



7: Communication

This site presents the images from the ebook *High: Advanced Multipitch Climbing*, by David Coley and Andy Kirkpatrick. In order to keep the cost of the book to a minimum most of these were not included in the book. Although they work best when used in conjunction with the book, most are self-explanatory.

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There is little as frustrating as standing in the cold wondering what is going on, so this chapter looks at why good communication is required for moving efficiently and safely. One key conclusion is that climbers need to talk to each other more about what they like and don't like. For example, some hate a tight rope when seconding, others are comforted by one. One tip is that if the leader puts the belay plate in the right place and ready for the rope to be slotted into it **before** she pulls the slack up, the second will know he is on belay within a few seconds of the ropes going tight.

1. Table of Climbing Calls

The following table lists common climbing calls from around the world. If you can fill in the gaps or know others from around the world please let David know (d.a.coley@bath.ac.uk).

(Austrian ones provided by Andreas Wimmer.)

North America	Meaning	UK	France	Spain	Italy	Germany	Austria
Off belay	You can take me off belay	Safe	vachee				Stand
Slack	Given me more rope (with double ropes add the colour if you only need slack in one rope). Said by the second whilst on the belay when the leader has taken in all the slack rope.	Slack	du mou				Seil aus
Tight	Take the rope in tight. Normally used by the second.	Tight	bout du corde				
Off belay	Take the rope in tight and hold me on it. You are no longer being belayed.	Take Off belay	sec corde libre				Seil ein (you are off belay, take the rope up)
Climb on	You are being belayed. Normally shouted to the second to confirm he can	Climb when	allez- y/quand tu				"Nachkommen" or

Take in	strip the belay and start moving. Shouted by the second to indicate there is still a lot of slack rope around. (Add the colour of the rope if there is only slack in one rope.)	ready	veut avalez la corde	"Gesichert"
Climbing	Shouted by the second to confirm he has moved off the belay A warning screamed to indicate you have knocked a rock off or dropped something.	Climbing Below!	caillou	Komme
Rope	A warning to others that you are about to throw an abseil rope down. I think I'm about to fall off. Normally said by the leader as a way to make sure the second is concentrating and sharing her anxiety	Rope below Watch me	corde	

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