

## 7. FOCUS ON: separable phrasal verbs with long objects

We have seen that the object of separable verbs can be placed between the verb and the particle or after the particle:

clear: I **looked up** the word.

clear: I **looked** the word **up**.

When the object is short — one word or just a few words in length — the meaning is clear either way. However, when the object is several words long, it can be awkward and confusing to place the object between the particles:

clear: I **looked up** the words that our teacher said were really important and would probably be on the final exam. confusing: / **looked** the words that our teacher said were really important and would probably be on the final exam **up**.

It boils down to the following.

Short objects can be placed between the verb and the particle or after the particle:

She **put on** her dress.

She **put** her dress  
**on**.

pronouns, such as him, her, and it must be placed between the verb and the particle:

She **put** it **on**.

and long objects should be placed after the particle to avoid confusion:

She **put on** the new dress with the red, yellow, and blue flowers that she bought last week for 40 percent off.

### Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>cut up</b>	<b>cutting up</b>	<b>cut up</b>	<b>cut up</b>

1. **cut... up** p.v. When you use a knife or pair of scissors to cut something so that there are many small pieces, you **cut it up**.

The boy's mother is **cutting** a piece of meat **up** for him.

I was so angry at her that I **cut** her picture **up** and flushed it down the toilet.

**cut up** part.adj. After something has been **cut up**, it is **cut up**.

This steak is for Aunt Kathy, but give the **cut-up** one to Uncle Fred — he doesn't have any teeth.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>hold up</b>	hold up & holds up	holding up	held up	held up

**1. hold... up p.v.** When a wall, column, or other structure supports the weight of something above it, such as a ceiling, it **holds it up**.

The workers were killed when they removed a column **holding** the roof **up**.

The house was **held up** by jacks the foundation was repaired.

**2. hold... up p.v.** When you **prevent** something from happening or cause it to happen late, you **hold it up**. When things or people delay you, they **hold you up**.

The band hasn't arrived yet, and they're **holding up** the whole wedding.

I'm sorry I'm late. I was **held up** by traffic.

**holdup n.** Something that prevents something else from happening or causes it to happen late is a **holdup**.

Why haven't you finished this work yet? What's the **holdup**?

**3. hold... up p.v.** When you use a gun or other weapon to rob a person, bank, or store, you **hold it up**. **Stick up** is the same as **hold up**.

The jewelry store owner was **held up** by three men wearing ski masks.

Some idiot tried to **hold** the bank **up** with a **squirt** gun.

**holdup n.** When someone uses a gun or other weapon to rob a person, bank, or store, it is a **holdup**. A **stickup** is the same as a **holdup**.

The robber fired his gun in the air and yelled, "This is a **holdup**."

There was a **holdup** at First National Bank this morning.

**4. hold up p.v.** When an object remains in good condition after heavy use, it **holds up**.

These cheap shoes won't **hold up** more than six weeks.

Some Roman aqueducts have **held up** for 2,000 years.

**5. hold up p.v.** When a plan, idea, or agreement is still believed in or respected after a period of time, it has **held up**.

Einstein's theories have **held up** despite occasional challenges.

The **ceasefire** is **holding up** longer than anyone expected.

## let out

let out & lets out	letting out	let out	let out
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**1. let ...out p.v.** When you allow animals or people to leave a place by giving permission or opening a door, you **let them out**.

The guard **lets** the prisoners **out** of their cells every day at 1:00.

I opened the door and **let** the dog **out**.

**2. let... out p.v.** When you make an item of clothing bigger by changing the **seams**, you **let it out**.

After I gained twenty pounds, I had to have all my pants **let out**.

The tailor **let** her old dress **out** so that she could wear it again.

**3. let... out p.v.** When you **reveal** secret or sensitive information, you **let it out**.

This information is secret. Don't **let it out**.

I was furious when my secretary **let out** that I had interviewed for a new position.

**4. let out p.v.** When you make a sound that shows your emotion or feelings, you **let out** that sound.

Heather knew Jim was lying again, and **let out** a sigh.

The lion **let out** a loud roar before he attacked the hunter.

#### Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>point out</b>			
point out & points out	pointing out	pointed out	pointed out

**1. point... out p.v.** When you bring things or people to someone's attention or indicate the location of things or people with your hand or index finger, you **point** them **out**.

As we walked through the museum, the tour guide **pointed** several famous paintings **out**.

General Johnston showed the satellite photo to the reporter and **pointed out** the enemy tanks.

**2. point ...out p.v.** When you are writing or speaking and you stress or emphasize some important information you think the reader or listener needs to know, you **point out** the information.

I **pointed** several **flaws out** in Prof. Childress's theory.

He said that he thought my plan was basically good but that he wanted to **point out** several possible problems.

#### run

**run over & runs over    running over    ran over    run over**

**1. run over (to) p.v.** When you run from where you are to where someone else is, you **run over** or **run over** to that person.

I saw a man hitting a child, and I **ran over** and stopped him.

When I saw Melanie, I **ran over** to her and gave her a big hug.

**2. run... over p.v.** When you drive over people or things with a car, truck, or other vehicle causing damage, injury, or death, you **run** them **over**.

John was **run over** by a bus and killed.

I **ran over** a glass bottle and got a flat tire.

**3. run over p.v.** When liquid in a container fills the container and goes over the top, it **runs over**.

Keep an eye on the bathtub so that it doesn't **run over**.

There's too much water in this pot. It's going to **run over** the side.

**4. run over p.v.** When you go beyond a limit, you **run over** or **run over** the limit.

I hope the 11:00 meeting doesn't **run over**; I'm meeting a client for lunch at 12:00.

The speaker was given fifteen minutes for her speech, but she **ran over**.

#### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
<b>see</b>	see about & sees about	seeing about	saw about	seen about

**1. see ... about p.v.** When you talk to someone to get permission for something or to arrange something, you **see about** it or see someone **about** it.

Is Luis going to **see about** changing his flight from the fifth to the sixth?

The carpet in my office is **filthy**. I need to **see** the maintenance guy **about** getting it shampooed.

**2. see about p.v.** When you are upset about a change or a new policy, and you want to say that you will take some action or talk to someone in authority to prevent or reverse the change or new policy, you say "I'll **see about** that" or "We'll **see about** that."

Now they're saying I can't even smoke in my own office. I'll **see about** that!

Those crooks in City Hall want to double my real estate taxes. We'll just **see about** that.

#### take apart

take apart & takes apart	taking apart	took apart	taken apart
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**1. take ... apart p.v.** When you completely separate the parts of something, you **take it apart**. **Take apart** is the opposite of **put together**.

I had to **take** my bike **apart** when I moved.

The mechanic **took** the engine **apart**.

#### take in

take in & takes in	taking in	took in	taken in
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**1. take ... in p.v.** When you bring a car or other household appliance to a mechanic or repair person, you **take it in**.

Sally **took** her car **in** to have the oil changed.

The VCR is broken again. I need to **take it in**.

**2. take ... in p.v.** When you **take in** a play, movie, museum, or other attraction, you go to it or see it.

We stopped in Charleston and **took in** the sights.

After dinner we **took in** a movie.

**3. take... in p.v.** When you allow people to live with you, you take them in.

Judy's brother had nowhere to go, so she **took** him **in**.

The Ortegas offered to **take** their neighbors **in** after the fire.

**4. take... in p.v. [usually passive]** When you are **taken in** by someone, that person successfully tricks or deceives you.

Stalin was **taken in** by Hitler's assurances.

They were completely **taken in** by Jake's **elaborate hoax**.

**5. take ... in p.v.** When you make an item of clothing smaller by changing the seams, you **take it in**. Т.е. противоположно **Let out**.

She likes some of her **maternity** clothes so much that she's going to **take** them **in** after the baby is born.

If I lose any more weight, I'll have to have all my pants **taken in**.

**EXERCISE 7a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. When the bullet hit him, he \_\_\_\_\_ a slight gasp and fell dead.
2. My friends were supposed to be here an hour ago. What is \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Will you please drive more carefully! You almost \_\_\_\_\_ that lady back there.
4. Ann \_\_\_\_\_ that she was going to go to Las Vegas with her boss, and the whole office was talking about it.
5. Take two pounds of beef, \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_, and put it in a frying pan.
6. The expedition leader spoke to us and \_\_\_\_\_ the importance of taking plenty of water with us in the desert.
7. Open the gate and \_\_\_\_\_ the horses \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I'm embarrassed to admit I was \_\_\_\_\_ by his lies.
9. After Todd's parents were killed, his Aunt Judy and Uncle Henry \_\_\_\_\_ him
10. The soldier was \_\_\_\_\_ his rifle \_\_\_\_\_ and cleaning it.
11. In Ecuador I rode on a steam locomotive that's still \_\_\_\_\_ after 80 years.
12. After we saw the Empire State Building, we \_\_\_\_\_ a Broadway play.
13. These aluminum poles \_\_\_\_\_ the tent.
14. Nicole is at the computer store \_\_\_\_\_ getting more memory installed in her computer.

15. I had my old uniform \_\_\_\_\_ so that I could wear it to the reunion.
16. A robber \_\_\_\_\_ a liquor store with a shotgun last night.
17. When I got into the tub, the water \_\_\_\_\_ the side and onto the floor,
18. The health department inspector walked around the restaurant and \_\_\_\_\_ several rats \_\_\_\_\_ to the owner.
19. Jim's phone was ringing, so I \_\_\_\_\_ to his desk and answered it.
20. The suit was too big, but the store's tailor said he could \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_.
21. I heard a weird noise coming from my car's transmission. I think I'd better \_\_\_\_\_ my car \_\_\_\_\_.
22. It's an unusual arrangement, but it has \_\_\_\_\_ for several years.
23. The conference is scheduled to end Tuesday at 5:00, but there's a good chance that it will
24. I was just notified that I'm going to be transferred to Mongolia. We'll \_\_\_\_\_ that! I'm going to talk to the boss.
25. The robber was shot while trying to \_\_\_\_\_ an off-duty police officer.

**EXERCISE 7b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses.**

1. The cook **cut up**. (the meat, it)

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2. The snowstorm **held up**. (air travelers, them)

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3. Don't **let out**. (the dog, it) )

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4. The real estate **agent pointed out**. (the swimming pool, it) )

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5. The truck **ran over**. (the man, him) )

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6. I'm going to **take apart**, (the broken doorknob, it) )

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7. The tailor **took in**. (the pants, them) )

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**EXERCISE 7c — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and nouns from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. I don't like this hotel room. I'm going to ask the desk clerk about changing to a different room. What am I going to do?

2. No one believes in the scientist's theories anymore. What haven't the scientist's theories done?

3. Janice is going to make her pants smaller. What is she going to do?

4. Mr. Ortega was tricked by the salesman. What happened to Mr. Ortega?

5. A car drove over you. What happened to you?

6. The jeweler showed me several flaws in the diamond. What did the jeweler do?

7. The game started late because it was raining. What did the rain do?

8. Susie is using scissors to make several small pieces of paper from a larger piece of paper.  
What is Susie doing?

9. The posts are supporting the porch. What are the posts doing?

10. The woman told the bank teller to give her all the money in the cash register or she would shoot him. What did the woman do?

11. In Question 10, what happened at the bank?
12. I put my broken TV in my car, drove to the repair shop, and carried the TV in. What did I do with my TV?
13. Bill separated all the parts of his typewriter. What did Bill do?
14. There was too much water in the bathtub, and it spilled onto the floor. What did the water do?
15. After my parents died, my grandparents let me live with them. What did my grandparents do?
16. Mr. Young told some people about the secret information. What did Mr. Young do with the secret information?
17. I saw an empty luggage cart at the airport, and I went to it quickly and grabbed it. What did I do?
18. When the thief started to open the woman's door, a scream came from her mouth. What did the woman do?
19. I've been using this lawn mower for twenty-five years, and it still works fine. What has the lawn mower done?
20. The cowboy opened the gate so that the cattle could leave the corral. What did the cowboy do?
21. Dr. Smith went to a museum while he was in Rome. What did Dr. Smith do?
22. The meeting was supposed to end at 2:00, but it hasn't ended yet. What is the meeting doing?
23. I'm making my pants bigger. What am I doing?

**EXERCISE 7d, 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.**

boil down to, 6	figure out, 1	go through with, 6
come down with, 6	get around to, 6	look forward to, 3
come off, 2	get out of, 6	monkey around with, 6
come up with, 6	go after, 4	put on, 1
doze off, 2	go back on, 6	



1, I thought about what I was going to say to her, but when the time came, I was so nervous I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ it.

2. The President's news conference didn't \_\_\_\_\_ well because it revealed his poor understanding of the situation.

3. I \_\_\_\_\_ watching Aunt Kathy's vacation videotape by saying I had to study for a test.

4. I don't usually \_\_\_\_\_ doing my Christmas shopping until December 24. 5. I've been \_\_\_\_\_ this broken refrigerator all day, but I still don't know what's wrong with it. 6. Mexico City's problems \_\_\_\_\_ one thing — too many people.

7. Have you seen my pen? I can't \_\_\_\_\_ what happened to it.

8. If you \_\_\_\_\_ a coat of paint \_\_\_\_\_ that old house, it wouldn't look so bad.

9. One police officer helped the mugging victim while her partner \_\_\_\_\_ the mugger.

10. My son promised that he would stop cutting school, and so far he hasn't \_\_\_\_\_ that promise.

11. The company \_\_\_\_\_ a way to decrease labor costs without lowering wages.

12. I have never been to Thailand, and I'm really \_\_\_\_\_ going there.

13. She was so tired she \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as she sat down.

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14. The show was canceled after the star \_\_\_\_\_ laryngitis.