.
Live in	Live in the place where you work or study..	The university has a residential halls where students can LIVE IN .
Live it up	Have a good time by spending a lot of money.	She's been LIVING IT UP like crazy since she won the lottery.
Live off	Use money earned.	They find it hard to LIVE OFF the money they make.
Live off	Be financially supported.	He's 40 and he still LIVES OFF his parents.
Live on	Use money for basic necessities.	They have to LIVE ON \$200 a week.
Live on	Not be forgotten.	He's been dead for many years, but his name LIVES ON .
Live out	Stay somewhere until you die.	She LIVED OUT her final years in a nursing home.
Live out	Fulfill an ambition or fantasy.	Many parents try to LIVE OUT their dreams through their children.
Live out	Not live at the place where you study or work.	In my final year at university I LIVED OUT with some friends in a flat we rented.
Live through	Experience different times.	It was hard to LIVE THROUGH the recession, but we managed it.
Live together	Have a relationship and live in the same place without marrying.	We LIVED TOGETHER for a few years before we got married.
Live up to	Meet expectations or standards.	The concert didn't LIVE UP TO my expectations.
Live with	Accept something unpleasant.	It's hard to LIVE WITH the pain of a serious illness.
Live with	Have a relationship and live in the same place without marrying.	I LIVED WITH her for a couple of years before the relationship went sour.
Load down	Burden.	I was LOADED DOWN with all the stuff I had to take there.
Load up	Take illegal drugs.	He's been LOADING UP for years.
Load up	Fill a machine or vehicle.	We LOADED the car UP and left for our holiday.
Load up on	Consume a lot of something for a particular purpose.	The athletes LOADED UP ON carbohydrates before the race.
Lock away	Lock in a safe place.	He LOCKED the gun AWAY in a drawer.
Lock away	Put someone in prison or a mental hospital for a very long time.	They LOCKED him AWAY for life after the murders.
Lock down	Make very secure.	If you lock down your computer properly, it is very difficult for people to access it.
Lock in	Lock a place to stop someone leaving.	They LOCKED him IN the room until he had calmed down.
Lock in	Commit someone in such a way that they cannot leave.	They are LOCKED IN now that they have paid their subscription.
Lock onto	Find a target and head for it.	The missile LOCKED ONTO the plane and blew it out of the sky.
Lock out	Close a workplace to stop workers entering.	The management LOCKED the staff OUT because they had turned down the pay offer.
Lock out	Lock a place to stop someone getting in.	I lost my key and LOCKED myself OUT .
Lock up	Close all doors, windows, etc..	She LOCKED UP after everyone had left and went home.



Lock up	Lock something in a safe place.	I LOCKED my money UP in the safe.
Lock up	Put in prison or a mental hospital.	They LOCKED him UP for burglary.
Lock yourself away	Go somewhere away from people to study or work.	I LOCK MYSELF AWAY for a few weeks before exams.
Log in	Enter a restricted area on a computer system.	I had forgotten my password and couldn't LOG IN.
Log into	Enter a restricted area of a computer system.	I LOGGED INTO the staff intranet to check my email.
Log off	Exit a computer system.	When she'd finished working on the spreadsheet, she LOGGED OFF and left the office.
Log on	Enter a computer system.	He entered his password for the college intranet and LOGGED ON.
Log out	Exit a computer system.	Danny closed the programs and LOGGED OUT when it was time to go home.
Look after	Take care.	Their auntie LOOKED AFTER them while their mother was in hospital.
Look back	Think about the past.	Old people often LOOK BACK on over their lives.
Look down on	Have a low opinion of.	He LOOKS DOWN ON his colleagues because he thinks he's better than they are.
Look for	Try to find.	I've been LOOKING FOR all their hidden files, but I can't find them anywhere.
Look forward to	Wait for or anticipate something pleasant.	I'm LOOKING FORWARD TO meeting you.
Look in	Make a quick visit.	I'll LOOK IN on my way home.
Look in on	Visit briefly to see if everything's all right.	I'm going to LOOK IN ON grannie on the way home tonight as she's been a bit unwell recently.
Look into	Research, investigate.	We'll LOOK INTO the problem and come back to you when we have the information.
Look on	Watch something like a crime without helping.	The crowd just LOOKED ON as the old lady was mugged.
Look on as	Consider, regard.	I LOOK ON her AS a close friend.
Look out	Be careful.	LOOK OUT; you're going to drop that!
Look out for	Take care of someone, make sure someone is cared for.	She LOOKED OUT FOR her sister when she started school.
Look out for	Keep alert and try to see.	We told to LOOK OUT FOR any suspicious behavior.
Look over	Inspect.	They came to LOOK the house OVER with a view to buying it.
Look round	Inspect a house.	We LOOKED ROUND the house and decided that we didn't like it enough to buy it.
Look through	Read quickly.	I LOOKED THROUGH the article.
Look to	Expect, hope.	The company is LOOKING TO increase its sales in Asia.
Look up	Consult a reference work (dictionary, phonebook, etc.) for a specific piece of information..	I didn't know the correct spelling so I had to LOOK it UP in the dictionary.
Look up	Improve.	The economy is LOOKING UP.
Look up	Find, trace an old friend.	I LOOKED him UP when I went back to Cambridge.
Look up to	Respect.	She's LOOKS UP TO her mother.
Look upon as	Consider, regard.	I LOOK UPON him AS a close friend.
Loosen up	Become more relaxed or comfortable.	He was very shy at first but has LOOSENED UP and is more talkative now.
Lord it over	Behave in a superior manner.	She loves to LORD IT OVER her employees.
Lose out	Be at a disadvantage.	Many people LOST OUT when the new regulations were enforced.
Lose out on	Not gain or have something advantageous.	Because I left the company, I LOST OUT ON my bonus.



<i>Lose out to</i>	<i>Be less successful.</i>	<i>People without IT skills often LOSE OUT TO those with the skills.</i>
<i>Luck into</i>	<i>Get something by chance.</i>	<i>We LUCKED INTO getting the answer.</i>
<i>Luck out</i>	<i>Be very lucky.</i>	<i>I really LUCKED OUT when I met my partner.</i>
<i>Lust after</i>	<i>Be attracted sexually.</i>	<i>He secretly LUSTS AFTER his friend's wife.</i>
<i>Lust after</i>	<i>Want something very much.</i>	<i>He LUSTS AFTER a Rolex.</i>

M



<i>Magic away</i>	<i>Make something disappear quickly.</i>	<i>He MAGICKED the bill AWAY and paid for us all before I could get my wallet out.</i>
<i>Make after</i>	<i>Chase.</i>	<i>The police MADE AFTER the stolen car.</i>
<i>Make away with</i>	<i>Steal.</i>	<i>The thieves MADE AWAY WITH the painting.</i>
<i>Make do with</i>	<i>Accept something less satisfactory because there's no alternative.</i>	<i>There's no coffee, so we'll have to MAKE DO WITH tea.</i>
<i>Make for</i>	<i>Head in a certain direction.</i>	<i>We MADE FOR home when it started raining.</i>
<i>Make for</i>	<i>Produce a result or situation.</i>	<i>The low quality of the service MADE FOR a lot of dissatisfaction.</i>
<i>Make into</i>	<i>Change something into something else.</i>	<i>Many churches have been MADE INTO flats in recent years.</i>
<i>Make it</i>	<i>Arrive or get a result.</i>	<i>I thought you weren't coming, so I was really pleased you MADE IT.</i>
<i>Make it up to</i>	<i>Try to compensate for doing something wrong.</i>	<i>He tried to MAKE IT UP TO her, but she wouldn't speak to him.</i>
<i>Make of</i>	<i>Understand or have an opinion.</i>	<i>What do you MAKE OF your new boss?</i>
<i>Make off</i>	<i>Leave somewhere in a hurry.</i>	<i>They MADE OFF when they heard the police siren.</i>
<i>Make off with</i>	<i>Steal.</i>	<i>Thieves MADE OFF WITH over a million dollars in the robbery.</i>
<i>Make out</i>	<i>Make a cheque payable to somebody.</i>	<i>Please MAKE the cheque OUT to RGM Productions Ltd.</i>
<i>Make out</i>	<i>Pretend.</i>	<i>He MADE OUT that he was ill so that he didn't have to go to school.</i>
<i>Make out</i>	<i>Progress.</i>	<i>How are your children MAKING OUT at the new school?</i>
<i>Make out</i>	<i>Kiss and pet.</i>	<i>They were MAKING OUT at the party last night.</i>
<i>Make out</i>	<i>Discern a small detail.</i>	<i>I can just MAKE OUT the outline of a flying saucer in this photo.</i>
<i>Make out</i>	<i>Be able to see or hear something.</i>	<i>Can you MAKE OUT what she's saying?</i>
<i>Make out</i>	<i>Understand someone's nature or personality.</i>	<i>He's strange; I can't MAKE him OUT.</i>
<i>Make over</i>	<i>Change appearance.</i>	<i>The beauty salon gave her a MAKEOVER before the party.</i>
<i>Make over</i>	<i>Give money or possessions to someone in a legal way.</i>	<i>She MADE OVER her property to her children.</i>
<i>Make towards</i>	<i>Head in the direction.</i>	<i>We MADE TOWARDS the centre.</i>
<i>Make up</i>	<i>Stop being angry with someone.</i>	<i>They are always arguing, but they MAKE UP again very quickly.</i>
<i>Make up</i>	<i>Put on cosmetics.</i>	<i>She went to the bathroom to MAKE her face UP.</i>
<i>Make up</i>	<i>Invent a story.</i>	<i>They MADE UP an excuse for being late.</i>
<i>Make up for</i>	<i>Compensate.</i>	<i>I sent her a present to try to MAKE UP FOR my appalling behaviour.</i>
<i>Make up to</i>	<i>Increase a sum received to a higher figure.</i>	<i>The charity collected £24,517.57, and the anonymous donor MADE the total UP TO £25,000'</i>
<i>Make with</i>	<i>Give (usually used as an imperative).</i>	<i>MAKE WITH the money you owe me.</i>





Man down	<i>Behave without courage or conviction.</i>	<i>He MANNED DOWN and didn't come with us.</i>
Man up	<i>Behave with courage or conviction.</i>	<i>She told her anonymous critics to MAN UP and speaks publicly.</i>
Mark down	<i>Give a student a lower grade for a particular reason.</i>	<i>Students who gave obviously rehearsed answers were MARKED DOWN, while those who spoke naturally were rewarded accordingly.</i>
Mark down	<i>Reduce the price of something.</i>	<i>I'll buy a lot more if you MARK them DOWN a bit.</i>
Mark down as	<i>Consider someone or something to be of a certain group, type, etc..</i>	<i>I MARKED them DOWN AS conservatives, but they're very liberal.</i>
Mark off	<i>Tick, cross out or otherwise mark something to show that it has been dealt with.</i>	<i>I MARKED OFF the items on the list as I finished them.</i>
Mark out	<i>Draw lines to enclose an area.</i>	<i>They MARKED OUT the pitch.</i>
Mark out for	<i>Show promise for the future.</i>	<i>His dedication MARKED him OUT FOR great things.</i>
Mark out from	<i>Stand out because of certain qualities.</i>	<i>Her speed MARKS her OUT FROM the rest of the group.</i>
Mark up	<i>Increase the price of something.</i>	<i>They MARK the goods UP by 25% before they sell them.</i>
Marry in	<i>Marry someone of the same ethnicity, religion, etc.</i>	<i>Many religions encourage their followers to MARRY IN.</i>
Marry out	<i>Marry someone of a different ethnicity, religion, etc.</i>	<i>Her parents disowned her and refused to speak to her when she MARRIED OUT.</i>
Mash up	<i>Crush something until it becomes a paste.</i>	<i>He MASHED UP some bananas for the dessert.</i>
Mash up	<i>Mix sources of audio, video or other computer sources..</i>	<i>She MASHED UP the songs into a single track.</i>
Mash up	<i>Break or damage.</i>	<i>He MASHED UP my MP3 player and lost my files.</i>
Max out	<i>Take something to the limit, reach a limit.</i>	<i>She MAXED OUT her credit cards.</i>
Measure against	<i>Evaluate or judge by comparison.</i>	<i>The work doesn't look good if you MEASURE it AGAINST what our competitors have done.</i>
Measure off	<i>Measure something and mark the point where it ends or will be cut.</i>	<i>The tailor MEASURED OFF the material for my suit.</i>
Measure off	<i>Mark a length on something to cut it.</i>	<i>He MEASURED OFF a metre of the silk.</i>
Measure out	<i>Measure or weigh the amount needed.</i>	<i>He MEASURED OUT the flour for the bread.</i>
Measure out	<i>Weigh or measure an exact amount.</i>	<i>She MEASURED OUT a hundred grammes of the powder.</i>
Measure up	<i>Find the size of something.</i>	<i>The estate agent MEASURED UP all the rooms.</i>
Measure up	<i>Be good enough, meet the required standard.</i>	<i>She didn't MEASURE UP in her probationary period, so we didn't extend her contract.</i>
Measure up	<i>Be good enough.</i>	<i>They made her a director, but she didn't MEASURE UP.</i>
Measure up	<i>Find out the size of something.</i>	<i>They MEASURED UP the room.</i>
Measure up to	<i>Be good enough or worthy of something.</i>	<i>I hope to MEASURE UP TO the confidence you have in me.</i>
Meet with	<i>Have something happen to you.</i>	<i>They MET WITH some problems they hadn't anticipated.</i>
Melt down	<i>Heat something solid, especially metal, until it becomes liquid.</i>	<i>They MELTED the gold statue DOWN and turned it into gold bars.</i>
Mess about	<i>Not be serious, not use something properly.</i>	<i>The children were MESSING ABOUT with the TV remote control and broke it.</i>
Mess about	<i>Treat someone badly.</i>	<i>He is always MESSING me ABOUT and never does what he promises.</i>
Mess about	<i>Have a sexual relationship outside marriage or a permanent relationship.</i>	<i>He's not faithful- he's been MESSING ABOUT since they were married.</i>
Mess about with	<i>Have a sexual relationship outside marriage or a permanent relationship.</i>	<i>She's been MESSING ABOUT WITH another guy she knows from work.</i>
Mess about with	<i>Try to improve something, usually making things worse.</i>	<i>The computer was working fine until he started MESSING ABOUT WITH it.</i>



Mess around	<i>Not be serious, play with something.</i>	<i>I was MESSING AROUND on the internet because I couldn't be bothered to do any work.</i>
Mess around	<i>Treat someone badly.</i>	<i>She is always MESSING me AROUND and never does what she promises.</i>
Mess around	<i>Have a sexual relationship outside marriage or a permanent relationship.</i>	<i>She's not faithful- she's been MESSING ABOUT since they got married.</i>
Mess around with	<i>Have a sexual relationship outside marriage or a permanent relationship.</i>	<i>He's been MESSING ABOUT WITH a woman he works with.</i>
Mess around with	<i>Try to improve something, usually making things worse.</i>	<i>The computer was working fine until they started MESSING ABOUT WITH it.</i>
Mess over	<i>Treat someone badly.</i>	<i>They MESSED her OVER when she applied for the job.</i>
Mess up	<i>Spoil or ruin.</i>	<i>They MESSED UP the discussions and the contract fell through.</i>
Mess up	<i>Make something untidy or dirty.</i>	<i>They MESSED UP the room and left stuff all over the place.</i>
Mess up	<i>Cause mental, physical or emotional problems.</i>	<i>He took a lot of LSD and it really MESSED him UP.</i>
Mess with	<i>Become involved in something damaging or dangerous.</i>	<i>He's been MESSING WITH cocaine.</i>
Mess with	<i>Annoy, bother.</i>	<i>Don't MESS WITH me or there will be trouble.</i>
Mess with	<i>Associate (negative).</i>	<i>He's been MESSING WITH some dangerous people.</i>
Mess with	<i>Try to repair or improve, usually unsuccessfully.</i>	<i>She's been MESSING WITH it for hours and it still doesn't work.</i>
Mete out	<i>Give people harsh punishments or treatment.</i>	<i>They METED OUT savage penalties to anyone who broke the law.</i>
Mill around	<i>Walk around without going anywhere.</i>	<i>There were a lot of people MILLING AROUND waiting for the bus.</i>
Miss out	<i>Not do something enjoyable or rewarding.</i>	<i>It'll be great; you'll be MISSING OUT if you don't come.</i>
Miss out	<i>Not include.</i>	<i>Make sure you don't MISS anyone OUT when you call their names.</i>
Miss out on	<i>Lose a chance, fail to achieve.</i>	<i>Trudy MISSED OUT ON the promotion.</i>
Mix up	<i>Confuse.</i>	<i>I always MIX those two sisters UP because they look so like each other.</i>
Mix up	<i>Make something lively.</i>	<i>The DJ MIXED UP the night with some hard techno.</i>
Mock up	<i>Make a model of something to show or test it.</i>	<i>They MOCKED UP an example to show us what they would look like.</i>
Moggy off	<i>Leave ('moggie off' is also used.).</i>	<i>We MOGGIED OFF early.</i>
Monkey around	<i>Not be serious.</i>	<i>The police officer told the drunks to stop MONKEYING AROUND and go home quietly.</i>
Mooch about	<i>Spend time doing little or nothing.</i>	<i>I MOOCHED ABOUT the whole afternoon because I didn't feel like working.</i>
Mooch around	<i>Spend time doing little or nothing.</i>	<i>I MOOCHED AROUND the house all day.</i>
Mop up	<i>Resolve a problem.</i>	<i>He was left to MOP UP the mess after they resigned.</i>
Mop up	<i>Kill or capture the last few enemy soldiers after a victory..</i>	<i>After the battle, it took them a couple of weeks to MOP UP the remaining rebels.</i>
Mop up	<i>Eat a sauce with bread to finish it.</i>	<i>The sauce was so delicious that I ordered some bread to MOP it UP.</i>
Mop up	<i>Remove a liquid that has been spilt.</i>	<i>I used a cloth to MOP UP the coffee I had knocked over.</i>
Mope about	<i>Move around being miserable.</i>	<i>She didn't get the job and has been MOPING ABOUT all afternoon.</i>
Mope around	<i>Move around being miserable.</i>	<i>He's been MOPING AROUND since his girlfriend left him.</i>



Mount up	<i>Increase over time.</i>	<i>My debts MOUNTED UP while I was at university.</i>
Mouth off	<i>Speak angrily about something.</i>	<i>I always get angry and start MOUTHING OFF when the news is on TV.</i>
Move ahead	<i>Make progress, often after a pause or delay.</i>	<i>The construction can MOVE AHEAD now that permission has been granted.</i>
Move along	<i>Tell someone to move from a place.</i>	<i>The police told the people watching to MOVE ALONG.</i>
Move along	<i>Develop or progress in a reasonable or satisfactory manner.</i>	<i>The project's MOVING ALONG and everything should be ready on time.</i>
Move away	<i>Leave the area where you have been living.</i>	<i>I MOVED AWAY when the factory shut down.</i>
Move away from	<i>Stop doing or using something to change to something different.</i>	<i>They're MOVING AWAY FROM Windows and are using Linux.</i>
Move down	<i>Move a student to a lower level.</i>	<i>He was finding the course too difficult so they MOVED him DOWN.</i>
Move in	<i>Start living in a place.</i>	<i>The house was empty for ages, but some new tenants MOVED IN a few weeks ago.</i>
Move in on	<i>Approach, often stealthily.</i>	<i>As he watched, the hyenas began to MOVE IN ON the hapless wildebeest.</i>
Move into	<i>Start living in a place.</i>	<i>They MOVED INTO the house as soon as it was ready.</i>
Move on	<i>Change the subject or your job.</i>	<i>She MOVED ON to another company where the salary was considerably better.</i>
Move on	<i>Make people move from a place.</i>	<i>The police MOVED the crowd ON because they were holding up the traffic.</i>
Move out	<i>Leave a place you live or work in.</i>	<i>She's tired of living there and is MOVING OUT.</i>
Move out	<i>Remove.</i>	<i>The president said they would MOVE the troops OUT next year.</i>
Move out	<i>Change lane or position to pass a vehicle.</i>	<i>I MOVED OUT to overtake the bus.</i>
Move towards	<i>Make preparations for something.</i>	<i>The government are MOVING TOWARDS free elections.</i>
Move up	<i>Move to make space.</i>	<i>Could you MOVE UP and let me sit down?</i>
Move up	<i>Move to a higher level.</i>	<i>They MOVED her UP to senior management.</i>
Muddle along	<i>Continue without a clear aim or plan.</i>	<i>If you're ambitious, you cannot MUDDLE ALONG.</i>
Muddle through	<i>Do or achieve something without knowing what is required or having a plan.</i>	<i>We didn't know what to expect and just MUDDLED THROUGH.</i>
Muddle up	<i>Take things that are ordered or sequenced and mess them up.</i>	<i>My cleaner MUDDLED UP my books and I can't find anything.</i>
Muddle up	<i>Mistake a person or thing for someone or something else because they look similar.</i>	<i>I MUDDLE her and her sister UP.</i>
Mug up	<i>Study quickly, revise.</i>	<i>I have to MUG UP before the exam.</i>
Mug up on	<i>Study something quickly, revise.</i>	<i>I need to MUG UP ON my history for the test.</i>
Mull over	<i>Think about an issue or problem.</i>	<i>She said that she'd had to MULL IT OVER before deciding what was</i>
Muscle in	<i>Become involved in something when your involvement is not wanted.</i>	<i>We tried to exclude him of the committee, but he MUSCLED IN.</i>
Muscle in on	<i>Become involved in something despite opposition to your involvement.</i>	<i>She MUSCLED IN ON the deal even though we wanted to do it without her.</i>
Muscle into	<i>Become involved even though there is opposition to your involvement.</i>	<i>They are MUSCLING INTO our market and there is very little we can do to stop them.</i>
Muscle out	<i>Use power, contacts, etc, to force someone out.</i>	<i>They used their contacts in local government to MUSCLE the competitors OUT.</i>

N



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Nag at	<i>Repeatedly criticise someone verbally.</i>	<i>My boss is always NAGGING AT me about my arriving a few minutes late for work.</i>
Nail down	<i>Succeed in getting, achieve.</i>	<i>They are having trouble NAILING DOWN the contract.</i>
Nail down	<i>Understand fully.</i>	<i>I can't NAIL DOWN what's wrong with their idea, but I'm sure it won't work.</i>
Nail down	<i>Get full information from someone.</i>	<i>I can't NAIL them DOWN about when they're going to finish the project.</i>
Nail down	<i>Succeed or achieve something.</i>	<i>I NAILED the job DOWN in the first interview.</i>
Name after	<i>Give someone a name to remember another person.</i>	<i>I was NAMED AFTER my uncle who died in the war.</i>
Narrow down	<i>Remove less important options to make it easier to choose.</i>	<i>I am not sure which university to apply to, but I have NARROWED my list DOWN to three.</i>
Nerd out	<i>Play safe and avoid taking a risk.</i>	<i>I'm going to NERD OUT and not go on the river trip.</i>
Nerd out	<i>Discuss something in great detail.</i>	<i>I had to NERD OUT when they asked about conditionals and deontic modality.</i>
Nip off	<i>Go somewhere quickly.</i>	<i>I'm NIPPING OFF to get some milk.</i>
Nip out	<i>Go somewhere quickly.</i>	<i>She'll be back in a minute- she's just NIPPED OUT to the shops.</i>
Nod off	<i>Fall asleep.</i>	<i>I NODDED OFF during the speech.</i>
Nod through	<i>Pass a law, regulation, etc, without considering or debating it seriously.</i>	<i>Parliament NODDED the bill THROUGH.</i>
Nose about	<i>Look for something hidden or secret.</i>	<i>The police are NOSING ABOUT to see if they can find anything against the gang.</i>
Nose around	<i>Look around for evidence.</i>	<i>The boss keeps NOSING AROUND our office when we are out at lunch.</i>
Nose out	<i>Find out, discover- usually information, secrets, etc.</i>	<i>He NOSED OUT their plans.</i>
Nose out	<i>Narrowly beat someone.</i>	<i>The other candidate NOSED him OUT by a few votes.</i>
Note down	<i>Write something short like a phone number for future reference..</i>	<i>She NOTED DOWN my fax number so that she could send me the documents when she got to the office.</i>
Nut out	<i>Find an answer to a problem.</i>	<i>The management and unions had a meeting to NUT things OUT.</i>

0



Occur to	<i>Enter one's mind.</i>	<i>Didn't it OCCUR TO you to help me when you saw how much trouble I was in?</i>
Open up	<i>Start to talk freely about something.</i>	<i>She hates to OPEN UP and discuss her feelings.</i>
Open up	<i>Open a shop or business for the day.</i>	<i>They OPEN UP at seven in the morning.</i>
Open up	<i>Allow goods into a market.</i>	<i>Before they joined the WTO, they had to OPEN UP their markets.</i>
Operate on	<i>Perform surgery.</i>	<i>She was OPERATED ON for eight hours.</i>
Opt for	<i>Choose.</i>	<i>I OPTED FOR an endowment mortgage and lost a lot of money.</i>



Opt in	<i>Choose to be part or a member of something.</i>	<i>If you want them to notify you of updates, you have to OPT IN.</i>
Opt into	<i>Choose to be a member or part of something.</i>	<i>I OPTED INTO the scheme.</i>
Opt out	<i>Choose not to be part of something.</i>	<i>The UK OPTED OUT of a lot of EU legislation on working hours and conditions.</i>
Owe to	<i>Be the reason for something.</i>	<i>She OWES her success TO hard work and determination.</i>
Own up	<i>Confess.</i>	<i>Nobody OWNED UP to breaking the window.</i>



P

Pack away	<i>Put something where it belongs.</i>	<i>I PACKED AWAY the suitcases in the loft after we had emptied them.</i>
Pack in	<i>Stop doing something.</i>	<i>I'm trying to PACK IN smoking.</i>
Pack in	<i>End a relationship.</i>	<i>She PACKED her boyfriend IN.</i>
Pack in	<i>Fill a venue.</i>	<i>They really PACK them IN at the club- it was so crowded it was impossible to move.</i>
Pack in	<i>Break down, stop working.</i>	<i>The photocopier has PACKED IN again.</i>
Pack it in	<i>Stop doing something (used as an imperative).</i>	<i>The kids were making a fuss, so I told them to PACK IT IN.</i>
Pack off	<i>Send someone away.</i>	<i>His boss PACKED him OFF to a regional office.</i>
Pack out	<i>Fill a venue.</i>	<i>The stadium was PACKED OUT.</i>
Pack up	<i>Stop doing something.</i>	<i>You should PACK UP smoking.</i>
Pack up	<i>Finish work.</i>	<i>We had nothing left to do, so we PACKED UP early.</i>
Pack up	<i>Break down, stop working.</i>	<i>My printer PACKED UP last night- I'll have to get a new one.</i>
Pack up	<i>Collect things and put them where you keep them.</i>	<i>At the end of the presentation, I PACKED UP my laptop.</i>
Pad down	<i>Sleep somewhere for the night.</i>	<i>I'm too tired to come home; can I PAD DOWN here tonight?</i>
Pad out	<i>Make a text longer by including extra content, often content that isn't particularly relevant.</i>	<i>I couldn't think of much to write, so I PADDED the essay OUT with a few lengthy quotes.</i>
Pair off	<i>Begin a romantic relationship.</i>	<i>They PAIRED OFF shortly after starting university.</i>
Pair off	<i>Introduce people, hoping they will start a relationship.</i>	<i>I tried to PAIR him OFF with my sister.</i>
Pair off	<i>Form pairs.</i>	<i>The class PAIRED OFF to practise the exam interviews.</i>
Pair off with	<i>Form a pair with someone.</i>	<i>I PAIRED OFF WITH Trish for the test.</i>
Pair up	<i>Form a pair.</i>	<i>We PAIRED UP for the last activity</i>
Pal about	<i>Be friendly and spend time with someone.</i>	<i>We used to PAL ABOUT when we were at school.</i>
Pal around	<i>Be friendly and spend time with someone.</i>	<i>We PALLED AROUND at university.</i>
Pal up	<i>Become friends.</i>	<i>We PALLED UP when I started working with her.</i>
Palm off	<i>Get someone to accept something that isn't true.</i>	<i>He tried to PALM me OFF with a pathetic excuse.</i>
Palm off	<i>Pretend something is better than it is in order to sell it.</i>	<i>He tried to PALM his computer OFF as the latest model.</i>
Pan out	<i>The way a situation develops.</i>	<i>I don't know how things will PAN OUT now the company's been taken over.</i>
Paper over	<i>Try to conceal a problem without really fixing it.</i>	<i>The government tried to PAPER OVER the problems in the proposal, but the press were very critical.</i>



Pare back	<i>If you pare something back, you reduce the size or numbers..</i>	<i>They have had to PARE BACK the services they offer as their funding was reduced.</i>
Pare down	<i>Reduce, decrease.</i>	<i>They have PARED DOWN the number of employees as they haven't been doing well.</i>
Part with	<i>Give something away, especially when you don't want to.</i>	<i>I found it very hard to PART WITH my old CDs when I digitized my collection.</i>
Pass around	<i>Give out to everybody there.</i>	<i>The teacher PASSED the handout AROUND.</i>
Pass as	<i>Be believed to be something.</i>	<i>Although not qualified, he managed to PASS AS a doctor for years.</i>
Pass away	<i>Die.</i>	<i>Sadly, Georgia's uncle PASSED AWAY yesterday after a short illness.</i>
Pass back	<i>Return.</i>	<i>I felt awful when the teacher started to PASS BACK the exam papers.</i>
Pass by	<i>Go past without stopping.</i>	<i>I was just PASSING BY when I saw the accident.</i>
Pass by	<i>Visit briefly.</i>	<i>I was PASSING BY her house the other day when I heard about it.</i>
Pass by	<i>Miss an opportunity.</i>	<i>The chance for promotion PASSED me BY.</i>
Pass down	<i>Transmit information or give property to younger generations.</i>	<i>The tales were PASSED DOWN for centuries without changing ay of the words.</i>
Pass for	<i>Be accepted as something, usually when not.</i>	<i>You'd be surprised at what PASSES FOR good cooking in many restaurants.</i>
Pass off	<i>Convince something that something is real.</i>	<i>I managed to PASS OFF the fake money in the market.</i>
Pass off	<i>Happen in a certain way.</i>	<i>The demonstration PASSED OFF peacefully.</i>
Pass on	<i>Give a message to someone.</i>	<i>I'll PASS the message ON when she gets here.</i>
Pass on	<i>Decline an invitation or opportunity.</i>	<i>I think I'll PASS ON dinner tonight- I'm not hungry.</i>
Pass on	<i>Die.</i>	<i>Her husband PASSED ON last year.</i>
Pass on to	<i>Change topic or subject.</i>	<i>Let's PASS ON TO the next item on the agenda.</i>
Pass out	<i>Faint, lose consciousness.</i>	<i>He got so drunk that he PASSED OUT.</i>
Pass out	<i>Distribute.</i>	<i>The protesters PASSED OUT leaflets to the growing crowd.</i>
Pass over	<i>Ignore someone and give a job, reward, etc, to someone more junior.</i>	<i>They PASSED him OVER and made his assistant the new director.</i>
Pass over	<i>Ignore, refuse to discuss.</i>	<i>Let's PASS OVER what they said and get on.</i>
Pass round	<i>Distribute, give to people present.</i>	<i>They PASSED ROUND copies of the handbook.</i>
Pass through	<i>Visit a place without stopping or only stopping briefly.</i>	<i>I didn't see much as I was only PASSING THROUGH the town.</i>
Pass to	<i>Give ownership or responsibility to someone.</i>	<i>The shares PASSED TO his daughter when he died.</i>
Pass to	<i>Become owner of or responsible for something.</i>	<i>The property will PASS TO her when they die.</i>
Pass up	<i>Decline a chance.</i>	<i>She PASSED UP the opportunity to go to university because she'd been offered a job.</i>
Pat down	<i>Search or frisk someone.</i>	<i>The police PATTED them DOWN for weapons but found nothing.</i>
Patch together	<i>Create or assemble something quickly without much planning.</i>	<i>They PATCHED TOGETHER a coalition after the election.</i>
Patch up	<i>Fix or make things better.</i>	<i>I tried to PATCH things UP after the argument, but they wouldn't speak to me.</i>
Patch up	<i>Give an injured person basic medical treatment.</i>	<i>After the accident, they PATCHED her UP and sent her to hospital.</i>
Pay back	<i>Repay money borrowed.</i>	<i>I PAID BACK the twenty pounds I'd borrowed.</i>
Pay back	<i>Take revenge on.</i>	<i>I'm going to PAY him BACK for that insult.</i>
Pay down	<i>Pay a debt over time.</i>	<i>The British government can't PAY DOWN the national debt.</i>
Pay for	<i>Purchase.</i>	<i>I PAID twenty pounds FOR the book.</i>
Pay into	<i>Deposit money.</i>	<i>I PAID the cash INTO my account.</i>





Pay off	Completely repay a debt.	The mortgage will be PAID OFF in twenty-five years.
Pay off	Produce a profitable or successful result.	Their patience PAID OFF when he finally showed up and signed the contract.
Peck at	Eat very small amounts.	The food wasn't very nice, so I PECKED AT it to look polite.
Peel away	Leave a group by moving in a different direction.	Some of the crowd PEELED AWAY to get out of the crush.
Peel away from	Leave a group by moving in a different direction.	They PEELED AWAY FROM the crowd and went down a side road.
Peel off	Leave a group by moving in a different direction.	When the police blocked the road, a few protesters PEELED OFF and left the march.
Peel off from	Leave a group by moving in a different direction.	They PEELED OFF FROM the demonstration when the police arrived.
Peel out	Accelerate rapidly from stationary.	Fearing the police, he PEELED OUT in a cloud of tire smoke.
Peg away	Keep working at something.	I PEGGED AWAY for weeks before my exams.
Peg down	Fasten something to the ground.	We PEGGED the tent DOWN to stop the wind blowing it about.
Peg it	Die.	After a long illness, she finally PEGGED IT yesterday.
Peg out	Put washing outside to dry.	I PEGGED the washing OUT after it stopped raining.
Peg out	Die.	He PEGGED OUT last night from a heart attack.
Pencil in	Make a provisional appointment.	I'll PENCIL Thursday night IN, but if anything comes up, give me a ring..
Pep up	Make something more interesting.	You need to PEP your writing UP.
Pep up	Make someone more enthusiastic, energetic or interested.	Her talk PEPPEd us UP.
Perk up	Feel better or happier, make someone feel better or happier.	She was ill in bed with flu, but she PERKED UP a bit when some friends dropped by.
Peter out	Lose impetus and stop.	Everyone was keen at first, but the enthusiasm PETERED OUT when they saw how long it would take.
Phase in	Introduce gradually.	They are PHASING IN the reforms over the next two years.
Phase out	Remove gradually.	They have introduced a compact edition of the newspaper and are PHASING OUT the broadsheet edition over the next few months.
Pick at	Eat unwillingly.	I wasn't very hungry so I just PICKED AT my food.
Pick at	Criticize.	There were a few problems that could be PICKED AT, but it was generally good.
Pick off	Target individuals to change a group.	There were many rebels against the policy, but the government PICKED OFF the leaders.
Pick on	Bother, annoy, criticize or make fun of someone.	My friends always PICK ON me because I don't sing well.
Pick out	Choose.	She PICKED OUT the ones she wanted to take and left the rest.
Pick out	Identify from a picture.	The victim couldn't PICK OUT her attacker from the photos the police showed her.
Pick through	Search something that is disordered for something.	The police have been PICKING THROUGH the wreckage for clues.
Pick up	Improve.	Sales PICKED UP a bit during the Christmas period.
Pick up	Learn quickly.	She PICKED UP Spanish in six months.
Pick up	Collect.	While you're in town, can you PICK UP my trousers from the Dry Cleaner?



Pick up	Receive (a broadcast).	When we rent a holiday cottage in Cornwall, we can't PICK UP Channel 5.
Pick up	Collect (a person). This differs from the 'collect a thing' meaning - as that means 'collect and bring back' whereas this means either (i) 'collect and drop off on your way' or (ii) 'collect and bring to the same destination'..	i) Can you PICK me UP and take me to The George when you go to the party?ii) Can you PICK UP some friends of mine on your way to the party? They're going too.
Pick up after	Tidy a mess someone else has made.	I always have to PICK UP AFTER him because he leaves things all over the office.
Pick up on	Correct someone when they say something wrong.	My teacher PICKS UP ON any mistake I make and corrects me.
Pick up on	Notice something that most people don't.	He's very quick to PICK UP ON new trends.
Pick up on	React to something.	The government has PICKED UP ON the reports in the media.
Pick up on	Comment on something said earlier in a conversation.	I'd like to PICK UP ON the point that Jill made.
Pick yourself up	Recover from a fall or problem.	It took him a long time to PICK HIMSELF UP after his wife left him.
Pig off	Used to tell someone to get lost or leave you alone.	He told them to PIG OFF and leave him in peace.
Pig out	Eat a lot.	The food was great, so I really PIGGED OUT.
Pile in	Enter a place quickly, in a disorganized way.	The coach stopped and we all PILED IN.
Pile into	Enter a place quickly, in a disorganized way.	We PILED INTO the shop when it opened.
Pile on	Add or give more or something.	Work's crazy- they keep PILING ON the pressure.
Pile on	Exaggerate or talk in a way to affect someone's feelings.	It wasn't very serious, but they PILED ON the guilt.
Pile out	Leave a place quickly, in a disorganized way.	The train eventually arrived and we all PILED OUT.
Pile up	Accumulate.	Work just keeps on PILING UP and I really can't manage to get it all done.
Pile up	Accumulate in a pile or heap.	The ironing's PILING UP as I hate doing it.
Pin down	Get a fixed idea, opinion, etc, from someone..	I've asked him to set a date, but he's a hard man to PIN DOWN and won't give a definite answer.
Pin down	Discover exact details about something.	The government can't PIN DOWN where the leak came from.
Pin on	Attach the blame to someone.	The police tried to PIN the crime ON him.
Pin up	Fix something to a wall, or other vertical surface, with a pin.	I PINNED the notice UP on the board
Pine away	Suffer physically because of grief, stress, worry, etc.	He's been PINING AWAY since his wife died and is a shadow of his former self.
Pipe down	Be quiet (often as an imperative).	The lecturer asked the students to PIPE DOWN and pay attention.
Pipe up	To speak, raise your voice.	At first, no one answered, then finally someone PIPED UP.
Pit against	Compete or force to compete.	The war PITTED neighbor AGAINST neighbor.
Pit out	Go into the pits (car racing).	He PITTED OUT in the twentieth lap.
Pitch for	Try to persuade someone to give your work, business, a job, etc.	He PITCHED FOR the job, but they gave it to someone else.
Pitch in	Work together to help achieve an objective.	We were behind schedule, but the others PITCHED IN and we got it done in time.
Pitch into	Criticize severely or attack someone.	The shareholders PITCHED INTO the management about their pay rises at the meeting.
Plant out	Put a young plant that has been grown in a pot or greenhouse into the ground.	They need to be PLANTED OUT in the spring.
Plate up	Put food onto a plate to serve.	PLATE UP and drizzle with salsa verde.



Play along	Pretend to agree or accept something in order to keep someone happy or to get more information.	I disagreed with the idea but I had to PLAY ALONG because everyone else liked it.
Play around	Be silly.	The children were PLAYING AROUND and being annoying.
Play around	Be sexually promiscuous or unfaithful.	I PLAYED AROUND a lot at college.
Play at	Pretend to be something.	He just PLAYS AT being a lawyer- he never wins a case.
Play away	Be sexually unfaithful when away from home.	He travels abroad a lot and his wife thinks he PLAYS AWAY .
Play back	Listen to or watch something you've recorded.	We PLAYED the recording BACK to see if it was OK.
Play down	Try to make something seem less important.	The Government has tried to PLAY DOWN the importance of the minister's resignation.
Play off	Play a game to decide who the winner is.	As both teams had the same points, they PLAYED OFF to decide the winner.
Play off	Make people compete against each other so that you benefit.	He PLAYED them OFF against each other to get the best deal.
Play on	Continue playing a sport though there might be a reason to stop.	It looked like a foul, but the referee told them to PLAY ON .
Play on	Continue playing music.	The band PLAYED ON for another hour.
Play on	Exploit a weakness.	They are just PLAYING ON our fears to get us to do what they want.
Play on	Pun.	The advert PLAYS ON the slogan
Play out	Progress, often till it finishes.	Let's see how things PLAY OUT .
Play out	Pretend that something is real and reduce its effect.	Computer games allow people to PLAY OUT their violent urges.
Play out	Play something to the end.	Rain stopped them PLAYING the game OUT .
Play out	Unwind (e.g., fishing line).	When he hooked the swordfish, his line rapidly PLAYED OUT .
Play up	Behave badly.	The children PLAYED UP all evening and drove the babysitter mad.
Play up to	Flatter someone.	I'm PLAYING UP TO my boss at the moment because I want the promotion.
Play up to	Behave in a way expected.	He's got a reputation for being trouble and PLAYS UP TO it.
Play upon	Exploit a weakness.	They are PLAYING UPON people's concerns to get their way.
Play with	Touch and move something to occupy your hands.	He can't stop PLAYING WITH his beard.
Play with	Not eat much of a meal.	I wasn't hungry, so I just PLAYED WITH the food.
Play with	Consider something, but not seriously.	We PLAYED WITH the idea, but decided against it.
Plead out	Plead guilty to get a reduced sentence or fine.	The CEO PLEADED OUT and blamed the CFO for the fraud.
Plough back	Re-invest money you have made into a business.	We PLOUGHED BACK all the profits to grow the company.
Plough into	Collide into at speed.	The bus skidded and PLOUGHED INTO the bus stop.
Plough on	Continue doing something you don't want to.	It was really boring, but we PLOUGHED ON .
Plough through	Eat a big meal.	We PLOUGHED THROUGH all seven courses.
Plough through	Read something that is difficult or takes a lot of time.	It took me ages to PLOUGH THROUGH 'Ulysses'.
Plough through	Move through somewhere where there is little space or there are obstacles.	The boat had to PLOUGH THROUGH the ice.
Plough up	Break the surface of soil.	The tractor PLOUGHED UP the field so they could sow the seed.



Plow back	<i>Re-invest money you have made into a business.</i>	<i>We PLOWED BACK all the profits to grow the company.</i>
Plow into	<i>Collide into at speed.</i>	<i>The bus skidded and PLOWED INTO the bus stop.</i>
Plow on	<i>Continue doing something you don't want to.</i>	<i>It was really boring, but we PLOWD ON.</i>
Plow through	<i>Eat a big meal.</i>	<i>We PLOWED THROUGH all eight courses.</i>
Plow through	<i>Read something that is difficult or takes a lot of time.</i>	<i>It takes me ages to PLOW THROUGH any of Henry James' novels.</i>
Plow through	<i>Move through somewhere where there is little space or there are obstacles.</i>	<i>The police car had to PLOW THROUGH the crowd.</i>
Plow up	<i>Break the surface of soil.</i>	<i>The tractor PLOWED UP the field so they could sow the crop</i>
Pluck at	<i>Pull or fiddle with something nervously.</i>	<i>He was PLUCKING AT his cuffs during the interview.</i>
Pluck up	<i>Muster, acquire, gather.</i>	<i>They PLUCKED UP the courage to complain.</i>
Plug in	<i>Connect machines to the electricity supply.</i>	<i>He PLUGGED the TV IN and turned it on full blast.</i>
Plump down	<i>Put something in a place without taking care.</i>	<i>He PLUMPED his bag DOWN and kicked his shoes off.</i>
Plump for	<i>Choose.</i>	<i>I PLUMPED FOR the steak frites.</i>
Plump up	<i>Make something like a cushion bigger and softer by shaking it.</i>	<i>I PLUMPED UP the pillow and lay down.</i>
Plump yourself down	<i>Sit down heavily.</i>	<i>She PLUMPED HERSELF DOWN next to me and started asking me what had happened.</i>
Point out	<i>Make someone aware of something.</i>	<i>He POINTED OUT that I only had two weeks to get the whole thing finished.</i>
Poke about	<i>Move things around or search in a casual way to try to find something.</i>	<i>I POKED ABOUT in my CD collection to see if I could find it.</i>
Poke around	<i>Move things around or search in a casual way to try to find something.</i>	<i>I POKED AROUND in my desk to see if the letter was there.</i>
Polish off	<i>Finish, consume.</i>	<i>She POLISHES OFF half a bottle of gin every night.</i>
Polish up	<i>Improve something quickly.</i>	<i>I need to POLISH UP my French before I go to Paris.</i>
Pony up	<i>Pay for something.</i>	<i>I had to PONY fifty dollars UP for the meal.</i>
Poop out	<i>Get too tired to do something.</i>	<i>I was going to write my essay, but I POOPED OUT and went to bed instead.</i>
Poop out on	<i>Fail to keep an appointment.</i>	<i>We were supposed to meet yesterday, but she POOPED OUT ON me at the last minute.</i>
Pootle along	<i>Travel in a leisurely way.</i>	<i>We were POOTLING ALONG at thirty miles an hour.</i>
Pop in	<i>Visit for a short time.</i>	<i>He POPPED IN for a coffee on his way home.</i>
Pop off	<i>Talk loudly, complain.</i>	<i>He's always POPPING OFF when things don't suit him.</i>
Pop off	<i>Go out for a short time.</i>	<i>He's just POPPED OFF for a break but should be back in a few minutes.</i>
Pop out	<i>Go out for a short time.</i>	<i>I'm just POPPING OUT to the shops. Do you need anything while I'm out?</i>
Pop up	<i>Appear, like windows and boxes opening on a computer screen..</i>	<i>The dialogue box POPPED UP up when I pressed Enter.</i>
Pop up	<i>Appear unexpectedly.</i>	<i>I'm going to have to work late tonight because something has POPPED UP.</i>
Pore over	<i>Read, look at or study carefully.</i>	<i>She PORED OVER the report looking for mistakes.</i>
Potter about	<i>Spend time doing little things for pleasure.</i>	<i>On Saturday mornings, I POTTER ABOUT the garden if the weather's fine.</i>
Potter around	<i>Spend some time doing little things for pleasure.</i>	<i>I POTTERED AROUND, sorting out my CDS and a few other things.</i>
Pour down	<i>Rain hard.</i>	<i>It POURED DOWN all day so we had to remain indoors.</i>





Pour forth	<i>Emerge from a place in large numbers.</i>	<i>Useless statistics POUR FORTH from him.</i>
Power down	<i>Cut the electricity supply to a computer or electronic device.</i>	<i>I POWERED DOWN my computer and went for lunch.</i>
Power off	<i>Cut the electricity to a computer or device to turn it off.</i>	<i>You mustn't POWER it OFF while it is updating.</i>
Power up	<i>Turn a computer or electronic device on so that it is ready to use.</i>	<i>I POWERED UP my laptop and started work.</i>
Prattle on	<i>Talk too much.</i>	<i>Geoff just PRATTLED ON instead of giving a straight answer.</i>
Press ahead	<i>Continue with something.</i>	<i>They PRESSED AHEAD with the elections despite the violence.</i>
Press for	<i>Apply pressure to get permission or to obtain something.</i>	<i>The workers are PRESSING FOR better pay and conditions.</i>
Press forward with	<i>Continue or go ahead with a project, process, plan, etc.</i>	<i>The government are PRESSING FORWARD WITH the new law.</i>
Press into	<i>Bring or force into use.</i>	<i>When the line was breached, reserve troops were PRESSED INTO service.</i>
Press on	<i>Continue with something.</i>	<i>We PRESSED ON to get to our destination before night fell.</i>
Press upon	<i>Pressure someone to accept something offered.</i>	<i>The invitations were PRESSED UPON us and it was hard to say no.</i>
Prey on	<i>Catch and kill an animal for food.</i>	<i>Spiders PREY ON insects.</i>
Prey on	<i>Exploit or harm.</i>	<i>They PREY ON older people.</i>
Prey upon	<i>Catch and kill an animal for food.</i>	<i>Cats PREY UPON birds and mice.</i>
Prey upon	<i>Exploit or harm.</i>	<i>They PREY UPON people's fears about immigration.</i>
Price in	<i>Include the affects of possible future events when assessing the value of something.</i>	<i>Speculators have PRICED IN the risk of a war breaking out.</i>
Price up	<i>Charge more for something.</i>	<i>In rural areas where they have a monopoly, some garages PRICE UP fuel because there's nowhere else to buy it.</i>
Print out	<i>Make a hard copy of a computer document.</i>	<i>He PRINTED OUT the letter and checked through it carefully.</i>
Prop up	<i>Support something, both physically and financially, politically, etc..</i>	<i>The council have PROPPED UP the museum for years with grants.</i>
Psych out	<i>Work out or anticipate someone's intentions.</i>	<i>We have to try to PSYCH OUT our rivals.</i>
Psych out	<i>Make someone less confident.</i>	<i>Boxers try to PSYCH their opponents OUT before the fight to gain an advantage.</i>
Psych up	<i>Prepare someone mentally.</i>	<i>I PSYCHED myself UP for the exam.</i>
Pucker up	<i>Move your lips into position to receive a kiss.</i>	<i>She PUCKERED UP when he leant forwards to kiss her.</i>
Pull ahead	<i>Overtake, move in front.</i>	<i>The lorry was going slowly but we managed to PULL AHEAD.</i>
Pull apart	<i>Destroy an argument, theory, etc.</i>	<i>My tutor PULLED my essay APART.</i>
Pull apart	<i>Stop people or animals fighting.</i>	<i>A fight broke out in the pub and it was hard to PULL the people involved APART.</i>
Pull apart	<i>Make someone unhappy or upset.</i>	<i>It PULLED me APART to see them arguing so much.</i>
Pull away	<i>When a vehicle moves from a place.</i>	<i>The car PULLED AWAY from the lights at high speed.</i>
Pull back	<i>Score a goal or point when losing.</i>	<i>They were two-nil down until five minutes before the end, when they PULLED BACK a goal.</i>
Pull back	<i>Move away from a place, especially when talking about soldiers.</i>	<i>They have PULLED the troops BACK from the front line.</i>
Pull back	<i>Move away from someone.</i>	<i>She PULLED BACK when he tried to kiss her.</i>
Pull back	<i>Decide not to do something or not to be involved with it any longer.</i>	<i>They PULLED BACK from the deal.</i>



<i>Pull down</i>	<i>Demolish.</i>	<i>They PULLED the old cinema DOWN to build a new shopping mall.</i>
<i>Pull down</i>	<i>Make someone depressed.</i>	<i>Losing her job PULLED her DOWN.</i>
<i>Pull down</i>	<i>Earn.</i>	<i>He's PULLING DOWN a fortune.</i>
<i>Pull for</i>	<i>Support.</i>	<i>Who will you be PULLING FOR in the final?</i>
<i>Pull in</i>	<i>When a train arrives at a station.</i>	<i>The train PULLED IN and we rushed to meet her as she got off.</i>
<i>Pull in</i>	<i>Attract.</i>	<i>Their last tour PULLED IN millions of fans.</i>
<i>Pull in</i>	<i>Stop a car by the side of the road.</i>	<i>I PULLED IN to let the passengers out.</i>
<i>Pull in</i>	<i>Arrest or take someone to a police station for questioning.</i>	<i>The police PULLED them IN after the trouble.</i>
<i>Pull off</i>	<i>Manage to do something difficult or tricky.</i>	<i>No-one thought that she would be able to do it, but she PULLED it OFF in the end.</i>
<i>Pull off</i>	<i>Start moving (vehicles).</i>	<i>When the lights turned green, the car PULLED OFF.</i>
<i>Pull on</i>	<i>Put clothes on.</i>	<i>I PULLED ON a jumper when the sun went in.</i>
<i>Pull out</i>	<i>Start moving (train).</i>	<i>The train was PULLING OUT when I got there.</i>
<i>Pull out</i>	<i>Move into traffic.</i>	<i>The traffic was so bad that it took me ages to PULL OUT.</i>
<i>Pull out</i>	<i>Withdraw.</i>	<i>The project was going badly and they decided to PULL OUT</i>
<i>Pull out</i>	<i>Remove soldiers from an area.</i>	<i>People want the government to PULL the troops OUT.</i>
<i>Pull over</i>	<i>Stop by the side of the road.</i>	<i>The police PULLED the car OVER</i>
<i>Pull over</i>	<i>Make a vehicle stop.</i>	<i>The police PULLED the car OVER and tested the driver for alcohol.</i>
<i>Pull through</i>	<i>Recover from and illness or problem.</i>	<i>At one stage it looked as if she was going to die, but she PULLED THROUGH in the end.</i>
<i>Pull to</i>	<i>Close a door or window that has been left open.</i>	<i>Could you PULL the door TO, please?</i>
<i>Pull together</i>	<i>Work together as a team.</i>	<i>If we all PULL TOGETHER, we'll have it finished in no time.</i>
<i>Pull up</i>	<i>Slow and stop a car.</i>	<i>The cab PULLED UP outside my house and I got out.</i>
<i>Pull up</i>	<i>Inform someone that they are wrong.</i>	<i>He PULLED me UP because I had got my facts wrong.</i>
<i>Pull yourself together</i>	<i>Become calm or regain control of your emotions.</i>	<i>He was so angry that he couldn't PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER.</i>
<i>Push in</i>	<i>Get in a queue without waiting.</i>	<i>She just PUSHED IN the queue in front of me at the supermarket checkout.</i>
<i>Put across</i>	<i>Communicate, convey a message.</i>	<i>He found it difficult to PUT ACROSS what he wanted to say at the meeting.</i>
<i>Put away</i>	<i>Put something back in the correct place.</i>	<i>He PUT the dictionary BACK on the shelf after he'd finished the crossword.</i>
<i>Put away</i>	<i>Put someone in prison.</i>	<i>The judge PUT him AWAY for ten years for robbery.</i>
<i>Put back</i>	<i>Rearrange something for a later time.</i>	<i>The AGM has been PUT BACK until July the seventeenth.</i>
<i>Put by</i>	<i>Save for the future.</i>	<i>I try to PUT some money BY every month towards our summer holiday.</i>
<i>Put down</i>	<i>Kill an animal because it's old, ill, etc..</i>	<i>He had his dog PUT DOWN because it was in a lot of pain from its tumors.</i>
<i>Put down</i>	<i>Stop holding (but withdraw support gently).</i>	<i>PUT the gun DOWN slowly and keep your hands where I can see them.</i>
<i>Put down for</i>	<i>Commit to make a payment.</i>	<i>PUT me DOWN FOR 50p per mile.</i>
<i>Put down to</i>	<i>Give as an explanation.</i>	<i>He didn't score many, but we can PUT that DOWN TO inexperience</i>





Put in	Install.	<i>They had to PUT IN a whole new central heating system because the house was so cold.</i>
Put in for	Make a request.	<i>He PUT IN FOR a transfer to the new branch.</i>
Put off	Postpone.	<i>The concert's been PUT OFF until next month because the singer's got a throat infection.</i>
Put off	Stop liking something or somebody.	<i>I was really PUT OFF by the way he eats with his mouth open.</i>
Put on	Get fat.	<i>He's PUT ON a lot of weight since he gave up smoking.</i>
Put on	Deceive, lie.	<i>I am not PUTTING you ON.</i>
Put on	Start wearing.	<i>I PUT my coat ON before we went out.</i>
Put out	Broadcast.	<i>Several charities PUT OUT an appeal on TV for money for the victims of the flooding in Mozambique.</i>
Put out	Disturb or trouble someone.	<i>Would it be PUTTING you OUT greatly if I asked to change to another day.</i>
Put out	Extinguish a cigarette, fire, etc..	<i>He PUT OUT his cigarette before entering the building.</i>
Put over	Successfully execute (a scam, trick, etc.).	<i>They PUT OVER a clever practical joke on us.</i>
Put through	Connect someone by phone.	<i>Could you PUT me THROUGH to extension 259 please.</i>
Put towards	Make a financial contribution.	<i>She PUT \$250 TOWARDS the cost of the repairs and we had to pay the rest.</i>
Put up	Allow someone to stay at your house for a night or a few days..	<i>She PUT me UP for the night because I'd missed the last bus and there were no night buses running.</i>
Put up	Increase prices, taxes, duties, etc..	<i>The government has PUT tuition fees for undergraduate students UP again.</i>
Put up	Show skill or determination in a contest, competition, fight, etc.	<i>They PUT UP a great fight but lost.</i>
Put up to	Encourage someone to do something.	<i>His friends PUT him UP TO stealing it.</i>
Put up with	Tolerate.	<i>I can't PUT UP WITH my neighbour's noise any longer; it's driving me mad.</i>

Q



Quarrel out	Argue with someone about a specific subject.	<i>The girl's mother was QUARRELING OUT with her daughter about the party.</i>
Quarrel with	Dispute or disagree with something.	<i>I am not QUARRELLING WITH their idea, but I think there are other possibilities.</i>
Queer up	Mess up, ruin.	<i>I QUEERED the exam UP.</i>
Quieten down	Fall silent.	<i>The audience QUIETENED DOWN when the lights were switched off in the auditorium and the play was ready to begin.</i>
Quit on	Stop working, associating or being friends with someone, especially when they need support.	<i>They QUIT ON me just when things got rough.</i>
Quit on	Stop working or functioning.	<i>My phone has QUIT ON me- can I borrow yours?</i>

R



Race off	<i>Hurry away, leave somewhere quickly.</i>	<i>They RACED OFF when the police arrived.</i>
Rack off	<i>Used to tell someone to go away because they're annoying you.</i>	<i>He told her to RACK OFF.</i>
Rack out	<i>Sleep, take a nap.</i>	<i>I'm tired- I'm going to RACK OUT.</i>
Rack up	<i>Acquire a lot of something.</i>	<i>He's RACKED UP a number of convictions for speeding.</i>
Rack up	<i>Damage.</i>	<i>They RACKED UP the car in an accident.</i>
Rain down on	<i>Fall in large numbers.</i>	<i>Bombs RAINED DOWN ON the city all night.</i>
Rain off	<i>Be postponed or stopped by rain (usually passive).</i>	<i>The match was RAINED OFF.</i>
Rain out	<i>Be postponed or stopped by rain (usually passive).</i>	<i>The game was RAINED OUT.</i>
Rake in	<i>Earn, make money easily.</i>	<i>She's RAKING IN thousands a day.</i>
Rake it in	<i>Make a lot of money.</i>	<i>It's the only shop in the area and they're RAKING IT IN.</i>
Rake off	<i>Cheat someone by charging them too much.</i>	<i>They RAKE tourists OFF all the time.</i>
Rake over	<i>Talk, think, etc, about something negative in the past.</i>	<i>They keep RAKING OVER the rows we had last year.</i>
Rake up	<i>Bring something back to people's attention.</i>	<i>The press have RAKED UP some scandals from her past.</i>
Ramble on	<i>Talk at length without getting to the point.</i>	<i>Quit RAMBLING ON- I'm tired of listening to you.</i>
Ramp up	<i>Increase price, speed or power of something.</i>	<i>The company has RAMPED its prices UP because of higher oil prices.</i>
Rap out	<i>Say something firmly and loudly.</i>	<i>She RAPPED OUT the command.</i>
Rat on	<i>Inform authorities about someone's wrongdoings.</i>	<i>She RATTED ON her neighbors to the police because they were smuggling alcohol from France.</i>
Rat on	<i>Fail to keep a promise.</i>	<i>He always RATS ON his promises.</i>
Rat out	<i>Inform the authorities about someone.</i>	<i>He RATTED me OUT to the police.</i>
Rat through	<i>Look for something hurriedly.</i>	<i>I RATTED THROUGH the papers on my desk but couldn't find the letter.</i>
Ratchet up	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>The media are trying to RATCHET UP the pressure on the president.</i>
Rattle off	<i>Quote figures rapidly.</i>	<i>She RATTLED OFF loads of statistics which nobody could understand.</i>
Reach out	<i>Stretch your arm to get something.</i>	<i>I REACHED OUT and caught the ball.</i>
Reach out for	<i>Try to achieve something difficult.</i>	<i>They are REACHING OUT FOR major economic reforms.</i>
Reach out to	<i>Ask for help.</i>	<i>I REACHED OUT TO you when I was in trouble and you were a great help.</i>
Reach out to	<i>Offer help.</i>	<i>Charities are REACHING OUT TO those who lost their homes in the floods.</i>
Reach out to	<i>Try to communicate and establish good relations with people.</i>	<i>The candidates are REACHING OUT TO the poor to get their votes.</i>
Read off	<i>Read a list aloud for someone to write down.</i>	<i>I READ OFF the figures and she wrote them down in her notebook.</i>
Read out	<i>Read aloud rather than silently.</i>	<i>The teacher READ OUT the names of the students who'd passed.</i>
Read up on	<i>Research.</i>	<i>I've been READING UP ON Japan as I'm going to live there next year.</i>
Reason out	<i>Come to a conclusion or solution after some thought.</i>	<i>He REASONED OUT the answer to the math problem.</i>
Reckon on	<i>The minimum expected.</i>	<i>Jeff says we can RECKON ON there being at least fifty people there tonight.</i>
Reel in	<i>Catch a fish on a line and pull the line to land.</i>	<i>He REELED IN a ten-pound salmon.</i>



Reel in	Attract people, especially customers, to get them to do what you want them to.	They hope the discounts will REEL people IN.
Reel off	Quote statistics or facts rapidly.	The minister REELED OFF a load of figures to support her position.
Reel off	Score a lot of points or win a lot of games one after the other.	They REELED OFF five victories and became the champions.
Reel out	Unwind.	I REELED OUT the hose and watered the lawn.
Rein in	Control someone or something to stop them causing more trouble.	They had to REIN the minister IN after her dreadful performance on TV.
Rent out	Let, grant a service or allow usage for a fee.	They RENTED their house OUT while the were abroad.
Ride off	Go away on a bike, horse, etc.	She got on her motorbike and RODE OFF.
Ride on	Depend on.	His reputation is RIDING ON this deal working out.
Ride out	Survive a difficult time.	They managed to RIDE OUT the recession.
Ride up	Move higher on the body (of clothes).	Her skirt RODE UP when she sat down.
Ring back	Return a phone call.	I phoned and left a message this morning but she still hasn't RUNG me BACK.
Ring in	Telephone to inform or confirm something.	I RANG IN and told them I would be late.
Ring off	Finish a phone conversation.	Dave RANG OFF guiltily when he saw his boss coming.
Ring out	Make a sudden loud sound.	Two shots RANG OUT and then we heard a scream.
Ring round	Telephone a number of people, usually to try to get some information.	I RANG ROUND to see if anyone knew where she'd gone.
Ring up	Telephone.	Helen RANG me UP earlier.
Ring up	Achieve an amount or number.	They RANG UP several victories.
Ring up	Enter figures into a till or cash register.	They RANG UP the bill for the groceries.
Ring with	When a place is full of a loud sound.	The room RANG WITH their laughter.
Rip off	Charge excessively or obtain money unfairly.	Tourists get RIPPED OFF a lot when they don't speak the language.
Roll back	Retreat.	The army ROLLED BACK when they came under attack.
Roll back	Reduce or remove.	The government wants to ROLL BACK the freedom of the press.
Roll by	Pass (time).	The years ROLLED BY.
Roll in	Arrive somewhere, especially if late.	They ROLLED IN very drunk at three o'clock in the morning.
Roll in	Arrive in large numbers, for military vehicles.	The tanks ROLLED IN and took control of the capital city.
Roll on	When something continues to happen.	The competition ROLLED ON despite the administrative problems.
Roll on!	Said when you can't wait for something nice in the future.	Roll on Friday! It's been a dreadful week.
Roll out	Launch or introduce a new product, initiative, etc..	The company ROLLED OUT its takeover plans last week.
Roll up	To appear in large numbers for an event.	Thousands ROLLED UP to see the stars at the film premiere.
Roll up!	An imperative used to attract people to a public event.	Roll up! Come and see the circus tonight.
Romp in	Win easily.	In the first race, the favorite ROMPED IN.
Romp through	Do something easily or quickly.	We ROMPED THROUGH the tasks because they were so simple.
Room in	To keep a mother and baby together after the birth.	Nowadays, most hospitals have a policy of ROOMING IN mothers and their babies.



Root about	<i>Look in a place to try to find something.</i>	<i>He ROOTED ABOUT in his briefcase, trying to find a pen.</i>
Root around	<i>Look in a place to try to find something.</i>	<i>I ROOTED AROUND my flat trying to find the letter.</i>
Root for	<i>Support.</i>	<i>Everyone was ROOTING FOR Arsenal to win the Champions League.</i>
Root out	<i>Look for and find.</i>	<i>The police ROOTED OUT the informer.</i>
Root out	<i>Find the source of a problem and remove it.</i>	<i>They are trying to ROOT OUT the troublemakers.</i>
Root up	<i>Dig a plant out of the ground.</i>	<i>He ROOTED UP the plants and replanted them.</i>
Rope in	<i>Get somebody to help.</i>	<i>The teacher ROPED her students IN to carry her stuff when she had to change classroom.</i>
Rope into	<i>Get someone to help or become involved, usually when they don't want to.</i>	<i>I got ROPED INTO helping them set the stall up.</i>
Rope off	<i>Extend ropes or barriers across or around an area.</i>	<i>The celebrity entrance was ROPED OFF from the general public.</i>
Rough up	<i>Assault.</i>	<i>The mugger ROUGHED him UP when he refused to hand his wallet over.</i>
Round off	<i>Finish something in a satisfactory manner.</i>	<i>Winning the FA Cup ROUNDED OFF a wonderful season for Arsenal.</i>
Row back	<i>Retreat from a position.</i>	<i>The prime minister refused to ROW BACK and lost the vote.</i>
Rub along	<i>Have a reasonably good relationship.</i>	<i>They're not friends, but we RUB ALONG.</i>
Rub down	<i>Dry or clean something with a cloth.</i>	<i>She RUBBED the horse DOWN with a towel after riding it.</i>
Rub down	<i>Massage or rub someone to help them relax.</i>	<i>The trainer RUBBED her DOWN after the race.</i>
Rub in	<i>Apply a substance like cream or ointment and rub it until it is absorbed.</i>	<i>He applied the steroid cream and RUBBED it IN.</i>
Rub it in	<i>Emphasise how bad a situation is to make someone feel worse.</i>	<i>Even though the minister had resigned, the press RUBBED IT IN by publishing more details of the scandal.</i>
Rub off on	<i>Pass a quality or characteristic to people.</i>	<i>His enthusiasm RUBS OFF ON everyone around him.</i>
Rub out	<i>Delete ink or pencil with an eraser.</i>	<i>He RUBBED OUT the figure and wrote the correct one in.</i>
Rub out	<i>Kill.</i>	<i>The gangsters RUBBED him OUT for stealing from them.</i>
Rub up against	<i>Touch someone in a sensual or sexual way.</i>	<i>The cat RUBBED UP AGAINST my leg purring.</i>
Rub up on	<i>Revise.</i>	<i>I need to RUB UP ON my Portuguese before I go to Brazil.</i>
Rule out	<i>Exclude a possibility.</i>	<i>The police have RULED OUT suicide and are treating it as a case of murder.</i>
Run across	<i>Meet or find accidentally.</i>	<i>I RAN ACROSS an old friend in the library.</i>
Run after	<i>Chase, pursue.</i>	<i>The police RAN AFTER the guy who'd stolen it, but he was too fast for them.</i>
Run after	<i>Try to become romantically involved with someone.</i>	<i>He was RUNNING AFTER her for ages never managed to get a date.</i>
Run against	<i>Oppose, make difficulties.</i>	<i>Opinion is RUNNING AGAINST his policies and he has very little support.</i>
Run along	<i>Go away, leave (often as an imperative).</i>	<i>They kept disturbing him, so he told them to RUN ALONG and leave him in peace.</i>
Run around	<i>Be very busy doing many things.</i>	<i>I'm exhausted- I've been RUNNING AROUND all day.</i>
Run away	<i>Escape from people chasing you.</i>	<i>He RAN AWAY from his attackers.</i>
Run away	<i>Leave home because of problems with other family members or to elope.</i>	<i>She RAN AWAY to avoid a forced marriage.</i>
Run down	<i>Hit a pedestrian with a vehicle.</i>	<i>The minicab RAN him DOWN on the zebra crossing.</i>





Run down	Lose energy or power.	You should only recharge the battery when it has fully RUN DOWN.
Run down	Criticise, disparage.	They're always RUNNING me DOWN and I am sick and tired of it.
Run down	Find the source or origin of something.	The police RAN DOWN all the leads they had and caught them.
Run for	Campaign for a position.	She's thinking about RUNNING FOR the presidency.
Run in	Arrest, take to police station for questioning.	They RAN him IN last night.
Run in	Drive a new car carefully in order not to damage the engine.	She RAN the car IN for a thousand miles.
Run in	Pay a casual visit.	We RAN IN and chatted for an hour.
Run in	Insert.	He RAN a graph IN next to the text.
Run into	Cost.	The project has RUN INTO millions of dollars without any prospect of a return on this investment.
Run into	Meet by accident.	I RAN INTO James in a bar in the City on Friday.
Run off	Make photocopies.	Could you RUN OFF two hundred copies of this report, please.
Run on	Be powered by.	The van RUNS ON diesel.
Run out of	Have none left.	We've RUN OUT OF sugar; I'm going to the shops for some.
Run over	Explain quickly.	Could you RUN OVER that point again; I'm afraid I didn't quite understand it.
Run over	Hit with a vehicle.	The driver couldn't stop in time and RAN the fox OVER when it ran in front of his car.
Run over	Exceed a time limit.	The meeting RAN OVER by twenty minutes.
Run through	Practise a dramatic work like a play quickly.	The cast RAN THROUGH the play the day before it opened to the public.
Run through	Stab or wound deeply with a knife, sword, etc..	The musketeer RAN his enemy THROUGH with a sword and killed him.
Run to	Go to someone for help.	Whenever he gets into debt, he RUNS TO his parents for help.
Run to	Include in things you like.	His musical tastes RUN TO the Residents, who are hated by most people.
Run to	Have enough money to buy something, often negative.	Things are a bit tight and won't RUN TO going abroad for a holiday.
Run up	Move quickly to where someone is.	He RAN UP next to me and started shouting.
Run up	Hoist, raise a flag.	They RAN UP the Union Jack.
Run up	Do or make something very quickly.	He RAN UP a few examples for them to look at.
Run up	Spend a lot of money on credit.	He RAN UP a lot of bills at the hotel.
Run up against	Encounter problems, often unexpected.	They RAN UP AGAINST a lot of opposition to the construction.
Run up on	Approach someone without their knowing.	Robert was sitting in his car and a guy RAN UP ON him and shot through the car but missed.
Run with	Keep company, normally bad.	She RUNS WITH some dodgy characters.
Rush away	Leave a place in a hurry.	They RUSHED AWAY when the police arrived.
Rush into	Do something too quickly.	They don't want to be RUSHED INTO giving an answer and have asked for more time.
Rush off	Depart in a hurry.	Zac RUSHED OFF to get to his medical appointment.
Rush out	Release or put something on sale quickly.	They RUSHED the single OUT after it started getting airplay.
Rush out	Release or put something on sale quickly.	They RUSHED the single OUT after it started getting airplay.



Rustle up	<i>Make something quickly without much preparation.</i>	<i>We RUSTLED UP dinner from what was in the fridge.</i>
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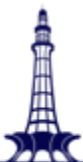
S



Saddle up	<i>Put a saddle on and prepare an animal to ride.</i>	<i>She SADDLED UP the horse and rode off.</i>
Saddle with	<i>Give someone a task or responsibility that is difficult or hard work.</i>	<i>They SADDLED me WITH preparing the visit.</i>
Sag off	<i>Not go to school or work, or leave early when you shouldn't.</i>	<i>I was bored so I SAGGED OFF work early and went home.</i>
Sail into	<i>Criticize angrily.</i>	<i>He SAILED INTO me for turning up an hour late.</i>
Sail through	<i>Pass easily, succeed.</i>	<i>He SAILED THROUGH the final test.</i>
Sally forth	<i>Leave somewhere safe or comfortable.</i>	<i>The townspeople SALLIED FORTH to fight the invading army.</i>
Sally out	<i>Leave somewhere safe or comfortable.</i>	<i>Though it was pouring with rain, we SALLIED OUT to meet her.</i>
Salt away	<i>Save money.</i>	<i>She's making a lot of money, but SALTS it AWAY rather than spending it.</i>
Save on	<i>Reduce or avoid consumption to cut costs.</i>	<i>I use Skype to SAVE ON my phone bills.</i>
Save up	<i>For money for a particular purpose.</i>	<i>He's SAVING UP to buy a car.</i>
Save up	<i>Collect or store something for future use.</i>	<i>I'm SAVING UP the receipts to claim on them all at once.</i>
Saw off	<i>To remove something by cutting it with a saw.</i>	<i>He SAWED OFF the legs of the chair.</i>
Saw up	<i>Cut into pieces with a saw.</i>	<i>We SAWED the plank UP to make the shelves.</i>
Scale back	<i>Make something smaller than originally planned.</i>	<i>They had to SCALE BACK the project because of the costs.</i>
Scale down	<i>Make something smaller than originally planned.</i>	<i>They have had to SCALE DOWN the project because of the costs.</i>
Scale up	<i>Increase, make bigger.</i>	<i>They are SCALING UP the programme because it has been so successful.</i>
Scare away	<i>Frighten someone some much that they go away.</i>	<i>The cat SCARED the birds AWAY.</i>
Scare off	<i>Make someone so frightened that he or she away.</i>	<i>The vicious Doberman guard-dog SCARED the burglars AWAY.</i>
Scout about	<i>Look in different places for something.</i>	<i>The company is SCOUTING ABOUT for new staff.</i>
Scout around	<i>Look in different places for something.</i>	<i>We SCOUTED AROUND to find the best price.</i>
Scout out	<i>Search for something.</i>	<i>The researcher spent months SCOUTING OUT the answer.</i>
Scout round	<i>Look in different places for something.</i>	<i>I SCOUTED ROUND for a bargain.</i>
Scout up	<i>Try to find someone for a task or requirement.</i>	<i>We'd better SCOUT UP a replacement for her.</i>
Scrape along	<i>Manage with little money.</i>	<i>I've been SCRAPING ALONG on temporary work since I lost my job.</i>
Scrape by	<i>Just manage to pass something.</i>	<i>I thought I was going to fail, but SCRAPED BY with 51%.</i>
Scrape in	<i>Just get enough to succeed, pass or be accepted.</i>	<i>The government SCRAPED IN with 51% of the votes cast.</i>
Scrape into	<i>Be accepted somewhere, but only just.</i>	<i>She got mediocre grades and just SCRAPED INTO university.</i>
Scrape through	<i>Pass a test but only just.</i>	<i>I did no revision and only just SCRAPED THROUGH the final exams.</i>
Scrape together	<i>Manage to collect enough of something you need, usually money.</i>	<i>I had to search my flat for money to SCRAPE TOGETHER what I needed.</i>



<i>Scrape up</i>	<i>Manage to collect enough of something you need, usually money.</i>	<i>It took me ages to SCRAPE UP the money for the tickets.</i>
<i>Screen off</i>	<i>Separate a part of a room with something like a curtain, screen, etc..</i>	<i>We SCREENED OFF the area where we had the discussion from the rest of the meeting.</i>
<i>Screen out</i>	<i>Exclude.</i>	<i>Applicants without the right qualifications were SCREENED OUT.</i>
<i>Screen out</i>	<i>Block light.</i>	<i>The sun cream SCREENS OUT UV light.</i>
<i>Screen out</i>	<i>Stop noticing something.</i>	<i>There are so many notices and signs that I have started SCREENING them OUT.</i>
<i>Screw around</i>	<i>Waste time.</i>	<i>He spent the afternoon SCREWING AROUND and got nothing done.</i>
<i>Screw around</i>	<i>Be sexually promiscuous.</i>	<i>He SCREWED AROUND a lot at university.</i>
<i>Screw over</i>	<i>Treat harshly or cheat.</i>	<i>The IRS really SCREWED him OVER.</i>
<i>Screw up</i>	<i>Do badly or fail.</i>	<i>David SCREWED UP his oral exam but still managed to scrape a pass.</i>
<i>See about</i>	<i>Arrange, consider.</i>	<i>I'll SEE ABOUT whether we can manage it.</i>
<i>See into</i>	<i>Accompany someone into an office.</i>	<i>Her secretary SAW me INTO her office.</i>
<i>See off</i>	<i>Chase somebody or something away.</i>	<i>A cat came into the back garden but the dog soon SAW it OFF.</i>
<i>See off</i>	<i>Go to the airport, station, etc., to say goodbye to someone.</i>	<i>I went to the station to SEE them OFF.</i>
<i>See out</i>	<i>Accompany a guest to your front door when they are leaving your house.</i>	<i>Are you sure you're going? I'll get your coats and SEE you OUT.</i>
<i>See through</i>	<i>Continue with something to the end.</i>	<i>They had a lot of difficulties in implementing the project, but the team SAW it THROUGH successfully.</i>
<i>See through</i>	<i>Realise someone is lying or being deceitful.</i>	<i>The police quickly SAW THROUGH her disguise and arrested her.</i>
<i>See to</i>	<i>Deal with something.</i>	<i>He SAW TO the arrangements and everything ran smoothly and efficiently.</i>
<i>Sell off</i>	<i>Sell a business or part of it.</i>	<i>They SOLD OFF their research subsidiary.</i>
<i>Sell off</i>	<i>Sell something cheaply because you need the money or don't need it.</i>	<i>She SOLD OFF her furniture before she emigrated.</i>
<i>Sell on</i>	<i>Convince someone.</i>	<i>We managed to SELL him ON the expansion plans.</i>
<i>Sell on</i>	<i>Buy something then sell it to someone else.</i>	<i>We buy them wholesale and SELL them ON to the public.</i>
<i>Sell out</i>	<i>Have no more of something left because it has been bought.</i>	<i>The tickets for the Primal Scream concert at the Brixton Academy SOLD OUT in a couple of hours.</i>
<i>Sell out</i>	<i>Lose all artistic integrity in return for commercial success.</i>	<i>Most bands SELL OUT when they sign to a major record label, and forget all their principles when pursuing chart success.</i>
<i>Sell up</i>	<i>Sell a house or business to move somewhere or do something different.</i>	<i>We want to SELL UP and move to the country.</i>
<i>Send back</i>	<i>Return something.</i>	<i>I SENT my food BACK because it was overcooked.</i>
<i>Send for</i>	<i>Ask someone to come and help.</i>	<i>I had to SEND FOR a plumber because the radiator was leaking.</i>
<i>Send in</i>	<i>Order people into a place to handle a problem.</i>	<i>The police were SENT IN to quell the riot as the protesters had started burning cars and wrecking shops.</i>
<i>Send in</i>	<i>Write to get information.</i>	<i>If you want to enter the competition, you have to SEND IN for an entry form.</i>
<i>Send off</i>	<i>Expel a sports player from a match.</i>	<i>The football striker was SENT OFF for arguing with the referee's decision.</i>
<i>Send off</i>	<i>Post a letter.</i>	<i>I must SEND this letter OFF today otherwise it won't get there in time.</i>



Send off for	Order something by post.	I SENT OFF FOR some jeans that I liked in the catalogue.
Send out	Send something to a lot of people.	They SENT OUT a mailshot to all their existing customers.
Send out for	Order takeaway food by phone.	We couldn't be bothered to cook, so we SENT OUT FOR a pizza.
Send up	Imitate/impersonate for comic effect.	The mischievous schoolboy was standing at the front of the class, SENDING the teacher UP, when the teacher opened the door behind him.
Set about	Start doing something.	We SET ABOUT the cleaning and got it done before lunchtime.
Set about	Attack.	The gang SET ABOUT her as she left the bank.
Set apart	Distinguish; be better than or different from others.	The quality of their work SETS them APART from their rivals.
Set aside	Overtake a court verdict or decision.	The Appeal Court SET ASIDE the guilty verdict because the evidence was unsatisfactory and declared her not guilty.
Set back	Cost.	The car repairs SET me BACK eight hundred pounds.
Set back	Delay.	The accident SET the project BACK several months.
Set forth	State or outline an opinion.	He SET FORTH his ideas in his autobiography.
Set forth	Start a journey.	We SET FORTH at daybreak for the summit of the mountain.
Set in	Change season noticeably.	Winter has SET IN; it's started snowing.
Set off	Explode a bomb.	Terrorists SET OFF a car bomb in the city centre last night. Fortunately, no-one was hurt or killed.
Set off	Ring an alarm.	The smoke SET the fire alarm OFF.
Set off	Start a journey.	We SET OFF for work at seven-thirty.
Set off	Counterbalance a debt.	The company SET OFF its overseas debts against its profits at home.
Set off	Provide a visual contrast that looks good.	The dark frame SETS the pale drawing OFF well.
Set off	Cause, trigger events.	The pay freeze SET OFF a wave of strikes.
Set on	Attack.	He was SET ON when he left the bar.
Set out	Display, show.	The figures are SET OUT in the council's annual report.
Set out	Start a journey.	The explorers SET OUT for the South Pole yesterday morning.
Set out	Arrange, organize.	The contract SETS OUT all the details of the agreement.
Set to	Work hard or enthusiastically.	If we all SET TO, we should be able to finish this in a few hours.
Set up	Prepare equipment, software, etc., for use.	The technician SET UP the computer network perfectly.
Set up	Start a company.	They SET UP a dot com company, floated it a couple of years later on the Stock Exchange and made an absolute fortune.
Set up	Provide someone with the money needed to live.	Winning the lottery SET them UP for life.
Set up	Trick, deceive.	The police SET them UP.
Set upon	Attack.	They SET UPON her when she was in the car park.
Settle down	Start living a fixed and routine life.	After years of partying and drinking, she finally got married and SETTLED DOWN.
Settle for	Accept whatever is available.	We were upset not to win and had to SETTLE FOR the second prize.
Settle in	Get used to.	It took him a while to SETTLE IN when he moved to Japan.



Settle on	Agree.	They couldn't agree at first on a name for their daughter, but finally SETTLED ON Alice.
Settle up	Pay a debt.	Let's SETTLE UP for the dinner the other night.
Sex up	Change information to make it more attractive to the reader or listener.	The government denied that they had SEXED UP the report to make the front page.
Shack up	Live with someone when you are in a relationship..	They SHACKED UP a few months after they started going out.
Shack up	Live somewhere temporarily.	We had to SHACK UP with friends while our house was being decorated.
Shade in	Make a part of a picture darker.	She SHADED IN the area under the tree.
Shake down	Search.	The police SHOOK the house DOWN looking for drugs.
Shake down	Extort or cheat money from someone.	He SHOOK the guy DOWN with some story about needing the money for an operation.
Shake off	Get rid of an illness.	It took me ages to SHAKE OFF the cough.
Shake out	Shake clothes, cloths, etc to remove dirt or creases.	He took the tablecloth outside and SHOOK it OUT after dinner.
Shake up	Upset or shock.	The news of her death really SHOOK me UP .
Shake up	Make major changes to improve or save a company, organization, etc.	The management are SHAKING things UP and getting rid of a lot of workers.
Shake up	Mix things in a container by shaking hard.	Pour the ingredients into a container and SHAKE them UP .
Shape up	Develop in a positive way.	Things are SHAPING UP at work- everything's going well again.
Shape up	Improve to reach an acceptable standard.	If they don't start SHAPING UP , they're going to lose their jobs.
Shave off	Shave completely.	He has SHAVED OFF his moustache and looks much younger.
Shave off	Reduce by a small amount.	He SHAVED a few thousand OFF the budget for the year.
Shell out	Spend money on something, especially when you think it's too expensive.	I had to SHELL OUT a hundred pounds on the dinner.
Ship off	Send someone away, often because of a problem.	He was causing a lot of trouble, so they SHIPPED him OFF to another branch
Ship out	Send goods to a place.	We SHIPPED the order OUT two days ago.
Ship out	Leave a place.	If you've finished your work, I'm ready to SHIP OUT .
Shoot away	Leave somewhere quickly.	He SHOT AWAY as soon as the bell rang for the end of the lesson.
Shoot back	Return quickly.	I'm SHOOTING BACK home to pick up some things I forgot to bring with me.
Shoot for	Have as a goal.	I'm SHOOTING FOR nothing less than the presidency.
Shoot off	Leave promptly and quickly.	I'll have to SHOOT OFF as soon as the lesson finishes, otherwise I'll miss my train.
Shoot out	Go out for a short time.	I'm SHOOTING OUT to the shops for a paper.
Shoot up	Increase quickly.	The share prices of internet companies have been SHOOTING UP lately.
Shoot up	Take illicit drugs intravenously..	The heroin-user would SHOOT UP in shop doorways.
Shoot up	Damage with gun-shots.	The gangsters SHOT UP the pub.
Shoot up	Increase quickly, grow.	Johnny has SHOT UP since I last saw him
Shop around	Look around for the best price, quality, etc..	If you SHOP AROUND , you can find some real bargains for air tickets.
Short out	Short circuit.	The battery SHORTED OUT when it got wet.
Shout down	Make so much noise to stop someone being heard.	His efforts to raise the issue were SHOUTED DOWN .



Shout out	<i>Say something loudly, often to attract someone's attention.</i>	<i>She SHOUTED OUT my name.</i>
Show around	<i>Take someone to a place to show them certain parts.</i>	<i>The estate agent SHOWED us AROUND the house but we didn't like it much.</i>
Show in	<i>Take someone into an office or other room.</i>	<i>The secretary SHOWED me IN to speak to the manager.</i>
Show off	<i>Behave in a way so as to attract attention.</i>	<i>The children were SHOWING OFF and irritated me.</i>
Show off	<i>Display something you are proud of.</i>	<i>He wanted to SHOW OFF his new sound system.</i>
Show off	<i>Make the qualities of another thing more apparent.</i>	<i>The shirt really SHOWED OFF his new tie.</i>
Show out	<i>Take someone to out of a room or building.</i>	<i>Her secretary SHOWED me OUT after the interview.</i>
Show over	<i>Take someone around a site.</i>	<i>He SHOWED us OVER the scene of the accident</i>
Show round	<i>Take someone to a place to show them certain parts.</i>	<i>The guide SHOWED them ROUND the historic part of the city.</i>
Show through	<i>When a feeling can be seen despite attempts to conceal it.</i>	<i>His anger SHOWED THROUGH despite his smile.</i>
Show up	<i>Attend something or arrive somewhere.</i>	<i>Very few SHOWED UP at the meeting.</i>
Show up	<i>Become clear or apparent.</i>	<i>The downturn in sales SHOWED UP in the company's accounts.</i>
Show up	<i>Make someone feel embarrassed or ashamed.</i>	<i>He SHOWED us UP when he arrived drunk and started arguing.</i>
Shrug off	<i>Disregard something, not consider it important or harmful.</i>	<i>He SHRUGGED OFF the criticism and carried on the same way.</i>
Shut away	<i>Imprison or remove someone's freedom.</i>	<i>Many people have been SHUT AWAY in psychiatric hospitals for disagreeing with the government.</i>
Shut down	<i>Close a business, shop, etc..</i>	<i>The shop SHUT DOWN when the out-of-town supermarket opened.</i>
Shut down	<i>Turn a computer off.</i>	<i>You should close all programs before you SHUT a computer DOWN.</i>
Shut in	<i>Prevent someone from leaving.</i>	<i>I SHUT the cat IN until it was time to go to the vet.</i>
Shut off	<i>Close, prevent access.</i>	<i>They SHUT the water OFF while they did the repairs.</i>
Shut out	<i>Exclude.</i>	<i>You have to SHUT your feelings OUT to deal with it.</i>
Shut out	<i>Not allow a player or team to score.</i>	<i>The Dodgers SHUT OUT the Giants 3-0.</i>
Shut out of	<i>Exclude someone from an activity, etc.</i>	<i>He's been SHUT OUT OF the discussions.</i>
Shut up	<i>Stop talking or making noise.</i>	<i>He told us to SHUT UP and start working.</i>
Shut up	<i>Close for a period of time.</i>	<i>They SHUT the shop UP for a fortnight while they were on holiday.</i>
Shut yourself away	<i>Withdraw from company.</i>	<i>She's SHUT herself AWAY to revise for her exams.</i>
Shy away from	<i>Avoid doing something because you lack confidence.</i>	<i>Many learners SHY AWAY FROM using phrasal verbs.</i>
Side with	<i>Support someone.</i>	<i>The lecturer SIDED WITH her students and got sacked for her pains.</i>
Sidle up to	<i>Approach someone discreetly.</i>	<i>He SIDLED UP TO me and whispered his name.</i>
Sift through	<i>Examine a lot of things carefully.</i>	<i>We had to SIFT THROUGH thousands of files before we found what we were looking for.</i>
Sign away	<i>Give away legal or property rights.</i>	<i>He SIGNED AWAY his rights to compensation when he signed the contract.</i>
Sign for	<i>Write a signature on behalf on someone.</i>	<i>My boss was out for the day, so I SIGNED her letters FOR her.</i>
Sign in	<i>Register in a hotel.</i>	<i>We SIGNED IN and went straight to bed.</i>





Sign in	<i>Open a computer program that requires a name and password.</i>	<i>I SIGNED IN and started chatting online.</i>
Sign in	<i>Write your name when entering a place.</i>	<i>You have to SIGN IN before you can enter the club.</i>
Sign into	<i>Open a particular computer program that requires a name and password.</i>	<i>I SIGN INTO MSN Messenger automatically when I boot up.</i>
Sign off	<i>End a message.</i>	<i>I'll SIGN OFF now, but will write again next week.</i>
Sign off	<i>Close a claim for unemployment benefit.</i>	<i>I SIGNED OFF when I got my new job.</i>
Sign off	<i>Stop doing something to leave.</i>	<i>I'm SIGNING OFF now and going home- I'm shattered.</i>
Sign off	<i>Give someone a letter to be away from work.</i>	<i>My doctor SIGNED me OFF for a month with back problems.</i>
Sign off on	<i>Give official approval.</i>	<i>The director SIGNED OFF ON the plans to increase sales.</i>
Sign on	<i>Open a claim for unemployment benefit.</i>	<i>I had to SIGN ON when I lost my job.</i>
Sign on	<i>Agree to participate.</i>	<i>I've SIGNED ON to help at the village fete.</i>
Sign on	<i>Start broadcasting.</i>	<i>He SIGNS ON the same way every show.</i>
Sign on	<i>Employ.</i>	<i>We've SIGNED ON two new teachers.</i>
Sign on with	<i>Sign a document joining or agreeing to something.</i>	<i>He's SIGNED ON WITH Manchester United for the next three years.</i>
Sign out	<i>Close a computer program that requires a name and password.</i>	<i>I SIGNED OUT and then shut the computer down.</i>
Sign out	<i>Sign something to show you have borrowed something.</i>	<i>Could you SIGN those books OUT, please?</i>
Sign out of	<i>Close a particular computer program that requires a name and password.</i>	<i>I SIGNED OUT OF MSN Messenger and shut the computer down.</i>
Sign up	<i>Give your name to do something.</i>	<i>I've SIGNED UP as a volunteer.</i>
Sign up	<i>Subscribe.</i>	<i>I SIGNED UP for their newsletter.</i>
Sign with	<i>Make a contract with.</i>	<i>She's SIGNED WITH EMI for the next few years.</i>
Simmer down	<i>Become calmer, make less noise.</i>	<i>He told them to SIMMER DOWN because they were disturbing the class next door.</i>
Sing along	<i>To sing when a piece of music is being played or performed by someone else..</i>	<i>I SANG ALONG when they played it on the radio.</i>
Sing out	<i>Reply loudly.</i>	<i>When you hear your name, SING OUT!</i>
Sing out	<i>Sing loudly.</i>	<i>Everyone SANG OUT during the chorus.</i>
Sing up	<i>Sing louder.</i>	<i>We can't hear you- SING UP.</i>
Single out	<i>Select or choose one from a group.</i>	<i>Many people applied for the job but we will SINGLE OUT the best one.</i>
Sink in	<i>Slowly come to be understood.</i>	<i>The truth finally SANK IN about her death when it was broadcast on TV.</i>
Sit about	<i>Sit and do nothing, especially when you should be working.</i>	<i>We spent the afternoon SITTING ABOUT chatting instead of doing any work.</i>
Sit around	<i>Sit idly, doing nothing.</i>	<i>They just SAT AROUND while the others did all the work.</i>
Sit back	<i>Wait for something to happen without making any effort.</i>	<i>We SAT BACK and waited for them to make the first mistake.</i>
Sit back	<i>Relax in a chair.</i>	<i>I SAT BACK and enjoyed the show.</i>
Sit by	<i>Not try to stop something.</i>	<i>I can't SIT BY while they are punished wrongly.</i>
Sit down	<i>Help someone to sit.</i>	<i>The nurse SAT me DOWN in a chair.</i>
Sit for	<i>Pose for an artist or photographer.</i>	<i>The Queen SAT FOR another official portrait.</i>
Sit for	<i>Look after children while their parents are out.</i>	<i>She SITS FOR her neighbors when they go out.</i>
Sit in	<i>Occupy a building to protest about something.</i>	<i>The students SAT IN the Library as a protest against the increase in tuition fees.</i>
Sit in for	<i>Take on someone's responsibilities while they are absent.</i>	<i>Her deputy's SITTING IN FOR her while she's away.</i>



<i>Sit in on</i>	<i>Attend as an observer.</i>	<i>She SAT IN ON the meeting and took notes but said nothing.</i>
<i>Sit on</i>	<i>Be on a committee.</i>	<i>She's SAT ON the finance committee from the beginning.</i>
<i>Sit on</i>	<i>To handle somebody firmly who behaves impertinently, conceitedly.</i>	<i>If his girlfriend finds out, she'll get mad and SIT ON him.</i>
<i>Sit on</i>	<i>Hold information back or keep it secret.</i>	<i>The government have been SITTING ON the report because it was so critical.</i>
<i>Sit out</i>	<i>Not take part.</i>	<i>I had to SIT the game OUT because I was ill.</i>
<i>Sit over</i>	<i>Eat or drink slowly.</i>	<i>WE SAT OVER dinner discussing the plans.</i>
<i>Sit through</i>	<i>Stay till the end of something dull.</i>	<i>I was bored and wanted to leave halfway through, but we SAT THROUGH the film.</i>
<i>Sit with</i>	<i>Reconcile different positions.</i>	<i>It's hard to see how their new plan SITS WITH the promises they made.</i>
<i>Size up</i>	<i>Assess a situation or person carefully..</i>	<i>The door staff SIZED UP everyone entering the club.</i>
<i>Size up</i>	<i>Make something bigger or produce bigger products.</i>	<i>Soft drinks manufacturers have SIZED UP their products in recent years.</i>
<i>Slack off</i>	<i>Reduce one's effort, perform with less enthusiasm and energy.</i>	<i>Students usually begin the term well, then SLACK OFF near the end of the semester.</i>
<i>Slacken off</i>	<i>Become less busy or intense.</i>	<i>Work SLACKENS OFF during the holiday period.</i>
<i>Slag off</i>	<i>Criticize heavily.</i>	<i>The concert was terrible and all the papers SLAGGED the band OFF.</i>
<i>Slant toward</i>	<i>Favor one viewpoint, bias.</i>	<i>That travel magazine is totally SLANTED TOWARD the ultra-rich.</i>
<i>Sleep in</i>	<i>Sleep longer than usual.</i>	<i>Let's SLEEP IN tomorrow morning- we won't have another chance for weeks.</i>
<i>Sleep off</i>	<i>Sleep in order to recover from excess alcohol, drugs, etc..</i>	<i>She went to bed TO SLEEP OFF the effects of the tequila.</i>
<i>Sleep on</i>	<i>Think about something.</i>	<i>My boss said she'd have to SLEEP ON it when I asked her for a raise.</i>
<i>Sleep over</i>	<i>Spend the night at someone else's house.</i>	<i>The au pair made tea for the friends who were SLEEPING OVER.</i>
<i>Sleep through</i>	<i>Not wake up.</i>	<i>I SLEPT THROUGH the storm even though the wind blew some slates off the roof.</i>
<i>Slice off</i>	<i>Cut, remove an amount or part of something.</i>	<i>They CUT 10% OFF the original price.</i>
<i>Slice up</i>	<i>Cut completely into pieces or slices.</i>	<i>I SLICED the cake UP and handed it round to the people there.</i>
<i>Slip away</i>	<i>Lose an opportunity or the chance of winning, succeeding, etc.</i>	<i>Their hopes of getting back into the game SLIPPED AWAY after the second goal.</i>
<i>Slip away</i>	<i>Pass quickly (time).</i>	<i>The year has SLIPPED AWAY and it is hard to believe it's over.</i>
<i>Slip by</i>	<i>Pass quickly (time).</i>	<i>The years SLIP BY as you get older.</i>
<i>Slip by</i>	<i>Lose an opportunity or the chance of winning, succeeding, etc.</i>	<i>He didn't follow the offer up and let it SLIP BY.</i>
<i>Slip down</i>	<i>Be enjoyable to drink or eat.</i>	<i>The cold beer SLIPPED DOWN a treat after the walk.</i>
<i>Slip in</i>	<i>Try to include something discreetly when speaking.</i>	<i>He SLIPPED IN a mention of his exam results to remind us how well he did.</i>
<i>Slip into</i>	<i>Put clothes on quickly.</i>	<i>I got out of my suit and SLIPPED INTO my pyjamas.</i>
<i>Slip into</i>	<i>Acquire bad habits or fall into a bad or negative state or condition.</i>	<i>The economy SLIPPED INTO recession and shows no signs of recovery.</i>
<i>Slip off</i>	<i>Leave a place discreetly.</i>	<i>It was very boring so we SLIPPED OFF before it finished.</i>
<i>Slip off</i>	<i>Remove clothes.</i>	<i>I SLIPPED my shoes OFF when I entered.</i>
<i>Slip off to</i>	<i>Go somewhere discreetly.</i>	<i>We SLIPPED OFF TO the pub.</i>



Slip on	Put clothes on quickly.	I SLIPPED my coat ON and rushed outside.
Slip out	Leave discreetly.	The party was really dull so we SLIPPED OUT and went to the pub instead.
Slip up	Make an error.	The waitress SLIPPED UP and didn't bring us what we had ordered.
Slob about	Be lazy, do nothing.	I SLOBBED ABOUT all day as I couldn't be bothered to do any work.
Slob around	Be lazy, do nothing.	I spent the day SLOBBING AROUND at home.
Slope off	Leave somewhere without letting others know.	The lecture sounded really boring, so I SLOPED OFF and went to the pub.
Slough off	Get rid of, dispose.	The government is increasing its powers but is SLOUGHING OFF responsibility for its failures.
Slough off	Lose or shed outer layers of skin.	Snakes SLOUGH OFF their old skin.
Slough off	Ignore or trivialize an injury or insult.	He SLOUGHED OFF the pain and continued running.
Slow down	Reduce speed.	The car SLOWED DOWN when they saw the police.
Slow down	Become less active.	It is important to slow down, rest, and eat sensibly.
Slow up	Slow the progress of something.	The negotiations were SLOWED UP by the arguments.
Slug it out	Fight or argue.	They SLUGGED IT OUT for hours but never came to an agreement.
Smack of	Appear to have a negative quality.	The government's decision SMACKS OF hypocrisy.
Smash down	Demolish or break something down.	The police SMASHED the door DOWN to get into the house.
Smash in	Break something by hitting it repeatedly.	He SMASHED the windscreen IN.
Smash up	Destroy, break into many pieces.	The burglars SMASHED UP the office as there was no money to steal.
Smoke out	Force someone out of a place they're hiding in.	The police SMOKED the gang OUT and arrested them.
Snaffle up	Consume, take, buy something other people may want.	They SNAFFLED UP all the food before we got there.
Snap off	Break a piece off something.	He SNAPPED OFF a bit of chocolate from the bar and gave it to me..
Snap out of	Control negative emotions.	I was feeling depressed and knew I had to SNAP OUT OF it.
Snap to it!	Do something quickly.	He had taken ages so I told him to SNAP TO IT and get it finished.
Snap up	Get, acquire or buy something quickly.	Collectors SNAPPED UP every copy the day it was released.
Snarl up	Entangle.	My line was all SNARLED UP after I caught that last fish.
Sneak out	Depart furtively.	Although the thieves tried to SNEAK OUT after dark, we were ready for them.
Sneak up on	Approach someone furtively.	Dave tried to SNEAK UP ON the guard, but was seen anyway.
Sniff around	Look around to see how good something is or to try to find something better.	I SNIFFED AROUND to see if I could find a better deal.
Sniff at	Disapprove or be scornful.	A job opportunity like that is not to be SNIFFED AT.
Sniff out	Find something by smell (usually for dogs).	Customs use dogs to SNIFF OUT illegal drugs being smuggled in.
Sniff out	Find out information, especially when people don't want anyone to know.	Our rivals are trying to SNIFF OUT our plans for expansion.
Snitch on	Divulge secrets, inform authorities about someone.	Reggie was caught after someone SNITCHED ON him to the teacher.





Snuff out	<i>Extinguish a small flame by covering it.</i>	<i>I SNUFFED OUT the candles before I went to bed.</i>
Snuff out	<i>Kill.</i>	<i>He got SNUFFED OUT in a gang war.</i>
Snuff out	<i>End something suddenly.</i>	<i>I messed up the first question, which SNUFFED OUT my chances of getting a good grade.</i>
Sober up	<i>Stop showing the effects of alcohol or drugs.</i>	<i>Keith SOBERED UP a bit when we left the pub and walked home.</i>
Soften up	<i>Weaken.</i>	<i>The bombardment SOFTENED UP their defenses; I think we can move in tomorrow.</i>
Soften up	<i>Do things to please someone in the hope that they will do what you want.</i>	<i>I paid for everything to SOFTEN them UP before they made the decision.</i>
Soldier on	<i>Continue even when things get difficult.</i>	<i>Life got hard for my dog when he went blind, but he just SOLDIERED ON and never complained.</i>
Sort out	<i>Resolve a problem.</i>	<i>Has the firm SORTED OUT its tax problems yet?</i>
Sound off	<i>To express your opinions forcefully.</i>	<i>He SOUNDED OFF about the quality of the food.</i>
Sound out	<i>Check what someone thinks about an issue, idea, etc..</i>	<i>You should SOUND her OUT to get her opinion before you go ahead with the plan.</i>
Spaff away	<i>Waste (money, time, resources, etc).</i>	<i>The council is SPAFFING AWAY our taxes on bonuses and consultants.</i>
Spark off	<i>Cause something, usually unpleasant, to happen.</i>	<i>The riot was SPARKED OFF by the police raid on the club.</i>
Spark up	<i>Light a cigarette or joint.</i>	<i>They SPARKED UP in a no smoking area.</i>
Speak out	<i>Talk openly and freely.</i>	<i>People are afraid to SPEAK OUT in oppressive political regimes.</i>
Speak up	<i>Talk more loudly.</i>	<i>They couldn't hear the speaker and asked him to SPEAK UP a bit.</i>
Spell out	<i>Explain something in great detail.</i>	<i>He won't understand you unless you SPELL everything OUT for him.</i>
Spell out	<i>Write or say the individual letters that make up a word.</i>	<i>I had to SPELL my surname OUT to him as he didn't know how to spell it.</i>
Spew out	<i>Expel, throw out.</i>	<i>The volcano is SPEWING OUT lava and hot gases.</i>
Spew up	<i>Vomit.</i>	<i>He SPEWED UP when he was drunk.</i>
Spill out	<i>When large numbers of people leave a place at the same time.</i>	<i>The crowd SPILLED OUT onto the streets after the match had ended.</i>
Spill out	<i>Come or flow out of a box, container, etc.</i>	<i>The container was cracked and the chemicals SPILLED OUT.</i>
Spill out	<i>Express or display emotions openly.</i>	<i>I let my frustration SPILL OUT.</i>
Spill over	<i>When something bad has a wider impact on other people or situations.</i>	<i>The protests and demonstrations have SPILLED OVER into neighboring states.</i>
Spill over	<i>Flow over the edge or top of a container.</i>	<i>I forgot to turn the tap off and the water SPILLED OVER.</i>
Spin off	<i>Produce an unexpected additional benefit.</i>	<i>The research SPUN OFF a number of new products as well as solving the problem.</i>
Spin off	<i>Form a separate company from part of an existing one.</i>	<i>They SPUN OFF the retail division last year.</i>
Spin off	<i>Create a TV show using characters from a popular show.</i>	<i>They SPUN it OFF from the main show, but it didn't really attract many viewers.</i>
Spin out	<i>Lose control (vehicle).</i>	<i>The car hit the water and SPUN OUT.</i>
Spin out	<i>Make something last as long as possible.</i>	<i>I SPUN the work OUT to make as much money from the job as I could.</i>
Spirit away	<i>Remove someone secretly from a place.</i>	<i>They SPIRITED her AWAY before the police arrived.</i>
Spirit off	<i>Remove someone secretly from a place.</i>	<i>They SPIRITED him OFF before any trouble started.</i>
Spit it out	<i>An informal way of telling someone to say something they are unwilling to say.</i>	<i>Hurry up, SPIT IT OUT! I can't wait all day for the truth.</i>
Spit out	<i>Say something angrily.</i>	<i>He SPAT her name OUT when he saw her arrive.</i>



Splash down	<i>Land in the sea (space capsules).</i>	<i>Apollo 13 SPLASHED DOWN after a harrowing flight.</i>
Splash out	<i>Spend a lot of money on something that is not essential.</i>	<i>We went to an expensive restaurant and SPLASHED OUT to celebrate</i>
Splash out on	<i>Spend a lot of money on something.</i>	<i>I SPLASHED OUT ON a new camera.</i>
Split up	<i>Divide into groups.</i>	<i>The teacher SPLIT the class UP into groups of four.</i>
Split up	<i>Finish a relationship.</i>	<i>They are always SPLITTING UP and then getting back together again.</i>
Spoil for	<i>Really want something.</i>	<i>He's been SPOILING FOR an argument all day.</i>
Sponge down	<i>Clean something with a sponge.</i>	<i>I'll SPONGE it DOWN before putting it away.</i>
Sponge off	<i>Accept free food and support without any shame or qualms.</i>	<i>Let's go to New York, we can always SPONGE OFF my brother there.</i>
Sponge on	<i>Accept or get money without doing any work.</i>	<i>A lot of people are SPONGING ON the state by claiming benefits they're not entitled to.</i>
Spring back	<i>Return to original position after being bent, forced or when pressure is removed.</i>	<i>The lock SPRINGS BACK when the key is turned.</i>
Spring for	<i>Pay for, often generously.</i>	<i>She is going to SPRING FOR all their medical bills.</i>
Spring from	<i>Appear suddenly and unexpectedly.</i>	<i>He SPRANG FROM the bushes when I walked past.</i>
Spring from	<i>Be the cause of something.</i>	<i>His anger SPRINGS FROM his feelings of insecurity.</i>
Spring on	<i>Surprise someone.</i>	<i>They SPRUNG a birthday party ON me at work.</i>
Spring up	<i>Appear suddenly.</i>	<i>Charity shops are SPRINGING UP in the recession.</i>
Spruce up	<i>To smarten, make something neat and tidy.</i>	<i>We SPRUCED the flat UP before we put it on the market.</i>
Spur on	<i>Encourage someone to continue.</i>	<i>The thought of the bonus SPURRED her ON to complete the work on time.</i>
Square away	<i>Finish or sort something out.</i>	<i>There are few things I have to SQUARE AWAY before I can leave.</i>
Square off	<i>Confront someone or prepare to fight them.</i>	<i>The two drunks SQUARED OFF and the barman had to intervene before a fight broke out.</i>
Square off against	<i>Confront someone or prepare to fight them.</i>	<i>They SQUARED OFF AGAINST the police when they arrived.</i>
Square up	<i>Pay back a debt.</i>	<i>Can I SQUARE UP with you for last night?</i>
Square up	<i>Confront someone or prepare to fight them.</i>	<i>The companies are SQUARING UP for a fight.</i>
Square up to	<i>Accept responsibility or guilt.</i>	<i>They need to SQUARE UP TO what they did wrong if we are to make any progress.</i>
Square with	<i>Match, conform to.</i>	<i>What he said doesn't SQUARE WITH what the others said.</i>
Square with	<i>Check with someone that something is OK.</i>	<i>I'll have to CHECK that WITH my boss before I can confirm it.</i>
Squeeze up	<i>Get more people into a space than normal or comfortable.</i>	<i>Four of us had to SQUEEZE UP in the back of the car.</i>
Stack up	<i>Put things in a pile.</i>	<i>I STACKED UP the boxes.</i>
Stack up	<i>Accumulate.</i>	<i>Work STACKED UP while I was away on holiday.</i>
Stack up	<i>Increase, accumulate something.</i>	<i>I've been STACKING UP a lot of air miles.</i>
Stack up	<i>Be logical, make sense.</i>	<i>The budget figures don't STACK UP.</i>
Stack up	<i>Build up the number of planes waiting to land at an airport.</i>	<i>Planes were STACKING UP while the airport was closed after the bomb threat.</i>
Stack up against	<i>Be as good as something.</i>	<i>The new model doesn't STACK UP AGAINST the old one.</i>
Staff up	<i>Employ someone for something specific.</i>	<i>They haven't STAFFED the project UP yet.</i>
Stamp out	<i>Get rid of something.</i>	<i>The government has started a campaign to STAMP OUT drugs in schools.</i>
Stand about	<i>Spend time in a place waiting or doing nothing or very little.</i>	<i>We STOOD ABOUT drinking coffee before the lecture.</i>



Stand around	<i>Spend time in a place waiting or doing nothing or very little.</i>	<i>We STOOD AROUND for an hour waiting for them to turn up.</i>
Stand aside	<i>Leave a position so that someone else can take it.</i>	<i>The prime minister should STAND ASIDE and let a new leader head the party.</i>
Stand back	<i>Keep a distance from something.</i>	<i>We STOOD BACK while he lit the firework.</i>
Stand back	<i>Try to understand something by taking a different perspective.</i>	<i>We need to STAND BACK and look at the problem differently.</i>
Stand by	<i>Support someone.</i>	<i>He STOOD BY her throughout the trial as he believed her to be innocent.</i>
Stand by	<i>Be ready and waiting for something to happen.</i>	<i>The emergency services were STANDING BY waiting for the plane to land.</i>
Stand down	<i>Leave a job or position so that someone else can take it.</i>	<i>The minister announced her intention to STAND DOWN at the next election.</i>
Stand down	<i>Finish being asked questions in a court.</i>	<i>The judge told the witness to STAND DOWN after the questioning.</i>
Stand for	<i>Accept or tolerate behavior.</i>	<i>I'm not going to STAND FOR their rudeness any longer.</i>
Stand for	<i>The words represented by certain initials.</i>	<i>'WHAT do the letters BBC STAND FOR?' 'British Broadcasting Corporation.'</i>
Stand in for	<i>Substitute someone temporarily.</i>	<i>She had to STAND IN FOR the editor while he was on holiday.</i>
Stand out	<i>Be extraordinary and different.</i>	<i>She STOOD OUT from the crowd in selection and was offered the job.</i>
Stand up	<i>Move from a sitting or lying down to a vertical position.</i>	<i>Everybody STOOD UP when the judge entered the court.</i>
Stand up	<i>Fail to keep an appointment.</i>	<i>He agreed to meet me last night, but he STOOD me UP.</i>
Stand up for	<i>Defend, support.</i>	<i>He's the kind of manager who will always STAND UP FOR his staff.</i>
Stand up to	<i>Keep your principles when challenged by an authority.</i>	<i>She STOOD UP TO the police when they tried to corrupt her.</i>
Stand up to	<i>Resist damage.</i>	<i>This coat will STAND UP TO the roughest weather conditions.</i>
Stare down	<i>Look at someone until they cannot look at you.</i>	<i>He was angry but I STARED him DOWN and he left without saying much.</i>
Start off	<i>Make something start.</i>	<i>They STARTED OFF the meeting with an attack on our performance.</i>
Start off	<i>Begin life, a career or existence.</i>	<i>She STARTED OFF as a receptionist and ended up as the CEO.</i>
Start off	<i>Begin a journey.</i>	<i>We STARTED OFF early because we knew the journey would take all day.</i>
Start off	<i>Make someone laugh.</i>	<i>I was trying to be serious, but their comment STARTED me OFF.</i>
Start off on	<i>Help someone to start a piece or work or activity.</i>	<i>I STARTED her OFF ON the project then left her to finish it.</i>
Start on	<i>Begin to use or consume.</i>	<i>It's time to START ON that bottle of wine.</i>
Start on	<i>Criticize angrily.</i>	<i>The manager was furious and STARTED ON her staff for not trying hard enough.</i>
Start on at	<i>Criticize or nag.</i>	<i>He STARTED ON AT me for being late.</i>
Start out	<i>Begin a journey.</i>	<i>We STARTED OUT early in the morning.</i>
Start out as	<i>Begin life, existence or a career.</i>	<i>What had STARTED OUT AS a protest quickly turned into a full-blown rebellion.</i>
Start out to	<i>Intend, plan.</i>	<i>I didn't START OUT TO become the boss- it just happened.</i>
Start over	<i>Begin something again.</i>	<i>It's a mess- I think we should just START OVER.</i>
Start up	<i>Open a business.</i>	<i>The firm STARTED UP on a shoestring budget.</i>



Start up	<i>Begin, especially sounds.</i>	<i>There was a pause, then the noise STARTED UP again.</i>
Start up	<i>When an engine starts working.</i>	<i>The car STARTED UP first time.</i>
Start up	<i>Make an engine work.</i>	<i>I STARTED the car UP.</i>
Start up	<i>Sit or stand upright because someone has surprised you.</i>	<i>He STARTED UP when I entered the room and tried to hide what he was doing.</i>
Stash away	<i>Store or hide something in a safe place.</i>	<i>I STASHED some money AWAY behind some books.</i>
Stave in	<i>Push or break something inwards.</i>	<i>The police STOVE the front door IN and arrested them.</i>
Stave off	<i>Delay, prevent something from happening.</i>	<i>The medicine STAVED OFF the worst of the disease.</i>
Stay away	<i>Not come.</i>	<i>He said he didn't like them coming and wanted them to STAY AWAY.</i>
Stay away from	<i>Avoid, not come.</i>	<i>He told them to STAY AWAY FROM him.</i>
Stay in	<i>Not go out.</i>	<i>I'm going to STAY IN and chill tonight; I can't be bothered to go out.</i>
Stay on	<i>Remain longer than anticipated.</i>	<i>She STAYED ON after she graduated to do a Master's degree.</i>
Stay out	<i>Not go home.</i>	<i>We STAYED OUT all night.</i>
Stay over	<i>Stay overnight.</i>	<i>I STAYED OVER at a friend's house last night because of the train strike.</i>
Stay up	<i>Not go to bed.</i>	<i>The children STAYED UP until way past their bedtime.</i>
Steal away	<i>Leave a place quietly or secretly.</i>	<i>We didn't want to wake them, so we STOLE AWAY in the middle of the night.</i>
Steal out	<i>Leave in a stealthy or quiet manner.</i>	<i>Not wanting to attract attention, she STOLE OUT early.</i>
Steal over	<i>Be gradually overcome by an emotion or feeling.</i>	<i>A feeling of pride STOLE OVER me as I watched.</i>
Steal up	<i>Approach quietly or secretly.</i>	<i>The lights were off and everything was quiet so we STOLE UP as quietly as we could.</i>
Steal up on	<i>Approach a place or someone quietly or secretly.</i>	<i>We STOLE UP ON them so that they couldn't sound the alarm.</i>
Steer clear of	<i>Avoid.</i>	<i>He's trying to STEER CLEAR OF his lecturer because he hasn't finished his assignment yet.</i>
Stem from	<i>Originate, be caused by.</i>	<i>The trouble STEMS FROM their refusal to discuss the matter.</i>
Step aside	<i>Leave a job or position so that someone else can take over.</i>	<i>Everyone thinks that the prime minister should STEP ASIDE so that someone new can lead the party into the election.</i>
Step back	<i>Look at something from a different perspective.</i>	<i>We should STEP BACK and try to see how our customers will view the scheme.</i>
Step down	<i>Leave a job or position so that someone can take over.</i>	<i>The CEO STEPPED DOWN after the share price dropped.</i>
Step down	<i>Reduce.</i>	<i>Production is being STEPPED DOWN because demand has dropped.</i>
Step forward	<i>Offer help.</i>	<i>When I had the accident, a lot of people STEPPED FORWARD to help me.</i>
Step in	<i>Get involved by interrupting something.</i>	<i>I had to STEP IN when they started fighting.</i>
Step on it	<i>An imperative used to tell someone to go faster, especially when driving.</i>	<i>I told the taxi driver to STEP ON IT as I was late for the meeting.</i>
Step out	<i>Leave a place for a very short time.</i>	<i>They've STEPPED OUT for a cigarette.</i>
Step to	<i>Confront.</i>	<i>Don't STEP TO those guys; they'll kill you.</i>
Step to	<i>Chat, talk to.</i>	<i>He tried to STEP TO her in the bar.</i>
Step up	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>The police have STEPPED UP the pressure on beggars working the Underground.</i>





Stick around	Stay in a place for some time.	He's late, but I'll STICK AROUND for another few minutes before I leave.
Stick at	Continue doing something despite difficulties.	She found the course very tough but she STUCK AT it and did well in the end.
Stick by	Support someone when they are having difficulties.	No one STUCK BY him when the scandal became public.
Stick by	Support a plan, opinion or decision.	They are STICKING BY their claims.
Stick down	Write something quickly or without thinking about it.	I couldn't answer the test so I just STUCK anything DOWN that I could remember.
Stick down	Join surfaces with glue.	I STUCK the label DOWN .
Stick it to	Criticize someone.	She STUCK IT TO me for turning up half an hour late.
Stick it to	Treat someone badly or unfairly.	My boss always STICKS IT TO me when she's in a bad mood.
Stick out	Be easily noticed.	He's so much better than the others that he STICKS OUT .
Stick out	Extend part of your body.	He STUCK his tongue OUT at me.
Stick out	Continue doing something difficult or unpleasant.	I STUCK it OUT even though I hated every minute of it.
Stick out for	Demand a salary raise.	We're STICKING OUT FOR a 5% increase.
Stick to	Not change.	The Prime Minister decided to STICK TO the original plan despite the criticism in the media.
Stick to	Restrict or limit and not change.	I STUCK TO the path and didn't take the shortcut.
Stick together	Support each other.	If we don't STICK TOGETHER , things will be much worse for all of us- we need some unity.
Stick up	Stand on end.	The static electricity made my hair STICK UP .
Stick up	Rob using weapons.	They STUCK the bank UP and stole tens of thousands.
Stick up for	Support or defend.	You have to STICK UP FOR yourself here, because no one will back you.
Stick with	Not change something.	We'd better STICK WITH our original idea.
Stick with	Stay near someone.	He told the children to STICK WITH him in the station.
Stick with	Not be forgotten.	The details have STUCK WITH me ever since.
Stick with	Continue with something difficult or unpleasant.	I STUCK WITH the job though I found it very stressful.
Stiffen up	Become rigid.	My back STIFFENS UP in cold weather.
Stiffen up	Make something rigid.	They used starch to STIFFEN the collars UP .
Stir up	Make trouble for someone else.	He STIRRED things UP by complaining to senior management about his line manager.
Stitch up	Sew something so that it is closed.	I STITCHED UP the hole in my sleeve.
Stitch up	Finalise a deal.	We get the contract STITCHED UP this week.
Stitch up	Cheat someone or make them look guilty when they aren't.	The police STITCHED them UP because they couldn't find any evidence against them.
Stomp off	Leave somewhere angrily.	He lost his temper and STOMPED OFF home.
Stomp on	Treat badly or defeat.	They STOMP ON their competitors.
Stop around	Visit someone for a short time..	Why don't you STOP AROUND my place on your way back?
Stop back	Return somewhere.	I'll STOP BACK this afternoon when you're free.
Stop behind	Stay somewhere when other people leave.	I STOPPED BEHIND at the end of the lecture to ask a couple of questions.
Stop by	Visit somewhere briefly or quickly.	I must STOP BY the supermarket and pick up some things for dinner.
Stop in	Stay at home.	I was feeling tired so I STOPPED IN last night.
Stop in	Visit briefly.	I STOPPED IN at my aunt's after work.



Stop off	Break a journey.	We STOPPED OFF for lunch about halfway there, then carried on driving.
Stop out	Be out late, especially when you are expected home.	Her parents were annoyed because she STOPPED OUT all night.
Stop over	Stay somewhere when on a journey.	I STOPPED OVER in Bangkok for a couple of days on my way back from Tokyo.
Stop up	Stay up late.	I STOPPED UP last night watching the film.
Stop up	Fill or block something.	I STOPPED UP the bottle with a cork.
Storm off	Leave a place angrily.	They had a row and he STORMED OFF.
Storm out	Leave a place angrily.	He lost his temper and STORMED OUT OF the bar. (If you don't mention the place, you can just say 'He stormed out')
Stow away	Hide in a vehicle to travel without people knowing.	She STOWED AWAY on the plane but was caught when it landed.
Stow away	Store something in a safe place.	We STOWED it AWAY in the garage to keep it dry.
Straighten out	Make something straight.	I'm always having to STRAIGHTEN OUT the wires connected to my computer.
Straighten out	Deal with a problem.	I had to STRAIGHTEN OUT things after the mess they had made.
Straighten out	Make clear and resolve.	There are a few issues I'd like to STRAIGHTEN OUT first.
Straighten out	Improve someone's behaviour.	Starting work has STRAIGHTENED him OUT and calmed him down.
Straighten up	Stand straight.	She STRAIGHTENED UP when her boss walked in.
Straighten up	Tidy.	I STRAIGHTENED UP the room before they arrived.
Strike back	Attack, take action against someone who has hurt you.	At first, he ignored them, but when things got very serious, he STRUCK BACK.
Strike down	Kill.	A hitman STRUCK him DOWN as he entered the building. (This verb is often used in the passive- He was struck down as he entered the building.)
Strike down	Make someone ill.	I was STRUCK DOWN with food poisoning. (This verb is mostly used in the passive.)
Strike down	Disallow a law, decision, etc.	The Appeal Court STRUCK DOWN the lower court's ruling.
Strike off	Remove someone's professional licence to practice.	The Medical Council STRUCK him OFF for malpractice.
Strike on	Have a good idea.	I STRUCK ON the solution when I was out with my dog.
Strike out	Start doing something new and different.	After doing the same job for five years, I decided to STRIKE OUT and change careers.
Strike out	Try to hit someone.	When he pushed me, I STRUCK OUT.
Strike out	Start going towards a place.	We got up early and STRUCK OUT for our final destination.
Strike out	Cross writing out.	As they arrived, I STRUCK their names OUT on the list I had.
Strike out	Fail.	I tried to get the government to support us but I STRUCK OUT.
Strike up	Start (conversation, relationship).	He STRUCK UP a conversation with me in the bar.
Strike up	Start performing music.	The band STRUCK UP and everyone turned to listen.
Strike upon	Have a good idea.	It took us a long time to STRIKE UPON a solution.
String along	Deceive someone for a long time.	They kept saying they were interested, but they were just STRINGING me ALONG
String along	Accompany someone because you haven't got anything better to do.	Is it alright if I STRING ALONG with you tonight?



String out	<i>Make something last as long as possible.</i>	<i>There was half an hour to go, so I STRUNG the questions OUT as long as I could.</i>
String together	<i>Put words together into a coherent text.</i>	<i>I was so nervous in the interview that I could hardly STRING a sentence TOGETHER.</i>
String up	<i>Hang somebody.</i>	<i>The rebels STRUNG the soldiers UP after they captured them.</i>
Stub out	<i>Extinguish a cigarette.</i>	<i>He STUBBED his cigarette OUT in a saucer because he couldn't find an ashtray.</i>
Stuff up	<i>Make a mistake, do badly, spoil.</i>	<i>I STUFFED the exam UP.</i>
Stumble across	<i>Find something accidentally.</i>	<i>You'll never guess what I STUMBLED ACROSS when I was packing my stuff.</i>
Stumble upon	<i>Find something accidentally.</i>	<i>I STUMBLED UPON these photos when I was clearing my room up.</i>
Stump up	<i>Pay for something.</i>	<i>He didn't want to pay me back, but I got him to STUMP UP in the end.</i>
Suck in	<i>Become involved in something unpleasant.</i>	<i>Everyone around her was taking drugs and she got SUCKED IN.</i>
Suck into	<i>Become involved in something unpleasant.</i>	<i>The country got SUCKED INTO the war.</i>
Suck up	<i>Try to ingratiate yourself.</i>	<i>He is always SUCKING UP to try to get the boss's approval.</i>
Suck up to	<i>Ingratiate yourself with someone.</i>	<i>He's always SUCKING UP TO our boss.</i>
Suit up	<i>Get dressed or put on a uniform for an activity or task.</i>	<i>They SUITED UP and went to the interview</i>
Sum up	<i>Summarize.</i>	<i>At the end of the lecture, she SUMMED UP the main points again.</i>
Summon up	<i>Get the energy or courage to do something.</i>	<i>Andrea couldn't SUMMON UP the enthusiasm to apply for the position.</i>
Suss out	<i>Come to understand.</i>	<i>It took her ages to SUSS OUT what was going on.</i>
Swan about	<i>Move in a dramatic or affected manner.</i>	<i>He SWANNED ABOUT at the party.</i>
Swan around	<i>Move in a dramatic or affected manner.</i>	<i>She SWANNED AROUND trying to impress people.</i>
Swan in	<i>Enter in a dramatic or attention-seeking manner.</i>	<i>He SWANNED IN surrounded by photographers.</i>
Swan off	<i>Leave somewhere in a defiant or pompous manner.</i>	<i>He didn't like the way she spoke to him so he SWANNED OFF angrily.</i>
Swear by	<i>Have great confidence in.</i>	<i>I SWEAR BY their products- they're the best on the market.</i>
Swear down	<i>Promise that something is true.</i>	<i>He SWORE DOWN that he hadn't done it.</i>
Sweep through	<i>Pass easily, succeed.</i>	<i>She SWEPT THROUGH the exams.</i>
Sweep through	<i>Move quickly through.</i>	<i>The disease SWEPT THROUGH the population.</i>
Swing around	<i>Change your opinion quickly.</i>	<i>They SWUNG AROUND to our idea after reading the press reports.</i>
Swing around	<i>Turn around quickly.</i>	<i>He SWUNG ROUND to see what had made the noise.</i>
Swing at	<i>Try to hit.</i>	<i>He SWUNG AT me but missed.</i>
Swing by	<i>Visit a person or place on your way somewhere.</i>	<i>I will SWING BY this afternoon and pick you up.</i>
Swing round	<i>Change your opinion quickly.</i>	<i>They were against it at first then SWUNG ROUND and supported it.</i>
Swing round	<i>Turn around quickly.</i>	<i>She SWUNG ROUND and greeted them.</i>
Siphon off	<i>Take business, support or votes from someone.</i>	<i>The candidate SYPHONED OFF a lot of votes because of his anti-war stance.</i>
Siphon off	<i>Divert money illegally.</i>	<i>The minister had been SYPHONING OFF funds from his department for years.</i>



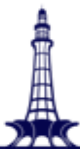
T



Tack on	Add something that wasn't planned.	They TACKED ON a new ending to the film when they found that test audiences didn't like the original.
Tack onto	Add or attach something that wasn't planned to something.	I TACKED a quick message ONTO the end of the letter after I'd printed it.
Tag along	Accompany someone, especially if they haven't specifically invited you.	You're off to the cinema; can we TAG ALONG ?
Tag on	Add an additional point to something written or spoken.	He TAGGED ON a few comments after reading my report.
Tag onto	Add an additional point to something written or spoken.	He TAGGED his ideas ONTO the end of my report.
Tag with	Add a keyword link or bookmark to a blog entry or webpage.	The post was TAGGED WITH keywords.
Tail away	Become silent or inaudible.	His voice TAILED AWAY when he was speaking about what he'd done wrong.
Tail back	Form a traffic jam.	The traffic TAILED BACK for several miles after the accident.
Tail off	Become silent or inaudible.	The voices TAILED OFF when she entered.
Tail off	Decrease.	Profits TAILED OFF sharply in the last quarter of the year as a result of the increase in the price of oil.
Take after	Look like, resemble.	He TAKES AFTER his mother.
Take apart	Take something to pieces.	She TOOK the photocopier APART to see what had got stuck in it.
Take aside	Get someone alone to talk to them.	The teacher TOOK her ASIDE and said that she'd failed the exam.
Take away	Remove.	The police TOOK the protestors AWAY .
Take back	Make someone nostalgic.	That song always TAKES me BACK to when I was at university.
Take back	Retract a statement, admit that something was wrong.	I had to TAKE BACK everything bad I'd said about them when I learned how they'd helped out.
Take down	Make notes or write down in full.	The police TOOK DOWN his answers to their questions.
Take down	Remove.	People TAKE DOWN their Christmas decorations twelve days after Christmas.
Take in	Absorb information.	The lecture was rather boring and I didn't TAKE IN much of what the lecturer said.
Take in	Deceive.	She TOOK me IN with her story until someone told me the truth.
Take in	Make clothes smaller.	The jacket was far too big around the shoulders, so I had it TAKEN IN so that I could wear it.
Take in	Assume care or support.	The family TOOK IN the three homeless kittens.
Take it	Accept criticism.	He's good at criticizing others, but can't TAKE IT himself.
Take it out on	Abuse someone because you're angry.	Whenever things go wrong, he always shouts and TAKES IT OUT ON me, even if I had nothing to do with the problem.
Take it upon yourself	Take responsibility, often without consulting other people.	I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF to make sure he got up on time.
Take off	Make great progress.	The software house really TOOK OFF when they produced the latest version of their DTP package.



Take off	Reduce the price of an item.	They've TAKEN ten percent OFF designer frames for glasses.
Take off	When a plane departs or leaves the ground.	The flight for Dublin TOOK OFF on time.
Take off	Remove.	It was hot, so I TOOK my jacket OFF .
Take on	Allow passengers on a ship or plane.	The plane stopped at Zurich to TAKE ON some passengers.
Take on	Assume a responsibility.	She TOOK ON the task of indexing the book.
Take on	Employ.	The council has had to TAKE ON twenty extra employees to handle their increased workload.
Take out	Borrow a library book.	I TOOK OUT all the books I needed for my essay from the library.
Take out	Borrow money from a bank or other official lender.	Jackie and Anil TOOK OUT a mortgage to buy a bigger flat.
Take out	Extract or remove.	The dentist TOOK OUT all of my wisdom teeth before they started causing any problems.
Take out	Go out socially with someone, especially a date.	He TOOK her OUT to a restaurant last Friday night.
Take out	Obtain insurance.	I TOOK OUT some health insurance before I went backpacking around Latin America.
Take out	Kill, murder.	The gang TOOK him OUT after he spoke to the police.
Take over	Assume control of a company or organization.	The bank was TAKEN OVER by a Hong Kong bank that needed to buy a bank to get into the British market.
Take over	Start a job or position that someone had occupied before you.	She TOOK OVER responsibility for the project last month.
Take through	Explain something to someone.	He TOOK me THROUGH the procedures before we started.
Take to	Make a habit of something.	He's TAKEN TO wearing a baseball cap since his hair started thinning more noticeably.
Take up	Fill or occupy time or space.	An awful lot of my time at work is TAKEN UP with pointless bureaucracy nowadays.
Take up	Make clothes shorter.	The trousers were too long so I TOOK them UP to make them fit.
Take up	Start a new hobby, pastime, etc..	He TOOK UP squash as he felt he had to lose some weight.
Talk around	Persuade.	He TALKED them AROUND to accepting his point of view.
Talk around	Talk about a problem or issue without really dealing with it.	They TALKED AROUND the issue without reaching a conclusion.
Talk at	Talk to someone and not give them a chance to reply or listen to them.	There's no point trying to convince them- they'll just TALK AT you until you give up.
Talk back	Respond rudely to a person in authority.	The teacher was cross because the pupil TALKED BACK to her.
Talk into	Persuade someone to do something.	She didn't want to let me go, but I finally managed to TALK her INTO it.
Talk out	Discuss a problem or issue to find a solution.	They had a meeting to TALK OUT how people felt.
Talk out of	Persuade someone not to do something.	He was going to drive home after drinking half a bottle of wine, but his friends TALKED him OUT OF it.
Talk over	Discuss.	We TALKED OVER the problems in our relationship, but couldn't sort things out.
Talk round	Persuade.	She TALKED them AROUND to accepting her point of view.
Talk round	Talk about a problem or issue without really dealing with it.	WE TALKED ROUND the issue but didn't reach a conclusion.



Talk through	Guide someone through an issue.	The teacher TALKED me THROUGH the test so I knew what to expect.
Talk up	Make something appear more important or significant than it really is.	The government is trying to TALK UP the effect of their policies.
Talk yourself out	Talk until you have nothing left to say.	He TALKED himself OUT after a couple of hours and calmed down.
Tap for	Get money off someone.	I TAPPED him FOR a loan.
Tap into	Use or exploit a plentiful resource for your benefit.	The company is hoping to TAP INTO the Chinese market.
Tap off with	Have sex with.	He TAPPED OFF WITH someone at the party on Saturday.
Tap out	Play a rhythm quietly.	He TAPPED OUT the tune with his pencil while he was thinking.
Tap out	Use all the money available.	How can we buy a new house without TAPPING OUT our savings account.
Tap up	Approach a footballer illegally to get them to change teams.	Chelsea were accused of TAPPING him UP even though he was under contract.
Team up	Work with someone or a group to achieve something.	They TEAMED UP to publicise the issue.
Tear apart	Disturb or upset greatly.	People were TORN APART when news of the train crash came through.
Tear at	Pull or try to pull something to pieces.	The fighters TORE AT each other.
Tear away	Stop someone doing something unwillingly.	I had to TEAR him AWAY from the office for dinner.
Tear away	Remove a surface violently.	The roof was TORN AWAY in the hurricane.
Tear down	Demolish.	The estate was TORN DOWN so that they could develop the land into luxury flats.
Tear into	Criticize strongly or angrily.	She TORE INTO me for losing it.
Tear off	Remove part of a form or letter using your hands, not scissors.	She TORE the slip OFF the bottom of the form and sent it with her cheque.
Tear off	Leave at high speed.	The police TORE OFF in their car after arresting her.
Tear off	Remove with force.	The storm TORE the roof OFF .
Tear out	Depart rapidly.	The sheriff TORE OUT after the escaping criminals.
Tear up	Rip into pieces.	He TORE the fax UP and threw the bits of paper in the bin.
Tear up	Destroy.	They are TEARING UP the old part of town to build a new shopping centre.
Tear up	Have eyes fill with tears.	After hearing the tragic news he TEARED UP and could hardly speak.
Tee off	Start or launch an event.	The new project will TEE OFF next month.
Tee off	Place a golf ball on a short plastic or wooden stick before hitting it at the start of a hole..	He TEED OFF at the first hole.
Tee off	Annoy someone.	It TEES me OFF when they turn up late.
Tee off on	Criticize.	She TEED OFF ON me about the work I gave her.
Tee up	Place a golf ball on a short plastic or wooden stick before hitting it at the start of a hole..	She TEED UP two strokes ahead at the last hole.
Tee up	Make preparations before starting or launching something.	They are TEEING UP for the conference tomorrow.
Tell apart	See a difference between two things.	They're identical twins so I cannot TELL them APART .
Tell off	Chide; talk angrily to someone about something they've done wrong..	His fiancée TOLD him OFF for arriving nearly an hour late.
Tell on	Report someone to an authority.	The pupil TOLD ON the others for cheating and the teacher failed them.



Text out	Cancel an appointment by sending a text message.	I was feeling too tired to go and TEXTED OUT .
Think over	Consider something carefully.	I've THOUGHT it OVER and have made up my mind; I'm going to take the job in Leeds.
Think through	Consider all the possibilities and outcomes of a situation.	The plan fell through because they hadn't THOUGHT it THROUGH properly.
Think up	Create or invent something, especially when lying.	I'd better THINK UP a good reason for handing the work in late.
Throw away	Discard something when no longer needed.	I THREW the alarm clock AWAY because it had stopped working.
Throw in	Join, accompany.	May I THROW IN with you? My companions left me behind.
Throw in	Add something to a deal.	They THREW IN a printer so I bought it from them.
Throw off	Remove item of clothing quickly.	I THREW OFF my shoes and flopped on the settee.
Throw off	Get rid of.	It took me ages to THROW OFF the cold.
Throw off	Produce light or heat.	The lamp THROWS OFF a lot of heat.
Throw on	Put clothes on quickly.	I THREW ON a jacket and rushed outside.
Throw out	Get rid of.	I THREW OUT all my old clothes to make some space in my wardrobe.
Throw out	Dislocate.	Edward slipped on the ice and THREW OUT his shoulder.
Throw out	Reject.	The committee THREW the proposal OUT .
Throw out	Produce heat, fumes.	The car THROWS OUT a lot of smoke.
Throw out	Expel.	The school THREW him OUT for smoking.
Throw over	End a relationship with someone.	She THREW me OVER last year.
Throw over	Reject, refuse to accept.	They THREW OVER the agreement.
Throw together	Make or arrange quickly.	I THREW a quick dinner TOGETHER before we left.
Throw up	Vomit.	The prawns she ate at lunch made her THROW UP and she had to go home early.
Throw up	Produce problems, results, ideas, etc.	She talks THREW UP some interesting possibilities.
Throw up	Leave a job or position suddenly.	She THREW UP her job to go travelling.
Throw up	Create clouds of dust or splash water into the air.	The road was bumpy and the car in front was THROWING UP so much dust that we could hardly see where we were going.
Throw yourself at	Make it clear you are sexually attracted to someone.	He THREW HIMSELF AT her but she wasn't interested.
Throw yourself into	Do something enthusiastically or energetically.	She THREW herself INTO the project.
Tick along	Make reasonable progress without any serious problems.	Things are TICKING ALONG at work while the director's away.
Tick away	Pass (of time).	The last few seconds TICKED AWAY and the team couldn't come back.
Tick by	Pass (of time).	The seconds TICKED BY and the team failed to score.
Tick off	Annoy.	She really TICKS me OFF when she doesn't reply to my emails.
Tick off	Scold.	He TICKED me OFF for arriving late.
Tick off	Put a mark on an item in a list when it has been dealt with.	She TICKED OFF our names when we arrived.
Tick over	Continue working, but without improving.	The company TICKED OVER while she was away on holiday.
Tick over	Operate but without moving (engines).	The mechanic left the engine TICKING OVER for a while to see if he could see what was causing the problem.



Tide over	<i>Use something carefully so as not to finish it.</i>	<i>This £50 will have to TIDE me OVER until I get paid.</i>
Tidy up	<i>Put things in the correct place in a room.</i>	<i>I TIDIED UP my bedroom because it was a complete mess.</i>
Tie back	<i>Fasten or secure so that it doesn't obstruct.</i>	<i>She TIED her hair BACK before playing tennis.</i>
Tie down	<i>Secure something to prevent it moving.</i>	<i>They TIED him DOWN to stop him escaping.</i>
Tie down	<i>Remove or restrict freedom.</i>	<i>Marriage TIES you DOWN.</i>
Tie down	<i>Stop people (often police or military) going where they are needed.</i>	<i>The army was TIED DOWN with the rebellion and couldn't help.</i>
Tie in	<i>Agree, be connected or support.</i>	<i>The theory TIES IN with what the police have been saying.</i>
Tie in	<i>Associate with.</i>	<i>He is TIED IN somehow with the crime syndicate.</i>
Tie in with	<i>Occur at the same time.</i>	<i>The publication TIES IN WITH the twentieth anniversary of the incident.</i>
Tie up	<i>Tie or fasten something securely.</i>	<i>They TIED UP the hostages so that they couldn't escape.</i>
Tie up	<i>Stop someone doing something.</i>	<i>Work has TIED me UP all week.</i>
Tie up	<i>Fasten.</i>	<i>I TIED UP my shoelaces.</i>
Tie up	<i>Block a road, etc.</i>	<i>The convoy TIED UP the road for an hour.</i>
Tighten up	<i>Make something more secure or function better.</i>	<i>They're TIGHTENING UP security for the president's visit.</i>
Time out	<i>End or close because of a time limit.</i>	<i>The program TIMED OUT before I could reply.</i>
Time out	<i>End or close something because of a time limit.</i>	<i>The program TIMED me OUT after twenty minutes.</i>
Tip off	<i>Secretly inform the police or authorities.</i>	<i>The police arrested the drug dealer after someone TIPPED them OFF.</i>
Tip over	<i>Spill, make something fall on its side.</i>	<i>I TIPPED my coffee OVER and ruined my keyboard.</i>
Tire of	<i>Get bored of something.</i>	<i>She soon TIRED OF the course and dropped out.</i>
Tire out	<i>Make someone exhausted.</i>	<i>Working so much TIRES me OUT.</i>
Toddle off	<i>Leave, go home.</i>	<i>It's getting late, so I'm going to TODDLE OFF home.</i>
Tone down	<i>Make something sound more moderate.</i>	<i>The Minister tried to TONE DOWN what she had said when the press started attacking her.</i>
Tool up	<i>Provide equipment.</i>	<i>The company spent a lot on TOOLING the factory UP.</i>
Tool up	<i>Arm yourself or somebody.</i>	<i>The gangsters got TOOLED UP before they went into the club.</i>
Tootle off	<i>Leave, depart.</i>	<i>It's getting late, so we're going to TOOTLE OFF home.</i>
Top off	<i>Finish something in a special way.</i>	<i>He complained for an hour and to TOP it OFF started shouting his head off.</i>
Top out	<i>Stop increasing, reach the highest point.</i>	<i>The temperature TOPPED OUT at forty degrees yesterday.</i>
Top up	<i>Refill something that isn't empty yet.</i>	<i>Shall I TOP UP your drink while I'm pouring myself one?</i>
Toss about	<i>Discuss something freely and openly, but not very seriously.</i>	<i>WE TOSSED ideas ABOUT before the negotiations.</i>
Toss around	<i>Discuss something freely and openly, but not very seriously.</i>	<i>We TOSSED their plan AROUND a bit and then rejected it.</i>
Toss back	<i>Drink quickly.</i>	<i>I TOSSED BACK my beer and left.</i>
Toss down	<i>Drink quickly.</i>	<i>I TOSSED a couple of drinks DOWN before they arrived.</i>
Toss for	<i>Make a decision by throwing a coin and seeing which side lands face up.</i>	<i>We TOSSED FOR who would start.</i>



Toss off	Write something quickly and carelessly.	I TOSSED OFF the essay the night before I had to hand it in.
Toss up	Decide something by throwing a coin and seeing which side lands face up..	We TOSSED UP to see who would kick off.
Touch down	Land (planes).	The plane TOUCHED DOWN at Narita airport an hour late.
Touch for	Borrow money.	I TOUCHED him FOR some cash as I'd forgotten my cards.
Touch off	Cause a problem to occur.	The government's decision TOUCHED OFF riots in the capital.
Touch on	Mention.	The talk TOUCHED ON the issue, but didn't give any new information.
Touch up	Improve the appearance of something.	I couldn't be bothered to redecorate, so I just TOUCHED UP the bits that needed painting the most.
Touch up	Touch someone in a sexual way.	She got angry when he tried to TOUCH her UP in the elevator.
Touch upon	Mention.	They didn't TOUCH UPON the subject because of the controversy.
Tow away	Remove a vehicle, especially if parked illegally.	I parked in a no-parking zone and they TOWED my car AWAY .
Toy at	Pretend to think about or think about in a casual way.	She TOYED AT getting them to help her but then did it alone.
Toy over	Think about something.	I TOYED OVER the idea for a while, but decided not to go ahead with it.
Toy with	Not eat much of a meal.	It was horrible, so I just TOYED WITH the food.
Toy with	Consider something, but not very seriously.	We TOYED WITH the idea of moving to the country, but it isn't really practical.
Toy with	Move or play with something to occupy your hands.	He TOYED WITH his cup.
Toy with	Treat insincerely.	He thought she loved him but she was just TOYING WITH him.
Track down	Find after a long search.	It took me ages to TRACK them DOWN in the crowd at the football game.
Trade down	Sell something and replace it with something cheaper.	Their house is too large now that their children have left home, so they're going to TRADE DOWN to something smaller.
Trade in	Exchange something old as part of the price of something new.	She TRADED IN her old car for the new model.
Trade in	Leave your wife or husband to marry someone younger.	He TRADED IN his wife when he became the chairman.
Trade off	Bargain, make a deal or compromise.	A longer working week was TRADED OFF for a pay rise.
Trade off	Accept something you don't really want to get something you do want.	We had to TRADE OFF space for the location when buying the apartment.
Trade on	Exploit, use something to your advantage.	He TRADES ON their insecurity to get his way.
Trade up	Leave your wife or husband and marry someone better looking, richer, etc.	She supported him for years while he was struggling, but when he hit the big time he left her and TRADED UP .
Trade upon	Exploit, use to your advantage.	They TRADE UPON their reputation to scare rivals.
Train up	Teach someone the specific skills they will need to carry out a job or task.	I have been TRAINING my new assistant UP .
Trickle down	Pass benefits from economic expansion through the economy to the less fortunate.	Despite the economic boom, few benefits have TRICKLED DOWN to the poor.
Trip out	Be under the influence of psychoactive drugs.	After taking the LSD he TRIPPED OUT for hours.
Trip over	Fall.	I TRIPPED OVER and hurt my knee.
Trip over	Fall because you hit an obstacle.	I TRIPPED OVER the kerb and broke my nose.



Trip up	<i>Make a mistake.</i>	<i>I TRIPPED UP in the interview when they asked me about what I could offer the company.</i>
Trot off	<i>Leave.</i>	<i>The meeting was over so I TROTTED OFF.</i>
Trot off to	<i>Go somewhere.</i>	<i>I TROTTED OFF TO see the dentist.</i>
Trot out	<i>Make a statement (meant negatively).</i>	<i>The spokeswoman TROTTED OUT the same old unconvincing excuses.</i>
Trump up	<i>Charge or accuse someone falsely.</i>	<i>The police TRUMPED UP the charges against him and he ended up in prison though he hadn't done it.</i>
Try back	<i>Phone back.</i>	<i>I called but they weren't in, so I'll TRY BACK later.</i>
Try for	<i>Make an attempt to get something.</i>	<i>I'm going to TRY FOR the job.</i>
Try it on	<i>Provoke someone by being annoying or behaving badly.</i>	<i>The children were TRYING IT ON all night until I lost my temper.</i>
Try it on	<i>Attempt to get something, usually by deceit, without great hopes of success.</i>	<i>He knew I wasn't got to let him do it- he was just TRYING IT ON.</i>
Try on	<i>Put clothes on to see if they fit.</i>	<i>I TRIED the jacket ON before I bought it.</i>
Try out	<i>Test.</i>	<i>Scientists are TRYING OUT a new drug in the fight against the disease.</i>
Try out	<i>Test something to see if you like it or want to buy it.</i>	<i>I TRIED OUT the program before I bought it.</i>
Try out for	<i>Be tested for a sports team.</i>	<i>He TRIED OUT FOR the baseball team.</i>
Tuck away	<i>Put something in a safe place.</i>	<i>I TUCKED the money AWAY in my drawer.</i>
Tuck away	<i>Eat a lot.</i>	<i>We TUCKED AWAY a huge dinner before we went out.</i>
Tuck in	<i>Tidy the ends of items of clothing by placing them inside something.</i>	<i>I forgot to TUCK my shirt IN.</i>
Tuck in	<i>Start eating enthusiastically.</i>	<i>The dinner smelled so good I couldn't wait to TUCK IN.</i>
Tuck in	<i>Arrange the sheets, duvet or blankets to make someone, usually a child, comfortable in bed.</i>	<i>He TUCKED her IN and read her a story.</i>
Tuck into	<i>Start eating something.</i>	<i>I was starving and TUCKED INTO the food.</i>
Tuck up	<i>Arrange the sheets, duvet or blankets to make someone, usually a child, comfortable in bed.</i>	<i>She TUCKED her children UP in bed and switched the lights off.</i>
Tune in	<i>Watch or listen to a TV or radio show.</i>	<i>Be sure to TUNE IN next week for the next episode.</i>
Tune in to	<i>Watch or listen to a TV or radio program</i>	<i>Make sure you TUNE IN TO next week's show.</i>
Tune out	<i>Ignore, not pay attention.</i>	<i>I TUNED him OUT because he was talking such rubbish.</i>
Tune up	<i>Improve the performance of a machine or engine.</i>	<i>He's TUNED his car UP for the race.</i>
Tune up	<i>Tune a musical instrument before playing.</i>	<i>The orchestra TUNED UP their instruments before the concert.</i>
Turn against	<i>Stop liking and start disliking.</i>	<i>The public TURNED AGAINST the government when they became arrogant and ceased to listen.</i>
Turn away	<i>Not allow someone to enter a place.</i>	<i>The doorman TURNED him AWAY from the nightclub because he was wearing trainers.</i>
Turn down	<i>Reduce volume, temperature, etc..</i>	<i>The room was too hot, so she TURNED the heating DOWN.</i>
Turn down	<i>Reject an offer, invitation, etc..</i>	<i>They offered her the job, but she TURNED it DOWN.</i>
Turn down	<i>Fold the top covers of a bed down to make it ready for someone to go to sleep.</i>	<i>The hotel staff TURNED DOWN the bed and scattered flower petals on it while we was having dinner.</i>
Turn in	<i>Go to bed.</i>	<i>I TURNED IN at half past eleven because I had an early start the next morning.</i>
Turn in	<i>Hand in, submit.</i>	<i>She TURNED IN her paper.</i>
Turn into	<i>Become.</i>	<i>Tadpoles TURN INTO frogs.</i>





Turn off	Stop a machine.	I TURNED the TV OFF and went to bed.
Turn on	Cause someone to feel attraction or pleasure.	He really TURNS me ON .
Turn on	Start a machine.	I TURNED the radio ON to get the weather forecast.
Turn on	Attack.	The neighbor's dog TURNED ON me when I tried to stroke it.
Turn out	Produce.	The factory TURNS OUT three thousand units a day.
Turn out	Produce an unexpected result.	It looked as if we were going to fail, but it TURNED OUT well in the end.
Turn out	Stop a light.	She TURNED OUT the lights and went to bed.
Turn out	Attend.	Thousand TURNED OUT for the demonstration.
Turn over	Give to the authorities.	The court ordered the company to TURN OVER their financial records.
Turn to	Try to get help.	She had nobody to TURN TO when her husband died.
Turn to	Take up a habit.	He TURNED TO drink after he lost his job.
Turn up	Appear.	She didn't TURN UP for class today.
Turn up	Increase volume, temperature, etc..	I TURNED the music UP full blast.
Type in	Enter computer data or text.	He TYPED the text IN and printed it off.
Type out	Write a full or finished version of a text on a computer.	She TYPED her essay OUT and handed it in a the last minute.
Type up	Type a finished version.	She TYPED UP her lecture notes and printed them out.

U



Urge on	Encourage.	The crowd URGED the players ON .
Urge on	Persuade or pressure to accept something.	They URGED the deal ON the company.
Urge upon	Persuade or pressure to accept something.	They URGED the contract UPON us.
Use up	Finish or consume all of something.	We USED UP all the olive oil.
Usher in	Be at, mark or celebrate an important point in time.	We always give a party USHER IN the NEW YEAR .
Usher in	Make important changes happen.	Her appointment as CEO USHERED IN a whole new phase in the company's growth.

V

Vacuum up	Consume.	He VACUUMED UP all of the food.
Vamp up	Make something more exciting, attractive, etc.	The place is dull and you need to VAMP it UP .
Vamp up	Invent, make up, improvise.	I had to VAMP UP a reason for being so late.
Veg out	Relax, do nothing.	I'm going to VEG OUT in front of the TV tonight.
Venture forth	Leave somewhere safe or comfortable.	If the storm has finished, we could VENTURE FORTH .

W





Wade in	<i>Start something or get involved, often without thinking or to forcefully.</i>	<i>He just WADED IN without listening to what anyone had to say.</i>
Wade in	<i>Attack.</i>	<i>The hooligans WADED IN when they saw fans from the other team.</i>
Wade into	<i>Become embroiled or involved in a situation, without thinking or planning usually.</i>	<i>They WADED INTO the negotiations and the deal collapsed.</i>
Wade through	<i>Get to the end of something with difficulty.</i>	<i>It took me ages to WADE THROUGH the book.</i>
Wait about	<i>Wait somewhere doing nothing.</i>	<i>I WAITED ABOUT for an hour, but they didn't come.</i>
Wait around	<i>Wait somewhere doing nothing.</i>	<i>They were just WAITING AROUND to see if anything was going to happen.</i>
Wait behind	<i>Stay somewhere after other people have left.</i>	<i>I WAITED BEHIND to ask the lecturer a question.</i>
Wait in	<i>Stay at home because someone is going to visit.</i>	<i>I WAITED IN for the guy to fix the TV.</i>
Wait on	<i>Serve people in a restaurant.</i>	<i>They have two people WAITING ON each table.</i>
Wait on	<i>Sell goods in a shop.</i>	<i>He WAITS ON customers in an electronics store.</i>
Wait on	<i>Provide someone with everything they need or want.</i>	<i>He has a butler who WAITS ON him.</i>
Wait on	<i>Wait for a result before being able to make a decision.</i>	<i>They're WAITING ON the results of the vote before taking a final decision.</i>
Wait out	<i>Wait till something has finished, usually something unpleasant.</i>	<i>We'll have to WAIT OUT this uncertainty.</i>
Wait up	<i>Not go to bed because you are waiting.</i>	<i>I was worried and WAITED UP until they got home safe and sound.</i>
Wait up!	<i>Stop (imperative).</i>	<i>Wait up! I need to talk to you.</i>
Wait upon	<i>Provide someone with what they require.</i>	<i>They used to have servants WAITING UPON them.</i>
Wait upon	<i>Wait for a result before being able to make a decision.</i>	<i>They must WAIT UPON the outcome of the match before they know who they'll be playing.</i>
Wake up	<i>Stop sleeping.</i>	<i>I WOKE UP at half past six this morning.</i>
Walk away from	<i>Leave something you don't like.</i>	<i>You can't just WALK AWAY FROM your problems.</i>
Walk away with	<i>Win easily.</i>	<i>She WALKED AWAY WITH the first prize.</i>
Walk back from	<i>Retract a statement.</i>	<i>They declined to WALK BACK FROM their comments despite the controversy.</i>
Walk in on	<i>Enter somewhere unexpectedly and see something.</i>	<i>He WALKED IN ON them planning to sack him.</i>
Walk into	<i>Get work without effort.</i>	<i>He WALKED INTO a great job straight after university.</i>
Walk into	<i>Be unaware of the presence of something and either enter it (a trap) or bump into it (an obstruction).</i>	<i>You WALKED INTO that one [You became victim to a trap I set]or I WALKED INTO a door and broke my nose.</i>
Walk off	<i>Go for a walk to reduce the effects of an illness or bad feeling.</i>	<i>I tried to WALK OFF my hangover.</i>
Walk off with	<i>Win easily.</i>	<i>He WALKED OFF WITH the award.</i>
Walk off with	<i>Take something without permission or steal.</i>	<i>Someone WALKED OFF WITH my umbrella so I got soaked.</i>
Walk on	<i>Continue walking.</i>	<i>I saw the accident but just WALKED ON as I didn't want to have to give a statement.</i>
Walk out	<i>Leave work because of a dispute with the management.</i>	<i>The workers WALKED OUT because they felt that safety wasn't being handled correctly.</i>
Walk out	<i>Leave a place angrily or because you are not satisfied.</i>	<i>The film was a bore so I WALKED OUT halfway through.</i>
Walk out on	<i>Leave somebody angrily.</i>	<i>He WALKED OUT ON his wife last year.</i>
Walk through	<i>Explain or demonstrate something carefully to someone.</i>	<i>He WALKED me THROUGH the procedures.</i>
Walk up	<i>Go to someone.</i>	<i>A man WALKED UP and asked me the time.</i>



Waltz through	<i>Pass or succeed easily.</i>	<i>She WALTZED THROUGH the tests and got the highest score.</i>
Wander off	<i>Leave a place, usually without telling other people.</i>	<i>She WANDERED OFF and got lost in the crowd.</i>
Wander off	<i>Stop paying attention.</i>	<i>The lecture was boring and my mind WANDERED OFF after ten minutes.</i>
Want out	<i>Want to leave a relationship or arrangement.</i>	<i>Jackie wasn't happy with her marriage and WANTED OUT.</i>
Warm up	<i>Do exercises before a sport.</i>	<i>The team WARMED UP half an hour before the volleyball match.</i>
Wash away	<i>When floods or waves completely remove a structure, building, etc..</i>	<i>The ice cream stall on the beach was WASHED AWAY in the storm last night.</i>
Wash down	<i>Drink in order to swallow something solid.</i>	<i>I WASHED the antibiotics DOWN with a glass of water.</i>
Wash out	<i>Rain so heavily that an event has to be cancelled.</i>	<i>The rain WASHED OUT the championship final.</i>
Wash over	<i>Suddenly experience a strong emotion.</i>	<i>He felt numb as grief WASHED OVER him.</i>
Wash up	<i>Clean everything used to prepare food and eat it.</i>	<i>The children WASHED UP after lunch.</i>
Wash up	<i>When something in the sea or river is left on the shore or bank.</i>	<i>After the crash, several bodies WASHED UP on the beach.</i>
Wash up	<i>Wash face and hands.</i>	<i>Be sure you and the kids WASH UP before dinner.</i>
Waste away	<i>Become very thin and weak, usually due to illness.</i>	<i>He WASTED AWAY as the cancer got worse.</i>
Watch out	<i>Be careful (imperative).</i>	<i>Watch out- there's ice on the road.</i>
Watch out for	<i>Be careful of something.</i>	<i>WATCH OUT FOR bats in the caves; many have rabies.</i>
Watch over	<i>Keep an eye on something or someone to check that there's no trouble.</i>	<i>The lecturer WATCHED OVER the students as they did the experiment.</i>
Water down	<i>Make something weaker and less effective.</i>	<i>The Freedom of Information Act was WATERED DOWN by the Government and didn't give ordinary people much access to official data files</i>
Wave aside	<i>Ignore or refuse to consider what someone says.</i>	<i>They WAVED ASIDE our objections and carried on with the plan.</i>
Wave down	<i>Make a hand signal to stop a vehicle.</i>	<i>They WAVED the van DOWN and got a lift after the accident.</i>
Wave off	<i>Go to a place where someone is leaving to wave goodbye.</i>	<i>We WAVED her OFF at the station.</i>
Wave on	<i>Make a hand signal to tell someone to keep moving.</i>	<i>The accident was bad, but the police WAVED us ON.</i>
Wean off	<i>Slowly stop a dependency on something.</i>	<i>We will have to WEAN him OFF his obsession.</i>
Wear away	<i>Erode, remove gradually.</i>	<i>The lawn has been WORN AWAY by people walking across it and it's just bare soil now with hardly a blade of grass.</i>
Wear down	<i>Make something weaker.</i>	<i>The stress of my job is WEARING me DOWN.</i>
Wear off	<i>Stop having an effect.</i>	<i>The anesthetic WORE OFF and my tooth started hurting.</i>
Wear out	<i>Use something until it stops working.</i>	<i>She played the video so many times that she WORE the tape OUT.</i>
Weed out	<i>Remove, get rid of.</i>	<i>The company WEEDED OUT the unsuccessful sales reps.</i>
Weigh down on	<i>Burden with responsibilities, duties, etc.</i>	<i>The requirements of her new job WEIGHED DOWN ON her.</i>
Weigh in	<i>Have a certain weight (in sports like boxing).</i>	<i>The champion WEIGHED IN at 120 kilos.</i>
Weigh in	<i>Enter an argument forcefully.</i>	<i>He disliked the plan and WEIGHED IN with some heavy criticism.</i>





Weigh in on	Enter an argument or discussion to express a strongly felt idea.	She WEIGHED IN ON their immigration policies.
Weigh on	Make someone consider carefully.	The issues raised WEIGHED ON her mind.
Weigh up	Assess.	They WEIGHED the pros and cons UP carefully before deciding.
Weird out	Disturb, cause concern or worry.	The way he spoke was WEIRDING me OUT .
Well up	Feel tears starting.	I felt tears WELLING UP when I heard the news.
Well up	Feel an emotion strongly.	Anger WELLED UP inside us when we saw what they had done.
Well up	Experience an emotion or feeling, start to cry.	Tears WELLED UP when I heard they had died.
Wheel around	Turn quickly and face in the opposite direction.	When he heard the whistle, he WHEELED AROUND to see what was happening.
Wheel out	Use something like an explanation that has been used many times before and has lost its impact.	They WHEELED OUT the same old excuses last time this happened.
Wheel round	Turn quickly and face in the opposite direction.	She WHEELED ROUND when he told her to stop.
While away	Spend time doing something because you have nothing better to do.	We WHILED a couple of hours AWAY playing computer games.
Whip into	Enter rapidly (as for a brief errand).	Ben WHIPPED INTO the convenience store for a bag of crisps.
Whip out	Remove quickly.	The police officer WHIPPED OUT her radio and called for back-up.
Whip out of	Exit rapidly.	Lola WHIPPED OUT OF a side street without looking and broadsided a police car.
Whip through	Do something quickly.	She WHIPPED THROUGH the task.
Whip up	Make food quickly.	We got back late and WHIPPED UP dinner.
Whip up	Mix liquid food quickly to make it thick and creamy.	I WHIPPED UP the egg whites.
Whip up	Make people feel more strongly about something.	The boss tried to WHIP UP some support for her new policies.
Whisk away	Take to another place quickly.	The police WHISKED the minister AWAY when the trouble started.
White out	Use correction fluid to cover a mistake in a written text.	Could you pass the Tippex? I need to WHITE this mistake OUT .
Wig out	Become excited and lose control.	He WIGGED OUT when he heard that he had failed.
Wiggle out	Avoid doing.	He was supposed to be in charge but tried to WIGGLE OUT .
Wiggle out of	Avoid doing something.	I WIGGLED OUT OF having to work late.
Wimp out	Not be brave enough to do something.	I was going to have the hottest curry on the menu, but I WIMPED OUT and had a mild lamb Korma instead.
Wind down	Relax.	I'm going to WIND DOWN in the country this weekend and do nothing.
Wind down	Slowly close a business or organization.	They WOUND the committee DOWN after the inquiry.
Wind on	Forward a film or tape to a certain point.	He WOUND the video ON to show us the scene.
Wind up	Close a company because it's unprofitable.	The company was WOUND UP when the creditors demanded payment.
Wind up	Tighten the spring in a watch or clock to make it work.	I forgot to WIND UP my alarm clock and overslept.
Wind up	Irritate someone or increase their stress level, especially if done deliberately.	The children are really WINDING me UP
Winkle out	Find or get something that takes a great deal of effort.	It took me a while to WINKLE the truth OUT of him.
Wipe out	Make someone very tired.	Revising for the exam last night WIPED me OUT .



Wipe out	<i>Kill all of a population, make extinct.</i>	<i>A meteor crashing into the planet WIPED the dinosaurs OUT.</i>
Wire up	<i>Make electrical connections.</i>	<i>She WIRED her new stereo system UP as soon as she got home.</i>
Wise up	<i>Stop being stupid.</i>	<i>His supervisors told him to WISE UP and start following the rules or else he'd lose his job.</i>
Word up	<i>Give someone information, advice.</i>	<i>The solicitor WORDED her UP client before the police interview, so they go very little out of him.</i>
Word up!	<i>A phrase that was used a greeting.</i>	<i>'Word up! You OK?'</i>
Work off	<i>Exercise to remove stress or weight.</i>	<i>She goes to the gym to WORK OFF her anger.</i>
Work on	<i>Improve or develop.</i>	<i>Scientists are WORKING ON genetically modified crops and foods.</i>
Work out	<i>End nicely.</i>	<i>Things were going wrong for them but fortunately it all WORKED OUT in the end.</i>
Work out	<i>Find the answer or solution.</i>	<i>I couldn't WORK OUT all the answers to the crossword puzzle.</i>
Work over	<i>Assault, beat up.</i>	<i>They WORKED him OVER and robbed him.</i>
Work over	<i>Repeat, do again.</i>	<i>They WORKED it OVER until they had got it right.</i>
Work over	<i>Examine carefully.</i>	<i>They WORKED OVER the market looking for bargains.</i>
Work through	<i>Deal with, resolve a problem, often emotional.</i>	<i>It took him a long time to WORK THROUGH his anger after he lost his job.</i>
Wrap around	<i>Cover with clothing, usually to keep warm.</i>	<i>She WRAPPED a scarf AROUND her head because it was so cold.</i>
Wrap around	<i>Cover or encircle with part of your body.</i>	<i>He WRAPPED his arms AROUND her.</i>
Wrap round	<i>Cover with clothing, usually to keep warm.</i>	<i>He WRAPPED the cloth ROUND his fingers to keep warm.</i>
Wrap round	<i>Cover or encircle with part of your body.</i>	<i>She WRAPPED her arms ROUND him.</i>
Wrap up	<i>Cover in paper.</i>	<i>They WRAPPED UP the presents then put a ribbon around them.</i>
Wrap up	<i>Dress warmly.</i>	<i>WRAP UP carefully or you'll catch your death of cold outside in that rain.</i>
Wrap up	<i>Finish.</i>	<i>That WRAPS things UP, so we'll end this meeting.</i>
Wriggle out of	<i>Avoid doing something in a way other people don't like.</i>	<i>He always manages to WRIGGLE OUT OF any extra work we get.</i>
Write down	<i>Make notes.</i>	<i>I WROTE her mobile number DOWN on a scrap of paper and I've lost it.</i>
Write in	<i>Send a letter to a TV station, etc..</i>	<i>They asked viewers to WRITE IN with their opinions and suggestions.</i>
Write off	<i>Destroy a car in an accident.</i>	<i>He WROTE the car OFF in an accident on the motorway.</i>
Write out	<i>Write something completely.</i>	<i>I WROTE OUT my notes in full to help me remember them.</i>
Write up	<i>Make complete written version.</i>	<i>I WROTE UP the report and submitted it.</i>

Y



Yack on	<i>Talk continuously, especially if it is an annoying way.</i>	<i>He YACKED ON for an hour.</i>
Yammer on	<i>Talk continuously, especially if it is an annoying way.</i>	<i>She YAMMERED ON for ages.</i>
Yield to	<i>Surrender.</i>	<i>I tried hard to resist, but in the end I YIELDED TO temptation and ate it all.</i>



Z



Zero in on	<i>Direct or focus attention on.</i>	<i>The police have ZEROED IN ON the man they believe to be responsible for the murder.</i>
Zero in on	<i>Head for, move towards.</i>	<i>The hurricane is ZEROING IN ON Florida.</i>
Zero out	<i>Cut off funding for a project.</i>	<i>The debt was ZEROED OUT by the department.</i>
Zero out	<i>Reduce to zero, cancel, remove.</i>	<i>The entry was ZEROED OUT of the database.</i>
Zip around	<i>Move quickly.</i>	<i>We ZIPPED AROUND the supermarket to get the shopping done.</i>
Zip by	<i>Pass quickly.</i>	<i>The motorbike ZIPPED BY the cars stuck in the traffic jam.</i>
Zip it	<i>Keep quiet, say nothing.</i>	<i>He told me to ZIP IT, so I said nothing.</i>
Zip up	<i>Keep quiet.</i>	<i>He was being stupid in the meeting, so we told him to ZIP UP.</i>
Zone in	<i>Pay attention after not doing so.</i>	<i>I was bored at first but then ZONED IN when things started getting more interesting.</i>
Zone in on	<i>Pay attention after not doing so.</i>	<i>I ZONED IN ON what they were saying when they started gossiping.</i>
Zone out	<i>Not pay attention.</i>	<i>She ZONED OUT during the lecture because it was so boring.</i>
Zone out	<i>Dissociate yourself from a situation.</i>	<i>I put some ambient music on and ZONED OUT.</i>
Zonk out	<i>Fall asleep.</i>	<i>I ZONKED OUT during the film and missed most of it.</i>
Zoom in	<i>Focus more closely.</i>	<i>The camera ZOOMED IN to show people's faces.</i>
Zoom in on	<i>Focus more closely.</i>	<i>The camera ZOOMED IN ON his face.</i>
Zoom off	<i>Go somewhere quickly.</i>	<i>He rushed out of the building and ZOOMED OFF in his car.</i>
Zoom out	<i>Focus less closely.</i>	<i>The camera ZOOMED OUT to show the entire crowd.</i>

