

34 . Social English

Conversations

Zita :

- 1. I didn't have much luck
- 2. any bright ideas ?
- 3. don't go to any trouble *
- 4. that thought occurred to me

* it's a sister collocation of “ to come to any harm “

Anna :

- 1. news travels fast *
- 2. I'll be glad to see the back of her
- 3. it came as a bit of a shock
- 4. to be brutally honest
- 5. I know the feeling
- 6. a welcome relief

* ‘ news ‘ is treated as a singular noun

Lisa :

- 1. to have a go on someone *
- 2. I can't bear the thought of ever doing [something]
- 3. he really got to her
- 4. I wouldn't lose any sleep over it

* chiefly British , the American equivalent would be ‘ to criticize someone ‘ or ‘ to give someone a hard time ‘

Paula :

- 1. give me a ring or drop me an email
- 2. I can't face the thought of [going somewhere]
- 3. Are you up for [something] ?

4. a feeble excuse
5. to give somebody a good send-off
6. to be on the go
7. to have a decent night's sleep

Common errors

1. I hope I didn't cause you any trouble / put you to any trouble (NOT bring you ..)
2. I'm really / very much looking forward to seeing you (NOT very lookin)
3. I sincerely / very much hope you will apologize (NOT I strongly hope ..)
4. I'm absolutely delighted by your invitation (NOT very delighted)
5. It's a great pleasure to hear from you again (NOT a big pleasure)