

11. FOCUS ON: phrasal verbs used in compound nouns

As we saw in Section 10, many two-word phrasal verbs can be used as nouns. Many of these nouns formed from two-word phrasal verbs can be combined with ordinary nouns to form **compound nouns**:

noun: **backup** compound noun: backup disk

noun: **follow-up** compound noun: follow-up call

Like ordinary compound nouns, the first noun has a function similar to that of an adjective:

question: What kind of clothes?

answer: Dirty clothes.

adjective

question: What kind of clothes?

answer: Workout clothes.

noun

The adjective **dirty** and the noun **workout** serve the same function: modifying the noun **clothes**. Always accent the first word in a compound noun:

noun: **BACKup** compound noun: **BACKup**disk

noun: **FOLLOW-up** compound noun: **FOLLOW-up** call

Infinitive

| | present tense | -ing form | past tense | past participle |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| backu | back up & backs up | backing up | backed up | backed up |

1. **back... up** p.v. When you walk backward, you backup. When you drive a vehicle in reverse, you **back up** or **back** the vehicle **up**.

The fire was so hot that we had to **back up**.

I put the car in reverse and **backed it up**.

2. **back up** p.v. When you are explaining something, and you repeat something that you already said, you **back up**.

You're going too fast. Can you **back up** a little and explain your plan again?

Sorry, I forgot part of the story. Let me **back up** a little.

3. back... up p.v. When you make a claim or statement and then show people evidence or give them information proving that the claim or statement is true or correct, you **back it up**.

No one believed Jim's accusations because he couldn't **back** them **up** with any evidence.

The IRS asked me for some receipts to **back up** my deductions.

4. back... up p.v. When you support people in a conflict or a confrontation, you **back** them **up**. When you support people by doing some work or a difficult assignment, you back them **up**.

Linda said she would **back** me **up** if I complained about our supervisor.

The general **backed up** his threats with 400,000 soldiers.

Jerry is the bar's main bartender, and Tanya **backs** him **up** when it gets busy.

backup n. Someone or something that supports or is ready to provide support in a conflict or a confrontation by doing some work or a difficult assignment is a **backup**.

When the rioters grew more violent, the police called for

backup.

The firefighter entered the burning building without a **backup**.

5. back... up p.v. When you duplicate important information, such as a computer program or data, so that you will still have it if the original information is lost or damaged, you **back** it **up**.

If you're going to install that new software, be sure you **back up** your entire hard disk first.

I **back** my work **up** every day before I go home.

backup n. A duplicate of important information, such as a computer program or data, is a **backup**.

/ keep a **backup** of my important computer files on floppy disks.

The major gave a **backup** copy of the battle plan to his secretary.

backed up part.adj. After you duplicate important information/such as a computer program or data, the original is **backed up**.

/ accidentally erased your book from your computer. I hope your work was **backed up**.

6. back... up p.v. When a piece of equipment or machinery is very important and another is kept available in case the one that is normally used fails, the second piece of equipment or machinery **backs up** the first.

The hospital bought a generator to **back up** the unreliable city power supply. We kept the old computer to **back** the new one **up**.

backup n. When a piece of equipment or machinery is very important and another is kept available in case the one that is normally used fails, the second piece of equipment or machinery is a **backup**.

The skydiver checked his main parachute and his **backup** before the flight. The school had to close when the main power and the **backup** both failed.

7. back... up p.v. When something **backs up**, it is being prevented from moving, progressing, or flowing normally.

An accident **backed up** traffic for three miles. The assembly line is going to **back up** if Erik doesn't get the parts he needs soon.

backup n. A **backup** is a situation in which something is being prevented from moving, progressing, or flowing normally.

/ sat in that **backup** for three hours without moving an inch. The huge number of Christmas cards and packages caused a **backup** at the post office.

backed up part.adj. When something is being prevented from moving, progressing, or flowing normally, it is **backed up**.

Let's take the train downtown. Traffic is always **backed up** at this time of the morn in a.

| Infinitive | present tense | -ing form | past tense | past participle |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| cut off | cut off & cuts off | cutting off | cut off | cut off |

1. cut... off p.v. When you completely remove part of something with a knife, saw, or pair of scissors, you **cut it off**.

He **cut off** a piece of cheese so that I could taste it. One of the kings of England had his head **cut off**.

2. cut... off p.v. When you stop the supply or flow of something, such as water, electricity, or money, you **cut it off** or you **cut off** the people receiving it.

/ won't be surprised if my electricity is **cut off**— I haven't paid the bill in three months.

The bartender told the drunk guy that she was **cutting** him **off**.

cutoff n. The time when something, such as water, electricity, or money, is **cut off** is the **cutoff**, **cutoff** point, or **cutoff** date.

/ got a notice saying that if I don't pay my water bill soon, the **cutoff date** will be March 10. Ninety is the **cutoff**— students with lower scores on the exam won't be accepted into the advanced program.

3. cut... off p.v. When you abruptly and rudely drive a vehicle in front of other people's vehicles, causing them to suddenly slow down or stop, you **cut them off**.

/ had to slam on the brakes when some jerk **cut** me **off on** the way to work. The lady in the red car tried to **cut** me **off**, but I wouldn't let her get in front of me.

4. cut... off p.v. When someone is **cut off** while speaking on the telephone, the connection is accidentally broken.

/ was in the middle of an important call when I was **cut off**. Getting **cut off** happens all the time when you're on the phone to China.

5. cut ...off p.v. When you create a physical or psychological barrier between yourself and other people, you **cut** yourself **off** from them. When you are separated from other people because of a barrier or a great distance, you are **cut off** from them.

After Dan joined a cult, he completely **cut** himself off from his family and friends. A flash flood **cut** us off from the rest of the expedition.

cutoff part.adj. When you are separated from other people because of a barrier or a great distance, you are **cutoff**.

The bridge was destroyed by the earthquake, and now we're **cut off**.

Infinitive

| | present tense | -ing form | past tense | past participle |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| drop | drop off & drops off | dropping off | dropped off | dropped off |

1. drop... off p.v. When you take things or people to another place and leave them there, you **drop** them **off**.

Can you **drop me off** at the train station on your way to work?

Luis **dropped** off his laundry at the cleaners.

drop-off n. Something that has been **dropped off** is a **drop-off**. The place where something or someone is **dropped off** is a **drop-off** point, **drop off** window, and soon.

Luis left his laundry at the **drop-off** window. The north side of the train station parking lot is for **drop-offs**.

2. drop off p.v. When a business's sales, the occurrence of some event, or the interest some people have in something declines, it **drops off**.

Attendance at baseball games has been **dropping off** in the last few years. After CDs were introduced, sales of records **dropped** off sharply.

drop-off n. A decline in a business's sales, in the occurrence of an event, or in the interest some people have in something, is a **drop-off**.

There has been a **drop-off** in traffic deaths thanks to strict drunk driving laws. The **drop-off** in car sales was explained by the recession.

3. drop off p.v. When the level of the ground declines steeply, it **drops off**.

Be careful hiking this trail, it **drops** off steeply on the other side of the mountain.

The island has no beach at all. The land **drops** off straight into the sea.

drop-off n. A steep decline in the level of the ground is a **drop-off**.

The bus driver didn't see the **drop-off**, and the bus plunged into the gorge.

It was hard to see the **drop-off** because of the dense jungle.

| Infinitive | present tense | -ing form | past tense | past participle |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| follow | follow up & follows up | following up | followed up | followed up |

1. follow up (on) **p.v.** When you **follow up** on something, you return to something that was important to you previously because you now have more information or more time or because you want to make sure some effort you made previously is correct or effective.

/ saw a beautiful house with a "for sale" sign and I **followed up** on it when I got home. The doctor told me I'd need to **follow up** the treatment with physical therapy.

follow-up n. A **follow-up**, **follow-up** call, **follow-up** visit, and so on, is a return to something that was important to you previously because you now have more information or more time or because you want to make sure some effort you made previously is correct or effective.

The customer service manager made a **follow-up** call to make sure I was happy with the repair job. The doctor asked me to see him two months after the operation for a **follow-up**.

take

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| take out & takes out | taking out | took out | taken out |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|

1. take ... out (of) **p.v.** When you **take** something **out** or **take** it **out** of a container, storage place, or building, you remove it. **Put in/into** is the opposite of **take out**.

/ want to **take** some books **out** of the library tonight.

Jake **took out** a gun and shouted, "This is a holdup!"

Nancy **took** \$500 **out** of the bank.

takeout n. **Takeout** is food that is taken from a restaurant to be eaten at another location. **Carryout** and **carry-out** food are the same as **takeout** and **take-out** food.

/ don't feel like cooking tonight. Let's get **takeout**. That **take-out** chicken is good, but it sure is greasy.

2. take ...out (of) **p.v.** When you remove something because you do not want it or because it is damaged, you **take** it **out** or **take** it **out** of something. **Put in/into** is the opposite of **take out**.

The teacher said my story would be a lot better if! **took** this part **out** of the third paragraph.

The school will be closed while the asbestos insulation is being **taken out** and replaced.

3. take... out (of) **p.v.** When you **take** money **out** or **take** money out of a bank or a bank account, you withdraw the money. **Put in** is the opposite of **take out**.

/ had to **take** money **out** of my savings account to pay for my medical bills.

Nicole's at the bank **taking** \$ 1,000 **out**.

4. take.. .out **p.v.** When you **take** people out/you go with them to do something enjoyable — dinner in a restaurant, a movie, and so on — and pay for it yourself.

What do you think about **taking** Mom **out** for Mother's Day?

Jim **took** his girlfriend **out** last Friday.

5. take... out p.v. [informal] When you **take** people out, you kill them.

The snipers will try to **take out** the kidnapper when he opens the door.

The hit man **took** Vito **out** with a shotgun blast to the head.

| Infinitive | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| | present tense | -ing form | past tense | past participle |
| try out | try out & tries out | trying out | tried out | tried out |

1. try... out p.v. When you **try** something **out**, you try it to see if you want to buy it or to see if you want to start using it regularly.

I'm not going to spend \$2,000 on a bicycle unless I **try it out** first. You can **try it out** for thirty days without any obligation.

tryout n. When you give something a **tryout**, you test it to see if you want to buy it or start using it regularly.

/ gave Betty's new diet a **tryout**, but I actually gained weight.

The airline gave the new plane a thorough **tryout** before making a decision.

2. try... out p.v. When you **try** people **out**, you give them a chance to show that they can perform a job well before hiring them or before giving them more difficult work to do.

The manager agreed to **try him out** for a week.

I told the supervisor that if she **tried me out**, she'd see that I could do the job.

tryout n. When you give people a **tryout**, you give them a chance to show that they can perform a job well before giving them more difficult work to do.

Tryouts for the football team will be next Saturday and Sunday.

If you give Mike a **tryout**, I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

3. try out (for) p.v. When you **try out** or **try out** for something, you try to show that you can perform a job well in order to get hired.

A lot of guys will **try out**, but only a handful will make the team.

Daniela's mother told her, "**Trying out** for the cheerleading squad isn't as important as doing your homework."

| Infinitive | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| | present tense | -ing form | past tense | past participle |
| wake | wake up & wakes up | waking up | woke up | woken up |

1. wake... up p.v. When you stop sleeping, you **wake up**. When you cause other people to stop sleeping, you **wake** them **up**.

AH is so sleepy in class that the teacher must **wake him up** every five minutes.

I **woke up** at 2:00 AM and couldn't get back to sleep.

wake-up part.adj. When you are staying at a hotel and you ask the desk clerk to call you at a certain time to **wake** you up, you ask for a **wake-up** call.

/ asked the desk clerk to give me a **wake-up** call at 7:30.

2. wake... up p.v. When you learn something that causes you to understand the truth about something or someone, it **wakes** you **up** or **wakes** you **up** to the truth about something or someone,

/ used to smoke, but when my best friend died of lung cancer, it really **woke** me **up**. Hey, **wake up!** Nicole is lying to you. Can't you see that?

work

work out & works out working out worked out worked out

1. work out p.v. When a situation **works out** a certain way, it happens that way. When a situation does not **work out**, it is not satisfactory.

The switch to the new system **worked out** a lot better than anyone expected.

She said that living with her in-laws wasn't **working out** very well.

2. work out p.v. When a situation **works** out, the end result is successful.

Yes, I thought your idea was terrible, but I must admit it **worked out**.

The marriage didn't **work out**, and they were divorced after six months.

3. work out p.v. When a calculation or measurement **works out** to be a certain amount, this amount is the result of the calculation or measurement.

The cost of the booze we need for the reception **works out** to more than \$ 1,500.

The monthly payment on a 6 percent loan **works out** to \$642.

4. work... out p.v. When you **work out** a calculation, measurement, or other problem, you do the work necessary to determine the result of the calculation or measurement or think about how to solve the problem.

Maria **worked out** how much paint we will need for the living room — twenty-five gallons. I've forgotten how to **work out** math problems without a calculator.

You need to go to the airport, I need to go to work, and we have only one car. How are we going to **work this out**?

5. work out p.v. When you **work out** a solution or plan, you decide what to do after careful consideration, either alone or in discussion with other people.

The opposing lawyers **worked out** a compromise.

I think I've **worked out** a way to buy a new car without borrowing money.

6. work out p.v. When you exercise in order to improve your health or physical appearance, you **work out**.

Bob **works out** in the gym for two hours every night. I'm a fat slob.

I need to start **working out** again.

workout n. A series of exercises done in order to improve your health or physical appearance is a **workout**. **Workout** clothes are clothes you wear while exercising.

I'm really sore from that **workout** last night. The trainer designed a **workout** for each player on the team.

workout n. When you say that you gave a mechanical device or system a **workout**, you mean that you caused it to perform some lengthy or difficult work,

Driving to Alaska sure gave this old truck a **workout**.
The snack bar got a real **workout** when three buses full of hungry tourists stopped at the same time.

EXERCISE 11 a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

- 1.1 almost had an accident on the way to work when another driver _____ me _____. 2. With so many delivery truck drivers out sick with the flu, deliveries are starting to _____. 3. You should always _____ your important computer files. 4. The art restorers are trying to _____ a way to clean the painting without damaging it. 5.1 hit a tree while I was _____ my car _____. 6. The butcher has only nine fingers. He _____ the other one _____.
7. Professor Childress has some interesting theories, but can he _____ them _____ with any evidence?
8. After every sale, a good salesperson _____ with a cat! to make sure the customer is satisfied.
9. I'm going to leave early tomorrow so that I can _____ some film _____ at the photo lab. 10. No one believed I was telling the truth until Charles _____ me _____.
11. I usually _____ around 7:00, but this morning I overslept.
12. Lydia had planned to spend the summer in Italy, but it didn't _____.
13. The sharpshooter was ordered to _____ the enemy leader.
14. The designers put in manual controls to _____ the automatic system.
15. David and Maria _____ how much their wedding is going to cost.
16. The cost of their wedding _____ to \$225 per person.
17. Be careful — the north side of the mountain _____ sharply.
18. Hello? Hello? The phone is dead; I guess we were _____.
19. Next weekend we're _____ Mom and Dad _____ for their fiftieth wedding anniversary.
20. The professor's lecture was really confusing, so I asked him to please _____ and explain it again.
21. The bank robbers tried to escape through the back door, but the police went to the back of the bank and _____ them _____.
22. People's fascination with the quintuplets _____ quickly after the sextuplets were born.
23. Bob bought some new skis, and this weekend he's going to _____ them _____.
24. I wasn't very responsible when I was younger, but having children really _____ me _____.
25. Ned used to exercise every day, but he hasn't _____ in months.
26. The baseball manager decided to _____ the new pitcher to see what he could do.
27. I like most of this article you wrote about me, but there's one thing I'd like you to _____.
28. Sam had a tot of big ideas when he was young, but his life sure hasn't _____ the way he expected.
29. The electricity was _____ after a tree fell during the storm and cut some power lines.
30. I _____ my ID card _____ of my pocket and showed it to the guard.
31. Lydia has never _____ a penny _____ of her savings account.

EXERCISE 11 b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.

1. Did you **back up**? (your work, it) _____
2. They're **cutting off**. (the power, it) _____

3. I **dropped off** at the airport. (Frank/him) _____

4. Mom asked me to **take out**. (the garbage, it) _____

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5. Alex **tried out**. (his new bicycle, it) _____

6. Mike has **woken up**. (Ali, him) _____

EXERCISE 11 c — Write answers to the questions using nouns and compound nouns from this section. There may be more than one way to answer a question.

1. The photographer always keeps two cameras with him. One is his main camera. He'll use the second if there's a problem with the first. What is the second camera?
2. The phone company says my telephone service will stop on July 1 if I don't pay my bill before that date. What is July 1?
3. Dr. Smith is a new doctor. If he's not sure how to treat a patient, he'll call Dr. Wood for help. What is Dr. Wood to Dr. Smith?
4. You used the new exercise equipment to see if you wanted to buy it. What did you do to the exercise equipment?
5. The police arrested Mrs. Taylor's husband because he was beating her. A social worker visited Mrs. Taylor a few days later to talk to her. What did the social worker do?
6. The clothes I wore yesterday while I was exercising got very dirty. What got dirty?
7. We got food from a Chinese restaurant and ate it at home. What kind of food did we eat?
8. Because of construction, traffic on the interstate stopped and there was a long line of cars. What was on the interstate?
9. The number of arrests for burglary is a lot lower this year than last year. What has happened to the number of arrests for burglary?
10. Sally lost something very important on her computer because she didn't make another copy in case there was a problem with the original. Why did Sally have a problem?

11. At the edge of the continental shelf, the sea floor falls several thousand feet. What is at the edge of the continental shelf?
12. I made 7,000 copies on this photocopier. What did I do to the photocopier?

EXERCISE 11d — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and nouns from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. The electric company stopped my electricity because I didn't pay my bill. What did they do to the electricity?
2. I bought some fried chicken, and I took it to my house. What kind of food did I buy?
3. Exercising is good for your health. What is good for your health?
4. The long-distance company offered to let me use their service free for thirty days, and I'm going to try it. What am I going to do to the long-distance company's service?
5. In Question 4, what is the long-distance company letting me do?
6. During the flood, a lot of people couldn't leave their houses because of the water. What did the water do to them?
7. In Question 6, how would you describe these people?
8. You're making an extra copy of your work just in case. What are you doing?
9. In Question 8, what would you call the extra copy of your work that you're making?
10. The newspaper reporter is getting more information about something interesting that someone told her on the phone. What is the reporter doing?
- H. My exercise routine is very difficult. What is difficult?
12. The prosecutor proved his accusation with some photographs. What did the prosecutor do with the photographs?
13. Jane wants to show the basketball coach that she would be a good member of the basketball team. What does Jane want to do?
14. I have a second alarm clock in case the first doesn't wake me up. What does my second alarm clock do to my first?

15. In Question 14, what would you call my second alarm clock?
16. Nicole takes her friend to the train station every morning. What does Nicole do to her friend?
17. I have an appointment with my doctor next month so that he can see if my surgery was successful.
What would you call my appointment next month?
18. Maria's plan isn't happening the way she expected. What isn't Maria's plan doing?
19. Bill went with Judy to dinner and a movie and he paid for everything. What did Bill do?
20. Two hundred guests at \$45 each calculates to \$9,000. What does 200 guests at \$45 each do?
21. I have never stopped sleeping at 3:30 in the morning before. What have I never done before?

EXERCISE 11 e, 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.

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| come from, 1 | give back, 1 | hand out, 10 | look for, 1 |
| fall off, 10 | go ahead, 10 | hear about, 2 | screw out of, 3 |
| feel up to, 3 | go along with, 3 | kick back, 10 | screw up, 10 |
| fill in, 10 | grow up, 10 | lay off, 10 | stay off, 2 |

1. If the company doesn't _____ 20 percent of its employees, it's going to go out of business.
2. Blankets and boxes of food were _____ to the flood victims.
3. I _____ in Germany because my father was in the Army there.
4. Kathy didn't close her car window last night, and it rained. She really _____.
5. You _____; I'll catch up with you later.
6. The percentage of people who smoke _____ after smoking was linked with lung cancer and heart disease.
7. What can I do to get my black cat to _____ my white couch?
8. I've been _____ an apartment that allows dogs, but I can't find one.
9. He's _____ New York and will be here in two hours.
10. I was so stuffed from that huge dinner my mother cooked that I didn't _____ playing tennis afterward.
11. Their lawyer tried to _____ them _____ \$ 120,000.
12. I don't feel like going anywhere tonight. Let's just _____ and take it easy.
13. I'm sorry I can't agree with you, Joe, but I have to _____ Linda on this decision.
14. Here's my flashlight. Make sure you _____ it _____ when you're finished using it.
15. I didn't get 100 on the test because I forgot to _____ one of the blanks.
16. This restaurant is wonderful. I'm surprised I haven't _____ it before.