

"Fall" Phrasal Verbs: Definitions

fall back on: to have a "backup plan"; to have a plan that you can use in an emergency

- *You should get a college degree, so just in case you are not successful as a singer, you will have something to fall back on.*
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fall behind: to progress more slowly than others; to be at a lower level than others

- *If you don't pay attention in class, you will fall behind and fail the test.*
 - *I was sick for a week, so I fell behind in class. Now I have to do extra work just to catch up.*
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fall for: 1) to be attracted to someone; to fall in love with someone

2) to believe a lie; to be tricked by someone; to be gullible

- *Jane fell for Bill the first time she laid eyes on him. It was love at first sight.*
 - *I told Mike that it was snowing in the desert and he believed me! That guy falls for everything!*
 - *She always falls for "bad boys" because she thinks they are attractive. The problem is, they always treat her badly.*
 - *We tried to convince Joel that there are 32 days in April, but he didn't fall for it.*
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fall into: to "end up" doing something that you hadn't planned to do or didn't originally want to do

- *Jared used to be a model student, but recently he fell into the wrong crowd and has been getting into trouble.*
 - *Many gangsters never plan to become criminals. They simply fall into the lifestyle from a young age.*
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fall off: to decrease (especially: sales, numbers, profits, etc.)

- *After the holiday peak season, sales usually fall off until the summer.*
 - *During the 2008 financial crisis, sales of new homes fell off dramatically.*
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fall through: if a plan is unsuccessful or an expectation is not met, you say it "fell through"

- *You should get a college degree, so just in case your singing career falls through, you'll have something to fall back on.*
- *We were going to go camping this weekend, but our plans fell through due to the rain.*

"Fall" Phrasal Verbs: Review

Fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete these "fall" phrasal verbs.

1. Every time John points at my chest, I look down and then he hits my face with his finger. I can't believe I _____ that stupid trick every time!
2. When I broke my leg, I couldn't go to school for a month, so I really _____ in class and had to get a tutor.
3. I planned to buy a new car, but my plans _____ when I lost my job.
4. Patrick started hanging out with the wrong crowd, and he gradually _____ a life of crime and drug addiction.
5. When I was in the hospital, the nurse and I _____ each other. We started dating and got married before my broken leg had even healed!
6. Sales of CDs _____ sharply after mp3s were introduced on the market.
7. Working part-time as a mechanic is a great opportunity. That way, if I ever have a hard time finding a job, I'll have something useful to _____.