

8. FOCUS ON: present perfect phrasal verbs

The **present perfect** is used to talk about the past and the present at the same time:

They **have torn down** the building. (The building is not there now because they tore it down in the past.)

or to say that something is completed:

She **has picked out** some library books.

The present perfect is formed with **have**, or when the subject is **he, she, it**, or the name of one person or thing, **has**, and the **past participle** of the verb:

present: The tree **falls over**.

past: The tree **fell over**.

present perfect: The tree **has fallen over**.

Remember that **have** can be combined with pronouns as **'ve**:

They've **never heard** of him. and **has** with

nouns and pronouns as **'s**:

The tree's **fallen over**.

He's **never heard** of her.

Be careful not to confuse the **'s** contraction of **has** and the **'s** contraction of **is**:

She's **picked out** some library books. (She **has**...)

She's **picking out** some library books. (She **is**...)

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
burn	burn out & burns out	burning out	burned out	burned out

1. burn out p.v. When a fire, candle, or other flame stops burning because it has no more fuel, it **burns out**.

We need more wood; the fire **has burned out**.

Don't worry; the sun won't **burn out** for another four billion years.

burned-out part.adj. After a fire, candle, or other flame stops burning because it has no more fuel, it is **burned-out**.

The **burned-out** rocket landed in the ocean.

burned-out part.adj. When people are extremely tired, either physically or psychologically, because of stress or hard work, they are **burned-out**.

Teaching those awful students for so many years has left him **burned-out**.

Taking care of four small children day after day would leave any mother **burned-out**.

2. burn out p.v. When a light bulb stops producing light because it has reached the end of its useful life, it **burns out**.

These new bulbs are guaranteed not to **burn out** for ten years. I can't see what I'm doing because this bulb has **burned out**.

burned-out part.adj. A light bulb that no longer produces light because it has reached the end of its useful life is **burned-out**.

/ climbed the ladder and unscrewed the **burned-out** bulb.

3. burn ...out p.v. When people are forced to leave their home or some other shelter or hiding place because of fire or fire damage, they are **burned out**.

The only way to get the enemy soldiers out of the tunnels was to **burn them out**.

Seven families were **burned out** of their homes by the huge fire.

burned-out part.adj. Something that has been damaged or destroyed by fire is **burned-out**.

After the war, nothing was left but **burned-out** cars and buildings.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
fall over	fall over & falls over	falling over	fell over	fallen over

1. fall over p.v. When people or things **fall** over, they fall to the ground from an upright position.

That tree has been dead for fifty years, but it still hasn't **fallen over**.

I almost **fell over** when I heard the terrible news.

2. fall over p.v. When you **fall over** yourself or (usually) **fall all over** yourself, you try so hard to serve someone or to make someone like you that you appear foolish.

The supervisor **fell all over** himself trying to satisfy the customer.

Mike was **falling all over** himself trying to impress Heather.

fight back

fight back & fights back	fighting back	fought back	fought back
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1. fight back p.v. When you **fight back**, you fight, either physically or with words, someone or something that attacked you first.

The soldiers **fought back** bravely, but the situation was hopeless.

After being accused of corruption, the senator said she would **fight back** and prove her innocence.

2. fight back p.v. When you **fight back** an emotional response, such as tears or fear, you try very hard to overcome the emotion.

The mother **fought back** tears when she saw the little white coffins.

I had to **fight back** the urge to punch him in the nose.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
hear of	hear of & hears of	hearing of	heard of	heard of

1. **hear of** p.v. When you learn about something for the first time, you **hear of** it.

Do I know Fred Smith? No, I've never **heard** of him.
I told my real estate agent, "If you **hear of** a good deal on a three-bedroom house, please call me right away."

2. **hear of** p.v. When you learn information about something that makes you angry and you say you will not **hear of** it, you mean that you will not tolerate or allow it.

Our daughter wants to fly to Mexico with her boyfriend?
I won't **hear** of it! I told him that his scheme was outrageous and that I wouldn't **hear** of such a thing.

pick

pick out & picks out	picking out	picked out	picked out
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1. **pick... out** p.v. When you choose something from a group because you prefer it to the others in the group, you **pick** it **out**.

Have you **picked out** a dress to wear to the party yet?
Mike's dog had puppies, and he asked me to **pick** one **out**.

2. **pick... out** p.v. When you are able to find and recognize something in a group, you **pick** it **out**.

Even though the class photo was fifty years old, I **picked** my father **out** easily. The police detective asked me if I could pick the mugger **out** from a group of photos.

ring up

ring up & rings up	ringing up	rang up	rung up
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1. **ring ... up** p.v. When you want to buy something in a store, a cashier uses a cash register to **ring up** what you want to buy in order to determine how much money you must pay.

Well, I guess I'll take this one. Can you **ring** it **up** please?
I couldn't believe it when the clerk finished **ringing** it all **up** — \$946!

2. **ring ... up** p.v. (mainly British) When you call people on the telephone, you **ring** them **up**.

He **rang up** Nancy and asked her to go to the dance.
If you need a ride, **ring** me **up** when you arrive at the airport.

tear down

tear down & tears down	tearing down	tore down	torn down
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1. **tear... down** p.v. When you **tear down** a building, you deliberately and completely destroy it.

They **tore** so many old buildings **down** in my hometown that I barely recognize it.

A lot of smaller homes in the suburbs are being **torn down** and replaced with larger ones.

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
work	work in & works in	working in	worked in	worked in

1. work... in p.v. When you make room, with some difficulty, for something in a schedule or plan, you **work it in**.

We're going to be in Chicago for only a couple of days, but I'll try to **work in** a Cubs game. I told him my schedule was pretty tight, but that I'd try to **work** the meeting **in**.

EXERCISE 8a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section.
Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. The Leaning Tower of Pisa still hasn't _____.
2. Every year I have to replace the Christmas tree lights that have _____.
3. The enemy was so strong that there was no way we could have _____.
4. I don't have time to talk about it now. I'll _____ you _____ after dinner.
5. Sarah always tries to _____ a little sightseeing on her business trips.
6. My brother is pretty easy to _____ in a crowd — he's almost seven feet tall.
7. If you haven't _____ a video yet, you'd better hurry — the store's closing in five minutes.
8. The firefighters decided to let the fire in the lumberyard _____ itself _____.
9. That cashier has been yakking with his friends for ten minutes and still hasn't _____ our stuff _____.
10. A screen door on a submarine? That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever _____.
11. When I told the waiter I was the owner of the restaurant, he _____ all _____ himself trying please me.
12. The taco stand moved across the street after it was _____ by the fire.
13. When I found out that one of my employees cheated a customer, I said I wouldn't _____ such a thing in my store.
14. I had to _____ my fear as I waited for my turn to jump from the plane,
15. They'll have to _____ most of the buildings that were damaged by the earthquake.

EXERCISE 8b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.

1. The sheriff **burned out**. (the escaped convicts, them))

2. Bill has **picked out**. (a new car, one))

3. The clerk hasn't **rung up** yet. (these CDs, them))

4. The new owners have **torn down**. (the garage, it))

5. The mayor tried to **work in**. (a tour of the factory, it))

EXERCISE 8c — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and participle adjectives from this section. Make all the phrasal verbs present perfect.

1. I asked my father if I could smoke in the house, and he became angry and said he wouldn't allow it. What did my father say about smoking in the house?
2. The forest fire has stopped because there aren't any more trees left to burn. What has the fire done?
3. The cashier has totaled how much we must pay for our groceries. What has the cashier done?
4. They have chosen a hotel for their wedding reception. What have they done?
5. Sally's mother couldn't stop her tears. What couldn't Sally's mother do?
6. One of my car's headlights isn't working anymore. What did the headlight do?
7. In Question 6, how would you describe the headlight?
8. The stack of books was too high, and now the books are on the floor. What did the books do?
9. The coffee shop had to move to a different location because of a fire. What happened to the coffee shop?

10. In Question 9, how would you describe the coffee shop's previous location?
11. After they attacked us, we didn't attack them. What didn't we do?
12. I've made room in my busy day for a game of tennis. What have I done?
13. She hasn't called me on the telephone. What hasn't she done?
14. They've completely destroyed the old factory. What have they done?
15. The sergeant tried extremely hard to show the captain how well he was training the soldiers.
What did the sergeant do?
16. I asked Jim if anyone had ever told him about the new seafood restaurant in the mall.
What did I ask Jim?

EXERCISE 8d, 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.

cut up, 7	go in for, 3	point out, 7	see about, 7
fall for, 2	hold up, 7	pull through, 2	show up, 1
get over with, 3	let out, 7	put up with, 3	take apart, 7
give in, 2	look up, 4	run over, 7	take in, 7

1. My bicycle was really dirty, so I _____ it _____ and cleaned it.
2. It was a very serious injury, and no one expected Raul to _____.
3. I've been waiting for the TV repair guy all day, but he still hasn't _____.
4. I feel just awful. I was driving to work, and I _____ a dog.
5. The detectives weren't _____ by the crook's explanation.
6. The detectives didn't _____ the crook's explanation.
7. Mrs. Taylor's husband doesn't have any teeth, so she has to _____ all his food _____.
8. The freight train _____ traffic for twenty minutes, so we were late for work.
9. In his report yesterday, the head of marketing _____ several ways to increase the company's sales.

10. I. _____ the word **Internet** _____ in an old dictionary, but I couldn't find it.
11. Susie's mother told her, "I'm not going to _____ you _____ of this house until you finish your homework."
12. The company finally _____ _____ to demands that it hire more women and minorities.
13. I'm having root canal surgery next week. I'll be glad to _____ it _____.
14. David called the travel agency to _____ _____ getting his ticket changed.
15. Karen loves to ski. In fact, she _____ most winter sports.
16. Betty told the doctor she couldn't _____ _____ the pain any longer, and she asked him for morphine.