

Need another word that means the same as “backfire”? Find 9 synonyms for “backfire” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Backfire” are: backlash, recoil, misfire, rebound, boomerang, come back, have an adverse effect, blowback

Backfire as a Noun

Definitions of "Backfire" as a noun

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “backfire” as a noun can have the following definitions:

- *A fire started deliberately to stop the progress of an approaching fire by creating a burned area in its path.*
- *A mistimed explosion in the cylinder or exhaust of a vehicle or engine.*
- *The backward escape of gases and unburned gunpowder after a gun is fired.*
- *A miscalculation that recoils on its maker.*
- *A loud noise made by the explosion of fuel in the manifold or exhaust of an internal combustion engine.*
- *A fire that is set intentionally in order to slow an approaching forest fire or grassfire by clearing a burned area in its path.*

Synonyms of "Backfire" as a noun (2 Words)

- blowback** The backward escape of gases and unburned gunpowder after a gun is fired.
*This is the **blowback** from all those aggressive public health campaigns.*
- boomerang** A curved flat piece of wood that can be thrown so that it will return to the thrower, traditionally used by Australian Aboriginal people as a hunting weapon.

Usage Examples of "Backfire" as a noun

- *Once the engine is running smoothly, a backfire can be dramatic.*

Backfire as a Verb

Definitions of "Backfire" as a verb

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), "backfire" as a verb can have the following definitions:

- *(of a plan or action) have an opposite and undesirable effect to what was intended.*
- *(of a vehicle or its engine) undergo a mistimed explosion in the cylinder or exhaust.*
- *Emit a loud noise as a result of undergoing a backfire.*
- *Set a controlled fire to halt an advancing forest to prairie fire.*
- *Come back to the originator of an action with an undesired effect.*

Synonyms of "Backfire" as a verb (7 Words)

- backlash** Come back to the originator of an action with an undesired effect.
*The political movie **backlashed** on the Democrats.*
- boomerang** Return to the initial position from where it came like a boomerang.
*Misleading consumers about quality will eventually **boomerang** on a car maker.*
- come back** Come to pass; arrive, as in due course.
- have an adverse effect** Serve oneself to, or consume regularly.
- misfire** (of a gun or missile) fail to discharge or fire properly.
*As she raised her pistol again it **misfired**.*
- rebound** Spring back; spring away from an impact.
*The Share Index **rebounded** to show a twenty point gain.*

recoil

Draw back, as with fear or pain.

*Ronni felt herself **recoil** at the very thought.*

Usage Examples of "Backfire" as a verb

- *A car backfired in the road and shoppers ducked instinctively.*
- *Your comments may backfire and cause you a lot of trouble.*
- *My old car backfires all the time.*
- *Overzealous publicity backfired on her.*