

# MAIRO VERGARA

## ADVANCED PHRASAL VERBS COURSE

### Sentences for Anki | Lesson 02

**Front:**

My dad lost his job six months ago but we get by because my mom has taken a job as a secretary.

**Back:**

get by = to have enough money to buy the things you need, but no more

*This family is taking some strain to pay the bills but they have enough money to buy the things they need. They are getting by.*

**Front:**

My parents have cut my allowance because my grades were so poor, but I get by.

**Back:**

get by = to have enough money to buy the things you need, but no more

*It is important to understand that different people have different ideas about what it takes to “get by”. To the girl in this sample sentence it means being able to buy make-up and being able to go out once a weekend instead of twice. To the billionaire it means having six luxury cars and a helicopter instead of eight cars and no helicopter. To the poverty-stricken it means having a bowl of porridge and some milk. The definition of “getting by” is different for different people.*

**Front:**

In the world's poorest countries people have to get by on \$1 per day.

**Back:**

get by = to survive

*In this sentence “to get by” no longer means to have just enough money to buy the things you need. In this case “getting by” becomes a matter of survival, of life and death, you could almost say. This person does not have enough money, and has to get by, has to survive, on the bare minimum.*

**Front:**

It is easy for you to say that the poor are lucky because the government looks after them, but would you be able to get by on a small government pension?

**Back:**

get by = to survive

*Once again, the meaning of “get by” leans more towards basic survival than towards the idea of having enough. The speaker is asking if his friend would be able to survive on a small government pension.*

**Front:**

My dad can get by on five hours’ sleep per night but I need eight.

**Back:**

get by = to cope with

*In this case the meaning of ‘get by’ is to cope with something. The father manages to cope with little sleep but the child does not.*

**Front:**

How do you get by with so little support from your family and friends?

**Back:**

get by = to cope with

*Here the issue is not money or sleep but emotional support. This person has to cope with very little emotional support.*

**Front:**

My roommate gets by with one hour of study per day while I spend all day in front of my books.

**Back:**

get by = to succeed by putting in little effort

*The roommate in this sample sentence manages to pass without studying very hard. He succeeds without putting in much effort.*

**Front:**

My friend has won every race she has run so far this year without training much. I really cannot get by with so little training.

**Back:**

get by = to succeed by putting in little effort

*The speaker cannot succeed without training hard, but her friend seems to be able to do so. The friend experiences success, “gets by”, without putting in much effort.*

**Front:**

It frustrates me that my colleague gets by with so little work.

**Back:**

get by = to proceed without being discovered, criticized, or punished

*In this case the colleague is probably always late, often misses meetings and gets other people to do his work for him, but still he gets promoted. This colleague manages to buck the system. He is lazy, yet his laziness is not discovered. In fact, instead of being criticized or punished for his laziness, he is promoted.*

**Front:**

How is it that she gets by with cheating during the exam and other people are expelled?

**Back:**

get by = to proceed without being discovered, criticized, or punished

*The person in this sample sentence cheats without being discovered. She gets away with cheating.*

**Front:**

Watch Gabriella carefully - she'll cheat if she thinks she can get away with it.

**Back:**

get away with = not to be caught or punished when you have done something wrong

*In this scenario we are dealing with someone who does not mind doing something wrong, as long as she is not caught.*

**Front:**

No-one insults my mother and gets away with it!

**Back:**

get away with = not to be caught or punished when you have done something wrong

*One can safely say that this speaker is about to punch the person who has insulted his mother. He will make the person pay for the insult! He will not allow the person to go unpunished.*

**Front:**

At school he gets away with cutting class because he charms the teachers.

**Back:**

get away with = not to be caught or punished when you have done something wrong

*The guy in this sentence is probably dashing handsome and perfectly charming. He cuts class but then walks in half-way through the lesson, flashing a perfect smile and making some convincing excuse, and the teachers all fall for it. He "gets away" with this behavior. (Guys like these often become politicians, so watch out for them!)*

**Front:**

Do you know how many large companies wreck the environment and get away with it?

**Back:**

get away with = not to be caught or punished when you have done something wrong

*Yes, they pollute, strip-mine, chop, poison, waste and spill without being punished. They get away with it but ultimately all of us will suffer the consequences.*

**Front:**

Beatriz was convicted of assault but got away with a light sentence.

**Back:**

get away with = to receive less punishment than one would have expected

*In this sentence the meaning of “get away” is slightly different. In this case Beatriz is punished, but only very lightly. So, in certain instances, to “get away with” means to receive less punishment than one would have expected.*

**Front:**

Instead of being fired for sleeping on the job three times in a row, he got away with a light reprimand.

**Back:**

get away with = to receive less punishment than one would have expected

*So, this guy was lucky. He kept falling asleep at work. He received a warning ... then he did it again... and again. One would expect his boss to fire him, but she probably liked him a lot because she only reprimanded him lightly.*

**Front:**

That restaurant gets away with serving cold, limp chips and greasy, tasteless hamburgers.

**Back**

get away with = to escape undesirable consequences

*One would expect people to boycott a restaurant that serves poor food, but this restaurant seems to get away with it. They do not suffer any undesirable consequences. The undesirable consequences in this case would be loss of clients. However, they do not lose clients. They get away with serving awful food.*

**Back:**

If you think you can get away with treating me like this because I love you, think again!

**Front:**

get away with = to escape undesirable consequences

*I am sure some of you can relate to this scenario. Very often the people whom we love treat us badly*

*because they think we love them too much to leave them. This guy is not going to let the girl treat him badly because he loves her. He is standing his ground and telling her that she cannot act in this way without suffering any consequences.*

**Front:**

Because his parents are diplomats Felipe gets away with murder!

**Back:**

get away with = (figurative) not to be punished for doing something wrong

*This statement is used figuratively. Felipe does not literally commit murder. He does not shoot people in the head or stab them in the gut. However, he does things wrong, sometimes serious things, and is not punished for his actions. He drives recklessly without being arrested. He seduces girls, makes them pregnant and leaves them without any child support. He uses drugs as if they were M&Ms, then shouts obscenities at passersby, but no-one lifts a finger!*

**Front:**

Teenagers get away with murder in their homes these days.

**Back:**

get away with = (figurative) not to be punished for doing something wrong

*No parents were harmed in the making of this sentence. This is not a case of some unhappy teenager taking an axe to his parents. The sentence refers to disobedient, rude teenagers who do and say whatever they like and never suffer the consequences.*

**Front:**

My sister will dress up as Princess Leia and I will go as Yoda.

**Back:**

dress up = to wear special clothes, e.g. fancy dress, for fun

*OK, so this example is only for Star Wars fans. I admit that. If you are a Batman or a Lord of the Rings fan, come up with your own sentence that means "to wear special clothes of fancy dress for fun"!*

**Front:**

Can't you guess from the long white beard and the cape that I am dressed up as Gandalf?

**Back:**

dress up = to wear special clothes, e.g. fancy dress, for fun

*So, OK, I have taken pity on all the Lord of the Rings fans. This guy is dressed up as Gandalf. He is wearing special clothes that make him look like the most famous wizard of all times. Except Merlin,*

*of course!*

**Front:**

None of the kids would even think about dressing up in a Batman mask. They wouldn't be seen dead in it!

**Back:**

dress up = to wear special clothes, e.g. fancy dress, for fun

*I admit, I am not a Batman fan, so apologies to the Batman fans! Today is not your day for Batman sample sentences. You can dress up in a Batman mask as often as you like, but leave me out of it.*

**Front:**

I dressed up for my first date with the most popular boy at school.

**Back:**

dress up = to wear clothes that are more formal than the clothes you normally wear

*Most of us recognize the excitement of a first date and the desperate need to look our best. We dress up in beautiful clothes because it gives us power, makes us feel more attractive and hides the ugly bits!*

**Front:**

Ana was all dressed up with nowhere to go.

**Back:**

dress up = to wear clothes that are more formal than the clothes you normally wear

*This sentence has both a literal and a figurative meaning. Literally it means that someone is dressed beautifully or formally but does not have an event to attend. Imagine another version of the Cinderella story: the fairy has changed Cindy's tatters into a beautiful, shimmering dress but then the news arrives that the party is off because the prince had eloped with a beautiful blonde. Figuratively it means that you are fully prepared for a situation or a happening that never takes place.*

**Front:**

You'll have to dress up for the occasion - it's black tie.

**Back:**

To dress up = to wear clothes that are more formal than the clothes you normally wear

*A black tie event is a very formal event to which men are expected to wear an evening suit or a tuxedo. Women often dress up in ball gowns for such events.*

**Front:**

There is no need to dress up tonight. It is just a very informal get-together.

**Back:**

To dress up = to wear clothes that are more formal than the clothes you normally wear

*So to this event you will probably wear jeans and a T-shirt. You will NOT dress up.*

**Front:**

I admit, the resort looks old and tired, but I chose it because they dressed it up in the brochure as a beautiful oasis of tranquility and rustic charm!

**Back:**

To dress up = **(figurative)** to make something more interesting or attractive than it actually is

*Unfortunately, brochures lie. So do photos, especially if you throw in a bit of Photoshop. So in this sample sentence the guy wanted to surprise his family with a special holiday at a beautiful resort. Bummer! The resort had been dressed up in the brochure - made to look more attractive than it really is.*

**Front:**

She looked like mutton dressed up as lamb.

**Back:**

To dress up = **(figurative)** to make something more interesting or attractive than it actually is

*This is an idiom that is often used to refer to an older woman who wears clothes that would be more suitable for a young woman. You know - shorts skirts, tight tops, lots of cleavage. Mutton is the meat of a fully grown sheep (therefore older and tougher) and lamb is the meat of a young sheep (therefore softer and more succulent).*

**Front:**

Management simply dressed up their old severance offer as a new one.

**Back:**

To dress up = **(figurative)** to make something more interesting or attractive than it actually is

*Management wants to get rid of some employees because times are hard. When the employees do not accept their first offer, management adds a few nice adjectives to the severance document and offers a few extra dollars to "dress up" the deal - to make the deal look more attractive. However, it*

*is virtually the same old deal, which will leave employees without enough money and without a job.*