

Let's speak English (American)

Some Idioms & Some Slang



Collected by
FULL MARK

Dennis Oliver's Idioms



A

ace: make an "A" on a test, homework assignment, project, etc.

"Somebody said you aced the test, Dave. That's great!"

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all right (1): expression of reluctant agreement.

A: "Come to the party with me. Please!"

B: "Oh, **all right**. I don't want to, but I will."

♦ ♦ ♦

all right (2): fair; not particularly good.

A: "How's your chemistry class?"

B: "It's **all right**, I guess, but it's not the best class I've ever had."

♦ ♦ ♦

all right (3): unharmed; in satisfactory condition.

A: "You don't look normal. Are you **all right**?"

B: "Yes, but I have a headache."

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and then some: and much more besides.

A: "I'd guess your new computer cost about \$2,000. "

B: "It cost that much **and then some** because I also bought extra RAM and VRAM."

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antsy: restless; impatient and tired of waiting.

"I hope Katy calls soon. Just sitting around and waiting is making me **antsy**."

♦ ♦ ♦

as easy as pie: very easy.

"I thought you said this was a difficult problem. It isn't. In fact, it's **as easy as pie**."

♦ ♦ ♦

at the eleventh hour: at the last minute; almost too late.

"Yes, I got the work done in time. I finished it **at the eleventh hour**, but I wasn't late.

B

bad-mouth: say unkind, unflattering, embarrassing (and probably untrue) things about someone.

A: "I don't believe what Bob said. Why is he bad-mouthing me?"

B: "He's probably jealous of your success."

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be a piece of cake: be very easy.

A: "Bob said the test was difficult, but I thought it was **a piece of cake**."

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be all ears: be eager to hear what someone has to say.

A: "I just got an e-mail message from our old friend Sally."

B: "Tell me what she said. **I'm all ears!**"

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be broke: be without money.

"No, I can't lend you ten dollars. **I'm** completely **broke** until payday."

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be fed up with (with someone or something): be out of patience (with someone or something); be very tired of someone or something.

"Bill, you're too careless with your work. **I'm fed up with** apologizing for your mistakes!"

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be in and out: be at and away from a place during a particular time.

"Could we postpone our meeting until tomorrow? I expect to **be in and out** of the office most of the day today."

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be on the go: be very busy (going from one thing or project to another).

"I'm really tired. I've **been on the go** all week long."

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be on the road: be traveling.

"You won't be able to contact me tomorrow because I'll **be on the road**."

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be over: be finished; end.

"I can't see you until around 4 o'clock. My meetings won't **be over** until then."

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be up and running: (for a technological process) be operational; be ready to use .

"Dave's ESL Cafe on the Web has **been up and running** since December 1995."

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be used to (+Ving/noun): be accustomed to; not uncomfortable with.

"It won't be hard to get up at 5:00 AM. I'm **used to** getting up early."

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beat: exhausted; very tired (adj.).

"This has been a long day. I'm **beat**!"

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beat around the bush: evade an issue; avoid giving a direct answer.

"Quit **beating around the bush**! If you don't want to go with me, just tell me!"

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beat one's brains out: try very hard to understand or do something.

"Can you help me with this problem? I've been **beating my brains out** with it, but I just can't solve it."

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Beats me: I have no idea.

A: "What time's the party?"

B: "**Beats me**!"

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before long: soon.

A: "I'm really tired of working."

B: "Just be patient. The weekend will be here **before long**."

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bent out of shape: needlessly worried about something.

"I know you're worried about your job interview, but don't get **bent out of shape**. You'll do just fine."

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bite off more than one can chew: take responsibility for more than one can manage.

"I'm really behind with my project. Can you help me? I'm afraid I **bit off more than I could chew!**"

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blabbermouth: a very talkative person--especially one who says things that should be kept secret.

"Don't say anything to Bob unless you want the whole office to know. Bob's quite a **blabbermouth**."

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blow one's top: become extremely angry.

A: "Was your father upset when you came home at 3 AM?"

B: "He was *more than* upset. He **blew his top!**"

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boom box: portable cassette/CD player.

"Don't forget to bring your **boom box** to the picnic!"

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the bottom line: the most essential information.

"The discussion lasted many hours. **The bottom line** was that the XYZ Company isn't for sale."

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Break a leg!: Good luck!

"I understand you have a job interview tomorrow. **Break a leg!**"

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break someone's heart: make someone feel very disappointed/discouraged/sad.

"Joe **broke his mother's heart** when he dropped out of school."

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broke: without money.

A: "Can you lend me 10 dollars?"

B: "I'm afraid not. I'm **broke**."

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buck(s): dollar(s).

"The cheapest tickets for the concert cost 25 **bucks**. Do you still want to go?"

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bug: annoy; bother.

"I'm trying to concentrate! Don't **bug** me!"

◆ ◆ ◆

bull-headed: stubborn; inflexible.

"Don't be so **bull-headed**. Why can't you admit that others' opinions are just as good as yours?"

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a bundle: a lot of money.

A: "Your new car is really nice."

B: "It should be. It cost me **a bundle**!"

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burn the midnight oil: study/work all night or until very, very late at night.

"I'm not ready for the test tomorrow. I guess I'll have to **burn the the midnight oil**."

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bushed: very tired; exhausted.

"I'm going to lie down for a while. I'm really **bushed**."

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by oneself: alone and without help.

"I can't do this **by myself**. Can you help me?"

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by the skin of one's teeth: barely succeed in doing something.

"I'll have to start earlier the next time. This time I only finished **by the skin of my teeth**."

C

call it a day: stop work for the day.

"It's late and you've accomplished a lot. Why don't you **call it a day**?"

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can't make heads or tails of something: can't understand something at all; find something confusing and illogical.

"I **can't make heads or tails of** your e-mail. Were you having problems with your computer?"

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catch one's eye: attract one's attention/interest.

"This brochure about Tahiti **caught my eye** when I was at the travel agency."

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catch some Zs: sleep for a while; take a nap.

"You look tired, Dave. Why don't you **catch some Zs**?"

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change one's mind: decide to do something different from what had been decided earlier.

A: "Why are you working this week? I thought you were going to be on vacation."

B: "I changed my mind. I'm taking my vacation next month."

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chicken (adjective or noun): cowardly.

"Fred will never ask Lucy for a date. He's **chicken** / **a chicken**."

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chow: food.

"How's the **chow** in the university cafeteria?"

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chow down: eat.

"It's almost 6:00. Are you ready to **chow down**?"

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a cinch: something that's very easy to do.

A: How was the test?

B: It was **a cinch**. I finished it quickly and I know that all my answers were correct."

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cool (also *kewl*): neat, special, wonderful.

"The ESL Cafe on the Web is really **cool**!"

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Cool it!: calm down.

"There's no need to be so upset. Just **cool it**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

cost (someone) an arm and a leg: cost a lot; be very expensive.

A: "Your new car is really nice."

B: "It should be. It **cost (me) an arm and a leg**!"

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couch potato: someone who spends too much time watching TV.

"You're a real **couch potato**, Jay. You need to get more exercise!"

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cram: try to learn as much as possible in a very short time.

"Sidney did well on the test because he crammed for it. However, he probably won't remember any of the information a couple of days from now."

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crash course: short course designed to give a lot of knowledge/information in a very short time.

"Tom's company is sending him to a business meeting in Istanbul. Should he take a **crash course** in Turkish?"

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Cut it out!: stop doing something (that's annoying).

"You kids are making too much noise. **Cut it out**!"

D

Don't count your chickens until (before) they hatch (they've hatched).: Don't assume that something will happen until it *has* happened.

A: I'm sure that I'm going to win a lot of money in Las Vegas."

B: "**Don't count your chickens until they hatch**!"

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dicey: uncertain; taking too much of a chance.

A: A friend of mine says I can make a lot of money if I buy stock in the XYZ company. Should I do it?

B: I wouldn't if I were you. The chances for success are too **dicey**."

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ditch class: skip class/play hookey.

"You shouldn't have **ditched class** yesterday. We had an unannounced test."

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do a bang-up job: do a very good job; do very well at something.

"Have you seen Frank's home page? He **did a bang-up job** with it."

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down in the dumps: depressed; "blue."

A: "Is something wrong?"

B: "Not really, but I feel kind of **down in the dumps**."

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drop someone a line: write to someone.

"I haven't written to my parents for a long time. I'd better **drop them a line** today or tomorrow."

◆ ◆ ◆

drag one's feet: delay; take longer than necessary to do something.

"Joe should have finished his project a week ago. Why is he **dragging his feet**?"

E

an eager beaver: a person who is always willing to volunteer or do extra work.

"Jan is certainly **an eager beaver**. Any time there's work to be done, she's the first to say she'll help."

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Easy does it!: Be very careful! / Don't do anything too fast or too hard!

A: "I'm going to move the table just a little further from the window."

B: "**Easy does it!** If you move too fast, you might knock over the plant!"

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an egghead: a very intelligent person.

"Jake didn't make very good grades in school, but his sister was a real **egghead**."

◆ ◆ ◆

elbow grease: hard work; effort.

"Yes, the car is pretty dirty, but it'll look nice again with a little **elbow grease**."

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every other _____ : alternately; omitting the second one in each group of two.

"In your essays, please write on **every other line**. That will make the essays much easier to read."

F

far-fetched: difficult to accept; difficult to believe.

"That story's pretty **far-fetched**. Nobody's going to believe it."

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feel blue: feel sad and depressed.

"I'm **feeling blue** because I haven't had any mail except bills for a long, long time."

◆ ◆ ◆

fire someone: dismiss someone from a job because of poor performance.

"If you continue to be late for work, the company will **fire you**."

◆ ◆ ◆

feel puny: feel unwell, ill.

"Ted was **feeling puny** yesterday, so he decided not to go to work."

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fender-bender: automobile accident.

"Traffic was really slow on the freeway this morning because of a **fender-bender** in one of the westbound lanes."

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for ages: for a very long time.

"Where's Marie? I haven't seen her **for ages**."

G

get going: leave.

"Look at the time! I'd better **get going!**"

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get it: understand something (often negative).

"I don't **get it**. What do you mean?"

◆ ◆ ◆

get a kick out of something: find something amusing.

"I really **get a kick out of** listening to children talk. They say some very funny things."

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get lost!: go away

"I wish he'd **get lost** and stop bothering me. I don't want to talk to him!"

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get on one's nerves: irritate someone; make someone upset.

"I know you like that song, but it's **getting on my nerves**. Can you play something else?"

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get a move on: hurry

"If you don't want to be late, you'd better **get a move on.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

get one's wires crossed: be confused or mistaken about something.

A: "Bill said there was a meeting this morning. Don't we have one?"

B: "No. The meeting's tomorrow. I guess Bill **got his wires crossed.**"

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get out of hand: become out of control; become badly managed.

"Your absences are **getting out of hand**, Bob. You'd better do something quickly to improve the situation if you want to keep your job."

◆ ◆ ◆

Get real!: Be realistic! / Don't be naive.

A: "I'm going to Las Vegas. I know I'll win a lot of money!"

B: "Get real! You'll probably *lose* a lot of money!"

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get up and go: energy.

"I'm really tired. I don't have any **get up and go**."

◆ ◆ ◆

give someone a hand (1): help someone.

"I can't do this alone. Can you **give me a hand**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

give someone a hand (2): applaud (to show respect or appreciation for someone/something).

"Dave's done a wonderful job with The ESL Café on the Web.

Let's **give him a hand**!"

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a (real) go-getter: a (very) ambitious, hard-working person.

"I'm not surprised that Jean finished before anyone else. She's **a real go-getter**."

◆ ◆ ◆

go with the flow: take things as they come.

"There's no need to worry. Everything will be OK if you just **go with the flow**."

◆ ◆ ◆

grab a bite: get something to eat.

"I'm really hungry. Would you like to **grab a bite** with me?"

◆ ◆ ◆

green: inexperienced.

"I don't think you can depend on Jack to do that job by himself. He's too **green**."

H

had ('d) better: be obliged to; should (strong).

"You'd **better** leave soon. If you don't, you'll miss your bus."

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hassle (noun): a troublesome situation; something troublesome that interrupts one's normal routine.

"I know it's a **hassle** to complete this form now, but Mr. Rogers needs it in his office by the end of the day."

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hard feelings: anger; animosity; bitter feelings.

A: "I'm sorry that Jim got the job instead of you."

B: "I have no **hard feelings** toward him; I know that he had stronger qualifications."

◆ ◆ ◆

hard-headed: stubborn; inflexible; unwilling to change.

"I don't think Julie will change her mind. She's pretty **hard-headed**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hassle (verb): annoy; bother; interrupt one's normal routine.

"If you'd stop **hassling** me, I might get this finished on time!"

◆ ◆ ◆

have one's hands full: be extremely busy.

A: "Will you be able to help us this afternoon?"

B: "I'm afraid not. I'll **have my hands full** trying to finish my research paper."

◆ ◆ ◆

have/has ('ve/'s) got: have/has.

"Dave's **got** a son whose name is Benjamin and a daughter whose name is Shannon."

◆ ◆ ◆

have something down pat: know/understand something completely and thoroughly.

"I know I did well on the test. I **had** all the material **down pat**."

head honcho: person in charge; top boss.

"Dave's the **head honcho** of the ESL Cafe on the Web."

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hit the books: study.

"I wish I could go to the movies, but I've got to **hit the books**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hit the hay: go to bed; go to sleep.

"It's late, so I guess I'll **hit the hay**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hit the sack: go to bed.

"I'm really tired. I think I'll **hit the sack**."

◆ ◆ ◆

How come?: Why? (statement word order).

"**How come** you weren't at the party?"

I

if I had my druthers: if I could do what I wanted/preferred.

"**If I had my druthers**, I'd stay home from work today."

◆ ◆ ◆

in over one's head: in a situation that is too much / too difficult for one to manage.

"Do you have time to help me? I thought I could do this myself,
but I'm afraid I'm **in over my head**. I just can't handle things alone."

◆ ◆ ◆

inside out: with the inner part on the outside and the outer part on the inside.

"Why are you wearing your tee shirt **inside out**?"

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in stock: in supply and available to buy / sell.

"I'm sorry, but we just sold our last pair of hiking boots. If you come back
at the end of the week, however, we should have some more **in stock**."

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in the black: profitable; not showing a financial loss.

"What did you do to increase profit and eliminate losses?
We've been **in the black** for two months in a row."

◆ ◆ ◆

in the red: unprofitable; showing a financial loss.

"We have to do something to increase profit and decrease losses.
We've been **in the red** for two months in a row."

◆ ◆ ◆

in time: not late.

"I thought I was going to be late for my flight, but it was delayed, so I was still **in time**."

J

jump all over someone: severely criticize / find fault with someone.

A: "What's wrong with Joe?"

B: "He's feeling bad because his boss **jumped all over him** this morning."

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jump the gun: do something before it's time to do it.

A: "How did Marsha know about the party? It was supposed to be a surprise."

B: "Chuck **jumped the gun**. Without thinking, he said, 'I'm bringing the cake at your party; I hope you like it!'"

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jump to conclusions: decide something too quickly and without thinking about it or considering all the facts.

A: "Angela just doesn't like me. She won't even say hello."

B: "You're **jumping to conclusions**. Actually, she's very shy."

◆ ◆ ◆

junk mail: unsolicited mail (usually advertisements for something you're not interested in).

"I didn't have any letters today--only **junk mail**."

K

keep an eye on: check something regularly.

"You're busy, so you'll need to **keep an eye on** the time. Remember that we have to leave at 4:30."

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keep an eye out for: watch for.

"I'll **keep an eye out for** John. If I see him, I'll tell him you want to talk to him."

◆ ◆ ◆

keep one's chin up: remain brave and confident in a difficult situation; don't despair or worry too much.

"I know that things have been difficult for you recently, but **keep your chin up**. Everything will be better soon."

◆ ◆ ◆

keep one's nose to the grindstone: stay diligent; steadily work hard, without breaks or an uneven pace.

"If I **keep my nose to the grindstone**, I should be finished by the end of the day."

◆ ◆ ◆

keep/stay in touch (with someone): remain informed (about someone) / in contact (with someone) by writing, calling, sending e-mail, etc. on a regular basis.

"I haven't seen Frank for two or three years but we **keep (stay) in touch** by e-mail."

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keep one's fingers crossed: hope for the best.

A: "How did you do on the test?"

B: "I think I passed, but I won't know until tomorrow.
I'm **keeping my fingers crossed**!"

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kid (noun): child.

A: "You have three **kids**, don't you?"

B: "That's right. I have two girls and a boy."

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kid (verb): playfully say something that isn't true.

"I was **kidding** when I said my teacher was a monster. She's strict, but she's actually a very nice person."

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kind of: rather; more or less; a little.

"I'm feeling **kind of** hungry. I think I'll make myself a sandwich."

◆ ◆ ◆

a klutz: an awkward, uncoordinated person.

"Don't ask Jeff to dance with you. He's a real **klutz** and will probably step on your feet!"

◆ ◆ ◆

a know-it-all: someone who acts as if he/she knows everything--as if no one can tell him/her anything that he/she doesn't already know.

"Don't try to make any suggestions to Bob. He's a **know-it-all** and won't pay attention to anything you say."

◆ ◆ ◆

know something backwards and forwards: know/understand something completely and thoroughly.

"If you have a question about html tags, ask Susan. She knows html **backwards and forwards.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

know something inside out: know/understand something thoroughly.

"If you have a question about grammar, ask Dr. Martin. She **knows** grammar **inside out.**"

L

lend someone a hand: help someone.

"I can't do this alone. Can you **lend me a hand?**"

◆ ◆ ◆

leave well enough alone: do nothing (because doing something would make things worse).

"Don't tell Jim how to discipline his children. **Leave well enough alone.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

a let-down: a disappointment; something that's very disappointing.

"It must've been quite a **let-down** not to be chosen for that job. I know you really hoped you would get it."

◆ ◆ ◆

Let sleeping dogs lie.: Don't cause problems by doing something when it isn't necessary.

"I know that what Julie said made you angry, but **let sleeping dogs lie.** If you say or do anything, you'll only make things worse."

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live from hand to mouth: survive on very little money; have only enough money to pay for basic needs.

"Chuck and Alice are **living from hand to mouth** since Chuck lost his job."

◆ ◆ ◆

live and let live: don't unnecessarily make things difficult; do as you wish and let others do as they wish.

"I'm not going to criticize Alice's family just because their habits are a little strange. My motto is '**Live and let live.**'"

◆ ◆ ◆

a low blow: a big disappointment.

A: "Fred seems depressed. Is he OK?"

B: "He's OK, but not good. It was **a low blow** for him to be laid off from his job."

◆ ◆ ◆

lousy: terrible; very bad.

"Why did you speak so rudely to your grandmother? That was a **lousy** thing to do!"

M

macho: super masculine / masculine to an extreme (in appearance and behavior).

"Her husband would never agree to help with the housework; he's too **macho** to do that."

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make a mountain out of a molehill: make something seem much more important than it really is.

"Calm down. There's really nothing to worry about. You're **making a mountain out of a molehill.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

make up one's mind: decide what to do.

A: Where are you going on your vacation?

B: Maybe Canada, maybe Mexico. I can't **make up my mind.**"

N

No way!: Absolutely not! / Definitely not!

A: "You didn't open this letter addressed to me, did you?"

B: "**No way!** I'd *never* read look at else's mail!"

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nosh: snack.

"There's plenty in the refrigerator if you want something to **nosh** on."

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Not on your life!: Absolutely not! (a strong "no").

A: "Someone said you cheated on the test. Did you?"

B: "**Not on your life!**"

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now and then: occasionally; from time to time.

A: "Do you see Jennifer often?"

B: "No, not really. I see her **now and then**, but not regularly."

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nuke: heat in a microwave.

"If your coffee's cold, just **nuke** it for about a minute."

◆ ◆ ◆

nuts: crazy.

A: "Stuart says some really strange things sometimes."

B: "Sometimes? All the time! He's **nuts!**"

O

OK: (1) yes (to show agreement--often reluctant agreement).

A: "Come on, Al. We really need your help!"

B: "Oh, **OK**; I may be crazy, but I'll help you."

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OK: (2) neither good nor bad; so-so.

A: "How was the movie?"

B: "**OK**, I guess, but I've seen better ones."

◆ ◆ ◆

OK: (3) in satisfactory condition; well.

A: "You look awfully pale. Are you **OK**?"

B: "Actually, I'm not. I have a terrible headache. "

◆ ◆ ◆

OK: (4) approve (verb).

A: "Did your boss **OK** your vacation plans?"

B: "No, but he said that taking them two weeks later would be all right."

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on the dot: exactly at a given time.

"We're leaving at 9:00 **on the dot**. If you're late, we'll go without you."

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on time: at the scheduled time.

"It's getting late. You'd better hurry if you want to get to work **on time**."

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(on the) cutting edge: using the most recent technology.

"The university's computer lab is **(on the) cutting edge**. It has all the latest hardware and software."

◆ ◆ ◆

once in a while: occasionally; from time to time.

A: "Would you like coffee or tea?"

B: "Coffee, please. I drink tea **once in a while**, but I generally drink coffee."

◆ ◆ ◆

over one's head: too difficult or complicated for someone to understand.

"This explanation of cgi scripting is **over my head**.
Can you explain it in a less technical way?"

P

pay the piper: face the consequences for something you've done.

"I stayed up too late tonight. Tomorrow I'll have to **pay the piper**."

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plastic: credit card(s).

"Oh, no! I forgot to get any cash! I hope this restaurant accepts **plastic**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

pooped: very tired; exhausted.

"I went to bed really early last night. I was **pooped**!"

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pop quiz: unannounced short test.

"You shouldn't have missed class yesterday. We had a **pop quiz**."

◆ ◆ ◆

pretty (adv.): rather; somewhat.

"That car's **pretty** expensive. Are you sure you can afford it?"

◆ ◆ ◆

pull an all-nighter: study or work all night without getting any sleep.

A: "You look really tired."

B: "I am. I **pulled an all-nighter** to get ready for the meeting this morning."

◆ ◆ ◆

pull someone's leg: tease someone by trying to make her/him believe something that's exaggerated or untrue.

A: "Wow! Carl has done some really amazing things!"

B: "Don't believe everything he tells you. He was probably **pulling your leg**."

Q

quite a few: several; numerous.

"I don't think I can meet you after work. I have **quite a few** errands that I have to do."

◆ ◆ ◆

a quick study: someone who learns new things quickly and easily.

A: "Annie seems to be doing well at her new job."

B: "I'm not surprised. She's **a quick study**."

R

R and R: rest and relaxation (a vacation).

"I think you're working too hard, Dave. You need some **R and R**."

◆ ◆ ◆

rain or shine: (describing something scheduled) no matter what the weather is.

"We're leaving tomorrow, **rain or shine**."

◆ ◆ ◆

rain cats and dogs: rain very hard.

"You can't leave just now! It's **raining cats and dogs** and you don't have an umbrella or raincoat!"

◆ ◆ ◆

read someone's mind: know what someone is thinking.

A: "I'll be you're thinking of what you're going to have for dinner."

B: "Hey, did you **read my mind**?"

A: "No. I just know that you're always hungry and lunch was several hours ago!"

◆ ◆ ◆

rub someone the wrong way: irritate someone; bother or annoy someone.

"All my little brother says is 'Why?' Usually I'm patient with him, but sometimes all his questions **rub me the wrong way**."

◆ ◆ ◆

run-down: (1) not well; weak; fatigued.

"Are you eating regularly and getting enough sleep? You look **run-down**."

◆ ◆ ◆

run-down: (2) in poor condition; needing repair.

"This must be a poor neighborhood. All the buildings look really **run-down**."

S

___ **-savvy:** knowledgeable about ___ .

"If you're having problems with your hard disk, talk to Jim. He's very **computer-savvy**."

◆ ◆ ◆

schmooze: make relaxed, casual conversation.

"No, we weren't talking about anything important. We were just **schmoozing**."

◆ ◆ ◆

shoot the breeze: make relaxed, casual conversation.

"No, we weren't talking about anything important. We were just **shooting the breeze**."

◆ ◆ ◆

sleep on it: take at least a day to think about something before making a decision.

"The job that you're offering me sounds really good, but I'd like to **sleep on it** before giving you my final decision."

◆ ◆ ◆

a snap: something that's very easy to do.

A: "Is your job difficult?"

B: "No, actually it's **a snap**. In fact, it's so easy that it's a little bit boring."

◆ ◆ ◆

Someone's made his/her own bed; now let him/her lie in it.: Someone has caused his/her own problems; he/she will have to solve them himself/herself.

A: Jim upset everyone when he got angry at the meeting. Can we do anything to make the situation better?

B: No. **He's made his own bed; now let him lie in it.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

sooner or later: eventually.

"You've been working too hard for too long. If you don't relax a little, **sooner or later** you're going to get sick."

◆ ◆ ◆

sort of: rather; somewhat.

"I think I'll lie down. I feel **sort of** dizzy."

◆ ◆ ◆

so-so: fair; not particularly good.

A: "How're you doing?"

B: "**So-so**. I've been better, but I've also been worse."

◆ ◆ ◆

state of the art: using the latest technology.

"The company is very proud of the equipment in its computer room. It's **state of the art**."

◆ ◆ ◆

Step on it!: Hurry up!

"**Step on it!** The taxi will be here at any time and you're not even dressed!"

T

take it easy: relax.

"I don't have any special vacation plans. I'm just going to **take it easy**."

◆ ◆ ◆

tell a white lie: say something that isn't true in order not to hurt or offend someone.

"The cake that Susan made tasted terrible, but I knew that she made it because she wanted to please me, so when she asked if I liked it, I **told a white lie** and said it was good."

◆ ◆ ◆

toss something: throw something away; put something in the trash.

"These shoes are worn out. I guess I'll have to **toss them**."

◆ ◆ ◆

tough: difficult.

"Question number three is a **tough** one. Do you know the answer?"

◆ ◆ ◆

There, there.: expression of comfort.

"**There, there.** Everything's going to be OK."

◆ ◆ ◆

tight-fisted: very frugal; unwilling to spend money unnecessarily.

A: Do you think Charlie will donate any money to the activities fund?

B: No way! He's too **tight-fisted**!

◆ ◆ ◆

a tightwad: someone who is very frugal and unwilling to spend money unnecessarily.

A: Will Charlie donate any money to the activities fund?

B: Absolutely not! He's a real **tightwad**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

tricky: easily confused or misunderstood.

"This problem is **tricky**. I don't really understand it."

◆ ◆ ◆

two-faced: deceitful; disloyal; someone who pretends to be a friend but isn't.

"I thought he was my friend, but he's **two-faced**. He says nice things to me when we're together, but makes jokes about me when we aren't."

U

under the weather: ill; sick; unwell.

"Ted was feeling **under the weather** yesterday, so he decided not to go to work."

◆ ◆ ◆

until hell freezes over: forever.

"Chris can practice the piano **until hell freezes over**, but he'll never play well because he's tone-deaf."

Note: This expression is used to describe something that will not change, no matter how long or how often it's done.

◆ ◆ ◆

until you're blue in the face: forever.

"You can talk **until you're blue in the face**, but I won't change my mind."

Note: This expression is used in the same way as "until hell freezes over."

◆ ◆ ◆

update: make current; add information to show what has happened recently.

"I need to **update** my résumé. It doesn't show what I've done during the last year."

◆ ◆ ◆

upside down: with the bottom part on top and the top part on bottom.

"Put the glasses **upside down** in the dishwasher. If you don't do that, they'll fill with water and you'll have to dry them by hand."

◆ ◆ ◆

used to (+ V): an action that was true in the past but is not true now.

"Jane **used to** live in Austin, Texas. She lives in San Francisco now."

W

Was my face red!: I was very embarrassed.

"When I got to the meeting I noticed that I was wearing one black sock and one brown one. **Was my face red!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

wear out one's welcome: make someone uncomfortable by visiting too long.

A: "Can't you stay two or three more days?"

B: "No. I don't want to **wear out my welcome**."

◆ ◆ ◆

wet behind the ears: inexperienced and naive.

"Don't include Fred as part of the bargaining team. He's just started working here and is still too **wet behind the ears**."

◆ ◆ ◆

What for?: Why?

A: "Come here for a minute. I need you."

B: "What for?"

Note: "What" and "for" can be separated--with "for" at the end of the question:

B: "What do you need me for?"

◆ ◆ ◆

What's up?: What's new? What's happening?

"Hi, Dave. **What's up?**"

◆ ◆ ◆

a white lie: a lie that is told to avoid offending someone or hurting his / her feelings.

"The cake that Susan made tasted terrible, but I knew that she made it because she wanted to please me, so when she asked if I liked it, I told a white lie and said it was good."

◆ ◆ ◆

wishy-washy: uncommitted; without an opinion of one's own.

"Don't be so **wishy-washy**. Tell us how you really feel."

◆ ◆ ◆

with bells on: very eagerly; with the feeling that one will have a very good time.

A: "Are you going to Sandra's party?"

B: "I'll be there **with bells on!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

would ('d) just as soon: would ('d) rather; prefer.

"I know we have a lot of work to do, but I'm tired. I'd **just as soon** leave and finish tomorrow. Is that OK with you?"

Y

a yes-man: someone who tries to get approval by agreeing with everyone.

A: "Why does the boss think Arnold is so intelligent?"

B: "Because Arnold is **a yes-man**. He agrees with everything the boss says!"

◆ ◆ ◆

You don't say!: Really? / Is that really true?

A: "Have you heard the news? Jessica got married!"

B: "**You don't say!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

You've got to be kidding!: You can't be serious! (What you said can't be true. What you said is very surprising/hard to believe.) "

A: "Did you know that Bob quit his job?"

B: "**You've got to be kidding!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

yucky: terrible; distasteful; very unpleasant.

"Don't eat the soup at the cafeteria. It's **yucky!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

yummy: delicious.

"Have you tried the cookies that Jonathan baked? They're **yummy!**"

Z

zilch: nothing.

A: "How much money do you have?"

B: "**Zilch**. I'm broke until payday."

◆ ◆ ◆

Zip your lip!: keep something secret; promise not to tell what has just been said.

"What I told you is really important, so **zip your lip!**"



Dave Sperling's
ESL SLANG PAGE



A

airhead: stupid person.

"Believe it or not, Dave can sometimes act like an **airhead**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

amigo: friend (from Spanish).

"I met many **amigos** at Dave's ESL Cafe."

◆ ◆ ◆

ammunition: toilet paper.

"Help! We're completely out of **ammunition**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

antifreeze: alcohol.

"I'm going to need a lot of **antifreeze** tonight!"

◆ ◆ ◆

armpit: dirty, unappealing place.

"This cheap motel is an absolute **armpit**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

ass [offensive] (1): backside.

"I fell on my **ass** on the ski slopes."

◆ ◆ ◆

ass (2): an unworthy and hated person.

"I cannot be friends when you act like an **ass**."

◆ ◆ ◆

awesome: great and impressive.

"Dave's ESL Cafe is truly **awesome**!"

B

baby boomer: a person born from the end of the Second World War until the early 1960s.

"Dave Sperling was born in 1961, so he's considered a **baby boomer**."

◆ ◆ ◆

ball (1): a fun time.

"I really had a **ball** in Dave's ESL class."

◆ ◆ ◆

ball [offensive] (2): a testicle.

"After getting kicked in the **balls**, his voice seemed much higher."

◆ ◆ ◆

bang (1): a very powerful thing.

"Disneyland is really a **bang**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

bang (2): a powerful effect.

"Japanese sake really has a **bang**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

barf (1): vomit.

"My dog **barfed** all over the carpet."

◆ ◆ ◆

barf (2): vomit.

"Don't step on the **barf**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

barf-out: a displeasing person or affair.

"That restaurant was a real **barf-out**."

◆ ◆ ◆

bazillion: an infinite number of something.

"Has Dennis really taught a **bazillion** students?"

◆ ◆ ◆

B-ball: basketball.

"Do you wanna play **b-ball** with me?"

◆ ◆ ◆

beans: money.

"I've worked for this company for ten years, but I still don't have **beans**."

◆ ◆ ◆

beat: tired.

"I'm really **beat** because I was awake all night."

◆ ◆ ◆

beemer: a BMW.

"He wants to buy a **beemer** when he makes more money."

◆ ◆ ◆

biggie: something important.

"I was hoping to get my homework completed, but it's no **biggie**."

◆ ◆ ◆

biker: a motorcycle rider.

"Dave used to be a **biker** until he got into a serious motorcycle accident."

◆ ◆ ◆

bitch [offensive] (1): a very unpleasant woman.

"My boss can be such a **bitch** sometimes."

◆ ◆ ◆

bitch [offensive] (2): complain.

"Stop **bitching** and finish your homework!"

◆ ◆ ◆

bitchy [offensive]: moody.

"I like my friend Steve, even though he can be really **bitchy**."

◆ ◆ ◆

bod: body.

"Stalone has a great **bod!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

bonkers; go bonkers: crazy.

"If Dave works too hard, he sometimes goes slightly **bonkers!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

booboo: a mistake.

"I made a **booboo** on the last question of the exam."

◆ ◆ ◆

boob tube: television.

"Benjamin is always in front of the **boob tube.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

booze: alcohol.

"The ESL party was fun, even though there wasn't any **booze.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

boss: excellent; great.

"Dave's ESL Cafe is totally **boss!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

bread: money.

"Can I borrow some **bread?**"

◆ ◆ ◆

brew (1): coffee.

"Every morning Dave needs a fresh cup of **brew.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

brew (2): beer.

"Do you want another **brew**, dude?"

◆ ◆ ◆

brewski: beer.

"I love drinking **brewskies!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

B.S.: bullshit; lies.

"I'm tired of listening to your **B.S.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

bull: bullshit; lie.

"That's a bunch of **bull!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

bullshit [offensive]: lie; dishonesty.

"I don't like people that **bullshit** me"

◆ ◆ ◆

buns [possibly offensive]: the rear end; buttocks.

"Don't stare at my **buns!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

bushed: extremely tired.

"I'm completely **bushed.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

butt: the buttocks.

"Stop sitting on your **butt** and help me wash the dishes!"

C

catch some rays: get some sunshine.

"Let's go to the beach and catch some **rays.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

cheesy: cheap; outmoded.

"Why are you wearing such **cheesy** clothes?"

◆ ◆ ◆

chicken: coward.

"Don't be such a **chicken!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

cool: excellent; superb.

"Dave's ESL Cafe is totally **cool!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

cooler, the: jail.

"If you drink and drive, you'll end up spending time in the **cooler.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

couch potato: a person who watches too much television.

"Why did I have to marry such a **couch potato?**"

◆ ◆ ◆

crap [offensive] (1): something worthless.

"My furniture is a bunch of cheap **crap.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

crap [offensive] (2): excrement.

"Yuck! I stepped on dog **crap!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

crap [offensive] (3): falsehoods and lies.

"I've had enough of your **crap.**"

D

deck: to hit someone.

"His wife almost **decked** him when he returned home with lipstick on his shirt."

◆ ◆ ◆

dicey: unpredictable; risky.

"Gambling is a **dicey** occupation."

◆ ◆ ◆

dinero: money (from Spanish).

"I wish I had more **dinero!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

dirt: extremely bad person.

"My ex-boyfriend was **dirt**."

◆ ◆ ◆

dirty: offensive; pornographic.

"Stop looking at the pictures in that **dirty** magazine!"

◆ ◆ ◆

dorky: strange; peculiar.

"If you keep acting so **dorky**, you'll never get a girlfriend!"

◆ ◆ ◆

dude: a male.

"That's really cool, **dude**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

dynamite: powerful; excellent.

"Dave gave a **dynamite** presentation."

◆ ◆ ◆

dinosaur: something old fashioned or out of date.

"I'd love to surf the Net, but unfortunately my computer is a **dinosaur**."

E

el cheapo: something cheap.

"Since I don't make much money, I always purchase the **el cheapo** brand."

◆ ◆ ◆

evil: great; excellent.

"Your car is really **evil**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

eyeball: to stare long and hard at someone or something.

"Dave **eyeballed** his daughter's new boyfriend."

◆ ◆ ◆

eyepopper: something or someone visibly astounding.

"Wow, that girl is truly an **eyepopper**!"

F

fab: fabulous.

"Dave's ESL Cafe is really **fab**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

face-off: confrontation.

"I think it's time we had a **face-off**."

◆ ◆ ◆

fart [**offensive**]: to expel intestinal gas.

"It's embarrassing to **fart** on the first date."

◆ ◆ ◆

fender-bender: small accident.

"This morning I had a **fender-bender** on the Ventura Freeway."

◆ ◆ ◆

flaky: unpredictable.

"I waited four hours for my **flaky** friend to show up."

◆ ◆ ◆

flashback: sudden memory.

"In Little Tokyo I had a **flashback** to my days living in Japan."

◆ ◆ ◆

flick: movie.

"Let's go out tonight and watch a **flick**."

◆ ◆ ◆

fox: attractive, alluring person.

"Is it true that Dave is a **fox**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

freebie: something that does not cost money.

"My trip to New York was a **freebie**."

◆ ◆ ◆

French kiss [possibly offensive]: kissing with the tongue.

"Dave's dog is always trying to **French kiss** him!"

G

geek: someone who works too hard, is more intelligent than usual, and is slightly unattractive.

"Bill Gates is kind of a **geek**."

◆ ◆ ◆

get it: to understand something.

"Sorry, but I just don't **get it**."

◆ ◆ ◆

get naked [possibly offensive]: to completely relax and have a good time.

"Let's **get naked** tonight!"

◆ ◆ ◆

glitch: flaw.

"There must be a glitch in this **software**."

◆ ◆ ◆

go bananas: go slightly mad.

"This project is causing me to **go bananas**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

gomer: a dumb person.

"Stop acting like a **gomer**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

goof (1): a silly and foolish person.

"What a **goof** you are!"

◆ ◆ ◆

goof (2): make a mistake.

I really **goofed** on the test today."

◆ ◆ ◆

goof off (1): waste time.

"Stop **goofing off** and help me clean the house!"

◆ ◆ ◆

goof-off (2): someone who wastes time and isn't serious.

"A **goof-off** never does well in school"

◆ ◆ ◆

goof up: make a mistake.

"Oh no! I really **goofed up**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

goofy: silly.

"Kids always make me feel **goofy**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

grabbers: hands.

"Have you washed your **grabbers**, Benjamin?"

◆ ◆ ◆

grand: one thousand dollars.

"He's making over a hundred **grand** a year!"

◆ ◆ ◆

grass: marijuana.

"Have you ever smoked **grass**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

grub: food.

"Where's the **grub**?!"

◆ ◆ ◆

grubby: not clean.

"I always feel **grubby** in the morning."

◆ ◆ ◆

grungy: unclean and stinky.

"**Grungy** people are not allowed in Dave's house!"

◆ ◆ ◆

gut: a person's stomach; belly.

"Dave is getting a big **gut** because he loves chocolate ice cream and beer!"

◆ ◆ ◆

guts (1): courage.

"It took a lot of **guts** to ask his boss for a raise."

◆ ◆ ◆

guts (2): the nature of something.

"Let's get to the **guts** of Dave Sperling!"

H

hairy: difficult; dangerous.

"The steep and windy road was really **hairy**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hang a left: make a left turn.

"**Hang a left** at the next corner."

◆ ◆ ◆

hang a right: make a right turn.

"**Hang a right** at the next corner."

◆ ◆ ◆

head: toilet.

"I really need to use the **head**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

hep: sensible; informed.

"She's a really **hep** student."

◆ ◆ ◆

hickey: a love bite on the skin.

"Wow! Is that a **hickey** on your neck?"

◆ ◆ ◆

hip: sensible; informed.

"He really tries hard to be **hip**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hooker [possibly offensive]: prostitute.

"You'll find a lot of **hookers** in the red light district."

◆ ◆ ◆

horny [possibly offensive]: sexually stimulated; in the mood for sex.

"Red wine seems to make my boyfriend **horny**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hot (1): popular.

"Brad Pitt is really **hot** now."

◆ ◆ ◆

hot (2): sexy.

"Wow! Cindy Crawford is really **hot**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

humungous: really big.

"American supermarkets are **humungous**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hungries, to have: be hungry.

"I don't know about you, but I've got the **hungries**."

◆ ◆ ◆

hyper: overly excited.

"Children often get **hyper** when they are tired."

I

icky: unpleasant.

"The food is really **icky** in the school cafeteria."

◆ ◆ ◆

I.D.: identification.

"If you want to order a beer, you'll need your **I.D.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

I'm outta here: I'm leaving; I'm departing.

"Sorry, but **I'm outta here**, dude."

◆ ◆ ◆

in: fashionable.

"Ray-Ban sunglasses are really **in** now."

◆ ◆ ◆

ivories: teeth.

"Tom Cruise has really beautiful **ivories**."

J

jack around [possibly offensive]: waste time.

"Will you please stop **jacking around**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

jam, in a (1): trouble.

"If you're in a **jam**, I promise to help you."

◆ ◆ ◆

jam (2): improvise (musically).

"I'd love to **jam** with Bon Jovi!"

◆ ◆ ◆

jamming, to be : going well.

"Dave's ESL Cafe is really **jamming**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

jerk: stupid or annoying person.

"How could you go out with such a **jerk**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

jillion: an immense number.

"Do you really have a **jillion** problems?"

◆ ◆ ◆

jock: someone good at sports.

"I've never been much of a **jock**."

◆ ◆ ◆

john: toilet.

"Where's the **john**?"

K

K (k): a thousand.

"I could retire with 100 **K (k)**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

kick back: relax and enjoy.

"I wish I could **kick back** at the beach today."

◆ ◆ ◆

kick off: die.

"My dog finally **kicked off**."

◆ ◆ ◆

killer: something exceptional or great.

"Wow, your boyfriend is **killer**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

knock: condemn.

"Don't **knock** it unless you've tried it."

◆ ◆ ◆

knockout: beautiful woman; handsome man.

"Benjamin is already a **knockout**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

kook: peculiar person.

"Stop acting like a **kook**!"

L

laid back: relaxed; calm.

"I always feel **laid back** at the beach."

◆ ◆ ◆

lame: incompetent.

"Dave is really **lame** when is comes to fixing his car."

◆ ◆ ◆

lip: cheeky talk.

"My students are always giving me **lip**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

loser: a bungling and worthless person.

"Why are you dating such a **loser**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

love handles: excess fat around the waist.

"Is it possible for Dave to lose his **love handles**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

luck out: to be lucky or fortunate.

"You really **luck out** by visiting Dave's ESL Cafe!"

M

make waves: cause problems.

"Teachers don't like students to **make waves**."

◆ ◆ ◆

max, to the : maximum.

"I'm happy to the **max**."

◆ ◆ ◆

mega: big.

"American restaurants serve **mega** portions of food."

◆ ◆ ◆

megabucks: a large amount of money.

"It takes megabucks to live in Japan."

◆ ◆ ◆

mellow: relaxed.

"I'm feeling very **mellow** this evening."

◆ ◆ ◆

mickey-mouse: unimportant; time-wasting.

"I'm sick of this **mickey-mouse** job."

◆ ◆ ◆

monkey bite: a kiss that leaves a mark on the skin.

"I don't want any **monkey bites** tonight, okay?"

◆ ◆ ◆

munch out: to eat voraciously.

"Let's **munch out** on a large pizza!"

N

nada: nothing (from Spanish).

"I know **nada** about politics."

◆ ◆ ◆

neat: cool; great.

"Isn't my new car **neat**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

noid: someone that's paranoid.

"Why are you so **noid**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

nuke (1): nuclear weapon.

"This world had too many **nukes**."

◆ ◆ ◆

nuke (2): destroy; delete.

"Sorry, but I accidentally **nuked** your e-mail message."

◆ ◆ ◆

nuke (3): cook something in the microwave oven.

"Can you **nuke** this frozen pizza for me?"

◆ ◆ ◆

nut (1): odd or crazy person.

"Why are you always acting like a **nut**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

nut (2): someone passionate about something.

"I'm a nut about **computers**."

◆ ◆ ◆

nuts [offensive]: testicles.

"Don't ever kick me in the **nuts**."

O

okay: decent.

"My boss is an **okay** person."

◆ ◆ ◆

OK: decent.

"Dave is an **okay** person."

P

pad: someone's home.

"Can I sleep at your **pad** tonight?"

◆ ◆ ◆

party: celebrate.

"Let's **party** tonight!"

◆ ◆ ◆

party animal: someone that loves parties.

"Dave has been known to sometimes be a **party animal**."

◆ ◆ ◆

paws: hands.

"Get your **paws** off me!"

◆ ◆ ◆

peanuts: very little money.

"I love my job, but the pay is **peanuts**."

◆ ◆ ◆

pee: to urinate.

"I always have to **pee** after drinking beer."

◆ ◆ ◆

pickled: drunk.

"He got **pickled** on vodka."

◆ ◆ ◆

pig out: eat too much.

"Dave is famous for **pigging out** on chocolate ice cream."

◆ ◆ ◆

piss: to urinate.

"My dog **pissed** on me!"

◆ ◆ ◆

pissed (off): angry; upset.

"I'm really **pissed (off)** at you."

◆ ◆ ◆

plastered: drunk.

"Why does he always get **plastered**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

pad: someone's home.

"Can I sleep at your **pad** tonight?"

◆ ◆ ◆

poop, the (1): knowledge; information.

"What's the **poop** on Michael Jackson?"

◆ ◆ ◆

poop [offensive] (2): defecation; shit.

"Be careful not to step on dog **poop**."

◆ ◆ ◆

poop out: get tired and quit.

"I got **pooped out** after spending eight hours at Disneyland."

◆ ◆ ◆

pot (1): toilet.

"Who's on the **pot**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

pot (2): marijuana.

"It's easy to buy **pot** in the big city."

◆ ◆ ◆

pro: someone who's good at something; professional.

"She's really a **pro** at golf."

◆ ◆ ◆

psycho: crazy person.

"Stay away from that **psycho**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

puke: vomit.

"Alcohol makes some people **puke**."

◆ ◆ ◆

pumped (up): excited.

"I'm really **pumped (up)** about Dave's ESL Cafe!"

◆ ◆ ◆

puss: the face.

"My girlfriend slapped me right on the **puss**."

Q

quarterback: leader.

"Dave is the **quarterback** of Dave's ESL Cafe."

◆ ◆ ◆

quick and dirty: done fast, but not well.

"The mechanic did a **quick and dirty** repair on my car."

R

racket (1): noise.

"Small kids can make a lot of **racket**."

◆ ◆ ◆

racket (2): something that's dishonest or deceptive.

"The Tobacco Industry is quite a **racket**."

◆ ◆ ◆

racket (3): an occupation.

"I've been in the ESL **racket** for fourteen years."

◆ ◆ ◆

rank: give someone a difficult time.

"She's always **ranking** her teacher."

◆ ◆ ◆

rat: a despicable person.

"I thought I loved you, but now I know you're really a **rat**."

◆ ◆ ◆

razz: annoy someone.

"Will you please stop **razzing** me?"

◆ ◆ ◆

rear (end): buttocks.

"Dave fell on his **rear (end)**."

◆ ◆ ◆

riot, a : something or someone very funny.

"Jim Carrey is a **riot!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

rip off (1): stealing.

"Someone **ripped off** my car."

◆ ◆ ◆

rip off (2): fraud.

"I paid \$10,000 for my computer. What a **rip off!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

rocking: great; excellent.

"Dave's ESL class is really **rocking!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

rubbish: nonsense; not true.

"That rumor is a bunch of **rubbish.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

rug rat: a child.

"Dave has a couple of **rug rats** at home."

◆ ◆ ◆

runs, the: diarrhea.

"Oh no! I've got **the runs!**"

S

scarf: to eat.

"I can easily **scarf** an entire banana split."

◆ ◆ ◆

screw up: to make a mistake.

"I **screwed up** on the driving test, so I didn't pass."

◆ ◆ ◆

screw-up: a person who makes a mistake.

"Why are you such a **screw-up**?"

◆ ◆ ◆

scum: a despicable individual.

"Don't hang around with that kind of **scum**."

◆ ◆ ◆

shades: sunglasses.

"Those are really cool **shades**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

shoot some hoops: play basketball.

"Let's shoot some **hoops**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

silks: clothing.

"Those are really awesome **silks**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

smarts: intelligence.

"It takes a lot of **smarts** to become a doctor."

◆ ◆ ◆

smurfbrain: a dumb or stupid person.

"Stop acting like a **smurfbrain**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

snookered: cheated.

"I got **snookered** into buying swamp land in Florida."

◆ ◆ ◆

sofa spud: a person who watches too much television.

"I'm usually a **sofa spud** on Sunday."

◆ ◆ ◆

solid (1): really good; cool.

"Dave's ESL Cafe is totally **solid!**"

◆ ◆ ◆

solid (2): consecutive.

"It's been raining for seven **solid** days."

◆ ◆ ◆

specs: eyeglasses.

"I didn't know that you wore **specs.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

split: to leave.

"Let's **split** from here now."

◆ ◆ ◆

spunk: spirit.

"She might be small, but she's got a lot of **spunk.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

stoned (out): drunk from drugs or alcohol.

"I'm really **stoned (out)**, dude!"

◆ ◆ ◆

street smart: knowledgeable about city life.

"Since Dave is from Los Angeles, he's very **street smart.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

suck: to be bad and unacceptable.

"That song really **sucks!**"

T

technicolor yawn, to do a : vomit.

"My dog just did a **technicolor yawn** all over the carpet!"

◆ ◆ ◆

thou: thousand.

"I need to borrow a hundred **thou.**"

◆ ◆ ◆

threads: clothing.

"My wife spent \$900 on new **threads**."

◆ ◆ ◆

ticker (1): the heart.

"My grandfather has a bad **ticker**."

◆ ◆ ◆

ticker (2): a watch.

"Wow! That's a really cool **ticker**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

tints: sunglasses.

"You have to wear **tints** in California."

◆ ◆ ◆

totally: really; completely.

"That's **totally** awesome, dude!"

◆ ◆ ◆

to the max: maximum.

"I studied **to the max**."

◆ ◆ ◆

turkey (1): failure; flop.

"Thank goodness that Dave's ESL Cafe is not a **turkey**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

turkey (2): dumb person.

"**Turkeys** are not allowed to work for this company."

◆ ◆ ◆

turn-off: something that repulses a person.

"Bad breath is a real **turn-off**."

U

umpteen: many; countless.

"I've asked you **umpteen** times to show me the money!"

◆ ◆ ◆

unlax: relax.

"Dave needs to definitely **unlax** with his family."

◆ ◆ ◆

upchuck: vomit.

"She got sick and **upchucked** three times."

◆ ◆ ◆

uptight: nervous; anxious.

"Why are you so **uptight**?"

V

vanilla (1): plain.

"She drives a **vanilla** car."

◆ ◆ ◆

vanilla (2): Caucasian.

"The Midwest is too **vanilla** for me."

W

wad: roll of money.

"It's dangerous to carry a big **wad** in your pocket."

◆ ◆ ◆

wasted: killed.

"A lot of people get **wasted** in the streets of New York."

◆ ◆ ◆

wheels: car; motorcycle.

"If you want to live in Los Angeles, you've got to get some **wheels**"

◆ ◆ ◆

whitebread: plain; boring.

"Dave's ESL Cafe is definitely not **whitebread**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

whiz (1): someone who shows a special talent for something.

"Einstein was a **whiz** in Physics."

◆ ◆ ◆

whiz [offensive] (2): to urinate.

"I really have to take a **whiz**."

◆ ◆ ◆

wimpy: weak.

"Don't be so **wimpy**!"

◆ ◆ ◆

winks, get some: sleep.

"I really need to get some **winks**"

◆ ◆ ◆

wrongo: wrong.

"That is totally **wrongo**!"

Y

yank (1): bother; harass.

"Stop **yanking** me, okay?"

◆ ◆ ◆

Yank (2): a Yankee; an American.

"Dave is a **Yank**."

Z

zero: an unimportant person.

"If you don't work hard, you'll end up a **zero**."

◆ ◆ ◆

zip (1): nothing.

"I don't know **zip** about you."

◆ ◆ ◆

zip (2): energy; vigor.

"I need something that will give me more **zip**. "

◆ ◆ ◆

zit: pimple; acne.

"Teens often have a lot of **zits**."



My BEST WISHES

FULL MARK