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### Top 5 Must-Know English Phrases

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Must-Know English Phrases**

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Here we'll introduce five phrases in English that you may hear in casual situations but that you may not have learned in class. Keeping these in mind is helpful as native speakers use these phrases often.

#### **1. "What's Up?"**

Native speakers use "What's up?" in place of "How are you?" Native speakers use this phrase with their friends or in casual situations. The answer is not "I'm fine" as in the formal question, nor is it literal, as in "the sky." "Nothing much" is a common response that is often appropriate. Be careful not to use this phrase in formal situations.

#### **2. "See Ya Later"**

This is another casual phrase native speakers use when among familiar company. It means "goodbye." Notice how the "you" is lax and speakers pronounce it as "ya," which is part of what makes this phrase informal. Other varieties of this phrase are "later," "catch ya later," and "ciao." The last one is not English, but native English speakers nevertheless use it.

#### **3. "Guys"**

This word is slang for "men," but English speakers also commonly use it to refer to women. We use it when there's a group of people and we want to refer to them all. Native speakers often combine "guys" with the word "you" in front of it, as in "you guys."

#### 4. "You're Kidding!"

This is a phrase native speakers use to express disbelief about what they have just heard. That's why we often say it with an exclamation, as in "You're kidding!" The person speaking is expressing his or her surprise. When we use it slowly, it has a different kind of effect. It relays the same kind of disbelief but a different feeling, as in "You're kidding...", meaning that what someone just said can't be right.

#### 5. "You Know What I Mean?"

Native English speakers use this phrase after they have explained something to check to see whether the listener understood. Sometimes when people cannot quite explain something well, they may use this to ask whether the other person at least understood the gist of what they want to say. Listeners can easily miss this phrase, because when someone says it really fast, it may be hard to catch. Another phrase that we can use in place of this that has the same meaning is "Get it?"

There are plenty of common phrases that native English speakers use in everyday conversations. Those were only a few to start you off. Try and use some in your daily conversations!