

Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

23 Important English Phrases

Dear English Learner,

Get ready to speak confidently with these daily-life 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*

Daily Life English Phrases

To go on about: *to keep talking about someone or something*

I could **go on about** my love of books all day.

She would **go on about** stories from her childhood.

To scrub out: *to make an effort to remove something*

I wanted **to scrub out** all the bad memories from that year.

I had **to scrub out** the mud from the carpet.

To get ahead of yourself: *to act or plan prematurely or overconfident*

I am **getting ahead of myself**, let me start over.

You quit your job without having another one lined up? Aren't you **getting ahead of yourself**?

To sign up for: *to commit to or agree to do something*

I didn't know what I was **signing up for** when I agreed to help with this project.

I **signed up for** the 5K charity run next weekend.

To drill in the point: *to really reinforce something*

My teacher used to act out scenes from literature **to drill in the point** the writer was trying to make.

My sister showed me her trophies **to drill in the point** that she was a better athlete than I was.

To come full circle: *to end up in the place you started*

We have **come full circle** in this war—we keep fighting about the same things.

Fashion has **come full circle** and high-waisted jeans are back in style.

Right and left: *on all sides or in a quick, away*

They were handing out free stuff **right and left**—it was great!

She was spending money **right and left** after she won the lottery.

Even though: *despite the fact that*

Even though it snowed while we were camping, we had a great trip.

Even though the computer was on sale, it was still over \$2000!

To be tied up in: *to have a deep connection or close relationship to something*

My favorite memories from childhood **are tied up in** holiday gatherings and summer vacations.

I have so much time and energy **tied up in** this project, I don't want it to fail.

When I think back to it...: *to remember something from the past*

When I think back to it, I always had a big imagination as a child.

When I think back to it, I think I was always destined to become a world traveler.

A cop out: *to avoid something that you should do*

My excuse was **a cop out**—I wasn't sick, I just didn't want to go to the meeting.

The argument was **a cop out** to avoid dealing with the actual problem.

To win someone something: *to be successful in getting something*

Yelling at people isn't going **to win you** a lot of friends, just enemies.

Telling the truth may not **win you** a lot of votes as a politician, but at least you'll have your integrity.

To set the stage: *to describe the settings and surroundings for something so that you can better imagine it*

To set the stage, our first date was at this cute restaurant near the park.

To set the stage for what my family holidays are like, I have two brothers and five sisters and they are all married with kids of their own!

To be experienced: *to have knowledge or skill in a particular area, gained over a period of time*

If you're going hiking in the mountains, it's best to go with someone who **is experienced**.

The only way to **become experienced** in anything is to keep learning and practicing over time.

To size someone/something up: *to make a judgment or form an opinion about someone or something*

The hungry bear looked at me like he was **sizing me up**!

I **sized up** my competition for the hotdog eating contest.

Up until: *happening during the time or period before*

I played the flute in the school band **up until** my senior year, then I quit.

I liked that cake **up until** I realized it had mold growing on it. Yuck!

For lack of a better word: *you can't think of a better word to use to describe something*

I learned trees can, **for lack of a better word**, talk to each other.

That neighbor is, **for lack of a better word**, a grumpy old man.

I must say that...: *used to emphasize a statement, usually reluctantly*

I must say that I like the trend of remote work becoming more common.

I wasn't so sure about eating celery in peanut butter, but **I must say that** it is a pretty good snack.

To justify something: *to prove that something is right or reasonable*

I tried **to justify** spending money on nice clothes, but I never go anywhere to wear them.

I wanted **to justify** buying a piano by saying I would learn to play it, but I have had it for years and still can't play a single song.

To cut someone some slack: *to treat someone better, in a less critical way*

Can you **cut me some slack**? It's been a really bad day.

I **cut** my student **some slack** when he missed the lesson because I know he had been working really hard.

To bring myself to do something: *to take action on a particular thing*

I just **can't bring myself to** make an Instagram account.

I **can't bring myself to** go back to an office job.

A twinge of something: *a sudden, short feeling of something*

I felt **a twinge of** envy when my friends were talking about starting their world travels.

I had **a twinge of** regret over not ordering the chocolate cake for dessert.

To google something: *to look something up on the Google search engine*

If my mom doesn't know something, she always asks me. Little does she know, I just **google** her question. She thinks I'm so smart because I always know the answer!

I was trying to decide where to go on vacation, so I **googled** top destinations and what to do there. Looks like I'm going to Portugal!

Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question. Try to use 5 vocabulary expressions. **What is something that you often google?**

Sample answer: ***for lack of a better word, google something, bring myself to something, i must say, to be experienced***

I feel like I'm always googling problems that happen in my garden. I can't bring myself to just let the plants die, so I try to find someone who is experienced. There are so many great gardening YouTube channels, and those people feel like, for lack of a better word, my gardening teachers. Even though I wish I already knew everything about gardening, I must say that it's great to be able to google something, too.

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