

## 32. FOCUS ON: phrasal verbs with the particle **out**

The particle **out** is used in many phrasal verbs and has many meanings. Among the most frequent meanings of **out** are to say that something or someone literally moves from the inside to the outside of a place:

He fell **out** of a tree.  
Melanie **came out** of the house.  
We always **go out** through the back door.  
Would you **take** the garbage **out**, please?

that something is done completely or thoroughly:

I **cleaned out** the closet.  
The people quickly **cleared out**.  
She **emptied** her purse **out** on the table.  
Please **fill** this form **out**.

that an action or activity has ended:

The fire **went out**.  
The light bulb **burned out**.  
Hank **dropped out** of school.  
Jane **chickened out** of asking her boss for a raise.

that something or someone is chosen, organized, shared, or distributed:

The manager **handed out** our paychecks.  
Tom **picked** a new shirt **out**.  
The mailroom clerk **sorted out** the mail.

that something is produced by or released from a source:

His last book **came out** two years ago.  
Don't **let** the dog **out**.  
That group hasn't **put out** a new CD in a long time.

that something is removed, eliminated, or excluded:

A page was accidentally **left out** of the book when it was printed.  
She **cut** a cartoon **out** of the paper.  
The negative test result **ruled out** cancer.  
His editor **took** several paragraphs out of the article.

that something is perceived, sensed, found, or acquired:

I **figured out** the answer.  
Did you **find out** when the movie starts?  
That sign is too far away to **make out**.  
Mike **screwed me out** of a hundred bucks.

that something increases in size, capacity, length, or area:

Paul started to **fill out** after he got married.

After I gained twenty-five pounds I had to **let** my pants **out**.

It's dangerous to **stick your** head **out** a car window.

that something important or dangerous should be watched for:

Mike is supposed to meet us here, so **watch out** for him.

**Look out**, this is a very busy intersection.

or that something is done for a length of time:

The criminals **held out** for three hours before surrendering.

College is hard work, but you've got to **stick it out**.

#### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>clean out</b>	clean out & cleans out	cleaning out	cleaned out	cleaned out

**1. clean ...out p.v.** When you **clean** something out, you clean the inside completely so that no dirt, dust, trash, and so on, remains inside.

Mark was fired and told to **clean** his desk **out** and leave.

We **clean out** our garage every spring.

**cleaned out part.adj.** After you clean the inside of something completely so that no dirt, dust, or trash, and so on, remains inside, it is **cleaned out**.

Now that the garage is **cleaned out**, there's room for my car.

**2. clean ... out (of) p.v. [informal]** When people **clean** you **out** or **clean** you **out** of your money, they deceive you or pressure you into giving them all your money or spending all your money for their benefit. When an expense **cleans** you **out**, it requires you to spend all your money.

A con artist **cleaned** my grandmother **out** of \$50,000.

Having three kids in college at the same time really **cleaned** me **out**.

**3. clean ...out (of) p.v. [informal]** If thieves **clean** a place **out** or **clean** a place **out** of something, they take everything that is valuable.

I got home and found that my place had been **cleaned out**.

The thieves **cleaned** the jewelry store **out** of all its diamonds and emeralds.

Infinitive				
	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>clear out</b>	clear out & clears out	clearing out	cleared out	cleared out

**1. clear... out p.v.** When people **clear out** or **clear out** of a place or they are **cleared out** of a place, they leave it.

After the police threw tear gas, the crowd **cleared** right **out**.

**Clear out!** This is private property.

**2. clear... out p.v.** When you **clear out** a place, you remove things that are unwanted or in the way in order to make more room or to make the place cleaner.

Look how much more room we have in the attic now that we've **cleared** all that junk **out**.

The car dealer had a sale so that he could **clear out** some space for the new cars.

### **come out**

<b>come out &amp; comes out</b>	<b>coming out</b>	<b>came out</b>	<b>come out</b>
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**1. come out (of) p.v.** When people or things leave a place, room, or house that you are not in, they **come out** of it.

Susie's friend came to the door and asked her to **come out** and play.

The police held their fire when they saw the gunman **coming out** of the house with his hands in the air.

**2. come out (of) p.v.** When something **comes out** of a certain place or area, it starts there.

This speaker must not be connected; no sound is **coming out**.

The most wonderful aroma **came out** of the kitchen.

**3. come out (to) p.v.** When people leave a city and **come out** to a place outside the city where you are, they travel to that place.

Would you like to **come out** and visit our farm?

Ned loves it in the city; he hasn't **come out** to the suburbs in a long time.

**4. come out (of) p.v.** When things or people go through an experience or treatment, the condition they are left in by that experience or treatment or the result of that experience or treatment is how they **come out**.

It was a tough game, but our team **came out** on top.

How did the investigation **come out**?

**I came out** of that awful experience a wiser person.

**5. come out (with) p.v.** When a book, magazine, musical recording, movie, or television show is finished and made available to the public, it **comes out**. When a book, magazine, musical recording, movie, or television show is finished and made available to the public, the company publishing it or the person who created it **comes out** with it.

The band's new CD **came out** last month, and it's already number one on the charts.

Barren's is **coming out** with a new book on TOEFL soon.

**6. come out p.v.** When information becomes known to the public, it **comes out**.  
 Everyone was shocked when it **came out** that the butler had murdered the duke.  
 What really happened when President Kennedy was assassinated may never **come out**.

**7. come out (of) p.v.** When dirt or a stain is removed by cleaning, it **comes out** or **comes out** of what it is in.  
 Don't get grape juice on that white blouse — it'll never **come out**.  
 That paint might **come out** of the carpet if you try turpentine.

**8. come out p.v.** When flowers or leaves start to grow, they **come out**.  
 We had a very warm winter, and the flowers started **coming out** in February.  
 Oak tree leaves always **come out** later than the leaves of other trees.

**9. come out p.v.** When clouds move and the sun becomes visible, it **comes out**.  
 The rain stopped, the sun **came out**, and there was a beautiful rainbow.  
 Wait till the sun **comes out**; you'll get a better picture.

**10. come out (for/in favor of/against) p.v.** When people with authority and influence **come out** for or **come out** in favor of people or things, they publicly announce support for them. When people with authority and influence **come out** against people or things, they publicly announce opposition to them.  
 We were surprised when the mayor **came out** for legalizing gambling.  
 The senator from North Carolina **came out** against the tobacco legislation.

#### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>empty out</b>	empty out & empties out	emptying out	emptied out	emptied out

**1. empty... out p.v.** When you completely remove the contents of a space or container, you **empty it out**.

The police officer told me to **empty out** my pockets.  
 After we **empty this room out**, we can start painting.

**emptied out part.adj.** After the contents of a container have been completely removed, the container is **emptied out**.

Now that the room is **emptied out**, we can start laying the carpet.

**1. empty out p.v.** When all the people in a place leave it, the place **empties out**.  
 After the concert is over, it'll be twenty minutes before the auditorium **empties out**.  
 There was trash everywhere after the stadium **emptied out**.

#### fall out

fall out & falls out	falling out	fell out	fallen out
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**1. fall out** (of) **p.v.** When you fall from or through something that is above ground level to the ground below, you **fall out** or **fall out** of it.

Did he **fall out** or was he pushed?

I found a baby bird that had **fallen out** of its nest.

**2. fall out** (with/lover) **p.v.** When you **fall out** with people, you become upset or angry with them. When two people **fall out** over something, they become upset or angry with each other because of a disagreement about that thing.

Alfonso **fell out** with his sister when he criticized her husband.

Melanie and Sarah started a company, but they **fell out** over who would be president and who would be vice-president.

**falling-out** **n.** When people have a **falling-out**, they become upset or angry with each other and no longer have friendly relations.

The manager of the baseball team quit after he had a **falling-out** with the owner.

## go out

**go out & goes out**

**going out**

**went out**

**gone out**

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**1. go out** (of) **p.v.** When people or things leave a place, room, or house that you are in, they **go out** or **go out** of it. **Come in** is the opposite of **go out**.

I'm trying to study — **go out** and play in the backyard.

Nancy was so sick that she didn't **go out** of the house for a week.

**2. go out** (to) **p.v.** When people leave a city where you are and **go out** to a place outside the city, they travel to that place.

Last weekend we **went out** to Jim's cabin on the lake.

This Thanksgiving I'm going to **go out** to my brother's house.

**3. go out** **p.v.** When something that is burning **goes out**, it stops burning because it has no more fuel or because something, such as water or lack of oxygen, has caused it to stop burning.

The campfire **went out** during the night.

The forest fire didn't **go out** until it started to rain.

**4. go out** **p.v.** When an electrical light **goes out**, it stops producing light because it is no longer receiving power.

The lights in the barracks **go out** every night at 10:00.

When the old tree fell on the power lines, every light in town **went out**.

**5. go out** (with) **p.v.** When two people with a romantic interest in each other **go out**, they go together to a place of entertainment in order to have fun and spend time together.

Mike's nervous — he's **going out** with Heather tonight.

Sally and Jim **went out** for three years before they got married.

## Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>leave out</b>	leave out & leaves out	leaving out	left out	left out

**1. leave... out p.v.** When you **leave** people or things **out**, you accidentally or deliberately do not include them in a group.

The director **left out** several parts of the book when she made the film.

Tell me the entire story from beginning to end. Don't **leave** anything **out**.

**left out part.adj.** When you feel **left out**, you feel ignored and unappreciated by others in a group.

No one talked to Jerry at the party. He just sat in the corner feeling **left out**.

## **stick out**

<b>stick out &amp; sticks out out</b>	<b>sticking out</b>	<b>stuck out</b>	<b>stuck</b>
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**1. stick out p.v.** When something **sticks out**, it extends from what it is attached to.

Be careful walking in the woods, there are a lot of branches **sticking out**.

I cut myself on a nail that was **sticking out** of the wall.

**2. stick... out p.v.** When you **stick** something **out**, you extend it outward.

Timmy **stuck** his tongue **out** when his mother gave him spinach.

We all **stuck** our heads **out** the window to get a better look.

**3. stick... out p.v.** When you **stick out** an unpleasant or difficult experience, you continue with it until it is over, rather than quit.

I hate this job, but I need the money, so I'll just have to **stick it out** until I find a better one. College isn't easy, but if you **stick** it out, you'll be glad you did.

**4. stick out p.v.** When a characteristic or feature of something **sticks out**, that feature is very noticeable.

Alan's nearly seven feet tall and has red hair, so he really **sticks out** in a crowd.

One thing that really **stuck out** about him was the strange way he laughed.

**EXERCISE 32a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. Susie \_\_\_\_\_ of her tree house and broke her arm.
2. The sun finally \_\_\_\_\_ in the afternoon.
3. I heard some strange voices \_\_\_\_\_ of the next room.
4. A sharp piece of wood was \_\_\_\_\_, and I got a splinter from it.
5. When the truth finally \_\_\_\_\_, you'll all be very surprised.
6. It was a good thing we had those candles when the lights \_\_\_\_\_.
7. This temporary job will last only two weeks, so even though I'm bored, I guess I can \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_.
8. That crook \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ of everything I owned.
9. David's story didn't make any sense because he \_\_\_\_\_ the part about the missionaries and the cannibals.
10. Mike, it's starting to rain. \_\_\_\_\_ and close the car windows, please.
11. Take these wastebaskets out to the Dumpster and \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_.
12. It's a sure sign of spring when the tulips start to \_\_\_\_\_.
13. This wood is green. Even if you can get it to burn, it'll \_\_\_\_\_ right away.
14. The Bakers said they would love to \_\_\_\_\_ to visit us here at our ranch some weekend.
15. The soldiers were ordered to \_\_\_\_\_ the protesters \_\_\_\_\_ of the plaza.
16. Mike and Bob \_\_\_\_\_ over who would pay for the window they broke playing baseball.
17. The reporter said that he expected the governor to \_\_\_\_\_ against the proposed legislation.
18. Jim's going to be storing some of his stuff in the attic, so let's go up and \_\_\_\_\_ some space for it.
19. Scott \_\_\_\_\_ of the trial with his reputation badly damaged.
20. After the bomb threat was announced, the theater \_\_\_\_\_ in about two minutes.
21. Betty has been \_\_\_\_\_ with Erik since high school.
22. It's not very smart to \_\_\_\_\_ your arm \_\_\_\_\_ the window of a moving car.
23. I like it here in the city. When I \_\_\_\_\_ to David's house in the country I get bored.
24. The talk show host asked the author about his new book which is \_\_\_\_\_ soon.
25. The burglars \_\_\_\_\_ the coin shop \_\_\_\_\_ of its most valuable coins.
26. It's been an hour. Are you ever going to \_\_\_\_\_ of the bathroom?
27. Don't even bother washing this blouse — the ink will never \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Mike wants to sell his car, so he's going to \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ and wash it before anyone looks at it.
29. I don't remember much about Ned, but one thing \_\_\_\_\_ — he always wore black.

**EXERCISE 32b — Complete the sentences with the correct second particles.**

1. The crooked lawyer **cleaned them out** \_\_\_\_\_ a small fortune.
2. Jake **came out** \_\_\_\_\_ the bank and surrendered.
3. Would you like to **come out** \_\_\_\_\_ my place in the country?
4. Several publishers are **coming out** \_\_\_\_\_ books on the subject.
5. The prime minister liked the idea, so we weren't surprised when he **came out** \_\_\_\_\_ the plan.
6. As expected, the leader of the opposition **came out** \_\_\_\_\_ the plan.
7. Mike **fell out** \_\_\_\_\_ his brother \_\_\_\_\_ who would pay their father's medical bills.
8. Timmy's father told him not to **go out** \_\_\_\_\_ the house.
9. We're **going out** \_\_\_\_\_ the suburbs next weekend.
10. Heather's **going out** \_\_\_\_\_ Tom tonight.
11. Hank **fell out** \_\_\_\_\_ a hot air balloon.

**EXERCISE 32c — Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.**

1. My son **cleaned out**. (the basement, it)

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2. I need to **clear out**. (the storeroom, it)

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3. Sarah **emptied out**. (the boxes, them)

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4. The factory **left out**. (an important part, it)

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5. Don't **stick out**. (your neck, it)

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**EXERCISE 32d — 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. Some important information is being revealed to the public. What is happening to the information?

2. All the people in the plaza left. What did the people do?

3. All the people in the plaza left. What happened to the plaza?

4. I'm going to take my girlfriend to a nightclub. What am I going to do with her?

5. The soldier was killed in the battle. What didn't the soldier do?

6. We didn't ask Mark to join our club. What did we do to Mark?

7. In Question 6, how does Mark feel because we didn't ask him to join our club?

8. The IRS took all your money. What did they do to you?

9. The music company released a new CD last week. What did the music company do?
10. Everyone notices Harry because he has very long hair and a long beard. What does Harry do?
11. The **Chicago Tribune** announced in an editorial that they were for the Republican candidate.  
What did the **Chicago Tribune** do?
12. Bill's angry with Jim, and they're not speaking to each other. What did Bill do with Jim?
13. In Question 12, what did Bill and Jim have?

**EXERCISE 32e, 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.**

care for, 31	hold out, 23	punch out, 30	sort out, 30
cut out, 31	lock in, 30	put off, 31	space out, 30
do away with, 31	look into, 31	put out, 30	wash up, 30
do without, 31	punch in, 30	rule out, 31	watch out, 23

1. Susie, I told you to stop hitting your sister, so \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_!
2. After I lost my job, I learned to \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of things I used to think were necessities.
3. Watson made a real mess out of the project, so the boss asked me to \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I totally \_\_\_\_\_ and drove twenty miles past where I was going.
5. Hey, that's really dangerous, you'd better \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I'm going to get to work late tomorrow. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_?
7. I'm really sick of this city. I'm going to fly to San Francisco and \_\_\_\_\_ the job situation there.
8. Most of the players have signed their contracts, but a few are \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Water won't \_\_\_\_\_ an electrical fire.
10. The manager reminded me to \_\_\_\_\_ before going home.
11. During Prohibition, the government tried to \_\_\_\_\_ drinking alcohol.
12. The chances that his horse will win the race are very small, but I wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ completely.
13. Look how dirty your hands are! Go \_\_\_\_\_ before you eat dinner.
14. I want to \_\_\_\_\_ a low interest rate before rates go up again.
15. Thanks for inviting me to the concert, but I don't \_\_\_\_\_ rap music.
16. Millions of people \_\_\_\_\_ doing their taxes until the last minute.