20 call back

Study Read these sentences carefully.
► Can you photocopy these documents for me? I'll call back later to collect them.
► I'm afraid no one can see you at the moment. Can you call back in half an hour?
► The sales rep called back the following week with some samples.

Check Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

MEANING
If you call back, what do you do? Choose the correct words.
You go to a different/the same place to see somebody again/for the first time.

GRAMMAR
Which of these are grammatically possible?

a I called back later.
b I called it back later.
c I called back the office later.
d I called back at the office later.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Practise

1 Match up the two halves of the dialogues:

a ‘Can I see Ms Johnson please?’
   i ‘Yes, I'm sorry. I was in a meeting.’

b ‘I called back but you weren't there.’
   ii ‘OK. Show him in.’

c ‘He's called back several times. I think you'd better see him.’
   iii ‘I'm afraid she's out, can you call back later?’

2 Write an appropriate sentence using call back:

a Somebody comes to your office and asks for your colleague. She is at lunch at the moment. Ask them to come back after lunch.

b You deliver some documents but forget to bring one of them. Say you will return tomorrow with the other document.

c You sell somebody a photocopier. Tell them you will come back in 3 months to check the machine.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Build your vocabulary

SIMILAR VERBS When somebody goes to visit a person to sell something or provide a service, they call on them. When they visit for a second time, they call back, or call again:
► I'll call again next week to finalize the arrangements.

When somebody calls back, they make a follow-up call or a follow-up visit:
► It's best to make a follow-up call within a few days to confirm the sale.