

# Features of the Macmillan Phrasal Verbs Plus



Definitions are written using uncomplicated language

Nouns, adjectives and verbs derived from phrasal verbs are included at the end of entries

Phrases are clearly highlighted

Stress patterns are shown

Entries describe the syntactic behaviour of phrasal verbs

'Menus' in longer entries help you find the meaning you need quickly

Guidance on register shows in what context it is appropriate to use a phrasal verb, eg formal, humorous, impolite, informal, literary, offensive, old-fashioned and showing disapproval

Cross-references to over 100 illustrated phrasal verbs

Special boxes include extra information about verb + particle combinations that are not usually seen as phrasal verbs

The most frequently-used 1000 phrasal verbs are shown in red and their frequency graded by stars

Numerous synonyms and opposites

Each meaning is numbered with the most common sense shown first

Clear layout for ease of use

Frequent collocations and fixed phrases are shown in examples

Full coverage of British and American English spelling and pronunciation

Collocation boxes provide invaluable information about the most natural-sounding combinations

Helpful example sentences, based on real-life spoken and written English, show how and when the phrasal verb is used

Regional labels show when a word is only used in British English or American English

Over 100 2-colour cartoons illustrate meaning

Verb inflections are included to avoid common spelling errors

The general word selection is based on the 200 million word World English Corpus.

**brave** 38

**branch off** A small group of soldiers branched off into the jungle.

**branch out** ★ to start doing something new or different, especially a new activity = DIVERSIFY  
**branch out** The company grew and began branching out. ♦ Quinn wanted to leave the company and branch out on his own. ♦ +into In the longer term, the company wants to branch out into providing investment advice. ♦ Several singers have successfully branched out into the movie business. ♦ +from sth into/to sth Designers have branched out from clothes to cosmetics and toiletries.

**BRAVE** /brɛv/ **noun** [C] an **braves, braving, braved**

**brave 'out** PHRASE **brave it out** to deal with an unpleasant situation in a confident, patient, and determined way: Grim though our situation was, we had no choice but to brave it out.

**BRAZEN** /'breɪz(ə)n/ **noun** [C] an **brazen, brazening, brazened**

**brazen 'out** PHRASE **brazen it out** if someone brazen it out, they deal with a difficult or embarrassing situation by pretending that they do not care if people are shocked or offended by their behaviour, especially when they are in fact embarrassed: He knew the decision would upset a lot of people but he was confident he could brazen it out.

**BREAK** /breɪk/ **noun** [C] an **breaks, breaking, broke /brəʊk, American 'brəʊkən, broken /'brəʊkən**

Break is often used with adverbs and prepositions when it means 'to separate, or make something separate, into two or more pieces, for example by hitting or dropping it': She broke the stick over her knee. ♦ The glass slipped from her hand and broke into a dozen pieces. ♦ Heat makes the two surfaces break apart. These uses are not included here.

**break a'way** ★★ 1 to leave a political party or other group, especially in order to start another one = SPLIT OFF ♦ JOIN  
**break away** More than 30 Labour MPs broke away to form the SDP. ♦ +from

**break** Several members decided to break away from the church and start their own group.

2 to move away from someone, often someone who is trying to prevent you from leaving = PULL AWAY  
**break away** Anna tried to break away but he held her tight. ♦ +from He tried to break away from the man's grasp.

3 if a part of something breaks away from the rest, it becomes separated from it = BREAK OFF  
**break away** Part of the wood had broken away. ♦ +from Two carriages broke away from the train when it crashed.

■ **breakaway** /'breɪkə,weɪ/ **adj** [only before noun] consisting of people who have decided to separate from a larger group: They formed their own breakaway theatre company.

■ **breakaway** /'breɪkə,weɪ/ **noun** [C] an occasion when some people in a large group leave the group to form a smaller, separate group, usually because of a disagreement: The rebels were considering a breakaway.

**break a'way from** to stop doing something and start doing something different  
**break away from sth** The younger generation is eager to break away from tradition.

**break 'down** ★★★

1 about machines/vehicles  
 2 when a relationship/discussion ends  
 3 divide a total  
 4 start to cry  
 5 make a door/wall fall down  
 6 make progress by removing difficulty  
 7 separate sth into parts  
 8 become mentally ill  
 + **breakdown** noun; **broken-down** adj

1 if a machine or vehicle breaks down, it stops working = INFORMAL CONK OUT  
 picture → BACK UP  
**break down** The car broke down just outside London. ♦ I didn't make a copy of the letter because the photocopier had broken down.

2 if something such as a relationship or discussion breaks down, it stops being successful = COLLAPSE  
**break down** At one point, the talks seemed close to breaking down.

3 to divide something such as a total amount into separate parts = DIVIDE UP  
**break sth down** The amount doesn't seem quite so bad when you break it down. ♦ +into It's best to break the

**cave** 67

needs of children with learning difficulties.  
**be catered for** Visiting fans are generally well catered for.

**Nouns often used as objects with cater for**  
 ■ demands, interests, needs, requirements, tastes

**cater to** to provide people with something that they want or need, especially something that is particularly suitable for them  
**cater to sb/ sth** There are plenty of TV shows catering to young male audiences. ♦ We try to cater to every taste.

**CAVE** /keɪv/ **noun** [C] an **caves, caving, caved**

**cave 'in** ★

1 if a roof or wall caves in, it falls down or inwards = COLLAPSE  
**cave in** The tunnel caved in and over 20 miners were trapped.

2 showing disapproval to finally agree to do what someone is asking you to do, after they have spent a long time trying to persuade you = GIVE IN; formal YIELD  
**cave in** My parents eventually caved in and let me go to the festival. ♦ +to The prime minister seems to have caved in to US pressure on this issue.

**Nouns often used as objects with cave in 2**  
 ■ demands, intimidation, pressure, threats

**'cave-in** **noun** [C] 1 showing disapproval an occasion when someone suddenly stops opposing something, usually because people have persuaded them: A humiliating cave-in would be avoided.  
 2 an occasion when the roof of a mine or cave suddenly falls down: Not many men survived the cave-in.

**chain**

**CENTER** the American spelling of centre

**CENTRE** /'sentə, American 'sentər/ **noun** [C] an **centres, centring, centred**

**'centre around** (also 'centre round) [British] [often passive]

1 to have something as the main subject of attention, interest, or activity = CENTRE ON  
**be centred around sth** Too many of our social activities are centred around drinking.  
**centre around sth** The debate centred around the issue of finance.

2 if something centres around a place, that is where it usually happens  
**be centred around sth** Most new development is centred around existing towns.  
**centre around sth** Recreation is centred around the local bars.

**'centre on** ★★★ (also 'centre upon) 1 [often passive] to have something as the basis or most important aspect of something  
**be centred on sth** The college's curriculum was centred mainly on music, art, and drama. ♦ A baby's world is entirely centred on itself.  
**centre sth on sth** We centre most of our research on environmental issues.

2 if something centres on a place, that is where it mainly happens  
**centre on sth** Village life often used to centre on the local pub.

**'centre round** British same as centre around  
**'centre upon** same as centre on

**CHAIN** /tʃeɪn/ **noun** [C] an **chains, chaining, chained**

**'chain to** to use a chain to tie someone or something to something  
**chain sb/sth to sth** You can chain your bike to the railings outside.

**'chain 'up** to use a chain to fasten someone or something to something so that they cannot escape  
**chain sb/sth up** also **chain up sb/sth** At night we chain the dogs up in the yard.