



# Phone Bill

Conversation > Advanced 7



## Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

<b>outrageous</b>	Shocking and morally unacceptable.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: These prices are just <b>outrageous</b>.</i>

<b>pristine</b>	New or almost new; in very good condition.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: My car is in <b>pristine</b> condition.</i>

<b>lame</b>	Uninspiring and dull (of something intended to be entertaining).
[adjective]	<i>Ex: Her joke was very <b>lame</b>.</i>

<b>fringe benefit</b>	Something that you get for working, in addition to your pay, that is not in the form of money.
[noun]	<i>Ex: <b>Fringe benefits</b> include a company car and free health insurance.</i>



<b>overtime</b>	After the usual time needed or expected in a job.
[adverb]	<i>Ex: Service crews are working <b>overtime</b> to fix the problem.</i>

<b>acknowledge</b>	To accept or admit the truth of something.
[verb]	<i>Ex: The company <b>acknowledged</b> their hard work with an award.</i>

<b>keep in touch with</b>	To stay in contact with someone.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Technology makes it easy to <b>keep in touch with</b> others.</i>

<b>out of hand</b>	Out of control.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Police were called when the party got <b>out of hand</b>.</i>



## Exercise 2 – Dialogue

*Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.*

Mr. Wolt: Howard, I need to talk to you about something.

Howard: Of course. What is it, sir? Do I need to work overtime?

Mr. Wolt: No, it's not that. These prank phone calls you've been making are getting out of hand.

Howard: But, sir... I was just having fun. I thought that using the phone was my fringe benefit...

Mr. Wolt: Now, I know it's company policy to encourage a fun working environment, but enough is enough.

Howard: What if from now on I only made local calls to prank people?

Mr. Wolt: No. You need to acknowledge your mistake. The phone bill we got this month is outrageous.

Howard: Oh! Really? I'm very sorry for that, sir.



Mr. Wolt: Also, Sandra in accounting is very upset about you impersonating her mother.

Howard: Oh come on! I was only joking with her.

Mr. Wolt: Don't be unprofessional. She drove for four hours to get to that fake family reunion.

Howard: I understand, the joke was lame. Would it help if I apologised?

Mr. Wolt: I insist that you do. Also, from now on HR will be monitoring your phone calls.

Howard: I'll make sure to do it, I'm very sorry again.

Mr. Wolt: And finally, I will be keeping in touch with HR to make sure your calls are strictly business-related.

Howard: All right, sir. My company record will be pristine from now on!



## Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

*Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.*

### Answer Pool

pristine

out of hand

keep in touch with

acknowledging

lame

overtime

fringe benefits

outrageous

1. He is not even \_\_\_\_\_ her presence.
2. I hope that we will \_\_\_\_\_ each other after the conference is over.
3. Things got \_\_\_\_\_ and a fight broke out.
4. Do you have any \_\_\_\_\_ at your job?
5. My mother is working \_\_\_\_\_. You can come over.
6. This dress is brand new! It's in \_\_\_\_\_ condition.
7. He made \_\_\_\_\_ claims.
8. You need to shut up! Your jokes are so \_\_\_\_\_!



## Exercise 4 – Role Play

*Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.*

**Scene:** Your daughter made a huge phone bill. Talk to her about it. The teacher can be your daughter.



## Exercise 5 – Discussion

*Discuss the following questions with your tutor.*

1. Do you have a company cell phone?
2. How do you manage your cell phone usage?
3. Do you think cell phones make life easier? Why? Why not?
4. Could you make it through the day without your cell phone?
5. What is your opinion about texting? What are the advantages and disadvantages of texting?