

FUMC ESL 6-1-2015 Advanced Lesson

Is it Burn Up or Burn Down?

We say we burned up all the wood in the fireplace. We wouldn't say we burned down all the wood. On the other hand, our houses burn down, not up.

Burn up comes from the idea that the thing is used up. Fuel is used and is used up. Burn down usually means something has burned down to the ground. All structure and support is gone.

One might say that "all my stuff was burned up in the fire when my house burned down." You'd be less likely to hear "my house burned up," but it is not totally unheard of usage.

There's also a common third option—"burn through"—which evokes the idea of a wave of fire moving across or through something. "I burned through all my money at that casino in about two hours."

Fill in the blanks with either "burn up" or "burn down".

The satellite will _____ as it enters the earth's atmosphere.

It is so hot in here. I'm _____.

The old building _____ during the electrical storm.

Jet engines _____ all their fuel quickly.

When you are very angry about something, you are burned up not burned down. EX: It just burns me up that Kyle gets to go first every time. It burns me up when others take credit for my design.

Is it Back Up or Back Down?

If you come to an obstacle that you can't get through, you have to back up and go around. If traffic backs up, a long line forms and everyone moves slowly if at all. If your sink backs up, there is a clog and the water cannot get through. If you ask someone to back you up, you are asking for their support. If you back up your computer, you save all the information on it to another drive or device. If someone is telling you a story and you ask them to back up, you are asking them to go back to an earlier point in the story.

You can back up your car, but you usually back down your driveway. If you back down from a fight, you quit resisting and withdraw.

IN YOUR GROUPS Read the paragraph below. This is a funny paragraph because we don't usually want to annoy the teacher. After reading and discussing Wahid Sali's paragraph, write one of your own on one of the subjects given.

How to Annoy Your Teacher by Wahid Sali from Pakistan

Annoying your teacher is easy if you follow these simple directions. First, go to class late every day. When you are in class, don't pay attention to what the teacher is saying. Instead, look out the window at some beautiful girls, or talk to your friends loudly. Leave class at least twice to smoke a cigarette in the hall. Ask to go to the restroom often. When the teacher is writing on the board, make funny noises, or throw paper. Chew gum in class and stick it on your chair when you leave. If you follow these directions carefully you'll most likely be thrown out of class.

Write a “how to” paragraph on one of the following topics. Read it to the class.

How to lose your girlfriend/boyfriend.

How to lose a race.

How to rescue a maiden in distress from a tall tower.

How to make yourself unattractive.