

I'm not a robot



The idiom "make amends" is a commonly used expression in American English that has its roots in Old English. It is often used in daily conversations, literature, and even in legal contexts. The phrase consists of the verb "make" and the noun "amends," which means compensation for a wrongdoing or injury. One fact about this idiom is that its origin can be traced back to the 14th century, when the word "amende" was used in Middle English with the same meaning as it is used today. This word comes from the Old French verb "amendier," meaning "to correct" or "to atone for." The idiom's current form, "make amends," emerged around the 16th century. In its literal sense, "make amends" refers to taking action to repair or rectify a mistake or harm caused to someone. It implies acknowledging one's wrongdoing and making efforts to set things right or compensate for the damage done. This idiom is often used in situations where an apology alone is considered insufficient. The idiom "make amends" is associated with a sense of moral obligation and personal responsibility. It suggests that when someone has done wrong, it is their duty to make amends and actively work towards restoring trust or harmony. This notion of personal accountability reinforces the importance of taking action rather than just expressing remorse. "Make amends" is a versatile idiom that can be used in various contexts. It can apply to personal relationships, professional settings, or societal situations. For example, in a personal relationship, if one partner has hurt the other through their actions, they may be expected to make amends by showing genuine remorse and making efforts to repair the damage and rebuild trust. In addition, in legal contexts, "make amends" can refer to compensating someone for the harm caused by one's actions, whether through financial restitution or other means. In this sense, it implies that justice and fairness can be achieved by taking tangible steps to address the consequences of one's wrongdoing. Another related idiom that conveys a similar meaning to "make amends" is "patch up." This idiom suggests that after a disagreement or conflict, parties involved need to patch up their relationship and fix any damage that may have been done. It implies the need for active efforts to restore harmony and resolve conflicts. Furthermore, "make amends" can also be related to the idiom "stand corrected." This idiom is used when someone realizes they were wrong about something and admit their mistake. It implies humility and a willingness to correct oneself, which aligns with the idea of "make amends" in acknowledging one's wrongdoing and taking action to rectify it. Another related idiom that can be associated with "make amends" is "make a difference." This idiom emphasizes the impact that one's actions can have in addressing a situation or making a positive change. When someone makes amends, they are actively working towards making a difference by rectifying a mistake or harm caused to someone. Lastly, the idiom "make a clean breast" can also be connected to "make amends." This idiom is used when someone confesses or reveals something that they have kept hidden. It implies a sense of honesty and transparency, which aligns with the idea of "make amends" in acknowledging one's wrongdoing and taking responsibility for it. The idiom "make amends" is deeply rooted in the English language and carries a sense of moral responsibility for one's actions. It emphasizes the need for active efforts to correct mistakes, repair damage, and restore harmony in different spheres of life. By using this idiom, speakers convey the importance of taking action rather than relying solely on apologies or remorse. The idiom's timeless relevance and universal applicability make it an integral part of the English language, reflecting our collective understanding of accountability and the potential for redemption. (redirected from make amends)Also found in: Thesaurus, Legal, Financial, Idioms, to alter, modify, rephrase; to add or subtract from: Congress may amend the tax bill. Not to be confused with: amends reparation or compensation for a loss, damage, or injury of any kind; recompense; to make amends: He tried to make amends for his rudeness by bringing flowers. emend to edit or change (a text) to remove errors; to correct: We must emend the text before the book goes to print. Abused, Confused, & Misused Words by Mary Embree Copyright 2007, 2013 by Mary Embree (-mnd)v. amended, amending, amends v.tr.1. To change for the better; improve: "The confinement appeared to have had very little effect in amending his conduct." (Horatio Alger).2. To alter the wording of (a legal document, for example) so as to make more suitable or acceptable. See Synonyms at correct.3. To enrich (soil), especially by mixing in organic matter or sand.v.intr. To better one's conduct, reform. [Middle English amenden, from Old French amender, from Latin mēdre - , -ex, -ex- + mēndum, fault.]American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (mnd) vb (tr) 1. to improve; change for the better2. to remove faults from; correct3. (Law) to alter or revise (legislation, a constitution, etc) by formal procedure(C13: from Old French amender, from Latin mēdre to emend)Collins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (mnd) v.t. 1. to modify, rephrase, or add to or subtract from (a bill, constitution, etc.) by formal procedure: Congress may amend the proposed tax bill. 2. to change for the better; improve. 3. to remove or correct faults in; rectify. v.i. 4. to grow or become better by reforming oneself. [1175]1225; Middle English < Old French amender < Latin mēdre to correct; see emend) syn: amend, emend both mean to alter, improve, or correct something written. amend is the general term, use of any such correction or improvement in details; it may refer to adding, taking away, or changing a character, word, or phrase: to amend spelling and punctuation in a report; to amend a contract. emend applies specifically to the critical alteration of a text in the process of editing or preparing it for publication; it implies improvement in the direction of greater accuracy: The scholar emended the text by restoring the original reading. Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Past participle: amendedGerund: amendingImperativePresent PreteritePresent ContinuousPresent PerfectPast ContinuousPast PerfectFutureFuture PerfectFuture ContinuousFuture Perfect ContinuousFuture Past Perfect ConditionalPast ConditionalCollins English Verb Tables HarperCollins Publishers 2011 Verb1.amend - make amendments to: "amend the document"revise - make revisions in: "revise a thesis "2.amend - to make better: "The editor improved the manuscript with his changes"ameliorate, improve, meliorate, betteraid, help - improve the condition of: "These pills will help the patient"alter, change, modify - cause to change; make different; cause a transformation: "The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"; "The discussion has changed my thinking about the issue"enrich - make better or improve in quality: "The experience enriched her understanding"; "enriched foods"build up, develop - change the use of and make available or usable; "develop land"; "The country developed its natural resources"; "The remote areas of the country were gradually built up"turn around - improve dramatically: "The new strategy turned around sales"; "The tutor turned around my son's performance in math"help - improve; change for the better: "New slipcovers will help the old living room furniture"upgrade - to improve what was old or outdated; "I've upgraded my computer so I can run better software"; "The company upgraded their personnel"condition - put into a better state; "he conditions old cars"emend - make improvements or corrections to: "the text was emended in the second edition"enhance - make better or more attractive; "This sauce will enhance the flavor of the meat"reform - make changes for improvement in order to remove abuse and injustices; "reform a political system"reform - improve by alteration or correction of errors or defects and put into a better condition; "reform the health system in this country"beautify, fancify, prettify, embellish - make more beautifulbuild - improve the cleansing action of; "build detergents"perfect, hone - make perfect or complete; "perfect your French in Paris"distill, make pure, purify, sublimate - remove impurities from, increase the concentration of, and separate through the process of distillation; "purify the water"fructify - make productive or fruitful; "The earth that he fructified"lift, raise - invigorate or heighten; "lift my spirits"; "lift his ego"advance - develop further; "We are advancing technology every day"upgrade - give better travel conditions to: "The airline upgraded me when I arrived late and Coach Class was full"educate - give an education to: "We must educate our youngsters better"3.amend - set straight or right; "remedy these deficiencies"; "rectify the inequities in salaries"; "repair an oversight"remediate, remedy, repair, rectify, correct, right, rectify - make right or correct; "Correct the mistakes"; "rectify the calculation"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection, 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.verb change, improve, reform, fix, correct, repair, edit, alter, enhance, update, revise, modify, remedy, rewrite, mend, rectify, tweak (informal), ameliorate, redraw, rebrand The committee put forward proposals to amend the penal system.plural noun (usually in make amends) compensation, apology, restoration, re dress, reparation, indemnity, restitution, atonement, recompense, exiation, requital He wanted to make amends for causing their marriage to fail.Collins Thesaurus of the English Language Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition, 2002 HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002verbThe American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. verbessernaussbessernovellierenamendierenamenderchangercorrigieremodifierbreyta til batnaar, bta emendaremgigliorarevariareammendareattviginti nuostolusatistieitistaisytipataisytiizdart labojumustizlabotadobot deitikiikl yapmakdzeltmek (mend) VT [+ law] emendar; [+ text, wording] corregirCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005Collins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005, William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 [mnd] vt (law) emendare; (text) correggereCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (mend) verb to correct or improve. We shall amend the error as soon as possible. regelst corrigir opravit verbessern rette; korrigeren , emendar, corregir paradama korjata corrigier , ispraviti (meg)javti memperbaiki breyta til batnaar, bta correggere itaisyti, pataisyti [[labot; izdart labojumust memperbetulkan verbeterean rette p, forbedre naprawia, poprawia emendar a ndrepta opravi popraviti izmeniti, dopolniti rta till , dzeltmek, deikiikl yapmak , sa i amendare make amends to do something to improve the situation after doing something wrong, stupid etc. He gave her a present to make amends for his rudeness. opnaak reparar reparar a reparar a ndrepta igen compensar, emendar, reparar heaks isepena hyvitti rparer , racheter nadoknaditi y tesz menebis bta fyrir riparare itstieisti, atlyginni nuostolus aildzinti; kompenit menebis wesser goedmakengre godt igjen naprawia szkody, wynagradza reparar a reparar, a ndrepta opravi oddoliti se, odkupiti se ispraviti greku gotgrna ngt, bitra sig hatana dzeltmek, kendini affettirmek sa i Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd.English-Spanish Medical Dictionary Farlex 2012 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: I've been a cursed rascal, God knows,' said he, as he gave it a hearty squeeze, 'but you see if I don't make amends for it - d-n me if I don't!'.But, as Uncle Alec's experiment was intended to amuse the young folks, rather than suggest educational improvements for the consideration of the elders, she trusts that these shortcomings will be overlooked by the friends of the Eight Cousins, and she will try to make amends in a second volume, which shall attempt to show The Rose in Bloom.If this is not a detailed letter, the reason is that I must soon be starting for the office, in order that, by strict application to duty, I may make amends for the past. Browse#aabbcdddeeffghhijklmnnnooppqrrsstuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC When someone I love and care about tells me that I did something that hurt or upset them, my first impulse is to show them how they're wrong. I want to explain how they've misunderstood. I want to help them see it from my perspective so they can have compassion for my choices. I want to show them how it cant be that Ive hurt their feelings because Im a good person with good intentions. This is a very human response, and it's a response that most of us have. This is true for a couple of reasons. When we care about someone, we dont want anything bad to happen to them. We dont want them to feel sadness, hurt, etc. and so the thought that we could have played a part in them feeling that way is, understandably, abhorrent. We are invested in thinking of ourselves as good people, and we equate hurting others with being bad. So the idea that our actions might have caused harm is distressing because it runs interference with how we think of ourselves. We carry shame around making mistakes. We have been raised in a culture where we get rewarded for doing things right and punished for doing something wrong instead of having an idea that we learn by doing, so that means that life is a learning process where we refine our choices and actions based on what we have learned. This makes it very difficult to tolerate the idea that our choices might make someone we care about upset. We do not want to hurt someone we care about. We want to think we are a good person and avoid shame. Additionally, if we continue to make the same choices, it causes us to use our minds to feel righteous about choices and make the other person wrong for feeling hurt or deserving of our choices. In other words, we defend and justify rather than being accountable. Source: Harli Marten/UnsplashWebster's Dictionary defines accountability as "the quality or state of being accountable; an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility for one's actions." In other words, being accountable means being willing to face and understand that our choices and our actions have impacted another.Accountability is a Deeply Powerful Act Its powerful for both the actor and recipient. One of the 12 Steps is making amends, and that action is intended to heal both parties involved. Nelson Mandela understood that truth and reconciliation was the only true path forward for a nation that had experienced so much trauma.The Native Americans understand that restorative justice was a process of accountability and repair that heals the entire community. Judaism has a yearly practice of accountability and apology to those whom you have harmed with your actions. These practices are incredibly challenging to enact but very healing if they are done. Why are they healing? The answer is perhaps more apparent when thinking about the recipient of the amends. If done correctly, that person feels heard and understood. Their pain is met with empathy and understanding: I can understand why you would feel that way. I get it. And I'm sorry. Hearing those words uttered by someone who has harmed you helps you feel deeply validated, seen, and cared for. But amends is also ultimately healing for the actor. It may feel counterintuitive because of all we've been taught about "making a mistake" and all of the shame we carry. Still, ultimately, our accountability, empathy, and making things right helps us grow, learn and heal.When we harm others, we harm ourselves in the process, and rationalizing or defending only makes us feel worse. It causes us to feel a more profound shame as it pulls us from our humanity and connection accountability and making amends help us heal the other, which allows us to forgive ourselves. Finally, when we can be accountable and make amends, we are forced to face our humanness. Our fallibility. It's painful, but it forces us to understand ourselves more deeply and hold ourselves with compassion. It helps us learn from the experience and grow - in our relationship with ourselves and our capacity to love others. Get the help you need from a therapist near youa FREE service from Psychology Today. Atlanta, GA Austin, TX Baltimore, MD Boston, MA Brooklyn, NY Charlotte, NC Chicago, IL Columbus, OH Dallas, TX Denver, CO Detroit, MI Houston, TX Indianapolis, IN Jacksonville, FL Las Vegas, NV Los Angeles, CA Louisville, KY Memphis, TN Miami, FL Milwaukee, WI Minneapolis, MN Nashville, TN New York, NY Oakland, CA Omaha, NE Philadelphia, PA Phoenix, AZ Pittsburgh, PA Portland, OR Raleigh, NC Sacramento, CA Saint Louis, MO San Antonio, TX San Diego, CA San Francisco, CA San Jose, CA Seattle, WA Tucson, AZ Washington, DC More from Samantha Stein Psy.D. More from Psychology Today From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary Englishmake amends (to somebody/for something)make amends (to somebody/for something)SORRY/APOLOGIZETo do something to show you are sorry for hurting or upsetting someone, especially something that makes it better for the action taken to compensate for a wrong or mistake. This can be done through apologizing, offering restitution, or making reparations.Origins of the IdiomThe origins of this idiom can be traced back to medieval times when people believed that if they had wronged someone, they needed to make up for it in order to avoid punishment from God. This concept was later incorporated into English common law where offenders were required to make amends for their crimes.Usage and ExamplesIn modern usage, make amends is often used in everyday conversation as a way of expressing remorse or regret. For example, if someone forgets their friend's birthday, they may say Im sorry I forgot your birthday. Let me make it up to you by taking you out for dinner. Another example could be if someone accidentally damages another person's property, they may offer to pay for the repairs as a way of making amends. Verb FormsNoun FormsMake amendsAn amendMaking amendsAmendments(s)Made amendsOrigins and Historical Context of the Idiom make amendsThe idiom make amends has been in use for centuries, but its origins are not entirely clear. It is believed to have originated in medieval times when people were expected to make restitution for any harm they caused. The concept of making amends was closely tied to the idea of justice and fairness.Over time, the phrase evolved to take on a more figurative meaning. Today, it is used to describe any situation where someone tries to make up for a mistake or wrongdoing. This can include apologizing, offering compensation, or taking other steps to repair the damage that has been done.In many cultures around the world, making amends is seen as an important part of maintaining social harmony and resolving conflicts. In some cases, it may even be required by law or tradition.Despite its long history and widespread use, however, there are still many different interpretations of what it means to make amends. Some people believe that simply saying sorry is enough, while others insist on more concrete actions like paying back money or performing community service.Ultimately, the meaning of this idiom depends on the context in which it is used and the cultural norms that govern that context. Understanding these nuances can help us navigate complex social situations with greater ease and sensitivity.Usage and Variations of the Idiom make amendsOne common variation of this idiom is to make up for something. This phrase is often used when someone wants to compensate for their mistake or wrongdoing by doing something good or helpful. For example, if you accidentally break your friend's vase, you may offer to pay for it as a way to make up for your mistake.Another variation of this expression is to set things right. This phrase implies that there has been some sort of injustice or wrong that needs to be corrected. It can refer to both personal and societal issues. For instance, if a company has been found guilty of unethical practices, they may need to take steps to set things right with their customers and stakeholders.Additionally, the idiom to make reparations can also be used interchangeably with make amends. Both phrases imply an act of compensation or restitution for past wrongs. However, reparations tends to have more serious connotations and is often associated with larger-scale injustices such as slavery or colonialism.VariationDefinitionTo make up for somethingTo compensate for a mistake or wrongdoing by doing something good or helpful.To set things rightTo correct an injustice or wrong, either on a personal or societal level.To make reparationsTo offer compensation or restitution for past wrongs, often associated with larger-scale injustices such as slavery or colonialism.Synonyms, Antonyms, and Cultural Insights for the Idiom make amendsSynonyms AtonementRedeem oneselfMake restitutionThese words are often used interchangeably with make amends and convey a similar meaning of trying to make up for a mistake or wrongdoing.Antonyms Ignore Disregard NeglectThese words represent the opposite of making amends and suggest a lack of effort or willingness to address past mistakes.Cultural Insights:The concept of making amends is present in many cultures around the world. In Japanese culture, there is a term called gomensai which means Im sorry but also implies an intention to make things right. In Native American culture, there is a tradition called smudging where smoke from burning herbs is used to cleanse negative energy and promote healing after conflicts or mistakes. These examples show that making amends is not just about saying sorry but also taking action towards reconciliation.Practical Exercises for the Idiom make amendsExercise 1: Role PlayDivide into pairs and take turns playing the role of someone who has made amends with another person. Choose a scenario from real life or create one together. Practice using the idiom make amends in your dialogue as you work through the situation.Example scenario: You accidentally broke your friend's favorite mug while visiting their house. They were upset but didn't say anything at the time. Later, they sent you a text message expressing their disappointment. Now its up to you to make amends.Exercise 2: Writing PromptWrite a short story or paragraph that includes the idiom make amends. Use descriptive language and vivid imagery to bring your story to life.Example prompt: Write about a character who has made a mistake and must find a way to make amends with someone they have wronged.Exercise 3: Vocabulary BuildingCreate flashcards or use an online tool like Quizlet to practice vocabulary related to making amends. Include synonyms for make amends such as apologize, reconcile, mend fences, patch things up, etc.Example flashcard:Front:Make AmendsBack:ApologizeReconcileMend FencesPatch Things UpBy practicing these exercises regularly, youll become more comfortable using the idiom make amends in conversation and writing. Keep exploring new ways of incorporating idioms into your English language learning journey!Common Mistakes to Avoid When Using the Idiom make amendsWhen using the idiom make amends, its important to avoid common mistakes that can lead to misunderstandings. This phrase is often used in situations where someone wants to apologize or make things right after causing harm or offense. However, there are certain nuances and subtleties involved that can be easily overlooked.One mistake to avoid is assuming that making amends always involves a direct apology. While apologizing can certainly be a part of making amends, its not always necessary or appropriate. In some cases, actions speak louder than words, and simply making an effort to rectify the situation may be enough.Another mistake is thinking that making amends automatically erases any negative consequences of ones actions. While its true that making amends can help repair damaged relationships and restore trust, it doesnt necessarily undo the harm that was caused. Its important to acknowledge the impact of ones actions and take responsibility for them, even while working towards reconciliation.Finally, its important not to use the idiom make amends flippantly or insincerely. Making genuine efforts to make things right requires humility, empathy, and a willingness to listen and learn from others. Simply saying youll make amends without following through on your promises will only further damage relationships and undermine trust.

Make amends meaning in english. What does making an amends mean. Make amends.