

but·ton¹ S2

/ˈbʌtn/

noun [countable]

1 a small round flat object on your shirt, coat etc that you pass through a hole to fasten it:

small pearl buttons

A button was missing from his shirt.

*She **undid** (= unfastened) the **buttons** of her blouse.*

do up a button (*BrE*) (= fasten a button)

2 a small part or area of a machine that you press to make it do something:

Press the pause button.

Click on the icon with the right mouse button.

→ [PUSH-BUTTON](#)

3 a small area on a computer screen, especially on a website, that you [CLICK](#) on in order to perform an action

4 (*AmE*) a small metal or plastic pin with a message or picture on it

SYN **badge** (*BrE*):

presidential campaign buttons

5 button nose/eyes

a nose or eyes that are small and round

6 on the button CORRECT (*especially AmE*) (informal)

exactly right, or at exactly the right time:

She got to our house at two, on the button.

7 press/push (all) the right buttons

to get what you want by behaving in a clever way:

She seemed to push all the right buttons.

8 press/push somebody's buttons

to make someone angry by doing or saying something that annoys them:

He really knows how to push Dad's buttons.

9 at/with the push/touch of a button

used to emphasize how easy a machine is to use because it is controlled by pushing a button:

The instrument can gauge a distance with the push of a button.

→ as bright as a button [AT BRIGHT](#) ⁽⁷⁾

COLLOCATIONSense 1

verbs

fasten a button *Small children can't fasten their own buttons.*

do up a button (= fasten it) *He quickly did up the buttons on his shirt.*

unfasten a button *Can you unfasten this button for me?*

undo a button (= unfasten it) *I can't undo the buttons on the back of this dress.*

a button is missing *Two of the buttons on the jacket were missing.*

a button comes off something *A button has come off my skirt.*

something has lost a button *His favourite shirt had lost a button.*

sew on a button *It doesn't take a minute to sew on a button.*

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + button

the top/bottom button *He was wearing a white shirt with the top button undone.*

a shirt/skirt/coat etc button *Is this your coat button?*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *boton*, from *boter*; → [BUTT](#) ²

button²

verb

[intransitive and transitive]

1 PUT ON CLOTHES (*also button up*) to fasten clothes with buttons, or to be fastened with buttons:

Sam, make sure Nina buttons up her jacket.

2 button it! (*BrE*), button your lip/mouth! (*AmE*) (spoken) QUIET
used to tell someone in a rude way to stop talking

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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