

**Introduce yourself by saying your name and your country. Then answer this question.**

What were the best years of your life, so far?

**Read these examples. In your own words, tell your fellow students what is happening in the sentence.**

1. I don't understand. Could you go back to the beginning?
2. The kids went back to the museum the next day to try to find the lost wallet.
3. I crawled back to the end of the closet, where I finally found the missing shoe.
4. We took the train back to Dallas because the plane was full.
5. We took the plane back from Dallas after the game.
6. We went back to riding the bus after we found we couldn't park our car there.
7. I'll be back from the store by the time Elizabeth arrives to pick you up.
8. Please give this plate back to your mother for me.

*Which sentence above means "start over"?*

*Do "back to" and "back from" mean the same thing?*

*Which sentence means someone is returning something?*

*If your shirt is on "backwards" what does that mean?*

*Does "backwards" mean the same thing as "inside out"?*

*If you "crawl back to the end of the closet" are you crawling backwards?*

**Read these "back" idioms and answer the questions.**

1. You never called me back.

- I used to complain to my children when they were in college that they never called me back. Are you good about returning your parent's phone calls?

2. Get back! The car might explode.

--What hand motions are associated with "get back!"?

3. After she was fired, she tried to get back at her boss by reporting him for using bad language.

-Is "getting back" at someone the same as "getting revenge"? Would you ever try to get revenge if someone did something bad to you? Do you understand people that want to get revenge?

4. I will get back to you as soon as I know how much the repairs will cost. I need to get back to my homework now that I've had a nice visit with you.

5. We had to cut back expenses after John lost his job.

--What is something in your budget you could cut back on if you had to cut back expenses?

--What is something you could **cut out entirely**?

6. We watched back to back episodes of Breaking Bad last night.

--What TV shows do you watch?

--Have you ever watched back to back episodes?

--Do you ever watch TV shows online?

He had back to back illnesses last month. As soon as he got over the cold, he contracted a stomach virus.

7.They backed out of the deal after we explained the cost.

-- Have you ever volunteered for something, then backed out when you realized what was required?

8.He is very aggressive and will never back down from a fight.

Just back off, buddy! No one wants a fight.

To back down and back off mean very similar things. But back off is generally used when someone is being aggressive. Back down can be used when someone is being aggressive, or just being stubborn.

Example: The mayor insisted on a 10 PM curfew for all teenagers. But he backed down after the teens explained there were good reasons for them to be out past 10.

Back off is usually said with more emotion.

9. We backed down the driveway very carefully for fear of hitting the gate. Back up just a little bit.

The strange thing about English is that back down and back up mean the same thing.

10. We drew the plans based on the wrong measurements. Now we're back to square one. Oh well, back to the drawing board. These two sayings mean virtually the same thing.