

Department of Commerce

Module: English

Responsible of the Module: Mr Ait Abderrahmane

Semester: II

Commercial English/Business English

Common phrasal verbs in Business English (part 1)

PHRASAL VERB	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
to ask around	to ask many people the	I need a good real
	same question	estate agent. Could you
		ask around and see if
		anyone knows one?
to back * up	to support	Thanks for backing me
		up in the meeting.
to call * back	to return a phone call	We have a bad
		connection. I'll call you
		back in a few minutes.

PHRASAL VERB	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
to call * off	to cancel	Management is going to call the meeting off because so many people are out sick today.
to check in	to arrive and register at a hotel or airport	We checked in around 5 p.m. and then got something to eat.
to check in (with someone)	to talk with someone to ensure things are going okay	As a manager, I feel it's important to check in with everyone on my team at least once a day.
to check out	to leave a hotel	We checked out a few hours late and had to pay an extra fee.
to check * out	to look at carefully, investigate	I'm not sure why the copier isn't working. I'll check it out.
to chip/pitch in	to help	We should be able to finish quickly if

PHRASAL VERB	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
		everyone pitches in.
to come across	to find unexpectedly	I was reading last night
		and I came across a
		couple of phrasal verbs
		I had never seen
		before.

Part 2

PHRASAL VERB	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
to count on	to rely on	We have a great team. I can count on everyone
		to do their best.
to cut back on	to consume less	It's a tough economy.
		We're trying to cut back
		on unnecessary
		expenses.
to cut in	to interrupt	Can I cut in and say
		something, please?
to do * over	to do again	I can't believe I closed
		the document without

PHRASAL VERB	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
		saving. Now I'm going
		to have to do the whole
		thing over.
to do away with	to discard; to put an end	They did away with
	to	bonuses last year
		because their profits
		were so low.
to drop * off	to take	My car was in the shop,
·	someone/something	so Kevin dropped me
	somewhere and leave	off at my house.
	them/it there	
to drop/stop by	to come without an	John dropped by my
	appointment; to visit	office to talk about last
	briefly	month's sales figures.
to end up	to eventually reach, do,	At first I thought I
	or decide	wanted to be an
		accountant. Then, I
		studied finance. I ended
		up getting my degree in
		management, though.
to figure * out	to understand; to find	I can't figure out why

PHRASAL VERB	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
	the answer	the printer isn't working. I've tried everything, and it still won't work.
to fill * out	to write information in blanks	Please fill out these forms and bring them on your first day of work.