

37. FOCUS ON: phrasal verbs used as nouns, 3

When phrasal verbs are used as nouns, the verb is usually in the infinitive form; however, a small number use a different form of the verb.

For example, **left over** and **grow up** use the past participle:

We ate **leftovers** the day after Thanksgiving.

The **grown-ups** sat at one table, and the children sat at another.

talk to and **go over** use the -ing form:

Mr. Young gave his son a good **talking-to**.

Before I buy this car, I'm going to give it a good **going-over**.

and **grown-up** uses the past participle:

Only **grown-ups** are allowed to drive.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
brush off	brush off & brushes off	brushing off	brushed off	brushed off

1. brush ...off p.v. When you **brush** people off, you ignore them or refuse to listen to them because you are not interested in or do not like what they are saying.

My boss just **brushes** me off when I try to tell her how to increase our profits.

The reporters tried to ask him some questions, but he **brushed** them off.

brush-off n. When you give people the **brush-off**, you ignore them or refuse to listen to them because you are not interested in or do not like what they are saying.

The boss just gave me the **brush-off** when I tried to give him some advice. **2. brush ... off p.v.**

When you **brush off** a critical remark or problem, you ignore it

and continue as before without letting it affect you.

I told Dr. Smith that he had made a mistake, but he **brushed** it off.

My father's cholesterol is very high, but he just **brushes** it off.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
come on	come on & comes on	coming on	came on	come on

1. come on p.v. When an electrical device or machine **comes on**, it begins to operate, usually automatically. **Go off** is the opposite of **come on**.

It was so cold that the heat **came on** last night.

When you open the refrigerator door, the light **comes on** automatically.

2. come on p.v. When a television or radio program **comes on**, it begins.

Do you know when the news will **come on**?

The late movie **comes on** at 1:00 A.M.

3. come on p.v. When you want to encourage people to do something or when you want them to do something quickly, you **say "Come on!"**

Believe me, you're going to love this garlic ice cream. **Come on**, try it!

Come on! I can't wait all day.

4. come on p.v. [informal] When you think that people have done or said something improper or unreasonable, you **say "Come on."**

Tom didn't study for one minute, and you're telling me he got 100 on the test? Oh, **come on**.

Hey, **come on!** I told you not to do that again.

5. come on p.v. [always continuous] When you begin to feel a headache or an illness developing, you feel the headache or illness **coming on**.

I might be sick tomorrow; I feel something **coming on**.

I feel a headache **coming on**. Do you have any aspirin?

6. come on p.v. When you **come on** a certain way, you speak or deal with people in that way.

Paul needs to learn to be more of a gentleman. He **comes on** too strong, and women don't like that.

Bob **comes on** kind of arrogant, but he's actually a nice guy.

7. come on (to) p.v. [informal] When you **come on** to people, you approach them and try to interest them in romance or sex.

Toad **came on** to Judy at the party, and she told him to get lost.

I can't stand that guy Ned. He's always **coming on** to me.

come-on n. [informal] A provocative comment or action intended to interest a person in romance or sex is a **come-on**.

Todd uses the same **come-on** with all the girls, and it never works.

come-on n. A discount or special offer designed to get people to buy something is a **come-on**.

The bank is offering a free VCR as a **come-on** if you open an account with them.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
cover up	cover up & covers up	covering up	covered up	covered up

1. cover... up p.v. When you cover something completely, you **cover it up**.

I **covered** the cake **up** so no bugs would land on it.

Cover this stuff up — I don't want anyone to see it.

covered up part.adj. After something has been completely covered, it is **covered up**. Is

the meat **covered up**? I don't want flies to land on it.

2. **cover... up** p.v. When you **cover up** a crime, you do something to try to prevent other people from learning of it.

There's no point in trying to **cover up** the crime. Too many people already know about it.

The mayor was accused **of covering up** his ties to organized crime.

cover-up n. Something you do in order to prevent a crime from becoming known is a **cover-up**.

The mayor denied being part of a **cover-up** and claimed he was innocent.

hang out

hang out & hangs out

hanging out

hung out

hung out

1. **hang out** p.v. [informal] When you **hang out** at a place, you spend time there without any important purpose. **Hang around** is similar to **hang out**.

Doesn't Nancy have a job? It seems as if she **hangs out** at the beach every day.

I don't have anyplace to go. Do you mind if I **hang out** here for a while?

hangout n. [informal] A **hangout** is a place where you spend time without any important purpose.

The police closed the bar, saying it was a **hangout** for crooks and gang members.

leave over left over

1. **leave over** p.v. [always passive] When something is **left over**, it remains after people have used or taken as much of it as they need or want.

I guess I made too much food; look how much is **left over**.

I paid all my bills and had only \$ 17 **left over**.

leftover part.adj. Something that is **left over** remains after people have used or taken as much of it as they need or want.

You can have this **leftover pasta** for lunch tomorrow.

leftovers n. [always plural] Food items that remain uneaten after people have finished eating are **leftovers**.

Leftovers again? When are we going to have something different for dinner?

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
Let down	let down & lets down	letting down	let down	let down

1. let ...down p.v. When you promise people you will do something and then fail to do it, you **let** them **down**.

My son promised to stop using drugs, but he **let** me **down**.

I really need you to help me move tomorrow. Please don't **let** me **down**.

let down part.adj. When people promise you they will do something and then fail to do it, you feel **let down**. When you are disappointed because you cannot have something you want to have, because you cannot do something you want to do, or because something is less exciting than you expected it to be, you feel **let down**.

You broke your promise to me that you would quit smoking. I feel very **let down**.

letdown n. When you say that something is a **letdown**, **you** are disappointed because you cannot have or cannot do something you want to or because something is less exciting than you expected it to be.

I had tickets for the fifth game of the World Series, but my team lost in four games. What a **letdown**.

After the way everyone talked about how great the movie was, I thought it was something of a **letdown**.

payoff **pay off & pays off** **paying off** **paid off** **paid off**

1. pay... off p.v. When you **pay off** money that you owe or **pay off** the person you owe the money to, you pay all the money that you owe.

I wasn't happy with the people we hired to paint our house. **I paid** them **off** and told them not to return.

It took ten years, but I finally **paid off** my school loan.

paid off part.adj. After you pay all the money that you owe to someone or to a lending institution, the debt or loan is **paid off**.

I made my last payment yesterday, and now my car loan is **paid off**.

2. pay... off p.v. When you pay people money so that they will do something illegal or allow you to do something illegal, you **pay** them **off**.

The politician tried to cover up the crime **by paying** off the witnesses.

Don't expect the police in this city to do anything about gambling — they're being **paid off**.

payoff n. A **payoff** is money paid to someone to do something illegal or to allow you to do something illegal.

The chief of police was videotaped accepting a **payoff**.

3. pay off p.v. When something you do **pays off**, it is successful and is worth the effort you made.

Medical school is a lot of hard work, but it'll **pay off** someday.

The restaurant changed its menu, and it really **paid off**. Business increased by 30 percent.

payoff n. A benefit you gain because of an effort you make is a **payoff**.

Linda doesn't get paid for the volunteer work she does.

The **payoff** is knowing that she has helped other people.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
talk to	talk to & talks to	talking to	talked to	talked to

1. **talk to p.v.** When you **talk to** people, you have a conversation with them.

Are you **talking to** me?

I don't like Bob. He **talks to** me like I'm some kind of idiot.

talking-to n. A **talking-to** is a serious discussion in which you scold or lecture someone.

Dan's behavior is outrageous. Someone should give him a good **talking-to**.

EXERCISE 37a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

- I forgot to _____ the chicken _____ after we finished dinner, and the cat ate it.
- A patient died after Dr. Smith gave her the wrong medicine, and the hospital tried to _____ it _____.
- I don't care what Nancy thinks of me. If she criticizes me, I'll just _____ her _____.
- I worked for nine years to get my Ph.D., and now I can't find a job in my field. All that work sure didn't _____.
- 1 set the thermostat so that the air conditioner _____ if it gets over eighty degrees. 6, You can trust Erik to keep his promises. He won't _____ you _____.
7. I didn't like that car salesman we talked to last night. He _____ too strong. 8. I called Heather last night, but I didn't _____ her; she was in the shower.
9. _____ in bars isn't my idea of fun.
10. I tried to apologize to Jane, but she just _____ me _____ and continued walking.
11. I want to _____ my mortgage _____ early, so I'm making two payments every month.
12. Look at **TV Guide** to see when the show _____.
13. Karen sure isn't shy. Did you see how she was _____ to my brother at the party?
14. After Thanksgiving so much turkey will be _____ that we'll be eating it for two weeks.
15. I hope I'm not getting sick. I feel a cold _____.
16. The contractor was accused of _____ city officials in exchange for contracts.

EXERCISE 37b — Complete the sentences with nouns from this section.

- You need to finish school. The _____ won't come for years, but it's worth it.
- 1 didn't have time to make anything for dinner, so we're having _____ tonight.
- This place isn't as beautiful as it looked in the pictures. What a _____.
- Judy isn't interested in anything I say; she always gives me the _____.
- The senator was convicted of taking a _____.
- The low interest rate the credit card company offers if you switch to their card is just a _____. After six months they increase it to 18 percent.
- The politician was accused of being part of a _____.
- You can usually find Joe at the nightclub across the street. That's his favorite _____.
- Timmy's not causing any problems today. Maybe someone gave him a _____.

EXERCISE 37c — 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. Ned spends a lot of time at Joe's Diner relaxing and talking to his friends. What does Ned do at Joe's Diner?
2. In Question 1, what is Joe's Diner to Ned?
3. Mark said something that I thought was ridiculous, and I told him to be serious and reasonable, What did I say to Mark?
4. You had \$400, but after you went shopping, you had \$100 remaining. What did you have?
5. My favorite TV show begins at 9:00. What does my favorite show do at 9:00?
6. Dan promised his daughter that he would take her to the circus, but he couldn't get off work that day. What did Dan do to his daughter?
7. Maria is going to pay her last car loan payment. What is she going to do to her car loan?
8. In Question 7, how would you describe Maria's car loan after she makes the last payment?
9. Nicole spoke with her brother about his drinking problem. What did she do to her brother?
10. In Question 9, what did Nicole give to her brother?
11. The heat in our house starts to operate when the temperature gets below sixty degrees. What does the heat in our house do?
12. For lunch you ate the spaghetti that your family didn't eat the night before. What did you eat for lunch?
13. The restaurant owner gave the health inspector \$200 to ignore the rats in the kitchen. What did the restaurant owner do to the health inspector?
14. In Question 13, what was the \$200 that the restaurant owner gave the health inspector?
15. The head of the health department tried to keep the payoffs in his department a secret. What did the head of the health department do to the payoffs?
16. In Question 15, what would you call the head of the health department's attempt to keep the payoffs in his department a secret?

17. Linda complained to the city about the garbage in the streets, but the woman she talked to wasn't interested and told her to write to the mayor. What did the woman Linda talked to do?
18. In Question 17, what did the woman that Linda talked to give her?
19. Timmy's friend wanted him to walk faster, and he told Timmy to hurry. What did Timmy's friend say to Timmy?
20. Joe told me again and again how good his favorite restaurant is, but when I went there, I didn't think it was that good. What was my visit to the restaurant?
21. In Question 20, how did I feel after my visit to Joe's favorite restaurant?

EXERCISE 37d, Review — Complete the sentences with these nouns from previous sections. To check their meanings, review the section number given after each one.

blowup, 33	get-together, 26	grown-up, 10	put-down, 36
breakup, 28	giveaway, 28	lockout, 30	rundown, 36
cutout, 31	going-over, 26	lockout, 29	

1. The movie critic told the director that watching his new movie was worse than going to the dentist.
That was quite a _____.
2. The _____ of the huge company created several smaller companies.
3. We're having a little _____ tonight. Would you like to come?
4. Only _____ are allowed to drink alcohol.
5. The _____ ended after the workers agreed to a 10 percent pay increase.
6. I heard a big _____ in Nancy's office. I wonder what the problem was.
7. The drug dealers had a _____ on every corner.
8. Timmy told his mother that he hadn't eaten any cookies, but he had chocolate all over his face, so she
knew he was lying. The chocolate on his face was the _____.
9. Before you spend \$13,000 on a used car, I suggest that you give it a thorough _____.
10. Carlos made paper _____ shaped like dinosaurs.
11. The police chief gave the mayor a _____ of the previous month's crime statistics.

EXERCISE 37e, 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.

calm down, 36	fall down, 36	hold against, 35	narrow down, 35
catch on, 33	fool around, 35	leave behind, 35	pull off, 33
do away with, 31	go by, 35	live with, 35	put down, 36
empty out, 32	go down, 36	make of, 35	sit down, 36

1. My best friend, Heather, really likes Mike, but Mike asked me to go to the dance with him. I hope Heather doesn't _____ it _____ me.
2. The real estate agent has shown us several houses, but we've _____ it _____ to three that we really like.
3. Mike took the wastebaskets outside and _____ them _____.
4. Before we go to the beach, let's _____ Tom's house and see if he wants to come with us.
5. Maria's a fast learner. She had never played chess before, but she _____ right away.
6. No one thought I could get 100 on the test, but I _____ it _____.
7. Nothing like that ever happened before. I didn't know what to _____ it,
8. You can really screw up your computer with that program, so don't _____ with it unless you know what you're doing.
9. Pets aren't allowed where we're moving, so we're going to have to _____ our dog _____.
10. Polio has been almost completely _____.
11. _____ that jerk for fifteen years was horrible.
12. Joe was so upset after the accident that it was twenty minutes before he _____ enough to tell the police officer what happened.
13. Be careful on that icy sidewalk — you don't want to _____ and break your neck.
14. In the summer the sun doesn't _____ until 9:00 in the evening.
15. I'm going to _____ \$4,000 _____ on my new car and finance the rest.
16. I've been standing all day. I need to _____.