

## 6. FOCUS ON: pronunciation of three-word phrasal verbs

The pronunciation of three-word phrasal verbs is generally quite simple: the second, or middle, particle is accented regardless of whether the phrasal verb is separable or inseparable:

/ think I've **come UP with** an answer to your problem.

The detective didn't **get** any information **OUT** of him.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
boil down to	boil down to & boils down to	boiling down to	boiled down to	boiled down

1. **boil down to** p.v. When you say that something **boils down to** something else, you are saying that it is the basic cause of a more complicated situation or problem.

Most of the crime in this city **boils down to** drugs.

My decision to stay at this awful job **boils down to** one thing — money.

### **come down**

**come down with & comes down**    **coming down with**    **came down with**    **come down**

1. **come down with** p.v. When you are starting to get sick, you are **coming down with** something or **coming down with** an illness.

/ don't feel well. Maybe I'm **coming down with** something.

My grandmother said, "If you don't wear an undershirt, you'll **come down with** pneumonia."

### Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>come up with</b>			
<b>come up with &amp; comes up with</b>	<b>coming up with</b>	<b>came up with</b>	<b>come up with</b>

1. **come up with** p.v. When you think of an idea, plan, or solution, you **come up with** it.

It took me all night, but I **came up with** the answer.

Lydia wants to **come up with** a great idea for the party.

### **get around to**

**get around to & gets around**    **getting around to**    **got around to**    **gotten/got**

1. **get around to** p.v. When you do something after waiting for some time because you are lazy, **inefficient**, or do not want to do it, you **get around to** it.

I didn't **get around to** doing my taxes until April 14.

Don't worry about the broken window. I'll **get around to** it one of these days.

### **get out of**

**get out of & gets out of      getting out of      got out of      gotten/got out**

1. **get out of** p.v. When you **get out of** something or **get out of** doing something you must do but do not want to do, you find a way to avoid it.

Sam **got out of** gym class by pretending to be sick.

The boss wants me to work a double shift, but I'll **get out of it**.

I **got out of** going to church with my parents by pretending to be sick.

2. **get... out of** p.v. If an activity gives you pleasure, satisfaction, or some other benefit, you **get** pleasure, satisfaction, or some other benefit **out of** it.

I sat through that boring class for three months and didn't learn a thing. I didn't **get** anything **out of** it.

The judge didn't **get** any pleasure **out of imposing** such a **harsh** penalty.

3. **get... out of** p.v. When you use force, pressure, or deceit to get something, such as information or money, from people, you **get** it **out of** them.

They tortured him for days, but they couldn't **get** any information **out of** him.

It took me a while, but I **got** the whole story **out of** her.

### **go back on**

**go back on & goes back on      going back on      went back on      gone back on**

1. **go back on** p.v. When you make a promise, but you do not do what you promised to do, you **go back on** your promise.

I promised to take my son to a baseball game, and I'm not **going back on** my word.

The President **went back on** his **pledge** not to raise taxes.

### **Infinitive**

<b>present tense</b>	<b>-ing form</b>	<b>past tense</b>	<b>past participle</b>
<b>go through with</b>			
<b>go through with &amp; goes through</b>	<b>going through</b>	<b>went through</b>	<b>gone through</b>

1. **go through with** p.v. When you do something that you have decided to do even though it may be dangerous or unpleasant or others may object, you **go through with** it.

The spokeswoman said the company would **go through with** its plan to move the company to Mexico.

Despite his family's opposition, Erik **went through with** his decision to quit his job and start his own business.

### **monkey around with**

**monkey around with & monkeys      monkeying      monkeyed      monkeyed**

**1. monkey around with** p.v. [informal] When you adjust or try to repair mechanical devices even though you do not have permission or do not have the skill to do it properly, you **monkey around with** them.

I **monkeyed around with** my camera, and I think maybe I fixed it.

Frank was **monkeying around with** my printer, and now it doesn't work.

**EXERCISE 6a** — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. I'm not surprised that Ali stayed home from work today. Yesterday he thought he might be \_\_\_\_\_ a cold.
2. Last year, the company \_\_\_\_\_ its plan to move from downtown to the suburbs.
3. I've thought and thought, but I can't \_\_\_\_\_ any reason why your idea won't work.
4. Fixing the leak in the roof is going to be a big job, but I have to \_\_\_\_\_ it before the next rain.
5. Heather didn't want to tell me why she was mad, but I finally \_\_\_\_\_ the reason \_\_\_\_\_ her.
6. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ much satisfaction \_\_\_\_\_ teaching students who don't want to be in the class.
7. The explanation for our failure to solve this problem isn't complicated. It really \_\_\_\_\_ a lack of funding.
8. I think you should take your VCR to a repair shop. If you \_\_\_\_\_ it, you'll just make it worse.
9. I'm supposed to report for jury duty on Monday, but I don't want to. I've got to think of a way to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
10. You lied to me! You promised me you would quit smoking, and now you've \_\_\_\_\_ your word.

**EXERCISE 6b** — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Tom was very nervous about getting married, but he did it. What did Tom do?
2. We were in Paris for five days, but we never found time to go to the Eiffel Tower. What didn't we do?

3. My father said I had to cut the grass, but I told him I would do it tomorrow. What did I do?
4. Janice really likes teaching because it gives her a lot of satisfaction. Why does Janice like teaching?
5. Ms. Cummings thought of a way to manufacture her company's products more cheaply. What did Ms. Cummings do?
6. There are many reasons why one house sells for a higher price than other houses, but the main reason is the house's location. Why does one house sell for more than another?
7. You feel a little sick now, and you think you'll have a cold tomorrow. What's happening to you today?
8. I don't really know what to do, but I'll try to fix the air conditioner anyway. What will I do to the air conditioner?
9. My wife didn't talk to me all day, but she said nothing was wrong. I asked her again and again what the problem was and she finally told me. What did I do?
10. Raquel promised Alex she would go to the dance with him, but she went with Carlos instead. What did Raquel do?

**EXERCISE 6c, 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.**

burn down, 5	go after, 4	look up, 4	point to, 4
cheat on, 4	hand back, 5	pile up, 5	put to, 4
find out, 5	look at, 5	plan for, 4	wrap up, 4

1. We've been at this meeting all afternoon. Don't you think we should \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ and go home?
  2. If we send out 75 invitations to the wedding, and everyone we invited brings his or her spouse, we should \_\_\_\_\_ 150 guests.
  3. Lydia \_\_\_\_\_ her best friend from college \_\_\_\_\_ when she was in Las Vegas.
  4. The students who \_\_\_\_\_ the test by writing the answers on their hands were expelled from school.
  5. This camera isn't working right. I'm going to take it to Jim at the photo shop and ask him to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
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6. Bill won't be happy if he \_\_\_\_\_ that you scratched his car.
7. My son's thinking about \_\_\_\_\_ his master's degree.
8. Evidence gathered after the air plane crash \_\_\_\_\_ engine failure as the cause.
9. I really \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ her, and she admitted that I was right.
10. We'd better do the laundry soon; it's starting to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The police officer \_\_\_\_\_ my driver's license \_\_\_\_\_ to me along with a ticket.
12. The detective thinks the owner \_\_\_\_\_ his restaurant for the insurance money.

**EXERCISE 6d — Review the explanation at the beginning of Section 5 of how two-word phrasal verbs are pronounced. Then, say each sentence in Exercise 6c aloud and circle the verb or particle that is accented.**