

50. FOCUS ON: Keep at it!

I hope the time and effort you've **put into finding out** more about phrasal verbs has **paid off**. If you've **knocked yourself out**, **stuck with** it, and not **fallen behind** or gotten **mixed up** or **burned out**, a great improvement in your ability to understand and use English has **come about** — you've **ended up** being better able to **figure out** what you read and hear and better able to **come up with** the right word when you write or speak. But don't get **stressed out** and **give up** if you can't remember every meaning of every verb — improving your vocabulary takes time. It **comes down to** regularly **brushing up** on what you have learned and, when you **come across** a word you don't know, **looking it up** in a dictionary. **Keep at it!**

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
ask out	ask out & asks out	asking out	asked out	asked out

1. ask... out p.v. When you **ask** people **out**, you ask them to go with you to a place of entertainment in order to have fun and spend time together.

*Being **asked out** by Tom was quite a surprise to Judy.*

*The Bakers called and **asked** the Ortegas **out**.*

come down to

come down to & comes down to	coming down to	came down to	come down to
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1. come down to p.v. When the key to understanding a situation or problem is knowledge and consideration of a certain aspect of the situation or problem, this aspect of the situation or problem is what the situation or problem **comes down to**.

*Learning a language **comes down to** practice, practice, practice.*

*Our marriage problems aren't really that complicated. What it **comes down to** is whether you're willing to deal with your drinking problem.*

deal with

deal with & deals with with	dealing with	dealt with	dealt
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1. deal with p.v. When you **deal with** a project or a problem, you do what you must do to complete the project or to solve the problem.

*There are many problems, but I can **deal with** only one at a time.*

*After school the principal will **deal with** the boys who broke the window.*

2. deal with p.v. When a book, film, article, speech, and so on, **deals with** a certain subject, that is what it is about.

*The governor's speech **dealt with** the growing crime rate.*

*I read an interesting article **dealing with** the issue of legalizing marijuana.*

Infinitive

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

1. hold on (to) p.v. When you **hold on** or **hold on** to something, you hold it tightly so that you will not fall or be hurt. **Hang on** is similar to **hold on**.

*When the horse jumped over the fence, I **held on** as hard as I could.*

***Hold on** to the rail when you get out of the bathtub — it's slippery.*

2. hold on (to) p.v. When you **hold on** or **hold on** to people, you hold them tightly to protect them or to prevent them from leaving. When you **hold on** or **hold on** to things, you hold them tightly to protect them or to prevent them from being taken.

*Sam grabbed the robber's legs and **held on** while the guard handcuffed her.*

*We were **holding on** to each other as the tornado passed.*

3. hold on p.v. [informal] When you **hold on**, you wait for a short time. **Hang on** is the same as **hold on**.

*Can you **hold on** just a little longer? I'll be right with you.*

*I've been **holding on** for fifteen minutes. I can't wait any longer.*

pay back

	pay back & pays back back	paying back	paid back	paid
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1. pay... back p.v. When you **pay** people **back**, you give them money that you borrowed from them.

*Would you lend me \$200? I'll **pay** you **back** next Friday when I get paid.*

*Mark has never been **paid back** for all his sister's medical bills.*

2. pay... back (for) p.v. When you **pay** people **back** or **pay** people **back** for something bad they have done to you, you do something bad to them.

*I'll **pay** that guy **back** for the terrible things he's done to me if it takes the rest of my life.*

*Jake shot Hank to **pay** him **back** for turning him in to the police.*

take up on

	take up on & takes up on on	taking up on	took up on	taken up
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1. take... up on p.v. When you **take** people **up on** an offer, you accept their offer.

*My brother has invited us many times to visit him in Hawaii, and last winter we **took** him **up on** the offer.*

*Nicole has never **taken** me **up on** my offer to lend her the money she needs for her dental bills.*

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
turn around				
	turn around & turns around	turning around	turned around	turned

1. turn ... around p.v. When you **turn around**, you move a vehicle or your body so that it faces the opposite direction. When you **turn** something **around**, **you** move it so that it faces the opposite direction.

*Someone called my name, and I **turned around** to see who it was.*

*You should **turn** this house plant **around** so that the other side can get some light.*

2. turn ...around p.v. When you **turn around** a bad situation, a failing business, a losing game, and so on, you improve it so that it is successful.

***Turning** this money-losing company **around** is going to take several years.*

*The quarterback completed four passes in the last five minutes of the football game and completely **turned** it **around**.*

turnaround n. A **turnaround** is a major improvement in a bad situation, a failing business, a losing game, and soon.

*We won the game in a last-minute **turnaround**.*

*This company was losing money, but there's been a major **turnaround** since the new manager took over.*

wear out

wear out & wears out	wearing out	wore out	worn out
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1. wear... out p.v. When something **wears out** or you **wear** it **out**, it becomes damaged or weak from use and age and is no longer usable.

*People who live in the city **wear out** their car brakes faster than people who live in the country.*

*The carpet in the hallway **wore out** and had to be replaced.*

worn-out part. adj. When something is **worn-out**, it has become damaged or weak from use and age and is no longer usable.

*I need new running shoes. These are totally **worn-out**.*

2. wear... out p.v. When something **wears** you **out**, it makes you very tired.

*Playing with his grandchildren really **wore** Fred **out**.*

*Shoveling snow for three hours would **wear** anyone **out**.*

worn-out part.adj. When something has made you very tired, you are **worn-out**. *I have to sit down and rest for a minute — I'm **worn-out**.*

EXERCISE 50a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

- I lent Sally \$1,000 last year, but she still hasn't _____ me _____.
- Children usually get too big for their clothes long before the clothes _____.

3. The company's new CEO promised the shareholders that he would _____ the company _____.
4. Judy told me that she said all those terrible things about me at work to _____ me _____ for stealing her boyfriend.
5. Dr. Wood's new book _____ with preventive medicine.
6. Carrying those boxes of books up to the attic _____ me _____.
7. Like so many things in life, this problem _____ money.
8. Jim drove right past Bob's house, so he had to _____ and go back.
9. _____ to my hand, Susie — it's very crowded here, and I don't want you to get lost.
10. I _____ that problem yesterday, so you don't need to worry about it anymore.
11. Linda isn't sure who she'll go to the dance with, but she said she might _____ Todd _____.
12. It was so windy that I had to _____ to a signpost to keep from falling over.
13. Mike has invited me to his house for dinner several times, but I've never _____ him _____ the offer.
14. _____ just a minute! Where do you think you're going?

EXERCISE SOB — Write answers to the questions using phrasal verbs, participle adjectives, and nouns from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. Tom's been waiting for ten minutes. What has Tom been doing?
2. My shoes have holes in the bottom, and now I can't wear them. What has happened to my shoes?
3. In Question 2, how would you describe my shoes?
4. The country's economy was bad, but now it's improving. What is the country's economy doing?
5. The main thing that Lydia will consider when she chooses a college is how good the MBA program is. What is important to Lydia in choosing a college?
6. You called Betty and asked her to go to a movie. What did you do?
7. Bill's baseball team was way behind, but they ended up winning the game. What would you call the game?
8. Mike lent Frank \$20, and tomorrow Frank is going to give Mike \$20. What is going to happen to Mike tomorrow?
9. Sarah asked me if I would like her to come to my house to help me with my homework, and I said yes. What did I do?
10. Ms. Cummings will do whatever she needs to do to solve the problem after dinner. What will Ms. Cummings do after dinner?
11. The purse snatcher couldn't take my mother's purse because she held it tightly in her hand. What did my mother do to her purse?

12. Shampooing the carpet was a lot of work, and it made Janice really tired. What did shampooing the carpet do to Janice?
13. In Question 12, how did Janice feel after shampooing the carpet?

EXERCISE 50c — Write eight original sentences using phrasal verbs from this section.

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

EXERCISE 50d, Review — Complete the sentences with these participle adjectives from this section and previous sections. To check their meanings, review the section number given after each one.

beat-up, 44	mixed up, 44	turned off, 45
built-in, 46	pissed off, 44	turned on, 45
clogged up, 49	stressed-out, 44	worn-out, 50
grossed out, 43	switched off, 48	
locked up, 44	switched on, 48	

1. Trying to take care of my family and work full-time has made me really _____.
2. You should get rid of those _____ shoes and buy some new ones.
3. I felt really _____ after dancing the merengue with Maria.
4. Maria seemed a little _____ when she saw my big belly hanging over my belt.
5. While I was driving on the interstate, about a billion bugs splattered all over the windshield. I was really _____.
6. My car looks pretty _____, but it runs all right.
7. This sink is all _____. We'll have to call a plumber.
8. Could you help me with my calculus homework? I don't understand it at all, and I'm totally _____.
9. You should keep guns _____ if there are children in the house.
10. Mike's really _____ about having to work on Sunday. He was planning to go to the football game, but now he can't.
11. Most computers today have a _____ CD-ROM drive.
12. I like to leave the radio _____ when I'm not home so that burglars will think that someone is at home.
13. It sure is hot in here. Why is the air conditioner _____?

EXERCISE 50e, 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.

build in/into, 46	get on, 49	throw away, 49	turn off, 45
clog up, 49	get to, 49	turn down, 45	turn on, 45
get ahead, 49	hang on, 49	turn in, 45	turn out, 45
get back to, 49	make for, 46	turn into, 45	turn up, 45

1. Jake was nice when he was a boy, but as he got older he _____ a criminal.
2. Stop bothering me about washing the dishes — I'll _____ it when I have time.
3. The teacher said, "After you _____ your tests, you can leave."
4. These stereo speakers weren't added later; they were _____ right _____ the wall.
5. Business has been very good; in fact, this may _____ to be our best year ever.
6. I'll have to _____ you — I don't have time to talk now.
7. If I had known you wanted those old clothes, I wouldn't have _____ them _____.
8. It was getting dark, so I _____ the light.
9. I've gained so much weight that I can't _____ these pants _____.
10. Having a good education helped me to _____.
11. _____, I'm almost ready.
12. It's too hot in here; could you _____ the heat _____ a little?
13. My father said, "_____ the TV _____ and do your homework."
14. Who put all this stuff in the sink and _____ it _____?
15. The champagne, flowers, and gourmet dinner _____ a very special evening.
16. It's hot in here; who keeps _____ the heat?

EXERCISE 50f, Review — Complete the sentences with these phrasal verbs from this section and 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 out, 50	get ahead, 49	hold on, 50	start off, 49
come down to, 50	get back to, 49	pay back, 50	take up on, 50
deal with, 50	get to, 49	put in/into, 47	turn around, 50
freak out, 46	give out, 43	run out, 47	wear out, 50

1. I like to go to the supermarket on Saturday because they _____ free samples.
2. My teacher said that my project wasn't very good and that it was obvious I hadn't _____ much effort _____ it.
3. Don't lend money to Marvin; he'll never _____ you _____.
4. Thanks for inviting me to go sailing with you. I just might _____ you _____ the offer someday.
5. Sergeant Jones _____ the problem in his usual efficient manner.

6. We're _____ of coffee. Can you make some more?
7. Jim likes Maria, but he's too shy to _____ her _____.
8. Nowadays, it's hard to _____ in the business world if you don't know something about computers.
9. Janice was talking to her father on the other telephone line when I called, so she asked me to _____ for just a minute while she said good-bye to him.
10. Ann used to have a lot of problems, but she has _____ her life _____, and now she is very happy and successful in her job.
11. I called the restaurant manager to complain about the bad food we were served yesterday, a she said she would investigate and _____ me.
12. Heather was very excited that she had _____ go backstage after the concert and meet the band.
13. We had a hard time deciding which of the two houses to buy. We liked both of them, but it _____ which one was in a better school district.
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14. I'm not as young as I used to be. That fifteen-mile hike _____ me _____.
15. I hate walking through cemeteries at night; it really _____ me _____.
16. The president of the company _____ the meeting _____ by welcoming everyone.