

English Verbs: Lend or Borrow?

a) **to lend** (lend/lent/lent) = to give something to someone temporarily

Can you lend me?

Examples: Can you lend me a pen?
Can you lend me some money?
Can you lend me your dictionary?

b) **to borrow** (regular) = to receive something from someone temporarily

Can I borrow ?

Examples: Can I borrow a pen?
Can I borrow some money?
Can I borrow your dictionary?

More examples:

1. Can you **lend** me a pen?
Can I **borrow** a pen?
2. My father **lent** me his car yesterday.
My father **lent** his car **to** me yesterday.
I **borrowed** my father's car yesterday.
I **borrowed** the car **from** my father yesterday.

Exercise. Ask these people for a favor. Use "lend" or "borrow" as suggested.

1. You need some money for the bus. (*lend*)

2. You want to use your friend's calculator. (*borrow*)

3. Your hands are cold, and you want to use your friend's gloves. (*lend*)

4. You want to use your father's car to take your girlfriend to the airport. (*borrow*)

5. You need 50 cents to make a phone call using a payphone. (*lend*)

6. You want to use the mobile phone of your friend to check your e-mails. (*borrow*)
