

IBPS PO & Clerk Exam 2022

150 Important Phrasal Verbs

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Serial No.	Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Usage in a sentence
1	Act up	behave or function improperly	You must take your computer to the repair shop as it is acting up .
2	Add up	make sense, calculate a sum	The story of the minister doesn't add up . He is completely lying.
3	Ask out	To invite someone to a social event or special occasion	When Riya asked me out for the party, I had to deny because I was busy.
4	Ask around	ask many people the same question	I asked around but nobody has seen my wallet.
5	Ask Over	invite to one's home	We should ask over Rita as she is alone in her home.
6	Back down	stop defending your opinion in a debate	Raman never backs down and wins almost all cases.
7	Bawl out	criticize, reprimand	The minister bawled him out for arriving late.
8	Bear on	have to do with	Those facts do not bear on this matter at all.
9	Bear up	withstand	I did not know that Karan would bear up so well in that hard situation.
10	Beef up	Improve or make more substantial.	He beefed up his presentation with diagrams and statistics.
11	Blow over	pass without creating a problem	All this negative publicity will blow over in a couple of weeks.
12	Blow up	explode, suddenly become very angry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bomb blew up before they could defuse it. The terrorists blew the bridge up. When Kavita heard the news, she blew up and rushed out of the room.
13	Bog Down	Get caught up in something and be unable to make progress.	Try not to get bogged down with/in unimportant details.



14	Break down	stop working properly/ analyze in detail/become mentally ill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The truck broke down in the desert. We need to break this problem down in order to solve. She broke down after her husband died.
15	Break in/ Break into	interrupt/enter a place unlawfully	While we were discussing the situation, the little girl broke in to give her opinion.
16	Break off	end something	My brother broke her engagement to Rita off .
17	Break out	appear violently	Violent protests broke out in response to the military coup.
18	Bring around	change someone's mind, convince someone	She doesn't want to go, but we'll eventually bring her around .
19	Bump in to	Meet by accident or unexpectedly.	Raman bumped into his English teacher at the supermarket.
20	Buy out	buy the shares of a company or the shares the other person owns of a business	Flipkart was bought out by Walmart.
21	Buy up	purchase the entire supply of something	We bought up all the chocolates in the store.
22	Call for	require (as in a recipe)	This recipe calls for milk, not milk powder.
23	Call off	cancel something/order to stop (an invasion, guard dogs)	They called the picnic off because of the rain.
24	Call on	visit/invite someone to speak in a meeting or a classroom	Rahul called on his friend while he was in town. Professor called on Abhishek to answer the question.
25	Carry on	continue (a conversation, a game)	Carry on your conversation, I just came here to take the water bottle.
26	Carry out	complete and/or accomplish something	The secret agent carried out his orders exactly as planned.



27	Deck out (in/with)	Dress; decorate.	The girls in birthday party of my daughter were decked out in prtty dresses.
28	Die Away/Die down	diminish in intensity	The controversy about the president's illness finally died down .
29	Die off/Die out	become extinct	Elephants are in danger of dying off .
30	Dispense with	Decide to do without something.	The company has dispensed with the paper version so you'll have to download it.
31	Drift apart	Become less and less close.	We were childhood friends but we drifted apart over the years.
32	Do over	repeat	You made many mistakes, so I want you to do the report over.
33	Drop in/Drop in on	visit someone unexpectedly	Meg dropped in yesterday after dinner. Let's drop in on Julie since we're driving by her house.
34	Drop Out	quit an organized activity	Chetan isn't on the team any more. He dropped out .
35	Drop Over	visit someone casually	Do not feel alone in this city, you can drop over any time you feel like talking.
36	Drown out	Be louder in order to cover another sound.	They turned up the music to drown out the noise of the children outside.
37	Eat away	gradually destroy, erode	The storm ate away the newly designed boards.
38	Ease off/up	Reduce, become less severe or slow down	After Christmas, the workload generally eases off.
39	Egg on	Encourage someone to do something..	You need to egg on your daughter properly.
40	Embark on/upon	Start or engage in something.	Riya embarked on a career that lead her to fame.
41	Explain away	Find an excuse or plausible explanation.	It is not easy to explain away the missing money.



42	Face up to	acknowledge something difficult or embarrassing	I'll never be able to face up to my friend after getting caught stealing his watch.
43	Fall back on	be able to use in case of emergency	You should have a fall back if you don't succeed in the acting career.
44	Fall out with	have an argument with	I had a falling out with my sister last month and we haven't talked to each other since.
45	Fall through	fail to happen	Unfortunately, the trip to America fell through because I couldn't save enough money.
46	Fizzle out	Gradually end.	They used to be very close but over the years their friendship fizzled out .
47	Frown on/upon	Disapprove.	My parents always frowned on staying up outside late night.
48	Fuss over	Pay excessive attention to somebody or somebody.	She loves to fussing over her son. Sometimes it becomes too much.
49	Get about /around	Move from place to place.	It's not easy to get around the city without a map.
50	Get Across	cause to be understood	It's difficult to get humor across in another language.
51	Get ahead	make progress	I can't get ahead even though I have worked really hard.
52	Get along/get along with	have a good relationship	Rakesh doesn't get along with her two brothers.
53	Get by/Get by with	survive without having the things you need or want	I lost my job, so I am having a hard time getting by this year. You don't need a computer. You can get by with the typewriter
54	Get down to	get serious about a topic	Enough small talk. Let's get down to business.



55	Get on	put on (clothes) /enter (a bus, train), mount (a horse, a bike)/Have a good relationship	You should get your jacket on because it's going to be cold. The train is leaving, so get on quickly. Natasha doesn't get on with her co-workers.
56	Get through	complete/penetrate	We will never get through all of the work by 9:00 PM. We need a stronger drill to get through this wall.
57	Give away	give something without asking for anything in exchange	The businessman give all of her furniture away .
58	Go over	Review	Please go over your answers before handing in your test.
59	Go down with	Become ill with an infectious disease.	The match will be difficult. Half of the team has gone down with the flu.
60	Gloss over	Treat something briefly (make it seem unimportant).	The director glossed over the recent drop in sales.
61	Hand back	return	The teacher is going to hand back our assignments today.
62	Hand down	pronounce formally /give as an inheritance	The president is going to hand his decision down on health care tonight. When my clothes got too small for me as a child, I handed them down to my sister.
63	Hang on	wait	Please Hang on a minute as I'm nearly ready.
64	Hang around/Hang out	stay in a place for fun	Those guys just hang around all day because they are doing no job.
65	Hold out	not give in, continue to resist	Stop holding out and tell us where you found all of these old records.
66	Hit on/upon	Find unexpectedly or by inspiration.	As she watched the news she hit upon an idea for her new collection.
67	Head for	Go towards or move in a certain direction.	We all started to shout because the boat was heading for the rocks.



68	Iron out	Resolve by discussion; eliminate differences.	The meeting tomorrow will be an opportunity to iron out difficulties.
69	Idle away	Waste time doing nothing much.	He idles away hours every day watching television.
70	Indulge in	Allow yourself to enjoy something.	I've been dieting all week but today I'm going to indulge in a dessert.
71	Jack up	to raise	We need to jack up the car before we change the tire.
72	Jot down	Take quick notes.	I jotted down the address while watching a documentary on television.
73	Joke around	to be humorous	Hari is always joking around at work.
74	Jump to	make a quick, poorly thought out decision	You shouldn't jump to conclusions without understanding the issue properly.
75	Keep around	have handy, have accessible	You should always keep a dictionary around to learn new words.
76	Keep away	prevent access to, hold back	Keep the kids away from the hot dishes.
77	Keep off/Keep out	prevent from stepping or prevent from entering	Keep the cat off the kitchen. Keep the dog out of the garden; he keeps digging up the flowers.
78	Keep over	cover something with, put something above	Keep something over the watch to prevent it from getting wet.
79	Kneel down	Go down on your knees.	Most people kneel down to pray.
80	Knock down	Strike someone or something to the ground.	The tree was knocked down during the storm.
81	Knock out	Cause someone to fall unconscious.	The boxer was knocked out in the first round.
82	Laugh off	Make light of something; minimise.	The author laughed off the unflattering review of his latest book.
83	Lay off	suspend someone from a job (during a slow period)	The company was losing money, so they had to lay off some workers.
84	Leaf through	Turn over pages quickly.	Rita leafed through a magazine in the waiting room.



85	Live through	Experience something and survive.	My grandparents lived through two wars and learned to survive.
86	Let down	disappoint	I felt let down when I didn't receive a birthday card from my sister.
87	Live up to	keep a standard	It would be hard to live up to her parent's expectations. They are so demanding.
88	Look forward to	anticipate with pleasure	I am looking forward to traveling to New York next year.
89	Look over	examine, review	You should look over this article before final publishing.
90	look up to	respect, admire someone	He looks up to his father.
91	Make out	decipher /succeed/ progress	I can't make out my doctor's handwriting. He really made out in the stock market last year. How is your son making out in his new job?
92	Make up	invent (a story) /reconcile/ complete what was missed	Don't believe anything she says. She always makes things up . You two have been friends for so long that I think you should make up and end your fight. Fortunately, my professor let me make up the exam I missed yesterday.
93	Make off with	Steal and hurry away.	A young man made off with my briefcase while I was checking the timetable.
94	Mix up	confuse /blend/make lively (a party)	I sometimes mix the verb tenses up . We need to mix up these different kinds of nuts before we put them in a bowl. Let's mix up this party with a little disco music.
95	Nail down	Make someone say something precisely.	Alex promised to come for a weekend but we'll have to nail him down to a date.



96	Nod off	fall asleep	The movie was so boring that I nodded off before it was finished.
97	Nose about/around	sneak around	I hate it when my mother noses around my room.
98	Occur to	pop into one's mind, come to one's mind	It didn't occur to us that we had left the iron on.
99	Opt out (of)	Leave a system or decide not to participate.	I enjoy tennis but I'm so busy I had to opt out of the tournament.
100	Pan out	be successful, turn out well	The plan to open a new venture didn't pan out .
101	Pass away	die	After battling cancer for several years, he finally passed away at the age of 87.
102	Pass out	become unconscious/distribute	He passed out because the room was too hot. We need to pass out these flyers for the concert tomorrow.
103	Pass up	not take advantage (of an opportunity)	I can't believe she passed up the opportunity to study in Rome.
104	Pay off	complete payment on a debt	It took me ten years to pay off my credit card debt.
105	Play down	make less important	The President played down his affair with the intern.
106	Pop across/over/down/out	Come or go quickly in the direction specified.	She popped over to the shop to buy a sandwich.
107	Put Forward	Propose or recommend something.	The chairman put forward a proposal to move to bigger offices.
108	Put off	postpone	Don't put off the function.
109	Pull through	Overcome difficulties or illness/barely survive	I didn't think she was going to make it, but she pulled through in the end.
110	Put up with	tolerate	I cannot put up with the noise of all that traffic.
111	Quiet down	be quiet, or cause to be quiet	The neighbours told us to quiet down last night or they would call the police.



112	Run against/Run up against	Encounter difficulties or problems/compete in an election	Nitish ran against Lalu in the 2000 elections in Bihar. The property developer ran up against strong local opposition.
113	Reel off	Recite without effort or pause.	My daughter amazed everyone by reeling off all the phrasal verbs she had learned.
114	Run down	trace/criticize/lose power, be very tired	Have you run down those phone numbers I asked for last week? His manager runs everyone down .
115	Run off	make leave /reproduce (photocopies) /leave quickly /waste water	The new government is trying to run the drug traffickers off . Would you mind running off 10 copies of this document for me? Why did you run off after the party? You shouldn't swim where the sewage runs off into the ocean.
116	Run out	Expire, come to an end.	Let's order now before the offer runs out .
117	Run across/Run into	find or meet unexpectedly /	Raman ran into his uncle at the shopping centre.
118	Scrape through	Succeed with difficulty.	How I scraped through the exam is still a mystery to me!
119	See through	finish something despite difficulties	Are you going to be able to see your studies through now that you are married?
120	Set up	arrange a relationship, arrange (an appointment, a meeting, etc.) /falsely incriminate a person	I don't think that young boy killed those men. Somebody set him up . I set up an appointment with my doctor at 3:30 this afternoon.
121	Scale back/scale down	Make something smaller than originally intended.	Due to the crisis the company had to scale down the size of the plant.
122	Spell out	to explain something in a detailed way so that the meaning is clearly understood	He's so stupid that you have to spell everything out for him.



123	Stand by	wait	I need you to stand by and answer the phone when my broker calls.
124	Single out	Select for special attention.	Two of the boys were singled out for extra coaching.
125	Sink in	Be fully understood.	In spite of the detailed news reports, it took a while for the scale of the disaster to sink in .
126	Stick up for	defend oneself or opinions	Joseph joined the army because he believes he must stick up for his country.
127	Talk into	Persuade someone to do something.	Caroline talked John into buying a new car.
128	Take in	learning/deceive a person	Are you taking in all of these phrasal verbs? He was taken in by the con artist.
129	Take up	begin a new hobby, discuss (at a later date), occupy space	Have you taken up any new hobbies since you moved here? We should take this issue up in the meeting tomorrow. This couch takes up too much space in the living room.
130	Tear down	destroy	Angry citizens have torn down the statue of the politician.
131	Tell off	criticize a person severely, reprimand	Carolina told me off when she found out I was gossiping about her meet with Martin.
132	Think through	consider carefully	You need to think this through carefully before you make a decision.
133	Think up	create or invent a false story	I need to think up an excuse for not going to her party.
134	Touch up	make the final improvements	We didn't paint the whole kitchen, we just touched up the cabinets.



135	Turn away	refuse to deal with or give service	They turned us away at the border because we didn't have visas.
136	Turn out	end up being /switch off a light /produce	She turned out to be the murderer Turn out the light before you go to bed. The weavers can turn out two or three rugs a month.
137	Turn up	find unexpectedly /increase the volume or intensity of a TV, radio, or other machine	My keys turned up in the bedroom. Turn up the TV. I can't hear what they're saying.
138	Use up	Use all of something/Finish a product (so that there's none left).	What a nuisance! The kids have used up all the toothpaste.
139	Veer away from	stay away from, avoid	I veer away from the same old summer blockbuster films.
140	Vouch For	Express confidence in or guarantee something.	You can give the keys to Andy. I can vouch for him.
141	Wait on/Wait upon	await the convenience of/ serve, service (a table)	To see the full series, we will have to wait on the BBC.
142	Ward off	to prevent something (danger, harm, an attack, an assailant, etc) from affecting you or harming you.	I take plenty of vitamin C in winter to ward off colds.
143	Wear away	Disappear after use or over time.	The words printed on the cover had worn away .
144	Wear down	Make someone feel weary or tired.	The baby's constant crying is wearing her down ."
145	Wear out	Become unusable/Become very tired	During the trip, Julie wore out her shoes sightseeing. At the end of the every day Julie was worn out .
146	Whip up	Prepare quickly.	I can whip up something to eat if you're hungry.
147	Wind up	finish	If he doesn't get his act together, he is going to wind up in jail.



148	Wrap up	Cover; enclose.	She's busy right now. She's wrapping up her Christmas presents.
149	Yak on/Yak on about	to continue talking in an annoying way ("on" can be repeated for emphasis)	He just yakked on and on and on. She just yakked on and on about her husband's new job.
150	Yammer on/Yammer on about	to talk in an annoying way or complain ("on" can be repeated for emphasis)	They yammered on and on and on. He just yammered on and on about how horrible the waiter was



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