



Oh! My English

Advanced



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I. Business



Companies

Mark: I'm glad our merger with Telephonics Inc. didn't push through.

Kevin: Oh yeah? Why is that?

Mark: Well, they've got Landry running the ops department. We all know he's too incompetent for that job.

Kevin: But they've got a great sales team and upper management are headed by big shots.

Mark: That's true but remember, **a chain is no stronger than its weakest link.**

Kevin: Point well taken

Expressions/Vocabulary

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link - This means that processes, organizations, etc, are vulnerable because the weakest person or part can always damage or break them.

Merger – A merger is any combination of two or more business enterprises into a single enterprise

Ops department – short for operations department

Big shot – someone who is very important and usually well known

Activity

Kevin agreed with Mark by saying “point well taken”. Can you think of other expressions that would mean you agree with someone?



Meeting

John: Hey Jerry. Did you get the new directive from the meeting?

Jerry: Yeah I got it right here.

John: So what's it about?

Jerry: I'm not sure. I honestly do not understand any of this. **It's all Greek to me.**

John: Well I guess both of us are in hot water.

Jerry: What do you mean?

John: I wasn't even in the meeting! I got caught in traffic!

Expressions/vocabulary

It's all Greek to me - Meaningless and incomprehensible like someone who cannot read, speak, or understand any of the Greek language would be.

Directive - an authoritative instruction or direction; specific order

In hot water – in trouble

Activity

Pretend you are conducting a meeting. Give a directive (any) to your teacher

Day 4 Time Frame : 10 Min.



The New Employee

Susan: Did you meet the new girl from HR?

Tina: Yeah, I believe here name is Heather.

Susan: You can tell she's a greenhorn. She would do anything **at a drop of the hat**.

Tina: Of course , she's new. She needs a lot of kissing up to do.

Susan: Sure but I bet she won't do that after a couple of months.

Tina: Bite your tongue, here she comes...

Expressions/vocabulary

At a drop of the hat- Willing to do something immediately.

Greenhorn - a naive or gullible person; someone who is easily tricked or swindled

Bite your tongue – To avoid talking.

Activity

HR refers to the Human Resources department in Susan and Tina's office. Can you name other departments found in your office?

Day 5 Time Frame : 10 Min.



Promotion denied

Mark: I just heard the boss chewing out Kevin.

Susan: Kevin told me he was going to the boss to ask for a promotion.

Mark: Well I guess the boss thought that Kevin **can't cut the mustard**.

Susan: I guess so. Too bad for Kevin.

Mark: He's a tough hombre, he can take care of himself.

Expressions/vocabulary

Can't cut the mustard - Someone who isn't adequate enough to compete or participate

Chew out – To verbally scold someone

Hombre – a man, fellow. **Origin:** Spanish, by dissimilation and intrusion of b < VL *omne, for L hominem, acc. of homō man

Activity

“Hombre” is just one way of referring to a person. Can you think of other ways of calling people? I'll give one more – ‘dude’

II. School



Short of Time

Larry: Hey Jack, what's up? Seems you're in a hurry.

Jack: My paper is due and I'm running **against the clock**.

Larry: Do you mean the term paper for Psychology?

Jack: Yeah, and you know how that dude gets when pissed.

Larry: I know. He was foaming at the mouth when I came
20 minutes late for a class.

Expressions/vocabulary

Against the clock – rushed and short in time

Term paper - a long essay, report, or the like, written by a student as an assignment over the course of a term or semester.

Foaming at the mouth – To be enraged and to show it.

Activity

Tell me your favorite subjects at school and why you like them.

Day 7 Time Frame : 10 Min.



Excuses

Karen: Hi Professor Smith. You called for me?

Mr. Smith: Yes. I wanted to talk to you about your tardies.

Karen: Oh, about that...I was under the weather for almost a week and I still haven't fully recovered yet

Mr. Smith: Forgive me but I think that's a **cock and bull story**.

Karen: Why would you say that professor?

Mr. Smith: Because your classmates just told me of your nightly drinking binges!

Expressions/Vocabulary

Cock and bull story – An unbelievable tale

Tardies – this word, used as a noun, refers to how many times someone has been late.

Binges - a period or bout, usually brief, of excessive indulgence, as in eating, drinking alcoholic beverages

Activity

Another word for binge is 'spree', as in 'drinking spree'. Can you think of another way of saying 'cock and bull story'?

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Studying

Mary: I need to burn the midnight oil tonight.

Janice: Cramming for an exam again, I reckon?

Mary: You got it. I haven't studied for Physics yet.

Janice: Yikes. And just how are you planning to stay up late tonight?

Mary: I'd probably drink around 8 **cups of Joe**.

Expressions/Vocabulary

Cup(s) of Joe – cup(s) of coffee

Burn the midnight oil – To burn the midnight oil means to study until very late at night.

Cram - to cram is to study for an examination by memorizing facts at the last minute

Activity

Have you crammed for a test? What kind of study habits should a student acquire? Give at least three.



Stage Performance

Jack: I can't believe we're about to dance in front of three hundred people.

Tony: You got butterflies in your stomach?

Jack: Yeah, and probably much more. What if we screw up?

Tony: Don't worry too much, it's just a school play.

Jack: I know but I can just picture the entire audience **cracking up** if we make a mistake.

Tony: I'm sure no one will notice. We're almost up, break a leg!

Expressions/Vocabulary

Crack up – To crack up is to laugh hysterically at something or someone.

Butterflies in one's stomach – a person who has this is very nervous to the point of nausea.

Screw up – to fail (at something)

Activity

Give me as many adjectives as you can to describe someone who has butterflies in his/her stomach.

III. Food talk



In a Restaurant

Terry: How is it like living high on the hog?

Frances: Just because lunch is on me doesn't mean I'm wealthy.

Terry: Ha ha ha. I'm just joshing around.

Frances: Well stop joshing and start munching. Your salad looks great.

Terry: I know. Seems like it's got **everything but the kitchen sink** in here.

Expressions/Vocabulary

Everything but the kitchen sink - Almost everything and anything has been included

High on the hog – Living in luxury.

Joshing – to josh is to kid or joke

Activity

Some of these words describe a person who is wealthy. Can you name them?

- affluent - derelict - deprived

- indigent - well heeled - impoverished



In the Kitchen

Lana: Sam can you take a look at this roast chicken? I'm not what you would call an expert cook. I'm still **learning the ropes**.

Sam: Hmm..looks good to me. Where did you get the recipe from?

Lana: From aunt Heather. She taught me the whole nine yards.

Sam: Well I wouldn't be worried then. Aunt Heather is long in the tooth, she obviously knows what she's doing.

Lana: Hope you're right, let's dig in!

Expressions/Vocabulary

Learning the ropes - to understand how to do a particular job or activity

The whole nine yards – everything and anything

Long in the tooth – a person who is long in the tooth is an old person

Activity

'Let's dig in' means **'let's eat'**.
Can you give me some more expressions that would mean the same?



Picnic

Jane: Are you going to Carla's picnic for thanksgiving?

Holly: Yeah, I'm really **psyched**! All my friends will be there!

Jane: Great. I'm sure you'll have a blast.

Holly: I hope so. I have a gut feeling my friends will pig out.

Jane: So join the party, we'll have plenty of food for everybody.

Expressions/vocabulary

Psyched – to be psyched is to be very excited (about something)

Have a blast – to have a lot of fun

Gut feeling - A personal intuition you get, especially when feel something may not be right.

Pig out – to eat a lot

Activity

**So let's talk about food:
What food do you usually
eat at a traditional Korean
picnic?**



Snacks

Mark: What did you do last night? I tried calling you three times.

Jaime: Oh, I was out with my friend Helen, hanging out in our usual watering hole.

Mark: What did you do all that time?

Jaime: Just laughed and **chewed the fat** while having snacks.

Mark: So what's new?

Jaime: Apparently, she and her beau have called it quits.

Expressions/vocabulary

Chew the fat – to talk (casually)

Watering hole – a place (usually a bar or café) where people spend time at.

Call it quits – to end something (often used for relationships)

Activity

What are your favorite snacks? Use as many adjectives as you can to describe them.

IV. Friends



Roommates

John: So, Jack, how's your new roommate Greg?

Jack: He's not around very much lately. As a matter of fact, I have **a bone to pick** with him.

John: Why? What did he do?

Jack: Well, he had some friends over last night and he left without cleaning up.

John: I hear he's been under much stress. Give him a break.

Jack: No can do. If you're going to be my roomie, you have to clean up.

Expressions/Vocabulary

A bone to pick - To be angry with someone

Give him (a person) a break - To make a special allowance;
to make something easier for someone

Roomie – this is a slang term (contraction) of the word
roommate

Activity

These words are found in our dialog.
Can you give their
antonyms(opposite)?

- **New**
- **Friend**
- **Clean**



Helping out

Larry: I'd really love to know what's wrong with my car. I've been trying to fix it for a week.

David: Well, I know a great mechanic. Why don't you come over for dinner tomorrow night and **pick his brain**?

Larry: Thanks, that'd be great! How'd you get to know that guy?

David: I was in the same boat a week ago, my car also broke down bad. Then I saw his ad on a bumper sticker.

Expressions/Vocabulary

Pick his brain - To get information from a very knowledgeable person

In the same boat – In the same situation.

Broke down – when something breaks down, it fails to operate.

Activity

If you were to come up with a new slogan to advertise yourself what would it be?



Impressions

Jill: Have you met Kaye, Lenny's new girlfriend?

Dianne: Yeah, she's really cute but a bit of a **wet blanket**.

Jill: What do you mean?

Dianne: We were having a great time at the club, but all she did was complain
that the music was too loud

Jill: Kind of a stiff huh?

Dianne: You can say that again.

Expressions/Vocabulary

A wet blanket - To be boring when other people want to
have fun

Stiff- when you say someone is stiff, that person is prudish or too
proper (formal)

You can say that again – an expression that implies agreement; not
literal in suggestion

Activity

An impression is the first and immediate effect of an experience or perception upon the mind.

What is your first impression of your teacher?



Busy buddy

Marvin: Hey Sam. How about coming out with us for a drink tonight?

Sam: I'm sorry, but I'm **up to my ears** with all this paper work for my taxes.

Marvin: Man, that's such a drag.

Sam: I know. But we have to do it.

Marvin: Yeah, what a bummer.

Expressions/Vocabulary

Up to my ears – to be extremely busy

A drag- something unpleasant or uninteresting

Bummer – A bummer is something upsetting or depressing

Activity

Do you like going out with friends? What are some reasons that might make you decline their invitation?

V. Controversial Topics



Divorce

Jerry: How are you holding up Mike? It's been three months since you got divorced.

Mike: Still down in the dumps as you might guess. But my main concern are the costs.

Jerry: Pretty hefty huh?

Mike: It sure is, it has been **costing me an arm and a leg**.

Expressions/Vocabulary

Cost an arm and a leg – very expensive or having to do with big expenditures

Down in the dumps – this expression pertains to someone who is depressed or/and miserable

Hefty - Of considerable size or amount

Activity

‘How are you holding up?’ Is a greeting usually used for someone experiencing something painful. Tell me other expressions that means the same as “How are you?”



Religion

Oscar: I don't get how these born again Christians **get off on** gospel music.

Hannah: It's their thing. Cut them some slack.

Oscar: I'm not dissing them or anything, it's just that their music seems odd to me.

Hannah: Of course it would sound odd to you. You're not born again so
you can't possibly understand everything they're about.

Oscar: Yeah you're probably right. They might not also like my kind of music.

Expression/Vocabulary

To get off on something - To get excited by or really like someone or something

Cut some slack - to give someone a break; to allow someone a reprieve from the consequences of an action

Diss – this term is a slang contraction of the verb 'disrespect', originally Ebonics

Activity

Ebonics is a term that was originally intended and sometimes used for the language of all people of African ancestry. Here are some Ebonics words, can you name some more?

Dope > good

Peeps > people

Ride > car



Office politics

Frank: I can't believe they gave you your walking papers. It's so unfair.

Jim: Yeah, I know. The brown nose turned out to be the boss's nephew. I might need a little help, though, until I find another job.

Frank: You bet. You know I'd **give you the shirt off my back** if you needed it.

Jim: Thanks man. I knew I could count on you.

Frank: And I thought nepotism is strictly prohibited in that company.

Jim: Apparently not.

Expressions/Vocabulary

To give someone the shirt off one's back- To do or give everything possible to help someone

Walking papers - A notice of discharge or dismissal

Nepotism - patronage bestowed or favoritism shown on the basis of family relationship, as in business and politics

Activity

To count on someone is to depend on them in times of need. Who can you count on? Name at least three people you can count on and give reasons why.



Feminism

Sarah: I think congress is pulling our legs. We were demanding equal wages not a slight increase.

Reporter: What specific demands did you make?

Sarah: Our group wants equal wages for both men and women with the same positions in the workplace.

Reporter: Does tenure matter?

Sarah: It shouldn't. The representatives must stop **goofing around** and just get it done.

Expressions/Vocabulary

Goof around- to waste or kill time; to evade work or responsibility

Pulling our legs - To be joking or teasing

Tenure - status granted to an employee, usually after a probationary period, indicating that the position or employment is permanent

Activity

Do you think men and women in your country are treated equally? Explain.



Thank You !

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