



Unit 35

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

American slang terms

joints: Any place or venue, especially of a commercial sort.

messed with: That has been played or tinkered with.

fast-paced: Said of something that proceeds or happens rapidly.

quick-fix: An easy or temporary solution to a problem or situation.

hefty: Large in amount or size.

Wining and dining

Once upon a time, people only had to worry about becoming legally addicted to cigarettes and liquor; now, just like nicotine and alcohol were developed to be even more addictive, we have **genetically engineered** foods ready to take a bite out of your brain.

Fast food **joints** have become the **ultimate** eating destination for children and adolescents in the American continent. Mass **consumption** and reproduction of food have forced some of these places to **rely** on genetically engineered products that have been **messed with** to make them more pleasant to people's tastes, hence, provoking the frequent return of their customers.

The need for having a quick breakfast, lunch, or dinner in this **fast-paced** society has caused for restaurant owners to answer to the high demand, which, as a consequence, has led food developers to artificially **enhance** their **formerly** health-oriented products. The dependency that people have on these "**quick-fix**" restaurants, along with the sedentary routines that plague most lives, have resulted in a society that is, in its majority, **overweight**, **hefty**, and **illness-prone**.

Why then, have genetically engineered food processors continued with a practice that is, according to scientists, practically impossible to test, in order to **assess** the health effects when these are introduced into the food chain? **Furthermore**, because of the extremely high health-risks that those foods present to people, most experts have **publicly spoken out** against their development.

Let's not forget that, as customers, we have the power to determine the type of foods that we consume, and therefore, the type of foods that we allow to be **supplied** to us in the open market. As the old saying goes: "Why does the dog **wag** its **tail**? Because it's smarter than the tail... If the tail was smarter than the dog, then it would wag the dog."

Useful Expressions

See Exercise 5

Unit 35

Wining and dining

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. genetically engineered	1. That is said or done allowing anyone to see or hear what is happening.
b. consumption	2. To improve the quality, amount or strength of (something).
c. rely	3. The act or process of consuming.
d. enhance	4. To form a judgment about (especially a situation or a person's qualities).
e. overweight	5. To depend on or trust (someone or something).
f. assess	6. Too heavy or too fat.
g. publicly	7. Describes a plant or animal that has had some of its genes changed scientifically.
h. supplied	8. (Said especially of a tail or a finger) to move from side to side or up and down, especially quickly and repeatedly or to cause this to happen.
i. wag	9. A part of the body of an animal attached to the base of the back, or something similar in shape or position.
j. tail	10. That provided (something that is needed or wanted), or that provided (someone) with what they needed or wanted.

3. Speak your mind

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

1. Do you believe that products of any type can be altered, so that they become addictive to the public?
2. Why do you think that people from the American continent have a bigger tendency to be overweight than those of other continents?
3. What's your opinion about fast food restaurants and the health status of those who eat there?
4. How do you feel about knowing that genetically engineered foods have not been tested to know the effects that they can cause on people?
5. What measures can we take as consumers, to demand a better quality from food processors, in the foods that they provide for us?

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. quick-fix | 3. fast-paced | 5. hefty |
| 2. joints | 4. messed with | |

5. Useful expressions

Instructions: Apply the following expressions when giving your opinion about Unit 35 ("Wining & Dining"), and genetically engineered food.

1. **the ultimate:** Used to express that (someone or something) is the most important, highest, last or final.
Example: This one that I'm playing is the ultimate video game.
2. **formerly:** Expression used to express that something happened or took place before the present time or in the past.
Example: He was formerly a member of the army.
3. **illness-prone:** Used when referring about someone that has the propensity to become ill.
Example: My dog used to be very healthy, but it has become illness-prone this year.
4. **furthermore:** Expression used to express that you have something in addition to say; more importantly.
Example: He just landed a good job at the factory; furthermore, it pays him more than his old job.
5. **spoken out:** Used to denote that something has been said, especially in public, in regards to what someone thinks about something such as a law or an official plan or action.
Example: Election day is very near and people haven't spoken out about the candidates.



Now, something important!

Direct / Indirect Speech

If we report what another person has said, we usually do not use the speaker's exact words (direct speech), but reported (indirect) speech. Therefore, you need to learn how to transform direct speech into reported speech.

The structure is a little different depending on whether you want to transform a statement, question or request. When transforming statements, check whether you have to change:

- pronouns
- present tense verbs (3rd person singular)
- place and time expressions

Direct speech: "I speak English."

Reported speech (no backshift): *He says that he speaks English.*

Reported speech (backshift): *He said that he spoke English.*

Ref For better reference, see **Finding Out About Grammar Book**, Unit 15, pages 200-203.

Unit 36



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

American slang terms

sugar-coat: Intending to make something or someone positive or pleasant, although in fact, it will result in something unpleasant or unacceptable.

hassle: (A situation causing) difficulty or trouble.

frisks: The use of hands to search someone's body, when they are wearing clothes, for hidden illegal objects or weapons.

the whole nine yards: Completely; the whole; all of it; everything.

wrap up: To complete something successfully.

Jet lag

The glamorous and exciting image that some have of air travel is being considered by others as **dull** and **tiresome**, since now there is a whole lot more to **deal with** as a traveler than just the flight itself.

In the post 9/11 era, there is no way to **sugar coat** it; air travel has become a **hassle** for passengers who have to **put up with** arrivals at the airport 3 hours before the flight is scheduled to take off, long lines at the check-in **counters**, and endless **frisks** from customs officers that go **the whole nine** yards with security measures.

Granted that it is **advantageous** to arrive early at the airport, so you can do some **window-shopping** in the **duty-free** zone, but other than that, **the cons** still outweigh **the pros**.

In some cases, there is daylight savings time to be considered, as you can be in one city or country when the day starts, which has its time of day set according to the time zone where it is located, and then find yourself in a different city or country by the end of the day, which happens to have a difference of 3 or 4 hours (and in some cases even more) from the place where you boarded.

To **wrap up**, frequent fliers can tell you that air travel never gets old, as the experience to be exposed to different cultures and be able to visit different **sites**, is a rewarding one that sometimes goes **underestimated**. Putting all in perspective, at some point most people have to go through the **trials and tribulations** of getting on a plane, as the slogan for a well-known airline puts it simply, "fly the friendly skies".

Useful Expressions

See Exercise 5

Unit 36

Jet lag

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. dull	1. When something is greater or more important than another thing.
b. tiresome	2. Long, flat, narrow surfaces or tables in a shop, bank, etc. at which people are served or assisted.
c. advantageous	3. Not interesting or exciting in any way; boring.
d. outweigh	4. Giving benefits or helping to make you more successful.
e. underestimated	5. To spend time looking at the goods in shop windows without intending to buy any of them.
f. sites	6. Luxury goods bought in shops in airports on which you do not pay government tax.
g. counters	7. Tiring or annoying; causing a lack of patience.
h. window-shopping	8. Troubles and events that cause suffering.
i. duty-free	9. That failed to guess or understand the real cost, size, etc. of something.
j. trials and tribulations	10. Places where something is, was, or will be built, or where something happened, is happening, or will happen.

3. Speak your mind

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

1. Do you like flying on airplanes? Yes, no, why?
2. In your opinion, is air travel glamorous and exciting or dull and tiresome? Give your reasons why.
3. How would you change the security at airports, so that they would not be too much of a bother, but at the same time keeping the safety level up?
4. Which are the most common places where you can get body-searched, and how do you feel when you are body-searched by a security person?
5. Do you know which time zone is your city or country located in right now?

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. sugar-coat | 3. the whole nine yards | 5. frisks |
| 2. hassle | 4. wrap up | |

5. Useful expressions

Instructions: Apply the following expressions when giving your opinion about Unit 36 ("Jet-Lag"), and what happens when people travel by air too much.

1. **deal with:** Expression that is used to express that you are taking action in order to achieve something or in order to solve a problem.

Example: I have to deal with heavy traffic every morning on my way to work.

2. **put up with:** Expresses that one has accepted or continues to accept an unpleasant situation or experience.

Example: How long are you going to put up with the way he treats you?

3. **granted that:** Used to express that one accepts that something is true, often before expressing an opposite opinion.

Example: Our city is a lovely one; granted that, we have had a lot of robberies in the last few days, our governor has been doing a great job with the city's security.

4. **the pros / the cons:** The pros are used advantages or reasons for doing something; the cons are disadvantages or reasons for not doing something.

Example: I want to buy a car. The pros are that I will be able to move around easier and know the city better; the cons are that I will get into a big debt with the bank and have less money in my pockets.



Now, something important!

Phrasal Verbs

The term **phrasal verb** refers to two or three distinct constructions in English: a **verb** and a **particle** and/or a **preposition** which cannot be understood based upon the meanings of the individual parts, but rather it must be taken as a whole. In other words, the meaning is unpredictable. Here are some examples.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning
break down	stop functioning (vehicle, machine)
break in	force entry to a building
break up	end a relationship
break out	escape

Phrasal Verb	Meaning
come forward	volunteer for a task or to give evidence
come apart	separate
come across	find unexpectedly
come from	originate in

Ref

For better reference, see **Finding Out About Grammar Book**, Unit 8, page 102.