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Advanced



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Controversial Topics

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 Activity It's all Greek to me - Meaningless and incomprehensible like someone who cannot read, speak, or understand any of the Greek language would be. Pretend you are conducting a meeting. Give a directive (any) to your teacher Directive - an authoritative instruction or direction; specific order In hot water – in trouble

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 Activity At a drop of the hat- Willing to do something immediately. HR refers to the Human Resources department in Susan and Tina's office. Can you name other departments found in your office? Bite your tongue – To avoid talking.

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

"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'

Activity

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.

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'?

T__L T__E

Day 8 Time Frame : 10 Min.

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 were 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)

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

Activity

III. Food talk



In a Restaurant

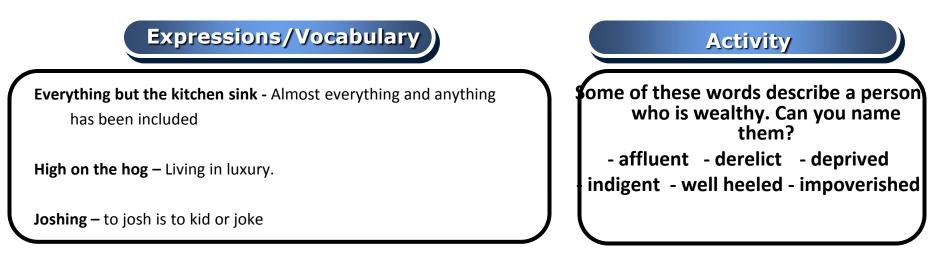
Terry: How is it like living high on the hog?

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.



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.

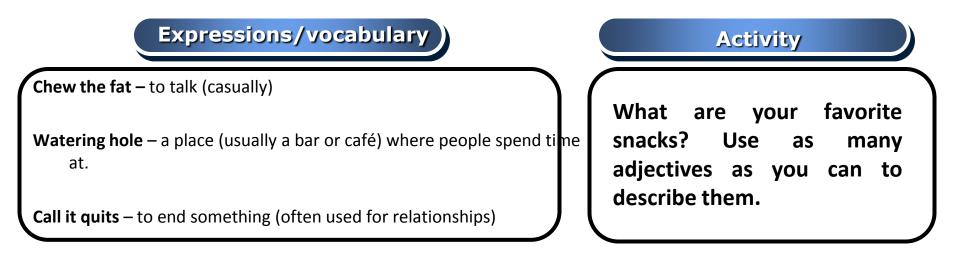
Jaime: Oh, I was out with my friend Helen, hanging out in our usual watering hole.

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.



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

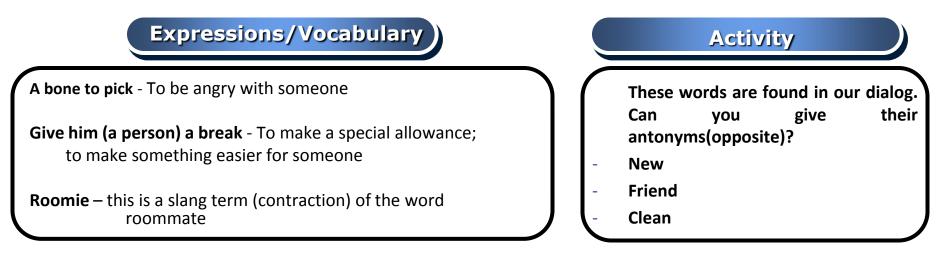
to pick with him.

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.



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.

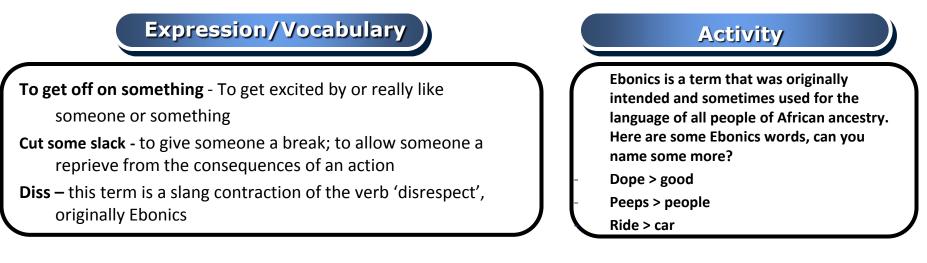
Hannah: It's their thing. Cut them some slack.

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.



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 you country are treated equally? Explain.



Thank You !

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