

What's UP?

(Hello) casual

One two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is UP. It is listed in the Oxford dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of a list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we **wake UP**?

(Awaken)

At a meeting, why does a topic **come UP**? Why do we **speak UP**, and why are officials **UP for election** and why is it **UP to** the secretary to **write UP** a report?

(arise), (say something)
(trying to get elected),
(responsible for), (write)

We **call UP** our friends, **brighten UP** a room, **polish UP** the silver, **warm UP** the leftovers and **clean UP** the kitchen. We **lock UP** the house and **fix UP** an old car.

(call), (make brighter), (polish)
(heat), (make clean/tidy)
(lock), (repair to like-new)

People **stir UP trouble**, **line UP** for tickets, **work UP** an appetite, and **think UP** excuses.

(cause trouble), (get in line),
(create)

To be dressed is one thing, but to be **dressed UP** is special.

(put on formal clothing)

Sometimes UP is confusing: A drain must be **opened UP** because it is **stopped UP**.

(cleared of obstruction)
(clogged)

We **open UP** a store in the morning, but we **close it UP** at night. We seem to be pretty **mixed UP** about UP!

(open), (close)
(confused)

Look UP the word 'UP' in a dictionary. In a good collegiate dictionary, it **takes UP** almost 1/4 of a page and can **add UP** to about thirty definitions.

(fills), (total)

If you are **UP to it**, you might try **making UP** a list of the many ways UP is used. It will **take UP** quite a bit of time, but if you don't **give UP**, you will **wind UP** with a long list.

(able to do), (create)
(use)
(quit), (have in the end)

When it threatens to rain, we say it is **clouding UP**. When the sun comes out, we say it is **clearing UP**. When rain comes down, the earth **soaks it UP**. When it does not rain for awhile, things **dry UP**.

(becoming cloudy)
(becoming clear)
(absorb)
(lose all water/moisture)

Now it's time **wrap it UP** ... time is /UP/!

(finish)