

## 43. FOCUS ON: modals and present perfect phrasal verbs

He has **run up** a big bill. He would have **run up** a big bill.

Remember that the present perfect is formed with *have* or the contraction 've and the past participle. The only difference is that *has* is not used for the third person singular:

The meanings of the modal and semimodal auxiliaries are unchanged in the present perfect, except for *may* and *might*.

### Past speculation and you do not know what happened: *might have* or *may have*

When discussing something that was possible in the past and you do not know what happened, either *might have* or *may have* can be used:

*I wonder where Jim is. He might have **stopped off at** the bar. I wonder where Jim is. He may have **stopped off at** the bar.*

Because you do not know whether Jim stopped off at the bar, either *might have* or *may have* can be used.

### Past speculation and you know what happened: only *might have*

When discussing something that was possible in the past and you know what happened, only *might have* can be used:

*Climbing that tree was stupid. You might have **fallen out**.  
Climbing that tree was stupid. You ~~may have~~ **fallen out**.*

Because I know that the person I am talking to did not fall out of the tree, only *might have* can be used.

Infinitive	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>blow out</b>	blowout & blows out	blowing out	blew out	blown out

**1. blow... out** p.v. When a flame **blows out** or is **blown out** by a strong wind, it stops burning. When you **blow out** a flame, you use your breath to make the flame stop burning.

*Don't open the window — the candles will **blow out**.*

*I couldn't light my cigarette; the wind kept **blowing** the match **out**.*

*The stove isn't working. Maybe the pilot light has **blown out**.*

**2. blow ...out** (of) p.v. When something is moved outward away from where it was by an explosion or a very strong wind, it is **blown out** or **blown out** of where it was before.

*The force of the explosion **blew** all the windows **out**.*

*Look, there's a dead bird. The wind might have **blown** it **out** of its nest.*

**blowout** n. When a tire bursts and suddenly loses its air while you are driving, you have a **blowout**.

*Maria had a **blowout** while she was driving, lost control of her car, and hit a tree.*

**3. blow... out** *p.v.* When a piece of electrical equipment or a fuse **blows out**, it fails because too much electricity is passing through it.

*Don't be surprised if the fuse **blows out** — you have seven lights, your computer, and your TV all plugged into one outlet.*

*When lightning hit our house, it **blew** all the telephones **out**.*

#### Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>give out</b>	<b>give out &amp; gives out</b>	<b>giving out</b>	<b>gave out</b>	<b>given out</b>

**1. give ...out** (to) *p.v.* When you distribute something to other people, you **give** it **out** or **give** it **out** to them. **Hand out** is similar to **give out**.

*They **gave out** free hats to the first 5,000 fans to enter the stadium.*

*The aid workers would have **given** more food **out** to the famine victims, but they didn't have enough.*

**2. give out** (on) *p.v.* When a mechanical or electrical device stops working, it **gives out** or **gives out** on you. When a supply of something is completely used, it **gives out** or **gives out** on you.

*The explorers lost their way in the desert and died after their water **gave out**.*

*I bought a Chevrolet in 1964 and drove it more than 300,000 miles before it finally **gave out** on me.*

#### gross out

<b>gross out &amp; grosses out</b>	<b>grossing out</b>	<b>grossed out</b>	<b>grossed out</b>
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**1. gross ...out** *p.v. [informal]* When something **grosses** you **out**, it upsets you or makes you sick because you think it is disgusting.

*You had to dissect a cadaver in your biology class? Yuk, that would've really **grossed** me **out**.*

*Alex hates changing his little brother's diapers — it **grosses** him **out**.*

**grossed out** *part.adj.* When something upsets you or makes you sick because you think it is disgusting, you are **grossed out**.

*I was eating an apple, and I found half a worm in it. I was so **grossed out** that I almost threw up.*

<b>head toward &amp; heads toward</b>	<b>heading toward</b>	<b>headed toward</b>	<b>headed toward</b>
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**1. head toward** *p.v.* When you **head toward** a certain location, you move toward it. When you say that you are **headed toward** or are **heading toward** a certain location, you mean that you are planning to go there or that you are going there but have interrupted your journey and will resume it. **Head for** is the same as **head toward**.

*The escaped convicts must have **headed toward** Mexico.*

*I'm **heading toward** Portland. Where are you going?*

#### run up

<b>run up &amp; runs up</b>	<b>running up</b>	<b>ran up</b>	<b>run up</b>
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**1. run up** (to) *p.v.* When you run to a higher level or place, you **run up** or **run up** to that place.

***Run up** and answer the phone if it rings, okay?*

*If I'd heard the baby crying, I would have **run up** to his bedroom.*

**2. run ... up** p.v. When you accumulate a number of debts, resulting in a total debt of a certain amount, you **run up** a bill for that amount.

*Giving my son a credit card was a mistake — he **ran up** a \$2,500 bill in only one month.*

*Calling your family every week from Australia must have **run** a big phone bill **up**.*

**run-up** n. A large, sudden increase in the price, value, or cost of something is a **run-up**.

*Bill was lucky to buy 500 shares of the stock just before the big **run-up**.*

**3. run up (to)** p.v. When you run toward people, you **run up** or **run up** to them.

*The prince didn't have any bodyguards. Anyone could have **run up** and attacked him.*

*After the explosion, a man covered with blood **ran up** to me and asked for help.*

Infinitive

	present tense	-ing form	past tense	past participle
<b>shut up</b>	shut up & shuts up	shutting up	shut up	shut up

**1. shut up (about)** p.v. [informal] When people stop talking, they **shut up** or **shut up** about something they are talking about. When you are angry and want people to stop talking, you tell them to **shut up**.

*Marvin talks and talks and talks — he never shuts **up**.*

*I said I was sorry about crashing your car. Now will you please **shut up** about it!*

**1. shut... up** p.v. [informal] When people or things cause you to stop talking, they **shut** you **up**.

*Toad was making jokes about his wife at the party until she gave him a look that **shut** him right up.*

*I can't hear the TV — can you **shut** those kids **up**?*

**stop off**

<b>stop off &amp; stops off</b>	<b>stopping off</b>	<b>stopped off</b>
<b>stopped off</b>		

**1. stop off (at/in)** p.v. When you **stop off** at a place or **stop off** in an area on the way to another place, you stop there briefly before continuing your journey.

*I would have **stopped off at** Sally's house this morning, but I was late for work.*

***Stopping** off in Cairo on our way to India would be fun.*

**try on**

<b>try on &amp; tries on</b>	<b>trying on</b>	<b>tried on</b>	<b>tried on</b>
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**1. try... on** p.v. When you **try on** an item of clothing before deciding whether you will buy it or borrow it from someone in order to see if it fits or to see if you like it, you **try** it **on**.

*She must have **tried on** twenty pairs of shoes before making up her mind.*

*Would you like to borrow this dress for the dance tonight? Here, **try** it **on**.*

**EXERCISE 43a — Complete the sentences with phrasal verbs from this section. Be sure the phrasal verbs are in the correct tense.**

1. I got into Atlanta last night, and tomorrow I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ Miami.
2. I should've \_\_\_\_\_ this sweater \_\_\_\_\_ before I bought it. It's too small, and now I have to return it.
3. Nicole figured out why all the lights were off: a fuse \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Sam couldn't have finished the marathon; his strength completely \_\_\_\_\_.
5. It's a good thing Linda has health insurance; she has \_\_\_\_\_ a huge bill at the hospital.
6. When the gas exploded, all the doors and windows \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Marsha's always bragging about how smart she is and teasing me about my bad grades, but when I got 100 on the algebra test and she got 52, it really \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_.
8. We're not flying directly to Japan; we're going to \_\_\_\_\_ in Hawaii for a few days.
9. Hank's bad breath \_\_\_\_\_ everyone \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_! I'm tired of listening to your constant criticism.
11. I was so excited to see Karen after so many years that I \_\_\_\_\_ to her and gave her a big hug.
12. This gas stove isn't working. I think the pilot light may have \_\_\_\_\_ when you opened the window.
13. Job applications were \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone standing in line.
14. When I saw smoke coming from the third floor window, I \_\_\_\_\_ to look for the fire.

**EXERCISE 43b — Complete the sentences with the correct second particles.**

1. The flight attendant was *blown out* \_\_\_\_\_ the hole in the airplane's fuselage.
2. Free samples will be *given out* \_\_\_\_\_ every customer who walks through the door.
3. His diseased heart finally *gave out* \_\_\_\_\_ him.
4. I was so angry that when I saw him I *ran up* \_\_\_\_\_ him and hit him.
5. George and Tom might have *stopped off* \_\_\_\_\_ New York.
6. Maybe they *stopped off* \_\_\_\_\_ Jim's house in the suburbs.

**EXERCISE 43c Write three sentences using the objects in parentheses. Be sure to put the objects in the right place.**

1. The wind *blew out*. (the candle, it)
2. They *gave out*. (information, it)
3. She *ran up*. (a \$4,000 bill, it)
4. Can I *try on*? (these pants, these) \_\_\_\_\_
5. The smell *grossed out*. (everyone, them)

**EXERCISE 43d — 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. Rosa bought a coat, but it's too small. What should Rosa have done?
2. Your car's transmission finally stopped working after several days of problems. What did your car's transmission do?
3. The price of gold increased a lot very quickly. What would you call this increase in the price of gold?
4. Todd didn't know that the taco he ate at Miguel's house was made with cow brains. When Miguel told Todd what he had eaten, what must that have done to Todd?
5. In Question 4, how must Todd have been?
6. The children ran toward Betty very quickly. What did the children do?
7. The truck driver wouldn't have traveled toward Detroit. What wouldn't the truck driver have done?
8. Janice used her breath to stop the kerosene lamp from burning. What did Janice do?
9. Stopping Marvin from talking is nearly impossible. What is impossible?
10. Sally asked her brother how he could have accumulated such a large credit card bill. What did Sally ask her brother?
11. David stayed for a couple of nights in Denver before continuing to Las Vegas. What did David do?
12. My tire burst while I was driving. What did I have?

**EXERCISE 43e, Review — Complete the sentences with these participle adjectives from previous sections. To check their meanings, review the section number given after each one.**

broken in, 41	crossed off, 39	plugged in, 41
checked in, 41	filled up, 39	put off, 31
checked out, 41	leftover, 37	rundown, 36
chopped up, 39	let down, 37	sold out, 39
covered up, 37	paid off, 37	straightened out, 39

1. If you're hungry, there's some \_\_\_\_\_ pizza in the refrigerator.
2. This meat isn't \_\_\_\_\_ enough; the pieces are too big.
3. That food isn't \_\_\_\_\_; flies are going to land on it.
4. Someday John wants to move from this \_\_\_\_\_ neighborhood to a better one.
5. My feet really hurt because these shoes aren't \_\_\_\_\_ yet.
6. My car loan is \_\_\_\_\_; I made my final payment last month.
7. After forty-five years with the company, I thought they would give me more than this cheap pen  
at my retirement party. I feel \_\_\_\_\_.

8. There aren't eight names on the list; there are only five — three are \_\_\_\_\_.
9. We're \_\_\_\_\_ now; we can take our luggage up to our hotel room.
10. We can get a taxi for the airport now; we're \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The game isn't \_\_\_\_\_; there are plenty of tickets left.
12. No wonder this radio doesn't work — it's not \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The tank isn't \_\_\_\_\_ yet; there's room for another gallon or two.
14. Is everything \_\_\_\_\_, or do I need to explain it again?
15. Why are you so \_\_\_\_\_? Did I say something that offended you?

**EXERCISE 43f, 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.**

burst out, 40	go in/into, 41	keep from, 38	keep up, 38
come back, 40	keep at, 38	keep off, 38	sneak in/into, 41
get back, 42	keep away, 38	keep on, 38	sneak out of, 41
get behind, 42	keep down, 38	keep to, 38	wipe out, 39

1. Susie \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen and took a cookie when her mother wasn't looking.
2. When I was a teenager, I used to \_\_\_\_\_ of the house and meet my friends after my parents went to bed.
3. I just shampooed the carpet in the living room, so \_\_\_\_\_ it.
4. I need to see my physical therapist. That pain I used to have in my knee is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Do you have a bigger envelope? This letter won't \_\_\_\_\_ this small one.
6. Betty asked the bus driver to stop, but he didn't hear her and \_\_\_\_\_ right \_\_\_\_\_ going.
7. Maria leaves for work at 7:00 in the morning, and she doesn't usually \_\_\_\_\_ to her house until after 8:00 in the evening.
8. Jim has \_\_\_\_\_ way \_\_\_\_\_ in his studies because he's been in the hospital for several weeks.
9. Marvin was acting like such an idiot when he was angry that I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ laughing.
10. Don't give up now—\_\_\_\_\_ it!
11. It was hard to \_\_\_\_\_ my magazine article \_\_\_\_\_ only 2,000 words — there was so much I wanted to say.
12. Mike \_\_\_\_\_ crying when his wife told him she wanted a divorce.
13. I try to take notes in my history class, but the teacher talks so fast that I can't \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The enemy soldiers were almost completely \_\_\_\_\_ in the attack.
15. That dog of yours is dangerous, so please \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ from my children.
16. The candy company has \_\_\_\_\_ the cost of its products \_\_\_\_\_ despite the rise in the cost of sugar.