

## Two-Part Verbs

*Two-Part verbs* (also called *two-word verbs*) are formed from a verb and another word, usually a preposition, and generally have a different meaning from the verb or preposition alone. Two-part verbs fall into two categories: *inseparable* and *separable*.

**INSEPARABLE:** The two parts of the verb must always be together.

**The teacher *called on* Alice.**

**SEPARABLE:** A noun or pronoun may be inserted between the two parts of the verb.

With a NOUN: **Betty *called up* Carol on her new cell phone.**

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If the noun is modified by a phrase or clause, it is placed after the whole verb.

**Betty *called up* Carol, who lives next door, on her new cell phone.**

With a PRONOUN: A pronoun is always placed between the two parts of a separable two-part verb. **Betty *called her up*.**

➔ Below is a list of common two-part verbs: (• = inseparable)

1. ***blow up* -- become very angry** My father *blew up* when he heard the news.
2. ***blow up* -- inflate** We *blew up* some balloons.
3. ***break down* -- stop working** The car *broke down* last night.
4. ***break out* -- erupt** A fire *broke out* in the forest.
5. ***bring up* -- to raise a child** My grandparents *brought me up*.
6. ***bring up* -- to raise a subject** His teacher *brought* the subject of gerunds *up*.
7. ***call back* -- return a call** She tried to *call* him *back*.
8. ***call off* -- cancel** The game was *called off*.
9. ***call on* -- ask to recite** • My teacher *called on* me.
10. ***call on* -- visit** • We *called on* our new neighbors.
11. ***call up* -- telephone** Jack *called* Karen *up*.
12. ***can't stand* -- don't like** • She *can't stand* that TV program.
13. ***care for* -- take care of** • My mother *cared for* six children.
14. ***come back* -- return** • He will *come back* tomorrow.
15. ***come over* -- pay a casual visit** • *Come over* any time.
16. ***cut out* -- quit, stop** • You should *cut out* smoking.
17. ***depend on* -- need** • He *depends on* his parents' help.
18. ***depend on* -- rely on** • You can always *depend on* Richard.
19. ***do over* -- repeat** The teacher wants me to *do* my composition *over*.
20. ***fill out* -- complete** Please *fill* this form *out*.
21. ***get along* -- progress** • How are you *getting along* with your homework?
22. ***get along with* -- be friendly** • Do your children *get along with* the neighbors?
23. ***get by* -- succeed with minimum effort** • Eddie always manages to *get by*.
24. ***get out of* -- escape, evade** • He is trying to *get out of* doing the dishes.
25. ***get over* -- recover from an illness** • I hope you *get over* that cold soon.
26. ***get through* -- finish** • Call me when you *get through*.
27. ***get up* -- arise** • I will *get up* at 7:30.
28. ***get up* -- wake someone up** Mother will *get us up* at 7:30.
29. ***give back* -- return** Please *give* the money you borrowed *back*.
30. ***give up* -- cease, surrender** The robber *gave* himself *up* to the police.

31. **go on -- take place, happen •** The show must *go on*.
32. **go over -- review •** We have to *go over* our taxes.
33. **hand in -- submit** It is time to *hand* your tests *in*.
34. **hear from -- have communication •** I just *heard from* my cousins in New York.
35. **hear of -- be familiar with •** Have you ever *heard of* John Paul Jones?
36. **hold off -- delay, restrain oneself** We are going to *hold off* on buying that.
37. **keep on -- continue •** We have to *keep on* looking for the lost dog.
38. **keep up -- maintain** It is expensive to *keep* this old house *up*.
39. **leave out -- omit** Would you please *leave* the pickles *out* of my hamburger?
40. **listen to -- pay attention •** Students should *listen to* the teacher.
41. **look for -- seek •** Frank is *looking for* a new job.
42. **look into -- investigate •** The police are *looking into* the burglary.
43. **look like -- resemble •** George *looks like* my brother, Harry.
44. **look out -- beware •** *Look out* for snakes in the desert.
45. **look over -- examine** The mechanic *looked* Mike's car *over*.
46. **look up -- search for** Larry *looked* the word *up* in the dictionary.
47. **make out -- succeed •** I *made out* well on that stock deal.
48. **make out -- to fill out a form •** I have to *make out* my income tax forms.
49. **make out -- to kiss and caress as lovers •** They like to *make out* during the movie.
50. **make out -- to see with difficulty** I can't *make* anything *out* in this fog.
51. **make over -- renovate** We are going to *make* the garden *over*.
52. **make sure of -- verify •** Please *make sure of* your answers.
53. **make up -- compensate** The employees had to *make up* the shortage in the cash register.
54. **make up -- invent** He *made* that story *up*.
55. **make up -- prepare** The pharmacist *made* the prescription *up*.
56. **make up (one's mind) -- decide** I *made up* my mind to vote for Foster.
57. **put on -- to apply, put into operation** *Put* the lights *on*.
58. **put on (clothing) -- dress** I'll *put* my new shirt *on*.
59. **put out -- extinguish** They quickly *put* the fire *out*.
60. **run across -- to meet by chance •** We *ran across* some old friends at the market.
61. **run into -- to meet by chance •** You never know when you will *run into* an old friend.
62. **run out of -- exhaust one's supply •** The car *ran out of* gas.
63. **run over -- hit by a car •** My dog was almost *run over*.
64. **show off -- display •** Irving likes to *show off* his new car.
65. **show up -- appear** The new store opened, but nobody *showed up*.
66. **take down -- record in writing** Our teacher told us to *take* the information *down*.
67. **take off -- remove** *Take* that silly hat *off*!
68. **take up -- introduce, discuss** Congress will *take up* the drug problem.
69. **talk over -- discuss** We need to *talk* the problem *over*.
70. **try out -- test** *Try* this new pen *out*.
71. **turn in -- deliver** Please *turn* your papers *in*.
72. **turn in -- go to bed •** It's late. I'm going to *turn in*.
73. **turn in -- report** They *turned* the thief *in* to the sheriff.
74. **turn off -- put out of operation** *Turn* the lights *off*.
75. **turn on -- put into operation** *Turn* the TV *on*.
76. **use up -- consume** The toothpaste is all *used up*.