

Prevent vs avoid

This is not a word-for-word transcript

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Hi guys! Dan for BBC Learning English here. This time we're looking difference between **prevent** and **avoid**.

Prevent basically means **stop**. If you prevent something, you **stop it from happening** - often before it starts.

You can prevent something, prevent something from happening or prevent someone from doing something. For example: **The arrival of the police prevented crime**. Or: **Losing my passport prevented me from flying**. Or: **I prevented her from slapping me!**
Wow!

Now **avoid**, basically means **miss**. If you **avoid** something, you try to **make it miss you**. For example: **I avoided meeting my ex**. Or: **I avoided the slap easily!**