

"Run" Phrasal Verbs: Definitions

run across: to find information accidentally; to find information that you weren't necessarily looking for (also: come across)

- *I ran across this interesting story in the newspaper last night. Check it out!*
 - *I just ran across some old pictures of you on Facebook. You looked so different!*
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run up against (or: run into): to encounter difficulties or opposition

- *The president ran up against opposition from senators when he tried to pass his health care bill.*
 - *Jane thought she could easily win the tournament, but she unexpectedly ran up against trouble today when she nearly lost to her opponent in the first round.*
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run for: to campaign for elected office

- *These politicians are all corrupt! I think I should run for mayor!*
 - *Billy is making posters because he is running for class president.*
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run into: 1) to accidentally hit someone or something (with a car, or when walking, for example)
2) to meet someone you were not planning to see

- *We ran into Mr. and Mrs. Smith in Paris last week! It was such a coincidence!*
 - *I wasn't paying attention when I was walking, and I accidentally ran into a wall.*
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run on: to be powered by (electricity, solar power, batteries, etc.)

- *This mp3 player runs on two AA batteries.*
 - *Some new experimental cars can run on solar power alone.*
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run out of: to "use up"; to not have any left (money, gas, time, etc.)

- *I wanted to give my students a test, but unfortunately I ran out of time.*
 - *I ran out of gas on the way to work and had to walk to the nearest gas station.*
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"Run" Phrasal Verbs: Review

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

1. The CEO's plan to merge the company with its competitor _____
fierce opposition from shareholders.
2. Oh no! Somebody _____ my car in the parking lot, and they didn't even
leave a note!
3. The grocery store _____ bread, so we can't make sandwiches for
lunch today.
4. Last night when I was surfing the internet, I _____ across a list of cheap flights
that are available. Do you want to go on a trip this weekend?
5. In modern politics, you need a lot of money if you want to _____ office.
6. Scientists are trying to develop a car that can _____ water and doesn't
require gasoline.
7. I _____ my ex-girlfriend at the mall last night. It was a little awkward, but we
actually had a nice little conversation.