

39. FOCUS ON: passive phrasal verbs, 3

As we saw in Section 13, the passive is formed with **be** and the past participle of the verb. A number of modal auxiliary verbs and similar constructions are commonly used with **be**:

The meat will be **chopped up** by the cook.

Mark would never be **picked up** at the airport by a limo.

This mess can be **straightened out** only by me.

Such a huge country couldn't be **taken over** easily.

Her name should be **crossed off** the list.

The gas tank ought to be **filled up** before you return the car.

The concert might be **sold out**.

Your paychecks may not be **picked up** until after 5:00.

The enemy must be **wiped out**.

I have to be **picked up** on time.

The fruit has to be **chopped up** with a clean knife.

This screwup had better be **straightened out** soon or you will be fired!

This stuff was supposed to be **taken over** to Nancy's house yesterday.

Recall from Section 28 that phrasal verbs in the passive cannot be separated by an object because in a passive sentence there is no object.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
	chop up	chopping up	chopped up	chopped up

1. chop... up p.v. When you **chop** something **up**, you cut it into small pieces with a knife or other sharp instrument.

Does this meat have to be **chopped up**?

Chop it up into pieces about half an inch in size.

chopped up part.adj. After something has been cut into small pieces with a knife or other sharp instrument, it is **chopped up**.

Mix the **chopped-up** onions and celery with the mayonnaise.

cross off

cross off & crosses off
crossed off

crossing off

crossed off

1. cross... off p.v. When you **cross** something **off** a list, you draw a line through it to remove it from the list.

Why was my name **crossed** off the invitation list?

Crossing it **off** was a mistake.

crossed off part.adj. After a line has been drawn through something on a list to remove it from the list, it is **crossed off**.

Here's the grocery list, but don't get this **crossed-off stuff**— I already got it.

fill up

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

My radiator must be leaking; it has to be **filled up** with water every day.

We always **fill** the tank **up** when we're in Indiana because gas is cheaper there.

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

These water containers don't weigh very much. Are you sure they're completely **filled up**?

2. **fill... up (on) p.v.** When you **fill up** or **fill up** on something, you eat so much that you are no longer hungry and cannot eat any more.

Don't **fill up** on salad — you won't have any room for dinner.

I **filled up** on candy and was really sick about an hour later.

3. **fill up p.v.** When a room or other area **fills up**, people enter it until it is full.

The dance floor **filled up** quickly when the band began to play.

The hotels in Rio de Janeiro always **fill up** at carnival time.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
pick up	pick up & picks up	picking up	picked up	picked up

1. **pick... up p.v.** When you pick something up, you lift it with your hand.

All this trash has to be **picked up**.

Sam **picked up** his briefcase and left his office.

2. **pick... up p.v.** When you go to a place to get something that was created, prepared, or left for you and is now ready, you **pick it up**.

The garbage is supposed to be **picked up** before 9:00 AM.

The travel agent said I could **pick** the tickets **up** tomorrow.

pickup n. Something that is to be **picked up** or the process of **picking it up** is a **pickup**.

The restaurant uses the back door **for pickups** and deliveries.

3. **pick... up p.v.** When you **pick** people **up**, you stop your vehicle and give them a ride away from that place.

You'll be **picked up** at the airport by the hotel van.

Picking up hitchhikers is dangerous.

pickup n. Someone who is to be **picked up** or the process of **picking** someone **up** is a **pickup**.

The taxi driver went to 2122 N. dark Street for a **pickup**.

4. pick... up p.v. When you **pick** something **up** in a store, you quickly go into a store to buy something you need.

I need to **pick up** some milk on the way home.

Could you **pick** a loaf of bread **up** on your way over?

5. pick... up p. v. When you **pickup** a skill, you learn it easily. When you **pick up** a habit, you acquire the habit.

Children can **pick up** a new language very quickly. My son is **picking** some bad habits **up** from his friends.

6. pick... up p.v. When you resume doing something at the point where you stopped doing it earlier, you **pick up** at that point.

The teacher started the class by **picking up** where she had left off the previous week.

When you return to work after a long vacation, it's hard to know where to **pick up**.

7. pick... up p.v. When you **pick up** a radio or television station or a certain frequency on a receiver, you are able to tune it to that station or frequency.

When the weather is right, you can **pick** radio stations **up** that are hundreds of miles away. General Johnston's radio transmission was **picked up** by the enemy.

8. pick... up p.v. When the police or other authorities arrest people, they **pick** them **up**.

The border patrol **picks up** several people every day trying to bring drugs into the country.

Charles was **picked up** for driving under the influence of alcohol.

9. pick... up p.v. When you get something by chance without looking for it, you **pick** it **up**.

I **picked up** a few stock tips from a guy I met on the plane.

Marsha **picked up** some interesting books at a used bookstore.

10. pick... up p.v. When you **pick up** the check or the tab (a **tab** is a list of money that someone owes) in a restaurant or other place, you pay it.

Tom's a real cheapskate; he **never picks up** the check.

Heather's father picked **up** the tab for the entire wedding.

11. pick up p.v. When the speed, level, or condition of something increases or improves, it **picks up**.

Business is stow this time of year, but it should **pick up** in December.

The song starts out slowly, but then it **picks up**.

pickup n. An improvement in the speed, level, or condition of something is a **pickup**. If a motor vehicle is able to accelerate quickly, it has **pickup**.

The company's profits increased after a **pickup** in sales.

I need to take my truck to the mechanic. It doesn't have **any pickup**.

12. pick... up p.v. When you **pick up** a place that is messy, you organize or tidy it.

Timmy's mother told him he couldn't play outside until he **picked up** his room.

Let's **pick** this place **up** — it's a mess.

13. pick... up p.v. [informal] When you **pick up** members of the opposite sex, you approach and successfully interest them in a sexual or romantic encounter.

Hank tried to **pick up** Frank's sister at the party last night, but she wasn't interested.

Pat **picked up** someone, and they went to a cheap motel.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
sell out	sell out & sells out	selling out	sold out	sold out

1. **sell out** (of) [often passive] p.v. When a store **sells out** of something or is **sold out** of something, it sells all of it.

The toy store **sold out** of antigravity boots in two days.

I wanted to buy that new computer game, but every store I went to was **sold out** of it.

sold out part.adj. After all of something for sale in a store has been sold, the item is **sold out**.

I saw the most beautiful shoes at the mall, but my size was all **sold out**.

sold out part.adj. After all the tickets to a concert, play, or other public performance have been sold, the event is **sold out**.

You'll never get a ticket for the Superbowl — it's been **sold out** for weeks.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
straighten	straighten out & straightens out	straightening out	straightened out	straightened

1. **straighten ... out** p.v. When something is bent, crooked, or curved and you make it straight, you **straighten** it **out**.

My elbow is so swollen that I can't **straighten** my arm **out**.

As the city grew, many of the winding streets were **straightened out**.

2. **straighten ... out** p.v. When you **straighten out** a confused situation or misunderstanding, you take steps to make it understandable and satisfactory to everyone involved. **Sort out** is similar to **straighten out**.

My hotel had me booked for the wrong days in the wrong room, but the manager **straightened everything out**.

Save your questions for the meeting. Everything will be **straightened out** then.

straightened out part.adj. After a confused situation or misunderstanding has been made understandable and satisfactory to everyone involved, it is **straightened out**. **Sorted out** is similar to **straightened out**.

Erik was upset with Dan, but they had a talk and now everything is **straightened out**.

3. **straighten ... out** p.v. When you **straighten out** people who are acting foolishly, you do or say something that causes them to act more responsibly. When you **straighten out** people who are confused, you help them to understand.

I told my son that if he gets in trouble one more time, I'm going to send him to military school. That really **straightened him out**.

I'm totally confused about what I'm supposed to do. Can you **straighten me out**?

take over	take over & takes over over	taking over	took over	taken
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1. **take... over** (to) p.v. When you take something from one place to another, you **take** it **over** or **take it over** to a person or place.

Jane's at home sick, so I'm going to **take** some chicken soup **over**.

After I finished my report, I **took** it **over** to the finance department.

2. take... over p.v. When people, groups, or countries take control of a place by force, they **take it over**.

After the government troops fled, the country was **taken over** by the rebels.

The hijackers **took over** the plane and ordered the pilot to fly to Havana.

takeover n. A **takeover** is an action to take control of a country, city, building, or other place by force.

If the situation doesn't stabilize soon, there's a real chance of a military **takeover**.

3. take over (from/as) p.v. When people are elected, appointed, or hired to take control of a country, state, city, business, school, building, and so on, and to replace the people in control, they **take over**, **take over** as something, or **take over** from someone.

Carlos Ortega will be **taking over** as sales manager next year.

Ortega **took over** from Margaret Cummings, who had been the sales manager for 14 years.

takeover n. When people who are elected, appointed, or hired take control of a country, state, city, business, school, building, and so on, and replace the people in control, a **takeover** occurs.

After the **takeover**, the new president made a lot of changes.

4. take over (for) p.v. When you start to do a job or some work that other people are doing in order to allow them to take a break or because the previous shift has ended and a new shift has begun, you **take over**. When you assume an obligation or accept responsibility from someone, you **take it over**.

We work from 4:00 P.M. to midnight, and then the graveyard shift **takes over**.

When Linda was sick she couldn't care for her children, so her sister **took over** for her until she was well again.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
wipe out	wipe out & wipes out	wiping out	wiped out	wiped out

1. wipe... out p.v. When you remove dirt or liquid from the inside of a container with a cloth, sponge, or paper towel, you **wipe it out**.

Wipe the microwave **out** — it's got spaghetti sauce inside it.

I **wiped out** the inside of the glasses so they wouldn't dry with spots.

2. wipe... out p.v. When you are trying to kill people, weeds, insects, and so on, and you kill all of them, you **wipe them out**.

An entire regiment was **wiped out** in the battle.

The general said he would **wipe out** the rebels.

wipeout n. A situation in which all people, weeds, insects, and so on, are killed is a **wipeout**.

The battle was a complete **wipeout**. Not a single soldier survived.

EXERCISE 39a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Your pictures are ready and can be _____ between 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.
2. I didn't get the book I wanted because the store was _____ of them.
3. There's a lot of confusion about the new policy. We need to have a meeting to _____ everything _____.
4. The vice-president _____ after the president died.
5. Susie, your room is very messy. Come in here and _____ it _____ right now!
6. Mr. Nelson asked me to _____ for Lydia while she's on vacation.
7. Sales of air conditioners always _____ in the spring.
8. If we get a bigger antenna, we might be able to _____ a lot more stations _____.
9. It took me an hour to _____ everything for the beef stew.
10. The soldiers were ordered to _____ the rebels.
11. Sally called and asked me to _____ a few things on the way home.
12. A country this small could be _____ in a few days.
13. I wish I hadn't _____ on bread. Now I can't finish my dinner.
14. I'm going to play golf with Charles next week. He's really good, so maybe I can _____ a few ways to improve my game.
15. The theater _____ ten minutes before the start of the opera.
16. My car's frame was so badly damaged in the accident that there was no way it could be _____.
17. You don't need to take any money to the restaurant. Karen said she would _____ the check.
18. Don't just clean the outsides of the desks — _____ the insides _____, too.
19. I'll be arriving at 3:40 A.M. Would _____ me _____ that early be a problem?
20. Hank's giving orders like he's the president of the company. Someone needs to _____ him _____.
21. Smoking is a bad habit that I _____ in the Navy.
22. Let's _____ these canteens before we begin our hike.
23. This couch is really heavy. Can you help me _____ it _____?
24. After you get your paycheck, you can _____ it _____ to the cashier to cash it.
25. Can you believe what Hank did? He tried to _____ the boss's daughter at the company picnic.
26. I finished page 47 yesterday, so I'll _____ on page 48 today.
27. You can _____ my name _____ the list; I've changed my mind.

EXERCISE 39b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.

1. Have you *chopped up*? (the onions, them)
2. You can *cross off*. (Linda's name, her)
3. *Fill up* with water, (the aquarium, it)
4. I need to *pick up* at the train station, (my parents, them)

5. Can you *straighten out*? (this mess, it)
 6. The rebels *took over*. (the royal palace, it)
 7. They *wiped out*. (the palace guard, them)
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EXERCISE 39c — 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. The construction business always improves in the spring. What does the construction business always do?
2. Pirates might take control of the ship. What might happen to the ship?
3. In Question 2, if pirates took control of the ship, what would this action be called?
4. There was a misunderstanding at work, but Nicole explained everything to the people involved, and now they understand. What did she do?
5. In Question 4, how would you describe the misunderstanding now?
6. Frank was supposed to go to the factory so he could give Ned a ride home. What was supposed to happen to Ned?
7. All the people in the town will be killed when the enemy captures it. What will happen to all the people in the town?
8. Someone ought to draw a line through Karen's name on the list. What ought to be done to Karen's name?
9. In Question 8, how would you describe Karen's name after someone draws a line through it?
10. Sarah went to the store to buy a CD, but they had all been sold. What did the store do?
11. In Question 10, how would you describe the CDs?
12. Tom tried to buy a ticket for the concert, but all the tickets had been sold. Why couldn't Tom buy a ticket for the concert?
13. You cut some bacon into very small pieces before you put it on your salad. What was done to the bacon?
14. The laundry closes at 6:00, so Jane has to go there before 6:00 to get her dress. What has to be done to the dress?

15. The copilot flew the plane so that the pilot could eat dinner. What did the copilot do?
16. Todd often asks me to stop at the store and buy a newspaper. What does Todd often ask me to do?
17. I'll tell Susie not to make the water in the bathtub rise all the way to the top. What will I tell Susie?
18. I stopped writing my book at page 94 and later started writing again on page 95. What did I do?

EXERCISE 39d, 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.

bite off, 27	come out, 32	leave out, 32	pull over, 19
blow up, 33	cut down, 23	look over, 21	settle down, 21
break off, 27	hand over, 19	make up, 23	slow down, 24
bring back, 19	knock off, 27	pick on, 21	wear down, 17

1. David's mother told him she'd like some grandchildren, but he's having too much fun as a bachelor and isn't interested in _____.
2. I didn't finish my work because I was training a new employee, and explaining everything really _____ me _____.
3. Bob's doctor told him he was doing too much weight lifting and that he should _____.
4. The movie wasn't the same as the novel. Several characters were _____.
5. When I caught my sixteen-year-old daughter smoking cigarettes, I really _____.
6. I didn't say you could use my car. _____ those keys right now!
7. There must be something wrong with my camera — none of the pictures I took _____.
8. Can I borrow your food processor? I promise I'll _____ it _____ tomorrow.
9. We've been working since 7:00 A.M. Let's _____ and finish tomorrow.
10. Everything on the menu looks delicious. I just can't _____ my mind.
11. If you don't stop _____ me, I'm going to tell Mommy.
12. I told Mark not to pet the lion, but he didn't listen, and his hand was _____.
13. He realized he was lost, so he _____ his car _____ and looked at a map.
14. My son asked me for a motorcycle for his birthday, but I told him no, so he's trying to _____ me _____ by asking me again and again and again.
15. I gave my job application to the human resources director, and he said he'd _____ it _____ and give me a call.
16. Do you have any glue? One of the arms has _____ this ceramic doll.