

Verbs with 'back' - Roleplays Speaking Practice

Part One: Using verbs with back roleplays

Choose one sentence below and explain a situation where you could say that, including who the two people could be. The two people could be communicating by telephone, by email or face to face, depending on which line. Roleplay that situation with your partner, making sure that you use the line below. The person who picked the line is the one who must use it, e.g. the caller for number 1 below. Roleplay the whole exchange each time. If it's an email exchange, don't write, just say what you would write, but roleplay the whole exchange of at least two emails until it comes to a natural end.

1. "Can you ask him to call me back?" (= return my call)
2. "I'd like you to give my money back." (= refund my money)
3. "Please come back if you have any other problems." (= visit this shop again)
4. "I'll find out and get back to you as soon as I can." (= contact you)
5. "Can I phone you back later?" (= "Return your call later")
6. "Thanks for calling me back." (= returning my call)
7. "Thanks for getting back to me so quickly." (= contacting me)
8. "I'll pass your message to him as soon as he gets back." (= returns from the place where he has gone)
9. "Do you know when he will be back?" (= come back)
10. "He will be back around twelve." (= return to this place)
11. "Can I check that back?" (= "Can I read that back?" = say back to you what you just said to me to confirm that I understood)
12. "Thanks for writing back so quickly." (= replying to my email)
13. "Please don't hang up, I'll be right back." (= come back to the phone)
14. "When are you flying back?" (= taking a plane back where you came from)
15. "Well, I'd better go back to my hotel and get changed for this evening." (= return to my hotel)
16. "Can you take this back to the kitchen?" (= go back to the kitchen with this)
17. "I tried taking it back to the shop, but they said they couldn't help me." (= went back to the shop with it)
18. "If you send it back to us, we will fix it and get it back to you as soon as possible." (= return it by post)
19. "Welcome back" (= It's nice that you could come back again)
20. "It's so nice to be back" (= It's nice to be here again)
21. "I'll be back (soon/...)" (= I will return)

Ask about any language you can't understand or situations you can't imagine above.

Part Two: Verbs with back presentation

Fill the gaps below with one verb. Sometimes there might be more than one possibility, but just write one. The same verb can often be used in more than one place below.

1. "Can you ask him to _____ me back?" (= return my call)
2. "I'd like you to _____ my money back." (= refund my money)
3. "Please _____ back if you have any other problems." (= visit this shop again)
4. "I'll find out and _____ back to you as soon as I can." (= contact you)
5. "Can I _____ you back later?" (= "Return your call later")
6. "Thanks for _____ ing me back." (= returning my call)
7. "Thanks for _____ ing back to me so quickly." (= contacting me)
8. "I'll pass your message to him as soon as he _____ s back." (= returns from the place he has gone)
9. "Do you know when he will _____ back?" (= come back)
10. "He will _____ back around twelve." (= return to this place)
11. "Can I _____ that back?" (= "Can I read that back?" = say back to you what you just said to me to confirm that I understood)
12. "Thanks for _____ ing back so quickly." (= replying to my email)
13. "Please don't hang up, I'll _____ right back." (= come back to the phone)
14. "When are you _____ ing back?" (= taking a plane back where you came from)
15. "Well, I'd better _____ back to my hotel and get changed for this evening." (= return to my hotel)
16. "Can you _____ this back to the kitchen?" (= go back to the kitchen with this)
17. "I tried _____ ing it back to the shop, but they said they couldn't help me." (= went back to the shop with it)
18. "If you _____ it back to us, we will fix it and get it back to you as soon as possible." (= return it by post)
22. "_____ back" (= It's nice that you could come back again)
23. "It _____ so nice to be back" (= It's nice to be here again)
24. "I'll _____ back (soon/...)" (= I will return)

Mixed answers

Use the words below to help with the task above. Some verbs are used more than once.

- be
- call
- check
- come
- fly
- get
- give
- go
- is
- phone
- send
- take
- welcome
- write

Check with the first page. Other answers might be possible, so check with your teacher.

Part Three: Verbs with back situation roleplays

Without looking above if possible, roleplay situations from below, each time doing the whole conversation.

- A phone call after you leave a message for someone
- A phone call when the person you speak to doesn't have the information you need
- A phone call when the person you want to speak to isn't there
- A phone call when you have to ask someone to wait
- A phone call when you have to leave a message
- A problem with something that you have bought
- A problem with your food in a restaurant
- An email exchange
- Chatting with a visitor from abroad
- Meeting someone at your office
- Meeting someone at someone else's office
- Greeting guests at your house party
- Ending a face to face conversation