

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.