

'I owe you one!' and other informal expressions

1. Discuss the questions.

- How does the English in coursebooks differ from the English fluent speakers use in conversations?
- What informal English words or expressions have you learned from fluent English speakers (or from films in English)?

2. Think of two different ways of saying the following.

- a) I understand.
- b) I don't understand.
- c) I'm not surprised.
- d) You're welcome.

3. Watch a [video](https://youtu.be/3Sqi87vhFRU) [https://youtu.be/3Sqi87vhFRU] and say which two meanings in ex. 2 the people are expressing.

4. Complete the gaps with one word each. Then, watch the [video](#) again and check the answers.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| a) I understand: | b) I don't understand: |
| I feel | come...? |
| Fair | What's the |
| I you. | Beats |
| | ...is me. |

5. Say what each pair of sentences means. Then, watch a [video](https://youtu.be/RBUaxhRp3w8) [https://youtu.be/RBUaxhRp3w8] and decide which expression from each pair is used.

- a) Much appreciated.
I appreciate it.
- b) I owe you one.
I owe you, man.
- c) What have you been up to?
What are you up to?

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- d) No big deal.
No biggie.
- e) Don't mention it.
Don't worry about it.

6. Your teacher will give you a card with some statements. Your partner should react to them adding any necessary information, but they can't use the following phrases: 'thanks', 'you're welcome', 'I understand' or 'I don't understand'.

7. Discuss the questions.

- How many ways of saying 'thanks', 'you're welcome', 'I understand' and 'I don't understand' are there in your language?
- How important is learning colloquial English for you? Why?
- Which of the phrases from the lesson have you heard before? Which ones do you want to start using?

8. Replace the reactions (Speaker B) with those in the box. Then, say what they mean.

Anytime.	No kidding! (x2)	Tell me about it!
That sucks!	Typical.	What a bore!

- a) A: I never really liked her.
B: Same here.
- b) A: They're getting a divorce.
B: You don't say!
- c) A: He's late.
B: That figures.
- d) A: The flight was delayed and we had to wait six hours at the airport.
B: What a bummer!
- e) A: Thanks for the coffee.
B: Don't mention it.

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- f) A: I had to fill in dozens of forms.
B: What a drag!
- g) A: Physics classes are hard!
B: What did you expect?

9. Explain the two reactions in each situation.

EXAMPLE: The roof is leaking.

- 1) What a bummer! – *The person isn't happy about it.*
- 2) No kidding! – *The person is surprised. / The person expected that and answers sarcastically.*

- a) I'm moving to Switzerland.
- 1) That figures.
 - 2) That sucks.
- b) I really hate the weather.
- 1) I feel you.
 - 2) How come?
- c) How did she manage to do all that in just ten minutes?
- 1) Beats me.
 - 2) Tell me about it!
- d) Why Jack hasn't showed up yet is beyond me!
- 1) What a drag.
 - 2) Typical.
- e) Sorry I didn't call you last night. We finished at midnight and I completely forgot.
- 1) Fair enough.
 - 2) No biggie.
- f) I wanted to get a pie but the bakery is closed.
- 1) It beats me why they aren't open.
 - 2) What a bummer!

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- g) The printer isn't working.
- 1) You don't say!
 - 2) Typical!
- h) I thought the film was awful.
- 1) Same here.
 - 2) What a bummer!

10. Choose a topic and tell your partner some details about it. They should react using the phrases in the box and add a short comment to show that they're listening.

Beats me.	Fair enough.	How come...?	I feel you.
...is beyond me.	No kidding!	Same here.	
Tell me about it!	That figures.	That sucks.	Typical.
What a bore!	What a bummer!	What a drag!	
What did you expect?	What's the point...?	You don't say.	

- a time when traffic was frustrating
- a time when someone's behaviour was annoying
- a series you binge-watched
- the last time you threw a party
- a time when something at work irritated you
- a time when you watched some disturbing news

