

16. FOCUS ON: phrasal verbs with gerund objects, 1

Gerunds — verbs in the *-ing* form that function as nouns — can serve as objects of many phrasal verbs.

It is more common to use gerund objects with nonseparable two- and three-word phrasal verbs:

*She's **counting on** getting that job.*

I don't **feel up to** playing hockey.
gerund
gerund

but gerund objects are sometimes used with separable phrasal verbs:

/ wouldn't put robbing a bank past him.
gerund

Mr. Taylor wants to **give** smoking up.
gerund

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
believe in	believe in &	believing in	believed in	believed in

- believe in p.v.** When you **believe in** something or **believe in** doing something, you have a strong opinion about something that is important to you.

/ **believe in** working hard and saving money.

Maria doesn't **believe in** sex before marriage.

- believe in p.v.** When you **believe in** something, you think it exists.

Do you **believe in** ghosts?

Ned is an atheist; he doesn't **believe in** God.

- believe in p.v.** When you **believe in** people, you have confidence in them and believe what they say because you think they are honest, correct, or competent.

/ don't care what anyone else says, I still **believe in** you.

We want to **believe in** you, but we need some proof that your invention really works.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
carry	carry on & carries on	carrying on	carried on	carried on

- carry on p.v.** When you **carry on**, you continue as before, despite a difficult experience in your life.

You'll have to **carry on** for the sake of the children.

It was difficult for Mrs. Nelson to **carry on** after her husband died.

- carry on (with) p.v.** When you **carry on**, **carry on** with an activity, or **carry on** doing an activity, you continue it or continue doing it.

The men stopped working when General Chambers entered the room, and he told them to **carry on**.

She plans to **carry on** with her career after the baby is born.

They knew I was trying to sleep, but they **carried on** talking and singing anyway.

3. **carry ... on** p.v. When you **carry** something **on** an airplane, you keep it with you in the passenger compartment instead of giving it to an airline agent to put in the baggage compartment.

This suitcase is pretty big. I hope they'll let me **carry it on**.

You should **carry** your laptop computer **on**. You don't want to take any chances.

carry-on n. **Carry-on**, **carry-on** luggage, **carry-on** baggage, **carry-on** bags, and so on, are not given to an airline agent to put in the baggage compartment but are kept in the passenger compartment of an airplane.

I'm staying only one night in New York, so all I'll need is a **carry-on** bag.

4. **carry on** (about) p.v. [informal] When you **carry on** or **carry on** about something, you are very persistent and vocal about something that upsets you.

/ forgot our anniversary, and she **carried on** all day.

I said I was sorry; now will you please stop **carrying on** about it?

count

count on & counts on counting on counted on counted on

1. **count on** p.v. When you need something important to happen or a certain condition to exist, you are **counting on** it. When you need someone to do something important, you are **counting on** that person.

I'm **counting on** getting a ride to the airport with Betty.

Farmers **count on** a lot of rain in the spring.

2. **count on** p.v. When you rely on someone or something for help or support if you need it, you are **counting on** that thing or that person.

I'm going to sell this car and buy one that always starts. I need a car I can **count on**.

The governor said that she's **counting on** our support in the next election.

3. **count on** p.v. When you are certain that something will happen or that a certain condition will exist, you are **counting on** it.

Man/in makes a fool of himself at every party. You can **count on** it.

You can **count on** crowds and long lines at Disney World if you go in August.

Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
get through			
get through & gets through	getting through	got through	gotten/got

1. **get through** (with) p.v. When you **get through**, **get through** with an activity, or **get through** doing an activity, you finish it or finish doing it.

/ have so much homework that I might not **get through** with it until midnight.

After you **get through** washing the dishes, you can start ironing.

2. **get through** (to) p.v. When you **get through** or **get through** to someone, usually on a telephone or radio, you are able to speak to that person.

Nancy tried calling Jim last night, but she couldn't **get through**.

It wasn't easy, but I finally **got through** to my brother in Borneo.

3. **get through** (to) p.v. When you **get through** or **get through** to someone, you make that person understand your opinion or point of view.

Mr. Taylor has tried to make his daughter understand why it's important to work hard in school and get good grades, but he just can't **get through**. I've explained it a hundred times!

What do I have to do to **get through** to you?

4. **get ...through** p.v. [informal] When you **get** something **through** someone's head, you make that person understand your opinion or point of view. When you **get** something **through** your own head, you understand it.

/ finally **got it through** my son's head that I was serious about sending him to military school.

When are you going to **get it through** your head that our marriage is over?

5. **get... through** p.v. When something **gets** you **through** a difficult experience, it comforts and supports you.

Julia's faith in God was what **got** her **through** the loss of her husband.

He was very nervous about giving the speech, so he had a drink to help **get him through** the ordeal.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
go for	go for & goes for	going for	went for	gone for

1. **go for** p.v. [informal] When you go for something, you like it a lot.

Erik really **goes for** scuba diving.

Let's go to a different nightclub. I don't **go** for jazz.

2. **go for** p.v. When you **go for** something, you try to achieve it.

The gymnast said she was going to **go for** the gold at the next Olympics.

After she finished her master's, she **went for** a Ph.D.

3. **go for** p.v. [always continuous] When you have something **going for** you, you have an advantage that makes it easier for you to do something or get something that you want.

Sam's not especially good at basketball, but he has one thing **going for** him — he's seven feet tall. I have ten years of experience **going for** me, so I think I have a good chance of getting the job.

4. **go for** p.v. When you say that a statement about one person or thing **goes for** another person or thing, you mean that it is also true about the other person or thing. When you say "That **goes for** me," you are agreeing with someone else's opinion.

Heather said that Tom was a jerk, and I said that that **goes for** Tom's brother Bill, too.

Betty's really angry about it, and that **goes for** me, too.

hold off

hold off & holds off	holding off	held off	held off
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1. **hold off** p.v. When you **hold off** or **hold off** doing something, you delay doing it.

/ **held** offsetting our house until our youngest child moved out.

You'd better **hold off** accusing Mike until you're 100 percent sure.

1. **hold ... off** p.v. When you **hold off** an attack, you prevent the attacker from getting close to you or from winning the fight. If you **hold off** a competitor, you prevent the competitor from winning.

The enemy was so strong that there was no way to **hold them off**.

The champion **held off** the challenger and won the game.

put past

1. **put... past** p.v. [used only in the infinitive form and only in negative sentences] When you want to say that you think someone is capable of doing something wrong, you say that you wouldn't **put** it **past** that person. When you want to warn someone that you think another person is capable of doing something wrong, you say "Don't **put it past** (that person)."

Is he capable of murder? Well, I wouldn't **put** killing someone **past** him. Marvin is evil. There isn't any crime I wouldn't **put past** him. You don't think Hank would steal money from his grandmother? I know him better than you do — don't put **it past** him.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
think think	about & thinks	thinking about	thought about	thought about

1. **think about** p.v. When you **think about** something or **think about** doing something, you consider it before making a decision.

The salesman tried to get me to sign the contract, but I said I'd **think about** it.

I'm **thinking about** quitting my job.

EXERCISE 16a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

- This house is too small for our family. We're _____ moving to a bigger one.
- These skis are pretty big. Do you think they'll let me _____ them _____?
- This work is very important, and I know you can do it. I'm _____ you.
- At the next Olympics, Raul's going to _____ a new record in the pole vault.
- I don't _____ talking about people behind their backs.
- I tried several times to call Tim in Timbuktu, but I couldn't _____.
- The roller coaster is very popular. If you go on the weekend, you can _____ waiting in line for three hours.
- As soon as you _____ washing the car, come inside and eat lunch.
- I wanted to buy a digital camera, but I _____ buying one until the prices fell.
- Marvin seems like a nice guy, but he isn't. I wouldn't _____ anything _____ him.
- David asked me to buy beer when I went to the store, but I forgot, and he _____ about it for an hour.
- The defenders _____ the attackers as long as they could.
- Mike really _____ auto racing when he was young.
- Sally has a good education and a pleasant personality. She has a lot _____ her.
- How can I _____ after this terrible tragedy?
- I've explained the rules a thousand times. Why can't you _____ it _____ your head that I'm the boss around here, not you?

17. Everyone else thinks Dr. Hatcher's ideas are crazy, but I _____ him.
18. Uncle John was the only one who knew how to run this business. Now that he's dead, we won't be
able to _____.
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19. I didn't used to _____ ghosts, but what I saw last night changed my mind.
20. I've tried to get her to understand my point of view, but I can't _____ to her.
21. The Republicans are idiots, and that _____ the Democrats, too.
22. Letters from his family helped Jake _____ his prison sentence.
23. I always knew that my brother was the one person I could _____ if I had a problem.

EXERCISE 16b — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and nouns from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Judy likes taking pictures a lot. How does she feel about taking pictures?
2. Maria didn't finish studying until 11:00 P.M. What didn't Maria do until 11:00 P.M.?
3. The Ortegas took two bags with them to keep in the passenger compartment when they flew to New York. What did they do to the two bags?
4. In Question 3, what kind of bags did the Ortegas keep with them?
5. Jane is considering spending the summer in Bolivia. What is Jane doing?
6. Bill feels strongly that hunting is wrong. How does Bill feel about hunting?
7. Paul couldn't continue his career as a dancer after his accident. What couldn't he do after his accident?
8. We delayed having children until after we had done some traveling. What did we do?
9. You think stealing is something Hank would do. What do you think about Hank?
10. Nancy is going to try to call her sister in Nepal tonight. What is Nancy going to try to do tonight?
11. Hank isn't reliable. You can't be certain he will do what he says he will do. What can't you do to Hank?
12. Dan was very angry, and he yelled and complained for three hours. What did Dan do for three hours?
13. You can't be 100 percent certain that the weather will be nice in Florida in the winter. What can't you do to the winter weather in Florida?
14. Many children are sure that monsters are real. What do many children think about monsters?

EXERCISE 16c — Write eight original sentences using phrasal verbs from this section. Try to use gerund objects.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

EXERCISE 16d, Review — Complete the sentences with these participle adjectives from previous sections. To check their meanings, review the section number given after each one.

closed off, 13	filled out, 14	put away, 14	used up, 14
dressed up, 14	fixed up, 15	screwed on, 12	wound up, 14
dried up, 14	lit up, 13	stuck-up, 14	wrapped up, 4

1. Charles is so _____. He thinks he's better than everyone else because he comes from a rich family.
2. Now that your house is _____, it's worth a lot more.
3. There isn't any more paper for the copier — it's _____.
4. I washed and dried the dishes, and now they're _____ in the cabinet.
5. Frank's really _____ about his wedding tomorrow.
6. The presents have wrapping paper on them. They're _____.
7. This form has all the information in the correct spaces. It's _____.
8. The floor of the bathroom isn't wet anymore; it's _____.
9. Why is Sarah all _____? Is she going out dancing?
10. Be sure the top of the Coke bottle is _____. If it isn't, the Coke will go flat.
11. You can't go in the east wing of the palace because it's _____.
12. I can see the road easily at night when I'm driving because it's _____.

EXERCISE 16e, 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.

break down, 5	get over with, 3	put up with, 3
break out, 9	give up, 9	see about, 7
butt in, 14	go in for, 3	take in, 7
feel up to, 3	leave off, 13	wind up, 14
get around to, 6	look forward to, 3	work out, 11
get out of, 6	put up, 12	

1. We couldn't decide where to go for dinner last night, so we _____ staying home.
2. Sally loves all outdoor sports, and she especially _____ swimming.
3. I hate cigarettes, and I will not _____ smoking in my house!
4. It's been seven years since Tom saw his sister. He's really _____ seeing her again.
5. My eyesight got so bad that I had to _____ driving.
6. I'm exhausted. I really don't _____ doing any more sightseeing.
7. The heat in my apartment doesn't work. I need to _____ the manager _____ getting it fixed.
8. It's been three hours since I asked you. When are you going to _____ taking out the garbage?
9. I promised Sally I would lend her \$1,000, but now I don't want to give it to her. How can I _____
_____ lending her the money?
10. Raking the leaves is a big job, but I have to _____ it _____ before it snows.
11. The teacher continued her lecture where she _____ the previous week.
12. I haven't _____ all the details, but I've decided to quit my job and start my own business.
13. I was late to work because my car _____ on the expressway.
14. My TV was broken, so I _____ it _____ and had it fixed.
15. When you're camping, you should always _____ your tent _____ before it gets dark.
16. Fighting between protesters and government troops _____ after the general canceled the election.
17. The line to buy tickets for the football game was really long, so a lot of people tried to _____.