

FUMC ESL 10-22-2015 Level 3 Lesson Using Back to/ Back from

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.

There are many phrasal verbs and idioms with "back". Read them and explain their meaning.

1. You never called me back.
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.
4. I will get back to you as soon as I have the figures on the merger. 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 The Office 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.

11. She was late again today. This may be the straw that broke the camel's back.

12. The trouble between the two countries dates back to World War II.

--Does your country have issues with another country because of something that dates back many years? Is it harder for countries to forget than for people to forget?

13. We doubled back and picked up Charlie. If you double back, you go back in the opposite direction.

14. I have a large savings account. It makes me feel good knowing I have something to fall back on. -- Who do you fall back on when you need help?

15. I'd like you to meet Jack. He's a friend of mine from way back.

--A friend told me this weekend that old friends are the best friends. Do you agree with this?

--Do you have many friends from "way back"?

16. I've had a hard time getting back on my feet since the fire.

--When we're knocked down by life, we have to get back on our feet. Describe a time when you had to "get back on your feet".

17. Mom, get off my back! I will get my homework turned in on time.

If someone is "on your back" all the time, we say they are nagging. People who constantly ask you if you are going to get something done, nag you.

--Did your parents nag you when you were young?

--Do you nag your children? Are you "on their backs" a lot?

--What do you nag your spouse about?

18. Jack agreed to help with the carnival, but, as usual, he went back on his word.

--What does the phrase (as usual) tell you about Jack?

19. If I think back on it, I realize that Maria never acted kindly to my mother.

When we think back, we are using hindsight. There is a saying, "Hindsight is 20-20."

--What do you think that means?

20. With the backing of my parents, I was able to finish law school. He was able to start his own business because his uncle was backing him.

--Backing someone is supporting them, either financially or with support. Did you have backing from your parents when you went to college?

--Is your government backing you while you attend school here?