

## 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.