

Confusing Verbs

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intermediate

✂ Discuss the difference in 1) meaning and 2) the nouns used with the verbs between these pairs of verbs.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Know/Understand | 9. Borrow/Lend |
| 2. Discuss/Argue | 10. Make/Do |
| 3. Remember/Remind | 11. Beat/Win |
| 4. Hope/Expect | 12. Take/Bring |
| 5. Rise/Raise | 13. Look/See |
| 6. Steal/Rob | 14. Lie/Lay |
| 7. Go/Come | 15. Think/Believe |
| 8. Hear/Listen | 16. Like/(Don't) mind |

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Activity Instructions

Language Focus:	Unspecific
Vocabulary Focus:	Verbs often confused
Level:	Intermediate
Skill:	Speaking
Time:	15 minutes
Organisation:	Students work in pairs
Stage:	Vocabulary speaking practice
Suggested Method:	

- 1 Copy one handout for each pair of students, and cut the sheets in two.
- 2 Put the students into pairs, and distribute a half handout to each individual student.
- 3 Focus students' attentions on the instructions and emphasise students must explain the difference in meaning and form between the sixteen pairs of words. Exemplify with the first pair or your own examples.
- 4 Allow students around fifteen minutes or until they get stuck to describe the differences.
- 5 Finally, elicit the differences from the students and draw to their attention any appropriate vocabulary or serious language mistakes. Refer to the key below, if necessary.

1. Have information on a subject/Using knowledge in an intelligent, effective way.

2. Exchange of opinions/Exchange opinions in an aggressive, unpleasant way.

3. Don't forget to do something/Tell someone not to forget to do something.

4. You want something to happen/You think it will happen.

5. Move upward (no object)/To elevate or lift something (object required).

6. Take something not yours in general/Steal something from a person or an organisation like a bank.

7. Travel from A to B/Travel from somewhere to where the speaker is/will be.

8. When a sound enters your ears/When you want to hear something.

9. Give something to someone temporarily/Take something from someone temporarily.

10. Make goes with some words (dinner, money...)/Do goes with others (homework, a crossword...).

11. Win against someone/Be the best in general.

12. Take/Move an object from somewhere to

13. Use your eyes to view something specific/Use your eyes in general.

14. To recline for example on a bed (no object)/Place something down (object required).

15. Have an opinion on something/Have a more ingrained opinion on something.

16. Enjoy something/Have a neutral opinion of something.