

TWO WORD VERBS

In English we have some verbs that are formed by the union of two words. The first word is always the verb. The second word is a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a preposition. Together these two word verbs have a particular meaning, but separately the words have a different meaning.

Examples:

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to take a trip(verb + noun)
to make good (verb + adjective)
to go away (verb + adverb)
to get up (verb + preposition)
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Note: Some of the two word verbs have their equivalence as a one word verb, depending on the context or the situation.

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Examples: to get on = to board a plane, train, ship, etc. to get over = to recuperate
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The two word verbs are divided into two categories: separable and non-separable (transitive or intransitive).

We separate the transitive two word verbs just by putting an object pronoun in between the verb and the preposition, especially when we transform the two word verbs in commands, but for this the subject must be understood.

Object Pronouns:

Me

You

Him Example: Take out the garbage. Take the garbage out. Take it out.

Her

It

Us

You

Them

The intransitive two-word verbs are those that are used to talk about actions, habits, or things that we do. We can separate some of them and others we cannot.

Examples of inseparable two-word verbs: She gets on the bus at this corner every morning. I always get lost when I'm in this neighborhood. Think of me while I'm gone.

Notice that in the above examples we **CAN NOT SAY**: She gets on the bus at this corner every morning.

I always get in this neighborhood lost when I'm here.



Think while I'm gone of me.

Sometimes you are going to find some two word verbs with the words "one's" and "someone".

Examples:

to change one's mind.

to give someone a break.

We have to replace "one's" with the possessive adjectives (my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their). We have to replace "someone" with the object pronouns. (me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them).

Examples:

to change one's mind.

My brother changed his mind and now he doesn't want to go to the concert.

My girlfriend changed her mind now she wants to leave me.

The president changed his mind and he doesn't want to raise taxes.

Don't change your mind!

to give someone a break.

Give me a break!

Give your parents a break! Don't make too much noise.



Quiz A



Select the verb or phrase that best match the meaning of the two-word verbs used in the sentences. Keep in mind that most two-word verbs have more than one meaning.

Ke	ep in mind that most two-word verbs h	ave more than one meani
	The concert was <u>called off</u> due to the cancelled	bad weather. b. postponed
	The meeting has been <u>put off</u> until ne cancelled	xt week. b. postponed
3.	Don't forget to put out your cigarette. a. Extinguish	b. light
	They are going to put up a new condocancelled	o in our neighborhood. b. postponed
	The concert was <u>called off</u> due to the destroy	bad weather. b. build
	We need to fill out this application for Delete	rm to register for school. b. complete
	The tickets for the concert were sold of were finished	b. were available
	The bank <u>turned down</u> my applicatio accepted	n for a loan. b. refused
	Caterpillars <u>turn into</u> butterflies. transform into	b. come into
	Thieves broke into my apartment and cancelled	stole my jewelry b. postponed
	We should try out this car before we lest	buy it. It is a used car. b. pay
	Why don't you think over my busines discard	ss proposal? b. consider

13. I am working out almost every day in order to lose weight.

b. resting

a. exercising

14. <u>Throw away</u> those shoes and get new a. keep	ones. The look really old. b. discard
15. We <u>ran out</u> of milk. You have to go to a. used up	to the store and get some more. b. got more
16. You have to <u>cut down</u> on the amount a. increase	of saturated fats in your diet. b. reduce
17. Business was no so good, so they had a. relocate	to <u>close down</u> the store. b. close permanently
18. Her performance was really bad. She a. disappointed	let down her fans. b. made happy
19. I took back the book that I borrowed to a. returned	from the library yesterday. b. got
20. <u>Keep up</u> the wonderful work you are a. Continue	doing with your students. b. stop
21. I want to ask our boss for a rise, but I a. advise	need you to <u>back</u> me <u>up.</u> b. support
22. One of the tires of our car blew up what a. exploded	hen we were driving back home. b. inflated
23. What brought about the extinction o a. ended	f the dinosaurs? b. caused
24. I had a terrible cold last week, but for a. Continued	tunately for me I got over it quickly. b. recovered
25. When students in the United States are a. dress formally	nd Canada finish high school, they dress up to go to the promb. dress informally
26. Their relationship was going nowhere a. continue	e, so they decided to break up . b. separate
27. The thieves got away before being tala. escaped	ken to jail. b. complained
28. We have to get off the bus a the next a. board the bus	stop. b. leave the bus
29. We need to set up the room for this wa. arrange	vorkshop. b. close

30. Why don't we check out what they a. register	have in that store? It looks interesting. b. investigate			
31. The first thing you have to do when a. register	you arrive in a hotel is to check in . b. return			
32. Some people pass out when they see a. faint	e blood. b. die			
33. We just found out that we have som a. understood	b. discovered			
34. Do <u>give up</u> so easily. Try a little har a. quit	der. b. continue			
35. I just finished my final paper, but I na. Finished	need to go over it to make sure is fine. b. review			
36. He is lying. He made up the story ju a. invented	ust to make me look bad. b. understood			
37. You need to pick out a nice tie to go a. Sell	b. select			
38. The military operation was carried a. executed	b. reviewed			
39. I thought I had lost my cell phone, b a. appeared	ut it showed up in my bedroom a couple of days later. b. disappeared			
40. Can you <u>turn down</u> the volume of your stereo? I am trying to study. a. increase b. decrease				
41. The old building was torn down bed a. demolished	cause the owner wanted to put up a new building. b. constructed			
42. We need to carry on the fight against a. stop	st world hunger. b. continue			
43. The color of my T-shirt is wearing of a. fading	b. shining			
44. We <u>turned in</u> the final paper yesterda. received	lay b. submitted			

45. I have to <u>call</u> you <u>up</u> when I get hom a. telephone	ne. I am busy now. b. fax
46. We got a B+ in our final paper becau a. added	use we <u>left out</u> some important facts. b. omitted
47. My father passed away when I was a. died	11 years old. b. fainted
48. I need to get my computer fixed up . a. painted	It is not working properly. b. repaired
49. You need to <u>clean up</u> your room. It is a. tidy	looks really messy. b. disorganize
50. I cannot meet with you today. I have b. go to	e to look after my grandmother. b. care for