Dan
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!**