

Lesson 35: A Bit of Gossip

Caryn and Lucy are two high school students. Listen to them gossip about another girl they know, Jennifer, and mark the statements below "True" or "False."

Listening Comprehension

True or false according to the dialogue?

1. Jennifer was punished for fighting with Dan in the hallway
2. Caryn and Lucy have seen Jennifer's new boyfriend before
3. Jennifer's relationships tend to last a long time
4. Caryn and Lucy frequently get asked out on dates
5. Jennifer's boyfriends don't attend the same high school
6. Jennifer was very upset after her last relationship ended
7. Jennifer doesn't want Caryn and Lucy to date her ex-boyfriends
8. Jennifer is on her way to lunch with her new boyfriend
9. Caryn and Lucy don't want to be friends with Jennifer anymore

Conversation Text

Lucy: So did you hear the latest about Jennifer?

Caryn: About how she got **detention** for **talking back** to the choir teacher?

Lucy: No, no, that's old news. This is something even **juicier**.

Caryn: Did she have another **spat** with Dan?

Lucy: Close, but no cigar.

Caryn: Well come on, don't keep me in suspense!

Lucy: OK, OK. **Get a load of this** – Jennifer's still with Dan, but I heard from Vanessa that she's *also* **seeing** that guy from Rockford High. You remember – the one from the football team.

Caryn: You mean Jason? The one we were **drooling over** at the party on Saturday night? Yeah, *of course* I remember him!

Lucy: That's the one. Apparently he has quite the reputation as **a ladies' man** – and he's got his own car. Vanessa says that he and Jennifer were **making out** in the park yesterday.

Caryn: It's so unfair! Jennifer gets all the **hot** guys. What's her secret?

Vocabulary

detention = a punishment in which a student must stay extra time after school

talking back = replying in a disrespectful way

juicier = more interesting/scandalous

spat = a quick fight/argument

Close, but no cigar = You're almost correct, but not completely correct

Get a load of this = look at / listen to this especially interesting thing

seeing = dating, romantically involved with

drooling over = deeply desiring

a ladies' man = a man who is popular with women

making out = kissing passionately

hot = sexy, attractive

Lucy: Well, I have a **hunch** that her **skimpy clothes** probably have a lot to do with it. But it's not like her relationships last... I mean, Dan is what, her third boyfriend so far this year?

Caryn: That's because no guy wants to stay with her once they discover how **shallow** she is. Meanwhile, nobody ever asks *me* out.

Lucy: I'm **in the same boat**. Seems like it doesn't matter how great of a person you are, the prettier girls always **steal the show**.

Caryn: So, Jennifer and Jason... could you *imagine* what would happen if Dan **caught wind of** this?

Lucy: Jennifer's probably doing everything in her power to make sure the two don't **cross paths**. They do go to different schools, after all.

Caryn: Yeah, but she's **not the sharpest tool in the shed**. She's bound to **slip up** some time, and then both guys will **dump her**.

Lucy: Which is what she deserves. But then you and I will have to deal with the **fallout**. After her last breakup she was **a basket case** for a whole month.

Caryn: Not to mention the fact that she'd **give us the cold shoulder** if we ever dared to date one of her **exes**.

Vocabulary

a hunch = a strong feeling or suspicion

skimpy clothes = clothes that don't cover much of the body

shallow = not having deep or complex knowledge or personality

in the same boat = in the same situation

steal the show = get all the attention

caught wind of = heard about or found out about

cross paths = accidentally meet someone

not the sharpest tool in the shed = stupid, not intelligent

slip up = make a mistake

dump her = end the romantic relationship with her

fallout = the negative results of a disaster

a basket case = a person who is too upset/nervous to function

Lucy: Seriously! And I **had a crush on** Dan all last year, but he **only had eyes for** Jennifer. Now I'll never **have a shot**.

Jennifer: Hey girls! What's up?

Lucy: (startled) Oh hi Jennifer, what a coincidence! We were just saying how great you looked at the party last weekend.

Caryn: Yeah and what **a catch** that guy from Rockford is. Are you two **an item** now?

Jennifer: Sort of. It's complicated. Actually, I'm off to watch his football practice right now. I'll see you two at lunch tomorrow.

Lucy: OK, have fun!

Caryn: Whew, that was close. Do you think she overheard us talking about her?

Lucy: I don't think so – otherwise she would've said something **to our faces**. But we should probably be a little more careful next time.

Caryn: I know, I would be **mortified** if she found out what we really think. If it weren't for Jennifer we would never be part of the popular crowd.

Lucy: Our social lives would be over **in a heartbeat**.

Vocabulary

give us the cold shoulder
= ignore, not be friendly to

exes = former romantic partners

had a crush on = was romantically attracted to

only had eyes for = was only interested in

have a shot = have a chance

a catch = (informal) a great person to have a romantic relationship with

an item = a couple that is romantically involved

to our faces = directly to us

mortified = extremely embarrassed

in a heartbeat = instantly

Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three words are not used.

catch wind of

cross paths

drooling over

dumped

in a heartbeat

giving me the cold shoulder

have a crush

have a shot

hunch

in the same boat

made out with

mortified

slipped up

spats

stole the show

1. All the actors were good, but Tom absolutely _____ with his performance.
2. Christine _____ her last boyfriend because he didn't spend enough time with her.
3. I have a _____ that he's not telling me the whole story, but I can't prove it.
4. Our flight was canceled, too, so we're _____.
5. I was _____ when I clogged the toilet at my new boyfriend's house.
6. My brother and I have a pretty good relationship. We sometimes have _____, but we don't stay mad at each other for long.
7. On my first day on the job, I _____ and called my boss by the wrong name!
8. Our neighbors have a totally different schedule, so we don't _____ very often.
9. We can't let the media _____ this, otherwise it'll be a disaster for the company.
10. When my husband bought a brand-new motorcycle, all his friends were _____ it.
11. I think I _____ at getting that job - I have all the qualifications they're looking for.
12. My cousin's been _____ ever since I criticized her taste in music.

Speaking Task

Talk about your experience in high school. Were you popular? Did you care about what other people thought about you? What activities were you involved in? Did you have any significant friendships or relationships?

Record your answer at www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish or send the MP3 to homework@espressoenglish.net for feedback!

Answers

Comprehension Questions

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. False

Vocabulary Quiz

1. stole the show
2. dumped
3. hunch
4. in the same boat
5. mortified
6. spats
7. slipped up
8. cross paths
9. catch wind of
10. drooling over
11. have a shot
12. giving me the cold shoulder