

## 12. FOCUS ON: past perfect phrasal verbs

The **past perfect** is used to say that one thing in the past happened before another thing in the past:

Mike **said** the wedding **had fallen through**.  
past                      earlier in the past

When I **got** to work, Mr. Toy for **had** already **signed** in.

past                      earlier in the past

The **past perfect** is formed with **had** and the **past participle** of the verb:

present: **He wakes up.**

past: **He woke up.**

past perfect: **He had woken up.**

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>back off</b>	back off & backs off	backing off	backed off	backed off

**1. back off** **p.v.** When you move away from danger or a person you are arguing or fighting with in order to avoid injury or a more serious fight or argument, you **back off**. When you tell people to **back off**, you are warning them that you are becoming angry and that a fight or argument is likely.

I'm warning you! You'd better **back off**.

Tom **backed off** when he saw that Jake had a gun.

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

**1. come across** p.v. When people cross from one side of a space or distance to where you are, they **come across**.

As soon as Nicole saw me, she **came across** the room and gave me a big hug.

By 1910, millions of immigrants had **come across** the ocean to America.

**2. come across p.v.** When you **come across** people or things, you see or find them without planning or expecting to. **Run across** is similar to **come across**.

/ asked the antique dealer if she had ever **come across** a Windsor chair.

On the trail, we **came across** some hikers from Australia.

**3. come across p.v.** When something you say or do **comes across** a certain way, your attitude or feelings are perceived in this way by other people.

/ was just joking, but I don't think it **came across** that way.

His American humor didn't **come across** well in Britain.

**come**      **come up & comes up**      **coming up**      **came up**      **come up**

1. **come up** (to) p.v. When people move toward you to a higher level or position, or from the south to the north, they **come up**. **Come down** is the opposite of **come up**.

Why don't you **come up** and see me some time?

My cousin from San Antonio **came up** to Detroit last week.

2. **come up** p.v. When you move to a higher social or professional position, you **come up**.

/ saw Dan driving a Mercedes. He's really **coming up** in the world.

The major didn't go to the military academy. He **came up** through the ranks.

3. **come up** p.v. When a new topic is introduced into a conversation, it **comes up**.

/ don't agree with Jim about anything, so if politics **comes up**, I just leave the room.

We were discussing possible candidates to manage the new office, and your name **came up**.

4. **come up** p.v. When something unexpected happens that requires further attention, it **comes up**.

I'm sorry I can't go to your party; something important has **come up**.

Until this situation **came up**, we were having a nice, relaxing weekend.

5. **come up** p.v. [always continuous] When something is **coming up**, it will happen soon.

Mother's Day is **coming up**, so I need to buy my mother a gift soon.

The TV announcer told the audience what was **coming up** after the commercial.

#### Infinitive

present tense

-ing form

past tense

past participle

**fall through**

**fall through & falls through**

**falling through**

**fell through**

**fallen through**

1. **fall through** p.v. When people or things drop through an opening from one side to the other side, they **fall through**.

The roofer had **fallen through** a hole in the roof.

My Uncle Fred was ice fishing when he **fell through** a hole in the ice and was never seen again.

2. **fall through** p.v. When a plan, an arrangement, or a business deal does not happen or is canceled because of a problem or because someone does not do what is expected, it **falls through**.

The family reunion **fell through** after Dad got sick.

Our house is back on the market. The deal **fell through** because the buyers couldn't get a loan.

**put**  
**out**

**put up & puts up**

**putting up**

**put up**

**put up**

1. **put... up** p.v. When you move something to a higher level, you **put it up**.

**Put** these knives **up** where the baby can't reach them.

He aimed the gun at me and said, "**Put** your hands **up** or I'll shoot."

**2. put... up p.v.** When you attach something, such as a picture or a sign, to a wall, you **put it up**.

The teacher had **put** some posters **up** in her new classroom.

Our real estate agent is **putting up** a "for sale" sign.

**3. put... up p.v.** When you build or install something, such as a building, shelf, fence, or wall, you **put it up**.

We need to **put up** a fence to keep the rabbits out of our garden.

I talked to a carpenter about **putting up** some shelves in the family room.

**4. put... up p.v.** When you erect or assemble something that is collapsed, folded, or in several pieces, you **put it up**.

The circus **put up** their tent outside of town.

The Native Americans stopped by the river and **put up** their teepees.

**5. put up p.v.** When you contribute money to pay for or help pay for something, you **put up** the money.

14. The charity was asked to \_\_\_\_\_ \$2 million toward the purchase of new medical equipment.

15. Someone had \_\_\_\_\_ the lid \_\_\_\_\_ so tightly that I couldn't get it off.

16. My house was destroyed by a tornado. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ for a few days?

17. I was upstairs working when my wife \_\_\_\_\_ to ask me what I wanted for lunch.

18. The applicant's criticism of his previous employer didn't \_\_\_\_\_ well with the interviewer.

19. I bought a plastic Christmas tree that's really easy to \_\_\_\_\_.

20. Nancy \_\_\_\_\_ the Golden Gate Bridge every morning to go to work.

21. I didn't go to a fancy Ivy League college. I \_\_\_\_\_ the hard way.

22. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the window shade \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can get more light in here, please?

23. Susie's mother told her that Christmas was \_\_\_\_\_, so she had better be a good girl.

**EXERCISE 12b — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and participle adjectives from this section. Make all the phrasal verbs past perfect.**

1. Mike told me that Jerry had been angry and was going to hit Bill, but that Jerry had then changed his mind and walked away. What had Jerry done?

2. Luis had written his name on a piece of paper to show that he had come to work. What had Luis done?

3. The carpenter had dropped suddenly from the second floor to the first floor through a hole IN the floor. What had the carpenter done?

4. Timmy had argued with his mother because he didn't want to go to bed. What had Timmy done?

5. Todd's explanation made a good impression on the jury. What had Todd's explanation done?

6. The rich lady had given the money to build an animal shelter. What had the rich lady done?

7. The host of the TV talk show had said that the dancing bear act was going to take place right after the commercial. What had the host of the TV show said about the dancing bear act?
8. The cook had turned the lid of the jar so that it was tight. What had the cook done?
9. In Question 8, how would you describe the lid of the jar after the cook turned it so that it was tight?
10. The homeless shelter had allowed them to sleep there overnight. What had the homeless shelter done?
11. The president canceled his vacation because a serious problem had suddenly occurred. Why did the president cancel his vacation?
12. We'd had a deal to buy a new house, but we didn't buy it because of a problem. What had happened to our deal?
13. Marsha's name had been mentioned during the meeting. What had Marsha's name done?
14. The Ortegas had built a fence around their swimming pool. What had the Ortegas done?
15. You had found some old newspapers while cleaning the attic. What had you done?
16. Miguel had traveled from Miami to New York. What had Miguel done?
17. The doctor had written her name on a piece of paper to show that she had left the hospital. What had the doctor done?

**EXERCISE 12c — Write eight original sentences using phrasal verbs from this section. Try to make some of them questions, some negative, and some present or past perfect.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ . 2. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ . 4. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

**EXERCISE 12d, 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.**

back up, 11	follow up, 11	point to, 4	try out, 11
cut off, 11	go after, 4	put to, 4	wake up, 11
drop off, 11	pay for, 4	take out, 11	work out, 11
fall off, 10	plan for, 4	throw up, 2	wrap up, 4

1. I don't care if it takes me the rest of my life, you'll \_\_\_\_\_ the terrible thing you did!
2. The salesman got a good lead from a friend, and he \_\_\_\_\_ on it immediately.
3. We need to take the baby to the doctor right now. She's \_\_\_\_\_ twice in the last hour.
4. Sales have \_\_\_\_\_ by 13 percent in the last year.
5. That was a very interesting question you \_\_\_\_\_ Mark at the meeting.
6. Relax, everything's going to \_\_\_\_\_ okay.
7. Can you follow me in your car so that I can \_\_\_\_\_ my car \_\_\_\_\_ at the mechanic?
8. Erik \_\_\_\_\_ his son \_\_\_\_\_ and told him it was time for school.
9. I drove into the mountains to \_\_\_\_\_ my truck's four-wheel drive \_\_\_\_\_.
10. You should always \_\_\_\_\_ anything important before you install a new program.
11. The police officer asked the boy where his father was, and the boy \_\_\_\_\_ the bar across the street.
12. It's getting pretty late. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ this meeting \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The guy behind the counter \_\_\_\_\_ a small piece of cheese so I could taste it.
14. It was a bit of a problem when Jane brought her children with her to my dinner party. I hadn't \_\_\_\_\_ so many people.
15. The censor told the film director to \_\_\_\_\_ some of the violent scenes.
16. Jane's going to \_\_\_\_\_ that new job in the Boston office.