

48. FOCUS ON: modals and present perfect passive phrasal verbs

In Section 43, we discussed the use of several modal and semimodal auxiliaries in the present perfect. These same modals and semimodals are commonly used in passive sentences. The modal or semimodal is followed by *have* or the contraction 've, *been*, and the past participle:

could + *have* + *been* + past participle **would** + *have* + *been* + past participle **should** + *have* + *been* + past participle **have to** + *have* + *been* + past participle **must** + *have* + *been* + past participle **might** + *have* + *been* + past participle **may** + *have* + *been* + past participle

Let's compare a present perfect active sentence containing a modal with a present perfect passive sentence containing a modal:

active: Jane might have **switched on** the light.
passive: The light might have been **switched on**.

As we have seen, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. Also, there is no object in the passive sentence, so the passive phrasal verb cannot be separated. The object of the active sentence can be used in a *by* phrase:

active: Jane might have **switched on** the light. passive:
The light might have been **switched on** (by Jane).

And once again we see that it is not always easy to distinguish between a past participle:

The burglar alarm must have been **switched off**
(by the night manager because he's the only one with a key).

and a participle adjective:

The burglar alarm must have been **switched off** (because if it had been on, everyone in the neighborhood would have heard it when the burglars smashed the window of the jewelry store).

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
close down	close down & closes down	closing down	closed down	closed down

1. close... down p.v. When you **close down** a business or a business is **closed down**, it closes permanently or for a long time.

The restaurant was **closed down** *by the health department.*

The ski resort will **close down** *for the summer on May 1.*

knock out

knock out & knocks out
knocked out

knocking out

knocked out

1. knock... out p.v. When you **knock** people **out**, you hit them hard enough to cause them to lose consciousness. When people are **knocked** out, they are hit by someone or something hard enough to cause them to lose consciousness.

*The boxer **knocked** his opponent **out** with a blow to the head.*

*David fell and hit his head on the sidewalk so hard that it **knocked** him **out**.*

knockout n. A hit hard enough to cause someone to lose consciousness is a **knockout**.

*At the count often the referee declared a **knockout**.*

2. knock... out p.v. If something **knocks** you **out**, it impresses or surprises you a lot.

*Tom's new house is fabulous! It really **knocked** me **out**.*

*The Youngs' daughter is only twelve and she's already in college? That just **knocks** me **out**.*

knockout n. A **knockout** is something that impresses or surprises you a lot.

*Have you seen Erik's new girlfriend? She's a real **knockout**.*

3. knock... out p.v. When you try very hard to please other people, you **knock** yourself **out** or **knock** yourself **out** to do something.

*Marsha's Thanksgiving dinner was fabulous. She really **knocked** herself out.*

*Thanks for inviting me to spend the weekend with you, but don't knock yourself **out** — I don't mind sleeping on the couch.*

4. knock... out p.v. When soldiers **knock out** a piece of the enemy's equipment, they destroy it or damage it enough so that it no longer operates.

*The enemy radar installation was **knocked out** by a 500-pound bomb.*

*I can't contact headquarters. I think our communications system might have been **knocked out** during the attack.*

Infiniti

present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
look down on			
look down on & looks down on	looking down on	looked down on	looked down

1. look down on p.v. When you **look down on** people, you consider them to be less intelligent, less educated, or from a lower level of society than you.

*Some people **look down on** Hank because his father was in prison.*

***Looking down on** people because of things they have no control over is stupid.*

look up to

look up to & looks up to	looking up to	looked up to	looked
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1. look up to p.v. When you **look up to** people, you admire and respect them.

*I've always **looked up to** my father because of his honesty and concern for others.*

*You should **look up to** people who have overcome difficulties to become successful.*

put back

put back & puts back

putting back

put back

put back

1. put... back p.v. When you **put** something **back**, you return it to where it was before.

*After you finish listening to my CDs, please put them **back**.*

*Susie, I told you we're eating dinner in ten minutes, so **put** that cookie right **back**!*

2. put... back p.v. When something slows the development or progress of project, it **puts** the project **back** or it **puts** the people involved in the project **back**.

*The hurricane **put** the hotel construction project **back** by at least three months.*

*I had planned to finish college last year, but being hospitalized for several months **put** me **back**.*

3. put... back p.v. When you **put back** the date that you plan to do or complete something by, you postpone it.

*The closing on the house I'm selling might have to be **put back** if the buyers can't get their loan approved in time.*

*The graduation date will have to be **put back** if the teachers strike doesn't end soon.*

4. put... back p.v. [informal] When you **put back** alcoholic beverages, you drink a lot of them.

*Did you see how much David was drinking last night? He sure can **put** it **back**.*

*I'm not surprised he has a hangover — he must have **put back** half a bottle of tequila.*

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past
switch off	switch off & switches off	switching off	switched off	switched off

1. switch ...off p.v. When you **switch off** an electrical or mechanical device, you change the controls to stop it from producing or doing something. Turn **off** is similar to **switch off**. **Switch on** is the opposite of **switch off**.

*Try to remember to **switch off** the lights when you leave the room.*

*I **switched** the engine **off** and got out of the car.*

switched off part.adj. After you have changed the controls of an electrical or mechanical device to stop it from producing or doing something, it is **switched off**. **Switched on** is the opposite of **switched off**. **Turned off** is similar to **switched off**.

*Last night the light in the hallway was **switched off**, and I fell down the stairs.* switch on

switch on & switches on

switching on

switched on

switched on

1. switch ...on p.v. When you **switch on** an electrical or mechanical device, you change the controls to make it start producing or doing something. **Turn on** is similar to **switch on**. **Switch off** is the opposite of **switch on**.

*Push this button to **switch** the computer **on**.*

*The sign should have been **switched on** by the manager in the morning.*

switched on *part.adj.* After you have changed the controls of an electrical or mechanical device to make it start producing or doing something, it is **switched on**. **Switched off** is the opposite of **switched on**. **Turned on** is similar to **switched on**.

*When I drove by the restaurant, I noticed that the sign wasn't **switched on**.*

throw out

throw out & throws out

throwing out

threw out

thrown out

1. throw... out *p.v.* When you **throw** something **out**, you dispose of it by putting it in the wastebasket, trash, and so on. **Throw away** is the same as **throw out**.

*I can't find some important papers, and I think they might've been accidentally **thrown out**.*

*Don't **throw** that newspaper **out** — I haven't read it yet.*

2. throw... out (of) *p.v.* When you **throw** people **out** or **throw** people **out** of a group, place, building, or room, you order them to leave. **Kick out** is similar to **throw out**.

*Frank started a fight and got **thrown out** of the bar.*

*I haven't paid the rent in six months, and I'm worried that the sheriff will come and **throw us out**.*

EXERCISE 48a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.

1. We might _____ our wedding _____ until September so that Rosa's parents can attend.
2. Please _____ the lights _____ — I'm trying to sleep.
3. Bob was _____ when the baseball hit him in the head.
4. When I was a little girl, I _____ my grandfather and wanted to be like him.
5. Sam must have _____ three gin and tonics in about a half an hour last night.
6. It's cold in here — the air conditioner shouldn't have been _____.
7. Mrs. Flores was so angry with her husband that she _____ him right _____ of the house.
8. My wife thinks I forgot our anniversary again, so she's going to be _____ when I give her this gold bracelet.
9. The blizzard has _____ our efforts to find the crashed plane, but we'll keep looking until we find it.
10. I'm tired of looking at all this junk — why don't you _____ it _____?
11. Citizens of the neighborhood have demanded that the noisy bar be _____.
12. Charles _____ anyone who comes from the poor side of town.
13. If you're finished with these tools, _____ them _____.
14. The soldier used a bazooka to _____ an enemy tank.
15. Timmy's mother planned a really nice birthday party for Timmy and all his friends. She really _____ herself _____.

EXERCISE 48b — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.

1. The health department should *close down*. (the restaurant, it)
2. Ali's left hook *knocked out*. (Joe, him)
3. General Johnston had to *put back*. (the attack, it)
4. Have you *switched on*? (the TV, it)
5. Are you going to *switch off*? (the lights, them)
6. *Throwing out* is going to be a big job. (all this junk, it)

EXERCISE 48c — 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. The judge's decision has slowed our fight for justice. What has the judge's decision done to us?
2. Jim respects his uncle and wants to be like him. What does Jim do to his uncle?
3. Todd was really amazed at how good Erik's new book is. What did Erik's book do to Todd?
4. In Question 3, what would Todd call Erik's book?
5. You pushed the button on the remote, and now the TV is on. What did you do to the TV?
6. In Question 5, how would you describe the TV after I pushed the button on the remote?
7. The lights were on, but they're not on anymore. What must have been done to the lights?
8. In Question 7, how would you describe the lights now?
9. The bar owner will be ordered to close his bar permanently. What will be done to the bar?
10. Charles thinks people from that part of town are low-class. What does Charles do to people from that part of town?
11. Joe would have been ordered to leave his house if he hadn't paid his late mortgage payments. What would have happened to Joe if he hadn't paid his late mortgage payments?

EXERCISE 48d, Review — Complete the sentences with these nouns from previous sections. To check their meanings, review the section number given after each one.

carryout, 28	lockout, 29	turnoff, 45	turnover, 45
cutback, 47	make-up, 23	turn-on, 45	rip-off, 44
falling-out, 32	pullout, 47	turnout, 45	runaround, 40

1. Heather kind of liked Ann's brother until she saw him smoking. To her that's a big _____.
2. The Senate voted against a _____ in spending for AIDS research.
3. Lydia doesn't want anyone to take pictures of her without her _____ on.
4. Bill thinks that Nicole's short skirt is a _____.
5. The soldiers were ordered to prepare for a _____.
6. I hate cooking, so we eat _____ food almost every night.
7. I've gone to every office in City Hall about my problem, but no will help me. They just give me the _____.

8. The company's high _____ rate is one reason why it lost money last year.
9. Can you believe the frames for these glasses cost \$300? What a _____.
10. One thief broke into the store while the other stayed outside as a _____.
11. The _____ for the parade would have been a lot bigger if it hadn't been raining.
12. George had a _____ with his brother and hasn't spoken with him for fifteen years.

EXERCISE 48e, 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.

blow out, 43	con into, 46	pull out, 47	talk into, 46
brush up, 47	con out of, 46	put in/into, 47	talk out of, 46
bump into, 46	move in/into, 47	stick out, 32	turn over, 45
carry away, 44	move out, 47	stress out, 44	turn up, 45

1. Your work isn't very good. You ought to _____ more effort _____ it.
2. I was so mad at my boss that I almost quit my job. Fortunately, my wife _____ me _____ it.
3. Did you see Mike's house? He said he was going to put a few Christmas tree lights on the roof, but there must be 5,000. I guess he got _____.
4. Don't let that crooked contractor _____ you _____ any money for unnecessary home repairs.
5. France was a member of NATO until it _____ in 1966.
6. Don't quit now, we're almost finished. You've just got to _____ it _____ for a little while longer.
7. What a surprise! I _____ Bob at the train station yesterday. I hadn't seen him in years.
8. The police acted on a tip that the suspect would be at the bus station on Saturday morning, but he didn't _____.
9. If you're not careful that crook will _____ you _____ selling him your land for a lot less than it's worth.
10. Mike used to speak Arabic pretty well, but he ought to _____ before he goes to Egypt.
11. How could I have been _____ doing something stupid?
12. The apartment has been cleaned and painted. You can _____ right _____ any time you want.
13. _____ it _____. I want to see what's on the other side.
14. Living with Sam is driving me crazy — I have to _____.
15. After you make a wish you can _____ the candles.
16. Living in a house with seven dogs is really _____ my cat _____.