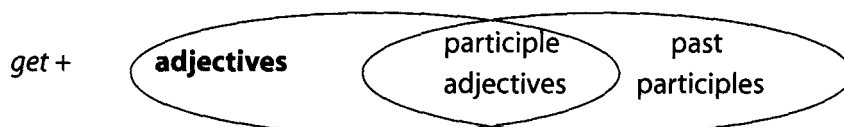


44. FOCUS ON: participle adjectives and passive phrasal verbs with the verb *get*

It is important to understand two different but related uses of *get* in forming the passive voice.

get* + adjectives: *get* = *become

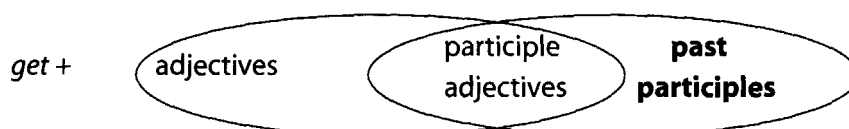


It is very common in English to use *get* followed by an adjective. This is not the passive. In this case *get* is similar to *become*:

She got sick yesterday.

She became sick yesterday.

***get* + past participles: a form of the passive**



It is also very common to use *get* in place of *be* to form the passive voice. The construction is the same; *get* is followed by the past participle:

Judy got **kicked out** of school.

Judy was **kicked out** of school.

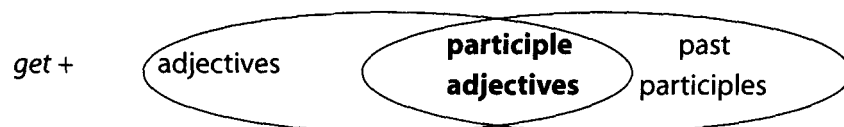
There is a difference, however, between the passive formed with *be* and the passive formed with *get*: When the passive is formed with *get*, there is often (but not always) a suggestion that the subject of the sentence was somehow responsible or partially responsible for what happened:

Judy got **kicked out** of school.

A person hearing the sentence above might think that perhaps Judy did something wrong that resulted in her getting **kicked out** of school. Sometimes, to leave no doubt that the subject is responsible for what happened, a reflexive pronoun is used:

Judy got *herself* **kicked out** of school. ***get* + participle**

adjectives: adjective or passive?



As we have seen, in English the past participles of many verbs are used as adjectives. When *get* is followed by a past participle, it is not always clear whether the sentence is passive or whether the past participle is functioning as an adjective:

*I **got mixed up** last week.*

*I **became mixed up** last week.*

In the examples above, we can see that the past participle is clearly functioning as an adjective since *get* can be replaced with *become*, but notice that the sentence can also pass the by test (discussed in Section 13), which indicates that it is passive:

*I **got mixed up** by all the confusing road signs last week.*

Again, we see how closely related adjectives and past participles are in English and how it is not always easy to distinguish between the two. Fortunately, it is not usually very important. What is important is to be comfortable using past participles as adjectives, and the key to doing so is *not* to understand the difference between true adjectives derived from past participles and past participles with an adjective function but instead to understand that there often is no difference.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
beat up	beat up & beats up	beating up	beat up	beaten up

1. beat... up *p.v. [informal]* When you **beat** people **up**, you hit them or kick them repeatedly.

*The muggers stole my money and then **beat me up**.*

*Timmy got **beaten up** at school today.*

beat-up *part.adj.* When something is in bad condition because of heavy use, it is **beat-up**.

*My car is an old, **beat-up** piece of*

junk.

carry away **carried away**

1. carry away (with) *p.v. [always passive]* When you get **carried away** or **carried away** with something, you do more than is necessary or proper because you enjoy it or because you think it is important.

*I was going to make a dozen cupcakes for desert tonight, but I got **carried away** and ended up making forty.*

*You should always start a new exercise program slowly. If you get **carried away** with it, you might hurt yourself.*

kick out

kick out & kicks out out	kicked out	kicking out	kicking
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1. kick... out (of) *p.v.* When you **kick** people **out** or **kick** people **out** of a group, place, building, room, and so on, you order them to leave. **Throw out** is similar to **kick out**.

David drank too much and got himself kicked **out** of the bar.

Bob's in our car pool, but he's always arguing with the other guys about something, so we're going to **kick** him **out**.

Infinitive

	present tense	•ing form	past tense	past participle
lock up	lock up & locks up	locking up	locked up	locked up

1. lock... up *p.v.* When you **lock** all the doors and windows of a building, you **lock it up**.

*The manager always **locks up** before he goes home.*

*We **locked** our house **up** before we went on vacation.*

locked up *part.adj.* After all the doors and windows of a building have been locked, it is **locked up**.

*You can't get in the house — it's **locked up**.*

2. lock... up *p.v.* When you **lock** people **up**, you put them in prison.

*The police **locked** Hank **up** after they caught him shoplifting.*

*Whoever committed that terrible crime ought to be **locked up** forever.*

locked up *part.adj.* Someone who has been put in prison is **locked up**.

*Being **locked up** in jail was a terrible experience.*

lockup *n.* A prison or other place where people are **locked up** is a **lockup**.

*Omar was put in the **lockup** after he was arrested for drunken driving.*

mix up

mix up & mixes up	mixing up	mixed up	mixed up
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1. mix... up *p.v.* When you **mix** something **up** that has two or more ingredients, you stir it so that the ingredients will be thoroughly combined.

*Put in the eggs, butter, sugar, flour, and water and then **mix it up** well.*

*An electric mixer will **mix up** the ingredients better than a hand mixer.*

2. mix... up *p.v.* When you **mix** two things up, you confuse them with each other.

*Jerry and his twin brother look exactly the same, and everyone **mixes** them **up**.*

*Newborn babies sometimes get **mixed up** in the hospital.*

mixed up *part.adj.* When you are confused about something that you want to understand, or when you have emotional or behavioral problems, you are **mixed up**.

*Can you help me with my calculus homework? I'm really **mixed up**.*

*Jimmy is a **mixed-up** kid who gets in trouble with the police a lot.*

mix-up *n.* A mistake, misunderstanding, or confused situation is a **mix-up**.

*Waiter, I think there's been a **mix-up**. I asked you for a chicken salad sandwich, but you brought me a tuna salad sandwich.*

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
piss off	piss off & pisses off	pissing off	pissed off	pissed off

1. piss... off *p.v. [informal and offensive to some people]* When you make people angry, you **piss** them **off**.

*You'd better stop that! You're **pissing** me **off**.*

*Don't make a lot of noise when Mark is trying to study; it **pisses** him **off**.*

pissed off *part.adj.* When you are angry, you are **pissed off**.

*Melon is got really **pissed off at** Heather for borrowing her necklace without asking and then losing it.*

rip off

rip off & rips off	ripping off	ripped off	ripped off
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1. rip ...off *p.v. [informal]* When you **rip** people off, you steal something from them, cheat them, or charge them more money for something than it is worth.

*Don't do business with Marvin; he **rips** everyone **off**.*

*Hank got **ripped off** by the drug dealer.*

rip-off *n.* When someone steals something from you, cheats you, or charges too much for something, this is a **rip-off**.

*I paid nine dollars to see that awful movie? What a **rip-***

off! stress out

stress out & stresses out	stressing out	stressed out	stressed out
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1. stress... out *p.v. [informal]* When people or things **stress** you **out**, they make you worried, nervous, or tense.

*Having that new manager around watching me all the time is **stressing** me **out**.*

*Sally's sister has to take care of quadruplets all day without any help. That must **stress** her **out**.*

stressed-out *part.adj.* When you are worried, nervous, or tense, you are **stressed-out**.

*I had to make a speech at work today, and I was so **stressed-out** afterward that I took the rest of the day off.*

EXERCISE 44a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. The prison guard put Jake in a cell and _____ him _____.
2. Tom asked the barber to just cut his hair a little bit, but when he looked in the mirror, he could see that the barber was getting _____ and cutting his hair too short.

3. Erik promised me that he would come to my house to help me move some stuff this morning, but he still hasn't shown up. He's always doing things like that, and it really _____ me

4. If Janice doesn't pass her chemistry test tomorrow, she won't graduate with the rest of her class, and worrying about it so much is really _____ her _____.

5. I got _____ of school after I got caught cheating on the test.

6. The robbers _____ the shop owner so badly that she had to be hospitalized.

7. Add a cup of water and four eggs to the cake mix and _____ it _____ well.

8. The night manager forgot to _____ when she left the restaurant.

9. The jewelry store _____ me _____ I paid \$5,000 for a diamond ring made of glass.

10. The teacher has two students with the same name, and she always _____ them

EXERCISE 44b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.

1. The thugs *beat up*. (the woman, her)

2. The hotel manager *kicked out*. (the rock group, them)

3. The cops are going to *lock up*. (the crook, her)

4. *Mixing up* is easy. (the twins, them)

5. Getting a tattoo must have *pissed off*. (your father, him)

6. The contractor was accused of *ripping off*. (homeowners, them)

7. All these problems are *stressing out*. (the staff, them)

EXERCISE 44c — 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. Tom paid a mechanic to replace his car's generator with a new one, but the mechanic put a used generator in and still charged Tom for a new one. What did the mechanic do to Tom?

2. In Question 1, what would you call what the mechanic did to Tom?

3. If they don't stop making so much noise, the manager is going to tell them to leave. What is the manager going to do?

4. You locked all the doors and windows in your house. What did you do?

5. In Question 4, how would you describe your house after you locked all the doors and windows?

6. Many cars look the same these days, and it's hard to tell them apart. If it is hard to tell them apart, what is it easy to do?

7. Scratching my brother's new car really made him angry. What did scratching my brother's new car do to my brother?
8. In Question 7, how would you describe my brother?
9. Linda is very confused about how to use her computer. How would you describe Linda?
10. Driving in all this traffic is making you nervous and tense. What is driving in all this traffic doing to you?
11. In Question 10, how would you describe yourself?
12. I let Charles use my skis, and when he returned them, they were in very bad condition. How were my skis when Charles returned them?
13. Sam's father was sent to prison for bank robbery. What happened to Sam's father?
14. In Question 13, how would you describe Sam's father?
15. Karen went to the store planning to buy a pair of shoes, but she ended up buying five pairs of shoes, three dresses, four blouses, and a new winter coat. What happened to Karen?
16. When the angry people caught the thief, they hit and kicked him again and again. What did the angry crowd do?
17. When you put all the ingredients in, you have to stir them so they will be combined. What do you have to do?

EXERCISE 44d, 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 in/into, 41	keep at, 38	keep off, 38	pay off, 37
bring up, 40	keep away, 38	keep on, 38	put up to, 34
cover up, 37	keep down, 38	keep to, 38	stick with, 40
help out, 33	keep from, 38	keep up, 38	take over, 39

1. The newspaper story claimed that the governor had taken a bribe and had then tried to _____ it _____.
2. That stock I bought really _____ . It went up nearly 100 percent in only three months.

3. After the new manager _____ next month, you can expect a lot of changes.
4. Will you kids _____ it _____, please? I'm on the phone.
5. I told you to stop. If you _____ doing that, I'm going to get pissed off.
6. The police think the burglars may have _____ through the back door.
7. If you kids go outside to play, _____ from that pile of junk—it's full of broken glass.
8. I need to talk to Jerry about his bad breath, but I'm nervous about _____ it _____.
9. Dan is so sad about what happened that he can't _____ crying.
10. When I went to the car rental office, they had already rented all the good cars, and they

_____ me _____ a beat-up piece of junk.

11. The legislature passed a tough new law designed to _____ drunken drivers _____ the streets.
12. When you're depressed you should talk to people about what's troubling you, not _____ it _____ yourself.

13. I'm broke — do you think you could _____ me _____ till payday?
14. Nothing the inventor tried worked, but he _____ it until he solved the problem.
15. I can't believe that my daughter would steal money from me. That awful boyfriend of hers must have _____ her _____ it.
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16. Jane did very well in her first semester of college. I hope she can _____ it _____ for the next four years.