

## 31. FOCUS ON: phrasal verbs and gerund subjects

As we saw in Section 16, gerunds — verbs in the *-ing* form that function as nouns — can serve as the objects of many phrasal verbs. But gerunds can also serve as the subject of a sentence:

*Eating meat everyday was something we **did without**.*

gerund

*Voting was immediately **done away with** by the dictatorship.*

gerund

### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>care</b>	care for & cares for	caring for	cared for	cared for

**1. care for p.v.** When you **care for** children or people who are old or sick, you provide them with the food or medicine they need or you do things to help them. When you **care for** machines or buildings, you keep them in good condition.

*The nurses have to **care for** several very sick patients.*

*John has been **caring for** his eighty-three-year-old mother since her stroke.*

**2. care for p.v.** When you **care for** people or things, you like them.

*Jane doesn't **care for** coffee; she prefers tea.*

*I asked Sally to go to the dance, but she said that dancing is not something she **cares for**.*

### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>cut out</b>	cut out & cuts out	cutting out	cut out	cutout

**1. cut... out (of) p.v.** When you **cut something out** or **cut something out** of a piece of paper, cloth, or other material, you use scissors or a knife to remove part of it.

*The bank robber had a pillowcase over his head with two holes **cut out**.*

*I **cut** an interesting story **out** of the newspaper to show to my father.*

**cutout n.** Something that has been **cut out** of a piece of paper, cloth, or other material is a **cutout**.

*Timmy made some cardboard **cutouts** shaped like animals.*

**2. cut... out p.v.** When you **cut out** part of a film, television program, book, magazine, and so on, you remove that part.

*The movie was too long, so the director **cut** a couple of scenes **out**. Before the book was published, the parts that were critical of the king had to be **cut out** of Chapter 4.*

**3. cut... out p.v.** When you **cut out** something that you consume, you stop using it. When you **cut out** doing something, you stop doing it. When you say "Cut it out" to people, you want them to stop doing or saying something.

Smoking is the first thing you've got to **cut out** if you want to improve your health.

If you want to lose weight, you'll have to **cut** cookies and ice cream **out**.

It bothers me when you do that, so **cut it out!**

**4. cut out p.v.** When a motor suddenly stops working, it **cuts out**.

I was driving when the motor suddenly **cut out**.

This plane has only one engine, so if it **cuts out**, we're in big trouble.

#### do away with

**do away with & does away with**

**doing away with**

**did away with**

**done away with**

**1. do away with p.v.** When you **do away with** something, you eliminate it or prohibit it.

**Doing away with** smoking is not something that will happen soon.

Some people think the electoral college is obsolete and should be **done away with**.

**2. do away with p.v.** When you **do away with** people, you kill them.

Marvin inherited a fortune after he **did away with** his older brother.

The woman was accused **of doing away with** her husband with arsenic.

#### Infinitive

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>do</b>			
do without & does without	doing without	did without	done without

**1. do without p.v.** When you **do without** something, you continue living or working without something that you want or need because it is not possible or available.

Washing your hair everyday is something you have to **do without** when you go camping.

**Doing without** is something you get used to when you're poor.

#### look into

**look into & looks into**

**looking into**

**looked into**

**looked into**

**1. look into p.v.** When you **look into** something or **look into** doing something, you investigate it or get more information about it.

After receiving many complaints about the company, the attorney general decided to **look into** the matter.

Maybe leasing a car is something I should **look into**.

#### plan on

**plan on & plans on**

**planning on**

**planned on**

**planned on**

1. **plan on** p.v. When you **plan on** something, you expect it.

They wanted a large family, but having thirteen children sure wasn't what they **planned on**.

You should **plan on** at least two years to finish the master's degree program.

2. **plan on** p.v. When you **plan on** doing something, you intend to do it.

What are you **planning on** doing tonight?

I **plan on** fishing and taking a lot of pictures on my vacation.

### put off

**put off & puts off**

**putting off**

**put off**

**put off**

1. **put... off** p.v. When you **put off** something or **put off** doing something, you delay or postpone it. When you **put** people off, you delay doing something they want you to do.

Buying a new house will have to be **put off** until we can afford it.

The students begged the teacher to **put** the test off until the next week.

He pressured me for a decision, but I kept **putting** him **off**.

2. **put... off** p.v. When people **put** you **off**, they do or say something that offends you.

Everyone was **put off by** his racist jokes.

Todd went out to dinner with Nancy last night, and the way she treated the waiter really put him off.

**put off** part.adj. After people do or say something that offends you, you are **put off**. What's wrong? You seem a little **put off**.

### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>rule out</b>	rule out & rules out	ruling out	ruled out	ruled out

1. **rule... out** p.v. When you **rule out** people or things, you eliminate them from a list. When you **rule out** doing something, you decide that it is something you will not do because you do not want to, because it is impossible, and so on.

The detective interviewed all the suspects and **ruled** everyone **out** except the victim's ex-wife.

After the hurricane they **ruled out** moving to Florida.

With all these medical bills to pay, maybe we should consider **ruling out** buying *a new car*.

**EXERCISE 31 a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. I suggested moving to Minnesota, but my wife \_\_\_\_\_ moving anywhere cold.
2. My doctor says I should \_\_\_\_\_ scuba diving until my ear gets better.
3. The health department wants to \_\_\_\_\_ smoking within twenty years.
4. I saw a funny cartoon in the paper, so I \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ and sent it to my brother.
5. Some countries have an excellent health care system. No one has to \_\_\_\_\_ medical treatment.
6. I was a little \_\_\_\_\_ by his unfriendliness.
7. Let's go to a different restaurant; I don't \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese food.
8. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ this situation to see what the problem is.
9. After the revolution, all members of the royal family were \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Several scenes of the film had to be \_\_\_\_\_ before the censors would approve it.
11. Jim had to quit his job to \_\_\_\_\_ his sick wife.

12. I had to take a taxi to work yesterday. My car's motor \_\_\_\_\_ right in the middle of an intersection.
13. What a surprise! Being transferred to Hawaii is something I never \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Getting that tooth fixed is not something you should \_\_\_\_\_.
15. What are you \_\_\_\_\_ doing with your time after you retire?

**EXERCISE 31 b — 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. You changed your vacation plans. You're not going next week; you're going to go later. What did you do to your vacation?
2. Everyone likes Jim more now that he has stopped acting like such a big shot. What did Jim do?
3. The President said that nothing has been eliminated from the list of things that might be done about the crisis. What did the President say about what might be done about the crisis?
4. Mike's parents don't like his new friend. How do Mike's parents feel about his new friend?
5. A law was passed that prohibits child labor. What does the law do to child labor?
6. There aren't any stores out here in the woods, so if you forgot something, you'll just have to continue without it. What will you have to do if you forgot something?
7. I'm so tired of this car's ugly color; I'm going to investigate having it painted. What am I going to do?
8. If you go to Chicago in January, you can expect to freeze to death. What can you do if you go to Chicago in January?
9. Betty was a little offended by Sam's behavior. How did Betty react to Sam's behavior?
10. In Question 9, how did Sam's behavior make Betty feel?
11. The police suspected that Mr. Mayfield had been killed by a coworker. What did the police suspect about Mr. Mayfield?
12. Dr. Smith removed the entire tumor with a knife. What did he do?
13. My father kept his car in good condition, and it lasted for forty years. What did my father do to his car?

**EXERCISE 31 c — Write eight original sentences using phrasal verbs from this section. Try to use gerunds as the subjects of some of the sentences.**

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

**EXERCISE 31 d. 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.**

ask for, 29	cut down, 23	get away, 23	luck out, 29
beef up, 28	drop in, 29	get back at, 17	make out, 29
come apart, 29	flip out, 29	get off, 18	make up, 23
crack down, 23	go about, 17	look out, 29	run across, 29

1. I'm thinking about investing in the stock market, but I'm not sure how to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. The sound on the language lab tapes is so bad that I can't \_\_\_\_\_ what they're saying.
3. The world is \_\_\_\_\_ of many different countries.
4. We'll need to buy a new suitcase soon. This old one is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. That was a terrible thing he did to me — I'll \_\_\_\_\_ him someday.
6. Hank fell from a fifth-floor window, but he landed in a swimming pool and wasn't hurt at all. He  
sure \_\_\_\_\_, didn't he?

7. The hockey coach said that the team's offense is good, but the defense needs to be \_\_\_\_\_

8. My dentist said I should \_\_\_\_\_ on sweets.
9. Frank really \_\_\_\_\_ when he found that big snake under his bed.
10. Look at this interesting old book I \_\_\_\_\_ at a used bookstore.
11. The police department is going to \_\_\_\_\_ on crime.
12. You know what a bad temper Joe has. If you keep teasing him, you're \_\_\_\_\_ trouble.
13. The accountant tried to embezzle \$100,000, but he didn't \_\_\_\_\_ with it.
14. Isn't that where Jane lives? Let's \_\_\_\_\_ and say hello.
15. Jake was arrested and charged with bank robbery, but he \_\_\_\_\_ because none of the witnesses could identify him.
16. There are a lot of big trucks on this road. You've really got to \_\_\_\_\_ for them when you're driving.