

Binomials

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named after Lomonosov
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Binomials



- There are many phrases in English that use two words connected with 'and'. For example, **peace and quiet**, **fish and chips**. These expressions are known as binomials. In these phrases the word order is usually **fixed**; we say 'peace and quiet', we don't say 'quiet and peace'.



Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **neat and tidy**
- definition: clean, organised, tidy – not messy or untidy (also clean and tidy)
- example: Her house is always very neat and tidy: there's never anything out of place.



Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **sick and tired**
- definition: annoyed or frustrated with something / someone and at the point of getting angry or losing your patience
- example: I'm sick and tired of our neighbours making such a noise – I'm gonna call the police.



Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **short and sweet**
- definition: when something is very quick and to-the-point; of minimum length and no longer than it needs to be
- example: His speech was short and sweet – he just said what he needed to say and he was very quick about it.



Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **wine and dine**
- definition: wine and dine someone – entertain someone with a good quality meal
- example: The bosses of the advertising agency always wine and dine their top clients.



Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **up and down**
- definition: moving between the same two points repeatedly
- example: We drove up and down the same street ten times looking for the restaurant.



Up
&
Down

Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **odds and ends**
- definition: various items of different types, usually small, often of little value and importance
- example: There's nothing important in those cupboards, just a few odds and ends.



Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **skin and bone**
- definition: to be very thin; to look underfed
- example: That dog's all skin and bone. I don't think anyone every feeds it.



Binomial pairs joined by 'and'

- **loud and clear**
- definition: very clear and very easy to understand
- examples: You don't have to shout – I can hear you loud and clear.
- The two pilots could hear each other loud and clear.



Binomial pairs joined by 'or'

- **make or break**
- definition: the result will be either success or failure, nothing between
- example: The next match is make or break for us. If we lose we'll have no chance of winning the league.



Binomial pairs joined by 'or'

- **take it or leave it**
- definition: (of a negotiation) your last offer: you are not going to negotiate further or allow the other person to negotiate
- example: Eight hundred dollars is my final offer for your car – take it or leave it!



Binomial pairs joined by 'or'

- **more or less**
- definition: approximately; almost
- examples: The repairs to the car will take a week, more or less.
- Just give me another minute – I've more or less finished.



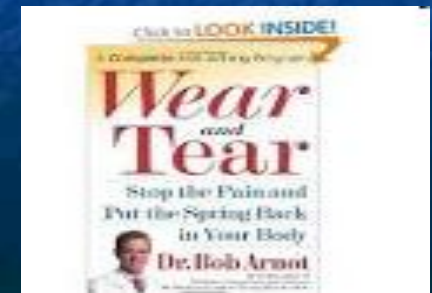
Rhyming binomial pairs

- **hustle and bustle**
- definition: a lot of noisy activity caused by people, usually in cities
- example: There's always lots of hustle and bustle at the market on Wednesdays.

Hustle&bustle

Rhyming binomial pairs

- **wear and tear**
- definition: the decrease in value and/or quality of something because of its age and a lot of use
- example: The wear and tear on his knees means he can no longer play football at the top level.
- I paid 3000 euros for my car but because of wear and tear I sold it for just 1500 a year later.



Rhyming binomial pairs

- **willy-nilly**
- definition: haphazardly, randomly, and without much planning and organisation; without order
- example: The product sold badly because the salesmen travelled to customers will-nilly without any strategy or plan



Binomial pairs joined by other words

- **back to front**
- definition: when the back of something faces the front, and vice-versa
- example: You've got your t-shirt on back to front! Take it off and turn it around.



Binomial pairs joined by other words

- **step by step**
- definition: to do something methodically, one step at a time
- example: Follow the course and step by step you will learn how to create modern and attractive web pages.



Resource

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode81/languagepoint.shtml>