

Phrasal verb KEEP

The phrasal verb keep is listed below along with an exercise for you to check your understanding. I recommend looking over the list then doing the exercise to check your knowledge.

KEEP AROUND = continue to possess or keep near you
*I have no idea why they keep around this piece of junk.
They'll never use it.*

KEEP AT = continue with something (usually difficult)
*Jill kept at the puzzle until she put all the pieces
together.*

KEEP AWAY = prevent from gaining access; not allow near
*The warehouse has a guard dog to keep away would be
thieves.*

KEEP BACK = maintain a safe distance
*The police kept back the crowd by blocking off the
street.*

KEEP DOWN = A. not vomit B. repress or muffle
*A. Did she keep down the soup? No, she hasn't kept
anything down for two days.
B. Keep down the noise, will you? I'm trying to sleep.*

KEEP FROM = refrain from doing
I couldn't keep myself from eating the last piece of cake.

KEEP IN = not allow out
She kept him in because he had a high temperature.

KEEP OFF = A. not walk on something B. not talk about something
*A. There was a sign posted at the courthouse that read;
keep off the grass!
B. The reporter kept off any the topic of the recent
scandal with the politician.*

KEEP ON = continue
Let's keep on hiking... it's such a beautiful day.

KEEP OUT = not allow someone to enter
*We were kept out of the club because we were too
young.*

KEEP TO = remain steady or faithful to something
*Let's keep to the plan. I don't want to make any changes
now.*

KEEP UP = A. prevent from going to bed B. maintain a continuous action or state
*A. John kept up Jill last night talking about the current
crisis.
B. "Keep up the good work," John's teacher said to him
as he handed back his essay.*

KEEP UP WITH = A. move at same rate or pace B. stay informed, current, up to date
*A. The pack kept up with the leader as they rounded the
final bend of the race.
B. I keep up with things back home by reading the news
on the internet.*

Phrasal verb KEEP Exercise:

Choose from the drop down menu the preposition(s) that best complete the phrasal verbs below.

1. You'll be fine as long as you keep _____ the path. Don't leave it.
2. They dammed the river to keep _____ the water.
3. The runner couldn't keep _____ the pace and lost the lead.
4. He was kept _____ participating because of his age.
5. She kept _____ the sandwich which was the first solid food she ate in a week.
6. Why keep _____ that rusty old car? You ought to get rid of it.
7. Mother told us to keep _____ the kitchen floor as she had just mopped it.
8. He used an alarm system to help keep _____ unwanted guests.
9. She kept _____ it until she finally got the knot untied.
10. He kept _____ his wife with his loud snoring.