

## 4. FOCUS ON: present and past continuous phrasal verbs

Like one-word verbs, phrasal verbs can normally be used in the *continuous* tense (also called the *progressive* tense) using the *-ing* form of the verb (also called the present participle) and a form of *be*:

The principal told me you'd been **cheating on** the test.  
 I've been **going after** my master's for nearly five years.  
 Which dictionary is he **looking up** the words in?  
 How will she be **paying for** her tuition bill?  
 The compass needle couldn't be **pointing to** the south.  
 We would be **planning for** a bigger crowd if the weather weren't so bad.  
 They should be **wrapping** the meeting **up** in a few minutes.  
 Thanks for all your help. I'm sorry for **putting you to** so much trouble.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
<b>cheat</b>	cheat on & cheats on	cheating on	cheated on	cheated on

**1. cheat on p.v.** When you **cheat on** your sexual partner, you have sex or a romantic relationship with another person.

Sarah filed for divorce after she caught George **cheating on** her.  
 Can you believe it? She was **cheating on** me with my best friend!

**2. cheat on p.v.** When you do something dishonest so that you can do better on a test, you **cheat on** the test.

The teacher caught Ali **cheating on** the exam.

If I didn't **cheat on** the tests, I'd never pass any of my classes.

### go after

**go after & goes      going after      went after      gone**

**1. go after p.v.** When you chase and try to physically stop or to attack people, you **go after** them.

A policeman saw him stealing the car and **went after** him.  
 Captain Morgan was ordered to **go after** the enemy soldiers.

**2. go after p.v.** When law enforcement officials try to prosecute people through a legal procedure, they **go after** them.

Federal prosecutors are **now going after** the top drug dealers.  
 The senator introduced a bill designed to **go after** deadbeat dads.

**3. go after p.v.** When a business tries to increase its profits by trying to increase its market share or its number of customers, it **goes after** them.

The tobacco company denied **going after** the teenage market.  
 The CEO said he wanted to **go after** new customers in China.

**4. go after p.v.** When you **go after** something, you try to obtain it even though it may be difficult to do.

Sofia **went after** a degree in accounting.

Todd trained for a year before **going after** the record in the 100-yard dash.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>look</b>	look up & looks up	looking up	looked up	looked up

**1. look... up p.v.** When you get information from a reference book, such as a word from a dictionary or a telephone number from a telephone book, you **look** the word or number **up**.

The teacher told the students to **look** the new words **up** in a dictionary.

I **looked up** his number, but it's not in the phone book.

**2. look... up p.v.** When you locate and visit people you have not seen for a long time, you **look** them **up**.

/ was in Dallas on business, and I **looked up** Dan Jones, my old college roommate.

If you're ever in Kempton, **look** me **up**.

**3. look up p.v.** When a situation is **looking up** or starting to **look up**, it is improving.

Business was pretty bad for a while, but things are starting to **look up**. I'm much happier than I was last year. Things are **looking up**.

## pay

pay for & pays for	paying for	paid for	paid for
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**1. pay... for p.v.** When you give someone money in exchange for something, you **pay for** it or **pay** someone **for** it.

Can I **pay for** this stuff with a credit card?

Alfonso **paid** the waiter **for** his dinner.

**paid for part.adj.** After you have paid for something, it is **paid for**.

My car is old, but at least it's **paid for**.

**2. pay for p.v.** When you are punished for something, you **pay for** what you have done.

I caught the guy who's spreading these false rumors about me, and he **paid for** ruining my reputation. Young people think that drugs are harmless, but they'll **pay for** their foolishness someday.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>plan for</b>	plan for & plans for	planning for	planned for	planned for

**1. plan for p.v.** When you make preparations for something in the future, you **plan for** it.

The festival was a disaster because they didn't **plan for** such a huge crowd.

It's never too early too start **planning for** retirement.

## point

	point to & points to	pointing to	pointed to	pointed to
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**1. point to p.v.** When you indicate people or things with your hand or a finger, you **point to** them. When an arrow or a sign indicates something, it **points to** it.

The waitress couldn't hear me, so I **pointed to** my empty glass and she understood.

The prosecutor asked, "Can you **point to** the man you saw carrying the gun?"

**2. point to p.v.** When a situation or occurrence causes you to consider something else, it **points to** that thing.

These terrible test scores **point to** a need for some major changes in our educational system.

The fact that all the people with food poisoning ate tuna salad sandwiches **pointed to** contaminated mayonnaise as the source of the illness.

## put to

	put to & puts to	putting to	put to	put to
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**1. put... to p.v.** When you confront people with a difficult or thought-provoking question, accusation, or proposition, you **put it to** them.

He didn't want to tell me the truth, but I really put it **to** him, and he finally told me the whole story.

When Prof. Kline **put** his theory **to** me like that, I realized what he was talking about.

**2. put... to p.v.** When you put people to trouble or put them to an expense, you cause them to do extra work or to spend money.

Thanks for helping me with my flat tire. I'm sorry to **put** you **to** so much trouble.

I know my father would pay my dental bill if I asked him, but I hate to **put** him **to** such an expense.

**3. put ...to p.v.** When you **put** part of your body or something in your hand **to** something, you touch or press it to something.

The neighbors were arguing again, so we **put** our ears **to** the wall to try to hear what they were saying.

When he **put** a gun **to** my head, I realized he wasn't joking.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>wrap</b>	<b>wrap up &amp; wraps up</b>	<b>wrapping up</b>	<b>wrapped up</b>	<b>wrapped up</b>

**1. wrap... up p.v.** When you enclose an object in some kind of paper, usually gift wrapping paper or packaging paper, you **wrap it up**.

/ have to **wrap** this gift **up** before I go to the party.

The movers **wrapped up** the china with newspapers.

**wrapped up part.adj.** After you enclose an object in some kind of paper, usually gift wrapping paper or packaging paper, it is **wrapped up**.

**2. wrap... up p.v.** When you conclude an event that has been happening for some time, you wrap it up. **Wind up** is similar to **wrap up**.

We **wrapped up** the meeting around 4:00 and went home.

The salesman blabbered for two hours before I finally told him to **wrap it up**.

**EXERCISE 4a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. It's 12:30. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ this meeting \_\_\_\_\_ and goto lunch.
2. There was no way he could deny his guilt after the prosecutor \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ him.
3. The high crime rate \_\_\_\_\_ a need for more police officers.
4. You'll \_\_\_\_\_ what you did to me if it's the last thing I ever do!
5. The principal gave a zero to each of the students who \_\_\_\_\_ the test.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ my ear \_\_\_\_\_ the wall to try to hear what Sally was saying about me.
7. Mike is \_\_\_\_\_ the words \_\_\_\_\_ in the dictionary.
8. The police officers \_\_\_\_\_ the robbers, but they didn't catch them.
9. Linda told Ned that she would divorce him if he ever \_\_\_\_\_ her again.
10. Yes, it was quite a surprise — we didn't \_\_\_\_\_ twins.
11. We saw an arrow \_\_\_\_\_ the door at the end of the hallway.
12. After she won the silver medal, she \_\_\_\_\_ the gold.
13. Most insurance companies won't \_\_\_\_\_ plastic surgery.
14. I returned to my hometown for the first time in forty years and \_\_\_\_\_ my first girlfriend.

15. The guy in the seafood store \_\_\_\_\_ the fish \_\_\_\_\_ in old newspapers.
16. The FBI is \_\_\_\_\_ major drug smugglers.
17. These last six months have been difficult for Sally, but now things are starting to \_\_\_\_\_
18. The company started in California, but now it's \_\_\_\_\_ customers all over the country.
19. You \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of trouble to help you move your piano, and you didn't even say thank you.

**EXERCISE 4b — Write sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.**

1. I was **looking up** in the dictionary, (a word, it) \_\_\_\_\_
2. I was in Boston **looking up**. (some old army buddies, them) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Dad's upstairs **wrapping up**. (Mom's birthday present, it) \_\_\_\_\_
4. The committee is **wrapping up**. (their discussion, it) \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 4c — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and participle adjectives from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. He showed me where the bathroom was with his finger. What did he do?
2. We're preparing for 300 wedding guests. What are we doing?
3. The situation is getting better. What is the situation doing?
4. The little boy ran away, and his father chased him and tried to catch him. What did the father do?
5. Sofia is going to try to break the record in the high jump. What is Sofia going to try to do?
6. Tom did a lot of work to get his guest bedroom ready for me when I visited him. What did I do to Tom?
7. I'm giving money to the cashier for the book I want to buy. What am I doing?
8. In Question 7, how would you describe the book after I give the money to the cashier?
9. The people in the meeting are concluding the meeting. What are they doing?

10. When Rosa was in New Orleans, she looked for and visited a childhood friend. What did Rosa do to her friend?

11. Jim asked you a really difficult question. What did Jim do to you?

12. Megan is trying to find Erik's telephone number in a telephone book. What is Megan doing?

13. Tom is married, but he slept with another woman. What did Tom do to his wife?

**EXERCISE 4d, 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.**

come from, 2  
fall for, 2

figure out, 1  
give in, 1

hear about, 2  
look for, 1

pull through, 2  
show up, 1

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ your mother on our first date, and we got married three months later.

2. Carmen's family \_\_\_\_\_ Michoacan around twenty years ago.

3. Paul was supposed to meet us at 8:00, but he never \_\_\_\_\_.

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4. These instructions don't make any sense at all. I can't \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_.

5. After Aunt Mary's stroke, her chances didn't look good, but she \_\_\_\_\_.

1. My daughter begged me to let her get her ears pierced, and I finally \_\_\_\_\_.

7. My father was listening to the radio, and he said he \_\_\_\_\_ a new car that runs on water.

2. I spent two hours \_\_\_\_\_ the remote control before I found it.