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Over vs Under

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English is an amusing language filled with intricacies. One of the interesting part is, we all get confused when it comes to using the right grammar. Irrespective of whether you are writing or speaking in English, you might make a mistake when using similar words, such as under and over. These can be used differently in different situations and confuse most of us. Generally, over and under are used to specify a place by its direction and position.

Differentiate between the use of 'over' & 'under'



Example:

1) Put this coat over your shirt you will feel warm.
2) The bag is under the table.

Understand them in detail with the following explanations. Let’s start with ‘over’ and its usage.

Over:

The word**over** can be used as in a number of ways as a*preposition*,*adjective* or*adverb*. Let's take a look at some of its more basic uses

over for a 'higher position'

Above or higher than something else, sometimes when one thing covers the other:

Example:

1) The ball went over him when he bent down.
2) There are flies over his head.



Over can also be used when the movement is across a surface.

1) The bike travelled over the road to the city.
2) The speed boat came over the sea to the shores.

It is also used for numerical terms. When the numbers are more than certain, basically limitless, then over is used.

1) China’s population is over 1 billion.
2) There are over millions of talents across the globe.

Over can also be used as a prefix. For instance,

1) The movie tickets in the city side theatre are overpriced.

Under:

Under is inverse of over which means it is used to state an object which is placed below or lower to something.

Example:

1) The ball went under the table.
2) We have to follow our boss, we are under his orders.



Under is also used when we mean that the thing is probably covering or is in touch with something.

"He was under the impression that she was a good singer".

One definite use of under is when we indicate a certain age.

1) India is hosting an under-20 world cup.

2) The child has to be under 10 to get into that slide.

It is also used while measuring time and weight.

"The man weighs under 90 kilos".

Hence, the only difference between them is that, when something exists at an exact higher level of the subject, we use ‘over’ and for something which exists exactly below the subject, we use ‘under’.

We hope the examples will help you understand how**under** and**over** are used. With the proper use, you can explain things in a better way and alsoimprove your English. It will also enhance yourspoken English skills. Joining an online English course will be beneficial towards becoming a master in English speaking.

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-By Shailja Varma

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