

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. What do you do for exercise?

Vocabulary: Using ACROSS, OVER and THROUGH

Across and **over** can both be used to mean to the other side. EX: Their village is just across/over the border. See if you can jump across/over the stream. But when we talk about high things, we generally prefer “over”. EX: Why are you climbing over (not across) the wall? She quickly climbed over (not across) the tall fence.

For flat areas, we prefer “across”. EX: Camels walk across (not over) the desert without drinking much water. It took them six hours to row across (not over) the lake.

Through is different in meaning than across. You walk *across* the ice because it is a flat sheet of ice. But you walk *through* the forest because there are trees on all sides of you.

And, of course, **CROSS** is a verb that means to go across something. EX: We crossed the country searching for the perfect place to build a house. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it. NOTE: Cross can also be an adjective meaning annoyed or angry. Cross can also be a noun meaning two lines that cross each other.

Put across, through or over in the blanks.

1. The burglars came _____ the back door.
2. Gas flows _____ those pipes.
3. We followed the guide _____ the bushes.
4. We jumped _____ a fence and went _____ some thick brush.
5. The pharmacy is _____ the street from the bank.
6. If you look _____ the back window, you can see the neighbor's back yard.
7. We studied _____ the night and took the test first thing in the morning.
8. The dog ran _____ the field and into the woods.
9. I saw you climbing _____ the wall.
10. We swam _____ the river.
11. The bombers flew _____ London during the Blitz.
12. The helicopter was hovering _____ the capitol.

Idioms:

1-If you try to “get across” your ideas, you try to explain them to someone. EX: We couldn't get across to the policeman that we were all friends and the fight was all in fun.

Do you have a hard time getting across your meaning when you are speaking English?

2-If you “cut across”, you take a shortcut. EX: The policeman yelled at me because I cut across the grass. He wanted me to stay on the sidewalk.

3-If something is “over your head” it is beyond your ability to understand. EX: The physics professor was explaining why airplanes can fly, but it was over my head. I don't understand physics.

Advanced math classes were over my head. I had to drop out of some of them and take history and literature instead of math and science.

Is there a subject in school that was “over your head”.

4-If something is “over the top” it is excessive. EX: The rich family gave their one year old a birthday party that was over the top. They brought in an entire circus to perform for the guests.

Have you ever been to a wedding or party that was over the top?

5-If you are “over” something, you no longer worry about it. EX: I’m not upset with Stan for breaking up with me. I’m over it now. Sara is still very sad. She can’t seem to get over her brother’s death. I was obsessed with video games when I was younger, but I’m over that now.

Have you ever had a hard time getting over something?

6-If you have a “makeover” someone fixes your hair and make up and helps you choose nice clothes. EX: The TV show chooses someone each week to receive a makeover.

Have you ever had a makeover? Would you like to have a free makeover?

7-If you are “over the hump” you are past the hardest part. EX: I’ve been working on this research project for months, but I’m over the hump now. All I have to do is check over my paper and write a bibliography.

Do you feel like you are “over the hump” in learning English? In other words, you have the hardest part behind you.

8-If you feel really exhausted and tired, you might feel like “death warmed over”. EX: I’m over the worst part of the flu, but I still feel like death warmed over. I wonder when I will feel energetic and happy again.

Describe a time when you felt like death warmed over.

Read and discuss these conversations:

Sara: I sent you a letter asking if I could come visit. The next day I get a letter from you saying you were coming to visit me.

Jane: Our letters must have **crossed in the mail**. I have to come to your city for work and thought we could spend the weekend together.

Bonnie: He stood there staring at us with his **arms crossed** and a scowl on his face. I don't think he likes us.

Linda: Yeah, he acted like we were going to do something bad. I got the feeling he didn't trust us at all.

Lon: What is a mule? I thought a mule was the same as a horse.

Lee: No. If you **cross** a donkey with a horse, you get a mule. And mules can't reproduce. The only way to get a mule is to **crossbreed** the donkey and horse.

Ginger: Will you **cross my name off** the list of volunteers? I have to be out of town that day.

Brook: OK. I'll **cross out** your name.

Dave: Did you call Mom to tell her we'd be late?

Sandy: No, it never **crossed my mind**. I'll call her right now.

Lacy: I think I might have won the lottery. I'm going to check my numbers.

Lin: I'll **keep my fingers crossed**.

Carol: My dad was so **cross** this morning because my neighbors put a ten foot **cross** in their front yard.

Belle: Your neighborhood doesn't allow that do they? No, no signs are allowed. That's why Dad was cross.

Alima: Our family is at a **crossroads** now. We have to decide if we will emigrate to the United States, or stay and hope the situation here improves.

Eve: You should decide quickly because it may not be possible to leave the country in a few months.

Dana: Do you ever see Charlie?

Mary: Not really. I live downtown and he lives in the far north of Austin. We just **don't cross paths**.

Discuss:

1. Is your family at a crossroads? In other words, are you facing a big decision?
2. Is anyone in your family cross in the mornings?
3. In your country, do you get to decide where you go to school, or does it depend on where you live?
4. Did you attend public school or private school in your country? Which do you think is better?
5. Are schools harder in your country than here?
6. Do you think there is too much pressure for kids to do well in school?
7. In your country, do most college students return to their hometowns after graduating?
8. Is your hometown a great place to live? Explain
9. I know several girls in their twenties that shop at second-hand shops. Would you ever buy used clothing?