

36. FOCUS ON: phrasal verbs with the particle **down**

The particle **down** is used in many phrasal verbs and has many meanings. **Down** can be used to say that something literally moves from a higher position to a lower position or from north to south:

Bob **went down** the ladder.

His friends **came down** from Canada.

Sit down; dinner is ready.

that something decreases in size, intensity, quantity, or quality:

Her fever has **gone down** to 100 degrees.

The doctor gave her a sedative to **calm her down**.

We've **narrowed** the list **down** to three choices.

that something or someone is fought, defeated, or overpowered:

Hank **backed down** when he saw my shotgun.

The police **cracked down** on street crime.

that something falls to the ground:

The boy was running and **fell down**.

The warehouse **burned down**.

Open the door or I'll **break it down**!

or that a process or activity is ending or has ended:

My car broke down on the highway.

The FBI **tracked down** the spy.

The campaign is **winding down**.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
back down	back down & backs down	backing down	backed down	backed down

1. backdown p.v. When one side in a disagreement stops making threats and lets the other have what it wants or do what it wants, the side that stops making threats **backs down**.

The dictator didn't **back down** after the United Nations Security Council voted in favor of sending in troops.

The police officer tried to force me to pay him a bribe, but when I said I would report him to the chief of police, he **backed down**.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
calm down				
calm down & calms down		calming down	calmed down	calmed down

1. **calm ... down** p.v. When you **calm down**, you become less active, nervous, or upset. When you **calm** other people **down**, you do something to make them less active, nervous, or upset. **Settle down** is similar to **calm down**.

I was very nervous about the test, but I **calmed down** when I saw how easy it was.

Mike tried to **calm** his sister **down** after she had a fight with her husband.

2. **calm ... down** p.v. When a confused or violent situation becomes less confused or violent, it **calms down**. When you **calm** a confused or violent situation **down**, you make it less confused or violent and more calm. **Settle down** is similar to **calm down**.

The neighborhood where the riot occurred **calmed down** after the army started patrolling the streets.

A conference between the two sides was organized to try to **calm** the situation **down**.

fall down

fall down & falls down	falling down	fell down	fallen down
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1. **fall down** p.v. When people or things fall to the ground from a higher position, they **fall down**.

I slipped on some ice on the sidewalk and **fell down**.

All the dishes on that shelf will **fall down** if there's another earthquake.

go down

go down & goes down down	going down	went down	gone
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1. **go down** (to) p.v. When you move to a lower level or position or from north to south, you **go down** or **go down** to that place. **Go up** is the opposite of **go down**.

Toronto is too cold, so we usually **go down** to Mexico in the winter.

Going down the mountain was a lot easier than going up.

2. **go down** (to) p.v. When the cost, rate, quality, quantity, or level of something decreases, it **goes down**. **Go up** is the opposite of **go down**.

The temperature **went down** to zero last night.

The crime rate in New York City has **gone down**.

3. **go down** (to) p.v. When something extends to a certain point that is farther south or at a lower elevation, it **goes down** to that point. **Go up** is the opposite of **go down**.

How far south does this road **go down**?

Does this road **go down** to the south side of town?

After dinner we **went down** to the basement and played ping pong.

4. go down p.v. When something **goes down** in a certain way, people react to or perceive it in this way.

The new no smoking policy didn't **go down** very well with the smokers in the office.

The judge's decision **went down** well with the prosecutor.

5. go down p.v. When a computer or computer network stops working because of a problem or because it has been disconnected, it **goes down**.

I couldn't withdraw any money at the bank because its computers had **gone down**.

If your computer terminal **goes down**, you can use the one in the next office.

6. go down p.v. When the sun goes below the horizon, it **goes down**.

After the sun **goes down**, it'll get a little cooler.

The sun **went down** at 8:34 last night.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
lay down	lay down & lays	laying down	laid down	laid down

1. lay... down (on) p.v. When you **lay** something **down**, you put it on a horizontal surface. **Put down** is similar to **lay down**.

Marsha **laid** the tray **down**.

The police ordered Jake to **lay down** his gun and surrender.

2. lay down p.v. When you **lay down** a new law, policy, rule, and so on, you create and announce it.

The IRS **laid down** several new tax regulations.

Congress decided against **laying down** any new campaign financing laws.

put down

put down & puts down	putting down	put down	put down
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1. put ...down p.v. When you **put** something **down**, you put something in your hand or something that you are carrying on a horizontal surface.

The suitcase was so heavy that I had to **put it down** and rest for a minute.

Susie, **put** that knife **down**. It's dangerous!

2. put... down p.v. When you **put** people **down**, you criticize them.

Jim hates his stepfather and puts him **down** constantly. I'm not inviting Sam to any more parties. I hate the way he **puts** everyone **down**.

put-down n. A **put-down** is an insult or critical remark.

At the party Sam asked Nancy if she had made her dress from an old curtain.

What a **put-down**!

3. put... down (on) p.v. When you **put** money **down** or **put** money **down** on something, you pay a portion of the cost of something you want to buy to be sure that it will still be available to you when you are able to pay the rest of the cost.

The real estate agent asked me how much money I want to **put down** on the house.

I told her that I could put as much as \$ 15,000 **down**.

4. put... down (on/for) **p.v.** When you add something to a list or other written material, you **put it down** or **put it down** on the list. When you add people to a list in order to assign something to them, you **put them down** or **put them down** for that assignment.

Melanie's collecting money for charity, so I told her to **put me down** for \$50.

I'm making a list of volunteers to help reelect Senator Dolittle. Can I put your name **down** on the list?

5. put... down (on) **p.v.** When an airplane **puts down** or a pilot **puts** an airplane **down**, the airplane lands.

After the engine quit, the pilot looked for a place to **put down**.

Fortunately, the pilot was able to **put** the plane **down** on a frozen lake.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
run	run down & runs down	running down	ran down	run down

1. run down (to) **p.v.** When you move quickly to a lower level or place, you **run down** or **run down** to that place.

Mike was **running down** the stairs when he fell and broke his leg.

I saw someone trying to steal my car, and I **ran down** to the street to try to stop him.

2. run ... down **p.v.** When vehicles or people driving vehicles hit and injure or kill someone, they **run** that person **down**.

The man was **run down** and killed by a speeding taxi.

Ali was arrested after he **ran** three people **down**.

3. run down **p.v.** When you discuss or review items on a list from the first to the last, you **run down** the list.

Let's **run down** the Christmas list and decide what to give everyone.

The teacher **ran down** the list of students and marked the ones who are failing.

rundown n. A **rundown** is a discussion or review of items on a list.

The consultant gave the manager a **rundown** of the problems she had found.

4. run down **p.v.** When batteries or machines **run down** or are **run down by** someone, they gradually lose power or energy.

Don't leave the car lights on for too long when the car isn't running or the battery will **run down**.

What time is it? My watch **ran down** last night.

rundown part.adj. A person or thing that is **rundown** is exhausted, without power or energy.

Maybe I need to go to the doctor; I feel so **rundown** all the time.

rundown *part.adj.* A **rundown** building or neighborhood is in poor condition because it has not been maintained.

I went back to my old neighborhood, and I was shocked to see how **rundown** it had become.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
sit down	sit down & sits down	sitting down	sat down	sat down

1. sit down *p.v.* When you **sit down**, **you** change from a standing position to a sitting position.

The teacher told his students to **sit down** and open their books.

I'm exhausted; I haven't **sat down** all day.

2. sit... down *p.v.* When you **sit** people **down**, you order them to sit, usually so that you can have a serious discussion.

When I found marijuana in my daughter's purse, I **sat** her **down** and had a serious talk with her.

The detective **sat** Hank **down** and began to interrogate him.

EXERCISE 36a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Heather thinks she's so high-class. She _____ other people all the time.
2. The situation _____ after the cease-fire was declared.
3. The sun comes up around 6:00, and it _____ around 8:00.
4. Here's the list of candidates for the promotion. Let's _____ the list and decide.
5. The old water tower _____ during the storm.
6. You must be exhausted. Why don't you _____ and take it easy?
7. I saw a tow truck looking for illegally parked cars, so I _____ to my car and moved it.
8. My office is on the ninetieth floor, so sometimes it takes me fifteen minutes to _____ to the lobby.
9. It's hard to write sympathy notes. I never know what to _____.

10. The company tried to reduce benefits, but they _____ when the union threatened to go on strike.
11. The Appalachian Trail starts in Maine and _____ all the way _____ to Georgia.
12. Don't _____ the baby _____ there — she might fall.
13. I was furious about what Dan said, and I _____ him _____ and told him exactly what I thought about it.
14. If you _____ \$ 100,000 _____ on that house, you won't need a very large mortgage.
15. What are you so worried about? Just _____ — everything's going to be all right.
16. The union's proposal to reduce the workweek to four days didn't _____ well with the company.
17. The Food and Drug Administration is expected to _____ a new set of regulations regarding seafood inspection.
18. The price of computers has _____ dramatically in the last few years.
19. Those boxes are too heavy for you. _____ them _____ and let me carry them for you.
20. A pedestrian was _____ by a truck on Lincoln Avenue.
21. The stock exchange had to stop trading when its computers _____.
22. _____ a jet _____ on an aircraft carrier at night is very difficult.
23. Someone left this flashlight on all night, and the batteries have _____.

EXERCISE 36b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.

1. The jockey **calmed down**. (the horse, it)
 2. The mechanic **laid down**. (her tools, them)
 3. I **put down**. (my books, them)
 4. The taxi **ran down**. (the traffic cop, him)
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EXERCISE 36c — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs, participle adjectives, and nouns from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. The car dealer reviewed the list of the car's options with me. What did the car dealer do?
2. In Question 1, what did the car dealer give me?
3. The king visited the area where the two tribes were fighting, and the fighting stopped. What did the king do to the area?
4. The houses in this part of town are in very bad condition. How can you describe this part of town?
5. Management's plan got a good reaction from the workers. What impression did the plan make on the workers?
6. Frank told Nancy that she was low-class. What did Frank do to Nancy?
7. In Question 6, what was Frank's comment?
8. Sam sat in a chair. What did Sam do?

9. The company's management stopped threatening to fire the workers and agreed to raise their wages. What did the company do?

10. The dentist's secretary wrote my name in her appointment book. What did the secretary do?

11. The soldiers stopped fighting and put their rifles on the ground. What did the soldiers do with their rifles?

12. You slipped and landed on the ground. What did you do?

EXERCISE 36d, Review — Complete the sentences with these participle adjectives from previous sections. To check their meanings, review the section number given after each one.

burned up, 22	locked in, 30	punched in, 30	spaced-out, 30
cleaned out, 32	locked out, 30	punched out, 30	sorted out, 30
emptied out, 32	paid up, 22	put out, 30	torn off, 27
left out, 32	plugged up, 22	shaken up, 24	

1. David's totally _____ today. He has even forgotten his girlfriend's name.
2. I like this coat, but I don't know what size it is because the tag's _____.
3. I don't know why that guy from the collection agency called me — all my bills are _____.
4. Nicole hasn't _____ yet. Either she's late for work or she forgot.
5. Mark borrowed Bob's car and had an accident, and Mark's really _____ about it.
6. The manager wondered why I wasn't working, but after I told her I was _____, she said it was okay.
7. Take this medicine. It's great for _____ noses.
8. Do you have a key? I'm _____ and can't get out.
9. Do you have a key? I'm _____ and can't get in.
10. Jane's really _____. She just found out that her brother was murdered.
11. Jim's socks are mixed with his brother's socks. They're not _____.
12. No one wants to sit with me in the school lunchroom, and it makes me feel _____.
13. My mother was really _____ when Aunt Kathy said our house wasn't very clean.
14. Why isn't the basement _____ yet? I told you I'm tired of looking at this junk!
15. There's nothing in the room. It's all _____.

EXERCISE 36e, Review — Complete the sentences with these phrasal verbs from previous sections. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense. To check their meanings, review the section number given after each one.

blow up, 33	come about, 33	make of, 35	pull off, 33
care for, 31	do without, 31	make out, 29	put off, 31
catch on, 33	go out, 32	narrow down, 35	stick to, 34
clean out, 32	lock out, 30	plan on, 31	wash up, 30

1. Several bodies from the crashed plane _____ the day after the crash.
2. After mother had a stroke, we had to hire nurses to _____ her.
3. My father was seventy-two years old when he got his first computer, but he _____ right away, and now he uses it all the time.
4. The President had a lot of big plans when he took office, but few of them ever _____.
5. Mark wasn't successful as a singer. He should have _____ songwriting — that's what he does best.
6. How did you _____ on your final exam?
7. I had to crawl in through the window after my daughter closed the door and _____ me _____ of the house.
8. This situation is very strange. I don't know what to _____ it.
9. I have to finish my project tonight, and I haven't even started it. I _____ it _____ until the last minute.
10. No one thought Frank could run a mile in less than four minutes, but he _____ it _____.

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11. I really depend on my laptop computer when I travel on business. I don't know how I ever _____ it.

12. George and Linda _____ for three years before they got married.
13. Several people were killed when the bomb _____.
14. Bob and Marsha aren't _____ spending more than \$250,000 for their new house.
15. My divorce settlement cost me a lot of money. It almost _____ me _____.
16. The FBI started with a list of six suspects, but they _____ it _____ to two.