

## 27. FOCUS ON: phrasal verbs with the particle **off** and the adverb **right**

The particle **off** is used in many phrasal verbs to say that something is separated or removed:

The cup handle **broke**. (The handle is broken, but it is still attached to the cup.) The cup handle **broke off**. (The handle is no longer attached to the cup.)

**Right**, discussed in Section 19, is often used with these phrasal verbs to indicate that the action of the verb happened quickly:

He **washed** the dirt **off**. (The dirt was removed.) He **washed** the dirt **right off**. (The dirt was removed quickly.)

Remember that **right** can be used in this way only after an object that separates the verb and the particle:

He **washed** the dirt **right off**. ~~He **washed** right off the dirt.~~

### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>bite off</b>	bite off & bites off	biting off	bit off	bitten off

1. **bite... off** p.v. When you bite off something, you use your teeth to remove a piece. When you **bite off** more than you can chew, you agree to do something that you do not have the time or the ability to do.

The lion **bit off** a huge piece of the zebra's flesh.

You can't finish that huge project by tomorrow. I think you've **bitten off** more than you can chew.

### break off

break off & breaks off	breaking off	broke off	broken off
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1. **break... off** p.v. When something **breaks off** or someone **breaks** something **off**, a part or smaller piece is separated from something larger by force.

Jim **broke off** a piece of chocolate and gave it to his girlfriend.

One of the arms **broke off** the statue when it fell off the pedestal.

**broken off** part.adj. After something **breaks off**, it is **broken off**.

The handle of the coffee cup is **broken off**.

1. **break... off** p.v. When you **break off** relations or contact with someone, you decide to end relations or contact with that person.

The two countries **broke off** relations with each other.

I was so angry at my in-laws that I **broke off** all contact with them.

### dry off

dry off & dries off	drying off	dried off	dried off
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1. **dry... off** p.v. When something **dries off** or you **dry** something **off**, water or other liquids that are on it evaporate.

It rained for only a few minutes, so the streets **dried off** quickly.

Leave your wet clothes outside and let the sun **dry** them **off**.

**dried off** part.adj. After something has **dried off**, it is **dried off**.

They can't play baseball because the field isn't **dried off**.

## Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
<b>knock off</b>	<b>knock off &amp; knocks off</b>	<b>knocking off</b>	<b>knocked off</b>	<b>knocked off</b>

1. **knock... off** p.v. When you **knock** something **off**, you either accidentally or deliberately use force to make it fall from a place above the ground to the ground below.

Susie **knocked** a glass **off** the table and broke it.

The cat **knocked** the clock **off** the shelf.

2. **knock off** p.v. [informal] When you **knock off**, you finish working.

I quit working at 5:00 last night, but Sean didn't **knock off** until 8:30.

You've been working all day. Why don't you **knock off**?

3. **knock... off** p.v. [informal] When you say "**Knock it off**" to people, you want them to stop doing something that is bothering you.

If you don't **knock it off**, you'll be sorry.

I'm tired of listening to you criticize me. **Knock it off!**

4. **knock... off** p.v. When you **knock** something **off**, you make something quickly and not very carefully.

The artist **knocked off** a quick sketch and gave it to the waiter.

Dan prefers writing novels, but he sometimes **knocks off** a magazine article to make a few bucks.

5. **knock... off** p.v. [informal] When you **knock** people **off**, you kill them.

Jake was sent to prison for **knocking off** his brother-in-law.

Mario was the head of a gang of criminals until he was **knocked off** by a rival.

## tear off

tear off & tears off off	tearing off	tore off	torn
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1. **tear... off** p.v. When you use force to remove a piece of something that is flexible — paper, cloth, and so on — you **tear** it **off**.

/ **tore off** a coupon for frozen pizza at the supermarket.

Alex always **tears** the tags off his shirt collars.

**torn off** part.adj. After something has been **torn off**, it is **torn off**.

There aren't any more coupons. They're all **torn off**.

## wash off

wash off & washes off	washing off	washed off	washed off
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1. **wash ... off** p.v. When you **wash** something **off** or **wash** the dirt **off** something, you use water and soap to remove dirt or unwanted items from a surface.

Mike **washed** off his car.

Mike **washed** the dirt off his

car.

**washed off** *part.adj.* After you **wash** something **off** or **wash** the dirt **off** something, it is **washed off**.

The maid said she had **washed** the grease off the wall, but the wall didn't look **washed off to me**.

#### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>wear off</b>	wear off & wears off	wearing off	wore off	worn off

**1. wear off** *p.v.* When the surface of something is gradually removed by friction or exposure to the elements so that what is beneath the surface is exposed, the surface **wears off**.

You could see the wood where the paint had **worn off**.

The gold **wears off** this cheap jewelry right away.

**worn off** *part.adj.* After something has worn off, it is **worn off**.

These ancient temples used to be very colorful, but now all the paint is **worn off**.

**2. wear off** *p.v.* When the effects of drugs or alcohol gradually go away, they **wear off**.

The wounded soldier was in great pain after the morphine **wore off**.

He's going to have a big headache after the vodka **wears off**.

**3. wear off** *p.v.* When an emotional feeling gradually goes away, it **wears off**.

After the shock of getting fired **wore off**, I started to get angry.

When I met Jim I fell in love immediately, but that **wore off** quickly as I got to know him better.

#### wipe off

wipe off & wipes off	wiping off	wiped off	wiped off
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**1. wipe ...off** *p.v.* When you completely remove a liquid from a surface by moving a towel or sponge across it with a sweeping motion, you **wipe** the surface off. You can either **wipe off** something that is wet or **wipe off** the liquid. **Wipe up** is similar to **wipe off**; however, you **wipe up** a liquid, but you **wipe off** the surface the liquid is on.

**Wipe off** your face.

**Wipe** the food off your face.

**wiped off** *part.adj.* After something has been **wiped off**, it is **wiped off**. **That**

table doesn't look **wiped off** to me. **Wipe it off** again.

**EXERCISE 27a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. Raquel \_\_\_\_\_ a piece of paper \_\_\_\_\_ and wrote her phone number on it.
2. After I washed the windows, I \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ with some old newspapers.

3. Jerry has to finish a lot of work before he goes home, so he probably won't \_\_\_\_\_ until late.
4. It rained last night, so don't play outside until the grass \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Be careful when you feed horses. They can \_\_\_\_\_ your finger right \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The doctor said the sedative would \_\_\_\_\_ after four or five hours.
7. The shop owner was afraid to \_\_\_\_\_ the gang graffiti \_\_\_\_\_ his wall.
8. After Jake \_\_\_\_\_ Hank, he was charged with murder.
9. During the storm, a tree branch \_\_\_\_\_ and fell on the roof.
10. You two kids have been arguing all day. \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ right now!
11. I can't use this old typewriter anymore. The painted letters have \_\_\_\_\_ the keys.
12. The two sides couldn't agree on a solution, and the negotiations \_\_\_\_\_.
13. I'll try to \_\_\_\_\_ a few more pages of my book before I go to bed.
14. It was a long time before the shock of his brother's death \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Don't put your glass of wine so close to the edge of the table. Someone might \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_.

**EXERCISE 27b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place. Use **right** with questions 2 and 6.**

1. Alex has **bitten off**. (the head of the gingerbread man, it)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The movers **broke off**. (the cup handle, it)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Please dry off. (the dishes, them)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Don't knock off. (the ash tray, it)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Can I **tear off**? (these mattress tags, them)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The janitor **washed off**. (the blood, it)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. She didn't **wipe off**. (the milk, it)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 27c — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs and participle adjectives from this section. Try to use **right** with some of the answers. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. I used water to remove the mud from my car. What did I do to my car?
2. Timmy forcibly removed the propellers of my model airplane. What did Timmy do to my model airplane's propellers?
3. In Question 2, how would you describe the model airplane's propellers?

4. You put your arm in the water, and the shark removed it with its teeth immediately. What did the shark do to your arm?
5. You could see that the ring wasn't solid gold because the brass under the gold was visible. What happened to the gold?
6. In Question 5, how would you describe the gold?
7. I accidentally hit the lamp with my arm, and it fell to the floor. What did I do to the lamp?
8. You used a paper towel to remove the glass cleaner from the mirror. What did you do to the mirror?
9. In Question 8, how would you describe the mirror after you removed the glass cleaner?
10. You have to remove the water from the table before you paint it. What do you have to do to the table before you paint it?
11. In Question 10, how would you describe the table after the water is removed?
12. You removed the gift wrapping paper from the gift. What did you do to the gift wrapping paper?
13. In Question 12, after using force to remove the gift wrapping paper, how would you describe the wrapping paper?

**EXERCISE 27d, 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.**

clear up, 22	go up, 26	open up, 26	shut off, 26
come down, 24	heat up, 22	pay up, 22	start up, 26
eat up, 22	let in on, 26	plug up, 22	think ahead, 21
go over, 26	let up, 24	put together, 26	trade in, 24

1. If I don't come up with \$230 by Friday, they're going to \_\_\_\_\_ my electricity.
2. The guy from the collection agency demanded that Miguel \_\_\_\_\_ immediately.
3. It rained for forty days and forty nights before it \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If you had \_\_\_\_\_, you would have everything you need now.
5. We had a lot of questions about our school project, but the teacher \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Mark said his audition didn't \_\_\_\_\_ well, and he doesn't think he'll get the part.
7. Soldiers are trained to take their rifles apart and \_\_\_\_\_ them back \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I think \$15,000 is a little high for that car. If you \_\_\_\_\_ a little, I might be interested.
9. The police closed the illegal casino, but it \_\_\_\_\_ right back \_\_\_\_\_ a few days later.
10. No one at the party ate the carrot sticks, but they \_\_\_\_\_ the shrimp right \_\_\_\_\_.
11. I hate using the stove on really hot summer days; it \_\_\_\_\_ the whole house \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The minimum wage hasn't \_\_\_\_\_ in more than three years.
13. The senator \_\_\_\_\_ her aides \_\_\_\_\_ her plan to run for the presidency.
14. I doubt if I'll get much if I \_\_\_\_\_ this old car \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The engine \_\_\_\_\_ right \_\_\_\_\_ when I turned the key.
16. My daughter put one of her stuffed animals in the toilet and \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_.