

35. FOCUS ON: gerund phrasal verbs

In Section 10 we looked at gerunds as the objects of phrasal verbs. Now we will look at phrasal verbs as gerunds themselves. Like ordinary verbs, gerund phrasal verbs can be the subject of a sentence:

Narrowing down the list will be difficult.

subject

the object of a sentence:

We discussed **narrowing down** the list.

object

or the object of a preposition:

We talked about **narrowing down** the list.

object of preposition

How and when phrasal verbs can be separated is unaffected by their use as gerunds:

Narrowing it down will be difficult.

We discussed **narrowing it down**.

We talked about **narrowing it down**.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
fool	fool around & fools around	fooling around	fooled around	fooled around

1. fool around p.v. When you waste time playing or doing silly or unimportant things, you **fool around**. **Goof around** is the same as **fool around**.

My son is lazy. He spends his time **fooling around** instead of looking for a job. My boss said, "I'm not paying you to **fool around** — get to work!"

1. fool around (with) p.v. When you **fool around** with something, you do something that may be dangerous or foolish.

Fooling around with drugs is pretty stupid.

You shouldn't **fool around** with the insides of your computer unless you know what you're doing.

3. foot around (with) p.v. [informal] When two people **fool around** or **foot around** with each other, they have sexual relations, even though one or both of them may be married to someone else or even though their families or society may not approve.

Sally's father caught her and Jim **fooling around** in the basement.

Her husband's been **fooling around** with his secretary, and everyone in town knows it.

go by

	go by & goes by	going by	went by	gone by
--	-----------------	----------	---------	---------

1. **go by** p.v. When people **go by** a place or thing, they pass near that place or thing. When a thing **goes by** or **goes by** you, it passes near you.

We watched the parade **go by**.

I went by Jim's house to see if his car was in the driveway.

2. **go by** p.v. When you **go by** a place, you go there so that you can do something or get something.

Let's **go by** Paul's house to get his tools before we work on your car.

You can forget about **going by** the dry cleaner to pick up your stuff— it's closed.

3. **go by** p.v. When a period of time **goes by**, it passes.

/ can't believe that thirty years have **gone by** since I got out of high school.

As time **went by**, Betty moved up in the company until she was the head of the finance department.

4. **go by** p.v. When you **go by** a policy or standard, you use it as a reference or a guide in making decisions and determining your behavior. When you **go by** the book, you follow rules, policies, or laws exactly.

Going by the book has always been my policy.

Jim told me to do one thing, and Tom told me to do another, but since Tom is the boss, I'm going to **go by** what he says.

5. **go by** p.v. When you **go by** a clock, you use it to tell the time.

Don't **go by** the clock on the wall; it's fast. **Go by** the clock on the desk.

No wonder I'm always late for work — the clock I've been **going by** is ten minutes slow.

Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
hold against			
hold against & holds against	holding against	held against	held against

1. **hold ...against** p.v. When you **hold** things **against** people, you continue to blame them for something and continue to be upset about it.

Ten years ago I got a promotion that Ned thought he deserved, and he's **held it against** me ever since.

Jane lost her job because of a mistake Bob made, but she doesn't **hold it against** him.

leave behind

leave behind & leaves behind	leaving behind	left behind	left behind
------------------------------	----------------	-------------	-------------

1. leave... behind p.v. When you **leave** someone or something **behind**, you go to a different place.

The explorers **left** the mountains **behind** and entered the jungle.

The enemy soldiers retreated and **left behind** a city in ruins.

2. leave... behind p.v. When you **leave** something or someone **behind**, you do not take them with you because you forgot or because you cannot or do not want to take them.

We packed too much luggage for our trip, so we had to **leave** some things **behind**.

Leaving our children **behind** at a gas station was pretty dumb.

3. leave ... behind p.v. When you move, learn, or work faster than others in your group, you leave them **behind**.

My husband walks so fast that he always **leaves** me **behind**.

If you don't start working harder, you're going to be **left behind**.

Mark was so good at calculus that he soon **left** the rest of the class **behind**.

live with

live with & lives with with	living with	lived with	lived
-----------------------------	-------------	------------	-------

1. live with p.v. When you **live with** someone, you live at the same address. When you say that one person **lives with** a person of the opposite sex, you mean that they live in the same place but are not married.

Living with my in-laws is driving me crazy.

Mike's been **living with** his girlfriend for five years. Are they ever going to get married?

2. live with p.v. When you **live with** a disease or other problem, you endure or put up with it.

Living with this disease is not easy.

I can't change the situation, so I'll just have to learn to **live with** it.

3. live with p.v. When you **live with** shame, guilt, or a painful memory, you continue with your life in spite of the shame, guilt, or painful memory.

Jake committed suicide rather than **live with** the shame of what he had done.

He said he couldn't go on **living with** the knowledge that he had caused the death of 14 innocent people.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
make of	make of & makes of	making of	made of	made of

1. make of p.v. What you **make of** something is your understanding or opinion of it.

So what did you **make** of the prime minister's speech?

What he said was so strange that I didn't know what to **make** of it.

narrow down

narrow down & narrows down

narrowing down
down

narrowed down

narrowed

1. **narrow... down p.v.** When you **narrow down** things or people in a list or group, you remove some of them so that the number of things or people is reduced.

All the candidates for the job have excellent qualifications. **Narrowing** the list **down** won't be easy.

The detective **narrowed** the suspects **down** to the butler, the cook, and the maid.

trick into

trick into & tricks into

tricking into

tricked into

tricked into

1. **trick... into p.v.** When you **trick** people **into** doing something, you persuade them to do something by fooling or deceiving them. **Con into** is similar to **trick into**.

The con artist **tricked** them **into** giving him their life savings.

I was an idiot to let Hank **trick** me **into** selling him my car for so little money.

EXERCISE 35a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. The man who was killed in the accident _____ a wife and three children _____.
2. The prosecutor _____ Jake _____ admitting his guilt.
3. I took a job in Japan, and six years _____ before I returned to the United States.
4. Paul's been _____ his parents since his house burned down.
5. There were fifty contestants at the beginning of the contest, but the judges _____ it _____ to five finalists.
6. Look at this strange letter I received. Read it and tell me what you _____ it.
7. I was my parents' favorite, and my brother still _____ it _____ me.
8. Frank's wife filed for divorce after she learned that he was _____ with her best friend.
9. The train always blows its whistle when it _____.
10. _____ diabetes means carefully monitoring your blood sugar.
11. _____ your friends and family _____ when you emigrate to a new country is very difficult.
12. Todd failed the test because he _____ all evening instead of studying.
13. Sergeant Jones was very strict when he was in the Army. He always _____ the book.
14. Don't let your kids _____ with cigarette lighters; they might start a fire.
15. How can you _____ yourself after the terrible thing you did?
16. Melanie has my biology book, so on the way to school I need to _____ her house to get it.
17. Mike wasn't ready for the advanced algebra class, and he was quickly _____ by the rest of the class.
18. I _____ my wristwatch — not the wall clock — because it's more accurate.

EXERCISE 35b — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Her disease is incurable, so unfortunately she'll just have to learn to endure it. What will she have to do?
2. Jim and I worked on a project together, but Jim told everyone that he did all the work, and I'm still angry about it. How do I feel about what Jim did?

3. Sally and her sister's husband go to a motel sometimes during their lunch hour. What are they doing?
4. My father has a lot of horrible memories from the war. What does he have to do with them?
5. Bill made a list of cities that he might move to, and then he eliminated those that are too cold or have high crime rates. What did Bill do to his list of cities?
6. When the boss isn't in the office, you just play computer games and make personal phone calls. What do you do when the boss isn't in the office?
7. Hank told his sister that he needed money for his wife's doctor bills, but he really wanted money to buy drugs. What did Hank do to his sister?
8. The scientist asked her colleague his opinion of the test results. What did the scientist ask her colleague about the test results?
9. A police car passed me while I was driving. What did the police car do?
10. Susie's parents are going to take a vacation without her. What are Susie's parents going to do to her?
11. The last year passed quickly. What did the last year do?

EXERCISE 35c — Write eight original sentences using phrasal verbs from this section. Try to make all the phrasal verbs gerunds and to use them as subjects, objects, or objects of prepositions.

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

EXERCISE 35d, 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 up, 28	flip out, 29	lie around, 20	stand for, 34
come apart, 29	float around, 34	luck out, 29	stay up, 20
do over, 34	hang around, 20	mess up, 28	stick around, 34
end up, 20	lead up to, 34	run across, 29	take back, 34

1. The robber was only three feet away when he fired the gun at me, but the gun jammed and didn't fire. I really _____.
2. Nancy said being sick wasn't so bad. She _____ in bed all day watching TV and eating ice cream.
3. I'll _____ if you drop my new camera in the swimming pool.
4. Dan's daughter was very sick last night, so Dan _____ all night with her.
5. This is outrageous! I will not _____ dishonesty in my company.
6. I told Mark that I would never speak to him again if he didn't _____ the nasty things he said.
7. If you're looking for Hank, go to the bar on the corner. That's where he _____.
8. A number of minor events will _____ the main event.
9. I had a very busy day planned, but I got a flat tire and that _____ everything.
10. My boss is a jerk! I worked for three days on this, and just because he found one mistake he made me _____ it _____.
11. Sam has been very depressed since he _____ with his girlfriend.
12. Have you seen the dictionary? It's _____ the office somewhere, but I can't find it.
13. Don't stand on that chair — it's _____.
14. Do you really have to leave now? Why don't you _____ for a while.
15. Bill was talking about moving to Florida or Hawaii, but I'm not sure where he finally _____.
16. Someone told me that Sarah is in town, but I haven't _____ her yet.