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Transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*:  
A lexicon-grammar analysis*

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Abstract

Using a lexicon-grammar approach developed by Maurice Gross (1992), this project involved systematically mapping the structural properties of over 550 transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*, PV *out*. The data is analyzed in terms of two main tables or matrices. The first table illustrates the morpho-syntactic properties of purely simple PV *out* expressions, like *freak out the kid* ↔ *freak the kid out*. The second table illustrates the morpho-syntactic combinations of complex PV *out* expressions, as in *take the boxer out of the fight*. The research shows that PV *out* expressions may involve up to 25 syntactic features, including *N*₂ promotion, as in *The girl spilled the water out of the glass* → *The girl spilled the glass out*, complex-neutral constructions, like *The water spilled out of the glass*, and reversed constructions, like *The company farmed the oil out of the land* → *The company farmed the land out of oil*. The research shows that these syntactic combinations are highly lexical in that a unique combination of features applies to individual phrasal verbs.

1. Introduction

Verb particle constructions or phrasal verbs, PV, have long intrigued linguists, since van Dongen (1919), Bolinger (1971) and Fraser (1976), and up to recent times as reflected in the works of Jackendoff (2002) and Dehé (2002). This article builds on recent work on phrasal verbs by Machonis (2008 & 2009), who uses a lexicon-grammar framework (Maurice Gross 1992 & 1994) to provide an extensive description of a full body of language data in order to draw conclusions. We constructed an exhaustive lexicon-grammar of 562 purely transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*, PV *out*, indicating up to 25 varying syntactic properties and transformations specified by plus or minus signs (cf. sample Tables 1-5 in this article). Even though certain verb classes show some syntactic similarities in our classification, it will be shown, nevertheless, that this information is highly lexical with a unique combination of pluses or minuses applying to individual verbs rather than to broad semantic categories.

In constructing lexicon-grammar tables, we use elementary sentences (Gross 1996) of the type subject-verb-particle-essential complements, such as *N₀ V Part N₁*, where *N₀* indicates the subject and *N₁* indicates the first complement. All of the PV *out* expressions analyzed are transitive and can appear in both the continuous and discontinuous order, as in the following examples where the arrow (↔) indicates relative synonymy:

\[
\begin{align*}
(1) \ N₀ V N₁ out & \leftrightarrow \ N₀ V out N₁ \\
\text{Clowns totally } & \text{freak} \ Peter out \leftrightarrow \text{Clowns totally } \text{freak out} \ Peter^1
\end{align*}
\]

* I would like to thank my professor Peter A. Machonis for his inspiration and guidance throughout this project. I would also like to thank the audiences at the SECOL 77 conference and FIU’s 2010 linguistic colloquium for their comments and feedback.
In contrast to *intrinsically* simple expressions like (1) above, some of these PV out constructions can also be analyzed as complex expressions. These introduce a second complement indicated by N₂, representing longer prepositional phrases generally by *out of*, signified as N₀ V N₁ out of N₂. While simple PV out constructions may appear in both the continuous and discontinuous form, complex expressions can only appear in the discontinuous form.

\[
(2) \quad N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ N_2 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad *N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ N_2 \ out
\]

Katie took the booties out of the basket \( \leftrightarrow \) *Katie took the booties the basket out of*

All the complex constructions examined, however, have the possibility of being reduced to simple PV out phrases, in which case the particle can be moved.

\[
(3) \quad N_0 \ V \ out \ N_1 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out
\]

Katie took out the booties \( \leftrightarrow \) Katie took the booties out

In our lexicon grammar tables, subjects and complements were analyzed as simple NPs entailing the properties of human \((N_{hum})\) and non-human \((N_{-hum})\) indicated by a plus or minus value in the appropriate column. The meaning of the PV was also included in the table under *synonym*. The data of 562 PV out expressions was divided into two tables: (1) simple PV out expressions of the form N₀ V N₁ out, consisting of 201 constructions, and (2) complex PV out expressions, of the forms N₀ V N₁ out of N₂, N₀ V N₁ out N₂, and N₀ V N₁ out Prep N₂—all of which can be reduced to the simple form, consisting of 361 constructions. The tables (c.f. sample tables 1-5) include morphological information on the nature of the subject and possible complements, as well as the subset of related sentences and transformations in the sense of Harris (1956).

2. Simple PV out

Section 2 briefly discusses the disambiguation and compositional status of PV out expressions. In section 2.1, it will be shown that much of the compositional status of PV out expressions is highly contextual. Section 2.2 presents the variety of transformations intrinsically simple PV out expressions exhibit showing that a unique set of features (plus or minus) apply to each phrasal verb and that this data is highly lexical and cannot be generalized based solely on semantic categories. Section 2.3 presents a sample table of the data.

2.1 Semantic Compositionality of Simple PV out

Bolinger (1971) was among the first to recognize that particles can contribute an aspectual or intensifying sense to regular verbs. Others have analyzed the compositional status of PV expressions as a semantic continuum ranging from fully transparent to fully idiomatic (Bolinger 1971, Fraser 1976, Dehe and Jackendoff 2002, Baldwin 2002). While such analyses provide a more comprehensive view of the verb particle combination, compositionality in a lexicon-grammar framework entails simply two distinct semantic classes defined by the column, N₀ V N₁, which indicates relative synonymy with N₀ V N₁ out (Machonis 2009). The following examples, where the particle out is an optional element, seem to imply some type of aspectual or intensifying interpretation to the simple verb and are thereby viewed as compositional.
(4) $N_0 \ V N_1 \leftrightarrow N_0 \ V N_1\ out$

a. Classical music *melodies* Max $\leftrightarrow$ Classical music *melodies* Max out
b. The boxer *punched* the opponent $\leftrightarrow$ The boxer *punched* the opponent out

A plus [+] in the column $N_0 \ V N_1$ serves to distinguish compositionally transparent $PV\ out$ from idiomatic $PV\ out$ expressions. In 92 of the 200 simple $PV\ out$ entries examined, the particle can be deleted showing that almost half of these expressions are compositional. On the other hand, a negative value in the $N_0 \ V N_1$ column indicates the particle is an essential element of the verb phrase illustrating a more idiomatic $PV$ construction. Idiomatic $PV$'s, such as (5), are those that cannot delete the particle without causing a significant change in meaning and thus must be listed in the lexicon as complete units (Jackendoff 2002). The (≠) means the expressions are not synonymous.

(5) $N_0 \ V N_1 \neq N_0 \ V N_1\ out$

a. The gangsters *took* the boy $\neq$ The gangsters *took* the boy out ‘kill’
b. The mischievous students *burn* the professor $\neq$ The mischievous students *burn* the professor out ‘exhaust’

In these examples although the $N_0 \ V N_1$ column forms an acceptable expression, as in The gangster *took* the boy meaning literally ‘to take’, they do not mean the same as the idiomatic verb plus particle combination The gangster *took* the boy out meaning ‘to kill’. The particle is as an essential component to the construction and the $PV$ expression is consequently non-compositional.

Deleting the particle in other idiomatic $PV$'s can sometimes result in an unacceptable $*N_0 \ V N_1$ expression altogether, as in (6).

(6) $*N_0 \ V N_1 \rightarrow N_0 \ V N_1\ out$

a. *Talented journalists will* knock a story $\rightarrow$ Talented journalists will *knock* a story out ‘produce quickly’
b. *Casey really needed to* get her feelings $\rightarrow$ Casey really needed to *get* her feelings out ‘release by saying’

The unacceptability of the single verb construction, $*N_0 \ V N_1$, above is attributed to the arguments of the verb, as it does not allow *to knock a story* or *to get your feelings*. When the particle is added to the construction, it allows the verb to introduce complements that it would not typically take, or as Ishikawa (1999) notes, it allows for unusual selectional properties, as in to *knock a story out* and to *get your feelings out*.

Machonis (2008) observes that many of these expressions can be disambiguated by specifying more precisely the type of arguments the verbs may take. For instance, the following two expressions yield semantically different interpretations solely because of the difference in verbal complements, where in this case distinguishing between the literal and idiomatic expression can be disambiguated by the [+/- hum] feature.

(7)

a. The boxer will *knock* the fighter out ‘render unconscious’
b. The boxer will *knock* a good story out ‘produce quickly’
While the verb phrase under the literal interpretation (7a) selects its usual complement, the verb phrase in (7b) selects an atypical complement and is therefore idiomatic. Other examples show that disambiguating PV out expressions can go beyond specifying the argument of the verb and the [+/-hum] feature, thereby indicating that much of this information is intrinsically pragmatic.

(8)

a. The gangster took the boy out (of the fight)  ‘withdraw/ remove’
b. The gangster took the boy out (to the fight)  ‘take to a social event’
c. The gangster took the boy out  ‘kill’

(9)

a. The boss punched the employee out (of work)  ‘record end work time’
b. The boss punched the employee out  ‘render unconscious’

(8) and (9) show that the direct object of the verb does not distinguish the literal from the idiomatic expression. Examples (8a-b) and (9a) can be analyzed as complex PV expressions that introduce an implicit or explicit second complement, $N_2$, into the construction that can be analyzed as a locative particle. When this longer expression is made explicit, it serves as a distinguishing factor between its idiomatic counterparts, examples (8c) and (9b). For this reason, disambiguating these examples requires that the particle be specified according to the interpretation it conveys, i.e. whether it forms a complex expression indicating an implicit (or explicit) prepositional phrase, or whether it forms a simple PV expression of the aspectual type. Furthermore, when the longer expression in the complex PV construction is not explicit, disambiguating between these expressions is solely pragmatic, whereas when the longer expression is made explicit disambiguation between the two lexical entries requires distinguishing the particles of and to of the prepositional phrase as in (8a-b). These expressions were disambiguated in the lexicon-grammar by entering examples (8a-b) and (9a) in the complex PV out chart as separate entries and examples (8c) and (9b) in the simple PV out chart.

2.2 Simple PV out: The Neutral Construction

Simple transitive PV outs exhibit the causative alternation (Levin 1993) or the neutral construction (Boons, Guillet, & Leclère 1976) in 85 of the 200 entries examined. The causative alternation or neutral construction is a process in which transitive PV out undergoes an intransitive transformation. In the process of intransitivizing, the $N_1$ rises and takes the subject position and the $N_0$ is explicitly omitted from the construction, yielding the following derivation:

(10) $N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out \ → \ N_1 \ V \ out$

a. The chef rolled the dough out  →  The dough rolled out
b. The couple aired their problems out  →  Their problems aired out
c. The accountant balanced the checkbook out  →  The checkbook balanced out

Some of these verbs are fully compositional, $N_0 \ V \ N_1 ↔ N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ out$, and also exhibit the neutral construction with or without the presence of the particle, $N_1 \ V ↔ N_1 \ V \ out$, showing that the particle is an optional element in the neutral structure. This combination is indicated in the lexicon-grammar tables by a [+] in all of the following columns, as we can see for spread out in (11).
(11)

a. $N_0 V N_1$ The doctor *spread* the patient’s legs
b. $N_0 V N_1 \text{out}$ The doctor *spread* the patient’s legs *out*
c. $N_1 V$ The patient’s legs *spread*
d. $N_1 V \text{out}$ The patient’s legs *spread* *out*

Other PV *out* expressions only exhibit the neutral structure when the particle is part of the construction and deleting the particle in the neutral structure will render the expression unacceptable. Out of the 85 PV *out* expressions that exhibit the causative alternation, 60 or 70% of them require that the particle be an essential component to the transformation. This feature is demonstrated in the lexicon-grammar table with a [-] under the column $N_1 V$ but [+ ] under the column $N_1 V \text{out}$, as in *roll out* in (12).

(12)

a. $N_0 V N_1$ The chef *rolled* the dough ‘flatten by rolling’
b. $N_0 V N_1 \text{out}$ The chef *rolled* the dough *out*
c. $*N_1 V$ *The dough rolled*
d. $N_1 V \text{out}$ The dough *rolled* *out*

Not all the verbs that are fully compositional undergo the causative transformation; thus, there are some verbs which display full compositionality but do not undergo the derivation, like (13).

(13)

a. $N_0 V N_1$ The professor *argued* the situation ‘discuss’
b. $N_0 V N_1 \text{out}$ The professor *argued* the situation *out*
c. $*N_1 V$ *The situation argued*
d. $*N_1 V \text{out}$ *The situation argued* *out*

Then, there are cases in which the phrasal verb is non-compositional and does not undergo the causative alternation, as in (14).

(14)

a. $*N_0 V N_1$ *The professor talked* the situation ‘discuss’
b. $N_0 V N_1 \text{out}$ The professor *talked* the situation *out*
c. $*N_1 V$ *The situation talked*
d. $*N_1 V \text{out}$ *The situation talked* *out*

But there are also cases in which the phrasal verb is non-compositional, $*N_0 V N_1$, but can undergo the causative alternation with or without the particle making the particle an optional element in the transformation, even though it is an essential component to the transitive construction, as in (15).

(15)

a. $*N_0 V N_1$ *High speed racing wears* the tires ‘exhaust’
b. $N_0 V N_1 \text{out}$ High speed racing *wears* the tires *out*
c. \( N_1 V \) The tires wear

d. \( N_1 V \) out The tires wear out

Other idiomatic expressions can undergo the causative alternation only if the particle is present, such as (16).

(16)

a. \(*N_0 V N_1\) *The trainer wears the athlete

b. \( N_0 V N_1 \) out The trainer wears the athlete out

c. \(*N_1 V\) *The athlete wears

d. \( N_1 V \) out The athlete wears out

This morpho-syntactic behavior can also depend on the arguments of the verb, as changing the complements can cause a change in the acceptable structural combinations the construction may undergo. This is seen in (16c) where the particle seems to be essential for the causative alternation to occur, while in (15c) it is not.

Expressions can even fall under the same semantic category and exhibit different syntactic combinatorial properties. The following examples, where the arguments are constant, demonstrate that while the \( PV \) out expressions all mean ‘to exhaust’, they each exhibit a unique set of syntactic combinations.

(17)

a. \( N_0 V N_1 \) The trainer tired the athlete

b. \( N_0 V N_1 \) out The trainer tired the athlete out

c. \( N_1 V \) The athlete tired

d. \( N_1 V \) out The athlete tired out

(18)

a. \(*N_0 V N_1\) *The trainer wiped the athlete

b. \( N_0 V N_1 \) out The trainer wiped the athlete out

c. \(*N_1 V\) *The athlete wiped

d. \(*N_1 V \) out *The athlete wiped out

(19)

a. \(*N_0 V N_1\) *The trainer burned the athlete

b. \( N_0 V N_1 \) out The trainer burned the athlete out

c. \(*N_1 V\) *The athlete burned

d. \( N_1 V \) out The athlete burned out

These examples demonstrate that the unique set of features \( PV \) out expressions exhibit cannot be predicted solely on the general semantic interpretation, as examples (15)-(19) all mean ‘to exhaust’ and behave syntactically distinct.

There is one combination of acceptable structures, however, that is unattested in our \( PV \) out tables. If the single verb expression is unacceptable \( *N_0 V N_1 \), and it cannot undergo the neutral construction with the particle \( *N_1 V \) out, then it also cannot undergo the neutral construction without the particle. Thus the following combinatory possibility does not seem to exist for \( PV \) out.
If the single verb expression is unacceptable \(*N_0\ V\ N_1\), and it cannot undergo the neutral construction with the particle \(*N_1\ V\ out\), then it cannot undergo the neutral construction without the particle \(*N_1\ V\); thus, it must also have a [-] value under \(N_1\ V\), as in (20) above.

2.3 Simple PV out: The lexicon-grammar table

*Table 1* is a sample lexicon-grammar of the purely simple PV out constructions. The first two columns represent potential subjects, \(N_0\), which are specified for human, \(Nhum\), or non-human, \(N-hum\), followed by a verb and an example of a direct object, \(N_1\), which is also classified as \(Nhum\) or \(N-hum\). The next column, \(N_0\ V\ N_1\), indicates the compositional status of the phrasal verb as defined by a lexicon-grammar approach. A [+\] value under this column indicates the particle is optional, whereas a [-\] value indicates the particle is an essential component to the construction and must therefore be lexically listed as an idiomatic expression. Following this row is the \(N_1\ V\ out\) column, where a [+\] indicates the PV expression can undergo the causative alternation. Finally, the \(N_1\ V\) column demonstrates if the particle is a necessary component for the causative transformation. This row is then followed by the particle *out* and a synonym.
### Table 1

Sample matrix of Simple PV out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Example of N₁</th>
<th>N₁ Nhum</th>
<th>N₁ N-hum</th>
<th>N₁ N Nhum</th>
<th>N₁ N V N₁</th>
<th>N₁ N V out</th>
<th>N₁ N V</th>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ - deck</td>
<td>the room</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>improve</td>
<td>the look of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + drag</td>
<td>the story</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>extend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + draw</td>
<td>the lecture</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>extend</td>
<td>reveal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - draw</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>perform</td>
<td>sexual act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + dry</td>
<td>the tie dye</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + dry</td>
<td>the alcoholic</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>cure of</td>
<td>alcoholism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - eat</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>perform</td>
<td>sexual act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + fake</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>trick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + fatten</td>
<td>the pig</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>make more</td>
<td>fat</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>+ - feel</td>
<td>the situation</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>make an</td>
<td>opinion</td>
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<td>the situation</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>out</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>the lines</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>complete</td>
<td>by writing</td>
</tr>
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<td>+ - fold</td>
<td>the map</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>orders</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>follow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + freak</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>scare</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>feelings</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>reveal by saying</td>
<td>smth difficult</td>
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<td>the news</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>produce</td>
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</tr>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>disgust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>+ - hammer</td>
<td>the issue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>settle</td>
<td>an agreement</td>
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<td>+ + hammer</td>
<td>the metal</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>make flat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ - hear</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>a promise</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>keep secret</td>
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<td>the sheets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>out</td>
<td>make smooth with</td>
<td>iron</td>
<td></td>
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<td>+ + jerk</td>
<td>a thought</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>say quickly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ + knock</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>exhaust</td>
<td></td>
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<td>+ + knock</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>make unconscious by hitting</td>
<td></td>
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<td>+ + knock</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>produce quickly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>the concert</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>endure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At times the particle is necessary for the neutral construction to occur, while in other cases it is not, while still in others the verb does not exhibit the neutral construction at all. The variety of pluses and minuses shows that neither the compositional nature nor the semantic category of the PV expression can be used to predict its syntactic behavior.
3. Complex Constructions

The majority of the data consisting of 361 PV out entries are analyzed in the Complex PV out table. Complex PV out constructions are those which the particle can be analyzed as a locative or prepositional expression that introduces a second complement, N₂, generally by means of the prepositional phrase out of. When complex PV out appears in its simple form, N₀ V N₁ out, the N₂ complement seems to be an intrinsic property of the locative particle. For instance, the simple expression The man scrubbed the gunk out intrinsically entails that he scrubbed the gunk out of something, and thereby gives rise to the more complex expression The man scrubbed the gunk out of the tub. When the second complement, N₂ phrase, is an implicit part of the phrasal verb expression, the construction appears in its simple (continuous or discontinuous) form, N₀ V N₁ out of N₂, appearing only in the discontinuous form. The following sections demonstrate the variety of complex structures transitive PV out’s exhibit.

3.1 Complex PV out: The nature and limits of the locative particle

Complex PV out introduce a longer (implicit or explicit) locative phrase into the construction. Machonis (2009) tests whether the particle can be analyzed as contributing a locative interpretation by replacing the particle with a full prepositional phrase, represented as Prep N₂, where Prep indicates an appropriate directional preposition. A positive value under the column labeled N₀ V N₁ Prep N₂ indicates that the particle may be derived from a locative prepositional phrase, such as (21).

(21) N₀ V N₁ Prep N₂ → N₀ V N₁ out

a. Max squirts water through the hole → Max squirts water out
b. The kids tossed the ball from the window → The kids tossed the ball out
c. The girl was dragging the garbage from the house → The girl was dragging the garbage out
d. The clumsy boy spilled the water from the bucket → The clumsy boy spilled the water out

These examples show that replacing the particle with a full PP entails that the particle is intrinsically locative. The lexicon-grammar tables demonstrate that the nature of the locative phrase is semantically and syntactically varied and complex. First of all, it is not always the case that locative out can be replaced by a full prepositional phrase.

(22) N₀ V N₁ Prep N₂ ≠ N₀ V N₁ out

a. *The manager punched the employee from work → The manager punched the employee out of work

In example (22a) the locative particle cannot be replaced by a full PP; however, it still forms a locative expression. Such examples are indicated with a plus value under the column N₀ V N₁ out of N₂, but a minus under N₀ V N₁ Prep N₂ in the lexicon grammar table.

Secondly, only two types of locative constructions were accepted in the analysis of complex PV out phrases, i.e. directional and spatial expressions. Jackendoff (2002) defines directional particles as full prepositional phrases that can replace the particle (as illustrated in (21a-d)) and select a directional path as its complement. Ishikawa (1999)
defines spatial particles as those which can be replaced by a full PP indicating a spatial relation rather than a directional one, as in (23).

(23) \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep } N_2 \rightarrow N_0 V N_1 \text{ out} \)

a. The parent *blocked* sensitive material *from the internet* \(\rightarrow\) The parent *blocked* the sensitive material *out*
b. The gardener *bedded* the plants *around the garden* \(\rightarrow\) The gardener *bedded* the plants *out*
c. The team *beat* their opponents *from the competition* \(\rightarrow\) The team *beat* their opponents *out*

Both directional and spatial locative phrases were accepted as comprising a complex \(PV \text{ out}\) construction. In contrast, metaphorical particle expressions (Dirven 1997, Baldwin 2002) were excluded from the analysis and the phrasal verb was inputted into the simple \(PV \text{ out}\) table to be interpreted as an aspectual modifier, as in (24).

(24) \( N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep } N_2 \rightarrow \quad N_0 V N_1 \text{ out} \)

a. Jenny had to *blot* the entire experience *from her mind* \(\rightarrow\) Jenny had to *blot* the experience *out*
b. Ty *picked* a name *out of his head* \(\rightarrow\) Ty *picked* a name *out*
c. The students *wiped* the teacher *out of energy* \(\rightarrow\) The students *wiped* the teacher *out*

Once again, there may be more than one entry in the lexicon for a phrasal verb. These separate entries serve to disambiguate lexically similar \(PV\)'s by inserting one in the complex \(PV \text{ out}\) table for the literal expression *to pick a shirt out of the rack* and one in the simple \(PV \text{ out}\) table for the less transparent interpretation *to pick a name out*.

The complex \(PV \text{ out}\) lexicon-grammar charts so far describe a range of structures entailing a variety of relationships. First, the locative or spatio-directional particle *out* can be optionally deleted and the expression is analyzed as compositional, indicated with a plus under the column \(N_0 V N_1\), while idiomatic \(PV \text{ out}\) expressions have a negative value under \(N_0 V N_1\).

(25) \[\begin{array}{lll}
\text{a. Max } & \text{squirts the water} & \leftrightarrow \quad \text{Max squirts the water out (of his mouth)} \quad \text{‘squirt’} \\
\text{b. *Max } & \text{casted Katie} & \leftrightarrow \quad \text{Max casted Katie out (of the group)} \quad \text{‘exclude’} \\
\end{array}\]

While example (25a) illustrates that the \(PV\) is fully compositional, example (25b) shows that although an idiomatic expression, the particle can still be analyzed as locative, i.e. *Max casted Katie out of the group*, showing that the construction is partially compositional. Furthermore, some of these partially compositional expressions can still have the particle replaced by a full PP, shown by a minus in the \(N_0 V N_1\) column but a plus under \(N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep } N_2\), for instance:

(26) *Max casted Katie \(\rightarrow\) Max casted Katie from the group \quad \text{‘exclude’}*

However, other idiomatic expressions cannot, illustrated with a negative under both columns, \(N_0 V N_1\) and \(N_0 V N_1 \text{ Prep } N_2\), such as:

(27) *Max left Katie* \(\rightarrow\) *Max left Katie from the plan \quad \text{‘exclude’}
Examples (26) and (27) highlight how two semantically similar phrasal verbs can have a distinct syntactic behavior. The variety and unpredictability of these expressions is not based on its semantic categorization alone.

3.2 The prepositional phrase *out of constructions*

Transitive *PV out* expressions in the discontinuous form can also appear in a variety of longer structures when the second complement, \( N_2 \), is an explicit part of the construction, representing prepositional phrasal verb expressions. The most common complex *PV out* expression, comprising 85\% of the data, introduces the second complement as an *out of* \( N_2 \) phrase, represented with a plus in the \( N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, of \, N_2 \) column.

\[
(28) \quad N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, of \, N_2
\]

a. The woman *whipped out* the bill \( \leftrightarrow \) The woman *whipped the bill out* \( \rightarrow \) The woman *whipped the bill out of her bag*

b. Manny *washed out* the stain \( \leftrightarrow \) Manny *washed the stain out* \( \rightarrow \) Manny *washed the stain out of the shirt*

c. Lily *picked out* a dress \( \leftrightarrow \) Lily *picked a dress out* \( \rightarrow \) Lily *picked a dress out of the rack*

d. The teacher *flunked out* the boy \( \leftrightarrow \) The teacher *flunked the boy out* \( \rightarrow \) The teacher *flunked the boy out of school*

Likewise, there will be exceptions to the *out of* \( N_2 \) phrase indicating that this is not necessarily a property of all locative *PV out* expressions.

\[
(29) \quad ^*N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, of \, N_2
\]

a. Martha *gave joy to the students* \( \rightarrow \) Martha *gave joy out* \( \rightarrow \) *Martha gave joy out of the students*

b. Katie *put the flowers on the table* \( \rightarrow \) Katie *put the flowers out* \( \rightarrow \) *Katie put the flowers out of the table*

c. We *bedded the plants around the garden* \( \rightarrow \) We *bedded the plants out* \( \rightarrow \) *We bedded the plants out of the garden*

Unacceptable \(^*N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, of \, N_2\) comprise 55 of the 361 entries examined. The tables show that in this form the longer phrase is associated with prepositions, such as to \( N_2 \), around \( N_2 \), and on \( N_2 \), in contrast to the *out of* \( N_2 \) constructions which are closely associated with a *from* \( N_2 \) prepositional phrase (compare columns \( N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, of \, N_2 \) with \( N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, Prep \, N_2 \) in Table 2). In addition, most of these verbs are dative, as in (29a-b), and also include *hand out*, *deal out*, and *email out*, all of which reject the *out of* \( N_2 \) construction.

3.3 The complex *out N₂* construction

Another longer construction appears with the \( N_2 \) itself surfacing directly following the particle, represented as \( N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, N_2 \). As observed in the lexicon grammar tables, the *out N₂* phrase essentially indicates a literal spatio-directional phrase, as in the following examples:

\[
(30) \quad N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, N_2
\]

a. Max *squirted out* the water \( \leftrightarrow \) Max *squirted the water out* \( \rightarrow \) Max *squirted the water out the hole*

b. The kid is *tossing out* the ball \( \leftrightarrow \) The kid is *tossing the ball out* \( \rightarrow \) The kid is *tossing the ball out the window*

c. The student *wheeled out* the keg \( \leftrightarrow \) The student *wheeled the keg out* \( \rightarrow \) The student *wheeled the keg out the door*

d. The house *belched out* smoke \( \leftrightarrow \) The house *belched smoke out* \( \rightarrow \) The house *belched smoke out the chimney*
This structure is not very common appearing in 43 of 361 or 12% of the complex phrases and seems to be dependent on the type of $N_2$ complement that follows the particle. For instance, while examples (30a-d) above are acceptable constructions, changing the $N_2$ in these examples can yield unacceptable expressions, such as (31).

(31) $^*$N$_0$ V N$_1$ out N$_2$

   a. *Max squirted water out the tube
   b. *The kid is tossing the ball out the court
   c. *The student wheeled the keg out the tub
   d. *The house belched smoke out the doors

The acceptability of the $N_0$ V N$_1$ out N$_2$ construction seems to not only be dependent on the meaning of the PV but also on the nature of the $N_2$ complement. If a construction was possible with any $N_2$, we marked it plus, however syntactic variation resulting from differing $N_2$’s is a topic for further research.

3.4 The complex out Prep N$_2$ construction

The second most common locative structure, besides the out of N$_2$ phrase, introduces the second complement $N_2$ conjoined with out plus a prepositional phrase commonly observed as from $N_2$ but also includes to $N_2$, at $N_2$, for $N_2$, on $N_2$, and through $N_2$. The Prep $N_2$ phrase usually introduces a longer locative or spatio-directional phrase; the non-locative or non-spatio-directional type was disregarded. This complex construction is represented with a plus under the column labeled $N_0$ V N$_1$ out Prep N$_2$ where Prep indicates a spatial or directional PP.

(32) N$_0$ V N$_1$ out Prep N$_2$

   a. The students wheeled the keg out through the door
   b. Manny washed the stain out from the shirt
   c. Police officers blocked people out from the parade

There are exceptions to this construction as well. For example, some constructions do not sound so natural yielding unacceptable, or at least awkward, sentence forms as in examples (33).

(33) $^*$N$_0$ V N$_1$ out Prep N$_2$

   a. ?*Sasha showed her uncle out from the house
   b. ?*Teens were booming music out from the window
   c. *The detective sniffed the details out from the crime

Additionally, unlike the out $N_2$ and the out of $N_2$ construction in which the PV must appear in the discontinuous form in order to introduce the $N_2$ into the structure (i.e *The kid tossed out the ball the window and *The reporter yelled out his name of the car), this is not the case with the out Prep $N_2$ phrase. The out Prep $N_2$ construction can appear in both the continuous and the discontinuous form.\textsuperscript{10}
(34) $N_0 \, V \, out \, N_1 \, Prep \, N_2$

a. The students \textit{wheeled out} the keg \textit{through the door}
b. Manny \textit{washed out} the stain \textit{from the shirt}
c. ?Police officers \textit{blocked out} the people \textit{from the parade}

The tables show expressions that reveal both acceptable and unacceptable $N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, Prep \, N_2$ indicated by a plus or minus value under this column. Because of its close relationship to the \textit{out of $N_2$ phrase}, this construction comprises 80% of the data. The column is challenging to fill out as differing opinions accept or reject some of these expressions.

\textit{Table 2} shows the various complex constructions discussed so far. The first two columns represent the potential human and non-human properties of the subject followed by the verb and an example of the $N_1$ also indicating the human/non-human dichotomy. After this, there is the particle \textit{out} and an example of a possible preposition. The $N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, Prep \, N_2$ column indicates whether the particle can be replaced by a full PP. The next three columns show the various complex constructions, namely, the most common $N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, N_2$ phrase, the $N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, Prep \, N_2$ phrase, and the less common $N_0 \, V \, N_1 \, out \, N_2$ phrase discussed above, followed by an example of the $N_2$ marked for the properties human and non-human.
Table 2

Detail of complex PV out chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nm</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Nv</th>
<th>Example of N1</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Nv</th>
<th>Example of N2</th>
<th>Syonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>hose</td>
<td>the rats</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>hollow</td>
<td>the wood</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>hold</td>
<td>the paper</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>hew</td>
<td>branches</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>help</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>heave</td>
<td>the sails</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>have</td>
<td>a tooth</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>hash</td>
<td>the issue</td>
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<td>hang</td>
<td>the washing</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>hand</td>
<td>the papers</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>grind</td>
<td>the rubber</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>gouge</td>
<td>the eyes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>give</td>
<td>my number</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>give</td>
<td>music</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>get</td>
<td>the lipstick</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>get</td>
<td>the prisoner</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>get</td>
<td>the dirt</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>get</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>out</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>get</td>
<td>the nightlife</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>fork</td>
<td>the money</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>fork</td>
<td>the money</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>force</td>
<td>the nail</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>fly</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>fly</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
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<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>the dirt</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>the terrorists</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>flunk</td>
<td>the boy</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>flood</td>
<td>the rats</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Table showing the relationship between PV out and Nm, Nv, N, Np, Ns, Ns, Ns, and<N as well as Synonym. The table includes examples of N1 and N2 with the respective Nm, Nv, and Synonym column.
4. Complex Constructions: Other transformations

Along with transformations like the neutral construction or the causative alternation, which we already observed with the simple PV out, complex PV out expressions can also undergo a variety of transformations, such as \( N_2 \) promotion, reversed constructions and complex neutral structures. Section 4 is dedicated to the variety of transformations complex transitive PV out constructions exhibit in the sense of Harris (1956).

4.1 \( N_2 \) Promotion

Complex PV out structures at times appear in its simple form with the \( N_2 \), the second complement, in the direct object \( N_1 \) position and the \( N_1 \) complement becomes implicit or omitted altogether yielding the relationship \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ \text{out of} \ N_2 \rightarrow N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out} \), which we refer to as \( N_2 \) promotion. The new expression, which promotes the original \( N_2 \) into the \( N_1 \) position, appears to become a simple verb phrase indicated with a plus under the column \( N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out} \). In this form the new expression, derived from the longer prepositional phrase, is reanalyzed as an aspectual modifier appearing once again in both the continuous and discontinuous forms, like (35) and (36).

\[
(35) \quad N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ \text{out of} \ N_2 \rightarrow N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out} \leftrightarrow N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out}
\]

a. The man scrubbed the gunk out of the tub \( \rightarrow \) The man scrubbed the tub out \( \leftrightarrow \) The man scrubbed out the tub

This construction can also be derived from any one of the longer \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ \text{out of} \ N_2, N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ \text{out} \ N_2, \) or \( N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ \text{out Prep} \ N_2 \) structures.

\[
(36) \quad N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out}
\]

a. The girl spilled the water out of the glass \( \rightarrow \) The girl spilled the glass out \( \leftrightarrow \) The girl spilled out the glass
b. Exterminators smoke rats out the house \( \rightarrow \) Exterminators smoke the house out \( \leftrightarrow \) Exterminators smoke out the house
c. Manny washed stains out from the shirt \( \rightarrow \) Manny washed the shirt out \( \leftrightarrow \) Manny washed out the shirt

However, \( N_2 \) promotion is not a property of all complex phrasal verb expressions. Unacceptable expressions are marked by a minus value under the column \( N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out} \), for instance:

\[
(37) \quad N_0 \ V \ N_1 \ \text{out of} \ N_2 \rightarrow *N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out}
\]

a. His parents left Dustin out of the plan \( \rightarrow * \) His parents left the plan out
b. The government flushed the terrorists out of the country \( \rightarrow * \) The government flushed the country out
c. Denise got her girlfriend out of jail \( \rightarrow * \) Denise got jail out

A positive value under the \( N_0 \ V \ N_2 \) column denotes that the new structure is compositional, example (38a), while a negative shows that it is not, (38b).

\[
(38) \quad N_0 \ V \ N_2 \ \text{out} \leftrightarrow N_0 \ V \ N_2
\]

a. The girl spilled the water out of the glass \( \rightarrow \) The girl spilled the glass out \( \leftrightarrow \) The girl spilled the glass
b. The runner wore the rubber out of his shoes \(\rightarrow\) The runner wore out the shoes \(\leftrightarrow\) *The runner wore the shoes

The promotion of the second complement to the \(N_1\) position constitutes 116 of the 361 entries or 32\% of the complex expressions. After this transformation, the number of the purely simple \(PV\) out expressions increases from 200 to 316 constructions representing 56\% of the entire corpus.\(^{11}\) The column labeled \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ out\) in the complex \(PV\) out table shows that the particle, which once stood for a complex phrase \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ out\ of\ N_2\), comprises part of a simple expression of the aspectual type in the form of \(N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\). This column implies that 37\% of purely simple \(PV\) out constructions entail some kind of intrinsically implicit \(N_1\) phrase.

4.2 Reversed Constructions

The structure previously described as \(N_2\) promotion at times can introduce the \(N_1\) back into the expression in the position where the \(N_2\) originated exhibiting a reversed order as in \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ out\ of\ N_2\ \rightarrow\ N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ of\ N_1\). This \(N_1\) and \(N_2\) inversion, comprising 30 of the complex expressions, is also a characteristic of the other longer forms, i.e. the \(N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ N_1\) and \(N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ Prep\ N_1\) phrases described below.

Reversed constructions appear as inverted forms of the \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ out\ of\ N_2\) phrase giving rise to the new expression \(N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ of\ N_1\) indicated by a positive value under the appropriate column, where the \(\leftrightarrow\) indicates a relationship between the two structures that is not necessarily synonymous, for example (39).

\[
(39) \quad N_0\ V\ N_1\ out\ of\ N_2 \leftrightarrow N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ of\ N_1
\]

\[\begin{align*}
\text{a.} & \quad \text{The workers mined the coal out of the cave} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \text{The workers mined the cave out of coal} \\
\text{b.} & \quad \text{The company farmed oil out of the land} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \text{The company farmed the land out of oil} \\
\text{c.} & \quad \text{The scientist filtered chemicals out of the water} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \text{The scientist filtered the water out of chemicals} \\
\text{d.} & \quad \text{Max squirted the paste out of the tube} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \text{Max squirted the tube out of paste}
\end{align*}\]

As the lexicon-grammar tables illustrate, not all of the \(N_2\) promotions can be reanalyzed as reversed constructions, indicated with a negative value in \(N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ of\ N_1\), as in (40).

\[
(40) \quad N_0\ V\ N_1\ out\ of\ N_2 \leftrightarrow *N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ of\ N_1
\]

\[\begin{align*}
\text{a.} & \quad \text{The terminator hosed the rats out of the house} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad *\text{The terminator hosed the house out of the rats} \\
\text{b.} & \quad \text{The cleaner shook the dirt out of the rug} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad *\text{The cleaner shook the rug out of dirt} \\
\text{c.} & \quad \text{Alex sanded the stains out of the wood} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad *\text{Alex sanded the wood out of stains} \\
\text{d.} & \quad \text{The therapist rubbed the pain out of my shoulder} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad *\text{The therapist rubbed my shoulder out of pain}
\end{align*}\]

4.3 Reversed constructions derived from dative verbs

Another type of reversed construction is derived from the \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ Prep\ N_2\) and \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ out\ Prep\ N_2\) forms appearing as \(N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ N_1\), in which the \(of\) and \(Prep\) is omitted in the inversion. This new structure is derived from dative verbs as it is the object of the PP that is moving into the \(N_1\) position. This structure is illustrated in the following examples indicated with a plus sign under the column \(N_0\ V\ N_2\ out\ N_1\) in the lexicon-grammar table\(^{12}\).
These examples show that dative verbs, like make, send, print, pour, hand, pass, give, and rent commonly followed by a Prep N phrase, undergo the reversed order. Prior to the inversion the expression can appear in both continuous and discontinuous forms (The teacher handed some papers out to the students ← The teacher handed out some papers to the students), but can no longer do so after the inversion (*The teacher handed out the students some papers). Regular transitive verbs do not accept this particular inverted construction, marked with a minus under N0 V N2 out N1.

In Table 3 the columns following the preposition illustrate the acceptable N0 V N1 out of N2, N0 V N1 out N2 and N0 V N1 out Prep N2 followed by an example of the N2 marked for human and nonhuman features. The N0 V N2 out column, discussed in 4.1, shows the constructions which can promote the N2 to the N1 position reappearing in its simple form, and the N0 V N2 column reveals the compositionality of the new expression. Following this column are the reversed structures, N0 V N2 out of N1, N0 V N2 out N1 and N0 V N2 out Prep N1. Ultimately all expressions have the property of appearing in the simple continuous and discontinuous forms N0 V N1 out ← N0 V out N1 by deleting the N2 PP following the verb.
Table 3

Sample of Complex PV out matrix highlighting the reversed constructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Example of N1</th>
<th>N1: N1hum</th>
<th>N1: Nhum</th>
<th>N2: N1hum</th>
<th>N2: Nhum</th>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Prep PV1</th>
<th>Prep N2</th>
<th>Prep PV2</th>
<th>Prep N2</th>
<th>Example of N2</th>
<th>N2: N1hum</th>
<th>N2: Nhum</th>
<th>N2: N1hum</th>
<th>N2: Nhum</th>
<th>N2: N1hum</th>
<th>N2: Nhum</th>
<th>N2: N1hum</th>
<th>N2: Nhum</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>email</td>
<td>- + out to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the students</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>email</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td>empty</td>
<td>- + out from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the dishwasher</td>
<td>- + + -</td>
<td>- + + -</td>
<td>empty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>even</td>
<td>- + out on</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the street</td>
<td>- + + -</td>
<td>- + + -</td>
<td>make even</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>farm</td>
<td>- + out from</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>the land</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>exhaust by drilling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>filter</td>
<td>+ + out from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the land</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>get rid of by filtering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flatten</td>
<td>+ + out on</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the street</td>
<td>+ + + +</td>
<td>+ + + +</td>
<td>make flat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flesh</td>
<td>+ + out from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the story</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>give reality to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flood</td>
<td>+ + out from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the house</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>get rid of by flooding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>- + out from</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>the house</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>- + + +</td>
<td>get rid of with water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td>fork</td>
<td>- + out to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>give</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>give</td>
<td>- + out to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the group</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>+ + - -</td>
<td>distribute</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>grind</td>
<td>- + out from</td>
<td>+ + - +</td>
<td>the tires</td>
<td>- + + -</td>
<td>- + + -</td>
<td>exhaust by rubbing</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td>hand</td>
<td>- + out to</td>
<td>+ - - +</td>
<td>the class</td>
<td>- + - -</td>
<td>- + - -</td>
<td>distribute</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4.4 The Causative Alternation and Neutral Structures in Complex Constructions

Similar to section 2.2, which illustrated the causative alternation or the neutral construction in simple PV constructions, i.e. \( N_0 \ V N_1 \ out \rightarrow N_1 \ V out \), complex phrasal verb expressions can also undergo this transformation followed by a variety of acceptable and unacceptable longer locative phrases. The most common prepositional phrasal verb expression which undergoes the causative alternation is the \( N_1 \ V out \ of N_2 \) phrase, as in (43).

\[ (43) \quad N_0 \ V N_1 \ out \ of N_2 \rightarrow N_1 \ V \ out \ of N_2 \]

a. The girl spilled the water out of the glass \( \rightarrow \) The water spilled out of the glass
b. Manny washed the stain out of the shirt \( \rightarrow \) The stain washed out of the shirt
c. The carpenter screws the nail out of the wood \( \rightarrow \) The nail screws out of the wood
The construction is also prone to the longer complex version:

(44) \( N_1 V \text{ out from } N_2 \)
    a. The water *spilled out* from the glass

Moreover, this complex neutral construction can yield a new expression of the form \( N_1 V \text{ out } N_2 \).

(45) \( N_0 \text{ V } N_1 \text{ out of } N_2 \rightarrow N_1 V \text{ out } N_2 \)
    a. The water *spilled out* the glass

However, in these cases it cannot appear in both the continuous and discontinuous order.

(46) a. *The water spilled the glass out*\(^{14}\)

The column labeled \( N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2 \) shows whether the particle can be replaced by a PP in the neutral form.

(47) \( N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2 \rightarrow N_1 V \text{ out } N_2 \)
    a. The water *spilled out* the glass \( \rightarrow \) The water *spilled* from the glass

The particle cannot be substituted by a PP in all cases.

(48) \( N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2 \rightarrow \ast N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2 \)
    a. The umpire *struck* the player *out of* the game
    b. The player *struck out* of the game \( \rightarrow \ast *The player struck from the game

Altogether we get the following six possible combinations of neutral structures from simple to complex expressions, as in (49) and (50).

(49) The scientist *squirited* chemicals *out* the hole \( \rightarrow \)
    a. \( N_1 V \text{ out} \) The chemicals *squirited out*
    b. \( N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2 \) The chemicals *squirited out* of the hole
    c. \( N_1 V \text{ out Prep } N_2 \) The chemicals *squirited out* from the hole
    d. \( N_1 V \text{ out } N_2 \) The chemicals *squirited out* the hole
    e. \( N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2 \) The chemicals *squirited* from the hole

(50) The band was *booming* the music *out* the window \( \rightarrow \)
    a. \( N_1 V \text{ out} \) Music was *booming out*
    b. \( N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2 \) Music was *booming out* of the window
    c. \( N_1 V \text{ out Prep } N_2 \) Music was *booming out* through the window
    d. \( N_1 V \text{ out } N_2 \) Music was *booming out* the window
    e. \( N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2 \) Music was *booming* through the window
While some expressions exhibit each one of these longer structures as in (49) and (50), not all the phrasal verb expressions that undergo neutrality display each combination, as in examples (51) – (60).

(51) The carpenter *screws* the nail out of the wood →
   a. $N_1 V$ out The nail *screws out*
   b. $N_1 V$ out of $N_2$ The nail *screws out of* the wood
   c. $*N_1 V$ out Prep $N_2$ *The nail *screws out from* the wood
   d. $*N_1 V$ out $N_2$ *The nail *screws out* the wood
   e. $*N_1 V$ Prep $N_2$ *The nail *screws* from the wood

Employing Levin’s (1993) verb classes, some expressions seem to reveal similar combinatorial properties with some slight variations based on general semantic classes, as shown by the following *verbs of sound emission*.

(52) Verbs of sound emission

   a. The musicians were blasting / booming / blaring music out of the house
   b. Music was blasting / booming / blaring out
   c. Music was blasting / booming / blaring out of the house
   d. Music was ?blasting / ?booming / ?blaring out the house
   e. Music was blasting / booming / blaring from the house

These examples, however, comprise a minority of the verbs within a particular verb class. For instance, of the 15 *verbs of sound emission*, only three, as illustrated in (52), exhibit syntactically similar properties in the neutral or causative alternation. The following examples show syntactic behavior can vary even within the same general semantic class:

(53)

   a. The musicians banged / clapped / thumped / tapped music out
   b. The musicians ?banged / *clapped / *thumped / *tapped music out of the house
   c. Music *banged / *clapped / *thumped / *tapped out
   d. Music *banged / *clapped / *thumped / *tapped out of the house
   e. Music *banged / *clapped / *thumped / *tapped out the house
   f. Music *banged / *clapped / *thumped / *tapped from the house

Other examples show that variation can be attributed to the arguments of the verb, governing the possible syntactic combinations the expressions reveal as in the unacceptability of *The musician roared the music out*, in contrast to *The musician roared the announcement out*. 
Similar behavior is seen in Levin’s ‘verbs of removing’ class:\(^{16}\):

(54) \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Verbs of removing}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
   a. & \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ \text{out}\ \text{of}\ \ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} Manny cleaned / rinsed / rubbed / washed stains out of the shirt \\
   b. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\) \hspace{1cm} The stain *cleaned / rinsed / rubbed / washed out \\
   c. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\ \text{of}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} The stain *cleaned / rinsed / rubbed / washed out of the shirt \\
   d. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\ \text{ Prep}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} The stain *cleaned / *rinsed / *rubbed / *washed out from the shirt \\
   e. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} The stain *cleaned / ?rinsed / ?rubbed / *washed out the shirt \\
   f. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{ Prep}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} The stain *cleaned / *rinsed / *rubbed / *washed from the shirt \\
\end{tabular}

Likewise, the following ‘verbs of substance emission’ show a high degree of variability when the arguments are kept constant.

(55) \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Verbs of substance emission}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
   a. & \(N_0\ V\ N_1\ \text{out}\ \text{of}\ \ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} Max spewed / spilled / spit / spurted / *squeeze / squirted water out of his mouth \\
   b. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\) \hspace{1cm} Water spewed / spilled / spit / spurted / *squeezed / squirted out \\
   c. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\ \text{of}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} Water spewed / spilled / spit / spurted / *squeezed / squirted out of his mouth \\
   d. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\ \text{ Prep}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} Water *spewed / spilled / spit / spurted / *squeezed / squirted out from his mouth \\
   e. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{out}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} Water *spewed / spilled / spit / spurted / *squeezed / squirted out his mouth \\
   f. & \(N_1\ V\ \text{ Prep}\ N_2\) \hspace{1cm} Water *spewed / spilled / spit / spurted / *squeezed / squirted from his mouth \\
\end{tabular}

Changing the arguments can demonstrate a higher degree of syntactic similarity as in the following examples where the neutral construction in its prepositional phrasal form are acceptable, as opposed to (55), solely by modifying the arguments of the prepositional phrase.

(56)

\begin{tabular}{ll}
   a. & Water spewed out of his mouth \leftrightarrow Water spewed out his mouth \\
   b. & Water spilled out of the bucket \leftrightarrow Water spilled out the bucket \\
   c. & Water spits out of the sprinklers \leftrightarrow *Water spits out the sprinklers \\
   d. & Water spurted out of the sprinklers \leftrightarrow *Water spurted out the sprinklers \\
   e. & Water squeezes out of the sponge \leftrightarrow *Water squeezes out the sponge \\
   f. & Water squirted out of the tube \leftrightarrow Water squirted out the tube \\
\end{tabular}

Other examples, though not synonymous, show that the same \(PV\ \text{out}\) demonstrate similar syntactic formations with varying arguments, one giving rise to the literal interpretation and the other the more idiomatic one, as exemplified with the \(PV\ \text{ roll out}\).

(57)

\begin{tabular}{ll}
   a. & Max rolled the chair out of the house\(^{17}\) \hspace{1cm} a. The company rolled the products out of the factory \\
   b. & The chair rolled out \hspace{1cm} b. The products rolled out \\
   c. & The chair rolled out of the house \hspace{1cm} c. The products rolled out of the factory \\
   d. & ?The chair rolled out the house \hspace{1cm} d. ?The products rolled out the factory \\
   e. & *The chair rolled from the house \hspace{1cm} e. *The products rolled from the factory \\
\end{tabular}
But changing the phrasal verb yet not the meaning or the arguments can yield radically different acceptable constructions, as seen by comparing the literal PV *roll out the chair* with the semantically similar expression *wheel out the chair*.

(58)
- a. Max wheeled the chair out of the house
- b. *The chair wheeled out
- c. *The chair wheeled out of the house
- d. *The chair wheeled out the house
- e. *The chair wheeled from the house

The direct object of the verb can be responsible for the possible combinatorial properties of each expression, like (59).

(59)
- a. Max printed his name out (on the paper) → *His name printed out (on the paper) *write in print*
- b. Max printed the papers out (of the computer) → The papers printed out (of the computer) *print from computer*

In other expressions it is the arguments of the prepositional phrase that serve to disambiguate expressions and govern the acceptability of possible transformations. In these examples unless the prepositional phrase is made explicit, disambiguation is purely contextual, as in (60).

(60)
- a. The pitcher struck Max out of the list → *Max struck out of the list *erase*
- b. The pitcher struck Max out of the game → Max struck out of the game *strike out in baseball*

In sum, examples (52)–(53) demonstrate how morpho-syntactic similarity can be seen in general semantic categories illustrated with the *verbs of sound emission*. However, these examples show that only a few *sound emission* verbs display similar combinatorial features. Other broad semantic classes demonstrated more varied structural combinations as in (54)-(55), but by changing the argument more suitable to the expression reveals a higher degree of combinatorial similarities, as in (56)-(57). This information is unpredictable based on general semantic classes, (49)-(56), nor the meaning of the PV as demonstrated by (57)-(58). Many of these expressions can be disambiguated by distinguishing between the purely simple form and the (implicit or explicit) prepositional phrasal form, (57), while others can only be disambiguated by the nature of its prepositional complement or context (60).

4.5 Reversed-neutral Constructions

In addition to the complex neutral structures, in some cases the second complement, $N_2$, may even rise to the subject position of the sentence, exhibiting structures similar to Salkoff’s (1983) ‘swarm alternation’ in what we refer to as the reversed-neutral construction. In other words, the original $N_2$ complement appears in the $N_0$ subject position indicated with a plus under $N_2 V out N_1$. This new expression can then once again appear in both the continuous and discontinuous order.
(61) \[ N_0 V N_1 \text{ out of } N_2 \rightarrow N_2 V \text{ out } N_1 \leftrightarrow N_2 V N_1 \text{ out} \]

a. The kids squirted water out of the gun \[ \rightarrow \] The gun squirted out water \[ \leftrightarrow \] The gun squirted water out

b. Max prints papers out of the computer \[ \rightarrow \] The computer prints out papers \[ \leftrightarrow \] The computer prints papers out

c. The couple rents out movies from the store \[ \rightarrow \] The store rents out movies \[ \leftrightarrow \] The store rents movies out

d. The business churns clothes out of the factory \[ \rightarrow \] The factory churns out clothes \[ \leftrightarrow \] The factory churns clothes out

e. The government pumps money out of banks \[ \rightarrow \] Banks pump out money \[ \leftrightarrow \] Banks pump money out

In few cases reversed-neutral structures may even appear as longer complex constructions in which the \( N_1 \) appears as part of a longer locative phrase, as in (62).

(62) \[ N_2 V \text{ out of } N_1 \]

a. The store rents out of movies
b. The streets cleared out of people\(^{18}\)
c. The water filters out of chemicals
d. The gun squirted out of water
e. The tube squeezes out of jelly

There can also be a significant change in meaning between the constructions, as ‘The store rents movies out’ implies that there are movies available for renting, whereas ‘The store rents out of movies’ implies that there are none left.

Table 4 illustrates some of the \( PV \text{ out} \) expressions that exhibit the complex neutral and reversed-neutral structures. Following the example of an \( N_2 \) phrase, we see the most common complex neutral constructions of the \( N_1 V \text{ out of } N_2 \) form, and then the slightly less common \( N_1 V \text{ out Prep } N_2 \). The next structure is the less complex \( N_1 V \text{ out } N_2 \), followed by \( N_1 V \text{ Prep } N_2 \) which shows whether the particle can be replaced by a full PP in the neutral order. Finally the columns \( N_2 V \text{ out } N_1 \) and \( N_2 V \text{ out of } N_1 \) illustrate the variety of reversed-neutral constructions.
**Table 4**

Sample matrix of complex PV out highlighting neutral and semi-neutral constructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$N_0$: N-hum</th>
<th>$N_0$: N-hum</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Example of $N_1$</th>
<th>$N_1$: N-hum</th>
<th>$N_1$: N-hum</th>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Example of $N_2$</th>
<th>$N_2$: N-hum</th>
<th>$N_2$: N-hum</th>
<th>$N_1$: N-hum</th>
<th>$N_1$: N-hum</th>
<th>$N_1$: N-hum</th>
<th>$N_1$: N-hum</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
<td>bark</td>
<td>commands</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>the speakers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>belch</td>
<td>smoke</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>the chimney</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>from</td>
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<td>from</td>
<td>the plan</td>
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<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
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<td>from</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ -</td>
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<td>anger</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>POSS-0 eyes</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>the movies</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>from</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>the tube</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>squirt</td>
<td>water</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>the tube</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Conclusions

Table 5 illustrates the complete set of structural combinations of complex PV out analyzed in this article.

Table 5
Sample matrix of complex transitive phrasal verbs with the particle out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Example of N1</th>
<th>Example of N2</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Preposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>factor</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fan</td>
<td>the cards</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farm</td>
<td>the oil</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farm</td>
<td>the vegetables</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farm</td>
<td>the workers</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filter</td>
<td>chemicals</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fish</td>
<td>the shells</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flash</td>
<td>anger</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>flatten</td>
<td>the pavement</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
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<td>characters</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flush</td>
<td>the boy</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flush</td>
<td>the dirt</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flush</td>
<td>the terrorists</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fly</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fly</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>out</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As we can see, each phrasal verb expression exhibits a range of various properties. While some properties can be attributed to verb class, verb complements, stress and intonation, and pragmatics, our lexicon-grammar analysis demonstrates that this information is highly lexical, in that unique combinations of pluses or minuses in the matrix apply to individual verbs. Although some of these judgments might vary from dialect to dialect, Table 6 demonstrates the relative frequency of the various structures studied in this article.
### Table 6

Relative frequency for structures of transitive phrasal verbs with the particle *out*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Simple PV out</th>
<th>Complex PV out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>36%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Simple PV out</th>
<th>Complex PV out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple PV out</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositional</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-compositional</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple PV out</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositional</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-compositional</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N out of N out</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N out of N out</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N promotion</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversed constructions</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversed Dative</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral Constructions</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Neutral</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N out of N out</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversed-neutral</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transitive *PV out* expressions can exhibit a combination of up to 25 morpho-syntactic features. At present, syntactic theories do not take into account the range of variability that lexicon-grammar demonstrates, resulting in many competing analyses (Jackendoff 1997, Hoekstra 1988, Olsen 2000, Dehe 2002) on the governing principles of *PV* expressions. A lexicon-grammar approach raises some imperative questions about the underlying principles that govern verb phrases, while providing a thorough depiction of the data along with a systematic analysis of the possible and impossible structural and semantic features. This syntactic description can thereby provide competing theories with an empirical framework to verify hypotheses and account for transformations that phrasal verbs undergo. In addition to the present syntactic investigation, we have been classifying the semantic properties of *PV out*. This new data so far shows that phrasal verbs with *out* can entail a continuum of 10 aspectral features, ranging from inchoative to exhaustive, and varying degrees of intensification. In the future, the data of these two studies would be combined thus creating a principled mapping between the syntax and semantics and thereby contribute to the development of a restrictive theory of grammar.

---

1. In the case of a pronominal direct object, the particle must appear in the discontinuous order.

   \[ N_0 \text{ V ProN}_1 \text{ out} \leftrightarrow *N_0 \text{ V out ProN}_1; \text{ Clowns totally freak him out} \leftrightarrow *\text{Clowns totally freak out him} \]

2. The corpora of *PV out* entries is an extension of a previously constructed table by Machonis (2009b.) while the remainder were collected from the Longman Phrasal Verb Dictionary, online dictionary websites, such as dictionary.com and urbandictionary.com, and in books and linguistic articles cited. Also, *PV* constructions are highly productive since native speakers constantly create new expressions; these expressions would need to be added to the corpora as they appear.

3. Both literal and metaphorical interpretations were considered as compositional as long as the single verb expression was semantically acceptable and relatively synonymous with the phrasal verb expression.

4. All *PV*s in the data can appear in the continuous and discontinuous order, thereby excluding idiomatic expressions of the ‘frozen’ or ‘fixed’ type, like examples in Jackendoff (2002) *Harold sang his heart out*, in which particle movement is not possible: *Harold sang out his heart.*

5. For each sense of the *PV out* expression, a separate entry was added to the lexicon-grammar table. In this case, one for the literal meaning of *The gangster took the boy out* meaning ‘to take’ and one for the idiomatic meaning ‘to kill’.
The example *The athlete wiped out* is a well-formed sentence but is an intransitive PV and not synonymous with *The trainer wiped the athlete out* meaning ‘to exhaust’, hence the reason for its unacceptability in this example.

Machonis (2009: 256) observes that this combination is possible with particle verbs with *up*. This combination of features is exemplified in Machonis’ article with the verb *stink up*, which demonstrates the morpho-syntactic combination which *PV out* does not seem to exhibit.

a. *The old food stinks the room*
b. The old food stinks up the room
c. The room stinks
d. *The room stinks up*

That locative *out* cannot be replaced by a full prepositional phrase is especially true in the more idiomatic expressions as omitting the particle and replacing it with a PP renders the expression unacceptable. However, it will be shown that even the particle in some idiomatic expressions can be replaced by a full PP, illustrating the variety of combinatorial properties of these expressions.

Max left Katie does not mean the same as Max left Katie *out*; thus, the single verb expression is considered unacceptable.

In other cases, it has been observed (Olsen 1996, Dehé 2002) that the particle *out* may surface in the discontinuous form following the *Prep N* phrase as in *Prep N*.

a. The student filled the application from the website *out*
In this example, the prepositional phrase is a fairly productive adjectival modifier and so the particle can appear in three different positions, the continuous order, the discontinuous order, and after the *Prep N* phrase:

b. The student filled *out* the application (out) from the website (out)
While this *Prep N* phrase indicates adjectival modification of the *N*, it is not the type of syntactic prepositional phrase under discussion. In fact, the type of locative PP under analysis cannot appear at the end of the construction (i.e. *The students wheeled the keg through the door out* and only two structures are acceptable, namely *NNV N N* or *NNV N* out *Prep N*.

This number does not include expressions which can undergo the derivation, but in doing so the meaning changes, as in:

a. The student checked the books out of the library → The student checked out the library
While the new expression is an acceptable construction, it is not synonymous with the original longer structure and therefore a [-] under the *NNV N out* column.

This syntactic behavior was also observed by den Dikken (1995) and Dehé (2002), in the following examples:

a. They sent a schedule *out to the stockholders* ↔ They sent the stockholders *out* a schedule
   (den Dikken 1995:55f.)
b. Andrew will *print* a copy *out for his teacher* ↔ Andrew will *print* his teacher *out* a copy
c. Susan poured a drink *out to the man* ↔ Susan poured the man *out* a drink
   (Dehé 2002:2)

Dehé (2002) refers to complex particle verbs as the *NNV N out N* type and gives the example *He made John out a liar* which appears to be derived from the construction *He made a liar out of John*. This PV was not included in the data because it cannot appear in the simple continuous and discontinuous order (*He made a liar out ↔ *He made out a liar*), and therefore not the type of PVs analyzed in this paper.

This expression is not synonymous with *The water spilled out the glass*.

This example has an alternative meaning which seems to surface when an adverb follows the expression, i.e. *The nail screws out the wood easily*. This is known as the ‘pseudo-passive’ construction and was not considered in the analysis since these constructions do not imply an agentive subject.

It was commonly brought to attention that some of these questionable examples seem to sound better when followed by an adverb exhibiting the ‘pseudo-passive’ construction, as in *The stain rinses/ washes/ rubs* out *the shirt easily*. Again pseudo-passive constructions were not considered in the analysis, and thereby marked [-].

As noted, changing the arguments of the verb yields differing syntactically acceptable constructions; thus, in this example changing *chair* to *ball* results in acceptable constructions in (57a-e) and (58a-e).
This example comes from *The police cleared the people out of the streets* forming the new expression *The streets cleared out of people*. Depending on the speaker, some of these expressions vary in acceptability.

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