



Main meanings	Example verbs		
1 returning			
return to a place or position	come back	go back	run back
<i>Come back and visit us again soon</i> ♦ <i>Put that book back where you found it!</i>	drive back	head back	start back
	double back	move back	turn back
	get back	put back	walk back
return to an earlier time	carry back	flash back	look back
<i>Think back to the time when you were a child.</i> ♦ <i>That song takes me back to the 1980s.</i>	cast back	go back	take back
	date back	hark back to	think back
return to a previous state or condition	bounce back	get back	snap back
<i>It won't take long for your hair to grow back.</i> ♦ <i>I couldn't get back to sleep.</i>	bring back	go back	spring back
	come back	go back	
return to an earlier point in a discussion	come back	look back	
<i>Let's go back to what you were saying before.</i>	go back	think back	
return to a previous person or owner	buy back	give back	send back
<i>I didn't think I'd ever get my dog back.</i> ♦ <i>Give me back my pen.</i>	claw back	hand back	take back
	get back	pay back	win back
do something as a response, reply, or repetition	answer back	hit back	ring back
<i>Write back soon.</i> ♦ <i>Yes, I hit him, but I didn't expect him to hit me back.</i>	bite back	phone back	shoot back
	call back	play back	smile back
	check back	push back	strike back
	fight back	read back	talk back
	get back to	report back	write back
2 moving backwards			
moving away from the front	draw back	pull back	sit back
<i>Louise settled back into the chair.</i> ♦ <i>Stand back please and let the ambulance through!</i>	lean back	settle back	stand back
	lie back	sink back	step back
move away from something that is happening	drop back	keep back	
<i>Army command has decided to pull back the troops.</i> ♦ <i>Stay back – it might explode.</i>	fall back	pull back	
	get back	stay back	
not get involved in what is happening	hang back	sit back	
<i>Are you just going to stand back and let this happen?</i>	hold back	stand back	
	pull back	step back	
3 preventing			
prevent someone from moving forward	hold back	keep back	push back
<i>Police struggled to hold back the crowd.</i>			
prevent something from happening or progressing	hold back	put back	set back
<i>She didn't let her family problems hold her back.</i> ♦ <i>The system failure set our work back a few months.</i>	keep back	rein back	
prevent something from being expressed	bite back	fight back	hold back
<i>He choked back his tears and continued the story.</i> ♦ <i>I had the feeling she was holding something back.</i>	choke back	force back	keep back
make something smaller in size, amount etc	cut back	roll back	scale back
<i>We really need to cut back on our use of oil.</i> ♦ <i>Plans for new stores have been scaled back.</i>			