

# Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

## Advanced English Phrases

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*Dear English Learner,*

*Get ready to speak confidently with these advanced English phrases. I recommend reading these sample sentences out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question using the vocabulary. Thanks so much for learning English with me!*

*Your teacher,  
Vanessa*

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## Advanced English Conversation Phrases

**To take something seriously:** *to accept something sincerely*

When the teenage girl told her mom, "I hate you," her mom didn't **take it seriously**.

I wish I had **taken** school **seriously**.

**On top of:** *in addition to, usually to show surprise*

My dog ripped my school books, and **on top of that**, he ate my homework.

This vocabulary lesson is great. **On top of that**, it's free!

**Quite a few:** *indirect way to say “a lot”*

*Note:* The expression “a few” means “a little” but adding “quite” makes the statement stronger and more emphasized.

I ate **quite a few** cookies.

**Quite a few** students participated in the [30 Day Listening Challenge](#).

**Little to no:** *an expression to explain a scale, like “1 to 10”*

I invited 20 people to my party, but **little to no** people responded.

Last week he had **little to no** time to cook at home. He was so busy!

**To be a roller coaster:** *an experience with many positives and negatives*

Last year was such **a roller coaster**! I got married, and then got fired from my job, and then moved to New York!

The relationship was **an emotional roller coaster** for 6 months.

**I’m talking...:** *a casual expression to emphasize a point*

The teacher told the students, “This semester, we’ll be studying the different historical figures. **I’m talking**, Winston Churchill, Genghis Khan, Aristotle...

The restaurant was so fancy. **I’m talking**, suit and tie, a local weekly menu, a live cello player...

**At all:** *completely; always used in negative sentences*

*Note:* this phrase is almost always at the end of the sentence

My test is tomorrow, and I haven't studied **at all**!

I thought my cats would be annoyed about having a new baby, but they didn't care **at all**.

**Six figures:** *a salary of 6 digits, \$100,000 or more*

*Note:* we cannot use this phrase with 5 figures, because that might be 10,000 (a little money) or 90,000 (a lot of money). But 6 figures is always a lot of money.

He wants to be a doctor because he wants to get a **six-figure** salary.

They earned **six figures** last year.

**To go through something:** *to have a negative experience*

Last month I **went through** a lot! My car broke down, my grandma was in the hospital, and I had a terrible cold.

You're **going through** a lot right now. Please take care of yourself.

**To make it:** *to be successful*

He's moving to LA to be a movie star. I hope he **makes it**!

I drove through the rain, snow, and hail. After 3 hours I finally **made it** to the concert!

## Advanced English Verbs

**Tell:** *to understand, to know*

*Note:* Always used with “can”

I *couldn't* **tell** by looking at his face.

*Can* you usually **tell** when someone is lying to you?

**Do:** *used to show emphasis, especially to show the truth*

I really **do** want to study English every day, but I always forget.

My manager **does** want to speak with you, but he's busy right now.

I'm sorry, I forgot that you don't like sushi.

-No, I **do** like sushi. What I don't like is spicy food.

**Bet:** *to be almost certain; often used to show empathy*

*Note:* We always use “I bet” because “**you** bet” has a totally different meaning. “You bet” is a slang way to say “yes, absolutely.” For example: Are you ready to eat dinner? -You bet!

I **bet** that you want to be a fluent English speaker.

I **bet** you're glad that the exams are over.

Your dog died last weekend? I'm so sorry. I **bet** that it's been a hard week.

## Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **What is something about you that someone wouldn't be able to tell just by looking at you?**

Sample answer: *Because I'm generally a positive person, people usually can't tell if I'm going through a hard time. I do want to be open and honest, but sometimes it's hard for me. I bet that my friends would say, "It's no problem at all to help you." It would be good for me to share my struggles, and on top of that, it could strengthen our friendship.*

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