



# Unit 31

**Instructions:** Read the following exercise and try to associate the ideas in English without literal translation.

## American slang terms

**beating around the bush:** Avoiding speaking directly and precisely.

**go out on a limb:** To take a risk; to put oneself in a vulnerable position.

**to stick to:** To attend strictly to one thing. To be single-minded.

**hanging out:** Passing time pleasantly with a person or a group of people, or in a specific place.

**flakes:** People who are colorful or flamboyant individualists.

## My way or the highway

*Never mind* the idea that the ways in which people are judged in life go deeper than the color of a person's skin, their physical appearance or their social status.

**Bigotry** has been one of the main components of societies everywhere, and the much **heralded** fight against the "isms" (i.e. racism, sexism, individualism) is being lost. **Segregation**, discrimination, and even **hatred**, have become **mainstays** around the world.

For example, we could talk about **homophobic** crimes in the heart of the American continent, or racist **chants** against dark-skinned athletes in the European continent, or even the submission that the female **gender** has fallen under at the hand of their male-oriented political systems in the Asian and African continents. There's no *beating around the bush*, as the predominant factor of societies today is that we are all different, and therefore, subject to be discriminated against because of it.

The **masses** seem to be afraid to *go out on a limb* and give a chance to people who are apparently different because of the way they look. It becomes easier for them *to stick to hanging out* with *the "in-crowd"*, rather than getting to know those ones who can be considered **outcasts** in a society that is ruled by prejudiced standards.

*Chances are* that tattooed people will continue getting the *short end of the stick* when it comes to interviewing for jobs, or that **flakes** will keep on having a difficult time moving up in the corporate world because of their non-traditional ways.

After all is said and done, at some point in our lives, we will all have to go through a certain kind of discrimination; *whether* it will be because of our facial features, height, weight, religious beliefs or any other type of characteristic by which we could be stereotyped

## Useful Expressions

See Exercise 5

## Unit 31

# My way or the highway

### 2. Brand new vocabulary

**Instructions:** Match the words or expressions that are on the left side, which were taken from the reading's selected vocabulary, with the respective definitions given on the right side.

a. bigotry	1. A fear or dislike of homosexual people.
b. heralded	2. The male or female sex, or the state of being either male or female.
c. segregation	3. One of the most important parts of something.
d. hatred	4. The ordinary people who form the largest group in a society.
e. mainstays	5. People whose society or group refuses to accept.
f. homophobic	6. An extremely strong feeling of dislike.
g. outcasts	7. Words or phrases that are repeated many times.
h. chants	8. Announced or proclaimed as something good that will happen.
i. masses	9. The attitude, state of mind, or behavior of being intolerant.
j. gender	10. Keeping a group of people apart from the other and treat them differently, especially because of race or sex.

### 3. Speak your mind

**Instructions:** Read and analyze the following questions and give your point of view accordingly.

1. Do you consider discrimination to be a main component of societies around the world?
2. In your opinion, which groups of people are discriminated against the most?
3. Where do you think we would find the highest level of discrimination in today's world and why?
4. Have you ever been the victim of discrimination yourself? If so, why?
5. If you had the power to do so, how would you put an end to the problems of discrimination, segregation and hatred in the world?

### 4. American slang terms

**Instructions:** Read the definitions that were introduced to you in the reading exercise, and construct sentences orally with a similar structure to the one in the reading.

- |                            |                |           |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1. beating around the bush | 3. to stick to | 5. flakes |
| 2. go out on a limb        | 4. hanging out |           |

## 5. Useful expressions

**Instructions:** Apply the following expressions when giving your opinion about Unit 31 ("My Way or The Highway"), and the topic of intolerance and discrimination.

1. **never mind:** Expression that can be used to express that there should be no worries about a subject or topic; "Don't worry about it."  
**Example:** I crashed my car last week, but never mind, I was going to buy another one.
2. **the "in-crowd":** Used to talk about the popular people or the ones that are most commonly accepted by society.  
**Example:** We should try to get accepted by the "in-crowd".
3. **chances are:** You use this expression when you want to talk about the probabilities of something happening, according to your opinion.  
**Example:** I invited her to the party, but chances are that she will not come.
4. **the short end of the stick:** the smaller or less desirable part, rank, task, or amount.  
**Example:** She's unhappy because she has the short end of the stick again.
5. **after all is said and done:** Expression frequently used to conclude a thought you may have, while at the same time making sure that it's the final point that will be made.  
**Example:** We will have a discussion on world hunger, but, after all is said and done, we will not reach an agreement.
6. **whether:** Most frequently used to express uncertainty about something happening.  
**Example:** It doesn't matter whether I get paid or not, I will still buy that watch.

**Now, something important!****The Future Perfect**

The **Future Perfect** expresses the idea that something will occur before another action in the future. It can also show that something will happen before a specific time in the future. We use the **Future Perfect** to show that something will continue up until another action in the future. To use the **future perfect**, it is necessary "**will have**" and the **verb in past participle**.

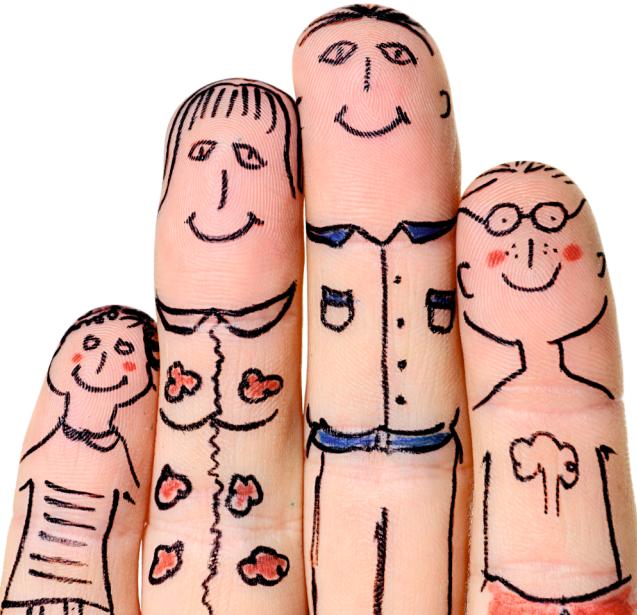
**Example:**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Affirmative form:</b>   | You <b>will have perfected</b> your English by the time you come back from the U.S.     |
| <b>Interrogative form:</b> | <b>Will you have perfected</b> your English by the time you come back from the U.S.?    |
| <b>Negative form:</b>      | You <b>will not have perfected</b> your English by the time you come back from the U.S. |

**Ref**

For better reference, see **Finding Out About Grammar Book**, Unit 12, page 178.

# Unit 32



**Instructions:** Read the following exercise and try to associate the ideas in English without literal translation.

## American slang terms

**popped up:** That appeared or happened, especially suddenly or unexpectedly.

**snowballing:** If a plan, problem, idea, etc. is snowballing, it means that it's quickly growing bigger and more important.

**put a hurt on:** To affect severely, but not to the extent of eliminating.

**caught red-handed:** To be discovered while being in the act of something bad or illegal.

**look after:** To take care of someone or something in a responsible way.

## Foster families

The break up of the most **sacred** of all institutions **triggered** a **domino effect** that has had a direct influence over almost every major social problem, as we ask ourselves: "What happened to the concept of family?"

There were two major movements that took place in the **middle and the latter** parts of the 20th century respectively. But, as good and positive as they were for society, these also contributed the most to the disintegration of families.

First, during the early 1960's, the "women's liberation movement" marked the beginning of the female crowd's **immersion** into the business world. Then, in the late 1980's the "affirmative action movement" **popped up** for the first time, **snowballing** its way into offering equal opportunities for all people without **regard** to gender.

Both movements **had been a long time coming** and have **fueled** the development of the business world, but at the same time, have **put a hurt** on the family nucleus. With both parents having to work, the raising of the kids has been left to **nannies** that, in extreme cases, and through **surveillance** equipment, have been **caught red-handed** mishandling the same children that they were paid to **look after**.

We have the absence of parents at the **household** added to the easy access the kids have to information through the **Web** and paid television. Throw in adult role models that were also raised in a **parentless** environment, and you can find the center of the problem.

Those elements are the cause to raise big **concerns** about what the future holds, since those very same children that are being raised as we speak, will be the leaders for future societies.

## Useful Expressions

See Exercise 5

## 2. Brand new vocabulary

**Instructions:** Match the words or expressions that are on the left side, which were taken from the reading's selected vocabulary, with the respective definitions given on the right side.

a. sacred	1. Close observation of a suspicious person or group.
b. triggered	2. Women employed to take care of children in the children's homes.
c. immersion	3. A group of people, often a family, who live together.
d. regard	4. The involvement of someone completely in an activity.
e. nannies	5. The state of having no parent or parents.
f. mishandling	6. That caused something to start.
g. surveillance	7. That is holy and deserving of respect.
h. household	8. Dealing with someone or something without care or skill.
i. parentless	9. Strong feelings of being worried.
j. concerns	10. The consideration of or looking carefully at someone.

## 3. Speak your mind

**Instructions:** Read and analyze the following questions and give your point of view accordingly.

1. Stealing from the reading, what do you think has happened to the concept of family?
2. How do you feel about political movements influencing the value of the family?
3. In your opinion, how much does it affect children to spend too much time alone with people that are not their parents or relatives?
4. Would you use surveillance equipment to watch over your kids while they are with their nannies? If so, why?
5. What suggestion would you make to married couples who want to have children, but who also want to continue with their professional careers?

## 4. American slang terms

**Instructions:** Read the definitions that were introduced to you in the reading exercise, and construct sentences orally with a similar structure to the one in the reading.

1. popped up
2. snowballing
3. put a hurt on
4. caught red-handed
5. look after

## 5. Useful expressions

**Instructions:** Apply the following expressions when giving your opinion about Unit 32 ("Foster Families"), and what has happened to the concept of family. .

1. **domino effect:** Expression used to say when something, especially something bad, happens and causes other similar events to happen, like each of a set of dominoes knocking the next one over.  
**Example:** The rumor that you started had a domino effect on the perception that people have of her.
2. **the middle & the latter:** These expressions are used to be specific about the middle or the last people, thing or groups that have been previously mentioned (There's also the former).  
**Example:** John, Brandon & Peter are brothers; the former (John) is 15 years old, the middle (Brandon) is 18, and the latter (Peter) is 11.
3. **had been a long time coming:** Expression used to talk about something that should have happened a long time ago, or that was deserving of happening much before it did.  
**Example:** He has worked so hard that his promotion had been a long time coming.
4. **fueled:** Used to talk about something that increases or strengthens a situation, feeling or a type of behavior.  
**Example:** By yelling at him constantly, she has fueled his bad conduct.
5. **the Web:** Short for the World Wide Web (www). Used when you want to talk about the system of connected documents on the Internet, which often contain color pictures, video and sound, and which can be searched for information about a particular subject.  
**Example:** We don't know much about that topic, let's look for it on the Web.



### Now, something important!

#### Future in the Past

**Future in the Past** is used to express the idea that in the past you thought something would happen in the future. It does not matter if you are correct or not. **Future in the Past** follows the same basic rules as the Simple Future. "Would" is used to volunteer or promise, and "was going to" is used to plan. Moreover, both forms can be used to make predictions about the future.

#### Examples:

*I told you he was going to come to the party. (Plan)*

*I knew Olga would make dinner. (Voluntary action)*

*Hervin said Omar was going to bring his sister with him, but he came alone. (Plan)*

*I had a feeling that the vacation was going to be a disaster. (Prediction)*

*He promised he would send a postcard from Egypt. (Promise)*