

The retouriste's

Compendium

100 proto- verbs for the English 'B'

Introduction

I think it's fair to say that you wouldn't be reading this now if it wasn't for the Coronavirus lockdown of 2020. It was only because the virus left me, my helpers and my students with time on our hands that I was able to push through a project which had been on my mind for some time.

The inspiration for it came from the observation, over many years, that while my students often have a very extensive range of sometimes highly advanced, bookish vocabulary, they struggle to express themselves in natural, simple English.

It is almost as if they consider it beneath their dignity to use words like 'take', 'make', 'do' or 'go'. After all, these are words for beginners, aren't they? Surely the professional interpreter should eschew them in favour of more refined synonyms!

And yet at the same time I am struck by their often limited knowledge of these basic words. They will happily tell me, for example, that 'to make' means 'to cause' or 'to produce'. Sometimes they'll know it can mean 'to force' or even 'to earn'. But what about 'arrive' ('*we won't make it in time*', '*you'll have to hurry if you want to make the train*')? What does it mean if someone has 'got it made'?

And then, of course, there are the phrasal applications. Few of my students would be able to tell me that 'to make out' can also mean 'to discern', 'to understand' or 'to infer' (though their eyes usually light up when I tell them what it means in colloquial usage).

And what about the differences between 'to make up' (*to invent* or *to be reconciled*), 'to be made up about something' (*over the moon*) and 'make-up' (*cosmetics*) as a noun?

There are also the idiomatic expressions: 'to make do', 'to make ends meet', 'to make eyes at' (this last often a prelude to the colloquial usage of 'make out').

In other words, it occurred to me that, instead of learning reams of new, recondite vocabulary, the aspiring 'retouriste' could quickly expand his or her vocabulary simply by gaining a more in-depth knowledge of these fascinating building blocks of the English language.

So when Covid 19 broke out and face-to-face classes came to an abrupt end, the opportunity to try to remedy the situation presented itself. Eight second year students at Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) and five from the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) in Beijing were given a selection of the most commonly used words in the English language and asked to research them, identify their main usages, their phrasal variations and idiomatic expressions for inclusion in a list of what we called proto-words – not proto words as in linguistics, but rather as the roots from which so many other, more refined and nuanced meanings can be elaborated.

Once the spade work had been done by the students, the list was revised by myself and colleagues from DG SCIC to check for inaccuracies and mistakes, add missing applications and flesh out any examples.

The compendium arbitrarily takes the 100 most used words in the English language and separates them into two groups: phrasal (Part One) and non-phrasal (Part Two). The words are then ordered by length, with a short linguistic introduction to each group in order to whet the appetite.

It is not a dictionary. Rather, the meanings are grouped together broadly and more generally in order to help the student get a 'feel' for the word in question. Some usages are deliberately omitted as being either too abstruse or too colloquial (as with our intriguing 'make out').

It lists words by length and alphabetically, but the student can use it any way he or she sees fit – to be worked through systematically, or dipped into as the occasion arises. An index is also provided for ease of reference.

The aim is to rehabilitate these supposedly humdrum words, to restore them and reveal them to students in their full glory. I hope that they will make the retouriste's life easier and that, like good friends, the increased familiarity will breed not contempt, but an appreciation for their hidden depths. And, just like good friends, I hope they'll be the ones the retouriste can turn to when the going gets tough.

I cannot stress enough the collaborative nature of this project. It is the upshot of all the hard work done by the students at SISU and UIBE*, the precious help provided by SCIC's staff interpreters and the input of experienced trainers at universities around Europe.

On all of their behalf, I hope you find it useful.

Andy Upton

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INDEX

A	H	R
Act, 3	Happen 89	Raise, 80
Add, 4	Help 68	Reach, 57
Allow, 76	Hold, 26	Read, 40
Appear, 83		Remain, 90
Ask, 5		Remember, 99
		Report 91
		Require, 95
		Run, 13
B	I	S
Become, 84	Include, 93	
Begin, 77		Say, 66
Believe, 92		See, 14
Break, 53	Keep, 27	Seem, 74
Bring, 54	Kill, 28	Sell, 41
Build, 55	Know, 69	Send, 42
Buy, 6		Serve, 81
		Set, 15
		Show, 43
C	L	Sit, 16
Call, 20	Lead, 29	Speak, 58
Change, 85	Learn, 78	Spend, 82
Come, 21	Leave, 56	Stand, 59
Consider, 97	Let, 10	Start, 60
Continue, 98	Like, 70	Stay, 44
Create, 86	Live, 30	Stop, 75
Cut, 7	Look, 31	Suggest, 96
	Lose, 32	
	Love, 71	
		T
	M	Take, 45
	Make, 33	Talk, 46
	Mean, 72	Tell, 47
		Think, 61
		Throw, 62
		Try, 17
		Turn, 48
		U
		Understand, 100
		Use, 18
D	N	W
Decide, 87	Need, 73	
Die, 8		
Do 1		
E	O	
Expect, 88	Offer, 79	
	Open, 36	
F	P	
Fall, 22	Pass, 37	Wait, 49
Feel, 23	Pay, 11	Walk, 50
Find, 24	Play, 38	Want, 51
Follow, 65	Provide, 94	Watch, 63
	Pull, 39	Win, 19
	Put, 12	Work, 52
		Write, 64
G		
Get, 9		
Give, 25		
Go 2		
Grow, 67		

Part one

The Phrasal Verbs

The two letter words

There may only be two of them, but what they lack in length and number they make up for in importance. The verbs 'to do' and 'to go' are amongst the most commonly used verbs in the English language, according to the OED, with 'to do' in 3rd place and 'to go' in 7th place. Their origins are lost in the mists of time, but both come to Old English from Western Germanic dialects.

Curiously, the two verbs developed along similar lines: *goes, does, gone, done*, though, in what I suspect was a deliberate ploy to flummox the poor, unsuspecting foreigner, they are pronounced differently and have different preterites.

Indeed, the verb 'to go' is one of only two in the English language to have a past tense form which derives from a completely separate verb (in case you're wondering, the other is 'to be'). The verb clearly has some personality issues: even way back in its early days as a member of the English language it had a past tense which did not derive from its own stem (*ēode* in Old English, *yode* in Middle English). Then, in the 1400's, for reasons unknown, it was gradually discarded in favour of 'went', which comes from an entirely different Old English verb, *wendan*.

As if that wasn't complicated enough, the word *wendan* can still be found in the English language today, in the slightly archaic form of 'to wend one's way', meaning 'to go in an indirect route', 'to meander'.

Its past tense in modern English?

'Wended'.

As the Americans might say: 'Go figure!'

Nor, it would seem, is its journey over yet. The latest permutation of 'to go' dates back to the 1960's ('go-go' to signify something fashionable or popular, as used in David Bowie's *Jean Genie: New York's a go-go and everything tastes right...*)

So without further *ado*, I can only enjoin you to *go for it*. Enjoy

1. TO DO

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ACT	<p>Do nothing until I get there. Do as I say, not as I do. You shouldn't do that. He always did his duty. Do the best you can.</p> <p>I've done my homework. You can watch TV once you've done the dishes.</p> <p>What will you do when you finish college? What does she do for a living?</p>	<p>Act, take action, perform, behave</p> <p>Carry out, execute, accomplish Achieve</p> <p>Complete, finish</p> <p>Work, be employed, have as a job</p>
BRING ABOUT	<p>Crying won't do any good now. He didn't do justice to the piece.</p>	

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ACT	<p>Do as I say, not as I do.</p>	<p>Behave, conduct oneself</p>
BE ACCEPTABLE	<p>This sort of behaviour simply won't do. This room will do nicely. This coat will do until I can afford a new one.</p>	<p>Be adequate, fit for purpose, fit the bill, serve</p>
FARE	<p>The student has done very well. I did really badly in my exams</p>	<p>Succeed, excel; surpass oneself Fail, flunk, underperform, disappoint</p>

Phrasal

Do away with	We need to do away with all that is superfluous. (remove)
Do by	The children did well by their aged parents. (treated well)
Do up	To do up a house To do up one's coat. (fasten the buttons). (to decorate, renovate)
Do with	I could do with a cup of tea. (would like)
Do without	I can do without food for days. (manage) I could have done without him interfering. (wish he hadn't)

Synonyms

get rid of, discard, dispose of

need, appreciate

Idioms

To do time	He did time for burglary. (<i>serve a prison sentence</i>)
To do one's bit	If everyone does their bit, we'll succeed. (<i>contribute individually to a common effort</i>)

Noun

The do's and don'ts of something	I admit it has taken me a while to grasp the do's and don'ts of management (<i>what you should and shouldn't do</i>)
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rules, etiquette, code, customs

2. TO GO

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
MOVE	We'll go by bus. How fast does this car go? Go, before I lose my temper. The car won't go. We went to New York. The watch went to the highest bidder. You'll have to go barefoot.	Travel, proceed, process, journey, advance Leave, depart, withdraw, vanish Function, work Be sold to
LEAVE	His hearing has started to go. My interest in such things has gone. I'll be gone by the time you get back.	Deteriorate, become impaired Disappear, decline
EXTEND	The road goes all the way to the centre of town. The story goes back to the Middle Ages.	Lead to, span, unfold, spread, stretch
BECOME	He went mad. His hair has gone grey.	Turn
SPEND	His money went on wine, women and food. Most of my income goes on the rent.	

Phrasal

Synonyms

Go along with	I can go along with that. (<i>I can agree</i>)	concur, accept, follow
Go by	As time/the years went by... (<i>elapse</i>)	
Go in for	I don't really go in for jazz. (<i>don't much like</i>)	
Go off	The milk has gone off. (<i>become spoiled</i>) The gun/alarm went off. (<i>fire/start</i>) I've gone off jazz. (<i>no longer like</i>)	lose interest in
Go on	What's going on? (<i>happening</i>) He went on and on... (<i>ranted</i>) She went on to be prime minister. (<i>later became</i>)	ramble, natter, rabbit, witter
Go out	The fire went out. (<i>be extinguished</i>) They've been going out (together) for two years (<i>be in a relationship</i>) My heart goes out to the victims. (<i>feel compassion for</i>)	die down, subside court, date

Go over	To go over the test papers (<i>examine</i>) We've been over this a hundred times already – the answer is 'no'! (<i>discuss</i>) The dancers went over the routine several times (<i>practice</i>)	peruse, review, inspect, check rehearse, memorise
Go through	He's been through a lot (<i>suffered</i>) To go through the text (<i>examine carefully</i>)	undergo, experience, endure

Idioms

From the word go	<i>from the very beginning</i>	from the outset
To go back on	A gentleman never goes back on his word (<i>fail to keep</i>)	renege on
To go bust	Moral hazard occurs when a financial institution is too big to go bust (<i>become bankrupt</i>)	go under
To go for broke	I had nothing to lose any more, so I just went for broke (<i>commit all one's resources to achieving a goal</i>)	risk all
To go missing	My phone has gone missing. (<i>become lost</i>)	
To go out of one's way	He went out of his way to help me. (<i>to do more than would be expected</i>)	
To go without saying	It goes without saying that the Managing Director should be the one to chair the meeting (<i>be self-evident</i>)	
It goes to show that	It (just) goes to show that if you work hard there is every chance you will succeed (<i>prove</i>) It goes to show you never can tell! (Chuck Berry)	

The three-letter words

The beauty of the verbs in this compendium is that they are so short, which I always feel is a testament to the innate laziness of the English, as most are shortened versions of longer ancient versions – ‘add’ from the Latin *addere*, for example, or ‘buy’ and ‘ask’ from the Proto-Germanic *buggjana* and *aiskojanan* respectively.

Their concision in no way impedes their versatility. The verb ‘to set’ even has a place in the Guinness Book of Records as having more uses than any other word in the English language (430, apparently. The Oxford English Dictionary needed 60,000 words to explain them all. You’ll be pleased to know we adopted a more succinct approach in our Compendium)

Most are also words that already existed in Old English: ten of the seventeen three letter verbs listed here come from Old English. Five come from Latin, through early French (Act, Add, Pay, Try and Use), but it’s the two gifts from the Vikings which I find particularly fascinating.

The first is ‘to die’ - which, given it was brought to us by the Vikings, stands to reason, I suppose. The word probably entered English from Old Norse (*deyja*), replacing the earlier Old English terms *steorfan* and *sweltan*, which somehow got stripped of their original meanings but remained in the language, eventually forming the modern ‘starve’ and ‘swelter’.

But my favourite is definitely ‘to get’. What a gem this little word is! It is not to be found in any of the Romance languages and has not even been retained in modern German, despite its proto-Germanic origins (*getan*). Some languages such as Swedish and Finnish have equivalents (*få* and *saada*) for the narrow sense of ‘obtain’ but the English ‘get’ astounds and delights by its sheer versatility, even before one comes to the phrasal applications.

Study it well, I guarantee it will get you out of many a linguistic fix.

One last fun fact comes from the the verb ‘to run’. This comes from not one but two Old English words. The first is *rinnan*, meaning ‘to flow’, the second *ærnen* meaning ‘to ride’ Curiously, both seem to have suffered from inversionism, *rinnan* sometimes styling itself *irnan*, *ærnen* as *earnen*. The German derivation of this ancient word is also the source for the mighty Rhine (the ‘h’ being added from Greek – don’t ask). So just remember, if you ever decide to go horseriding along that river’s banks, you’ll be committing tautology.

3. TO ACT

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PRETEND	He acts the fool when he's angry. He acts the helpless little thing when he wants attention.	Masquerade, pose as
PLAY	She acts the role of Lady Macbeth. He acts the part of Hamlet.	Impersonate, interpret, perform, play, portray

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DO	Act in self-defence The UN must act to restore democracy.	Take action
BEHAVE	He has been acting strangely since the incident. He acts as if he was better than anyone else. Act like a baby She acts with dignity.	Appear, feel, look, make, seem, sound, come across as, come off as
PRETEND	The guy is acting crazy. Act as if/like he's stupid	Assume, dissemble, fake, feign, pass for, pretend, put on
PLAY	I started acting at the age of 6. The movie is well acted.	
HAVE EFFECT	He acts as an interpreter. Disinfectants act on bacteria.	Function, make, operate, perform, serve, take, work

Phrasal

To act **up** He used to act up as a child. (*behave badly*)
 The computer's acting up again. (*not work properly*)

Synonyms

misbehave
break down, crash

To act **out** The students act out the story of Zeus. (*perform*)

illustrate

Idioms

To act as someone	<i>to perform in the capacity of someone</i>
To act one's age	Act your age, not your shoe size (<i>Prince!</i>) <i>to behave in accordance with one's expected level of maturity</i>
To act the fool	Stop acting the fool, this is a serious class! (<i>to perform comically or playfully, often to amuse others</i>)
To act on/upon	We can trust this president to act on the promises he made in the election campaign (<i>to take action</i>) The police acted on information they had received from an informer
Acting + noun	He is acting Head of Unit until a new one can be appointed (<i>temporary stand-in</i>)

Noun:

an act of faith	<i>(one which is justified by faith not reason)</i>
an act of God	<i>(an accident for which no human is responsible, cf Providence)</i>
an act of war	This country will consider any incursion into its airspace as an act of war (<i>one which may be considered as justifying military retaliation</i>)

4. TO ADD

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
COUNT UP	Banks add all the interest and other charges together.	Total, reckon, sum up, compute, add up
INCLUDE	She wants to add a huge sports complex to the hotel.	Include, attach, supplement, increase by, adjoin, annex, amplify, augment, extend
CONTINUE TO SPEAK	“You could tell he was very embarrassed,” she added.	Continue to speak, go on, carry on, persist, keep going, interject

Phrasal

		<u>Synonyms</u>
Add in	Once the vegetables start to cook add in a couple of tablespoons of water.	include
Add on	Many loan application forms automatically add on insurance To the rear is a large dining room—added on early this century	include attach to
Add to	Smiles and cheerful faces added to the general good feeling.	increase, contribute to
Add up	Many of the children could not add up properly. They arrested her because her statements did not add up Even small savings here and there can add up	count up make sense, hold water, be consistent accumulate, grow
Add up to	All this adds up to very bad news for the car industry. The profits from a hit show can add up to millions.	Signify, constitute, mean amount to

Idioms

Added to this/that	Covid 19 was able to spread so quickly because the authorities failed to listen to the warnings from doctors. Added to that, of course, it was highly contagious	furthermore, what's more
To add insult to injury	First he got me sacked from my job, then, to add insult to injury, he stole my girlfriend (<i>humiliation</i>)	rub salt in the wound
To add fuel to the fire	In such a febrile atmosphere, the President's tweets just add fuel to the fire (<i>aggravate a situation</i>)	

5. TO ASK

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
QUESTION	She asked about Welsh history. I'm going to ask this lady for directions. To ask a question	Inquire, query Enquire, interrogate, quiz Pose, put, propose, raise, grill, interrogate
REQUEST	We had to ask him to leave. Can I ask (you) a favour? I'd like to ask your advice/opinion on a financial matter.	Demand, urge, call on Appeal to, plead with, beseech Seek, solicit, call for
INVITE	I've asked David to the party. Jorge has asked us over for dinner next Friday.	Summon, bid, have someone over, have someone round
EXPECT	They're asking £60,000 for their flat. He asks too much of me - I can't always be there to help him.	Charge Demand, anticipate, reckon on

Phrasal

Synonyms

To ask around	There are some cheap deals to be had if you ask around. (<i>talk to several people for information or advice</i>)	consult, turn to, sound out
To ask after	If I see him I'll tell him you were asking after him (<i>inquire after</i>)	
To ask for	When you arrive at the front desk, ask for me. (<i>say that one wants to speak to</i>) He's always reluctant to ask for anyone's help. (<i>request</i>)	request call for, solicit, seek
To ask out	A few boys asked her out but never the right ones (<i>invite someone on a date</i>)	invite out, take out
To ask in	He asked me in for a coffee. (<i>invite into one's home</i>)	

Idioms

To ask oneself something	You have to ask yourself, why would he do that? (<i>consider</i>)	wonder, muse, ponder
To ask someone along	They were going to the Summer Palace and they asked me along (<i>invite to join, with a suggestion of spontaneity</i>)	
To ask (someone) point-blank	I asked him point-blank if he intended to marry her or not (<i>ask in a direct manner</i>)	not beat about the bush
To ask for trouble	Giving 16-year olds the right to vote is just asking for trouble.	court disaster

To ask for it	I suppose I shouldn't have hit him, but he was asking for it. (<i>invite trouble</i>)	provoke, deserve, have only oneself to blame
To ask for (someone's) hand	<i>to request permission to marry someone, as from their father or family</i>	
To ask for the moon	I'm asking you to help with the washing up. I'm not asking for the moon! (<i>make unreasonable demands</i>)	
To be (someone's) for the asking	Do you like this car? It's yours for the asking. (<i>if you want it</i>)	

6. TO BUY

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PURCHASE	She was saving to buy a car. He bought some flowers for his girlfriend. Money can't buy you love.	Purchase, pay for, procure, snap up Give
BRIBE	He claimed that the judges concerned had been bought. It shouldn't be possible to buy a Senator to vote on issues that are important to you. Buy somebody's silence	Corrupt, suborn
BELIEVE	She'll never buy that story about you getting lost!	Accept

Phrasal

Synonyms

Buy into	I don't buy into all that New Age stuff. (<i>believe</i>) McDowell was trying to buy into the newspaper business. (<i>acquire a stake in</i>) He bought his way into politics.	agree with, subscribe to, endorse
Buy off	He used hidden funds to buy off the government inspectors. (<i>bribe, suborn</i>)	
Buy out	The bank announced that it wanted to buy out the publicly owned shares of its stock The group wanted to buy the company out. (<i>buy to own all of it</i>) It is assumed that the company will buy him out. (<i>pay to take control</i>)	
Buy up	Investors continued to buy up stocks at a frantic pace. (<i>purchase as much as possible</i>)	

Idioms

To buy time	He tried to buy time by saying he hadn't been well. (<i>delay</i>)	drag one's heels, dither, stall
To buy a pig in a poke	Buying a car without test-driving it first is like buying a pig in a poke. (<i>buy on trust</i>)	

Noun

That house was not a good buy.	(<i>poor investment</i>)
This computer was a really good buy.	(<i>good value</i>)

7. TO CUT

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SEVER/SLICE	<p>To cut a slice of bread I cut myself/my hand on that glass/with that knife. Cut the meat up into small pieces.</p> <p>Firefighters had to cut the trapped driver loose/free (<i>cut the metal to allow the driver to get out of the car</i>) using special equipment.</p> <p>To cut one's hair? To cut paper To cut one's nails To cut the grass</p>	<p>Slice Hurt, wound, slit, slash, graze</p> <p>Chop, carve, dice,</p> <p>Break, hack, hew</p> <p>Trim, snip, crop, clip</p> <p>Clip Mow the lawn</p>
REDUCE	<p>To cut prices/costs To cut overtime/wages To cut the budget</p> <p>The new train connection will cut the time it takes to get from Beijing to Shanghai by 6 hours.</p>	<p>Curtail, bring down, trim, slash Lower</p> <p>Shorten</p>
REMOVE	<p>To cut a line from the text They've cut my part in the play. They cut half the workforce in one go.</p>	<p>Excise, remove, delete Prune, lop Make redundant, sack, lay off, discharge, dismiss</p>
STOP	<p>To cut an engine/a motor "Cut!" shouted the director. (<i>stop filming</i>)</p>	
RECORD	<p>When did the Stones cut their first record?</p>	

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
BE SHARP	<p>This knife doesn't cut very well.</p>	

Phrasal

Synonyms

Cut back	The government has announced plans to cut back defence spending (<i>reduce</i>). If exercise is causing you pain, you should cut back. (<i>go easy</i>)	slash
Cut down	The supermarket chain has promised to cut down on packaging. (<i>reduce</i>) How do we persuade people to stop cutting down trees? (<i>fell</i>)	
Cut in	I was just talking to Jan, when Dave cut in. (<i>interrupt</i>)	butt in, break in, interject
Cut off	Remember to cut off the fat before you fry the steak. (<i>remove</i>) If this bill is not paid within five days, your gas supply will be cut off. (<i>stopped</i>) The aim was to cut off the enemy's escape route/supplies. (<i>block</i>) When his wife died, he cut himself off from other people. (<i>isolate</i>) Many villages have been cut off by the heavy snow. (<i>isolate</i>) We got cut off before she could give me directions. (<i>of a phone: disconnected</i>)	Disconnect sever withdraw, retreat
Cut out	The car engine just cut out. (<i>stop</i>) She cut out his picture from the magazine. (<i>remove</i>) Since my heart attack, I've cut fatty foods out altogether. (<i>give up</i>) My father cut me out of his will. (<i>exclude, leave out of</i>) He's just not cut out for politics. (<i>the right type of person</i>) Just cut it out! I've had enough of your time wasting. (<i>stop it</i>)	stall excise eliminate disinherit, disown suitable
Cut up	Cut the chicken breast up into small pieces.	
Cut short	He started to explain, but she cut him short. (<i>interrupt</i>) We had to cut short our holidays because of the crisis.	stop curtail

Idioms

To cut both ways	The promotion cuts both ways because though I'll make more money, I'll have to be away from my family more often. (<i>have both advantages and disadvantages</i>)	
To cut someone some slack	Because it was the last day of class, the teachers cut us some slack. (<i>go easy on</i>)	
To cut corners	Any society that cuts corners on education will pay the price in the end (<i>do something in the easiest, cheapest, or fastest way – negative connotation</i>)	skimp on, take a shortcut
To cut loose (US)	Don't be too hard on them - they're just kids and they need to cut loose sometimes. (<i>behave in an uncontrolled, wild way</i>)	let one's hair down
To cut one's losses	I was losing money by the minute so in the end I decided to cut my losses and sell That woman will never make you happy – if I were you I'd cut my losses and leave. (<i>take a painful decision</i>).	

Cut and dried	This a cut and dried case of sexual harassment. <i>(clear)</i> Most investigations are pretty cut and dried, but this one has left more questions than answers. <i>(straightforward)</i>	black and white incontrovertible
Cut and thrust	She enjoys the cut and thrust of party politics. <i>(interesting and exciting arguments)</i>	
To cut the Gordian knot	<i>to solve an intractable problem by decisive action</i>	
To cut to the quick	His sarcastic comments cut me to the quick. <i>(deeply hurt)</i>	
To cut a fine figure	The young soldier cut a fine figure in his new uniform. <i>(look good)</i>	
To cut one's political, professional, etc. teeth	She cut her political teeth on student debates. <i>(get one's first experience, practise)</i>	
To cut to the chase	Time is short so let's cut to the chase. <i>(get straight to business)</i>	dispense with formalities, get down to brass tacks
To have one's work cut out	We've got our work cut out for us if we want to complete this project in time. <i>(a lot of work to do)</i>	

Noun

A cut above the rest/the average	He thinks he's a cut above (the rest). <i>(superior)</i> This wine is definitely a cut above your average.
To take a cut	The mafia take a cut of all the companies' profits. What's my cut? <i>(share, percentage)</i>
To take a paycut	<i>Agree to lower wages</i>

8. TO DIE

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">STOP LIVING</div>	<p>Her husband died suddenly last week.</p> <p>That plant has died. to die of/from cancer He died for his beliefs. to die young / happy / poor to die a violent/painful/natural death to die a hero/martyr/rich man etc. Somebody's dying breath/wish</p>	<p>Pass away, perish, depart, expire, rest in peace, starve, drown</p> <p>Wither</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">DISAPPEAR</div>	<p>Rage against the dying of the light. [Dylan Thomas]</p> <p>The old customs are dying. His secret died with him (<i>he never told anyone</i>). The words died on my lips (<i>I stopped speaking</i>).</p>	<p>Dwindle, fade, pass, ebb, wane, peter out</p> <p>Disappear, vanish, fade away, decay, lapse, end, melt away</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">STOP WORKING</div>	<p>The engine spluttered and died. die on somebody. (<i>stop working while they are using it</i>) My phone just died on me.</p>	<p>Break down, fail, conk out</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">CRAVE</div>	<p>I'm dying for a drink.</p> <p>He was dying to speak out, but somehow held his tongue.</p>	<p>Long to/for, yearn, desire, be desperate for</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To die down	<p>The flames finally died down. (<i>stop burning</i>) She waited for the applause to die down and began her speech The excitement has died down. (<i>wear off</i>)</p>	<p>go out, subside, fade, abate evaporate, wear off, peter out</p>
To die off	<p>The veterans of World War II are old now and gradually dying off. (<i>die one by one until there are none left</i>)</p>	
To die out	<p>This species has nearly died out because its habitat is being destroyed. (<i>become extinct</i>)</p>	

Idioms

Synonyms

Die a/the death	The play got terrible reviews and quickly died a death. (<i>fail completely</i>)	bomb, flop
Die in one's bed	The accident came as no surprise – he was never the type to die in his bed (<i>die through old age/sickness</i>)	
Die laughing	I nearly died laughing when she said that. (<i>find extremely amusing</i>)	
Old habits die hard	I know you're an adult now and I shouldn't worry so, but old habits die hard. (<i>difficult to change one's ways</i>) The Socialist Party has been trying hard to establish a reputation for fiscal probity, but old habits die hard	be unable to help it/stop oneself
Die for	She was wearing a dress to die for. (<i>gorgeous, stunning</i>)	
In the dying minutes	United scored an equaliser in the dying minutes of the game. (<i>during the last minutes</i>)	at the eleventh hour
Never say die	The Doha negotiations have been gridlocked for years now. Never say die, I suppose, but it's hard to see how they can be revived (<i>never give up</i>)	hope springs eternal

9. TO GET

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
RECEIVE	She got a bike for her birthday. I get my information from the internet. I got good grades at school. I got permission to leave early. I got the flu this year. He got 6 years in prison for tax fraud. I get 2000 euros a month.	Acquire, obtain, purchase, procure, secure Achieve, realise Receive, was granted Contract, catch Was sentenced to Earn, have income of, make
HAVE	I've got plenty of money. I've got a headache. I often get headaches.	Possess Suffer from
FETCH	I got a book from the library. Get me a doctor. Get me out of here. I'll get the drinks.	Take out, borrow Bring
REACH	When did you get home. We just got the train in time.	Arrive, come Make (<i>we just made it in time</i>)
COMMUNICATE	You can get me at home any time between 9 and 12.	Contact, get in touch with
UNDERSTAND	I don't get this question. I simply don't get it.	Comprehend, fathom, grasp
CAUSE	Don't get me angry. He got her pregnant.	Anger, irritate, annoy etc. Impregnate
ANNOY	Bad language really gets me. What gets me is your lack of effort.	Anger, irritate, annoy, bother, irk etc.
START	We should get going. Time is short, we'll have to get working.	Begin, commence etc.
MUST	Sorry, I've got to go! Got to get you into my life (Beatles!)	Be obliged to

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
BECOME	You've got(ten) tall/fat etc. I get so angry/sad etc.	
MANAGE	I never got to see Europe. I didn't get to talk to him before he left.	
PASSIVE	She got knocked over by a car. I got stung by a bee.	
PROCESS	To get into debt To get into trouble	

Phrasal

Synonyms

To get across	How can I get my point across? (<i>make clear</i>)	communicate, transmit, express, convey
To get along	We get along well. (<i>enjoy each other's company</i>) How are you getting along. (<i>manage</i>)	cope, fare
To get around	The easiest way to get around town is to use public transport We got around the lack of funds by a crowdfunding campaign (<i>solve</i>) Word got around (<i>become known that...</i>)	circumvent
To get at	What are you getting at? (<i>mean</i>) Why are you getting at me? (<i>criticise</i>)	intend, imply, insinuate, suggest, infer, drive at find fault with, make fun of
To get by	We'll get by if we don't spend too much. (<i>manage</i>)	cope, survive
To get down to	Let's get down to work/business. (<i>start</i>)	
To get into	He got into trouble at school. I got into jazz. (<i>become interested in</i>) What's gotten into you? (<i>what's the matter with you?</i>)	become embroiled in get hooked on
To get off	She got off scot-free. (<i>be acquitted</i>) She got off early and went shopping. (<i>finishwork</i>) She got off the bus She got off to a bad start. (<i>start</i>)	alight, disembark, dismount
To get on	She got on the bus. We don't get on. (<i>not like each other much</i>) How are you getting on? (<i>manage</i>) She's getting on. (<i>growing old</i>) Get on with it! (<i>stop wasting time</i>)	board, embark, mount be advanced in years

To get out	The secret got out. (<i>become known</i>)	be revealed/disclosed
To get over	I'll never get over my divorce. (<i>recover from</i>) I can't get over how tall you've become. (<i>can't believe</i>)	
To get through	How can I get through to you? (<i>make understand</i>)	
To get up	I got up at 8 o'clock this morning. (<i>arise</i>) I got up the nerve to ask the teacher. (<i>find the courage</i>) To get up to no good. (<i>behave badly</i>)	pluck up the courage to cause mischief

Idioms

To get away with	He stole over a million pounds and he got away with it (<i>not get caught</i>) Are you going to allow her to get away with talking to me like that? (<i>escape punishment</i>) His parents let him get away with murder!	
To get cracking/going	There's a huge amount of work to be done, so let's get cracking (<i>make a start</i>)	
To get even/get one's own back	He humiliated me in front of my friends, but I'll get my own back (<i>obtain revenge</i>)	
To get hold of	I've been trying to get hold of you all day (<i>contact by phone</i>)	
To get ready	If we're going to go out tonight you need to start getting ready now (<i>prepare</i>)	
To get nowhere	Negotiations are getting nowhere (<i>make no progress, be stuck</i>)	get bogged down, run aground, be gridlocked
To get somewhere	It finally feels as though we're getting somewhere (<i>make progress, advance</i>)	
To get wind of	The police set a trap for him, but he got wind of it and escaped again If the public gets wind of this, we'll lose the election (<i>find out about, hear about</i>)	
To get rid of	The sooner we get rid of this President the better The problem with nuclear energy is – how do you get rid of the waste?	do away with, dispense with, dispose of, throw away, remove, dump eliminate

10. TO LET

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ALLOW	<p>They won't let him leave the country. I'll give you a key so that you can let yourself in. He'd eat the chocolate all day long if I let him.</p> <p><i>Offer to help</i> Let me do it Let us get those boxes down for you</p>	Permit, authorize, sanction, agree to, grant, tolerate, approve, warrant, endorse, consent
IMPERATIVE	<p><i>Suggestion</i> Let's go to the beach. I don't think we'll make it, but let's try anyway.</p> <p><i>Warning/threat</i> If he thinks he can cheat me, just let him try</p> <p><i>Wish</i> Let her come home safe!</p>	<p>Advise, propose, recommend, advocate</p> <p>Ask for, defy, demand</p> <p>Please, yearn, want, crave</p>
MATHS	Let line AB be equal to line CD.	Assume, reckon, guess
REQUEST	Let me have your report by Friday.	Call for, demand
RENT	<p>I let the spare room. They decided to let out the smaller offices at low rents.</p>	Lease, hire, rent out

Phrasal

Synonyms

To let down	<p>I'm afraid she let us down badly. <i>(fail to help)</i></p> <p>She speaks French very fluently, but her pronunciation lets her down. <i>(be a weak point)</i></p> <p>We let the bucket down by a rope. <i>(to make sth go down)</i></p>	<p>disappoint, dissatisfy, fail</p> <p>drop, lower</p>
To let on	<p>I didn't let on that I knew about the party. <i>(to reveal)</i></p> <p>She never let on that anything was wrong. <i>(admit)</i></p> <p>I let on that I knew more than I really did <i>(pretend)</i></p>	<p>disclose</p> <p>feign, make out</p>
To let out	<p>They'll never let her out of prison. <i>(release)</i></p> <p>To let out a scream of terror/ to let out a gasp of delight. <i>(emit)</i></p>	<p>liberate, free, discharge</p>
To let up	<p>The rain had let up. <i>(to diminish or to stop)</i></p> <p>The pain finally let up. <i>(to become less strong)</i></p> <p>We mustn't let up now. <i>(to make less effort)</i></p>	<p>decrease, subside</p> <p>relax, slacken</p>

Idioms

To let sb go	The police let the thief go. (<i>be free</i>) We've had to let 20 people go. (<i>dismiss</i>) He never let go of his dream. (<i>abandon</i>) She's really let herself go. (<i>stop taking care of oneself</i>)	sack, make redundant give up on
To let one's hair down	After the exams I intend to let my hair down! (<i>relax and go a bit wild e.g. party</i>)	
To let off steam	He shouts a lot, but it's just his way of letting off steam (<i>release emotional pressure</i>)	vent
Let him/her/it be	<i>to leave someone or something alone (cf. Beatles song!)</i>	

11. TO PAY

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GIVE MONEY	Pay the cashier Pay an hourly wage Pay your debts This job pays \$500 a week.	Spend, give money to, recompense, offer, reward, remunerate Settle, clear, discharge Bring in, earn, return, yield
GIVE (fig.)	Pay attention Pay a compliment	Bestow, devote
BEAR	She paid the price for her unpopular opinions.	Suffer, pay the price, atone, suffer the consequences
MAKE	Pay a visit Pay a call	

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
WORTHWHILE	She took over her husband's restaurant and made it pay. Crime doesn't pay. It pays to invest in protective clothing.	Be profitable, make money, make a return, be remunerative Be worthwhile, be advantageous

Phrasal

Synonyms

To pay back	Can you lend me five dollars? I'll pay you back at the weekend. Pay back a kindness/debt. (<i>to repay</i>) I'll pay you back for this. (<i>revenge</i>)	repay return, reciprocate
To pay down	It'll take me fifteen years to pay down my mortgage. (<i>repay</i>)	pay off
To pay for	Don't you think criminals should pay for their crimes? (<i>suffer for</i>)	answer for, be punished for, make amends for
To pay off	I still have debts from college to pay off. Your efforts will eventually pay off. (<i>succeed</i>)	bear fruit, be worth it
To pay out	My insurance company paid out. (<i>give money, distribute</i>)	
To pay up	Several clients are refusing to pay up (<i>pay amount owed</i>)	

Idioms

Pay lip service to	The government pays lip service to human rights, but ignores them in practice. <i>(support something insincerely)</i>
Pay the piper	The person who pays the piper calls the tune. <i>(be in control)</i> Sooner or later you have to pay the piper. <i>(to face the results of one's actions)</i>
Pay tribute/homage to	<i>show respect or admiration; to commend or salute someone or something</i>
Pay your way	I'll come along, but I insist on paying my way <i>(cover one's own expenses)</i> If you don't get a job, how are you ever going to pay your way in life? <i>(be financially independent)</i>
You pay your money, you take your choice.	<i>accept the consequences of a decision</i>
To pay through the nose	They paid through the nose for a house in the poshest neighbourhood <i>(pay an excessively high price)</i>
Pay as you go	<i>pay for purchases immediately instead of deferring payment</i>
Pay top dollar	A lot of consumers pay top dollar to get the newest smartphones.
Pay one's last respects	So many people turned out to pay their last respects. <i>(on someone's death)</i>

Noun

Pay	The workers went on strike over pay and conditions Equal pay for equal work	payment, wages, income, earnings, fee, reward, compensation, allowance, remuneration, takings, reimbursement, hand-outs, recompense, stipend.
Beyond one's pay grade	All these questions you're asking are beyond your pay grade. <i>(the responsibility of those who are of a higher authority than oneself)</i>	

12. TO PUT

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PLACE	<p>She put the parcel on a chair.</p> <p>I put my hand out towards her.</p> <p>Don't put the blame on me.</p> <p>They put my name on the cover page. Try to put yourself in his place. He didn't want to be put in a category. It's difficult to put a date on it.</p>	<p>Set down, lay down, position, leave, deposit</p> <p>Extend</p> <p>Lay on, place on, attribute to, stick, ascribe, pin</p> <p>Write, print Imagine oneself in Place in, allocate to, assign to</p>
EXPRESS	<p>To put it bluntly, he was not really divorced.</p> <p>I don't know how to put this... <i>(usually before a strong statement)</i></p> <p>This is – how shall I put it? – complete rubbish!</p>	<p>Frame, render, convey, state, say, utter, word, phrase</p>
ESTIMATE	<p>He put the cost at \$8,000.</p> <p>I'd put her (age) at about 35.</p>	<p>Reckon, assess, evaluate, judge, calculate</p>
SUBMIT	<p>I saw the proposals put to the committee.</p>	<p>Present, suggest, propose, put forward</p>
DEVOTE	<p>I put a lot (of myself) into the project.</p>	<p>Invest, work hard</p>
CAUSE	<p>They tried to put me at ease.</p> <p>He is putting himself at risk.</p>	<p>Ease, comfort, calm Endanger, jeopardize, risk</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To put **across** We must put across our views. *(make clear)*

communicate,
convey, explain

To put **aside** We've got a bit put aside in the bank. *(deposit)*

They put aside their differences. *(set aside)*

save, set aside,
deposit, reserve
disregard, forget,
bury the hatchet,
let bygones be
bygones

To put **away** I put away some money very month. *(deposit)*

She never puts her toys away. *(tidy up)*

I hope they put him away for life. *(jail)*

save, put aside, set
aside, store
put back, clean up
imprison, lock up

To put by	I have a bit put by. (<i>save money for future use</i>)	save, set aside, put aside
To put down	She put her ideas down on paper. (<i>write down</i>) The government was ruthless in putting down the rebellion. (<i>suppress</i>) The horse had to be put down. (<i>only of animals, usually passive: kill</i>) My boyfriend is always trying to put me down (<i>humiliate</i>)	note down, jot down, record crush, repress, subdue destroy, put to death, euthanize belittle, deflate, disparage
To put forward	The authorities put forward positive proposals. (<i>submit</i>)	present, tender, propose
To put in	I put in ten hours a day at the office. (<i>work</i>) They're going to put in a new boiler. (<i>install</i>) You'll have to put in your password The ship put in at Tokyo and Manila on its way to Australia. (<i>dock</i>)	toil, graft, slog away enter, insert, input
To put off	The very thought of eating snails puts me off. (<i>displease</i>) Don't put off such important decisions. (<i>postpone</i>)	repel, disturb, deter defer, delay, shelve
To put on	She put on jeans. (<i>dress in</i>) Put the light on, will you, I can't see a thing. (<i>switch on</i>) The museum put on an exhibition. (<i>organize</i>) I put on a few kilos over Christmas. (<i>gain weight</i>) It really hurts. Honestly, I'm not putting it on! (<i>pretend</i>)	change into turn on stage, present, produce gain feign, fake, sham
To put out	Firefighters put out the blaze. (<i>extinguish</i>) He put out a press release. (<i>issue</i>) We put a lot of our work out to freelancers. (<i>subcontract</i>) I don't want to put you out. (<i>inconvenience</i>) The injection will put you out for ten minutes. (<i>make unconscious</i>)	quench, blow out publish, release, post trouble, bother
To put through	Put me through to the police office, please. (<i>connect someone by phone</i>) I hate James for what he put me through. (<i>subject someone to an unpleasant experience</i>)	
To put up	She put up a poster. (<i>display</i>)	pin up, stick up, hang up
To put up with	She put up with his nonsense for two years (<i>tolerate</i>)	take, stand, endure, bear
To put upon	Don't allow yourself to be put upon! (<i>take advantage of</i>)	use, exploit

Idioms

To put in a good word for	Can you put in a good word for me? (<i>vouch for</i>)	recommend
To put something behind one	You have to learn to put your failures behind you. (<i>not focus on</i>)	move on, ignore
To put the clocks back/forward	<i>to adjust clocks or watches backwards or forwards</i>	
To put one's hands together	Please put your hands together and welcome our new President. (<i>to applaud</i>)	
To put one's hands up	<i>to raise one's hands in surrender</i>	
To put up or shut up	<i>to justify oneself or remain silent</i>	
To be hard put to	I'd be hard put to name all the American presidents of the 20 th century. (<i>find it difficult</i>)	struggle, have a hard task/job

13. TO RUN

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
MOVE	The dog ran across the road. He hasn't paid for his drinks—run and catch him.	Race, sprint, rush, dash, dart, speed, gallop, scamper, hasten, charge
FLEE	Desperate to escape, the intruder pushed his victim to the floor and ran off. As they closed in on him, he turned and ran.	Escape, bolt, take flight, make off, make one's getaway, head for the hills, beat a hasty retreat
GO	Buses run into town every half hour. Are the trains running today? The tape recorder was still running. The clock is running. He left the engine running.	Travel, shuttle, drive, ply a route Work, go Operate, function, work Tick Purr, tick over, function
FLOW	A small river runs into the sea at one side of the castle. His face was running with sweat. The streets ran red with blood If it's too hot the wax will start to run.	Stream, pour, gush, spurt, cascade, flood Stream with, drip with Melt
EXTEND	Cobbled streets run down to a tiny harbour. The trail ran through the beech woods.	Stretch, go, reach, lead, continue, range, trail, spread
SPREAD	The ink had run on the wet paper. If the first layer isn't dry before you add the next one, the colours will run into each other. A buzz of excitement ran through the crowd.	Be diffused, lose colour Mix, bleed Circulate, go round
COMPETE	I was running in the marathon. <i>(figuratively)</i> He announced that he intended to run for President. Mrs Thatcher wanted to run a fourth time.	Compete, participate, enter, be in Contend, stand for, put oneself up for, contest

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
MANAGE	<p>His father ran a prosperous business. Andrea runs her own catering business.</p> <p>We decided to run a series of seminars. He could no longer afford to run a car.</p>	<p>Be in charge of, administer, head, oversee, administer, supervise</p> <p>Carry out, do, perform, execute Maintain, keep, own, possess</p>
SHOW	<p>The tabloid press ran the story.</p> <p>Channel 4 is running a series on the unfairness of the legal system.</p>	<p>Print, publish, feature, release, issue Broadcast, display, present</p>
CONVEY	<p>They run drugs for the cocaine cartels.</p> <p>They were caught running counterfeit goods into the country. I'll run you home.</p>	<p>Traffic in, smuggle, deal in, sneak</p> <p>Drive, give someone a lift, take, chauffeur</p>
MOVE	<p>He ran his fingers through his hair.</p>	<p>Pass, skim, slide</p>
EXTEND	<p>To run a rope between two trees.</p>	<p>Stretch, spread</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To run after	The policeman ran after the thief and caught him. (<i>pursue</i>)	follow, chase
To run away	I ran away from home when I was sixteen. (<i>flee</i>)	escape, bolt
To run down	<p>Stop running her down all the time – she's actually very clever</p> <p>The hospital looks quite run down. (<i>old</i>)</p> <p>It's ok to run down oil reserves in a crisis, but you have to build them up again after (<i>deplete</i>)</p> <p>He was in the middle of the road and I nearly ran him down.</p> <p>It's two months since I had the flu but I still feel completely run down</p>	<p>criticise, belittle, denigrate shabby, tired, scruffy reduce, trim, curtail</p> <p>hit, knock over, strike tired, exhausted, worn out</p>
To run in	It always takes a couple of months to run in a new car.	break sth in
To run into	<p>I ran into him in the corridor. (<i>meet unexpectedly</i>)</p> <p>They ran into financial problems. (<i>be beset by</i>)</p> <p>She spoke so fast her words ran into each other. (<i>blend into</i>)</p>	<p>bump into, chance upon face, experience</p>
To run off	<p>He then ran off towards a nearby railway station. (<i>flee</i>)</p> <p>She ran off with an old friend. (<i>elope with</i>)</p> <p>Who ran off with the money? (<i>steal</i>)</p> <p>Could you run off some extra copies for me? (<i>produce</i>)</p>	<p>take flight</p> <p>take, embezzle, misappropriate print, duplicate</p>

To run on	Does this car run on petrol or diesel? (<i>use as fuel</i>)	burn, take, use
To run out	Supplies are running out. (<i>be used up</i>) The plane ran out of fuel. (<i>have none remaining</i>) My visa ran out last year. (<i>expire</i>) You can't run out on your team like that. (<i>desert</i>)	be depleted, exhausted end, terminate, lapse abandon, forsake
To run over	Water ran over the sides and trickled down on to the floor. Phase one has run over budget. (<i>exceed</i>) Let's run over the instructions again. (<i>review</i>) He was nearly run over by a car. (<i>knock down</i>)	overflow, spill over go beyond, overstep check, examine, go over, go through hit, knock over, strike
To run through	I ran through the options with him. (<i>review</i>) Let's run through the procedure one more time. (<i>rehearse</i>)	check, examine, go through practise
To run up	He ran up debts of \$153,000. (<i>accumulate</i>) They ran up the star and crescent. (<i>raise a flag</i>) I'll run up a dress for you. (<i>quickly make</i>)	

Idioms

To run before one can walk	Master consecutive first then try simultaneous.	
Don't try to run before you can walk	(<i>don't rush things</i>)	
To run into the sand	In the end, the plans ran into the sand. (<i>get nowhere</i>)	come to nothing, founder
To run an/(one's) eye over	<i>to examine or review something quickly or perfunctorily</i>	
To run oneself into the ground	You'll run yourself into the ground working like that (<i>burn out</i>)	wear oneself out
To be run (one) off (one's) feet	What with the children, the cooking and the ironing, I've been run off my feet all day. (<i>to be extremely busy</i>)	
To run circles around someone	You think you're clever but she can run circles around you. (<i>outsmart</i>)	
To be running late	The meeting is running about 10 minutes late	overrun
To run the gauntlet	The government will have to run the gauntlet of public opinion. (<i>face the test of</i>)	

Noun

To have a good run	I have had a good run recently and it's done my confidence a world of good. (<i>enjoy a good sequence of performances</i>)
To be on the run	The criminal is armed and on the run. Do not attempt to approach him (<i>be a fugitive from justice</i>)

14. TO SEE

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PERCEIVE	<p>I saw her standing there.</p> <p>I saw from her expression that she didn't know.</p> <p>She only sees the good in people.</p> <p>I've seen a lot of progress in your work.</p>	Catch sight of, glimpse, discern, make out, recognise, identify, notice, observe
ATTEND	<p>I saw the film last night.</p> <p>I saw David Bowie in concert.</p> <p>Let's go and see a play.</p>	
WITNESS	<p>The twentieth century saw two of the worst conflicts in human history.</p> <p>We've seen many changes in our lifetimes.</p>	
VISIT	<p>I went to see my parents.</p> <p>You should see a doctor.</p> <p>I need to see my lawyer.</p>	<p>Visit</p> <p>Consult, meet</p>
ENSURE	<p>See that you don't make the same mistake twice.</p> <p>I'll see to it that it gets done.</p>	

Phrasal

Synonyms

To see **about**

We'll see about your timetable later. (*attend to*)

See **off**

She came to the airport to see us off. (*say goodbye*)

bid farewell

See **out**

Please see Ms Smith to the door. (*escort, accompany*)
 The project was beset by difficulties but we still saw it out.
 (*completed*)

See **through**

I see through you. (*understand what someone is up to*)

Idioms

To see red

get very angry

lose one's rag

To see the light

suddenly understand

15. TO SET

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PLACE	Set a book on a table Set it over there! Set a jewel on a ring	Put in a specific position, lay, place, put, position, pose
ARRANGE	A date will be set for a future meeting. We will train you first before we set you a task. She had set the table and was drinking coffee at the hearth. A play that is set in Venice.	Settle, name, establish, determine, fix, schedule, appoint Assign, give Prepare, arrange, make ready Take place, unfold
ESTABLISH	Set standards, set rules Set a good example Set a swimming record	Impose, specify, lay down, decree, ordain Provide, furnish, show Create
CAUSE	A dispute that set the neighbours against each other. The noise set the dog to barking.	Incite, cause to begin, Make
ACTIVATE	I'll set my alarm for 7:00 am He set the watch and waited for a while.	Switch on, turn on, activate, programme Adjust, synchronize

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DECLINE	The sun sets at about 4pm in winter. When the glory of the empire set.	Go down, sink, dip, decline, disappear, vanish, subside Diminish, wane

Phrasal

Synonyms

Set about	He set about his work with enthusiasm. (<i>start/begin</i>)	tackle, embark on, undertake
Set apart	Her intelligence set her apart (<i>make noticeable</i>)	distinguish differentiate
Set aside	Each month I set aside some money for a rainy day. (<i>reserve</i>)	lay by, save, earmark
Set back	This could set us back months. (<i>delay</i>) This coat set me back \$1000. (<i>cost</i>)	hold up, slow
Set down	Set the baby down here. (<i>place, put down, sit</i>)	
Set forth	They set forth a sound plan. (<i>present</i>)	explain, expound, describe
Set in	When this kind of weather sets in you know it's going to last for a few days. (<i>takes hold</i>)	
Set off	(<i>vt</i>) Set off a chemical reaction (<i>cause</i>) (<i>vt</i>) Set off a bomb (<i>cause to explode</i>) (<i>vt</i>) The clerk's attitude finally set me off. (<i>anger</i>) (<i>vi</i>) We set off for Europe tomorrow. (<i>leave</i>)	trigger, activate, initiate, set in motion detonate, ignite, trigger
Set out	(<i>vi</i>) Einstein set out to prove his theory of relativity was right. (<i>undertake</i>) (<i>vi</i>) We'll set out for Europe tomorrow. (<i>leave</i>) (<i>vt</i>) The trader set out his wares. (<i>display, arrange</i>)	
Set to	They set to work with a will. (<i>began working energetically</i>)	
Set up	The police set up a road block. (<i>raise</i>) They set the general up as a dictator. (<i>establish</i>) We're setting up a new charity. (<i>found</i>) That win has set us up nicely for the final. (<i>prepare, stimulate</i>) They set up a bank robbery. (<i>organise, plan</i>) I believe she's innocent. I think she was set up (<i>falsely blame</i>)	erect, install frame
Set upon	The guards set dogs upon the escaping prisoners. (<i>cause to attack</i>)	unleash

Idioms

Set against	We are dead set against the idea. (<i>strongly opposed to</i>)
Set fire to	Arsonists set fire to the factory in a deliberate act of sabotage (<i>burn</i>) (<i>NB unlike 'set on fire' this expression can only be used in the literal sense</i>)
Set foot in	As soon as I set foot in the country I will be arrested. (<i>to enter</i>)
Set in motion	The indictment set the judicial process in motion. (<i>trigger</i>)
Set one's heart on	I've set my heart on becoming an interpreter. (<i>long to</i>)
Set the pace	The best student always sets the pace for the others to follow. (<i>establish a standard</i>)
Set one's sights on	She's set her sights on medical school. (<i>aim at</i>)
Set on fire	(<i>lit</i>) to burn (<i>fig</i>) Her speech set the audience on fire. (<i>enthuse</i>)

Set straight	I need to set you straight on this. (<i>inform of the truth</i>) We need to set the record straight. (<i>clear one's name, establish the truth</i>)
Set store by	In this company, we set great store by loyalty. (<i>attach importance to</i>)
Set the scene for	The events of 1912 set the scene for the conflagration of 1914.
Set up shop	<i>Start a business</i>

Noun

The jet-set	(<i>group of people</i>) the super-rich
A (chess) set	(<i>group of things</i>)
A set of (numbers)	This is a very positive set of results.
A television set	<i>TV (unit)</i>
Shape	The set of his jaw told me that he was in no mood for protest.
Movie set	<i>scenery, setting</i>
A set-to	We had a bit of a set-to. (<i>argument</i>)
A set-up	The whole thing was a set-up (<i>trap</i>)

16. TO SIT

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
TAKE A SEAT	Eva pulled up a chair to sit beside them. I like to sit here and watch the world go by.	Take a seat, perch, settle down, be seated, take a pew, plant/park/plonk oneself (colloq.), take the weight off one's feet
POSE	She was sitting for the artist for 8 hours.	Pose, model
BE A MEMBER OF	He was asked to sit on numerous committees.	Be a member of, serve on, have a seat on
CONVENE	Parliament sits for only 28 weeks out of 52.	Convene, meet, assemble
BE SITUATED	Our new house sat next to a stream.	Be situated, stand, lie, be placed, be positioned

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PLACE	She took her chair and sat it in the usual spot. Parents need to sit their children down and explain the dangers of the internet.	Place, set, put, park, position, rest, lay

Phrasal

Synonyms

To sit about/around	She isn't the type to sit around doing nothing. (<i>idle</i>)	laze about or around, kick one's heels
To sit back	They didn't have to do anything except sit back and enjoy life. (<i>relax</i>)	take it easy
To sit by	We can't just sit by and watch you throw your life away. (<i>look on without acting</i>)	
To sit in on	Perhaps legal advisors could sit in on the meetings. (<i>be present as an observer</i>)	
To sit up	I didn't feel like sitting up all night.	stay up, stay awake

Idioms

Be sitting pretty	<i>to be in a very good or favourable position</i>
To sit on the fence	This is a time for action. We can no longer sit on the fence! (<i>avoid taking sides</i>)
To sit on your hands	In the middle of a crisis like this we cannot just sit on our hands! (<i>do nothing</i>)
To sit tight	Nobody knows what's going to happen yet so just sit tight! (<i>wait patiently</i>)
Be a sitting duck	With the share price so low, the company is a sitting duck for a takeover bid (<i>an easy target</i>)

17. TO TRY

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
TEST	<p>I tried that recipe you gave me last night. We don't sell newspapers - have you tried the coffee shop on the corner?</p> <p><i>[+ -ing verb] Try using a different shampoo.</i></p> <p>I'd like to try parachuting. Maybe you should try getting up earlier (<i>should wake earlier</i>). I forgot my door-keys – we'd better try the window. (<i>test it to see if it is open</i>)</p>	<p>Check out, experiment, try out, investigate, inspect, examine, put to the test</p>
JUDGE	<p>Because of security implications the officers were tried in secret.</p> <p>They are being tried for murder.</p>	<p>Examine and investigate judicially, hear a case</p> <p>Conduct the trial of, be accused of</p>
STRAIN	<p>The demands of the job have tried him sorely.</p> <p>He's been trying my patience all morning with his constant questions. Her endless demands would try the patience of a saint. (<i>are very annoying</i>)</p>	<p>Exert</p> <p>Wear out</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ATTEMPT	<p>Try to open this jar for me. You'll have to try harder. If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again (Robert the Bruce)</p>	<p>Seek, have a go, give it a go Go the extra mile, strive to do Never give up</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To try on	Try on those shoes. <i>(to put on clothes to see how they look or if they fit)</i>
To try it on	Stop trying it on. I can see right through you! <i>(attempt to deceive)</i>
To try out	Jim tried out for the school play/team. <i>(to compete for a position/part)</i>
Try sth out on sb	We tried out the new song on a couple of friends, but they didn't like it. <i>(test)</i>

audition (play)

Idioms

To try one's hand at something	Mike decided to try his hand at tennis. <i>(have a go at)</i>
To try one's luck	He'd always wanted to act and in 1959 he came to London to try his luck on the stage. <i>(see if one can succeed)</i>
To try someone's patience	Your constant complaining is really trying my patience <i>(get on somebody's nerves)</i>

Noun

A good try	That was a good try. <i>(good effort)</i>
Try-out	The try-outs for the team will be next weekend <i>(trials)</i> . After a try-out in Bath, the play is due to open in Edinburgh next month. <i>(a pilot)</i>

18. TO USE

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
UTILIZE	Can I use your phone? I'll show you which room you can use. I always use the same shampoo. Use your imagination when planning meals. She booked the flight using a false name.	Employ, make use of, work, apply Operate, exercise, practise resort to, exert
CONSUME	You used all the ice cubes and didn't put the ice trays back. We use about £40 worth of electricity a month. Standard washing machines use about 40 gallons of water.	Go/get through, exhaust, spend, waste run through, deplete, squander
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF	Can't you see that Howard is just using you? Gerald had been using her for his own ends.	Take advantage of, exploit, manipulate, abuse, milk, profit from, impose on misuse, make use of

Phrasal

Synonyms

To use something **up**

Somebody's used up all the hot water.

consume, exhaust, finish

Idioms

In use

The lavatory is in use. (*occupied, engaged*)
 It's a practice which isn't much in use anymore. (*common*)

It's no use

It's no use – I'll never understand algebra (*futile*)

I give up, there's no point

It's no use crying over spilled milk

don't waste time fretting over something which has already happened

it can't be helped

Make use of

Make the best use you can of the time you have. (*utilise*)

Of no use to man or beast

I feel I'm no use to beast or man. (*useless, of no value*)

Out of use

The elevator is out of use. (*broken*)

out of order

Put (sth) to use

She put her inside knowledge of the industry to good use. (*exploit*)

Use every trick in the book

He used every trick in the book to try to convince me he was innocent, but I wasn't buying it (*go to enormous lengths*)

Use one's head

Come on, use your head! (*think, don't be stupid*)

I could use a little help

I have so much on my plate right now. I could really use a little help (*appreciate*)

Use it or lose it

to forfeit the right to something if you don't use it

19. TO WIN

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
BE VICTORIOUS	<p>She was determined to win the race. Surprisingly he won the election. He eventually won his battle against cancer.</p>	Succeed, come through, do best in, come first, triumph, prevail, conquer
GET	<p>She won first prize in the competition. Her performance won her much critical acclaim. (<i>earn</i>)</p> <p>He won many awards and medals in the game. We played poker and he won three dollars off me.</p> <p>You have to work hard to win people's respect and trust. I will do whatever I have to, to win your love.</p>	<p>Achieve, be awarded, earn, take, bear off</p> <p>Earn, take</p> <p>Earn, obtain, acquire</p> <p>Gain</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
BE VICTORIOUS	<p>My team won today. The new-born is a girl after all, so you won!</p>	Succeed, come through, be victorious Be right, be correct
GET	<p>He applied for a scholarship and won. He ran for Governor and won</p>	Get it, be approved Be elected/selected

Phrasal

Synonyms

To win out	Sanity rarely wins out over prejudice. (<i>prevail</i>)	succeed, beat, be victorious, triumph
To win over	She's against the idea, but I'm sure I can win her over. (<i>gain her support</i>)	persuade, convince, talk round
To win through	We are faced with a lot of problems but we'll win through in the end. (<i>succeed</i>)	prevail, be victorious, triumph

Idioms

To win hands down	I wouldn't say the Democrats won hands down – they might have won, but it certainly wasn't a landslide (<i>win very easily</i>)
To win somebody's heart	I think it's fair to say that Princess Diana won the people's heart (<i>win the affection of</i>)
To win or lose	I'm so glad to be here – win or lose, it'll have been a great experience (<i>whether one succeeds or fails</i>)
You/he/she/I can't win	If I stay in you say I'm boring, if I go out you say I'm spending too much money. I can't win... (<i>impossible situation</i>)
You can't win them all	<i>said in sympathy to someone after a setback</i>
You win	Ok, ok you win – we'll get a new car (<i>I give in</i>)

The four letter words

Ask your average Englishman today to give you an example of a four letter word, and he's more likely to give you an expletive than any of the 33 words on our list. Which is a shame, as the most common such expletive (*fuck*) is only attested in the English language from around the 15th Century* whereas the overwhelming majority on our list can be traced back to Old English.

Ten of them are to be found on the list of the twenty-five commonest verbs in the English language, and they include such monumental go-to's as *make* and *take* (the 5th and 9th most frequently used verbs in the English language respectively), and the oh-so-phrasally-versatile *call*, *come*, *hold* and *play*.

They are full of the most delightful twists and turns: one might never 'live it down', for example, if one spent too much time 'living it up'. You might 'fall out' with your best friend if you 'fall for' his wife/her husband. The latter might then 'call you out', insisting that you 'call a spade a spade' and you would have to 'call up' all your reserves of ingenuity to 'call their bluff'.

But let us move on from such frivolities and turn our attention instead to the curious 'pull one's leg'. No-one really knows why this should mean 'to tease', though plenty of suggestions have been made. Some say the expression dates back to when public hangings were common and people would pull on the legs of the unfortunate victims to hasten their demise. Hardly the funniest of jokes, admittedly. Others, that it refers to the practice common in the early 19th Century of tripping up unsuspecting passers-by in order to steal their purse. That's the English for you - a laugh a minute.

Those who find all this too anglocentric will be delighted to know that the phrase 'to pass the buck' has its origins in the American Wild West, when a cardplayer might signify a wish not to have to deal by handing a knife with a buckhorn handle to the next player. President Truman famously had a sign on the door of the Oval Office saying 'The buck stops here'. Oh, how the times have changed!

Other words have gone through transformative change. The verb 'to sell' existed from the earliest times in Old English, but with the meaning of 'to give'. No wonder the Danes found us easy prey. It was only once the French had arrived that the word began to assume its modern meaning, which is perhaps unsurprising given that they were also the ones to

introduce 'pay' (French: *payer*) into the language. You may remember they were also the ones who compiled the Domesday Book, the better to tax their subjects. I'm just saying...

And finally, a little word about 'want', one of only three four-letter words of Scandinavian origin (the others are *call* and *take*) on our list.

As parents, many of us have on occasion responded to our spoiled offspring as they clamour with outstretched hands and anguished voice 'I want it, I want it', with a prim, supercilious, 'Want doesn't get'. The child might be forgiven for pausing to reflect firstly on the extraordinary lack of grammatical control evinced by the supposedly superior adult, before going on to point out how remarkable it is that such a short phrase should contain not one but two words of Danish origin, especially given the relative impermeability of the English language to Danish influence in the late first millennium.

Imagine the parent's surprise when the child further appraises him (let's be honest, the mother would sensibly have given in long ago and saved herself the explanation) that the word only assumed its current meaning of 'desire' in the 16th Century, having previously been used in its original meaning of 'lacking', though this more recondite meaning is retained in Modern English in expressions such as 'to be found wanting' or 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want' (Psalm 23)

So take it from me, Dads: next time just give them the toy.

*while this inimitable expletive almost certainly existed in the spoken language from early times, the first generally accepted written use of it is from a poem written in the 15th Century decrying the lax morals of the Carmelite monks of Cambridge :*non sunt in coeli, quia fuccant vvivys of heli*, which loosely and delicately translates as 'no place in heaven for those who commit adultery with the wives of Ely'. The quote is remarkable also for being a rare example of an English word assuming a Latin form, thereby justifying (just) a reference to it in this work of erudition.

20. TO CALL

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SHOUT	He came when I called his name. The teacher called out children's names. I called the children in for lunch.	Shout, cry, holler Summon, order, get
DESCRIBE	I wouldn't call German an easy language. He always calls himself a writer. I call his behaviour mean and selfish How dare you call me a liar.	Describe, regard as, consider to be Characterise as, style as Dub, style Label, brand
NAME	I called my dog Steve.	Address as, christen, baptise
TELEPHONE	We called the fire department immediately. The doctor has been called to an emergency case. Please call me a taxi. Please call me at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning.	Ring Telephone, ask to come by telephone Summon, order, send for, contact Wake
ORDER	Let's call a meeting now. The prime minister called an election. To call a meeting to order To call a strike	Arrange, convene, request, organise Announce, declare Start, open
ATTRACT	The sea is calling him.	Appeal to, draw, fascinate
RULE	The umpire called the ball foul/out	Adjudicate, determine, judge

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SHOUT	They are calling for help. He called to her from a distance.	Speak loudly, cry
TELEPHONE	I'll call again soon Who's calling please?	Ring
VISIT	Did anyone call when I was out? Your niece has called to see you.	Come, pay somebody a visit, drop in on somebody, drop by

Phrasal

Synonyms

To call back	Could you ask him to call me back? They called her back for an interview. (<i>summon to return</i>)	return a call ask back
To call for	The situation calls for prompt action. (<i>require</i>) This task calls for the best experts. This calls for a celebration Environmental activists are calling for immediate action to address climate change. (<i>demand</i>) I will call for you around 7. (<i>come to get you</i>)	require, request, demand, need advocate, ask for demand, request pick up, collect, meet
To call on	Let's call on John. (<i>go to see</i>) We call on the government to act	pay a visit to, visit demand, require, insist
To call in	Congress likes to call in a few chief executives for hearings when there is a recession. I'll call in on my way home from work. (<i>visit briefly</i>)	call together, summon, have recourse to come, visit, pop in, drop by cancel, abandon
To call off	He has called off the trip. (<i>cancel</i>)	
To call out	The teacher called out the names of the pupils one by one Colombia has called out the army and imposed emergency measures. (<i>order...to come to help</i>) In the past, a gentleman was expected to call out any man who was rude to his wife. (<i>challenge</i>) Union leaders called the miners out. (<i>order to strike</i>)	summon, deploy, mobilise fight, duel
To call up	If you're ever in town, call me up. (<i>telephone</i>) The sound of happy laughter called up fond memories from his childhood. (<i>remind</i>) The US called up 150,000 military reservists. (<i>order to join the army, navy or air force</i>)	Recall enlist, enrol, summon, conscript
To call upon	We call upon our leaders to uphold the constitution	demand, implore, expect, insist

Idioms

To call something into play	The danger is if the President tries to call the army into play (<i>to bring in</i>)	involve
To call something into question	Are you calling my integrity into question? (<i>doubt</i>)	
To call it a day	It's late, let's call it a day. (<i>stop working</i>)	
To call it quits	Give me 10 euros and we'll call it quits. (<i>settle a debt</i>) After a lifetime of public service he finally decided to call it quits and retire. (<i>stop working</i>) We've been arguing about this for hours. Let's just call it quits and move on. (<i>end a contest, to stop</i>)	hang up one's boots, retire agree to disagree

To call somebody names	<i>to insult</i>
To call the shots	She's the one calling the shots. (<i>in charge</i>)
To call a spade a spade	Some people think he's rude but as I see it, he just calls a spade a spade (<i>be frank</i>),
To call time on something	I'm going to call time on this debate. (<i>terminate</i>)
To call somebody to account for/over something	It is the Opposition's duty to call the Government to account (<i>force to assume responsibility</i>)
To call to order	Ladies and gentlemen, may I call this meeting to order? (<i>ask for quiet</i>)
Duty calls	I'd love to stay, but duty calls (<i>have to get back to work</i>)
To call someone's bluff	The US is threatening China with a trade war. I expect the Chines will call their bluff. (<i>challenge in the expectation the other side will back down</i>)
He who pays the piper calls the tune	The US is funding this project and he who pays the piper calls the tune. (<i>the person paying gets to decide</i>)

not beat about the bush, tell it like it is, forthright

Noun

The call of the wild/of nature	<i>attraction</i>
On call	<i>on standby</i>
Call for	There isn't much call for luxury products in this town. (<i>demand</i>) There is no call for that kind of language/behaviour. (<i>justification</i>)
A close call	In the end the Cuban missile crisis was defused but it was a very close call. (<i>could have gone either way</i>)
Beck and call	She is at his beck and call the whole time. (<i>subservient</i>) My boss expects me to be at his beck and call 24/7. (<i>immediately available</i>)
A tough call	Part of being a leader is making tough calls. (<i>difficult decision</i>) Beer or wine – now that's a tough call! (<i>ironic</i>)

21. TO COME

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ADVANCE	Come to me China has come a long way since 1949. Now we come to the interesting bit...	Move towards, approach, move nearer, near
REACH	The two sides have come to an agreement. The water came up to my chest.	Attain, arrive at, gain, secure, achieve
RESULT	This is what comes of not telling the truth. No good will come of this. Losses came to more than profits.	Occur, happen, pass, transpire
ORIGINATE	I come from the US. Milk comes from cows. They come from a rich family.	Hail from, be a native of Is derived from
BECOME	Your shoelaces have come loose. It's a dream come true!	
ADD UP	The bill came to \$78. In the end, the company's losses came to more than its profits.	Amount to, total

Phrasal

To come about	I don't know how that came about. (<i>happened</i>)	
To come across	I came across some old letters in the attic. (<i>find by chance</i>) She comes across as very knowledgeable. (<i>seems</i>)	happen upon appear, give the impression of being
To come along	The project is coming along nicely. (<i>making progress</i>) I'll come along, too. (<i>join</i>)	make headway
To come (a)round	She's coming round. (<i>regaining consciousness</i>) At first she was against the idea but she's slowly coming round. (<i>allow oneself to be persuaded</i>)	
To come by	Jobs are hard to come by. (<i>get</i>)	find, procure, obtain, get
To come in	<i>Enter</i> New information has just come in. (<i>become available</i>) He came (in) fifth. (<i>competition</i>) In the countryside a car always comes in handy. (<i>is</i>)	
To come into	She came into a large amount of money. (<i>inherited</i>)	

To come off	The label has come off. (<i>become detached</i>) I'll be amazed if the trip comes off. (<i>actually happens</i>) She came off badly in the argument. (<i>lose, fare</i>)	
To come out	The truth came out at the trial. (<i>became known</i>) Her new book has just come out. (<i>been published</i>) The president has come out in favour of tax cuts. (<i>publicly declare</i>)	be disclosed, become public
To come through	Her displeasure came through loud and clear. (<i>was communicated</i>)	
To come to	When I came to I found myself in a dark room. (<i>regain consciousness</i>) I never thought it would come to this. (<i>turn out this way</i>) I've come to appreciate her music. (<i>gradually learned</i>)	
To come up	The question never came up. (<i>arose</i>) The sun came up. (<i>rise</i>) The general had come up through the ranks. (<i>risen</i>) Don't worry, we'll come up with something. (<i>find a solution</i>)	
To come up against	They came up against stiff opposition. (<i>to encounter especially a problem/difficulty/opposition</i>)	

Idioms

Come rain or shine	<i>No matter what the weather does</i>
To come a cropper	I really came a cropper in that exam. (<i>do badly</i>)
To come clean	I felt so guilty about the whole thing that eventually I decided to come clean and face the consequences. (<i>confess</i>) Why can't the government come clean and admit it was badly prepared for the crisis? (<i>admit</i>)
To come down hard on	The police came down hard on the protesters. (<i>repress, act severely against</i>)
To come in for	She came in for a lot of criticism for not acting faster. (<i>receive</i>)
To come to blows	<i>To end up fighting (also figuratively)</i>
To come to grief	<i>To fail (usually of plans: the project came to grief)</i>
To come to light	<i>Become known</i>
To come to terms with	It has taken me many years to come to terms with what happened. (<i>learn to accept</i>)
To come true	This is a dream come true! (<i>become reality</i>)

22. TO FALL

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DESCEND	The autumn leaves are falling. To fall to one's knees Her hair fell over her shoulders. <u>Figuratively</u> A sudden silence fell. Fear fell upon them. Her spirits fell at the bad news.	Drop, come down, go down, descend Reach, droop, hang down Appear, come, arrive Come over, seize, grab, catch, grip
COLLAPSE	He slipped and fell to the ground. The book fell off the table. The building fell.	Stop standing, lose one's balance, trip, tumble, slip Collapse
DECREASE	Prices fell on the stock market. The cabin pressure is falling. Her voice fell as they entered the room.	Decrease, go down, decline, drop Go down Weaken, lighten
LOSE	Half the regiment fell before the enemy onslaught. The government fell after the revolution. Troy finally fell to the Greeks.	Be killed, lose their lives, be shot, die Lose office/power, be defeated, be no longer standing, disappear Be seized, be conquered, be captured, surrender, yield, capitulate, submit

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CUT	To fell a tree	Cut down chop down

Phrasal

Synonyms

To fall **apart**

The work was never finished and bit by bit the building fell apart.
(break into pieces)
 Europe's monetary system is falling apart (collapse).
 I was falling apart and couldn't sleep at all.

break, disintegrate
unravel, break down, fail
emotionally disturbed, upset,
troubled

To fall away	His supporters fell away as his popularity declined. (<i>leave</i>) In a crisis, old prejudices fall away and everyone works together. (<i>disappear</i>)	desert, turn one's back on, abandon, run out, vanish, dissolve, die away, be forgotten
To fall back	The enemy fell back as our troops advanced. (<i>retreat</i>) At least we can fall back on candles if the electricity falls.	move/turn back, back off/away make do with, use, rely on, have recourse to, count on
To fall behind	The major world powers are afraid of falling behind in the arms race. (<i>be overtaken</i>) He faces losing his home after falling behind with the payments. (<i>be late for, miss</i>)	lag behind, be beaten, trail
To fall down	The plan fell down because it proved to be too expensive. (<i>collapse</i>)	come to nothing, fail
To fall for	They met, fell for each other and got married six weeks later. The salesman said the car was in good condition, and I was foolish enough to fall for it. (<i>believe him</i>)	fall in love with be persuaded, be deceived
To fall in	The roof of the tunnel fell in. (<i>come down</i>) The sergeant ordered his men to fall in. (<i>gather</i>) He fell in with bad company. (<i>join</i>) She fell in with my idea at once. (<i>agree to</i>)	take one's place in military formation consort with
To fall off	He fell off his horse. Attendance at my lectures has fallen off considerably. (<i>drop</i>) It used to be my favourite restaurant but the standard of cooking has fallen off recently. (<i>get worse</i>)	
To fall on	Bandits fell on the village and pillaged it. (<i>attack fiercely</i>) The children fell on the food and ate it greedily. (<i>snatch</i>) The full cost of the wedding fell on me. (<i>be borne by</i>) The accent falls on the second syllable. My birthday falls on a Tuesday this year.	assault, offend grab be covered, be incurred by, be payable by occur happen, takes place, is
To fall out	We are pleased with the way things have fallen out. The men fell out quickly after parade. (<i>leave military formation</i>) They fell out with each other over the inheritance. (<i>quarrel</i>)	turn out, happen, transpire squabble, wrangle
To fall over	He always falls over and breaks things. (<i>tumble</i>) If he drinks more than two glasses of wine, he falls over. (<i>collapse</i>) People were falling over themselves to be introduced to the visiting film star. (<i>eager</i>) He was practically falling over himself to be nice.	trip, slip pass out, be dead drunk go all out, jostle, do all one can
To fall through	Our holiday plans fell through because of the coronavirus outbreak. (be cancelled)	come to nothing, be scuppered, go up in smoke, be spoiled, be ruined, be dashed

Idioms

Synonyms

To fall in love with	<i>To feel a sudden strong attraction for somebody</i>
To fall flat on one's face	<i>to suffer a humiliating and undignified setback</i>
To fall about	<i>to laugh uncontrollably</i>
To fall ill	<i>become ill</i>

become
enamoured

Noun

Synonyms

Pride comes before a fall	Stop boasting all the time. Don't you know pride comes before a fall? <i>(over-confidence causes mistakes)</i>
Fall-out	<i>(lit.)</i> The fall-out from a nuclear explosion would be catastrophic. <i>(fig.)</i> The fall-out from Brexit will have lasting consequences. <i>(aftermath)</i>

repercussions,
impact

23. TO FEEL

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
TOUCH	<p>Feel the texture of something Just feel how cold my hands are! I was feeling around in my bag for the key. He gently felt the baby's cheek. The doctor felt his glands to see if they were swollen.</p> <p><i>Figuratively</i> To feel one's way into a new job.</p>	<p>Finger, brush, handle, manipulate, hold, contact, rub, caress, fondle</p> <p>Test, explore, grope</p>
EXPERIENCE	<p>He felt a sharp pain. You can feel the people's anger. I could feel the warm sun on my back. We all felt the force of her arguments. She felt her mother's death deeply.</p> <p>The effects of economic recession are being felt everywhere.</p>	<p>Sense, perceive, know, experience, taste, undergo, suffer, endure, know, enjoy</p> <p>Affect, impact, influence</p>
BELIEVE	<p>I feel (that) I should be doing more to help her. He had always felt himself to be inferior to his brother. I feel she's telling the truth.</p>	<p>Think, believe, hold, reckon</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
TOUCH	<p>The sheets felt smooth. It feels cold. The sun feels warm today.</p>	
EMOTION	<p>She sounded more confident than she felt. I was feeling guilty. How would you feel about moving to a different city? Do you feel strongly about that?</p>	

Phrasal

Synonyms

To feel like	I feel like (going) for a swim. He was so rude I felt like slapping him in the face.
To feel for	I know what's like to be lonely, so I do feel for her
To feel up	That's the second time she has been felt up on the metro.
To feel up to	Do you feel up to the task? (<i>capable of</i>)

fancy, want, desire,
be tempted
sympathize, feel sorry
for, empathize
grope, stroke, touch

Idioms

To feel the cold	<i>to get cold quicker than most people</i>
To feel duty bound	I feel duty bound to tell you that the chances of success are small. (<i>obliged</i>)
To not feel a thing	<i>to not feel any pain</i>
To feel one's age	<i>to realize that you're no longer young</i>
To feel free	"May I use your bathroom?" "Of course, feel free!" (<i>go ahead, certainly</i>)
To feel it in your bones	Something bad has happened – I feel it in my bones. (<i>have an intuition</i>)
To feel the pinch	The rise in the price of petrol means many people are beginning to feel the pinch. (<i>suffer financially</i>)
To feel your way	(<i>lit.</i>) <i>to judge where one is going by touching with one's hands instead of looking</i> (<i>fig.</i>) <i>to act slowly and carefully because one is uncertain how to do something</i>
To feel sorry for oneself	Stop feeling so sorry for yourself! (<i>self pity</i>)

Noun

To have a feel for	He has a feel for computer programming
--------------------	--

knack, talent, skill,
natural, ability,
aptitude, gift, flair

24. TO FIND

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DISCOVER	She found her ID card. Jojo is nowhere to be found. We need to find a solution to this problem.	Locate, track down, trace, spot, unearth, encounter, uncover, expose, reveal, come across, stumble across, detect, observe
OBTAIN	Have you found a job yet? I'll find some time to meet you. I found enough money to buy her a present. We're pretty full, but we'll find a bed for you.	Attain, achieve, win, gain, earn, acquire, secure, get
THINK	I find most people boring. I find your attitude unacceptable. I found this exercise surprisingly useful.	Consider, judge, rate, believe
EXPERIENCE	I find great pleasure in interacting with others. He found comfort in her kind words. <i>Reflexive</i> I found myself all alone.	Feel, achieve End up, perceive, realise
BE	Numerous species are found in South America.	Exist
JUDGE	The jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to life imprisonment. How do you find the accused?	Pronounce a verdict, decree, pass sentence on, rule

Phrasal

To find out

I want to find out what happened. (*learn*)

He found out they were having an affair. (*discover*)

Most cheats get found out in the end. (*detect*)

Synonyms

know, ascertain, establish, understand
discover (as above)
unmask, catch, reveal

Idioms

To find oneself	Many students leave college and realise they have yet to find themselves. (<i>understand one's true nature</i>)	
To find fault with	<i>criticise</i>	quibble, carp, run down, blame, censure
Like trying to find a needle in a haystack	Identifying the precise gene which is responsible for the defect is like trying to find a needle in a haystack. (<i>almost impossible to find</i>)	
To find one's feet	It's taken him a while but I think he's beginning to find his feet (<i>feel comfortable in a new situation</i>)	settle in, get used to, learn the ropes
Seek and ye shall find	<i>If you look hard enough you'll get what you want.</i> Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find. (<i>Biblical quote: Matthew 7:7-8</i>)	
Take me as you find me	<i>Accept me as I am</i>	
The Devil finds work for idle hands	<i>Too much leisure leads to trouble</i> Children need to be occupied all the time if they are not to get into mischief. After all, the devil finds work for idle hands.	

Noun

You're lucky to have her, she is a real find	<i>An amazing person, a pearl</i>
This restaurant is a real find	<i>(unexpected and welcome discovery) a great place</i>

25. TO GIVE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
HAND OVER	<p>He gave her flowers. Give me the book!</p>	<p>Present, award, offer, donate, contribute, provide, supply, administer, grant, entrust, deliver, bequeath</p>
PROVIDE	<p>They gave him 5 years for tax evasion.</p> <p>This card gives you access to all the main buildings.</p> <p>Give us the latest news. Give them our best wishes!</p> <p>We gave everything to the cause. To give one's life I give you my word.</p> <p>I'll give you my opinion, for what it's worth.</p> <p>Music gives me pleasure.</p> <p>You will have to give evidence in court.</p>	<p>Sentence</p> <p>Allow, provide, permit</p> <p>Provide, furnish, deliver Convey</p> <p>Sacrifice, contribute</p> <p>Promise, swear</p> <p>Testify</p>
MAKE	<p>She gave a heavy sigh/groan/shout etc. When I give the sign, start writing. His remarks gave serious offence. To give birth</p>	<p>Emit, let out</p> <p>Cause, give rise to, engender</p>
CAUSE	<p>The cold weather has given me a cold.</p>	

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DONATE	<p>She always gives generously to charity.</p>	
YIELD	<p>The roof gave under the weight of the snow.</p> <p>Both sides will have to give on some issues if there is to be agreement.</p>	<p>Collapse</p> <p>Make concessions</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To give away	I'm giving the bicycle away. (<i>to offer at no cost</i>) Don't give away the ending! (<i>reveal</i>)	donate, make a gift disclose
To give in	To hand in, submit (e.g. a paper). You always give in to him. (<i>yield</i>)	climb down, submit
To give off	Some chemical changes give off energy. This radiator doesn't give off much heat. (<i>emit</i>)	
To give out	The dog gave out a long howl. (<i>usually of noises - emit</i>) The aid worker gave out the food parcels. (<i>distribute</i>) Her patience finally gave out. (<i>ran out</i>)	run out, be exhausted
To give up	The thief gave himself up to the police. (<i>surrendered</i>) I'll never give up. (<i>stop trying</i>)	

Idioms

To give ground	If we're going to get an agreement, both sides will have to give ground. (<i>compromise</i>)	make concessions
'Give or take'	It'll take ten minutes, give or take. (<i>about</i>)	
Give rise to	Their appearances together in public have given rise to much speculation. (<i>cause</i>)	
To give someone a piece of one's mind	<i>To tell off</i>	upbraid, chastise, rebuke
To give someone a hard time	<i>To make life difficult for, criticise a lot</i>	
Give the lie to	The facts give the lie to the government's claims (<i>show to be untrue</i>)	disprove
Give way	The government gave way in the face of public pressure. (<i>yield</i>) Give way at the traffic lights. (<i>yield</i>) The bridge gave way under the weight of all the vehicles. (<i>collapse</i>)	

26. TO HOLD

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GRIP	<p>She was holding a large box. I held the mouse by its tail. The winning captain held the trophy in the air. The lovers held each other close.</p> <p><i>Figuratively</i> To hold someone's attention. This car holds the road well.</p>	<p>Grasp, clutch, clasp, seize</p> <p>Embrace, hug</p>
DETAIN	<p>Police are holding two men in connection with last Thursday's bank raid. He was held prisoner for two years.</p> <p><i>Figuratively</i> To hold one's breath</p>	<p>Confine, retain, imprison, take into custody, lock up</p> <p>Await in a state of suspense</p>
MAINTAIN	<p>Hold your head up Hold this position for a count of 10. The wood is held in position by a clamp. I'll hold the door open for you. We can hold your reservation for three days. All our records are held on computer How long has he held office? It's impossible to hold a conversation with all this noise. Hold your speed at 70. Hold this course until we reach land.</p>	<p>Keep, remain, stay, make</p> <p>Retain, keep</p> <p>Store, record, register Work Limit, restrict Stick to Maintain, keep</p>
SUPPORT	<p>I don't think that branch will hold your weight.</p>	<p>Bear, withstand, take</p>
CONTAIN	<p>This barrel holds 25 litres. The plane holds about 300 passengers.</p>	<p>Have room for, take, accommodate, have a capacity of</p>
CONTROL	<p>The rebels held the radio station. The train station is held by the army. Employees hold 30% of the shares.</p>	<p>Seize, have possession of, take</p> <p>Own, possess</p>

BELIEVE	<p>He holds strange views on education She is held in high regard by her students. Firmly-held beliefs I still hold that the government's economic policies are mistaken. These vases are held to be amongst the finest examples of Greek art.</p>	Consider, esteem, think, reckon
ORGANISE	<p>The meeting will be held in the community centre. To hold elections Whose idea was it to hold a referendum?</p>	Take place, have

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
REMAIN	<p>They were afraid the dam wouldn't hold. How long will the fine weather hold? If their luck holds, they could still win the championship.</p>	Withstand pressure Continue, remain, keep
PHONE	<p>The extension is busy right now, can you hold? <i>(also vt)</i> She asked me to hold the line.</p>	Wait
BE TRUE	<p>The theory still holds. People used to believe it was a sin to live together before you were married but I don't think that holds in many countries anymore.</p>	Apply, works, be valid

Phrasal

Synonyms

Hold **sth against sb**

I admit I made a mistake, but don't hold it against me.

despise, criticise for

think less of, be angry with, bear a grudge

Hold sb/sth back	The police were unable to hold back the crowd. Do you think that mixed-ability classes hold back the better students?	restrain drag down
Hold sth back	It is a crime to hold back information from the police She just managed to hold back her anger.	conceal, hide, cover up, withhold constrain, contain, control
Hold sb down	It took three men to hold him down The people are held down by the regime.	restrain oppress, intimidate
Hold sth down	The rate of inflation must be held down. He was unable to hold down a job after his breakdown.	contain, control keep, retain
Hold forth	he has been holding forth for quite a while.	rant, waffle on, expound, pontificate
Hold sth in	to hold in your feelings/anger	constrain, contain, control
Hold off	The rain held off just long enough for us to have our picnic.	delay, wait
Hold sth/sb off	She held off all the last-minute challengers and won the race in a new record time.	stave off, fend off
Hold sth on	These nuts and bolts hold the wheels on.	fix, maintain, keep
Hold on	Hold on a minute while I get my breath back! They managed to hold on until help arrived. Can you hold on? I'll see if he's here.	wait
Hold on to	Hold on to this rope and don't let go until I say so. You should hold on to your oil shares. She took an early lead in the race and held onto it for nine laps. I'll hold onto your mail for you until you get back.	clutch, grasp not sell maintain, defend keep
Hold out	We can stay here as long as our supplies hold out. The rebels held out in the mountains for several years. Doctors hold out little hope of her recovering. I held out my hand to steady her. The union negotiators are holding out for a more generous pay settlement.	resist have reach out, offer refuse to give in
Hold sth over	The matter was held over until the next meeting. He holds my secret over me.	postpone, delay threat, blackmail
Hold sb to sth	I'm holding you to your promise The league leaders were held to a 0-0 draw.	expect to keep
Hold together	A political party should hold together Their case doesn't hold together when you look at the evidence. The fridge still held together after a two-hour journey on a bumpy road.	make sense remain/be intact
Hold up	She's holding up well under the pressure He helps us holding up the wardrobe My application was held up by the postal strike His ideas were held up to ridicule. At 4 am, two robbers held up the bank.	cope support, uphold delay expose to rob
Hold with	I don't hold with the use of force.	agree, approve

Idioms

Hold good	This rule holds good for 90% of cases. <i>(be true)</i>
Hold your horses!	Hold your horses! Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed! <i>(Not so fast, be patient)</i>
Hold it/on	<i>to wait, or not to move</i>
There is no holding sb	<i>a person cannot be prevented from doing sth</i>
Hold the fort	I have to pop out for half an hour. Will you hold the fort while I am away? <i>(assume responsibility, take charge)</i>

Noun

To take hold (of)	Fear took hold of the crowd when they saw the soldiers move in. We need to stop the disease taking hold. <i>(become established)</i>	seize, grip
To have a hold over	Rasputin seemed to have a strange hold over the Tsarina.	power, control

27. TO KEEP

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
RETAIN	<p>We must decide what to keep and what to give away. Keep the change Where do they keep their valuables?</p> <p>To keep one's composure/temper To keep a secret</p>	<p>Hold, preserve, hang on to, save, store, conserve, possess</p> <p>Accumulate, collect, amass, stack, hoard</p> <p>Maintain</p> <p>Not tell/reveal/divulge</p>
MAINTAIN	<p>He kept his head down, hiding his features Sometimes it's hard to keep a straight face in class. The noise kept him awake.</p>	<p>Maintain</p>
SUPPORT	<p>I've brought you some eggs. We keep chickens. She could just about afford to keep her five kids.</p>	<p>Raise, have, provide for, support, care, feed, tend, look after</p>
DETAIN	<p>Embarrassment has kept me from doing all sorts of things. Nothing will ever keep me from speaking my mind</p> <p>Sorry to keep you, Jack.</p> <p>The police have kept him for questioning. You can't keep me here forever. Are you keeping something from me?</p>	<p>Stop, prevent, impede, obstruct, block, deter</p> <p>Delay</p> <p>Arrest, confine</p> <p>Withhold</p>
OBSERVE	<p>I'm hoping you'll keep your promise to come for a long visit. Orthodox Jews keep the Sabbath. Keep one's word</p>	<p>Comply with, respect, obey, adhere to, fulfil, carry out, honour</p>
WRITE	<p>Eleanor began to keep a diary To keep a record/list etc.</p>	<p>Compile, compose</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CONTINUE	I keep forgetting it's December. Don't give up, keep trying! He kept as quiet as he could. She hasn't been keeping too well.	<i>Repeated action</i> Persist, persevere Fare
STAY FRESH	Bread doesn't keep. Put it in the fridge and it will keep for 2-3 weeks.	Go off, rot, go stale, perish, be preserved

Phrasal

Synonyms

To keep at	Simultaneous interpretation is hard – you just have to keep at it. (<i>practise</i>) It may take a number of attempts, but it is worth keeping at it.	persevere, persist, continue
To keep away	An apple a day keeps the doctor away. (<i>stay healthy</i>) Keep away from me! (<i>maintain distance</i>)	
To keep off	I managed to stick to the diet and keep off sweet foods. (<i>stay away from</i>) If you want to keep your job, you'd better keep off the booze! Keep off the grass!	avoid
To keep to	Keep to the speed limit! (<i>observe</i>) Keep to oneself (<i>avoid others</i>)	stick to, adhere to, obey shun, be solitary
To keep up	Keep up, we're late! (with)(lit) He couldn't keep up with his father. (fig) The teacher goes so fast, I just can't keep up. It's important to keep up with one's work (<i>stay abreast of, up-to-date with</i>) My grandmother is 90 but she still likes to keep up with the news Keep up the good work!	follow, hurry follow continue, carry on, maintain, persist

Idioms

To keep up appearances	Although our family had fallen on hard times my father insisted that we keep up appearances. (<i>maintain standards, decorum</i>)
Keep a grip on	The government needs to keep a grip on inflation. (<i>control</i>)
To keep the peace	In the event of unrest, the army will be deployed to keep the peace. (<i>keep order</i>) (<i>fig.</i>) Don't expect me to keep the peace between you. (<i>stop sb fighting</i>)

To keep one's head	<i>remain calm in a difficult situation (cf opp: to lose one's head → panic)</i>
To keep quiet (about)	Apparently it's your 20 th wedding anniversary today. I must say, you kept that quiet! <i>(not mention)</i>
To keep track of	We need to keep track of expenditure/developments etc. <i>(monitor)</i>
To keep time	<i>music (keep the beat)</i> My watch doesn't keep time. <i>(runs fast or slow)</i>
To keep somebody sweet	Your father holds the purse strings so you'd better keep him sweet. <i>(not aggravate)</i>
To keep sb posted	I'll keep you posted! <i>(let know, inform)</i>

Noun

Support	Ray will earn his keep on local farms while studying.
Tower	This is the first stone-built keep in Britain.

28. TO KILL

ransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
TAKE LIFE	Cancer kills thousands of people every year. Three people were killed in the crash. He tried to kill himself with sleeping pills. I bought a spray to kill the weeds. Who killed President Kennedy?	Cause death Die, lose one's life Commit suicide Clear, remove Murder, assassinate
STOP	To kill a rumour Do you agree that television kills conversation? The defeat last night killed the team's chances of qualifying. Joe pulled in and killed the engine.	Scotch, quash, silence End, destroy, ruin Ruin, spoil, scupper Switch off, cut
CAUSE PAIN	My feet are killing me. Mom will kill me if I'm late. It kills me to see him working so hard. What happened next? The suspense is killing me.	Make suffer, hurt Be angry with, punish, castigate Make sad/annoyed/concerned Unbearable
AMUSE	Stop it! You're killing me! They weren't bothered – in fact they were killing themselves laughing.	Make laugh, amuse, entertain
WANT	I could kill for a smoke right now. In those days, actors would kill to get a part in a film.	Want, desire, covet, crave, hunger for, long for, thirst for, yearn for

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CAUSE DEATH	Tiredness while driving can kill. Smoking kills.	

Phrasal

To kill **off**

Pollution is rapidly killing off plant life. (*destroy*)

He has effectively killed off any political opposition.
(*silenced*)

Synonyms

decimate, wipe out,
exterminate
destroy, crush, suppress

Idioms

To kill the goose that lays the golden egg/eggs

to destroy sth that would make you rich, successful, etc.

To kill or cure

what you are going to do will either be very successful or fail completely (make or break)

To kill time

We killed time playing cards. (pass the time)

To kill two birds with one stone

to achieve two things at the same time with one action

Noun

A clean kill

It was a clean kill. (achieved instantly, with a single shot)

To move in for the kill

(lit.) The wolf pack moved in for the kill. (finish off)

(fig.) His political enemies saw that he was isolated and moved in for the kill.

29. TO LEAD

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GUIDE	<p>He led us out into the grounds. The receptionist led the way to the boardroom. I tried to lead the discussion back to the main issue. What led you to this conclusion?</p>	<p>Conduct, escort, show, steer, usher, take, direct</p>
BE FIRST	<p>To lead one's country To lead an orchestra The President led the procession The department led the world in cancer research. SpaceX leads the way in space technology. The champion is leading (her nearest rival) by 18 seconds.</p>	<p>Govern, run, rule, head, be in charge of, preside over, direct, supervise Conduct Go first, head Champion, pilot, spearhead, excel, ahead</p>
CONVINCE	<p>He's too easily led. That has led the scientists to believe this epidemic is caused by a new virus.</p>	<p>Sway, talk into, influence Make, let, persuade</p>
LIVE	<p>To lead a quiet life To lead a life of luxury To lead a miserable existence</p>	<p>Live, have, exist, experience</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GO	<p>A path led up the hill. Which door leads to the yard? The wires led from the socket to the speaker.</p>	<p>Bring, take, go, stretch</p>
CAUSE	<p>Eating too much sugar can lead to health problems. These policies will lead to disaster.</p>	<p>Result in, produce, contribute to cause, bring about</p>
GUIDE	<p>It is the King's duty to lead. Lead and I shall follow.</p>	<p>Command, direct, guide</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

Lead off from	narrow streets leading off from the square	start from, begin
Lead sb on	If you don't love him, don't lead him on.	encourage, entice, lure, string along
Lead up to	the weeks leading up to the exam the events leading up to the strike	approaching, before, prior to result in, bring about
Lead with	Media around the world are leading with the outbreak of coronavirus. To lead with your right/ left (e.g. boxing: punch)	

Idioms

Lead sb by the nose	<i>to make sb do everything you want; to control sb completely</i>
Lead the field	MIT leads the world in scientific research. <i>(is first)</i>
Lead nowhere	The investigation led nowhere. <i>(fail)</i> This argument is leading us nowhere. <i>(pointless)</i>
Lead sb a merry dance	All the years we were together she led me a merry dance. <i>(cause sb a lot of trouble or worry)</i>
Lead from the front	<i>show by doing</i>
Lead up the garden path (UK) <i>/(US: Lead down...)</i>	I really thought my boss was going to promote me, but it turned out he was just leading me up the garden path. <i>(mislead)</i>

Noun

To be in the lead	Liverpool are in the lead with 33 points. <i>(to be in the foremost position)</i>
To take the lead	Liverpool took the lead in the 33 rd minute. The government needs to take the lead in setting new environmental standards. <i>(initiative)</i>
A lead	The Police are following several leads in the murder case and have appealed to the public to come forward with any information they have which may help them in their investigation. <i>(tip, clue, avenue)</i>

30. TO LIVE

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
EXIST	He was the greatest mathematician who ever lived. He lived to be ninety-three. I've got nothing left to live for.	Be alive, walk the earth
RESIDE	I live in Arkansas. He lives in a semi-detached house He's not very easy to live with.	Reside in, have one's home/residence in, inhabit, dwell in
SPEND ONE'S LIFE	They lived quietly. to live in luxury/poverty They lived happily ever after.	Have a lifestyle
SURVIVE	I barely earn enough to live. To live to tell the tale	Make a living, earn one's living, support oneself, make ends meet
ENJOY ONESELF	You should get out there and live This is what I call living!	Enjoy life, have fun, live life to the fullest

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
EXPERIENCE	She had lived a difficult life.	Lead, have, go through, undergo

Phrasal

Synonyms

To live it down	I'd never live it down if Lily got wind of this. <i>(get over the shame)</i>
To live off	You're not going to live off me for the rest of your life. <i>(depend on as a source of income)</i> Scavenging seabirds live off discarded fish and fish offal. <i>(subsist on)</i> To live off the land. <i>(farm)</i>
To live on	I've been living on fast food these last three months <i>(eat nothing but)</i> They lived on their savings <i>(use as income)</i>
To live out	He lived out his days peacefully in the countryside. <i>(spend the rest of one's life)</i>
To live through	My grandfather lived through both world wars <i>(experience)</i>
To live up to	The food more than lived up to Luke's expectations. <i>(fulfil)</i>

To live **with** You have to learn to live with that fact. (*accept or tolerate something unpleasant*)
 I couldn't live with myself if I thought I'd hurt you. (*forgive*)
 He can't be easy to live with (*be a difficult person*)

Idioms

Synonyms

To live by one's wits	With no inheritance to fall back on, he was forced to live by his wits(<i>earn a living using one's intelligence</i>)	to be streetwise
Man cannot live by bread alone (Matth 4:4)	<i>People need spiritual as well as material comfort</i>	
To live dangerously	Any government that overspends is living dangerously (<i>take risks</i>) Not for me the quiet life, I like to live dangerously	live life in the fast lane
To live from hand to mouth	Ever since I lost my job in the recession, we've been living from hand to mouth	barely make ends meet scrape a living
To live in hope	He never studies and he's lazy, but we live in hope(<i>to remain optimistic despite the evidence</i>)	hope springs eternal
To live in the past	If this country is to be successful, we need to stop living in the past(<i>be backward-looking</i>)	
To live it up	<i>to spend one's time in an extremely enjoyable way</i>	live the life of riley
To live one's own life	<i>to follow one's own plans and principles independently of others</i>	do one's own thing
To live under a rock	You've never heard of The Beatles? What rock have you been living under? (<i>to lack basic knowledge of current events or popular culture</i>)	to be ignorant
Live and let live I can live with that	I don't understand homophobia. Live and let live, I say. (<i>be tolerant</i>) 5 days' pay and a company car for three days' work – I can live with that! (<i>accept</i>)	accept, not judge
To live in an ivory tower	Many researchers live in an ivory tower (<i>to be out of touch with the real world</i>)	
Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones	<i>beware hypocrisy (cf. the pot calling the kettle black)</i>	
To live on borrowed time	This government is living on borrowed time	moribund, days numbered, lame duck

31. TO LOOK

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
USE SIGHT	He looked out of the window. Look at the size of that man!	Observe, view, survey, regard, gaze, stare, examine, inspect, check, scrutinize, contemplate, scan, peep, glance
SEARCH	We looked all over the town, but we couldn't find him.	Seek, scour, comb
APPEAR	It looks harder than it is. She doesn't look her age.	

Phrasal

Synonyms

To look after	<i>Care for</i>	mind, attend to, tend, nurse, protect, babysit
To look down on	The nobles looked down on the peasants. (<i>despise</i>)	scorn, hold in contempt
To look for	I've been looking for you for hours. (<i>seek</i>)	
To look into	<i>To inquire into</i>	investigate, probe, research, explore, delve
To look on	He looks on me as a stranger. (<i>considers</i>)	regard, think, judge, deem
To look out	Look out! (<i>be careful</i>)	beware, on your guard, keep an eye out
To look over	He always looks out for his little brother. (<i>takes care of</i>) I asked her to look over my work (<i>examine</i>)	
To look to	I look to you to find a solution. (<i>to expect</i>)	rely on, count on, expect
To look up	<i>Search for in a dictionary</i> Look me up when you're in town. (<i>come and find</i>) Things are looking up. (<i>improving</i>)	
To look up to	She looks up to her older sister. (<i>admire - only of people</i>)	

Idioms

Synonyms

Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves	<i>If you are careful with small amounts of money you will be able to afford the bigger costs</i>	
Look before you leap	<i>Think before you make a decision</i>	consider carefully, reflect
To look a gift horse in the mouth	<i>To criticise something which is given freely To miss a golden opportunity</i>	to turn one's nose up at
To look on the bright side	Look on the bright side, you might have lost your job but at least you don't have a mortgage(<i>be optimistic</i>) Always look on the bright side of life (<i>Monty Python!</i>)	count one's blessings, be thankful for small mercies
To look sharp	Look sharp! The train leaves in 5 minutes! (<i>hurry</i>)	
To look down one's nose at	The aristocracy look down their noses at the common people. (<i>treat with contempt</i>)	despise, scorn, revile, act superior to
To look forward to	<i>To anticipate (with pleasure)</i>	
To look the other way	<i>To pretend not to see/turn a blind eye</i>	

Noun

If looks could kill... (*a withering look*)
He inherited his father's good looks
I took one look and decided it wasn't for me
Take a look
It doesn't have a great look
That was the 60's look – miniskirts and beehive hairdos!

As a suffix

Good looking, sad looking, happy looking, strange looking etc (for both people and things)

32. TO LOSE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
MISLAY	I've lost the tickets for tonight's show. I followed her on foot but lost her in the crowd. It was thought the manuscript had been lost forever.	Misplace, not find
FAIL	The government lost the argument over the pace of reform. Liverpool haven't lost a game all season	Be defeated/beaten/conquered suffer defeat, be unsuccessful
BE DEPRIVED OF	Hundreds of people lost their homes in the floods. My family lost everything in the war. He was over the limit and will lose his licence. After the stroke, he lost the use of his arm.	No longer have, stop having, have taken away, be robbed of Be dispossessed of, forfeit, have revoked Be deprived of
CONFUSE	Explain it again – you've lost me already.	Baffle, perplex
WASTE	Vital minutes were lost because the ambulance took half an hour to arrive. Come on, there's no time to lose.	Squander

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
FAIL	No one likes to lose. Liverpool haven't lost all season.	

Phrasal

Lose out	The deal will ensure that shareholders do not lose out financially. (<i>suffer</i>)
Lose oneself in	Small children have the ability to lose themselves in imaginary worlds.

Synonyms

be disadvantaged
be absorbed in, be
fascinated by

Idioms

Lose one's appetite	(lit) The dog seems to have lost his appetite (<i>not be hungry</i>) (fig) The government is fast losing its appetite for reform (<i>go off</i>)
Lose one's head	Concentrate now, don't lose your head (<i>lose control, panic, lose one's nerve</i>)
Lose one's way	This government has lost its way, it should be thrown out of office. (<i>go astray</i>)
Lose control	The government had lost control of the economy (<i>mismanage</i>)
Lose ground	We're losing ground in the fight against climate change. (<i>fall behind</i>) Labour are losing ground to the Conservatives.
Lose sight of	We must not lose sight of the fact that millions are still living in poverty. (<i>to forget, ignore</i>)
You win some, you lose some	(<i>expression of resignation, usually after failure</i>) The government's proposal has been voted down – oh well, you win some, you lose some.
To lose track of	I lose track of the times I've explained this to you. (<i>be unable to remember</i>)
To lose the shirt off one's back	<i>lose everything</i>
To lose one's touch	(<i>lose one's knack, talent, flair for</i>)
To lose touch (with)	When we were at school we were always together but later we lost touch. (<i>lose contact</i>)
To be/stay in touch	We're still in touch, though we don't see each other very often.

33. TO MAKE

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CAUSE	To make life difficult To make a noise To make someone happy/sad etc Heat makes gases expand.	Effect, generate, engender, create, occasion, give rise to, bring about, beget
PRODUCE	To make dress/statement/will/ team etc. To make bread out of dough To make war/peace To make laws To make sense Two and two make four. They make such a lovely couple. It makes no difference. You'll make a fine interpreter one day.	Manufacture, assemble, construct, compose, fashion, forge, create Promulgate, issue Constitute Develop into, become
PREPARE	To make the dinner. To make the bed.	
ARRIVE	You made it! (<i>You've come!</i>) We'll never make the train at this rate. We made it with minutes to spare.	Arrive, catch
GET	I make good money in the city. The company isn't making any money. She makes friends easily.	Earn, gain, have income of Be profitable, turn a profit
FORCE	You can't make me do it.	Coerce, oblige, compel, pressure

Phrasal

To make for	Good communication makes for a better relationship (<i>contribute to</i>)
To make off	She made off with all my money. (<i>ran away with</i>)
To make out	I could barely make out the buildings through the fog. (<i>discern</i>) I can't make out what you're saying. (<i>understand</i>) She made me out to be a liar. (<i>represent as</i>)
To make over	We completely made over the house. (<i>redecorate</i>) She made over the property to her son. (<i>transfer</i>)

Synonyms

promote, facilitate,
 further
 flee, fly, run away,
 bolt

 perceive, decipher,
 see, comprehend,
 grasp, imply,
 maintain, infer

To make up	She made up the whole story. (<i>invent</i>)	devise, fabricate, dream up
	The maid will make up your room, now. (<i>prepare</i>)	
To make up for	We'll need to make up for lost time. (<i>compensate for</i>) What he lacks in brains he makes up for in hard work. (<i>compensate for</i>)	

Idioms

To make a face	<i>to grimace (also 'pull a face')</i>	
To make do	We'll just have to make do with what we've got (<i>to manage</i>)	
To make ends meet	More and more people are struggling to make ends meet (<i>cope financially</i>)	keep one's head above water
To make eyes at	She's been making eyes at him all evening (<i>look at amorously</i>)	make cow's eyes at
To make fun of	<i>to mock</i>	
To make history	If we can pull this off, we will make history (<i>do something remarkable</i>)	
To make a killing	He made a killing on the stock market and was able to retire at 40 (<i>make a lot of money, usually in one go</i>)	
<i>To make light of</i>	The Prime Minister is trying to make light of the crisis, but things are getting worse every day (<i>downplay</i>)	,
To make no bones about	I make no bones about my dislike for French food She made no bones about the fact she was having an affair (<i>not seek to hide, dissimulate</i>)	
To make hay while the sun shines	<i>to do something while the going is good</i>	
Practice makes perfect		
To make waves	(<i>positive or negative</i>) The new employee made waves with her policy ideas (<i>cause a stir</i>)	

34. TO MEET

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ENCOUNTER	<p>Did you meet anyone there? The Prime Minister met other European leaders for talks.</p> <p>Nice to meet you. There's someone I want you to meet.</p> <p>Will you meet me at the airport?</p> <p>City met United in the final last year.</p> <p><i>Figuratively</i> A terrible sight met him when he opened the door. <i>(Also passive)</i> He was met with a terrible sight when he opened the door A shriek met my ears. A pungent odour met her nostrils.</p>	<p>See, come across, run into See</p> <p>Make someone's acquaintance</p> <p>Pick up, wait for somebody to arrive, collect</p> <p>Play, contest, come up against</p> <p>Was seen by</p> <p>Was heard by Was smelled by</p>
SATISFY	<p>How can we best meet the needs of our customers?</p> <p>Until these conditions are met we cannot proceed with the sale.</p> <p>I can't meet the deadline.</p>	<p>Satisfy, fulfil, cater for, answer</p> <p>Fulfil, comply with, uphold</p> <p>Finish before, comply with</p>
PAY	<p>The company will meet the cost.</p>	<p>Pay for, cover</p>
TOUCH	<p>His hand met hers. The river meets the sea here.</p>	<p>Touch Join, flow into</p>
RESPOND	<p>Are we fully prepared to meet an emergency? Is it right to meet violence with violence? Their objections were met with indifference.</p>	<p>Address, deal with, resolve, settle, react to, face</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GATHER	The committee meets every Friday. Let's meet for a drink after work.	Come together for discussion See each other, get together
CONTACT	The two cars almost met head-on. The two lines met to form an angle. Parallel lines never meet The two rivers meet there. <i>Figuratively</i> Their eyes met.	Clash, bump, collide Converge, join Come together, join
ENCOUNTER	Have you two met? I believe we've met. The two boxers met in the world title match last year. The two armies met on the battlefield.	Know each other, be acquainted Be introduced Fight, compete, confront each other

Phrasal

To meet **with** The President met with senior White House aides at breakfast.
When we have a target to hit, we inevitably meet with obstacles.
(*encounter*)

Synonyms

see, have a discussion with, experience, face, run into, confront, see, come across

To meet **over** They met over coffee (*while drinking*)

Idioms

To meet somebody's eye If he can't even meet my eye he must be guilty (*look at*)

To meet somebody half way Come on, I've already given you so much.
The least you can do is meet me half way (*compromise*)

To meet your Maker *to die*

There is more to somebody/ something than meets the eye *something or somebody is more complicated than you think*

To make ends meet *to balance one's income and expenditures*

To meet one's match At Waterloo, Napoleon finally met his match in Wellington.
(*encounter someone of equal or superior skill*)

35. TO MOVE

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CHANGE POSITION	<p>I'm so cold, I can hardly move.</p> <p>I felt something move.</p> <p>If you move along a bit, Tess can sit with me.</p> <p>Let's stay here tonight, then move on.</p> <p>In chess, the pieces can only move in certain directions.</p>	Shift, stir, act, walk, advance, proceed, budge, relocate, go, leave
CHANGE TIME	Can we move the meeting from 2 pm to 3:30 pm?	Change, reschedule, reset, rearrange
CHANGE DEGREE	Share prices moved up/down slowly yesterday.	Upgrade, degrade, increase, decrease
CHANGE OPINION	<p>More and more people are moving towards vegetarianism.</p> <p>People are moving away from large gas guzzling cars to small electric ones.</p>	Shun, tend toward
PROGRESS	<p>The film/novel moves very slowly.</p> <p>Things are moving fast now and a decision on the budget should come very soon</p>	Forge, go, proceed, advance, progress
RELOCATE	We're moving to Paris/abroad.	Relocate

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CHANGE POSITION	<p>Please move your car.</p> <p>Trains can move large quantities of goods and people quickly.</p> <p><i>Figuratively</i> Sophie has been moved up/down a grade in the school.</p>	Transport, carry, bring, fetch, transfer
CAUSE	I can't imagine what could have moved him to say such a thing.	Stimulate, impel, prompt, drive, lead, result, induce, bring, make

CHANGE OPINION	<p>He's made up his mind, and nothing you can say will move him on this issue.</p>	Change, shift, alter
FEELING	<p>She said that she was deeply moved by all the letters of sympathy she had received.</p> <p>It was such a sad film that it moved him into tears.</p>	Touch, affect, impress, excite
SUGGEST	<p>A vote was just about to be taken when someone stood up and said they wished to move an amendment.</p> <p>I should like to move that the proposal be accepted.</p>	Suggest, propose, champion

Phrasal

Synonyms

To move in	<p>When a company goes out of business, the administrators move in.</p> <p>When do you move in? Tomorrow? That's great! (<i>take up residence</i>)</p> <p>I hear Paula has moved in with her boyfriend.</p>	<p>intervene, take over</p> <p>cohabit</p>
To move in on	<p>Government troops are moving in on the rebel stronghold.</p>	<p>approach, advance on</p>
To move off/on to	<p>Let's move off this subject now, shall we?</p> <p>Can we move on to the next item on the agenda?</p>	<p>leave, change, progress, advance</p>
To move on	<p>I'd done the same job for years, and it was time to move on.</p>	<p>change, proceed, seek new pastures</p>
To move out	<p>Her landlord has given her one week to move out.</p>	<p>get out, leave</p>
To move over	<p>There's room for another six if you could move over a bit.</p>	<p>budge</p>

	<u>Idioms</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
To move house	We're moving house next week.	
To move heaven and earth	I'll move heaven and earth to help you. (<i>do everything possible</i>)	(slang) bust a gut, lean over backwards
To move it	Come on guys, let's move it or we'll be late for the show! (<i>hurry</i>)	get a move on, look sharp
To move onto higher/better things	<i>to get a better job or improve one's life</i>	
To not move a muscle	<i>to stay completely still</i>	

Noun

It's your move, <i>turn, go</i>	<i>act, decision</i>
That was a smart move	I wonder what the government's next move will be <i>step, action</i>

36. TO OPEN

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
UNFASTEN	<p>He opened the letter and began to read it.</p> <p>Open the door</p> <p>The children were opening their presents.</p> <p>Mark was about to open a beer when the doorbell rang.</p>	<p>Unseal, undo</p> <p>Unlock, unlatch, untie, unblock, unbolt</p> <p>Unwrap</p> <p>Uncork</p>
UNFOLD	<p>I sat down and opened my book.</p> <p>She opened her umbrella.</p>	<p>Unroll, unfurl</p>
BEGIN	<p>Ryan plans to open a casino.</p> <p>The US attorney's office has opened an investigation into the matter.</p> <p>To open a conversation</p>	<p>Start, commence, initiate, launch</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
START BUSINESS	<p>What time do the banks open?</p> <p>The bakery opens early.</p>	
BE RELEASED	<p>The film opened yesterday.</p>	<p>Screen, debut</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

Open **onto**
Open **up**

All three spaces open onto a porch at the back. (*give onto, lead to*)
 The new road will open up 300 acres of prime development land. (*make available*)
 The article was written with the intention of opening up a public debate.
 Algeria opened up its big oil and natural gas industry to foreign investment. (*make accessible to investment*)

start, trigger

Idioms

Leave/keep options open	Either way, you can keep your options open. (<i>refrain from making a decision</i>)
To bring a problem into the open	We'll never improve our society if we don't bring our problems into the open. (<i>start facing up to the reality</i>)
To open fire	(<i>start shooting</i>)
Open one's eyes	Climate change is real – politicians have to open their eyes before it's too late. (<i>face the reality</i>) It's time we opened our eyes to the threat of global warming (<i>become aware</i>)
The heavens opened	(<i>it started to pour down</i>)
To open a Pandora's box	(<i>unleash a host of problems</i>)
To open a can of worms	I worry that by changing the existing system we'll open up a can of worms. (<i>to say or do something that leads to a lot of other unanticipated problems</i>)

37. TO PASS

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
MOVE	<p>To pass a barrier/sentry/ checkpoint</p> <p>She passed me in the street without even saying hello.</p> <p>He passed the rope around the post three times to secure it.</p>	Go past, proceed, travel, progress, continue on
GIVE	<p>Pass the salt, please.</p> <p>Pass me over that book.</p> <p>He passed the ball to Rooney.</p> <p>He passed the documents on to other colleagues</p>	<p>Hand</p> <p>Kick, feed, assist</p> <p>Transfer, circulate</p>
EXCEED	<p>Unemployment has now passed the three million mark.</p>	Surpass, go beyond, top, outstrip
SPEND	<p>We sang songs to pass the time.</p> <p>How did you pass the evening?</p>	Kill (the) time, fill, use up, employ, while away
SUCCEED	<p>She hasn't passed her driving test yet.</p> <p>The examiners passed all the candidates.</p>	Get through, qualify, graduate,
ACCEPT	<p>The bill was passed by 360 votes to 280.</p>	Approve, adopt, enact, ratify
SAY	<p>The court waited in silence for the judge to pass sentence.</p> <p>It's not for me to pass judgement on your behaviour.</p> <p>The man smiled at the girl and passed a friendly remark.</p> <p>I pass no comment</p>	<p>Declare, pronounce</p> <p>Give, deliver</p> <p>Make, utter</p>
URINATE	<p>If you're passing blood you ought to see a doctor.</p> <p>To pass water (<i>euphemism</i>)</p>	

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
MOVE	<p>The road was so narrow that cars were unable to pass.</p> <p>A plane passed low overhead.</p>	<p>Get past</p> <p>Fly</p>
TRANSFER	<p>On his death, the title passed to his eldest son.</p>	<p>Bequeath, inherit</p>
CHANGE	<p>Autumn passed into winter.</p>	
ELAPSE	<p>Six months passed and we still had no news of them.</p> <p>We grew more anxious with every passing day.</p>	<p>Elapse, go by, fly/drag</p>
END	<p>They waited for the storm to pass.</p>	<p>Abate, subside, blow over, move on</p>
SUCCEED	<p>I'm not really expecting to pass first time.</p>	
BE ALLOWED	<p>I don't like it, but I'll let it pass (<i>will not object</i>).</p> <p>Her remarks passed without comment (<i>people ignored them</i>).</p>	<p>Let it go</p>
HAPPENED	<p>They'll never be friends again after all that has passed between them.</p> <p>His departure passed unnoticed.</p>	<p>Happen, occur, take place</p> <p>Go unnoticed</p>
NOT KNOW	<p>"What's the capital of Peru?" "I'll have to pass on that one."</p>	
SKIP	<p>Thanks. I'm going to pass on dessert, if you don't mind.</p>	<p>Skip, miss out</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To pass away	His mother passed away last year. (<i>die</i>) Civilizations that have passed away. (<i>disappear</i>)	
To pass for	He speaks the language so well he could easily pass for a German. (<i>people may think he is a German</i>)	pretend, pose as
To pass off as	He escaped by passing himself off as a guard. (<i>pretend</i>)	
To pass out	I nearly passed out when I saw all the blood. (<i>faint</i>)	faint, swoon
To pass over	He was passed over for the top job (<i>not selected</i>)	not pick
To pass up	pass up a chance/opportunity/offer (<i>squander</i>)	waste, miss, throw away

Idioms

Come to pass	(<i>archaic: to happen</i>)
Pass the hat around	<i>to collect money from a number of people, for example to buy a present for sb</i>
Pass muster (as sth)	I wasn't sure that our clothing would pass muster at the club door. (<i>be accepted as of a good enough standard</i>)
Pass the buck	You can't pass the buck this time, it stops with you (<i>blame somebody else</i>).
Pass the time of day	<i>to talk to someone for a short time in order to be friendly (with)</i>

Noun

Come to such a pass	(<i>old-fashioned or humorous</i>) <i>to reach a sad or difficult state</i>
Make a pass at sb	(<i>informal</i>) <i>to try to start a sexual relationship with sb</i>

38. TO PLAY

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SPORT	<p>We're going to the stadium to see New York play Chicago. He loves playing football.</p> <p>What team does she play for?</p>	<p>Face off, versus, play against, take on</p> <p>Represent</p>
ACT	<p>She played the part of a beautiful and brilliant scientist.</p> <p>I played Ophelia in <i>Hamlet</i>. Why do I always have to play peacemaker between you two?</p>	<p>Perform, portray, interpret</p> <p>Act as</p>
MUSIC	<p>He learned to play the clarinet at the age of ten.</p> <p>On Radio London they play African and South American music as well as rock and pop. Play the last few minutes of the video again.</p>	<p>Broadcast, put on, show</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
AMUSE ONESELF	<p>The children spent the afternoon playing.</p> <p>I'm only playing.</p>	<p>Have fun, enjoy oneself</p> <p>Not serious, joking</p>
BE RECEIVED	<p>The Prime Minister's arrogance did not play well with the voters. These policies play badly with investors.</p>	<p>Go down, be appreciated, come across well/badly</p>
BE SEEN	<p>The light played on the water. A smile played on her lips.</p>	<p>Dance, move, reflect, twinkle, flash, gleam</p>

Phrasal

To play along	She claims she was fired because she refused to play along with the cover up. (<i>pretend to cooperate</i>)	be complicit
To play at	What does the government think it's playing at? (<i>what on earth is it doing?</i>)	feign, assume, fake, dabble
To play back	I thought I'd done a good job but when I played back the recording I was horrified. (<i>rewind and replay</i>)	
To play down	The doctor tried to play down the seriousness of my father's illness.	downplay, minimise
To play off	To play one person off against another (<i>manipulate</i>)	pit against, drive a wedge between
To play on	I hate marketing strategies that play on people's fears and prejudices. (<i>exploit</i>)	take advantage of
To play out	We have yet to see how exactly Brexit will play out. (turn out)	appeal to pan out, turn out, develop
To play up	Is your ulcer playing up again? (<i>cause trouble</i>) The boys have been playing up at school again. (<i>behave badly</i>) The TV is playing up again, I'm afraid. (<i>malfunction</i>)	act up, misbehave, get into trouble, break down, be on the blink

Idioms

To play dirty	<i>cheat, behave dishonestly</i>	
To play safe	<i>to decide not to take risks</i>	
To play the system	If you know how to play the system, there are various legal loopholes to be exploited. (<i>to use a set of rules or laws in order to get an advantage for yourself, in a way that may not be fair</i>)	cheat the system, rig the system
To play it by ear	"I can't tell you what to expect." "Don't worry, I'll play it by ear." (<i>to decide what to do as the moment arises, rather than planning in advance</i>)	wait and see
Two can play at that game	The US wants to impose tariffs on agricultural imports, does it? Well, two can play at that game!	
To be at play	Many issues are at play here, including the impact on the environment. (<i>have an influence</i>)	
Fair play	<i>in sport, the fact of playing according to the rules and not having an unfair advantage, fair and honest treatment of people</i>	
To play fast and loose	Like many movie-makers, he plays fast and loose with the facts to tell his own version of the story. (<i>treat with scant regard</i>)	
To play second fiddle	Why does he always get to choose and I have to play second fiddle? (<i>be subordinate to</i>)	
To play devil's advocate	Some people might say –and I'm playing devil's advocate here – that slavery was a necessary evil in the 18 th century (<i>challenge somebody's arguments by being deliberately provocative, while not actually subscribing to the views expressed</i>)	
To play one's cards right	If you play your cards right, you could get promoted this year. (<i>say and do the right thing</i>)	
To play truant	<i>to skip class</i>	

39. TO PULL

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DRAG	I helped pull him out of the water. The horse pulls the cart.	Draw, haul, trail, tow, tug, jerk, yank, prise, wrench
EXTRACT	The farmer was in the yard pulling weeds when we drove up.	Pick, remove, take out, weed, pluck, uproot, draw out
ATTRACT	The organizers have to employ performers to pull a crowd.	Attract, draw, bring in, tempt, lure, interest, entice, pull in
STRAIN	Dave pulled a back muscle and could hardly move.	Strain, tear, stretch, rip, wrench, dislocate, sprain

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DRAG	If we all pull together, we can do it. Pull harder!	

Phrasal

Synonyms

Pull ahead	Schumacher pulled ahead of Montoya. (<i>get in front of</i>)	
Pull apart	Pull the meat apart with two forks. (<i>separate</i>) The fight ended only when the referee pulled the two players apart. His drinking pulled the family apart. The selection committee pulled each proposal apart. (<i>carefully examine or criticize</i>)	scrutinise, analyse
Pull at/on something	Mary was pulling nervously at her hair. He pulled hard on the cigarette. (<i>inhale</i>)	tug at, clutch at
Pull away	He waved as he pulled away. (<i>move away</i>) Nkoku is pulling away from the other runners. (<i>move ahead of</i>)	
Pull back	In the end, he pulled back from financing the film. (<i>decide against</i>) Many banks are pulling back from international markets. (<i>retreat</i>) Our play improved and we pulled back two goals. (<i>retrieve</i>)	
Pull down	My old school was pulled down. (<i>demolish</i>) Her problems have really pulled her down. (<i>make suffer</i>)	
Pull for sb/sth	The crowd were pulling for me to do well. (<i>encourage</i>)	root for

Pull in	She pulled in to let the ambulance pass. (<i>move to one side</i>) A publicity stunt pulls in the crowds. (<i>attract</i>)	
Pull off	The goalkeeper pulled off six terrific saves. (<i>succeed in doing something difficult</i>) We pulled off the road to get some food. (<i>drive a car off a road in order to stop</i>)	
Pull out	Don't pull out! There's something coming. (<i>drive onto a road</i>) They are trying to pull out of the agreement. (<i>withdraw</i>) Jim saw that the firm was going to be ruined, so he pulled out. (<i>get out of a bad situation</i>)	renege on
Pull over	The policeman signalled to him to pull over. (<i>drive to the side of the road</i>)	
Pull (sb) through	His injuries are severe but he's expected to pull through. (<i>survive</i>) He relied on his experience to pull him through. (<i>overcome</i>)	
Pull up	He pulled up in front of the gates. (<i>stop</i>)	
Pull together	If we all pull together, we'll finish on time. (<i>cooperate, work together</i>) With an effort Mary pulled herself together. (<i>calm down</i>) We need an experienced manager to pull the department together. (<i>organize sth more effectively</i>)	regain composure

Idioms

Pull a face	Opening the door, she pulled a face at the musty smell. (<i>make a face</i>)
Pull a fast one on someone	Someone had pulled a fast one on her. (<i>trick</i>)
Pull/get your finger out	You could easily finish your essay if you just sit down and pull your finger out! (<i>work harder</i>)
Pull someone's leg	Of course I won't tell them; I was only pulling your leg. (<i>tease, joke</i>)
Pull strings	Tony is sure he can pull a few strings and get you in. (<i>use one's influence, to get something done, often unfairly</i>).
Pull the rug (out) from under somebody/sb's feet	<i>Unexpectedly and suddenly remove support</i>
Pull your socks up	If they want promotion, United have got to pull their socks up. (<i>work harder</i>)
Like pulling teeth	Getting him to do his homework is like pulling teeth. (<i>very hard</i>)

40. TO READ

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
READ	I'm trying to read the map. Have you read any novels by him?	Look at, pore over, study, peruse, scan, examine, scrutinize, skim, glance
UNDERSTAND	Silence must not always be read as consent. I didn't read her actions that way. To read sb's mind/thoughts I read you (loud and clear).	Interpret, comprehend, Decipher, decode
RECITE	She read us a story. He read the poem aloud.	Deliver, speak, utter, tell, narrate
MEASURE	What does the thermometer read? A man came to read the gas meter. To read somebody's temperature	Show, display, demonstrate
STUDY	What will you read at college? She's reading medicine/law etc.	
COMPUTING	My computer can't read the disk you sent.	Process

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
LITERACY	All children must learn to read and write.	
DISCOVER	I read that he had resigned. I read about the accident in the local paper. She is still learning to read.	Learn via the press, notice, hear, find out about

Phrasal

Synonyms

To read out	The teacher read out the names of those who were selected to participate in the event. (<i>recite</i>)	
To read up	The speech will be on TB, so read up on infectious diseases. (<i>find out about</i>)	research, learn about, study, brush up on
To read over	Would you mind reading over my report to see if I made any mistakes? (<i>check</i>)	proofread, examine
To read into	Don't read too much into what she says. (<i>deduce</i>)	infer, over-interpret

Idioms

Read between the lines	If you read between the lines, it is pretty clear that the government intends to cut back on spending. (<i>look for sth that is not openly stated</i>)
Read sb like a book	I can read you like a book. (<i>often negative: see through</i>)
Take sth as read	Can we take it as read that you want the job? (<i>to take as understood</i>)
Read someone the riot act	My boss read me the riot act for leaving before the meeting was over. (<i>severely reprove</i>)
Read someone's lips	(<i>lit.</i>) to understand someone without hearing them (<i>fig. emphatic</i>). Read my lips – no more taxes! (<i>listen carefully</i>)

41. TO SELL

Transitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">TRADE</div>	<p>I sold the house for a tidy sum.</p> <p>It sells everything from hair ribbons to oriental rugs.</p> <p>She is hoping to sell the idea to her clients.</p> <p>Scandal sells newspapers.</p>	<p>Exchange, barter, auction, dispose of, vend, retail, (neg: hawk, peddle, tout)</p> <p>Stock, handle, deal in, traffic in</p> <p>Promote, market, advertise, export</p>

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">TRADE</div>	<p>The album didn't sell.</p> <p>The idea just wouldn't sell.</p> <p>Van Gogh's <i>Sunflowers</i> sold for \$40m.</p>	<p>Be commercially successful</p> <p>Be popular, go down well</p> <p>Obtain a price</p>

Phrasal

		<u>Synonyms</u>
To sell off	The company is selling off its assets. (<i>dispose of</i>)	divest, get rid of, strip
To sell out	Football games often sell out well in advance. We've sold out of face masks. You rascal – you sold me out! (<i>betray</i>) The band used to be original but now they've sold out.	out of stock cross, backstab, inform on betray one's principles, turn commercial

Idioms

To sell oneself short	Don't sell yourself short – you'd be an asset to any company. (<i>do down</i>)
To sell one's soul (to the devil)	Had to sell his soul to the devil to get that promotion. (<i>compromise one's principles for the sake of financial or other gain</i>)
To sell oneself	In interviews you have to sell yourself. (<i>talk oneself up</i>)
To sell like hot cakes	These new electric cars are selling like hot cakes. (<i>sell very fast</i>)
To sell sb down the river	<i>To betray for money or power</i>

42. TO SEND

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DISPATCH	He sent her a nice little note. Send your document as an attachment. The BBC sent me to Washington to cover the trial. To send goods by train/plane/ship etc.	Mail, post, forward, deliver Transmit Transport
MAKE	While driving in London I was sent crazy by roadworks. The heat is sending me to sleep.	Drive, render
CAUSE TO MOVE	The blow sent him staggering/reeling/flying. A sudden cold snap sent the temperature down. Favourable economic news sent shares up.	Knock, fling, hurl Propel, drive, push

Phrasal

Synonyms

To send for	We sent for a doctor. (<i>call for</i>)	summon, contact, call for
To send in	Troops have been sent in to quell the riots. (<i>order to a place</i>) To send in a job application. (<i>submit</i>)	dispatch put forward, present
To send off	In football, a red card means you'll get sent off. (<i>eject from game</i>)	
To send out	Radar signals were sent out in powerful pulses. (<i>produce</i>) The teacher sent the pupil out for misbehaviour. (<i>order to leave the class</i>)	emit, give out
To send up	As a satirist, it's my job to send up politicians. (<i>mock</i>)	make fun of, imitate, tease

Idioms

To send someone packing	I asked for a raise but my boss sent me packing.	
To send someone off with a flea in their ear	(<i>dismiss/reject in a peremptory way</i>)	
To send word	<i>to send a message</i>	
To send someone to Coventry	<i>to ignore somebody, not to speak to</i>	ostracise
To send shivers down one's spine	The President's speech sent shivers down my spine. (<i>terrify</i>)	make one's hair stand on end, fill with foreboding

43. TO SHOW

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DISPLAY	You must show your ticket at the turnstile. Her works are shown at a gallery. The king often shows mercy to poor people. He showed his victims no compassion The soldier showed no signs of life. This soldier showed great courage.	Produce, bring out, take out, present Exhibit, display Manifest, demonstrate
REVEAL	A dark suit doesn't show the dirt so much.	
INDICATE	The clock shows half past two. I can show you where it is on the map.	Read Point out, indicate
LEAD	Would you show the lady out? Show somebody to the door To show somebody the way Tomorrow I'll show you around the city. Show me where the body is.	Conduct, accompany
DEPICT	This snapshot shows Mary and her parents. This visiting card shows him to be a partner in a firm of solicitors. The film shows the darker side of life in the fast lane.	Portray, picture Reveal, indicate
DEMONSTRATE	This shows that my hypothesis is right. I'll show you how to fix the TV. It shows how easily these things can happen.	Prove, be evidence for, suggest Teach, instruct, clarify Illustrate

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
BE VISIBLE	Does the scar still show? Street lamps began to show in the greyness. I'm so nervous – does it show?	Be visible/noticeable, can be seen Appear, become visible
APPEAR	He waited three hours for her but she didn't show.	Show up, come, turn up

Phrasal

Synonyms

To show off	Talent is one thing, showing off is another. This dress shows off her figure well.	seek to impress, make others jealous, flaunt flatter, set off, highlight
To show up	He finally showed up. (<i>appear</i>) The dust on the shelf shows up in the sunlight. (<i>become visible</i>) He showed me up by falling asleep at the concert. (<i>embarrass by one's behaviour</i>) His diary shows him up as a greedy and arrogant man. (<i>reveal</i>)	arrive, appear, come throw into relief, become noticeable shame, humiliate, mortify reveal, prove, demonstrate, disclose, betray, expose

Idioms

To go to show	It just goes to show, you never can tell. (<i>prove</i>)	demonstrate
To show somebody the door	<i>to ask somebody to leave, to drive away</i>	
To show one's face	I never thought he'd have the nerve to show his face around here. (<i>come</i>)	
To show one's hand/cards	<i>to reveal one's intentions or plans</i>	
To show somebody the ropes	<i>to introduce a newcomer to the way things are done</i>	
To show one's teeth	<i>to intimidate, punish</i>	
To show somebody the way	<i>to guide, give directions to somebody, to lead by example</i>	
To show willing	If you show willing, you're more likely to get promoted. (<i>be eager</i>)	
To have nothing to show for something	Five years at college and I've nothing to show for it! (<i>achieve nothing</i>)	

Noun

Let's get this show on the road	<i>get started</i>
It's all for show	They talk the talk on the environment but actually it's all for show. (<i>done insincerely for appearance's sake</i>)
Show of strength	They sent two aircraft carriers to the area as a show of strength. (<i>assertion of one's position to impress or intimidate</i>)
Show-off	You're such a show-off! (<i>someone who likes to impress with their skill</i>)

44. TO STAY

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
REMAIN	He never stays angry for long. I can't stay awake any longer. Inflation stayed below 4% last month. I don't know why they stay together	Last, continue, persist, keep, endure, linger
SPEND THE NIGHT	I stayed three nights at my cousin's house. Stay at a hotel My sister's coming to stay next week. He's staying with friends this weekend.	Settle, stop, board, lodge, put up, rest be accommodated at, take a room at reside, dwell, sojourn

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SUSPEND	To stay somebody's hand To stay a prisoner's execution To stay court proceedings	Restrain, check, hold back Halt, postpone, put off, delay Stop pending further investigation

Phrasal

Synonyms

To stay in	I feel like staying in tonight. <i>(not go out)</i>	
To stay out	The army has tried to stay out of politics. <i>(not get involved in)</i> That was the first time Elliot had stayed out all night. <i>(not come home)</i>	avoid, shun, eschew, steer clear of
To stay up	You've got school tomorrow. I don't want you staying up late. <i>(remain awake)</i>	not go to bed, burn the midnight oil
To stay away (from)	I want you to stay away from my daughter. <i>(maintain a distance from)</i>	keep away from

Idioms

Be here to stay	It looks like televised trials are here to stay. <i>(become a permanent feature)</i>	
Stay the course	Very few of the trainees have stayed the course. <i>(hold out to the end)</i>	
Staying power	She's got real staying power – she never gives up. (stamina)	endurance, nerve, resilience
A stay of execution	Ok we've got a stay of execution, let's use the time to show this project is worth the investment.	
Stay-at-home mum/dad	Stay-at-home mums might not have a job, but they work just as hard as those who do. <i>(housewife)</i>	

45. TO TAKE

Transitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
GET POSSESSION	To take somebody's hand The enemy took the town I'll take that Take a seat	Grasp, grab, catch, get/take hold of Conquer, storm, capture Remove, seize Sit down
REMOVE	If you take 2 from 20 you get 18 Take him away	Subtract, deduct Convey, carry, escort, accompany, lead
CARRY	Don't forget to take a coat! I'll take you to the airport. This road will take you to the city centre.	Have...with one Lead, bring
REQUIRE	It takes patience to succeed. It'll take a lot of money. It takes two hours to get there.	Require, demand
TRAVEL BY	I'll take a taxi. I took the train home.	Go by
DO	Take a look Take a stroll Take a decision Take English classes Take a degree in law Please take a picture of us.	
RECEIVE	To take bribes He didn't take his punishment well. You always take the credit for my work... I can't take this anymore! The film takes its title from the book.	Accept Tolerate, bear, endure, stand, suffer

Phrasal

Synonyms

Take after	John takes after his grandfather. (<i>resembles</i>)	
Take apart	He took the toy apart. (<i>dismantled</i>)	separate, dismantle, disassemble
To be taken aback	I was taken aback by the answer I got. (<i>negatively surprised</i>)	
Take back	You take that back right now, or else! (<i>retract something written or stated</i>)	withdraw
Take down	We took the Christmas tree down on the 6 th of January. (<i>remove</i>) They took down all the pictures of the former president. (<i>remove</i>)	
Take for	Do you take me for a fool? (<i>think</i>) Don't let yourself be taken for a ride. (<i>trick</i>)	consider dupe, fool, scam
Take in	To take in a dress/skirt/pair of trousers. (<i>reduce the waist size</i>) We took in the main sights/maybe we could take in a movie. (<i>see, cover</i>) She took me in completely. (<i>deceive</i>)	visit trick, fool, dupe, mislead, hoodwink
Take off	Remove (e.g. coat) She took off 20%. (<i>deduct</i>) I took four weeks off in the summer. (<i>holiday</i>) The business really took off. (<i>succeed</i>)	discard, shed do well, prosper, flourish
Take on	To take on extra work/responsibilities (<i>undertake, accept</i>) To take on workers (<i>hire, recruit</i>)	assume
Take out	To remove To take out a loan/mortgage (<i>organise</i>) To take one's frustration out on somebody (<i>make someone suffer is not responsible</i>) Don't take it out on me!	arrange, set up vent
Take over	I'll be taking over while the manager is away. (<i>assume responsibility</i>) Company A was taken over by Company B. (<i>buy</i>)	be in charge
Take to	I didn't take to him. (<i>like</i>)	warm to
Take up	The crops take up nutrients from the soil. (<i>absorb</i>) Let's take up where we left off. (<i>resume</i>) He only took up the cello in his thirties. (<i>start to learn</i>) Work takes up too much of my time. (<i>use, absorb</i>)	

Idioms

Take a break	You've been at it for hours – take a break! (<i>rest</i>)	
Take charge	The deputy manager took charge while the boss was away. (<i>assume control, take over</i>)	
Take effect	The curfew takes effect at midnight. (<i>starts to apply</i>) The antibiotics finally began to take effect. (<i>work</i>)	kick in
Take exception to	I take exception to being treated differently just because I'm a girl. (<i>object to</i>)	
Take no for an answer	Here is some money for your new house – and I won't take no for an answer. (<i>insist</i>)	
Take for granted	We can take it for granted that Donald Trump will not agree. (<i>it's obvious that</i>) I'm not taking anything for granted. (<i>make no assumptions</i>)	
Take heart	We took heart from the announcement that a vaccine had been found. (<i>feel encouraged</i>)	
Take hold	Fear took hold of the crowd as the soldiers started to line up. (<i>seized</i>)	
Take it	I can't take it anymore! (<i>stand</i>) I take it you're not coming tonight. (<i>assume</i>) I can take it or leave it. (<i>I don't care much either way</i>)	
Take lying down	China won't take the US's actions lying down. (<i>without reacting</i>)	
Take one's breath away	Her singing took my breath away. (<i>amaze</i>)	astound, impress, flabbergast
Take one's time	The report is not urgent so take your time over it. (<i>not hurry</i>)	
Take root	Racism has taken root in our society. (<i>become established</i>) It can take time for democracy to take root.	permeate be entrenched
Take shape	The plans are beginning to take shape. (<i>make progress</i>)	
Take sides	A judge must never take sides. (<i>show bias</i>)	be impartial
Take stock	We need to take stock of the situation before we act. (<i>assess</i>)	weigh up
Take the floor	The minister took the floor on every single item on the agenda. (<i>speak</i>)	

46. TO TALK

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SPEAK	Talk to him about it. They were talking when the teacher came in. Stop talking! The article talks about the forthcoming elections.	Speak, say, chat, chatter, babble, converse Deal with, look at, address, cover
NEGOTIATE	The two sides refuse to talk. The parties to the conference talked late into the night.	Discuss, bargain
GOSSIP	If you go out with him people will talk. Be careful – you know how people like to talk!	Spread rumours
CONFESS	If you interrogate him for long enough he'll talk. You can't use torture to get a suspect to talk.	Confess, admit, reveal, spill the beans

Transitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
Emphasis	We're talking serious money here. Now you're talking!	Used to emphasise amount or seriousness

Phrasal

Synonyms

To talk back	How dare you talk back to me?!	answer back, be impudent, cheeky, impertinent
To talk down	He wanted 2 million but we managed to talk him down. <i>(get to agree to a lower price)</i>	bargain
To talk down to	I hate the way my boss talks down to me. <i>(treat as inferior)</i>	condescend, disrespect
To talk into	I talked him into coming. <i>(persuade)</i>	convince, win over, induce
To talk out of	It took him 3 hours to talk her out of it. <i>(dissuade)</i>	
To talk over	Let's talk it over.	discuss

Idioms

To talk big	He has no talent, he just talks big. (<i>brag, boast</i>)
To talk business	Let's talk business. (<i>get to the heart of a matter</i>)
Like talking to a brick wall	He simply won't listen. It's like talking to a brick wall! (<i>useless</i>)
To talk sense	I don't normally trust politicians, but this one talks sense. (<i>to be sensible, reasonable</i>)
To talk sense into someone	She's just lost her job and now she says she wants to buy a new car! See if you can talk some sense into her. (<i>make see reason</i>)
To talk shop	I hate going to dinner with your colleagues – you just talk shop the whole evening. (<i>talk about work-related matters</i>)
To talk the hind leg off a donkey	I never met anyone so talkative - he could talk the hind leg off a donkey! (talk a great deal)
To talk the talk	Politicians talk the talk but rarely walk the walk! (<i>sound convincing</i>)

Noun

Talk's cheap	<i>What one does counts for much more than what one says</i>
To give a talk	<i>to give a lecture</i>
To be the talk of the town	Have you seen the latest James Bond film? It's the talk of the town. (<i>on everybody's lips, a common topic of conversation</i>)

47. TO TELL

Transitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonym
INFORM	<p>He told me the meeting was cancelled.</p> <p>The light tells you when the machine is ready.</p> <p>Tell the audience we are going to start.</p>	<p>Notify, let know, report, communicate, speak, utter</p> <p>Show, reveal</p> <p>Declare, announce</p>
NARRATE	<p>Tell a story.</p> <p>Tell us what happened</p>	<p>Recount, portray, relate</p> <p>Describe, sketch, portray</p>
ORDER	<p>I told you not to touch everything!</p> <p>The teacher told the children to sit down quickly.</p>	<p>Command, require, dictate</p> <p>Instruct, direct, authorise</p>
DISCERN	<p>I could tell from his tone of voice that he was disappointed.</p> <p>I could tell that things were not going well.</p> <p>I can't tell the twins apart.</p>	<p>Distinguish, recognise, identify, discover, perceive</p> <p>Differentiate</p>
WARN	<p>My mother told me not to trust Robert.</p> <p>I told you it was a waste of time talking to him.</p>	<p>Advise against</p>

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
AFFECT	<p>These late nights are really beginning to tell on him.</p> <p>The strain is beginning to tell.</p>	<p>Have an effect on, take their toll on, exhaust</p> <p>Make itself felt, become noticeable</p>
INFORM ON	<p>If you hit me, I'll tell (on you).</p>	<p>Report, denounce, snitch, blow the whistle on</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

Tell **off** I'm always being told off for talking in class. (*scold*)
reprimand, rebuke,
reprove

Idioms

Tell the time Can you tell the time? (*understand how to read a clock*)

Tell someone the time Excuse me, could you tell me the time, please?

(Only) time will tell Whether Brexit is a good or bad idea, only time will tell. (*reveal*)

All told All told, there were about twenty of us. (*altogether, in total*)

Phrasal

Synonyms

Turn against	He turned against me after our quarrel.	dislike, become hostile to, disapprove of
Turn away	Japanese companies have been turning away from production. Turning refugees away is inhumane.	move away, depart reject, refuse to accept
Turn back	She turned back toward home. He was turned back by the border guards. (<i>be forced back</i>)	go back, return, retreat, retrace steps drive back, repel, deny entry to
Turn down	Please turn down the radio. (<i>reduce the volume</i>) My application for a raise was turned down. (<i>reject</i>)	
Turn in	I'm going to turn in early tonight. (<i>go to bed</i>) He turned himself in to the authorities. (<i>surrender</i>)	
Turn into	The wicked witch turned the prince into a frog. (<i>transform</i>) He's turned them into a really good team. (<i>transform</i>) This is turning into a nightmare. (<i>become</i>)	change into make/forgo into
Turn off	The truck turned off the main road. (<i>branch off</i>) Turn off the light when you leave the room. What turns teenagers off science? (<i>fail to interest</i>)	leave, depart from, deviate switch off, shut off, unplug put off, bore, deter, discourage, sicken
Turn on	Turn on the television. Demonstrators turned on the police. (<i>attack</i>) Everything turned on how much money was available.	switch on, start (up), plug (in) round on depend on, hinge on, rest on
Turn out	Things turned out (to be) fine. 70% of the population turned out for the election. Turn the lights out. The factory turned out 400 units a day.	happen, come about, end up attend, turn up, appear, be present turn off, switch off, unplug produce, make, manufacture
Turn over	The buggy turned over. (<i>overturn</i>) She sat quietly, turning things over in her mind. (<i>think</i>)	upend, capsize, keel over mull over, ponder
Turn to	He had turned to a life of crime. When there are protests the government always turns to the police to restore order. (<i>rely on</i>)	resort to have recourse to
Turn up	He turned up late. I've lost my keys but I'm sure they'll turn up sooner or later. Turn up the radio! (<i>make louder</i>) The police haven't turned up any new evidence. (<i>find</i>)	show up, appear intensify, raise, increase volume discover, uncover

Idioms

Even a worm will turn	<i>Even the meekest and mildest will react if pushed too far</i>
The tables have turned	The US used to think it could order China around but now the tables have turned. <i>(the relative positions of strength have changed)</i>
A bad penny always turns up	<i>Unwelcome events/persons always come back/happen again</i>
To turn a corner	The economy has turned a corner. <i>(start to improve, be over the worst)</i>
To turn a blind eye to	The government has turned a blind eye to corruption for too long. <i>(pretend not to see)</i>
To turn a deaf ear to	He turns a deaf ear to any criticism. <i>(ignore, refuse to listen to)</i>
To turn over a new leaf	He has been in and out of prison for years but now he has turned over a new leaf. <i>(reform and make a fresh start)</i> This year I'm turning over a new leaf – no more partying, drinking or womanising.

Noun

It is your turn.	<i>Go, time, opportunity</i>
An unexpected turn of events	<i>Something unforeseen</i>
One good turn deserves another	<i>Kindness is repaid by kindness</i>
To take a turn for the worse	Recently my health has taken a turn for the worse. <i>(deteriorate)</i> The economy has definitely taken a turn for the worse.
A turn-up for the books	Six months ago her career was on the rocks, now she's just been appointed finance minister. Now that's a turn-up for the books! <i>(a remarkable and unexpected piece of news)</i>

49. TO WAIT

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
WAIT	Hurry up! We're waiting to go. Wait for me! NB Transitive use To wait one's turn	Linger, delay, hesitate, stand by, tarry, bide one's time
EXPECT	Leeds United had waited for success for eighteen years. He's waiting for me to make a mistake.	Expect, looking forward, be eager for, see
READY	There's a letter waiting for you at home. The hotel had a taxi waiting to collect us. She always had dinner waiting for use when we got home.	Handy, at hand, ready, prepared, await On standby, organised
POSTPONE	I've got some calls to make but they can wait until tomorrow. You'll just have to wait your turn. This matter simply can't wait.	Be postponed/delay/suspended

Phrasal

Synonyms

Wait about/around We've been waiting around for almost an hour.

hang around, linger kick one's heels, kill time

Wait behind He waited behind to have a chat with her. *(stay)*

Wait in I waited in all day but the delivery man never came. *(stay in the house)*

Wait on sb Anna has been waiting on Lady Mary for nearly 10 years. *(serve)*

Wait sth out We sheltered in a doorway to wait out the storm.

Wait up Wait up, I can barely catch up with you. *(slow down)*
 I'll be back late tonight, please don't wait up (for me). *(stay awake)*

Idioms

An accident/disaster waiting to happen	Don't leave that ladder there – it's an accident waiting to happen. (<i>bound to hurt sb</i>)	asking for trouble
Can't wait!	I can't wait to see you again! (<i>long to</i>)	to be dying, desperate, keen, eager, yearn
Keep sb waiting	Come along children, we mustn't keep your father waiting! Russia won't rush to sign the deal – they want to keep the west waiting.	
Wait and see	Who knows what will happen? We'll just have to wait and see. (<i>be patient</i>) He'll pay for his crimes one day, just you wait and see. (<i>believe me</i>)	bide one's time mark my words
Wait a moment/ minute/second	<i>exclamation when you have just noticed or remembered sth, or had a sudden idea</i>	
Wait on sb hand and foot	In the old days a wife was expected to wait on her husband hand and foot. (<i>attend to someone's every need</i>) Children today are spoiled – they expect to be waited on hand and foot.	
What are you waiting for	What are you waiting for, go and talk to her! (<i>just do it!</i>)	
Just you wait	Just you wait until I get my hands on you, then you'll be sorry. (<i>threat</i>)	
Time waits for no man	<i>Don't waste time, procrastinate</i>	

Noun

It'll be a long wait	<i>Something will take a long time</i>
To lie in wait	The police had been lying in wait all day and seized the lorry as it tried to leave.

50. TO WALK

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
GO ON FOOT	Walk, don't run! We walk to school everyday. He walks the streets of London by night.	Proceed, pass, progress, stride, move, advance, pace, lope, tread Roam, wander
GO FREE	The alleged killer walked (free).	Be acquitted, get off, go free

Transitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
LEAD	To walk one's horse, To walk one's dog	Lead, exercise, take out
ACCOMPANY	I'll walk you home He walked her to the car	Escort

Phrasal

Synonyms

To walk away from	She walked away from the car crash unscathed. (<i>survive</i>) The Americans walked away from the deal. (<i>refuse</i>)	
To walk away with	Nadal is walking away with this match. (<i>win easily</i>)	win hands down
To walk off with	That man just walked off with your phone. (<i>steal</i>)	
To walk out	The workers walked out in protest at the pay-cuts (<i>go on strike. Stage a walkout (n.)</i>) He walked out after he learnt the truth. (<i>leave suddenly</i>)	leave, quit, abandon
To walk out on	I hear she's walked out on her husband. (<i>leave</i>)	
To walk (all) over	Why do you let him walk all over you like that? (<i>To treat badly or contemptuously</i>)	dominate, mistreat abuse
To walk up to	He walked up to me and shook my hand (<i>approach</i>)	

Idioms

To walk on air	Ever since she got that new job, she's been walking on air. (<i>feel elated</i>)
To walk on water	The boss thinks Jenny walks on water. (<i>have a very high opinion of</i>)
To walk (someone) through	She walked me through the procedures. (<i>guide someone one step at a time</i>)
To walk the walk	<i>To have skill, ability, or experience in a given activity or field</i> You talk the talk, but can you walk the walk? (<i>deliver on one's promises</i>)

Noun

<i>distance</i>	A ten-minute walk from here	
<i>gait</i>	Despite his gangling walk, George was good dancer	
A walk in the park	Getting a Brexit deal was supposed to be a walk in the park (<i>easy</i>) I've been studying English for so long this exam is going to be a walk in the park for me!	a piece of cake, easy as pie, a cinch, cakewalk
Walk of life	In my job, I get to see people from all walks of life (<i>socioeconomic background</i>)	

51. TO WANT

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DESIRE	<p>She has always wanted a bicycle.</p> <p>I want you to translate this text for me.</p> <p>You're wanted at Head Office. (<i>you need to go to</i>)</p>	<p>Wish, like, crave, covet, fancy, hope for, long for, pine for, yearn for</p>
PURSUE	<p>He is wanted by the police</p> <p>He is a wanted man</p> <p>Wanted, dead or alive</p>	
LACK	<p>She wants discipline.</p> <p>They're a rich family, they'll never want for money.</p> <p>I found your performance somewhat wanting.</p>	<p>Lack, be deficient in</p> <p>Go short, be hard-up, be poor</p> <p>Sub-standard, mediocre, below par</p>

Phrasal

To want for	Marry me and you shall want for nothing. (<i>lack</i>)
To want in	There are many countries that want in to the European Union. (<i>desire to join</i>)
To want out	But for some reason, the UK wanted out. (<i>desire to leave</i>)

Idioms

For want of a better word	She is, for want of a better word, a loudmouth (<i>in the absence of – often used as a softener</i>)
Waste not, want not	<i>Don't waste and you won't go short</i>

52. TO WORK

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CAUSE	To work miracles He works his men hard To work a lathe	Effect, bring about, accomplish drive, labour, push operate, manage, control
SHAPE	Work copper	Form, process, forge
CULTIVATE	To work the land	Farm, till, make productive
MAKE	She worked her way to the top. I finally worked the window open.	Achieve

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
LABOUR	Work hard and you will succeed Where do you work?	Toil, strive, exert, drudge, slave away Be employed, earn a living
FUNCTION	How does this latch work? The telephone hasn't worked since last month. This plan works	Operate, act, be functional Succeed

Phrasal

Synonyms

To work in	Your interpretation is good, but try to work in a few more nice expressions. <i>(include)</i> Try to work me into your schedule.
To work oneself into	He worked himself into a rage/panic/frenzy. <i>(make)</i>
To work off	I need to work off the pounds I put on at Christmas. <i>(get rid of)</i>
To work on	She is working on her dad to give her the money for the trip. <i>(persuade)</i>

accommodate, fit in
whip us up
shed
cajole, manipulate,
coax,

To work out	Things didn't work out as planned. (<i>transpire</i>) I'm sure we can work things out. (<i>reach agreement</i>) He often works out. (<i>exercise</i>) It took me some time to work out what was going on. (<i>understand</i>) I can't work these equations out. (<i>solve</i>) The price per pound works out at \$5. (<i>result</i>)	pan out fathom, comprehend
To work up	She worked up the courage to ask for help (<i>generate</i>) If I don't work up a sweat I don't feel I've worked out, and then I can't work up an appetite. She worked herself up so much that she couldn't sleep (<i>excite</i>)	rouse us, pluck up agitate, move, arouse, stir up, incite
To work through	We worked through our problems and our relationship is the stronger for it. (<i>deal with successfully</i>)	

Idioms

Work like a charm	I told him: 'No homework, no computer'. It worked like a charm. (<i>succeed well</i>).
Work (one's) fingers to the bone	She worked her fingers to the bone for over 40 years without ever complaining about her lot (<i>toil</i>)
Work like a Trojan	
Work loose	My shoelaces have worked loose. (<i>come undone</i>)

Noun

At work	He's at work on a new project. (<i>working</i>) He's at work. (<i>in his place of work</i>) Inflationary forces are at work in the economy. (<i>in operation</i>)	
In the works	He has a new novel in the works (<i>in preparation; under development</i>)	in the pipeline
To have one's work cut out	We've our work cut out (for us) today if we want to finish by 6 (<i>plenty of work to do</i>)	
To throw a spanner in the works	The project was going really well until the corruption inquiry threw a spanner in the works. (<i>disrupt</i>)	
A nasty piece of work	He really is a nasty piece of work. (<i>unpleasant</i>)	
Donkey work	He took the credit for the result but I did all the donkey work. (<i>basic, hard work</i>)	leg work, spade work
Make light work of	We'll make light work of this project now you've joined the team. (<i>finish quickly</i>)	
Out of work	<i>unemployed</i>	
Put in work	I've put a lot of work into this (<i>effort</i>).	
The works of Dante	<i>achievement, composition, performance, piece, writings, output</i>	

The five letter words

Our next group, the five letter phrasal verbs, display an impressive pedigree. All of them bar none derive from Old English, although it is true that some have had the impertinence to mutate their meaning over the years (the verb 'to throw' originally meant 'to turn', 'to write' meant 'to scratch').

For all their genealogical purity, however, the five letter words contain their fair share of exasperating logical inconsistencies. Take 'to speak' and 'to break', for example. While most other verbs ending in '-eak' (creak, freak, leak, peak, even poor misunderstood wreak, often wrongly accused of going to 'wrought'* in the past tense) developed into well-behaved, regular verbs, these two were always determined to be different, with preterites of 'broke, spoke' and past participles of 'broken, spoken'. So why on earth aren't they pronounced in the same way?

The answer lies in something called the Great Vowel Shift. A term rather irritatingly coined not by an Englishman but by a Dane in the 20th century (the Danes by this time had stopped trying to invade our country but clearly still felt the need to tell us how our language works), it refers to a process that occurred mainly in the 15th and 16th centuries in which the pronunciation of all the long vowels in the English language (and indeed some consonants) changed. It would appear that while nearly all *ea* vowel sounds (not to mention *ee*, *ei* and *ie*) in English switched to a phonetic /i/, between the 15th and 18th centuries, some did not: *steak*, *great* and our friend here, *break*, for example, (pronounced *steIk*, *greIt* and *breIk*) as well as words like *death*, *head* and *sweat* (pronounced *deθ*, *hed* and *swet*).

No one has the foggiest why (not even our clever-clogs Dane) but you have to admire the sheer hutzpah of the adjective '*great*', which contrived to lend its name to the very process in which it refused to participate.

But let's not be too hard on 'break'. Did you know that the word 'brick' is a derivative of it? How quaint: we're all living in houses made of broken bits.

The Great Vowel Shift happened at the same time that the English were trying to work out how they should actually spell their language. A newfound fascination with Latin and a desire to put the French in their place (never a bad thing in itself) led to the inclusion of the silent 'b' in words like 'debt' (French *dette*, from Latin *debitum*) and 'doubt' (French *doute* from Latin *dubitare*). It is true that they were occasionally guilty of excessive zeal in this enterprise: take the word 'advice'. Some keen scribe somewhere in the mists of time must have assumed that the Middle English word *avis* (from which our modern 'advice' derives) was of Latin origin and therefore arbitrarily imposed a 'd' on it. It does indeed have a Latin origin (*mihi visum est*, which became the French *ce m'est à vis*) but unfortunately there is not a 'd' in sight anywhere. Oh well, *errare humanum est*.

All this by way of a rather spurious introduction to the curious case of 'build'. The English clearly love the word, as they made a 'cup of builder's' into their national beverage, but why, you may ask (though I would have hoped you'd know better by now) is there a 'u' in it? Answer: I have no idea. The word comes from *byldan* in Old English and even the OED is flummoxed as to how it came to have the stowaway 'u' tucked inside. If you ever find out, perhaps you could use your knowledge to get 'buy' (OE *bycgan*) and 'bruise' (OE *brysan*) off the hook, as they also have no excuse for harbouring the interloper.

It's not all doom, gloom and ignorance however. The verb 'reach' was in serious danger of having a past tense 'raught', mainly thanks to Shakespeare's insistence on using its obsolete form, but succumbed in the end to the common man's common sense (and innate laziness, as referenced above) to become the 'reached' we are familiar with today. Which just goes to show that even the Bard, like Homer before him, occasionally nodded.

*Wrought is, of course, the archaic past tense of the verb 'to work'. It is therefore incorrect to say 'the bad weather wrought havoc with the football fixtures over the weekend', a mistake a cricket fan would never ever make.

53. TO BREAK

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SEPARATE	The thief broke the window. Break a stick in two	Smash, split, fracture, tear, pierce Snap
INJURE	He broke his left arm.	Hurt, fracture
NOT FUNCTION	Someone has broken the TV.	Cause to malfunction, crash
VIOLATE	Break the law Break the speed limit Break my promise	Infringe, breach, ignore, disregard, defy, disobey
END	Break the deadlock Break the monotony	Interrupt, interfere, disturb
INFORM	I have to break the news to you. The doctor broke it to me that there was no cure.	Announce, reveal, disclose, tell, proclaim

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GO INTO PIECES	This kind of plastic breaks easily.	Fall to pieces
REST	Shall we break for lunch?	Stop, pause
BEGIN	Morning has broken. We got back before the storm broke. The weather suddenly broke. The waves break on the shore.	Begin, appear Change, alter, shift Dash, beat
MAKE KNOWN	News of his resignation broke today. The scandal broke.	Erupt, make public

Phrasal

Synonyms

To break away	The south broke away from the north. (<i>stop being a part</i>) She tried to break away, but he held tight. (<i>leave</i>)	leave, part company with escape
To break down	The computer has broken down again. (<i>malfunction</i>) Negotiations between China and the US broke down. (<i>fail</i>) The girl broke down in tears. (<i>start to cry</i>) He broke down completely when his wife died. (<i>become ill</i>) Break the issue down so I can better understand. (<i>make simple</i>)	go wrong, crash fall through, collapse, burst into fall apart
To break in	This is where the thieves broke in. (<i>enter illegally</i>)	burgle, get into
To break into	Someone broke into my house and stole my things. (<i>get into</i>) His face broke into a smile. (<i>suddenly do</i>) He suddenly broke into song (<i>start</i>) He has now broken into politics. (<i>become involved in</i>)	burgle, rob
To break off	He broke off a piece of the biscuit and ate it. (<i>separate</i>) The PM broke off his holiday and returned to the capital. (<i>stop</i>) The US broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba. (<i>cut</i>)	detach interrupt suspend
To break out	The war broke out in 1914. (<i>start suddenly</i>) Angry shouting broke out in the crowd. (<i>start suddenly</i>) Two criminals broke out of prison. (<i>escape</i>)	erupt
To break through	Protestors broke through a police barricade (<i>go through</i>) Unemployment rate broke through 10%. (<i>surpass</i>)	
To break up	Ice caps will break up and melt. (<i>separate</i>) John and Cynthia broke up in 1968. (<i>end of relation</i>) The fighting was broken up by security forces. (<i>stop</i>)	separate disperse

Idioms

To break a code	The intelligence agents finally broke the enemy's code.	
To break a/the habit	I was not able to break the habit of procrastinating.	
To break new ground	He has broken new ground in cancer research. (<i>pioneer</i>)	
To break one's word	If you break your word, she won't trust you anymore. (<i>not keep one's promise</i>)	
To break something down	This problem is confusing, so let me break it down for you. (<i>make simple and explain</i>).	
To break the bank	You're going to break the bank if you keep on eating out all the time. (<i>use up all one's money</i>)	
To break the ice	Who would like to break the ice ? (<i>speak first</i>)	kick off, get the ball rolling

54. TO BRING

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">TAKE</div>	<p>Remember to bring an apron or an old shirt to protect your clothes. He poured a brandy for Dena and brought it to her.</p> <p>Reaching into her pocket, she brought out a cigarette.</p> <p>Are you going to bring me to the airport?</p> <p><i>Figurative</i> What brings you to these parts?</p> <p>For Sandro, the new year brought disaster. Her three children brought her great joy. Winter brought snow and ice to the country.</p>	<p>Take, carry, fetch, deliver</p> <p>Take, draw, pull, remove</p> <p>Accompany, usher, escort, guide, lead</p>
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">CAUSE</div>	<p>He brought the car to a stop in front of the square. To bring the water to the boil. To bring a meeting to a close.</p>	

Phrasal

Synonyms

To bring about	To bring about political change (<i>cause</i>)	induce, produce, provoke, yield, create, effect
To bring down	This scandal will bring down the government. (<i>cause to fall</i>)	overthrow, oust, defeat, unseat
To bring forward	We'll have to bring the meeting forward. (<i>advance</i>)	
To bring in	Tourism brings in millions of euros a year. (<i>generate</i>)	earn, net, gross, fetch, yield
To bring on	All this noise is bringing on a headache. (<i>cause</i>)	
To bring out	My favourite band have just brought out a new album. (<i>produce</i>) You bring out the best in me. (<i>elicit</i>)	release, publish, launch
To bring sb round	He brought her round with smelling salts. I've been trying to bring him around to my way of thinking. (<i>persuade</i>)	revive, resuscitate, coax, cajole
To bring up	He was brought up in Nebraska. (<i>raise</i>) He brought up a subject rarely raised.	breed, foster, nourish, nurse, raise, rear, broach, introduce, raise, mention, propose

Idioms

To bring sth alive	<i>Make sth more interesting</i>
To bring the house down	The last song brought the house down. (<i>earn rapturous applause</i>)
To bring up the rear	The infantry brought up the rear. (<i>come last in a procession</i>)
To bring it home	Poverty is real. That trip to India really brought that home to me. (<i>make clear</i>)
To bring home the bacon	<i>to be the principal breadwinner</i>
To bring to one's knees	The recession has brought the car industry to its knees. (<i>push to the edge of bankruptcy</i>)

55. TO BUILD

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin: 0 auto;">MAKE</div>	<p>I built this house myself.</p> <p>The government wants to build a new hotel on the seafront.</p> <p>Their aim is to build a fairer society. Diplomats hope the meeting will build mutual trust.</p> <p>To build a successful company</p>	<p>Construct, put up, erect, raise (order to be built)</p> <p>Fashion, mould, shape, create, set up, found</p> <p>Generate, produce, form</p> <p>Develop</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin: 0 auto;">INCREASE</div>	<p>The tension was building.</p> <p>Tensions in the middle east are building.</p>	<p>Accumulate, escalate, rise</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To build in/into	<p>The programme has a number of built-in functions. (<i>integrated</i>) .</p> <p>The TV was built into the wall.</p> <p>People from rich families have a built-in advantage (<i>inherent</i>)</p>	incorporate
To build on	You should build on your strengths. (<i>base</i>)	
To build up	<p>I built up this business from nothing. (<i>develop</i>)</p> <p>We have to do more to build up trust between the two sides. (<i>increase</i>)</p> <p>It's a busy time – my work is really building up. (<i>increase</i>)</p> <p>Don't build up his hopes if you're only going to let him down later.</p> <p>You must slow down when entering a built-up area(<i>residential</i>)</p>	<p>forge, fashion foster, promote</p> <p>accumulate, pile up lead on, encourage</p>

Idioms

To build bridges	Dialogue can help to build bridges between the two sides.	connect, reconcile, bring together, rapprochement
To build castle in the sky	Be realistic – don't go building castles in the sky. (<i>create unrealisable dreams</i>)	
To build on sand	He's not reliable. If you get into a relationship with him you'll be building on sand. (<i>Bible Matthew 7:24</i>) ' <i>He who hears these words of mine and does not act on them is like the foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the waters rose and the winds blew and beat against that house and it came crashing down</i> '	

Noun

He is of medium build	The police are looking for a man in his early thirties, about 5'8 and of medium build (<i>physique, size</i>)
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56. TO LEAVE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
DEPART	<p>The plane leaves Heathrow at 12.35.</p> <p>Before leaving the train, make sure you have all your belongings with you.</p> <p>The lawsuit will be postponed until the president leaves office.</p> <p>My daughter got a job after she left school.</p>	<p>Take off</p> <p>Get off, disembark, decamp, exit</p> <p>Retire, step down</p> <p>Graduate, finish</p>
ABANDON	<p>To leave your wife/husband/partner</p> <p>Don't leave me here.</p>	<p>Desert, drop</p>
DELAY	<p>Why do you always leave everything until the last moment?</p> <p>Leave the dishes — I'll do them later.</p>	<p>Postpone, delay, put sth off</p>
REMAIN	<p>Leave the door open, please.</p> <p>Don't leave her waiting outside in the rain.</p> <p>How many tickets do you have left?</p> <p>Seven from ten leaves three.</p> <p>He leaves a wife and two children.</p>	<p>Keep</p> <p>Let</p>
GIVE	<p>I'm afraid you leave me no choice.</p> <p>She left me with the impression that she was unhappy with her job.</p> <p>Red wine leaves a stain.</p> <p>She left £1 million to her daughter.</p> <p>Someone left you this note.</p>	<p>Provide</p> <p>Cause, generate, produce</p> <p>Bequeath, hand down</p> <p>Drop</p>
LOSE	<p>I've left my bag on the bus.</p> <p>Don't leave any of your belongings behind.</p>	<p>Forget, mislay</p>
ENTRUST	<p>She left her assistant in charge.</p> <p>Leave it with me — I'm sure I can sort it out.</p> <p>"Where shall we eat?" "I'll leave it entirely (up) to you."</p>	<p>Let, allow, assign, entrust, commit, consign</p> <p>Let decide/choose</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">GO AWAY</div>	The train leaves at 12.30. The plane leaves for Dallas at 12.35. I tried calling him, but he'd already left for work. My secretary has threatened to leave.	Depart, pull out Be bound for, depart for Go to work / office Resign, quit one's job

Phrasal

Synonyms

To leave in	Let's leave in the reference to fundamental rights.	
To leave off	take up/pick up/continue (sth) where sb left off. (<i>stop</i>) Barry took up the story where Justine had left off. "Will you leave off nagging?" he snarled. Why was her name left off the list? (<i>not included</i>)	Exclude, omit
To leave out	She outlined the case to him, being careful not to leave anything out. (<i>not include</i>) to be/feel left out (<i>feel unwelcome</i>)	miss, omit feel ignored
To leave over	There was some ham left over from lunch (<i>remain</i>)	save, keep

Idioms

To leave in the lurch	His parents came over for the day but he went off to play tennis with his friends, leaving me in the lurch. (<i>abandon</i>)
To leave it at that	We'll never agree, so let's just leave it at that. (<i>not pursue any further</i>)
To leave sth unsaid	Somethings are better left unsaid (<i>refrain from saying</i>)
Leave to be desired	Your attitude leaves a lot to be desired (<i>unsatisfactory</i>)
To leave no stone unturned	We will leave no stone unturned (in our efforts) to find them. (<i>do everything in one's power</i>)

Noun

by your leave	(<i>with your permission</i>)
(annual) leave	I'll be on leave in July. I've taken leave between the 6 th and the 10 th of March
To take one's leave	<i>To depart, say goodbye</i>
To take French leave	<i>To depart without saying goodbye</i>
To take leave of one's senses	Have you taken leave of your senses? You can't possibly afford that car! (<i>go mad</i>)

57. TO REACH

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ARRIVE	He did not stop until he reached the door. The show is due to reach our screens early next year.	Get to, make it to, land at Come to
ATTAIN	We're told the figure could reach 100,000 next year. They are meeting in Lusaka in an attempt to reach a compromise. The new high-speed trains can reach speeds of up to 350 kph.	Amount to, rise to, climb to, get to Achieve, come to, work out, draw up, accomplish Attain
TOUCH	Can you reach your toes with your fingertips? I can't reach the shelf, it's too high.	Extend to, stretch to, get hold of
CONTACT	I'll tell her you've been trying to reach her.	Get in touch with, phone, ring, call, find, get through to, communicate with

Phrasal

Synonyms

To reach out To reach up To reach down To reach for	He reached out a hand and touched her hair. (<i>stretch out</i>) We need to reach out to the people and convince them that our policies will work for them. (<i>communicate</i>) I reached up and took the book off the shelf I reached down to pick up the coin I reached for his hand to help pull him out of the ditch.	extend, outstretch .
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Idioms

To reach (one's) ears To reach one's stride To reach for the sky	Word of his treachery eventually reached my ears. (<i>discover</i>) It's taken me a while to get the hang of my new job but I think I'm reaching my stride now. (<i>settle in</i>) <i>to set one's goals or ambitions very high</i>	come to one's attention get used to, learn the ropes
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Noun

(lit.) arm's length (fig.) range	That boxer has a long reach You won't get a signal - we are beyond the transmitter's reach.
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58. TO SPEAK

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">TALK</div>	He doesn't speak English. To speak the truth To speak one's mind	State, declare, utter, articulate, voice

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">PRONOUNCE WORDS</div>	He tried to speak, but for once, his voice had left him. He's determined to speak at the Democratic Convention. The author speaks about the joy of living.	Utter, voice Address, lecture, harangue Discuss

Phrasal

To speak for	I think I speak for the whole group when I say this is unacceptable. (<i>represent</i>) She speaks for the underprivileged.
To speak of	The film speaks of the abuse of power. (<i>discuss, treat</i>)
To speak out	He spoke out strongly against racism.
To speak to	He was speaking to the seminar. (<i>address</i>) I can see I'm going to have to speak to him. (<i>rebuke, scold</i>)
To speak up	Please speak up! (<i>louder</i>) He never spoke up for himself. (<i>defend</i>)

Synonyms

represent

disagree, protest,
challenge, criticise

Idioms

Action speaks louder than words	(<i>actions are more important than words</i>)
To speak well/highly of	Your boss speaks very highly of you. (<i>praise</i>)
To speak ill of	You should not speak ill of the dead. (<i>criticise</i>)
To speak volumes	The fact that he won't waive his diplomatic immunity speaks volumes. (<i>tells one a lot</i>)
To be spoken for	Forget it, she is already spoken for. (<i>in a relationship</i>)
To be well spoken	He was a well spoken, polite young man (<i>courteous, gracious</i>)
Speak for itself/themselves	The facts speak for themselves. (<i>require no explanation</i>)

Things are easier
said than done, put
your money where
your mouth is

59. TO STAND

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
RISE/ BE ON ONE'S FEET	When the teacher comes in the pupils should stand Stand straight when I'm talking to you We stood for three hours in the pouring rain	Rise, rise to one's feet, get up
BE	The building stands at the side of a river The old school still stands The balance stands at \$500 The current death toll stands at over 2000 The meeting stands adjourned I stand corrected As things stand now, I won't be going	Rise, be erected, be built Exist Be, come to, add up to Be over
HAVE AN OPINION	Where does the candidate stand on the issue of abortion? Where do you stand on this? We must stand firm	
BE LIKELY TO	She stands to make a lot of money if she gets this right	
REMAIN	The offer still stands The agreement stands until one of the parties decides otherwise	Is valid Apply

Transitive		
PUT	Stand the plant where there is sunshine Stand it upright	Place
TOLERATE	I can't stand her I cannot stand much more of this	Dislike, hate, loathe, cannot bear Endure, withstand, cope with, bear

Phrasal

Synonyms

To stand by	Stand by for lift off (<i>ready</i>) They just stood by and watched while I was robbed (<i>not act</i>) She will stand by me no matter what. (<i>remain loyal</i>) I stand by my argument that capital punishment is wrong. (<i>stick to</i>)	prepare support, back insist, maintain
To stand for	NBA stands for National Basketball Association. (<i>mean</i>) The Conservatives stand for free markets and small government. I won't stand for this nonsense anymore. (<i>tolerate</i>)	represent advocate, favour, argue for put up with, accept
To stand in for	He stood in for Rex as the monitor. (<i>substitute</i>)	replace, fill in
To stand out	Her style and height made her stand out. (<i>noticeable</i>)	be distinctive
To stand up	His claim won't stand up in court. (<i>prove sound</i>) I can't believe she stood me up. (<i>no-show</i>)	be valid, prevail jilt, fail to keep a date
To stand up to	The Chinese are finally standing up to the US	defy, resist, say no
To stand up for	We will always stand up for what we believe to be right. (<i>defend</i>) Don't let those bullies treat you like that. Stand up for yourself!	uphold, fight for

Idioms

To stand a chance	If we're to stand any chance of winning, we're going to have to train a lot harder.
To stand one's ground	Michael was a good head taller, but Peter stood his ground (<i>not run away</i>)
Not to have a leg to stand on	You knew perfectly well I wouldn't agree – you don't have a leg to stand on (<i>have no excuse</i>)
To stand on its head	This latest discovery stands everything we thought we knew about the origins of life on its head (<i>cast a totally new light on</i>)
To stand on one's own two feet	I won't always be there to bail you out – you are going to have to learn to stand on your own two feet (<i>be independent</i>) Development Cooperation isn't about handouts, it's about helping countries to stand on their own two feet (<i>become autonomous</i>)
To stand someone in good stead	All this study will stand you in good stead for the exam (<i>prepare</i>)
To be on standby	The police are on standby in case rioting breaks out (<i>on alert</i>) Are you working today or are you on standby? (<i>on call</i>)

60. TO START

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
BEGIN	When do you start your course/your new job? We'll be starting the session at six o'clock. They started building the house in January. I'd just started to write a letter when the phone rang. Police believe the fire was started by arsonists To start a business	Kick off, commence, embark on, initiate, Undertake, get under way, Initiate, trigger, set off Establish, found, set up, institute
ACTIVATE	I'm having trouble starting the car. He started me in marketing	

Intransitive		
BEGIN	Can you start (= begin a new job) on Monday? A new series about wildlife has started on Monday nights. The engine won't start The movie starts at nine She started crying	
JUMP	The dog started at the loud bang	Jerk, twitch, flinch, wince, recoil

Phrasal

Synonyms

- To start **out** My dad started out as a salesperson in a shop (begin one's career)
 The climbers started out for the summit at dawn (set out)
- To start **up** Many small businesses started up in the 1980s to cater to this growing market. (*set up*)
 We ought to start up a drama group
- To start **off** She started off the meeting with the monthly sales report
 I'd like to start off by thanking you all for coming today (*to begin by doing something*)
- To start **sb off** I'll start her off on some fairly basic stuff and see how she gets on (*help someone to start an activity*)
 I could see Emma trying not to laugh and of course that started me off (*idea of contagion*)
- To start **over** We decided to abandon the first draft of the report and start over. (*restart*)

Idioms

To start afresh	Let's let bygones be bygones and start afresh	start over, start from scratch
To start with	We only knew two people in Montreal to start with, but we soon made friends To start with, we need better computers - then we need more training	

Noun

a fresh start	The program will allow economically strapped taxpayers to make a fresh start.
a head start	You've got a head start over/on others trying to get the job because you've got relevant work experience. (<i>an advantage</i>)
in fits and starts	My PhD thesis is only coming along in fits and starts (<i>slowly, unevenly</i>)

61. TO THINK

Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">CONSIDER</div>	<p>Think how complex language is</p> <p>I thought you'd be here earlier</p> <p>I can't think what you were doing last night</p> <p>I can't think of a more deserving candidate</p>	<p>Reflect, ponder, , reason, meditate, contemplate, muse</p> <p>Expect, hope, believe, estimate</p> <p>Imagine, conceive, guess, visualise</p> <p>Envisage,</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

Think ahead	It's always best to think ahead – that way you avoid unpleasant surprises (<i>anticipate</i>)
Think back	Try to think back – what happened that night? (<i>remember</i>) When I think back to when I first started learning English, it seemed so much fun
Think over	We've seen the contract – we'll need time to think it over (<i>reflect carefully</i>)
Think through	Have you thought this through? (<i>consider carefully</i>)
Think up	I can't think up an excuse for not going (<i>invent</i>)

Idioms

Think out loud	I'm just thinking out loud here, but what if we devoted more money to reasearch and less to marketing? (<i>Speak one's mind</i>)	muse, wonder
Think better of	I was going to hand in my resignation but then I thought better of it (<i>reconsider</i>)	
Think big	<i>Be ambitious</i>	
Think (long and) hard	<i>Consider carefully</i>	
Think a lot of	He thinks a lot of you (<i>esteem</i>) <i>NB contrast: He thinks of you a lot</i>	admire, rate, respect
Think nothing of	She thought nothing of walking 10 miles to school every day (<i>regard as entirely normal</i>)	
Think twice	I'd think twice before doing that if I were you (<i>consider carefully</i>)	

62. TO THROW

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PROPEL	<p>He throws me the ball.</p> <p>He threw his clothes on the floor. The passengers were thrown forwards.</p> <p>I threw my arms around her. He threw his head back.</p> <p>He threw a glance at me. The lamp threw its light over the wall.</p>	<p>Hurl, toss, fling, propel, cast, lob, catapult</p> <p>Drop, discard, litter</p> <p>Put Lean, toss, fling</p> <p>Cast, direct, give, send Project, cast, emit</p>
CONFUSE	<p>It threw me completely when she said she was coming to stay with us. That last question threw me completely.</p>	<p>Confuse, disconcert, fluster, unnerve, upset, disturb, perplex</p>

Phrasal

Synonyms

To throw away	<p>I shouldn't have thrown away the receipt. (<i>discard</i>) Don't you throw away this precious opportunity. (<i>waste</i>)</p>	<p>get rid of, dispose of, pass up, miss out on</p>
To throw back	<p>The floodwater threw her back against the wall. (<i>force</i>) She was thrown back on her own resources. (<i>force to rely on</i>)</p>	
To throw in	<p>Companies often throw in free gifts to get you to shop with them. (<i>include</i>) She threw in her job as an insurance agent. (<i>leave</i>)</p>	<p>quit, give up</p>
To throw off	<p>I can't seem to throw off this cold. (<i>get rid of illness</i>) The city has made great efforts to throw off its negative image (<i>get rid of</i>). It completely threw me off track. (<i>confuse</i>) She was thrown off the course for bad behaviour. (<i>expel</i>)</p>	<p>recover from, shake off discard, shed</p>
To throw out	<p>We threw out lots of stuff when we moved house (<i>discard</i>) We can't just throw him out in this kind of weather. (<i>force to leave</i>) The judge threw out the case. (<i>not accept</i>)</p>	<p>get rid of, dispose of, abandon drive away, expel, evict, dismiss, refuse, reject</p>
To throw up	<p>The report threw up some interesting new problems. (<i>produce</i>) Workers threw up a wall. (<i>quickly build</i>) You have a bright future; it would be crazy to throw it all up. (<i>leave</i>) I've been throwing up all morning. (<i>vomit</i>)</p>	<p>bring to light, illustrate create, establish</p>

Idioms

To throw a fit/tantrum	My boss threw a fit when I asked for a raise. (<i>get angry</i>)
To throw caution to the wind	After years of fiscal prudence, the new government has thrown caution to the wind and is spending like there's no tomorrow (<i>become reckless</i>)
To throw down the gauntlet	With their space missions to Mars, India, China and the UAE have thrown down the gauntlet to NASA (<i>challenge</i>)
To throw good money after bad	We should pull the plug on this project now – we're just throwing good money after bad. (<i>waste money</i>)
To throw money at something	Throwing money at the NHS won't solve the problem – it needs to be completely restructured.
To throw in the towel/sponge	You're nearly there, don't throw in the towel now! (<i>quit</i>)
To throw one's weight around	He's the kind of person who likes to throw his weight around. (<i>order others about</i>)
To throw someone a curve ball	The Prime Minister threw the Opposition a curve ball by inviting them to talks (<i>confuse someone by doing something unexpected</i>)
To throw something together	<i>to assemble or arrange something in haste</i>
To throw a party	<i>organise a party</i>
Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater	I accept the NHS needs to be reformed, but we must be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. (<i>discard the good along with the bad</i>)

Noun

A stone's throw	It's just a stone's throw from the Forbidden City (<i>very near</i>)
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63. TO WATCH

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
LOOK AT	Lucy watched him go. The man was standing in the doorway watching him.	Observe, view, eye, regard Gaze at, stare at, peer at, gape, scrutinise, survey
SPY ON	He told me my telephone was tapped and that I was being watched. I had the feeling we were being watched.	Follow, track, monitor, observe, keep an eye on, keep in sight
GUARD	I guess I can rest a while, with you here to watch over me. Owners can't watch their pets 24/7.	Protect, safeguard, tend, look after, take care of
MIND	Most women watch their diet during pregnancy. You should watch what you say!	Be careful about, exercise caution over, pay heed to, consider

Phrasal

To watch out	Watch out if you're walking home after dark. (<i>look out</i>) We had to watch out for unexploded mines
To watch over	Guards were hired to watch over the houses.
To watch for	He was watching for any mistakes I might make. Businessmen are constantly watching for any signs of weakness in the economy.

Synonyms

be careful, on the alert
beware of
protect, guard, defend
await, stand by for
be on the lookout for

Idioms

To watch one's back	That's a dangerous part of town. I'll come with you to watch your back. (<i>protect</i>)
Watch one's step	(lit) The steps are slippery after the rain so please watch your step. (<i>tread carefully</i>) (fig) The new boss is a bit temperamental so watch your step. (<i>be careful/cautious</i>)
To watch somebody like a hawk	<i>to observe very closely, without ever looking away</i>
To watch the world go by	<i>to sit idly and watch other people going about their business</i>

Noun

Definiton: a period of guard duty. (In the army the night is divided into watches).

To keep watch

(lit.) You take a break, I'll keep watch. (stand guard)

(fig) I won't leave you alone with the children unless I can be sure you'll keep watch over them while I'm gone. (tend, supervise)

On one's watch

I would not allow such behaviour on my watch. (*when I'm responsible*)

The Minister has to take the blame. The outbreak occurred on his watch.

64. TO WRITE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
FORM LETTERS	Write your name at the top of the paper. The 'b' had been wrongly written as a 'd'.	Spell Note (down), scribble, scrawl, put down
CREATE	To write a novel/a song/ an essay/ a computer program Please write three pages on the subject of love. To write (out) a cheque I will write you a receipt.	Compose, draft, draw up Draft Prepare, register, sign
COMMUNICATE	She wrote to him in France. He wrote me that they were all fine. I'm writing to enquire about language courses.	Communicate, correspond

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
LITERACY	In some countries, children don't start learning to read and write until they are six.	
STATE	In his latest book he writes that the theory has since been disproved. Ancient historians wrote of a lost continent beneath the ocean.	Claim, inform, point out, declare

Phrasal

Synonyms

To write down	Write down the address before you forget it. (<i>put on paper</i>) Several of our assets will have to be written down at the end of the year. (<i>reduce in value</i>)	note down, record amortise, depreciate
To write in	I'll write in for more information. (<i>to write a letter</i>) The public have been writing in to express their anger The studio wants us to write in a few more action scenes. (<i>add</i>)	.
To write off	Don't write him off too fast. He's smarter than you think. (<i>to decide that sb/sth is a failure</i>) That equipment can no longer be used, so we are writing it off. (<i>to record an asset as having no value</i>) John's written off four cars. Now he sticks to public transport. (<i>damage beyond repair</i>) The banks agreed to write off the company's debts. (<i>cancel</i>) I've written off for the catalogue. (<i>order</i>)	dismiss, give up on wreck, destroy, smash up send off for, apply for
To write out	Please write out all abbreviations, such as Doctor for Dr. Why don't we sit down and write out all the reasons why this would be a good or bad idea? (<i>set out</i>)	reproduce, translate
To write up	Can you write up a short piece on the new restaurant? Thank you for writing up the minutes to our meeting	

Idioms

Be written all over sb.'s face	Of course he did it. It's written all over his face. (<i>obvious</i>)
Not much to write home about	The new restaurant is not much to write home about. (<i>mediocre</i>)
Have sth/sb written all over it/sb	This crime has the mafia written all over it. (<i>bear all the hallmarks of</i>)

Noun

write-off	The weekend was a write-off. (<i>disaster</i>)
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And one six letter word

It would have been nice for us to conclude our survey of the phrasal verbs with another linguistic revelation – a historical fanfare of fascinating facts to leave the avid reader in fits of verbal ecstasy.

Unfortunately, the English language, like the football team, flatters to deceive and our final entry is the thoroughly humdrum ‘to follow’.

Not that it hasn’t got pedigree, mind. It comes from the Old English *folgian*, (sometimes *fylgian* or *fylgan*) and originally meant ‘to accompany as a disciple’. Which is vaguely interesting, as the word is now used widely on social media with precisely the same meaning: to follow someone on Twitter or Instagram, for example.

And before we dismiss the poor fellow entirely, it is worth noting that there are some languages which are even worse off. Polish, for example, has no word for ‘to follow’ at all. You have to say ‘go behind’ or ‘go after’ (*iść za*). Then again, they have no word for ‘to come’ either (you have to say ‘go here’: *chodź tu*). How on earth do think they’re going to keep up in the Digital Age if they can’t follow the Kardashians?

And to be fair, the verb is included in some of the greatest lines in history. Jesus says ‘follow me’ over twenty times in the Bible, most famously in the injunction ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men’ (Matthew 4:19). Good job he wasn’t Polish.

But let us finish this entry with another example, which should be engraved on the lips of every self-respecting student of English. I refer, obviously, to the immortal ‘Hippopotamus song’ of Flanders and Swann and its glorious refrain of:

*..follow me follow
Down to the hollow
And there let us wallow
In glorious mud.*

If you didn’t know it already, you do now. Check it out. I promise you’ll be humming it all day.....

65. TO FOLLOW

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GO / COME AFTER	<p>He followed her into the house. I think we're being followed.</p> <p>A period of unrest followed the president's resignation. Follow your treatment with plenty of rest. The main course was followed by fresh fruit.</p>	<p>Stalk, pursue, trail, track, chase, hunt, shadow, dog, under surveillance, spy on</p> <p>Be subsequent to, succeed, come next</p>
RESULT	<p>If $a = b$ and $b = c$, it follows that $a = c$.</p>	
TRACE	<p>Follow this road until you get to the school, then turn left. The lane follows the edge of a wood for about a mile.</p>	<p>Go along, proceed, take</p>
ADHERE TO	<p>to follow a diet to follow advice / instructions He always followed the latest fashion. The movie follows the book faithfully. His behaviour follows a pattern</p>	<p>Adopt Take, heed, obey, be guided by Keep up with Stick to, reflect</p>
UNDERSTAND	<p>Sorry, I don't follow you. The plot is almost impossible to follow.</p>	<p>Understand, comprehend, grasp, get, catch, take in, appreciate</p>
KEEP UP WITH	<p>Her eyes followed him everywhere. The children were following every word of the story intently.</p> <p>Have you been following the basketball championships? Millions of people followed the trial on TV.</p> <p>I've been following his progress very closely.</p> <p>The novel follows the fortunes of a village community in Scotland.</p>	<p>Trail Listen</p> <p>Keep up to date with, watch</p> <p>Monitor, keep abreast of</p> <p>Show, concern</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GO / COME AFTER	Wherever she led, they followed. An argument followed. A detailed news report will follow shortly.	Ensnare
RESULT	I don't see how that follows from what you've just said.	Ensnare
UNDERSTAND	Sorry, I don't follow.	Comprehend, grasp, get

Phrasal

Synonyms

To follow **through** The project went wrong when the staff failed to follow through (*act as instructed*)

implement

To follow **up** The police take people's statements and then follow them up. (*investigate*)
If there is no response to your press release, follow it up with a phone call. (*to do sth in addition to what you have already done*)
A follow-up study (*one that builds on an earlier work*)
The book is a follow-up to her excellent television series.
I have a follow-up question.

Idioms

Follow in sb's footsteps She works in television, following in her father's footsteps. (*do the same job*)

Follow your nose I followed my nose to the kitchen, where Marcie was making coffee. (*guided by the sense of smell*)
After a few years in the detective game, you learn to follow your nose. (*follow one's instincts*)

Follow suit Budget companies have been so successful that other airlines have had to follow suit and lower their fares. (*copy*)

Follow the herd/crowd *Do the same thing that most other people are doing, without really thinking about it.*

Be a hard act to follow We're looking for a replacement for Sue, but she's going to be a hard act to follow. (*difficult to match*)

Part two

The Non-phrasal Verbs

The non-phrasal verbs on our list present many of the same characteristics as the phrasal verbs. As a rule of thumb the shorter they are the more likely they are to be derived from Old English.

Of the first fifteen verbs, 12 come from Old English, one from Danish (*to raise*) and one from French (*to allow*).

Now, the more eagle eyed amongst you may have noted that only makes fourteen. That's because, while it's tempting to co-opt the verb 'to offer' as an Old English verb (*ofrian*, used in the sense of a religious offering) it actually stems from the Latin *offerre* (remember that one from your school days? How unfathomably it went to *obtuli* and *oblatus*? Ah, those were the days...). However, as it came to the English language through early German, almost certainly as part of the process of converting all those bad, long-haired, violent heathens into good, long haired, violent Christians, perhaps we can call it a draw and agree on 12½?

The further down the list we go, the longer the words get and, surprise, surprise, the more 'foreign' they become. Seven out of the last eight verbs come from Latin/French, and we are only denied a 'strike' by the very last entry: the intriguing Old English verb '*to understand*'.

Most languages deal with the concept of understanding through verbs derived from seeing or seizing (hence the expressions, 'I see' and 'I get it'). As far as I know, the inhabitants of Merrie England were the only ones who thought that the best way of comprehending something was to stand underneath it. Obelix was quite right: '*ils sont fous, ces Anglais (toc! toc!)*'

And why is there no verb 'to overstand', presumably meaning the opposite?

Nobody seems to know. The word started to be used in writing in the 9th Century CE, but we have no way of knowing whether it was a newly coined word then or one that had been in use for centuries previously. What we do know is that it was only one of several similar constructions used in Old English: they had *undernimen* (undertake), and *undergaten* (underget) and the glorious *underthencan* (underthink). How tragic that this last is now defunct, it could so perfectly have described a whole nation of voters in 2016.

There are other Old English gems on our list, too. The verb 'to know' kills two birds with one stone, covering with its simplicity a whole range of meanings which have to be expressed with two separate verbs in the romance (cf French: *connaître* and *savoir*) and Germanic languages (*wissen* and *kennen*). Even Chinese, so beautifully simple and concise in other ways, have both 知道/*zhidao* (= "savoir /wissen") and 认识/*renshi* (= "connaître/kennen").

Incidentally, the silent 'k' is a relatively recent feature of spoken English, seen also in words like knee, knife, knight, knob and knave. Up until the 17th Century the 'k' would have been pronounced and still is sometimes in the northernmost reaches of Scotland.

Not that I would wish to give the impression that the Old English verbs are the only interesting ones. Did you know, for example, that the rather mundane 'consider' derives from the Latin *considerare* (*con-* meaning 'with' and *sidus* meaning 'star')? One explanation is that the verb came into being to describe the sailors of ancient times who studied the night sky and plotted their course by the stars, though how that explains the verb 'desire' (also from the Latin *desiderare*, *de-* 'from' and *sidus* 'star') is mercifully beyond my powers of imagination.

Or what about 'to serve'? Any of you as unfortunate as me who had to spend long hours learning second declension Latin nouns (hours these days more usefully wasted following memes on the internet) will know that the verb comes from the Latin *servus* meaning 'slave'. Some experts,

however, believe that in the first millennium BCE the word originally meant 'shepherd', which both raises questions about the Romans' attitudes to agriculture and gives a whole new meaning to the Biblical phrase 'The Lord is my Shepherd'.

And on that mildly blasphemous note, I bid you explore and enjoy.

66. TO SAY

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
EXPRESS	Listen carefully, I will only say this once. She said 'hello'	Speak, utter, articulate, mention, voice, pronounce, declare, recite, exclaim, comment, remark, observe, announce, report, state
ANSWER	I don't know what to say to that.	reply, respond, rejoin, retort
CLAIM	He says he was asleep at the time of the murder.	claim, maintain, intimate, infer, suggest, imply
GUESS	<i>(not third person)</i> I'd say there were about a hundred people at the meeting. How far would you say it is to the next town?	Estimate, reckon, judge, assume, surmise
SUPPOSE	Let's say you're right... Say he does come after all – what then?	Assume, imagine

Idioms

That is to say	I've lost my house, my job, my car and all my possessions. That is to say, I'm ruined (<i>in other words</i>)
To say nothing of	He lost his house, his job, his car and all his possessions, to say nothing of his reputation. (<i>not to mention</i>)

Noun

To have a say in	You don't have a say in how I run my life! (<i>control</i>) It is important for citizens to feel they have a say in how their country is run. (<i>influence</i>)
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67. TO GROW

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
INCREASE	The movement has grown in strength. Their influence is steadily growing. A crowd was growing around them. Friendship grew between the two boys.	Expand, increase Intensify, increase Form, gather, assemble Expand, develop, emerge, appear, strengthen
MATURE	This is a tree that only grows in the tropics. My hair has grown too long. She's grown to be a beautiful woman.	Develop, mature
BECOME	As summer approaches, the sun grows hotter and hotter. You will grow used to it. He grew to like her after a time.	Become Get

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CAUSE TO GROW	She grows roses in her garden. He started to grow a beard. Many people now don't know how to grow onions from seed. He has grown a habit of twitching his nose. Growing the economy is the top priority for some countries.	Plant, cultivate Form, develop, fall into

Idioms

Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow

Great things may come from small beginnings

Not let the grass grow under one's feet

He is a dynamic person, certainly not one to let the grass grow under his feet. *(waste time)*

Grow on trees

Don't spend so much—money doesn't grow on trees! *(not easily obtained)*

Grow apart from someone

Many teenage girls grow apart from their mother. *(become distanced)*

Grow into something

(lit) This coat is too big for him now, but he will grow into it.
She's grown into a beautiful young woman. *(become, mature)*

Grow on somebody

I really didn't like him at first but he's growing on me. (*gradually like more*)

The more I read it, the more the book grew on me.

Grow out of something

She soon grew out of her old gown. (*become too big*)

They've grown out of children's games. (*become too old*)

68. TO HELP

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
ASSIST	He always helps with the housework. I need contacts that could help in finding a job	assist, serve, lend a hand, cooperate, guide, support, back, contribute to
MAKE EASIER/BETTER	It helped being able to talk about it. Crying won't help	relieve, soothe, assuage, ease, facilitate, further
RESIST	I know I shouldn't have laughed, but I couldn't help it	Stop oneself, restrain oneself

Transitive		
AID	She helped me organize the party. This charity aims to help students to achieve their aspirations.	

Idioms

Help (sb.) out	He is always willing to help out (<i>assist, especially in a difficult situation</i>) When I bought the house, my sister helped me out with a loan.
It can't be helped	We're going to have to cancel the study visit. It's a shame but it can't be helped (<i>there's nothing can be done about it</i>)
Cannot help	I can't help thinking he knows more than he has told us (<i>be convinced</i>)
Help oneself	Please don't stand on ceremony – help yourself (<i>take freely</i>) I shouldn't have shouted at him but in the moment I couldn't help myself (<i>refrain</i>)
To lend a helping hand	You did 90% of the work yourself – I just lent a helping hand (<i>assist</i>)
God helps those who help themselves	Stop feeling sorry for yourself and go out and look for a new job. God helps those who help themselves (<i>take action to solve a problem</i>)
So help me God	(<i>swearing in of witness</i>) 'I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God' If I ever catch you cheating again I'll thrash you to within an inch of your life, so help me God!

Noun

There is no help for it I could use a little help	There is no help for it. We shall have to call the police (<i>no other option</i>). <i>Appreciate some assistance</i>
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69. TO KNOW

Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
UNDERSTAND	<p>I know what you mean. I know you're there... I know some French. I know that night follows day.</p> <p>This house has known many occupants. Anyone who has known poverty will vote Labour.</p>	<p>Comprehend, perceive, sense, notice, be aware, be conscious of</p> <p>Experience, undergo</p>
BE ACQUAINTED WITH	<p>I know him well. I wouldn't know one if I saw one!</p>	<p>Be friends with, associate with Recognise, discern</p>

Idioms

- Know thine enemy (Sun Tzu) If you want to do well in business you have to know how to negotiate. And to negotiate you have to understand the way the other side is thinking. 'Know thine enemy'
- I know what I know what, let's go to the cinema. (*have an idea*)

Noun

- To be in the know The Enigma code-breaking programme was top secret. Only a tiny number of people were in the know. (*to be privy to a secret*)

70. TO LIKE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
APPRECIATE	I like your new haircut. Do you like fish? I like you I like it when a book is so good that you can't put it down.	Approve of, admire, find pleasant Be fond of, enjoy Be keen on, desire, find attractive, esteem, love, adore, cherish, prize Enjoy, delight in
WANT	I'd like the chicken soup, please. The commissioner would like to say thanks to everyone who's helped. Would you like (<i>do you want</i>) something to drink?	Prefer, want, wish, would rather

Idioms

- How do you like...? "How do you like your tea?" (*prefer*) "Milk and one sugar, please."
How do you like my new shoes? (*think of*)
- Like it or lump it I'm going to tell my boss I won't do it – he can like it or lump it! (*have no choice in the matter*)
- What's not to like? It's a big house with a swimming pool. What's not to like? (*used to show approval/satisfaction*)

Noun

The things that someone enjoys

The star lists his likes as "my new Porsche, my girlfriend, and staying up all night."

They can't expect me to accommodate all their silly little likes and dislikes

71. TO LOVE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: yellow;">ADORE</div>	<p>We love each other, and we want to spend the rest of our lives together.</p>	<p>Cherish, hold dear, dote on, be passionate about, think the world of, have affection for, be devoted to, be infatuated with</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 5px; background-color: yellow;">ENJOY</div>	<p>We loved the food so much, especially the fish dishes. I'd love a cup of tea.</p>	<p>Like, fancy, appreciate, relish, savour, take pleasure in, delight in, fancy</p>

Idioms

To love someone to bits He's my old man and I love him to bits but I can't spend too much time with him. *(love someone very much)*

'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all *(Tennyson)*

Noun

To fall in love I've fallen in love with you. *(become enamoured)*

To fall out of love Mike thought his wife had fallen out of love with him.
The market has fallen out of love with technology stocks.

For love or money Replacement parts couldn't be found for love or money. *(in any circumstances/by any means)*

All is fair in love and war "You made me out to be a liar just to make yourself look good". "All is fair in love and war..." *(to justify the unjustifiable)*

A labour of love This compendium is a labour of love. *(no financial gain expected)*

Love is blind "I don't know what she sees in him. He is horrible to her". "Love is blind..."

There's no love lost It's well known that there's no love lost between the President and the speaker. *(deep dislike)*

72. TO MEAN

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SIGNIFY	What does 'patronizing' mean? The red light means 'Stop'. The report fails to define what is meant by the term 'key issues'.	Represent, stand for, symbolize Convey, suggest, indicate Express, imply
INTEND	I didn't mean to upset you. I didn't mean this to happen at all. I'm sure she didn't mean it.	Aim, plan, wish Have in mind, aspire, think of
CAUSE	The merger will mean the closure of the company's Sydney office. It will only mean trouble.	Give rise to, lead to, bring about, produce, result in
PASSIVE	It was meant to be!	Destined, predestined, fated

Idioms

To mean a lot	The fact that you came means a lot to me. <i>(it's important to me)</i>
To mean the world to	She means the world to me! <i>(is the most important thing in the world)</i>
To mean business	He means business! <i>(he is serious/isn't joking around – with a sense of threat)</i>
To mean well	He means well, but he doesn't know when to stop <i>(is well-intentioned)</i>

73. TO NEED

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
REQUIRE	He desperately needed money. I don't need you.	Want, demand, call for Be reliant on, rely on
WANT	This dish needs more salt. The building needs quite a few repairs.	Lack Have to have, have need of, require
OBLIGATION	You needn't bother, I'll do it myself. You need to study harder.	Have to Be obliged/compelled to

Idioms

Need I say more?	"Tom was doing the cooking - need I say more?" (<i>hints at common understanding without the need to express it in words</i>)
Needs must	I don't want to work overtime but needs must – I have a mortgage to pay. (<i>have no option</i>)

Noun

As/if/when the need arises	Team members move from job to job as the need arises. (<i>as necessary</i>)	
Be no need to do sth	There's no need to buy more food - there's plenty in the fridge. I understand why she was angry, but there was no need to be so nasty to him. There's no need to yell! Just calm down. (<i>not necessary, wrong</i>)	
If need be	I can work during my lunch break if need be. (<i>if necessary</i>)	
In need	You just hope that the money goes to those who are most in need. (<i>not having enough money or food</i>)	deprived, underprivileged
In need of (sth)	They're in need of help. (<i>require</i>)	could do with

74. TO SEEM

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
IMPRESSION	Even minor problems can seem important. He seemed a happy person. I met the new boss – he seems nice! After what seemed like hours he came out with a wry smile.	Appear, look, give the impression of, feel
ATTENUATION	I can't seem to get to sleep at night. I seem to have lost my keys. It seems you have been misbehaving at school.	<i>(suggests incomprehension)</i> <i>(suggests doubt)</i> <i>(I am given to understand)</i>

75. TO STOP

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
HALT	Stop me if I'm boring you Stop talking Stop that straight away!	Interrupt, cut off Desist, finish, cease Put an end to, bring to an end, end, terminate
PREVENT	The police stopped her leaving. I'm leaving and you can't stop me! The government is stopping supplies getting through.	Bar, hinder, obstruct, impede, intercept, check, block
BLOCK	Just stop the bottle with your thumb! Stop the flow of blood	Seal, plug, stem, obstruct, staunch

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CEASE	The rain seems to be stopping. People just don't stop to think about the consequences of their actions. Main-line trains stop at platform 5.	End, finish, come to an end, pause, break off, halt Terminate
STAY	We stopped two days in Paris on the way back.	

Idioms

To stop at nothing	He would stop at nothing to retain his power. <i>(be ruthless)</i>
To stop one's ears	I stopped my ears but I still heard her cry. <i>(put one's fingers in one's ears to avoid hearing something)</i>
The buck stops here	The Prime Minister decides whether the country goes to war or not – the buck stops with him <i>(have the ultimate responsibility)</i> .

Noun

To put a stop to	You must put a stop to all this nonsense! <i>(to cause to end)</i>
To pull out all the stops	We pulled out all the stops to meet the deadline

spare no effort,
leave no stone
unturned, go hell
for leather

76. TO ALLOW

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PERMIT	<p>My parents wouldn't allow me to go to the party.</p> <p>Are dictionaries allowed in the exam?</p> <p>Passengers are allowed one item of hand luggage each.</p> <p>I don't allow the cat in the bedroom.</p> <p>A 24-hour ceasefire allowed the two armies to reach an agreement.</p>	<p>Let, approve, say yes to, give consent to, agree to</p> <p>Authorize</p> <p>Enable</p>
ALLOCATE	<p>I've allowed half a bottle of wine for each person.</p> <p>Allow yourselves plenty of time to get to the airport.</p>	<p>Allot, assign, give, set aside, spare</p>

Idioms

To allow for

Allowing for inflation, the cost of the project will be \$2 million. *(take into account)*

You should always allow for the possibility that it might rain *(plan accordingly)*.

Our new system will allow for more efficient allocation of resources.

adjust, consider

permit, facilitate

77 TO BEGIN

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">START</div>	<p>The meeting began promisingly, but then things started to go wrong. The problems were just beginning.</p> <p>The fate line begins close to the wrist. I've begun, so I'll finish.</p>	<p>Commence (more formal), launch, rise, come into existence, come into being, originate, appear</p> <p>Stem, derive, spring, issue Start to speak</p>

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">INITIATE</div>	<p>The US wants to begin talks immediately.</p> <p>He began a dynasty that would last for nearly 200 years.</p>	<p>Inaugurate (a formal beginning), usher in, set going, embark on, set out on, instigate, initiate</p> <p>Found, create, bring into being</p>

Idioms

Can't (even) begin	As a wealthy man, he couldn't even begin to imagine real poverty.	
Charity begins at home	<i>People should look after their own family before they think about others.</i>	
To begin with	<p>Why don't I let you drink alcohol? Well, to begin with, you're underage. And secondly, it's bad for your health (<i>first in a list of points</i>)</p> <p>To begin with, I thought he was joking, but then I realised he was deadly serious (<i>at first</i>)</p>	<p>at the outset, at first, initially</p>

78. TO LEARN

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
MASTER	Learn English Learn a trade Learn how to use the messaging app Learn to speak Arabic	Acquire, attain, take in, be taught, be instructed, get, gain knowledge
MEMORIZE	He learned the speech in few hours By the end of the week I had learned all of their names.	Commit to memory, learn by heart
DISCOVER	We learned that it was best not to keep silent. We learned the hard way.	Find out, come to know, become aware, discern, hear, pick up, see, be informed of, be aware of

Idioms

learn a thing or two	If you just listen to your teachers, you'll learn a thing or two
To learn to live with	<i>learn to accept sth, become accustomed to sth</i>
To learn one's lesson	I lost all my savings on the stock market, but at least I've learned my lesson (<i>to learn through painful experience not to do something</i>)
You live and learn	Boris Johnson has Turkish ancestry? Well, you live and learn...(<i>expression of surprise</i>)
Learn by heart	You must learn all the irregular verbs by heart (<i>memorize</i>)
Learn the hard way	I learned the hard way that he is not to be trusted (<i>learn through painful experience</i>)

79.TO OFFER

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PRESENT	<p>The company has offered a high salary.</p> <p>She offered a reward for the return of her lost bracelet.</p> <p>I've been offered a job in Japan.</p> <p>I don't think they need help, but I think I should offer anyway.</p> <p>They offered no resistance.</p> <p>We offered him a gift, but he wouldn't accept.</p>	<p>Provide, propose, put forward, present</p> <p>Promise</p> <p>Propose, ask</p> <p>Give, put up</p> <p>Give, present</p>
PROVIDE	<p>A lull in the fighting offered us an opportunity to regroup.</p> <p>This hotel offers excellent conference facilities.</p>	<p>Make available, present, afford</p>

Idioms

To offer itself/themselves	Ask her about it when a suitable moment offers itself.
To offer one's hand in marriage	<i>(propose marriage to a woman)</i>
To offer an olive branch	<i>truce, gesture of peace, reconciliation (a peace-offering)</i>
To offer one's condolences	<i>(message of sympathy on the occasion of someone's death)</i>
To be open to an offer	We haven't decided on a price but we're open to offers. <i>(proposals)</i>
On offer	Baked beans are on offer this week at the local supermarket. <i>(for sale at a reduced price)</i>
Under offer	The house is under offer. <i>(has a prospective buyer)</i>

80. TO RAISE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
LIFT	He raised the glass to his lips. We managed to raise her to her feet.	Elevate, uplift, hoist Set upright
INCREASE	To raise someone's awareness He raised his bid to £240. To raise one's voice To raise one's expectations	Put up, push up, escalate, amplify, intensify, boost
PROMOTE	To raise someone to the rank of captain	Advance, upgrade, elevate
BRING UP	He was born and raised in Shanghai. I was raised on these stories. She raised cattle.	Rear, nurture, look after, care for, provide for Breed, rear, keep
COLLECT	Money raised from the concert Raise an army	Get, obtain, acquire, amass, accumulate Muster
CAUSE TO OCCUR	Her words raised the shadow of a doubt in his mind. To raise the alarm His behaviour raises serious concerns.	Give rise to, cause, produce, engender, elicit, result in, lead to, prompt, induce
ABANDON	To raise an embargo on something To raise a siege	End, stop, cancel
MENTION	Please raise any queries or questions now.	Bring up, submit, suggest, put forward
RESURRECT	To raise someone from the dead	Bring back from death

Idioms

To raise one's eyebrows	Romanov merely raised his eyebrows at the discourtesy
(A few) raised eyebrows	There were a few raised eyebrows when he announced his engagement. (<i>express mild surprise</i>)
To raise one's glass	Let us raise our glasses to the young couple. (<i>drink a toast</i>)
To raise hell	They were hollering and raising hell. (<i>make a noisy disturbance</i>)
To raise the stakes	US policy is raising the stakes in the region. (<i>increasing the risks</i>)

81. TO SERVE

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
WORK FOR	Malcolm has served the church faithfully. The soldiers have served their country well. I serve the President.	Perform duties for, be employed by, have a job with Be of service to, do one's bit for, make a contribution to Owe allegiance to
PERFORM	He had served an apprenticeship as a bricklayer. He is serving a ten-year jail sentence. The President of the US can only serve two terms.	Go through, complete, do Carry out, fulfil
PRESENT	They serve wine instead of beer. Serve it with French bread.	Provide, offer, purvey, dish out,
ATTEND TO	She turned to serve the impatient customer. They wouldn't serve me in the pub because I looked too young.	Wait on, deal with Provide alcohol to

Idioms

To serve as	Let that serve as a lesson to you – don't talk behind people's backs. (<i>teach</i>)
If (my) memory serves	If (my) memory serves (me), this is not the first time he's been reported for abusive behaviour in the workplace. (<i>if I remember correctly</i>)
To serve someone right	It would serve you right if Jeff walked out on you. (<i>no less than one deserves</i>)
To serve its purpose	I know it's not a great car, but it serves its purpose (<i>is good enough</i>)
To serve two masters	<i>follow two conflicting or opposing principles or policies at the same time</i>
Revenge is a dish best served cold	<i>Vengeance is most satisfying when you take your time to get it.</i>

82. TO SPEND

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PAY OUT	We spent a fortune when we were in New York. We went on a spending spree. He spent money like it grew on trees.	expend, lay out, splash out (informal), disburse
PASS	We spent the night in hotel. I spent all day cleaning my house. He spent most of his time in the library.	Pass, fill, occupy Use, employ, concentrate, invest, put in, devote
EXHAUST	Her anger soon spent itself. The storm finally spent itself.	Use up, wipe out, deplete, run through, consume, waste, drain, eat up, finish, stop

Idioms

To spend a penny	I think the dog needs to spend a penny. <i>(euphemism for pee)</i>
To spend a packet	He spent a packet on that new car <i>(spend a fortune)</i>
Don't spend it all in one place	<i>(an insignificant amount of money) (humorous)</i>

Noun

<i>The amount of money that is spent on a particular activity.</i>	Let's double the spend on computers. (Annual spend, advertising spend, the total spend)
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83. TO APPEAR

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
SEEM	<p>She didn't appear at all surprised at the news.</p> <p>He appears a perfectly normal person.</p> <p>She appeared to be in her late thirties.</p> <p>It appears that there has been a mistake.</p>	Strike one as, look, show signs of, give the impression of
ARRIVE	<p>A bus appeared around the corner.</p> <p>By ten o'clock Lee still hadn't appeared.</p> <p>When did mammals appear on the earth?</p>	<p>Come into view, turn up, loom</p> <p>Show up</p> <p>Emerge, come into existence</p>
FEATURE	<p>She regularly appears on TV.</p> <p>Your name will appear at the front of the book.</p> <p>This problem first appeared in the inner cities.</p>	<p>Feature</p> <p>Arise, come up, occur</p>
BE PUBLISHED	<p>His new book will be appearing in the spring.</p>	Come out, release
BE PRESENT IN COURT	<p>A man will appear in court today charged with the murder.</p> <p>She appeared on six charges of theft.</p>	

Noun

- To all appearances To all appearances, he was dead. *(as far as one can tell)*
- To give every appearance of He gave every appearance of enjoying himself. *(seem very much)*
- To keep up appearances When she lost all her money, she was determined to keep up appearances. *(hide the true situation and pretend that everything is going well)*

84. TO BECOME

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
GROW	I became interested in Christianity when I first saw a Catholic church. It's becoming increasingly hard to find a job. He became angry. China has become an industrialised country. She has become a woman.	Grow, develop, come/start to be, Change, turn out to be Transform into Mature into
SUIT	That dress becomes you. That kind of behaviour does not become a police officer	Look good, flatter, enhance be appropriate, fitting
HAPPEN	I wonder what became of her...	

85. TO CHANGE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
REPLACE	We changed the car for a bigger one. I'm going to change my hairstyle. We need to change our business model.	Substitute, alternate Modify, transform, alter, vary Reform, restructure, reorganise
EXCHANGE	Do you want to change seats with me? At half-time, the teams change ends. You've changed sides!	Interchange, rotate, swap, trade, switch
TRANSFER	I stopped in Moscow only to change planes.	
CLOTHING	Where can I change the baby?	Put a fresh nappy on

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
BECOME DIFFERENT	Her life changed completely when she won the lottery. Caterpillars change into butterflies. All animals have to change in order to survive The price is constantly changing.	Alter, vary, turn, develop, reform, restructure, renew, evolve transform, evolve Adapt, adjust Oscillate, fluctuate, be in a state of flux.
TRANSFER	You'll have to change at Leicester Square. All change! (<i>cry often heard at train stations to indicate the train will go no further</i>)	Transfer, switch
DRESS	I need to go home, shower and change. Please tell me you are going to change for dinner.	

Idioms

Change one's mind/tune	Nothing will make me change my mind. (<i>reverse a decision/alter a point of view</i>) Wait until he finds out the price - he'll soon change his tune. (<i>attitude</i>)
Change hands	The house has changed hands several times (<i>to pass to a different owner</i>)
The leopard cannot change its spots	My boyfriend tried to tell me he'd changed, but a leopard cannot change its spots. (<i>one's true nature remains the same</i>)
To change tack	This clearly isn't working, let's try to change tack. (<i>try a new approach</i>)

Noun

Synonyms

For a change	Let's go out for a change. (<i>for once</i>)	
A change for the better/worse	We're seeing a change for the better in the economy. (<i>improvement</i>)	
A change is as good as a rest	<i>Doing something different is as beneficial as a holiday.</i>	
A change of heart	You were always so anti marriage – don't tell me you've had a change of heart... (<i>change mind—usually emotional</i>)	relent, come round, yield, capitulate, have an epiphany

86. TO CREATE

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
CAUSE TO EXIST	<p>God created man in his own image.</p> <p>The uncertainty will create fear.</p> <p>Steve Jobs created the iPhone.</p> <p>President Trump wants to create a wall between the USA and Mexico.</p> <p>The investment created hundreds of jobs.</p>	<p>Fashion, forge, produce, make, mould</p> <p>Bring about, cause, occasion, produce, engender, lead to, result in</p> <p>Design, invent</p> <p>Build, construct, erect</p> <p>Generate, make</p>
APPOINT	<p>He was created a baron.</p>	

Idioms

Create a scene I hate going to restaurants with my mother-in-law – she always creates a scene. (*make a fuss, cause embarrassment*)

Create an uproar The government's new inheritance tax has created an uproar. (*outrage*)

87. TO DECIDE

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">CHOOSE</div>	<p>Tina's decided to go to Rome for her holidays.</p> <p>You must decide for yourself. The trainees decide among themselves what programs to take.</p>	<p>Make up one's mind, determine, resolve</p> <p>Arrive at a decision</p>

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">INFLUENCE</div>	<p>It was the penalty kick that decided the match.</p> <p>The look he gave her decided her not to ask.</p>	<p>Affect, have an effect on</p> <p>Make, convince, persuade</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">MAKE AN OFFICIAL JUDGEMENT</div>	<p>The Commission will have the power to decide disputes. The arbitrator will decide the case.</p>	<p>Settle, resolve, arbitrate, judge, rule</p>

Idioms

To decide against

In the end, we decided against (going to) Italy for our holidays (*choose not to*)
 We've decided against having another child.
 He was a good candidate but in the end, the jury decided against him.

88. TO EXPECT

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
ANTICIPATE	The hearing is expected to last a week. Celia was expecting a visitor.	Predict, forecast Await, hope for, look forward to
REQUIRE	We expect employers to pay a reasonable salary.	Ask for, call for, want, insist on, demand
SUPPOSE	I expect she'll be late. You don't expect me to believe that, do you?	Presume, daresay, think, believe, imagine, assume, surmise

Idioms

Be expecting (a baby)	His wife was expecting again. (<i>be pregnant</i>)
(only) to be expected	He had a few lines about the eyes, but at forty-seven that was only to be expected. (<i>completely normal</i>)
What can (or do) you expect?	"He acts so superior" – "He's a man, what do you expect?" (<i>in response to a statement of the obvious</i>)

89. TO HAPPEN

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
OCCUR	She pressed the button but nothing happened. Just plug it in and see what happens.	Occur, take place, arise, befall, crop up, come about, come true, result, ensue, follow, transpire, materialize
CHANCE	They happened to look in the right place almost immediately. She happens to like cleaning. As it happened, I had a few minutes to spare. You don't happen to know his name, do you? I happened upon an interesting article in the newspaper.	As chance would have it As it turns out Come across, spot
PROTEST	That happens to be my mother you're talking about!	

Idioms

Accidents will happen/
These things happen

"Sorry, I've spilt some wine". "Never mind, these things happen". *(said to comfort someone who has caused a mishap)*

Anything can/might happen

Anything can happen, you never know! *(it is impossible to know what the result of sth will be)*

90. TO REMAIN

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
STAY	Please remain seated. We remained friends. The refugees were allowed to remain in the UK. Little of the original building remains.	be, keep continue to be stay, dwell, linger, exist, persist, still stand, survive

Idioms

- It remains to be seen It remains to be seen whether the operation was successful. (*it is still unclear whether something will happen*)
- remain in touch with My old high school friends and I remained in touch with each other. (*to maintain contact with*)

Noun

- remains Her remains are buried in Westminster (*body*).

91. TO REPORT

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PRESENT ONESELF	Please report for duty at 6 o'clock.	
ANSWER TO	She reports directly to the President.	

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
RELATE	I reported the robbery to the police. His absence was reported the next day. The study reports an increase in crime.	Declare, tell, inform, recount, describe, denounce Show, recount, disclose, indicate, describe, chronicle, record, note

92 TO BELIEVE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
THINK	I believe you have something of mine. I believe we've already met.	Consider, suppose, assume, deem, reckon, speculate, presume, imagine
ACCEPT	Don't believe what you read in the papers. Some 23 per cent believe that smoking keeps down weight. You must believe me!	Hold, trust, have faith in, have confidence in, credit, count on, depend on

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
RELIGION	Do you believe?	Have faith, be religious

Idioms

To believe in	I don't believe in God. (<i>conviction</i>) I believe in hard work/love/treating people equally etc.
Believe me	Believe me, it is well worth the effort. (<i>used to emphasize the truth of a statement</i>)
Believe it or not	Believe it or not, I was considered quite bright in those days. (<i>element of surprise/disbelief</i>)
Don't you believe it!	He says he is left of centre, but don't you believe it! (<i>used to express disbelief in the truth of a statement</i>)
To be unable to believe one's eyes/ears	I couldn't believe my eyes when I opened the box. (<i>be amazed by what one sees</i>) That statement was so outrageous I could hardly believe my ears (<i>be amazed by what one hears</i>)
To be unable to believe one's luck	Clarke could hardly believe his luck as he put the ball into the empty net. (<i>unexpected good fortune</i>)
To not believe a word of it	He told me she was just a friend, but I don't believe a word of it. (<i>emphatic</i>)
To make believe	Let's make believe (that) we're pirates! (<i>to pretend or imagine</i>)

Noun

Make-believe	This is pure make-believe. (<i>untrue, fake news</i>)
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93. TO INCLUDE

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
INCORPORATE	Activities include sports and drama. Included in the price Don't forget to include the cost of repairs!	Comprise, encompass, cover, embrace, involve, contain, consist of, be made up of, be composed of Take into account, put in
COUNT IN	The guests included Jason. Thank you for including us in your plans.	Make part of, involve

94. TO PROVIDE

Transitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #00aaff; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">GIVE</div>	<p>The government provides food and shelter to all those in need.</p> <p>The report was not expected to provide any answers.</p> <p>We are here to provide a service for the public.</p> <p>The charity aims to provide assistance to people in need.</p>	<p>Supply, furnish, offer, lend, yield, issue, put sth up</p>

Intransitive		
Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #00aaff; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">STATE</div>	<p>The final section provides that any work produced for the company is thereafter owned by the company.</p>	<p>Stipulate, specify, require, insist upon</p>

Idioms

To provide against sth	Health insurance will provide against loss of income if you become ill. (<i>safeguard</i>)	cover, compensate
To provide for sb	Without work, how can I provide for my children? (<i>money, food, shelter etc</i>)	support
To provide for sth	The new constitution provides for a 650-seat legislature (<i>arrange</i>). Commanders failed to provide for an attack by sea (<i>prepare for</i>).	stipulate foresee, envisage, plan

Nouns

Under the provisions of the Act, employers must supply safety equipment. (*terms*)

95 TO REQUIRE

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
NEED	A baby requires warmth and physical security.	Need, crave, depend upon, have need of, want
DEMAND	This requires thought, effort, and a certain ruthlessness.	Demand, take, involve, call for. Entail, necessitate
ORDER	The rules require employers to provide safety training.	Order, demand, direct, command, compel, exact, oblige, instruct, call upon, constrain, insist upon
ASK	She was required to leave.	Ask, order, bid, command, compel, oblige, instruct, enjoin

96. TO SUGGEST

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
PROPOSE	<p>I suggest that we go out to eat. I suggested going in my car.</p> <p>I suggested a different approach to my boss that might yield better results.</p> <p>It has been suggested that bright children should take their exams early.</p>	<p>Put forward, advocate, recommend, advise</p> <p>Advise, counsel, put forward</p>
IMPLY	<p>Are you suggesting that I'm lazy?</p>	<p>Infer, intimate, hint, allude</p>
INDICATE	<p>All the evidence suggests that he stole the money.</p> <p>The symptoms suggest a minor heart attack.</p>	<p>mean, prove, point towards, give the impression that, show</p>

Idioms

Suggest itself to (one) An exciting new idea suggested itself to me while I was listening to the speaker give his presentation. (*unexpectedly come into one's mind*)

Noun

At/on sb's suggestion At his suggestion, I bought the more expensive printer because (*sb recommended it*).

97. TO CONSIDER

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
THINK	She considered her options. A carefully considered response. The company is actively considered as a potential partner.	Think, ponder, contemplate, calculate, deliberate, reflect, examine, bear in mind, ruminate,
BELIEVE	This award is considered a great honour. Who do you consider to be responsible for the accident?	Suppose, hold, see, take, think, regard, reckon, count
REGARD	You should consider other people before you act.	Take into account, think about
GAZE	He stood there, considering the painting.	Look at thoughtfully, watch

Idioms

- All things considered She has had a lot of problems since her husband died, but she seems quite cheerful, all things considered.
All things considered, I think you've done quite a good job! (*taking into account all the difficulties*)
- One's considered opinion Capital punishment is, in my considered opinion, just a way of legitimising murder. (*an opinion that is the result of careful thought*)
- Consider it done "Do you think you could get this parcel mailed for me?" ——"Consider it done." (*do immediately*)

98. TO CONTINUE

Intransitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
CARRY ON	If the rain continues, we'll have to cancel tonight's plans. The article continues on page ten. Continue along this path until you reach a stream	last, remain, persist, keep on, go on proceed
RESUME	After stopping for a quick drink, they continued on their way. The president continued by saying that his country was a free country. The performance will continue in two minutes.	reopen, resume, restart, proceed, go on, carry on

Transitive		
Meaning	Examples	Synonyms
KEEP	Do you intend to continue your education? This family has always tried to continue the old traditions	keep up with, hold on, further maintain, preserve
BEGIN AGAIN	we will continue this discussion after we've eaten.	restart, reopen, pick up, renew, go on, carry on

99. TO REMEMBER

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">RECALL</div>	<p>Where did you park the car?" "I can't remember."</p> <p>She suddenly remembered that her keys were in her other bag. I don't remember signing a contract.</p> <p>Do you remember it? I can remember people's faces, but not their names.</p>	<p>Recollect, think back, call to mind</p> <p>Does it ring a bell?</p> <p>Retain</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">COMMEMORATE</div>	<p>On 11 November, the British remember those who died in the two World Wars.</p>	<p>Honour</p>

Idioms

Remember somebody to someone

Please remember me to your parents. (*convey greetings*)

Something to remember by

I gave her a brooch - something to remember me by while I was away. (*keepsake*)

100. TO UNDERSTAND

Meanings	Examples	Synonyms
COMPREHEND	I can't understand him. I think you understand my meaning. I understand your problem.	Comprehend, get, take in, perceive, grasp, know, see, follow, realize, recognize, appreciate, be aware of
SYMPATHIZE WITH	You're angry with him – I understand. My boss showed no understanding for my personal problems.	Sympathize with, appreciate, be aware of, be able to see, take on board (informal), empathize with, commiserate with, show compassion for
BELIEVE	I understand you're retiring soon?	Believe, take it, hear, gather

Idioms

- Do you understand/is that understood? You do not criticize my grandchildren, do you understand?
(emphasis)
I don't need it, understand?
I don't want to hear another word about it. Is that understood, Emma?
- To be understood It is understood that people should talk quietly in the library
(tacitly accepted rule).
- To make oneself understood Since they spoke only Swahili, we used signs and gestures to make ourselves understood. *(communicate effectively)*
- To be given to understand We were given to understand that human rights would not form part of the discussions *(to be told)*
I am given to understand that you will be leaving us soon, is that so?