<https://tv.eslpod.com/p/blog-daily-english-4>

**Daily English 1 - Introducing Yourself**

Let me tell you a little about myself.

I was **born** and **raised** in Minnesota and I’m a **native** of the city of Saint Paul. I grew up there with my parents and my eight brothers and two sisters. I’m the eleventh child so you could say I’m the **baby of the family**, but I swear I wasn’t **spoiled**.

That’s right, I’m part of a big family, probably the biggest family in the neighborhood, perhaps the biggest family in the state!

I had a happy **childhood**, **for the most part**. My father and mother didn’t have a lot of money, but because they both worked hard, we never felt **deprived** (дипрайв / лишать).

I wasn’t very interested in sports, like my brothers were. I enjoyed reading and listening to music while growing up. I went to **grade school** near my house, and then to high school about two miles away from our home.

After graduating from high school, I **went on to** the University of Minnesota for my **bachelor’s degree**. It took me a while **to** **learn the ropes** at the university, but I finally **graduated** about six years later. **Better late than never**, as my father used to say.

I then went to Mexico for a couple of years to teach English and to study Spanish. When I returned, I decided to become a teacher, so I went back to school to get my **master’s degree**. After teaching high school for a few years, I was offered a job in California, so I moved to Los Angeles in 1991. After working here for a few years, I went back to school (again!) to get my **Ph.D**. I was starting to become a professional student.

Well, I completed my Ph.D. in four years and then taught at the university for several years. Now, I work at a small **research** organization here in Los Angeles. I am **happily married**, and I still enjoy reading and listening to music, and of course, creating ESLPod.com lessons.

**Category:** About You

**Daily English 2 - Getting Up**

The worst part of the day for me is, definitely, when I have **to get up**. **Waking up**, that I can **handle**. But getting up? That, I hate. The **covers** I have on my bed are heavy, mostly because I have a **comforter** as well as a **light blanket**. I sleep with two **pillows**, which for some reason have different color **pillowcases**. Well, at least the **sheets** **match**.

(Waking up - просыпаться) (getting up - вставать)

I sometimes wake up before the alarm **goes off.** I like to keep the alarm at a low volume, with some classical music, nothing too **jarring**. My old roommate used to like the terrible **buzzer** that you find on most alarm clocks nowadays, which always used **to drive me nuts**. As I was saying, I sometimes wake up before the alarm, usually because of some noise outside the house — a car door slamming, an alarm going off, gunfire — well, okay, not gunfire, but man, is my neighborhood noisy! Of course, when I’m staying in a hotel, it’s usually easier to just get a **wake-up call** from the hotel than set the alarm.

(the alarm goes off – сработает будильник) (low volume - низкой громкости)

(nothing too **jarring -** ничего слишком резкого)

(to drive me nuts - сводил меня с ума) (slam - хлопать) (gunfire - выстрелы)

I’m not really an **early riser**, so I don’t jump out of bed ready to take on the world. I get up very slowly, usually one foot on the floor at a time. Every once in awhile I’ll **oversleep**, but not too often. I really love the weekends, when I can **sleep in**.

(oversleep - проспать) (I can sleep in - я могу поспать подольше)

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 3 - Cleaning Up**

I go into my bathroom sometime around 6:45 a.m. My **sink** and **medicine cabinet** are on the left when you enter my bathroom. The **toilet** is next to that, with the **tub** in front. Anyway, I turn on the lights, and try to find the **mouthwash** in the medicine cabinet. I pour a small amount into a cup, **swish it around** for 30 seconds, **gargle**, and **spit**. Not pleasant, but necessary. Then I get out the **floss**. When I’m done flossing, I pull out the toothbrush and the toothpaste. I brush and then it’s off to the shower.

I pull the **shower curtain** aside, step into the tub, and pull the curtain back. I turn on both the hot and the cold water, looking for the perfect temperature. I **lather up** with soap, put some **shampoo** in my hair, then **rinse** and dry off. Now it’s **shaving** time. I used to own an **electric razor**, but I found it didn’t shave close enough. So now I’m back to the old hand razor. I lather up with **shaving cream**, and I start to shave. I rinse the razor and throw the **disposable blades** in the trash. It’s about 7:00 AM, and I’m on to breakfast.

(medicine cabinet - аптечка)

(flush the toilet - спустите воду в туалете) (tub - ванна)

(mouthwash - ополаскиватель для полости рта) (pour - наливаю)

(swish it around - прополощите) (gargle - полоскать горло) (spit - сплевывать)

(not pleasant - неприятно)

(floss – зубная нить) (get out – выхожу/ достаю) (pull out - достаю)

(then it’s off to the shower - затем отправляюсь в душ)

(lather up - намыливаюсь) (lather up with soap - намыливаюсь мылом)

(rinse - сполоснуть) (dry off - вытереться)

(I used to own - Раньше у меня была)

(disposable - одноразовые)

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 4 - Eating Breakfast**

I walk into my kitchen and turn on the **coffeemaker**. I always put the coffee, **filter**, and water in the night before so it’s ready to go. Next, I open the door of the **cupboard** where the **cereal** is **stored**. I would love to have **ham and eggs** for breakfast every morning, or maybe a **stack** of **waffles**, but the truth is that I just don’t have the time to cook.

So, I pour myself a bowl of cereal and put in a glass of **skim milk**, making sure I take a spoon out of the **silverware tray**. I go outside and pick up my **newspaper**, and sit down at the kitchen table. I love reading the paper in the morning, though usually I just have time to read a few of the stories. When I’ve finished my cereal, I **grab** a banana and maybe make a **slice of toast with jam**. I **rinse off** my breakfast dishes in the sink and put them in the **dishwasher**. By that time, my coffee is ready so I pour myself a cup and put the rest in a **Thermos** for work.

(silverware - столовое серебро)

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 5 - Getting Dressed & Ready for Work**

I go back into my bedroom and open up **closet** door. I have about 30 **dress shirts**, 10 pairs of **pants**, a half-dozen **ties**, and some **sweaters**, **suit jackets**, and**t-shirts**. I pull out a clean pair of **socks** and **underwear**, and then decide which shirt I’m going to wear today. I’m terrible at **color coordinating**, so I usually bring my wife in at this point to help match my shirt and pants. I put on my belt with the silver **buckle** and **polish** my shoes. I put my cell phone and car keys in my front pocket, and my **wallet** in the back one.

I put on my glasses and **check myself** in the mirror to make sure I look okay, and then go into the home office to get my bag. I used to carry a more traditional **briefcase**, but now I just use my computer bag to hold my laptop and my papers. Now it’s back into the kitchen to grab my Thermos on the way out the door. I lock the door and then hurry to my car in the **garage**. I’m usually **running late** and **today is no exception**!

**Category:** Daily Life | Home + Community

**Daily English 6 - The Commute to Work**

I open my car door and throw my briefcase in the **back seat**, and get comfortable for my drive. I put my coffee mug into the **cup holder**, put the keys in the **ignition**, find the **gas pedal**, and start the car. My wife drove the car last night, so I have to re-adjust the **rear view mirror** and the **side mirrors**. I turn on the radio to listen to the **drive time traffic report**. I take the **transmission** **out of park** and into **reverse**, back out into the **driveway** into the street, close the garage door, and put the car into drive. I used to drive a **stick shift**, but as I get older, I like my **automatic transmission** more and more.

I usually take the freeway to the office, so I get on the **onramp** for the freeway and drive to where I have to get off. My office is only a few miles from the **exit**. I pull into the **parking garage**,**swiping** my **key card** to get in. I park, grab my briefcase and coffee, and head toward the elevator. And that only took 40 minutes!

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 7 - At My Desk, on Break, and at Lunch**

On the way to the office, I was thinking about what I have on my **agenda** today. When I get to my desk, there is a stack of new **memos** and papers in my **inbox**. When I turn on my computer, I see at least two-dozen emails I need to go through. Just as I **start in** on the email, my phone rings. It’s my **project manager**, Julie, asking me to come in for a **conference call** with our **head office**. I don’t get back to my desk for nearly two hours. By that time, I was ready for a break.

At 10:30, I **head down** to the **break room** and get some hot water at the **water cooler** to make some tea. There were a couple of other people on break, having snacks out of the vending machine and reading the new notices on the **bulletin board**. I run into Sam, one of my friends at work, and we chat a little before going back to work.

Before long, it’s time for lunch. I usually bring my lunch with me to work and eat it at my desk. If I don’t have time **to pack a lunch**, I sometimes go across the street for some **take-out**. The only trouble is, it’s always so busy during the **lunch hour** and I always have to stand in line. That’s usually a pain. On Fridays, I usually go out to lunch with a few friends from work. On **casual Fridays**, we can **kick back** a little and take it easy.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 8 - The Commute Home and Running Errands**

It’s five o’clock and it’s **quitting time**. I put a few files into my bag, grab my mug, and say goodnight to the rest of the people in my area. I go to the parking garage and get into my car. I**signal** my **turn** onto the street and drive toward the freeway onramp. I **merge** as best as I can onto the freeway, which is always a bit of a hassle at this hour. Traffic is **stop-and-go** all the way from downtown. I hear on the radio that there’s a **stalled** car in **fast lane** near La Brea, **backing up** traffic all the way to Hoover. I decide to get off the freeway and to take **surface streets** for the rest of the trip.

I need to make a stop on the way home. I know that the **fridge** is empty, so I decide to stop by the **market**. I get there and I pick up some French bread, a bag of apples, a few bananas, some pasta, tomato sauce, and a **cooked** chicken. Luckily, they have a lot of **checkout stands** open, and I get through the line pretty quickly. I thank the **cashier** and the **bagger** and push my **cart** to my car. I open the trunk and **load everything up**. Just then my wife calls me on my cell phone. She was going to be a little late getting home and asks me to make something for dinner. Tonight, I will be the cook.

**Category:** Transportation

**Daily English 9 - Making Dinner, Eating Dinner**

When I get home, I start on dinner right away. I clean off the kitchen **counter** after putting away the **groceries** and decide to make pasta. I **preheat** the oven to 375 **to bake** the bread and to keep the chicken hot until my wife gets home. I put some water in a pan and turn the **burner** on high. When the water starts **boiling**, I put in the pasta and decide to make a salad. Just then, my wife opens the back door and yells, “I’m home!” She comes into the kitchen, and helps with**chopping** the tomatoes to add to the sauce. She **stirs** the sauce until it’s done, while I finish tossing the salad.

I get out the **place mats** and **napkins** **to set the table**. I also make sure that there is a spoon, knife, fork, and plate for each of us. About 15 minutes later, we sit down at the table in the **dining room** and talk about our long day. My wife says she’ll **do the dishes**, since I cooked, but of course I help out by drying them. First, I put some of the **leftovers** in a **Tupperware container** and some in **plastic wrap** and the rest in **aluminum foil**. Then I dry the pans, plates, glasses, and silverware.

**Category:** Food + Drink

**Daily English 10 - Relaxing, Reading the Mail, and the Trash**

With the dinner dishes done, my wife and I each sit down on the couch **to chill out** and watch the**national news** which comes on at 6:30. During the **newscast**, I **sort through** the day’s mail. Most of it is **junk mail** and **bills**. There are also several **fliers** for houses for sale in the area. I check the front **stoop** and see that there are no **packages**.

I like to watch TV and my wife likes to watch **reality shows**. One thing I hate is having to watch all of the **commercials**, so I turn the sound down when they come on. After the show is over, I**thumb through** the latest issue of the Atlantic Monthly, while my wife reads a **novel** by her favorite mystery writer.

At around 9, I remember that tomorrow is **trash day**, so I take the kitchen **garbage** out and dump the **recycling** bins as well. I roll the **trash container** out to the street ready for the **garbage trucks**, which come by early in the morning.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 11 - Getting Ready for Bed and Going to Sleep**

At 10:30, I decide to get ready for bed. When I was little, my mother would read me a **bedtime story**. I’m looking forward to having that **ritual** with my own kids someday.

I go into the bathroom and turn on the **tap**. I wash my face, and dry it with my **towel**. I floss and brush my teeth. I have to admit that by this time, I’m **beat,** and so is my wife. She cleans up when I’ve finished up.

In the meantime, I walk into the bedroom and get **undressed**. I put my dirty clothes in the **hamper**and I put on my pajamas. Wearing my **slippers**, I go into the kitchen to get a glass of water to put next to the bed in case I need it during the night. I **pull back** the **covers**, **fluff** my pillow, and climb into bed. I set my alarm clock for 6:15, and turn off the **overhead** light. I **lay my head down** and pull up the covers, kissing my wife goodnight. Some nights I have trouble **falling asleep**, but tonight, I didn’t need **to count any sheep**. I **nod off** right away and before long, I’m **fast asleep**.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 12 - Small Talk About the Weather**

I admit that I'm not very good at **small talk**. When I'm with friends, I can just **shoot the breeze** **all day long**. But when I talk to a stranger or someone I don't know very well, I'm always **casting about**, searching for something to talk about. Politics and religion are definitely **taboo** subjects, at least here in the United States. But you have to **chat** about something, otherwise there are these uncomfortable silences.

So we end up talking about - **what else?** - the weather. This usually begins with something like, "So, **nice weather we've been having!**" or "It sure is a **warm one** out there today." Of course, we have to comment on the temperature. My favorite is, "It's not the heat that's so bad, it's the**humidity**!" Actually, I think that's true - I hate it most when it's **muggy** outside.

Back in my home state of Minnesota, everyone is obsessed with the **weather report**! Every TV station has its own **meteorologist** with a **high-tech radar** giving you the 5 day **forecast**. They tell you when the temperature is **rising** or **falling**, what kind of clouds are **moving in**, and how cold the **wind chill** is.

My favorite quote about the weather comes from Mark Twain, who once said, that everybody talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it!

**Category:** Nature + Weather

**Daily English 13 - Going to the Drugstore**

I stopped by the **drugstore** last night on my way back home from work. I had a few **toiletries** to pick up, as well as my **prescription**. Fortunately, the **chain** pharmacy where I go has a little bit of everything: food, greeting cards, magazines – it’s almost as big as a regular supermarket.

To begin with, I needed to get some **medications** for my **allergies**. I've got **hay** **fever**, so I'm**sneezing** **up** **a** **storm** every morning when I wake up. While I was at it, I also got some **antacids**and some **Band**-**Aids**. Now it was time for me to pick up my **refill**.

I stood in line for a few minutes before being waited on. Since it was not a new prescription, the**pharmacist** didn't have to do a **consultation** with me. I just gave the clerk my insurance card and she rang up the sale. Fortunately, I have a low **co**-**pay**, so my **HMO** foots most of the bill.

**Category:** Health + Medicine

**Daily English 14 - Going to the Post Office**

For me, things never **go** **very** **smoothly** at the local post office. I've learned that if you want **tomail** **a letter**, you'll have no problems. But if things get more complicated than that, well, **watchout**!

Yesterday I went there to mail a small package and pick up a **book** **of** **stamps**. I wait my turn in line, and when I get up to the window, the clerk says, "What can I do for you?" "Well," I say, "I need a book – no make that a **roll** – of stamps. And I need to send this **package** **priority** to San Francisco." "You want **insurance** with that?" he asks me. "Uh, I don't know, what do you recommend?" "Well," he says, "you can send it priority with **tracking** if you want to see when it gets there, you can send it insured if the **contents** are valuable, or you can do both."

"Okay, I'll take the insurance." "Then **step** **aside** to fill out the insurance form," he says, "and bring it back up to me when you're finished." With that, I was **waved** **aside** to fill out my form. "Next in line!" the clerk calls. When I finish filling out the form, I wait patiently until the gentleman being**waited** **on** in front of me is finished, and then **step** back up to the window. "Sorry," the clerk says, "I'm **on** **break** now. She can help you at the next window."

Maybe it would be quicker just to drive my package to San Francisco.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 15 - Problems at the Office**

Lucy: Hey Jeff, can I **pick** **your** **brain** for a minute?

Jeff: Sure, what's up?

Lucy: Well, I have a **sticky** **situation** at work and I wanted to get your **input**. You're always so**tactful**.

Jeff: Thanks. I'm not sure I can help but I'll give you **my** **two** **cents**.

Lucy: Well, it's like this. There's this guy I work with who is always making jokes about the boss. Don't get me wrong. I like a good joke **now** **and** **then**, especially about the boss. But, sometimes he **goes** **too** **far**.

Jeff. What do you mean?

Lucy: Well, just the other day, he got a picture off the Internet and **cut** **and** **pasted** the boss's head onto it. Let's just say it was a very **unflattering** picture of him.

Jeff: Hmm. That's really unprofessional, but it sounds **harmless** enough, if he kept it to himself or just showed it to a few friends.

Lucy: That's just it. He didn't **keep** **it** **to** **himself**. He attached the picture to an email and sent it to the entire company, including the **top** **brass**.

Jeff: You're joking, right?

Lucy: No, I'm not. This is what I meant when I said he goes too far. He just **doesn't** **know** **when** **toquit**.

Jeff: Is he a friend of yours?

Lucy: No, not really. But, I don't want the guy to get fired. He's actually a good person. He's just**clueless**, that's all.

Jeff: Well, that's a **tough** **one**. Let me think about it. Maybe there's a way to get him **to** **cut** **it** **out**before he gets fired.

Lucy: Thanks. I appreciate it.

Jeff: Oh, it's no big deal. Let's go get a bite to eat.

Lucy: Sure. Sounds good to me.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 16 - Driving on the Freeways**

Driving in a big city like L.A. can be very difficult. It sometimes feels like I'm **doing** **battle** just to get to the grocery store. What is it about **getting** **behind** **the** **wheel** that brings out people's**aggressive** side? The most mild-mannered driver becomes crazy when they get on the road.

In L.A., people rely on the freeway to **commute** to their jobs or just to get around town. I think driving on the freeway has its good and its bad. On the one hand, there are no **stoplights** and the**speed** **limit** is over 55 miles per hour so you can get somewhere quickly. On the other hand, there are **drawbacks**, too. People like to gun their engines and **cut** **off** other cars to get ahead. If you’re driving in the **passing** **lane**, for example, you’d better be driving very fast, since most people are **speeding**. With all of these speeding cars, it’s not unusual to see a **pileup** every day of the week!

As an **alternate** to the freeway, I sometimes take **surface** **streets**. Of course, surface streets have their drawbacks, too. If you have a long commute to work or school, it can take you a long time to get there. There are a lot of stop signs, stoplights, and **crosswalks**. And, people sometimes**tailgate** if they think you're not going fast enough. Now that I think about it, there's sometimes even more **congestion** on surface streets than on the freeways!

It’s tough living in L.A. unless you never leave your house!

**Category:** Transportation

**Daily English 17 - Reading the Newspaper**

I **fell into the habit of** reading the newspaper every morning when I was a kid. Back then, there used to be two daily newspapers – a morning edition and an afternoon **edition**.

Nowadays, of course, most cities in the U.S. have just a morning paper. I'm not too **picky** about which newspaper I read, although **when** **it** **comes** **to** national newspapers, I **prefer** reading the*New York Times* or the *Wall Street Journal* **over** *USA Today*.

**Don't get me wrong**, I'm not a news **junkie**. I just like **browsing** the different sections, reading the headlines, and checking out the **classifieds**. I usually **skip** the sport section and the **funnies**, and only flip through the food and health sections, but I always read the front page and the**editorial** **page**. On the weekends, I'll **skim** the entertainment section for movie listings and reviews.

I'm sort of old fashioned in that I still like reading a real, paper newspaper. Sure, I also read some of my news online, but **nothing** **beats** lounging around on Sunday morning reading the big, thick paper. Don't worry, though: I always **recycle** my stack of newspapers.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 18 - Seeing Old Friends**

This has been a month for seeing **old** friends. I got an email a couple of weeks ago from an old friend from college. She and her family are visiting L.A. for a week. They plan to see family and to visit old friends. Since she moved away, I hadn't seen her **in** **ages**. I'm looking forward to meeting her new kids and seeing her again.

Another old friend called this week. She and I were **buddies** when we were young. She plans **toswing** **by** L.A. on her way to San Francisco. We've made plans to have lunch. She works in Washington D.C. and is normally very busy. I'm glad she could **make** **time** for us to get together.

When we say good-bye to our friends, we always hope **to** **keep** **in** **touch**. But, **what** **with** **thisand** **that**, it's sometimes hard to do. With friends that I've **fallen** **out** **of** **touch** **with**, it's sometimes hard to meet again and **pick** **up** **where** **we** **left** **off**. We've both moved on to a different **phase** in our lives. Some of my old friends have become very successful, and are living lives in the **fastlane**. Other friends are having a more difficult time and are just **making** **ends** **meet**. But, no matter how they're doing, it's always nice to **touch** **base** again.

I'm really looking forward to seeing these old **pals** and **catching** **up** after all this time. We just won’t mention how much we’ve **aged**.

**Category:** Relationships + Family

**Daily English 19 - Tough Negotiations**

I'm not **what you would call** the world's best negotiator, but sometimes it's necessary to engage in a **tough negotiation**. Take, for instance, the time I had **to renew** the **lease** on my apartment. This was back in college, when I was renting a small studio in the Miracle Mile area of Los Angeles. When my lease **was** **up**, the **landlord** and I sat down to hammer out the terms of a new lease.

"I'll tell you what I'm going to do," he said. "I'm going to give you a **break** on rent if you sign a two-year lease instead of just a one-year lease."

"Well," I said, "I don't know. What sort of break are we talking about here?"

"I'll give you a 5% rent increase instead of a 10% increase **in** **exchange** **for** you signing a two-year lease. It's a **win**-**win** situation: you get a cut in rent, and I get the security of a two-year lease."

At this point, I decided to make a **counter**-**proposal**. "How about this," I said, "You give me a one year lease with a six percent increase."

"No, I can't make that sort of **deal**," he said. "But here's what I can do, and it's my **final** **offer**: I'll pay for your electricity for the first 6 months of the lease, along with the other terms I mentioned before."

"You drive a **hard** **bargain**. Okay, it's a deal," I said. I guess I could have tried to **bargain** **himdown** a bit more, but I was happy with our agreement. Now all I had to do was **sign on the dotted line.**

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 20 - Formal Emails**

Dear Dr. Lee:

I don't know if you'll remember me, but I introduced myself to you after your **keynote** at last week's **conference**. As I mentioned to you, I have read all of your work and I am a great **admirer**of your **research**. Your article in the **top** journal Language Learning was **groundbreaking**.

The reason I am contacting you is that I would like to come to your university to study with you. I met some of your students at the conference and they couldn't stop **singing** **your** **praises** as a professor. I don't know if you are accepting any new students for the next year, but if so, I hope you will **consider** **me**.

I have included two **attachments** to this email. I am sending a copy of my **CV**, and I am also including a research paper I completed earlier this year. I hope that these will give you an idea of my **qualifications** and experience. Please let me know if you need more information or more samples of my **academic** work.

It was a pleasure and a **privilege** to meet you at the conference, and I hope to hear more about your research at a future conference.

Sincerely,

Lucy Hocevar

**Category:** Technology

**Daily English 21 - Getting an Interview**

I've finally **landed** my first **interview**. Well, actually, that's not really true. I have been on many interviews for **part**-**time** jobs. This was my first interview for a **full**-**time** job.

In less than two months, I will graduate from Arizona University. After a lot of **back** **and** **forth**trying to decide on a major, I finally decided **to** **double** **major**. I would study both **politicalscience** and **marketing**.

These are not majors that usually go together. In fact, most people thought I was crazy. But, after a lot of **soul** **searching**, I decided to combine my two main interests: 1. politics and 2. getting a job! Those are my two **priorities**. I thought that if I got degrees in these two fields, I could **cast** **a** **widenet** when going **job** **hunting**. And, that's what I'm trying to do now.

Since I don't know if I want to work in the public or private sector, I've applied for jobs in both. In the public **sector**, I could work for the government. Maybe one day, I could even be a speech writer for the president! Okay, maybe I should **shoot a little lower**.

In the private sector, I could work for private organizations such as museums or schools. Some of those are **non**-**profit**. I could also work for a company. Everybody tells me that that's where you can make a lot of money. I haven't decided yet. I'm planning to apply for a lot of jobs and will see what happens. What I want now is just to get some **job** **offers**. Then, I can start to be **picky**.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 22 - Making a Good Impression**

My interview is today. It is with a large **corporation** with its **headquarters** in San Francisco, California. It also has **satellite** **offices** across the U.S. and in Europe. I'm not sure if this will be **theright** **fit** for me, but I'm **keeping** **an** **open** **mind**.

I got some **sound** **advice** from my aunt. She said I should be confident but not **cocky**. That means I have to look for opportunities to talk about myself but not make the mistake of **boasting** or, worse, **making** **things** **up**. I do that sometimes when I get really nervous. My brain stops working and my mouth keeps going.

I need to be respectful but not **meek**. I want to be professional with everyone – my **co**-**workers**and my bosses – but I don't want them to think that I would let my co-workers **walk** **all** **over** **me**.

I should show them that I'm a **team** **player**. Nobody likes a person who tries **to** **grab** **thelimelight** all of the time, especially if they're new, like me.

Okay, I think I'm ready. I just have to remember to be confident, calm, respectful, professional, and a team player. No problem, right?

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 23 - A Visit to the Doctor**

Going to the doctor is never particularly pleasant for me. But I couldn’t **put it off** any longer. It was time for my **annual physical**, and there was no getting around it. So I picked up the phone and called for an appointment. “I’d like to see Dr. Shimoya next week, please, if that’s possible,” I said. Of course, it wasn’t possible. The doctor was **booked** until next month, the receptionist told me. “Okay,” I said, “Let’s schedule it for next month.”

When the day arrived, I drove over to the doctor and checked in at the receptionist’s desk. I had to present my **HMO** card and pay the **co-pay** of $15.00. The receptionist instructed me to go to**waiting room** B, down the hall, first door on the right. So I went there and took a seat to wait. And I waited, and waited. Finally, my name was called and I went in to see the doctor. The nurse**weighed** me, took my **temperature** and **blood pressure**, and asked me why I was there. I told her it was time for my yearly **check-up**. She told me to follow her to the **examination** **room** and then **to strip down** to my underwear.

Now I was sitting on the **exam table**, half-freezing, waiting for the doctor **to show up**. Finally, he walked in, looked at my **chart**, and began his examination. “Breathe,” he said, as he placed the**stethoscope** on my chest. “Breathe in and out slowly,” he said. I did so. Then he checked my throat and had me lie down to check my **abdomen**. Finally, he ordered a **blood test** and said, “Well, you’re good for another year, Mr. McQuillan.”

Thank goodness, I thought to myself, and got dressed to leave.

**Category:** Health + Medicine

**Daily English 24 - Taking Credit**

Jeff: You're not going to believe what happened?

Lucy: Oh, is the big meeting over? What happened?

Jeff: Dan tried **to take credit for**our idea for the new **campaign**.

Lucy: You're kidding me! I thought he might try **to pull something**like this, but I didn't think he'd**have the nerve**to do that.

Jeff: Yeah, and **to top it off**, he said that he did it all by himself.

Lucy: He's unbelievable. What a **jerk**! He **slacks off** for the last two weeks and **doesn't lift a finger**to help on any part of the project.

Jeff: Well, he's not going **to get away with it**. I'm going to talk to the senior vice president. I think she'll listen.

Lucy: Are you sure? I think she's **fair-minded**, but maybe she thinks we should **work it out** with Dan ourselves. She might not want **to step in**.

Jeff: Well, can you think of another way **to handle** this?

Lucy: I wish I could. I don't want to just **blow it off**, but we have to think of the **fall out**. Maybe the senior VP will end up thinking we can't **fight our own battles**.

Jeff: Yeah, you're right. I'm just so **ticked off** right now I can't think.

Lucy: That's probably the problem. We both need to**cool off** so we can **think straight**. Let's get some coffee and see what we can come up with.

Jeff: That sounds good. But, if I see Dan on the way out, I'm going to **floor** that guy.

Lucy: Yeah. **That makes two of us**.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 25 - A Trip to New York City**

(The phone rings.)

Lucy: Hello.

Jeff: **Hey**

Lucy, it's Jeff.

Lucy: Hey, welcome back. How was your vacation?

Jeff: Oh, it was great. The seven days in New York was a **blast**.

Lucy: **Oh, yeah?** Did you do any sightseeing or just visit with friends?

Jeff: I got to do both, actually. First, I saw my friend Edmundo who just moved there. He hadn't seen much of the city himself so we went to all the **tourist spots**. We got a **guidebook** and went to the major **museums**, saw a **play**, went to a **concert in Central Park**, and took the **Staten Island Ferry**. We did all of that in a day and a half. It was a **whirlwind**, but we got to see a lot.

Lucy: A day and a half?! You guys must have been **exhausted**.

Jeff: Yeah, we were. But, the rest of my trip was pretty**low key**. My friends Pat and Billie **rented a car**and we took a **road trip** to **Upstate New York** to visit some other friends of ours.

Lucy: Did you have **to stay over** in a hotel **along the way**, or did you **drive straight through**?

Jeff: We didn't bother with **booking** hotel rooms so we just drove straight there. It wasn't that far.

Lucy: How long did you stay there?

Jeff: We were only there two days and we **drove back**and **got back**last night. My flight was this morning at 8 a.m. The worst part of the whole trip was that my flight was **cancelled**. I was**rebooked** onto another flight that had a three-hour **layover** in Chicago. That was a **major pain**.

Lucy: **It sounds like it.** Well, I'm glad you **made it back** okay. And, you even have the weekend**to rest up** before work on Monday.

Jeff: Yeah, I'll need it. I've got **to catch up on my sleep**!

**Category:** Travel

**Daily English 26 - At the Movies**

My friend Jim and I decided to see the latest **blockbuster** this weekend. I like a good **action movie** once in a while. We decided to meet at the movie theater **after work**.

When I got the theater, I looked around and didn't see Jim. So, I thought I would**get in line** to buy**tickets**. There were two different lines so I asked a woman standing in the first one, "Is this the line for *Mission Impossible 4*?" and she said, "Yes, **I'm afraid** it is." I turned around and saw why she said that. It was really long and had about 20 people in it already. **Oh, well.** I went to the**back of the line**and waited.

About 10 minutes later, I saw Jim coming up the **escalator**. He looked **out of breath**. He said, "Hey, sorry for being so late. I **hit** a lot of **traffic** **on the way over**." I told him, "Don't worry about it. As you can see, we have a long wait.‚"

We finally got up to **the head of the line**. The clerk behind the **ticket window** said, "Can I help you?" and I said, "Two tickets for *MI-4*, please." We weren't children, students, or **seniors**, so there were no special **discounts** for us. The clerk **handed** me two tickets and we **headed** inside. There was a **ticket taker** just inside the door and he took our tickets, handing back to us our **stubs**.

**Coming straight from work**, I was really hungry. Jim and I went to the **concession stand** and got a couple of Cokes, **a tub of popcorn**, a hotdog, and a box of candy. We were set. We went into the**screening room** and it was **packed**. Lucky for us, we found some seats together that weren't too close to the **screen**.

We sat back and waited for the movie to start. While we watched 10 minutes of **previews** we **wolfed down** our food. By the time the movie started, I was feeling pretty good. I don't know which was better: The movie or the great **junk food**!

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 27 - Car Trouble**

I was **driving down** the **Santa Monica freeway** yesterday, headed towards downtown, when **all of a sudden** I see my **engine light come on**. **Needless to say**, that's not the sort of thing one likes to see. So I immediately**pull over** to the side of the road and park on the **shoulder**. I **pop the hood**and look to see what the problem might be. I'm no **mechanic**. I **barely** know how **to change the oil** and the **wiper fluid**‚ but perhaps something would **pop out at** me.

The car didn't **overheat**, since there was no **steam** coming out of the **radiator**. I checked the **battery cables**, and the battery was definitely not dead. I didn't know quite what else to do, so I pulled out my cell phone and called **AAA** for a **tow** to the nearest **repair shop**. I started worrying about all the things it could be‚ the **fuel pump**, the **transmission**, the **electrical system**. Who knows? I just had new **brakes** put in a month ago, so I knew it couldn't be that.

The **tow truck** finally arrived and we went to a **nearby** mechanic. He checked everything, and then told me that he had found the problem: the engine light **sensor** was broken! I now had to take it into the **dealer** to get it fixed. Well, at least it didn't end up**costing me an arm and a leg**.

**Category:** Transportation

**Daily English 28 - Cashing a Check**

The local **branch** of my bank is located just a few **blocks** from where I live. It's very convenient, since it has four **ATMs** open **24/7**. Today I had to go in to make a **deposit**, but since I wanted to **cash a check** as well, I needed to go inside to talk to a **teller**.

Inside the bank, I **got in line** for the tellers. All the tellers are behind a large piece of **bulletproof glass**, so you have **to speak up** when you are talking to them. Anyway, when I got to the head of the line, the cashier said, "**How may I help you**?" "Well," I said, "I'd like to deposit this **payroll check** into my **checking account**, and cash this **cashier's check**." "Certainly," she said, "just **endorse** the back of both checks and put them in the tray." "Sure. And, I can get that in **small bills--10s and 20s**?" I waited for her to process my checks. Then she said, "**Here you are**," and **counted out** the cash and put it in an envelope. I said, "Thank you!" and **walked away**. Now that I have some **money burning a hole in my pocket**, I guess I better spend it!

**Category:** Money

**Daily English 29 - Staying In**

It's Friday night and my **roommate** and I feel like **staying in**. We've both had a **tough week** at work and decided to have a **low-key** evening. On my way home, I stopped at the **video rental store**and rented a couple of movies. I got a **new release** and a **classic**. I thought I had left my**membership card**at home but found it **at the last minute**. I like going to my local rental store because it doesn't charge **late fees.** That's **handy** when I don't have time to return the DVDs the next day.

My roommate and I were feeling too tired **to go out to eat** so we decided **to order in**. We mulled over the **take-out** menus from restaurants that had **delivery service** and couldn't decide which restaurant to order from. **The trouble was that** we had never eaten at the two restaurants nearby. Ordering from either one would be **crapshoot**. In the end, we just decided to order a pizza. I called the restaurant and placed our delivery order.

About a half hour later, the delivery person came to the door. I asked him if I could pay with a credit card and he said, "Sure." I handed him my card and he wrote down the number. Then, I signed the **slip** and I added a **tip** to the total. He gave me a copy of the slip as a receipt and then handed me the pizza. I was really glad to get it. I was **starving**.

With our movies and the pizza, we were**all set**. There's nothing like a night at home **vegging out**to get over a **hectic** week.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 30 - At the Art Exhibit**

I really wanted to see the new **exhibit** at the art museum and invited Lucy to come along. We both like **contemporary** art and this was an **exhibition** for an artist that we've both liked, **ever since** she was **an up and coming** artist 10 years ago. This was a **retrospective** so there was going to be a lot of different types of **work** by the artist. There would be some of the artist's **paintings**, her early work. There would also be some of her **sculptures**. Her most recent work is **mixed media**. This is very **versatile** and that's one of the reasons I like her work so much.

We were going to the **opening** of the exhibition, with a **wine and cheese reception** for the artist. When we arrived in the main **gallery**, there were already a lot of people there. Looking around, I could see that some were artists themselves and some were **art critics**. I'm sure there were **collectors** there, too. I knew the **curator** and looked around for him. I **spotted him** talking with a group of people in the corner, probably trying to talk up the gallery and the artist. After a little while, the curator **said a few words** and then introduced the artist. We got a chance to meet her briefly and she was very **gracious**. I'm glad that someone with her **talent** has **made it** in the art world. That's not easy to do. And, I think her best work is **still to come**.

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 31 - Getting Up**

On a weekday, I usually **get** **up** around 6:30 a.m., but I set my **alarm** **to** **go** **off** at 6:20 so that I can hit the **snooze** **button** to sleep another 10 minutes. My roommate thinks I’m crazy, but doing this in the mornings actually helps me **wake** **up**. I’m a **night** **owl**, not an **early** **bird** like she is, so I need an extra few minutes to get going in the morning.

One reason it’s so hard to get up is because my bedroom and my bed are so comfortable. I **splurged** and bought a bed with a very soft, thick mattress. I also have **matching** **sheets** and **pillowcases**, and a **comforter** that is made of **goose** **down**. Even my **nightstand** matches my sheets and the rest of my bedroom. I decorated it so that it would be restful after a busy day at work.

When I get up, the first thing I do is put on my **robe**. It’s always so cold in the apartment in the mornings, no matter what time of year it is. Then, I usually make my bed. I hated making my bed when I was little, but now it’s become a **routine**. Sometimes, though, I’m so tired that I sleep in for just a little too long and then, the bed definitely doesn’t get made. On those days, I wish I could **sleep** **in** all day!

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 32 - Cleaning Up and Putting on Make-Up**

I share a bathroom with my roommate, which is usually not a problem. We each try to keep the sink, the **tub**, and the **toilet** clean, and we have separate **medicine** **cabinets** to keep our things. There’s also room under the sink for our **hairdryers** and **tampons**.

I start out by rinsing my mouth with some **mouthwash** before **flossing**. Then, I take out my toothbrush and toothpaste and brush my teeth. I only wash my hair every other day so I put on a **shower** **cap** and don’t have to get out my shampoo and **conditioner**. I like to take **bubble** **baths** when I have time, but on a busy morning, a shower will have to do. I **lather** **up** quickly and give my legs a quick **shave**.

I don’t wear a lot of make-up to work so I just put on a little **blush** and a light-colored **lipstick**, and skip the **mascara** and **eye** **shadow**. I put a few **hot** **curlers** in my hair and I’m ready for breakfast!

**Category:** Clothing + Grooming

**Daily English 33 - Eating Breakfast**

In the kitchen, the first thing I do is pour myself a cup of **coffee** and I add a little **skim** **milk** and **sugar**. My roommate usually makes a pot when she wakes up for both of us since she gets up first.

I go the **fridge** to take out the **eggs**. When I have time, I like to cook a hot breakfast, so I take out the **frying** **pan**, pour a little **oil** in it, and turn on the front **burner** on the **stovetop**. While the eggs are cooking, I put two pieces of bread into the **toaster**. When the eggs are nice and brown on the edges, I use a **spatula** to put them on a plate. Some mornings, I have to settle for some cold **cereal** or just **toast with jam**, but it’s nice to start the day with a sit-down meal when I get the chance.

When I’m done, I take my plate and my **silverware** to the sink, where my roommate has left her breakfast dishes. Since she makes the coffee in the morning, I wash the dishes. It’s a pretty good arrangement. I put a little **dishwashing** **detergent** on the **sponge**, **scrub** the dishes, and leave them in the **drying** **rack** to dry.

**Category:** Food + Drink

**Daily English 34 - Doing Hair**

I go back into the bathroom to finish doing my hair. Before I put the hot curlers in, I had put a little **gel** in my hair to give it some **volume**. I also like to use my hairdryer to give my **bangs** a little more shape. I take out the curlers one by one and **brush** through them into the style I like. I finish it off with a little **hairspray** and I’m ready to get dressed.

In my bedroom, I look in my **closet** for a **skirt** and **blouse** to match. The office I work in is pretty **casual** so I don’t need to wear a **suit** to work. On Fridays, we’re allowed to be even more casual so most people wear **jeans** and **sweaters** to the office, but no one dares to show up in **t-shirts** and **shorts**. I put on the skirt and blouse and open the top **dresser** **drawer** to get some **pantyhose**. I wish I could wear my **tennis** **shoes** to work, but I pick out a pair of **heels** and put them on. I was ready to go.

**Category:** Clothing + Grooming

**Daily English 35 - Taking Public Transportation**

I like my job but it takes over an hour to get there from my part of town. First, I walk three blocks to the **subway** **station** and **swipe** my **monthly** **pass** to get through the **turnstile**. I wait on the**platform** for the first **express** train. I get on and since it’s so crowded during the morning hours, there aren’t any seats and I stand, holding onto a **handrail**. At my **stop**, I get off and **transfer** to a second train that will get me to Union Station. This one isn’t as crowded and I manage to find a seat.

When the train gets to Union Station, I **get** **off** the train, go up the stairs, and go out of the front**exit** to the bus stop. I **get** **on** the B bus to downtown and show my **bus** **pass** to the bus driver. I sit down near the front of the bus and when three more people get **on** **board**, the driver starts on the **route**. When we get close to my stop, I press the button **to** **signal** to the driver that I need to get off and the bus **pulls** **up** **to** the next stop. I get off and walk half a **block** to the building where I work. It’s a long commute, but I look around every morning and I see that I’m not the only one who has to do it.

**Category:** Transportation

**Daily English 36 - At My Desk**

I get to the office and sit down at my desk. I share a **cubicle** with another employee, Jim, but he only works in the afternoons so we don’t usually get in each other’s way too much. I **boot** **up** my computer and look at my **agenda** for today. I had about 30 new emails in my inbox but I decide not to read them right away. There were some new **inter**-**office** paperwork in my inbox too, but I decide to look at them a little later. First, I wanted **to** **start** **in** on a report that I had to finish today. I had a **conference** **call** at the end of the day with the **head** **office**, but I had most of the day to get it done.

Before long, it was the **lunch** **hour**. I didn’t **pack** **a lunch** so I ask my **supervisor** if she wanted to have lunch together. We **head** **down** the street to a sit-down restaurant. The **hostess** shows us to a table in the back of the restaurant. The waiter arrives a few minutes later and we order **entrees**, no **appetizers**, since we need to get back by 1:00. The waiter was very busy so I had **to** **wavehim** **down** to get the check. He brought the bill, and my supervisor and I **split** **the** **check**. We walk back to the office and I get back to work. Just four more hours until **quitting** **time**!

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 37 - Bank and Market**

I left at work at exactly five o’clock because I wanted to make it to the **bank** before it closed at 5:30. Fortunately, it’s on the way to the bus stop. I get to the bank and I **stand** **in** **line**. I fill out a**deposit** envelope and sign the back of my **paycheck** while I wait my **turn**. When I get to the front of the line, I hand the **teller** the envelope and I ask her if she could tell how much I had in my**account**. She told me my **balance** and handed me my **receipt**.

I ride the bus and the subway home. I realize that I need a few things at the **market** and stop at one on the way there. I pick up a **cart** as soon as I walk in and go to the **produce** department **toload** **up** on fruit, some apples and bananas. I look around to see what kind of **cooked** foods they have. I’m feeling lazy and I don’t want to cook tonight. I pick up a sandwich and I head for the**checkout** **stands**. I get into the shortest line and the **cashier** **rings** **me** **up**. She gives me my change and the **bagger** hands me my bags. I walk the two blocks to my apartment and I’m ready for a relaxing evening at home.

**Category:** Shopping

**Daily English 38 - Dinner and Making Dessert**

When I get home, I change into my casual clothes and head for the kitchen. I grab my sandwich, a **napkin**, and sit down at the **dining** **room** table to eat. For my birthday last year, my brother gave me some **place** **mats** that have maps of the United States on them. I have always been bad at **geography** so he thought he would be funny and give me something to study while I ate. Of course, I haven’t learned a thing!

I am still hungry after the sandwich and want some **dessert**. I **preheat** the **oven** and then take a package of **ready**-**made** cookies out of the fridge that just needed to be **baked**. I get out a **cookie** **sheet** and put some **aluminum** **foil** on it. I always do this when I bake because this way, I don’t have to **do** **any** **dishes** afterwards. I could just throw away the foil. Then, I **shape** the **dough** into circles, put them on the cookie sheet, and put the pan into the oven.

After 15 minutes, I put on my **oven** **mitts** and take the pan out. The cookies smell great, but first, I need to let them **cool**. After 30 minutes, I put three of them on a plate and the rest of them in a **Tupperware** **container**. I’ll take those to work tomorrow. That should make the day go by a little faster.

**Category:** Food + Drink

**Daily English 39 - Cleaning and Relaxing**

I am feeling pretty **energetic** when I finish my three cookies and decide to do a little cleaning. I take out a **rag** and start **dusting** the living room. I dust the TV and the lamps. I **wipe** the coffee table, too. The rug looked **filthy** so I get out the vacuum and vacuum it. I **pick** **up** around the room and **put** **things** **away**. The bathroom needs cleaning, too, but by this time, I am starting to feel tired. **Mopping** the bathroom floor and **scrubbing** the tub will have to wait for another day.

I turn on the TV to watch the **newscast**, but I missed the **national** **news**. I **flip** **though** **the channels** but all I see are **commercials**. My favorite **reality** **show** doesn’t come on for another hour so I turn off the TV. I put down the **remote**, and pick up a magazine. I **thumb** **through** it for few minutes and then the phone rings. It’s my best friend Marlene, so I put down the magazine and spend the half hour **chatting** with her. There’s nothing like a good talk with a good friend to end a busy day.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 40 - Getting Ready for Bed and Going to Sleep**

I am feeling pretty tired by 11:00 and decide to get ready for bed. I go into the bathroom to take off my make-up. I use a **cleanser** to wash my face and dry it with a **towel**. Then I put some **toner** on my face and then some **moisturizer**. I **comb** my hair and **tie** **it** **back**. I don’t like getting hair in my face while I sleep so tying it back helps. I floss and brush my teeth, and am ready for bed. By this time, I am pretty **beat**.

I go into my bedroom and I get **undressed**. I put the dirty clothes in the **hamper** and put on my **pajamas**. I take off my slippers and pull back the **covers**. I check my **alarm** to make sure it’s on. I have this same **ritual** every night, which I think helps me fall asleep more easily. It’s not long before I’m **fast** **asleep**.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 41 - Understanding Men and Women**

Lucy: Jeff, here's a question. I was just talking to Dawn. You know, they had their first **wedding anniversary** last week. Guess what her husband gave her as a present.

Jeff: I don't know. What?

Lucy: He gave her a **vacuum** **cleaner**.

Jeff: Didn't she want a vacuum cleaner?

Lucy: Yes, the old one was broken, but that's not the **point**! It was their wedding anniversary, their first one. Dawn was really **upset** that he wasn't more **romantic**. He really **let** **her** **down**.

Jeff: Oh, great. Women are always saying that men aren't romantic. But we are! Just not in the way that women want.

Lucy: What do you mean?

Jeff: It's a man's job to protect his wife and family. When something goes wrong, they want to fix it. That's **the** **mark** **of** a good husband.

Lucy: I can see that, but that's not romantic **in** **my** **book**.

Jeff: That's because you women have this **idealized** view of romance that you get from a lifetime of watching **chick** **flicks** and reading **romance** **novels**. Even if a man wanted to, he could never **get** **into** **the** **head** **of** a woman and guess what she wanted. That's why women have to just tell us what they want.

Lucy: That's the problem. We women think men should just know what we want, without us having to tell them; that is, if the man really loved and understood us. That's why we don't want to tell you. But I see your point, too.

Jeff: So, I guess it's really true. **Men are from Mars and women are from Venus**.

Lucy: Yeah, that's what makes life interesting, right?

**Category:** Relationships + Family

**Daily English 42 - Talking to a Professor**

[A knock on the door.]

Jeff: Come in.

Julie: Hi, Dr. McQuillan, I'm Julie Taylor. I'm in your two o'clock **class** on Thursdays.

Jeff: Hi, Julie. Have a seat. What can I do for you?

Julie: I wanted to come see you during your **office** **hours** because I missed class last week. I had a **family** **emergency**.

Jeff: I'm sorry to hear that. We went over a lot of **material**, so make sure you get the **notes** from another student in class.

Julie: Thanks, I will. Did you give any **assignments**?

Jeff: Yes, I assigned an **essay** on the topics in chapter three of your **textbook**.

Julie: Oh, I see. Are there **guidelines** for the essay?

Jeff: Yes, it should be 8 to 10 pages, and it's **due** in two weeks. Take a look at your **syllabus**. It has more details.

Julie: I will. Thanks a lot. I've also been meaning to talk to you about the trouble I'm having **keeping** **up** in class. I'm having trouble understanding the **lectures**. Is there anything you would suggest?

Jeff: Some students tape-record the lectures and listen to them afterwards. That seems to help.

Julie: That's a great idea. I'll definitely try that. I'm wondering if you give **extra** **credit** in your class.

Jeff: No, I don't give extra credit assignments. But if you're worried about **passing**, there are still two more tests **to** **pull** **up** **your** **grade**.

Julie: Yes, I'll study hard for those. Thanks a lot for your time.

Jeff: No problem. See you in class.

Julie: Okay, **Professor** McQuillan. See you Thursday.

[end of dialogue]

**Category:** Education

**Daily English 43 - A Trip to the Library**

I read in the local paper that a new public library had just opened two weeks ago in my neighborhood. I wanted to check it out. But first, I called the library to check the **hours** **of operation**. The **librarian** told me that they were open Monday through Saturday from 10 to 6, so I decided to see the new library for myself.

I parked my car in the library parking lot and walked in. There were two **library** **clerks** behind the counter and a librarian at the **reference** **desk**. I walked around and spotted the **nonfiction** section and moved on to the **fiction** **stacks**. There was a pretty good **collection** in both of these areas. I wanted to see if they had a book I've been wanting to read. So, I went over to the computer to check the online **catalog**. As it turns out, they had one **copy** and it had not been **checked** **out**. I wrote down the **call** **number** and went to the stacks. I found it right away.

When I walked in, I also noticed that the library had music CDs, videos, and DVDs that could be checked out. I looked briefly at the collection but decided not to check out any right then.

I had my book and I was all set. I stood in line and waited to check my book out. The library clerk said, "Next please," and I stepped up to the counter. I asked her what the **loan** **period** was for the book. She told me that the **due** **date** was three weeks from today. I gave her my **library** **card**. She scanned the **bar** **code** on my book and **stamped** the due date on the back of it. It was quick and easy. I was so glad to have a nice new library so close to home.

**Category:** Education

**Daily English 44 - Hiring for a Job**

Last week, my **administrative** **assistant** **gave** **notice** that he was quitting in two weeks. It couldn't have come at a worse time. It was a very busy time of year, but there was nothing I could do. Right away, we put a **want** **ad** in the **classifieds** and received several applications for the job. I called in four of them for interviews, and I had **narrowed** **it** **down** to two candidates.

The first was Claudia Trujillo. From her **résumé**, I knew that she had had four years of experience working at a telecommunications company. She looked **promising**, and when she arrived for the interview, she was dressed professionally and seemed **personable**. When I asked her about her experience, she answered my questions with **confidence**. She sounded like a hard worker and showed a lot of **perseverance**. The only **drawbacks** were that she was a little **chatty** and she also seemed a little disorganized.

The second candidate was Alex Mayhew. Alex had more experience than Claudia, but in different **capacities**, and only had one year of experience as an administrative assistant. When I met Alex, he seemed a little **rough** **around** **the** **edges**. He was **earnest** and eager but didn't have the air of someone who had worked in a **corporate** **environment**. Still, he seemed **bright** and easy to get along with. He did strike me as being a little shy, but I think that was because he was nervous.

So, those are my two options. Now, which one should I hire? I need to give it some more thought.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 45 - A Camping Trip**

My friends and I decided to take a trip to Yosemite National Park to do some **camping** and **hiking**. We all like the **outdoors**, but we all live in the city. We have all been griping about **feeling cooped** **up**, so we decided to take a road trip. This trip would give all of us a break from the traffic, noise, and **smog** that we all deal with in L.A.

Before we left, I went to the **sporting** **goods** **store** to get some new **gear** and equipment. I had a **tent**, but I needed a new **sleeping** **bag**, one that was **waterproof**. I also needed some new **hiking** **boots**. Lucky for me, I found everything in one stop, and by the time I left the store, I was really **psyched** about the trip.

Early on Saturday morning, my friend Rachel came to pick me up. None of us had a **camper**, but Rachel had an **SUV** that fit all of us comfortably. I was the last one to be picked up, and I put my **backpack** and other gear in the trunk. I was about to get into the car when I realized I had left my **sunscreen** in the house. I rushed back in and grabbed it, and then we were off. I couldn't wait to get some fresh air and plenty of exercise. Yosemite, here we come!

**Category:** Nature + Weather | Travel

**Daily English 46 - Getting Ready to Go**

I guess I'm just like everybody else. I could **do** **without** Mondays. On the weekend, I can **kickback** **and** **relax**, but I **dread** going back to work when the weekend is over.

This morning was particularly **hectic**. On weeknights, I set my **alarm** for seven a.m. That's what I did last night. But when I woke up this morning and looked at my alarm clock, it was seven thirty! The alarm clock was **on** **the** **fritz** and it didn't **go** **off**. Oh no, I was going to be late again.

I washed my face, put on my **makeup**, got dressed, and ate a small bowl of cereal. I had **one** **foot out** **the** **door** when I realized I didn't have my keys. I went back into my bedroom and looked on the shelf where I kept them. **No** **luck**. Maybe I left them in my **purse**. I **hunted** **around** for them. Finally, I just **dumped** **out** everything from my purse onto my bed. I had my wallet, sunglasses, compact, lipstick, eye drops, aspirin, and tissues. But no keys.

I looked around the living room. Maybe they fell behind the **couch** **cushions**. I picked up each one and looked. No keys. I went into my closet and checked the pockets of my coat. Still, no keys. By this time, I was pretty **frantic**, so I tried to calm myself down. I decided to get a drink of water. I opened the refrigerator and what did I see? My keys. They were sitting on the shelf right next to the milk. I must have left them there when I got the milk for my cereal. It **served** **me** **right** for being so **absentminded**.

Oh, how I hate Monday mornings!

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 47 - Teamwork**

Jeff: So, does that **sound** **okay** with you?

Lucy: What? Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't hear what you said.

Jeff: You seem **preoccupied** today. What's up?

Lucy: Oh, it's this guy I know from this class I'm taking. His name is Richard. I think I've mentioned him before.

Jeff: Yeah, sure, the guy you're working on a project with, right?

Lucy: Yeah, that's him. The four of us are supposed to be **working** **as a team** on this project, and I'm having a lot of trouble **dealing** **with** him.

Jeff: What do you mean?

Lucy: Well, he doesn't know how to express his opinion without **putting** **other** **people** **down**. And, he always has to be right.

Jeff: He sounds a little **immature**.

Lucy: Yeah, I think it's partly that. He doesn't know how to be **diplomatic** with people.

Jeff: He doesn't know how, or he doesn't want to?

Lucy: I don't know, but I do know that sometimes he really **gets** **the** **better** **of** **me**.

Jeff: Well, he sounds pretty hard to get along with. Are the other people in your group feeling the same way?

Lucy: Yeah, in fact, they're **fed** **up** with him. I keep having **to** **run** **interference** when our discussions get too **heated**. Actually, I **feel** **really** **sorry** **for** the guy. He doesn't seem to have too many friends, and he always seems so unhappy.

Jeff: Well, I think you're helping just by **putting** **up** **with** him.

Lucy: Thanks for trying to make me feel better. Ok, now what were you saying?

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 48 - Getting a Haircut**

I have an appointment with my **hairdresser** today. It has been too long since I had my hair cut. My **bangs** were too long. I had **split** **ends** and my **roots** were **showing**. I was a mess!

I arrived for my appointment, and I told the **receptionist** that I was there for an appointment with Mark. She told me that he was **finishing** **up** with another **client** and that he would be with me soon. About 10 minutes later, he came over to where I was sitting and took me back to his **station**.

Mark: Hi, how have you been? You're looking good.

Lucy: Thanks. I've been great. Thanks for **fitting** **me** **in** today.

Mark: No problem. So, tell me, what do you want to have done today?

Lucy: I need a **trim**.

Mark: Okay. Let's see, how short do you want me to cut it? **Shoulder** **length**? Chin length?

Lucy: I'd like to **take** **it** **up** about two inches in the back, and the bangs should fall just under my eyebrows.

Mark: Okay, I really think that's a good length for your **face** **shape**.

Just as I had hoped, Mark did a great job with my hair. I paid the receptionist and made sure I gave him a big tip. Anyone who can **do** **wonders** **with** my crazy hair definitely deserves it!

**Category:** Clothing + Grooming

**Daily English 49 - Preparing a Paper (for School)**

Student: **I wonder if** I could ask you some questions about our paper, Professor. Do you want us **to** **cite** our **sources** in the **footnotes**?

Professor: You should use **endnotes** for longer explanations. Otherwise, just follow the **stylesheet** I passed out for **citations** in your paper.

Student: I see. And what about the **cover** **page**? Is there a special **format** for that as well?

Professor: Do you have the **handout** I **passed** **out** with you? If you look at the bottom of that, you'll see that you should follow the format of the American Psychological Association, fifth edition.

Student: Okay, I guess I **missed** that.

**Category:** Education

**Daily English 50 - Reading Magazines**

I'm **the** **first** **to** **admit** that I'm **hooked** on reading magazines. I've been this way **as long as I can remember**. I love picking up magazines about different topics. Currently, I **subscribe** to about six or seven magazines, although when I was getting **professional** **journals** during my days at the university, I probably had 15 or 20 coming to my box every month.

Now I read mostly for **pleasure**. I like to read The New Yorker because it is so **well** **written**. I also get a copy of Atlantic Monthly and Harper’s every month because they have good **coverage** of cultural, political, and social issues. My **latest** is to read book reviews. There are a couple of really good **book** **reviews** published in the U.S., including The New York Review of Books.

But the best reviews **for** **my** **money** are The Times Literary Supplement and the London Review of Books, both of which **come** **out** **of** England. I have to thank my friend Gustavo for **turning** **me on** **to** those two. I prefer to read the **nonfiction** reviews over the **fiction** ones, but that's me. Ah, the joys of reading!

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

0051 Eating Fast Food

**Daily English 52 - Preparing for a Business Trip**

I'm going to a **conference** this weekend back in my home state of Minnesota. I am going there **toaddress** a **convention** full of **librarians**, believe it or not. For me, the worst part of going **on** **theroad** for business is not the traveling; it's all the preparation you have to do. I created a whole**checklist** of things I have to do when I travel.

First, I **confirm** that my **flight** will be **on** **time** departing from LAX. Next, I call **to** **double**-**check**on my reservation for the hotel and the **rent-a-car**. After that, I pull out my suitcase and start packing. I'm a **light** **packer**, so I bring only the pants, shirts, socks, and underwear I'm going to need, nothing more. I **throw** **in** my **toiletries** bag with the usual stuff – shaver, shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss – and then I'm just about done.

Finally, I go through my **briefcase** to make sure I have all the things I'll need for the conference: my badge, my laptop, my **overhead** **transparencies**, a notepad, and some pens. Now I'm ready. Off I go to my old home.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 53 - Picking a Wardrobe**

I'm one of those people who don't have much of a **fashion** **sense**. I mean, I know that I shouldn't wear a pink shirt with green pants, but beyond that I'm pretty much a **basket** **case** when it comes to picking my **wardrobe**.

I have plenty of **short**-**sleeve** and **long**-**sleeve** dress shirts; some have a **button**-**down** **collar** and some have a **shirt** **pocket** in them. I also own some more casual shirts with a collar, and a ton of **T-shirts** with **just** **about** every **logo** you can think of. I have a couple of good pairs of black **slacks**for formal occasions, along with **khakis** and jeans for more informal events.

Naturally, I have one nice **suit** to wear to weddings, funerals, and job interviews, with a **suit** **coat**, tie, a **belt** with a nice-looking **buckle**, and pants. I also own a **sports** **coat**, but I don't use it much. Well, I better stop talking and start dressing. I'm late for work!

**Category:** Clothing + Grooming

**Daily English 54 - A Trip to the Jewelry Store**

My wife's birthday was coming up and I wanted to get her a special **present**. She always tells me not **to** **splurge** on gifts for her, but for once, I decided **to** **pull** **out** **all** **the** **stops**.

I went to the **jewelry** **store** and began looking at all of the **display** **cases**. I started by looking at the **bracelets**. The sales clerk asked me if I was looking for a bangle or a chain bracelet. I told her that I wasn't sure, and she showed me some in yellow gold, white **gold**, and **platinum**. None of them seemed like my wife's **style**, so I moved on to the **rings**.

The clerk asked me if my wife liked **diamonds**, and I told her that she did but that she also liked other stones, like emeralds, rubies, or sapphires. I looked at a lot of anniversary bands, but none really **fit** **the** **bill**.

Finally, I walked over to the display case with the **necklaces**. There was a pearl necklace with a really beautiful **clasp**. I had never seen anything like it before and I was sure my wife was going to like it. I told the clerk that I would take it.

The clerk placed the necklace in its box and **gift** **wrapped** it. I have to say that when I left the store, I felt pretty **proud** **of** **myself**. I knew my wife would like the present, and I picked it out all by myself. Now, I can't wait to see the look on her face when she opens it!

**Category:** Daily Life | Shopping

**Daily English 55 - A Family Party**

I visit my **hometown** about once a year. This year, I was **in town** for about five days and there was a family **get- together**. It wasn't a **family reunion** since it was just my **immediate family**, but still, there were a total of about 45 people who **showed up**.

Our family parties are always held at the home of one of my brothers or sisters. It is always a**potluck**. We never have formal **dinner parties** and so we never need **catering**. At the potluck this past weekend, some people brought **casseroles**, some brought **chips and dip**, and some brought cookies and **cakes** for **dessert**. I usually don't have to bring anything since I'm the **guest of honor**.

There is always a lot of talking and laughing at our family parties. Someone always brings up old**childhood** memories or a funny **anecdote** from the old days. A family get-together as big as ours can be **overwhelming** for some people. When they ask me what it's like to be part of such a big family I always tell them one thing: It's noisy!

**Category:** Relationships + Family

**Daily English 56 - Noisy Neighbors**

I live in a quiet neighborhood. At least that's what I thought until last week.

I live in a **cul de sac**in a **residential** neighborhood in Los Angeles. There is a nice retired **couple**that lives **kitty corner** from me. They have always been very friendly and we have **gotten along**very well.

About three months ago, they decided to **renovate** their garage and turn it into a **guesthouse**. Since they didn't have a lot of money, they wanted to **rent out** the **unit** to help **make ends meet**.

A new renter moved in three weeks ago and that's when the trouble began. She was a student at the local university and she liked to invite her friends over. The trouble was, they **kept very late hours**, and they liked to play loud music. My neighbors were **at their wits' end**. They talked to their **tenant** several times about the noise but nothing worked. Finally, they asked her to **move out**. Fortunately, she was on a **month-to-month lease** and they didn't have any problems.

Now that my neighbors have **learned their lesson**, their new tenant is a nice **widow** with two cats. I'm so glad that everything worked out in the end!

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 57 - Making a Presentation**

I don't normally get **stage fright**, but the thought of getting up in front of my colleagues to give a presentation always **gives me butterflies**. But I have no choice; my boss asked me to do it, so I will.

I set up my **projector** and **PowerPoint** program on my laptop. **Clearing my voice**, I stood up and addressed the 10 people **present** at the meeting. I started off by saying, "Good afternoon. **I want to thank you for inviting me** to talk to you today." I had a **clicker** in my hand to **advance** the**slides**. "**Today I'm going to talk to you about** our new product, Provasic. **Please feel free to**ask questions as we go along," I said. I then **flipped** through the slides showing pictures of our product, and concluded by summarizing the **main points** of my talk with **bullet points**.

I finished by saying, "**Thank you for your attention**today. My **contact information**is on your**handout**." **Whew**! I was glad that was over!

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 58 - Having Car Trouble**

As I was driving home from work, my car started **acting** **up**. It was making a strange noise and the engine was **running** **roughly**. When I got home, I **popped** **open** the **hood** to see if there was anything wrong. After looking around for a few minutes and not seeing anything, I decided to take my car to the **shop**.

I took it down to street to Manny's Car Repair. I've never had luck finding a really honest**mechanic**, but Manny was **no** **worse** **than** **most**. I explained to Manny the problem and he took a look at it right away. Finally, he **narrowed** **it** **down** to the **fan** **belt**. I asked him how much it would**set** **me** **back**, and he said $80 with **parts** and **labor**.

I usually feel like I'm getting **ripped** **off** when I go to a repair shop, but for once, I thought Manny was being **straight** **with** **me**. I asked how long he needed to keep the car, and he said at least until the end of the day tomorrow. He said he would order the part right away and he’d call me when it was ready.

Oh, well. I guess it could have been a lot worse. I better **dust** **off** my bike to take to work tomorrow. It's about time I got some exercise!

**Category:** Transportation

**Daily English 59 - Opening a Bank Account**

I decided **to** **switch** banks recently, and after looking at my options, I went for Mar Vista National Bank. I drove over to the bank, parked next to the **drive**-**through** **teller** lanes, and walked inside.

I made my way to the new **accounts** desk and was greeted by John, one of the customer service representatives there. I told him I wanted to open a new **checking** and **savings** account. He said he’d be happy to help me, and gave me a form **to** **fill** **out** with my personal information, including place of employment, home address, and so forth. I had to show him a **government**-**issued** **ID**and give him my **Social** **Security** **number**.

John asked if I wanted an **interest**-**bearing** account with **overdraft** **protection**. Technically, he said, the savings account is a **money** **market** where I can earn interest daily. The checking was free if I had **direct** **deposit**, and my checks were also free.

I **signed** **on** **the** **dotted** **line**, gave him the **minimum** **deposit** to open the account, and thanked him for his help. I'm glad I got that out of the way. Now all I need to do is make some money to put into my accounts!

**Category:** Money

**Daily English 60 - Calling Tech Support**

I recently **signed up** for a new **ISP** for my office, using **DSL**. I managed to get the **modem** and the **router** **configured** properly, but now my email won't work. I **dug out** the manual that came with the modem and called the **toll-free line** for **technical support**. I'm not a big fan of most **IT**departments, but if something doesn't work, they're **the only game in town**.

I explained to the **tech support** person that I couldn't get my email to send or receive. He asked me if I had checked the **Ethernet** connection from the modem to the router, and I said I did. Then he asked if I had run any **diagnostics** on the email software, and if I was able to **connect to the web**. I said no to both of these questions. He told me he would **submit a ticket** and have the problem **escalated** to the next level. Someone should be calling me back, he said.

**I won't hold my breath!**

**Category:** Technology

**Daily English 61 - Missing Person, Part 1: "The Man in the Mask."**

I didn’t kill him.

I didn’t even plan to kill him. I had a gun, but I just wanted to hurt him and stop him from attacking me. I had no idea why this stranger was hitting me, and it was **ticking** **me** **off**.

This morning Anne Prado, one of my students at the University of Southwestern California, came to my office. She said she had a problem and she needed my help. Her sister, Sarah, was **missing**. We were **on** **our** **way** to Sarah's apartment to find her when, halfway up the front steps of the building, a man ran toward me and started punching me...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 62 - Missing Person, Part 2: “Beer and Cigarettes.”**

Some of my students know I’m an **amateur** **detective**. Before I became a university professor five years ago, I had a real job. I worked for a **security** **agency** that protected private homes and also important people like famous actors and politicians. I learned a lot about criminals. I also learned a lot about police work from my father, who was a **cop** for 34 years.

I had wanted to become a police officer, too. But that was impossible. I got into some trouble when I was a kid. It was a stupid high school **trick**, but because I was 18 years old, I was **treatedlike** an adult. I was arrested by the police, **convicted**, and now I have a police record. With a**criminal** **record**, I can never be a cop.

I worked for a while as a **bodyguard**. One of my cases was protecting a famous politician who was also a history **buff**. He and I became friends, he helped me go to college, and now I am a professor...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 63 - Missing Person, Part 3: “A Woman in Pain.”**

I put my hand on my gun and slowly opened the door wider. I saw nothing. I carefully picked up a towel from the floor. Nothing. There must be someone in the bathroom, I thought.

In **one fell swoop**, I kicked the **shower curtain** back. “Don’t move!” I shouted.

Suddenly, a little white cat jumped out of the **bathtub** and **scurried** between my legs. A cat. I should have known...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 64 - Missing Person, Part 4: “Meeting at the Café.”**

“We have to go, Dr. Reeves!” Anne said excitedly. “That was Bill on the phone. He’s at a restaurant called Café Pico. Sarah’s been **kidnapped**!”

“Kidnapped? Are you sure?” I asked, somewhat **incredulously**.

“I’m sure. Someone has taken Sarah,” Anne replied. “Bill said that a man is holding her, and he will kill her if we don’t give him the **ransom** he’s **demanding**.” Anne was pulling me to the door of the apartment. “**Come** **on**! Bill said he will explain at the restaurant.”...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 65 - Missing Person, Part 5: “No Police.”**

“When does he want the money?” I asked.

“Tomorrow. He said he would call me this afternoon and tell me where **to** **make** **the** **drop**,” Bill said. “He also **made** **it** **crystal** **clear** that we are not to call the police. If I don’t **hand** **over** the money by the deadline, he said he’s going to kill Sarah!” Bill put his face in his hands. He turned to Anne, “**Geez**, Anne, I don’t know what to do!”

“We’ll get the money, Bill, don’t worry!” Anne said. “You know that my parents left Sarah and me a lot of money when they died.” Anne put her hand on Bill’s shoulder...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 66 - Missing Person, Part 6: “Kathy (Again).”**

I drove Bill and Anne back to Sarah and Bill’s apartment building to **drop** **them** **both** **off** there. Anne had left her car there, so she could drive herself home. I told them to call me if anything new came up.

“Thanks for your help today, Dr. Reeves.” Anne said. “I know you’ll help us find my sister.” She gave me a big long **hug**.

I didn’t **linger** there with Anne, as much as I wanted to **reassure** her that things would work out. I needed to talk to an old friend, Kathy Chang, about what happened today. We were supposed to have dinner at 5:30 at her apartment, and it was already 5:20. Kathy hates it when I’m late...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 67 - Missing Person, Part 7: “An Accident?”**

Kathy came back in the room with tonight’s dinner: Italian pasta with chicken. As we ate, I told Kathy about Anne and her missing sister.

“A strange man came to Sarah and Bill Salas’s apartment building two days ago, **forced** them both into a car, and took them away,” I explained. “Today, the man let Bill go and told him to get a half a million dollars or he would kill Sarah.”

“And how did you get **mixed** **up** in all this?” Kathy asked...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 68 - Missing Person, Part 8: “Tracing the Plates.”**

“Be careful! She might have broken bones,” the **ambulance** driver yelled.

I arrived at the accident scene just a few minutes after the police. Anne was already in the ambulance and ready to go to the hospital.

“Wait just one second,” I said to the police officer closing the back door of the ambulance. “I’m a friend of the **victim**. Can I talk to her?”...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 69 - Missing Person, Part 9: “At the Beach.”**

So now someone wanted to kill me. But how did anyone know I was working on this case? Was Lenny part of this kidnapping in some way? I still had more questions than I had answers about this case.

I **called** **my** **friend** **Officer** **Cho** **back** at the police station. He had the car registration information I requested earlier. The mysterious red car that hit Anne last night on the freeway **belonged** **to**John Costello, age 37, living in Santa Monica. Tomorrow I would visit Costello. Tonight, I just needed to get some sleep.

The next morning I got up early and went to visit Anne in the hospital. Luckily, she was doing just fine. I told her I would **pick** **her** **up** later in the afternoon and **give** **her** **a** **ride** **home**...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 70 - Missing Person, Part 10: “The Bartender Shows Up.”**

It was time to try a different approach. I decided to find John Costello first and talk to him. I wanted to find out why his car hit Anne’s and almost killed her. I knew Costello lived in Santa Monica, so I drove up the freeway and got off near Main Street. I went to the address Officer Cho gave me and knocked on the door. No one answered. I knocked on the apartment manager’s door. An old woman answered. “Excuse me, I’m trying to find John Costello. He lives in number 503.”

“Mr. Costello lived – past tense – in 503. He **moved** **out** two months ago,” she said.

“Do you know where he lives now or where he works?” I asked...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 71 - Missing Person, Part 11: “Right on Schedule.”**

Things were starting **to** **make** **sense** to me now. I was beginning to see what had really happened to Sarah Salas and why she was killed. But I had no **proof** to show that I was right. I needed to get some real evidence.

I went home and rang up Kathy Chang. I asked her to **do** **me** **a big favor** that night. Fortunately, she said yes. Now I was ready. I turned on the television and watched the baseball game; I had some **time** **to** **kill** until it was dark outside. When it was **nighttime**, I got in my car and started driving.

When I got near Bill and Sarah’s apartment building, I turned off the lights of my car and parked about a block away. I didn’t want anyone to know I was here. It was now 7:30 p.m. I was **right** **onschedule**...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 72 - Missing Person, Part 12: “Kathy to the Rescue.”**

Without thinking for another second, I kicked Bill in his right **knee**. He screamed in pain and fell **backward** onto his back. The gun fell to the ground. I picked it up and pointed it at Bill.

“The game is over, Bill,” I said, moving the gun closer to his face. “I know that you killed John Costello, too. Was he your **partner** in kidnapping Sarah?”

“Costello was an idiot. He was supposed to kill Anne and then keep quiet. But he told me he wanted more money or he would tell the police everything he knew. So I had to kill him so he wouldn’t **blab** to the cops.”...

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 73 - Halloween**

As a kid, I always liked Halloween. I liked **dressing up** in a **costume** that I **pick out** at the store or, more often, we made out of **odds and ends** at home. The best part was going **trick-or-treating**. Some years, I went with my brothers and sisters. When I got a little older, I went with my friends. We would go to the houses in our neighborhood and **knock** or ring the doorbell. When the door opened, we would yell, **"Trick or treat!‚"**We never played **tricks** and always got treats. The neighbor would put some candy and chocolate bars in our bags. We would go home at the end of the night and eat them **to our hearts' content**.

To get ready for Halloween, my parents would buy **pumpkins** from the market or from the **make-shift pumpkin patches**on the side of the road so that we could make **jack-o-lanterns**. We took each pumpkin and cut off the top, **scooped out** the seeds from the inside, and **carved** faces on the front. At night, we would put candles inside the jack-o-lanterns and put them on our **doorstep**. Sometimes we carved scary faces and sometimes they were funny ones.

I remember that one year, we had a Halloween party. Our friends came over dressed up as**witches, ghosts, superheros, cartoon characters**, and anything else you can think of. We would play party games like **bobbing for apples**, and we even created a **haunted** **house** in our backyard. It was a **blast**! Halloween is truly a holiday for kids.

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 74 - Reserving a Rental Car**

I will be in Chicago next week and needed a rental car. I called up Bargain Rental Cars and made a**reservation**. After I got through the **phone tree**, I spoke with a reservation **agent**.

Agent: Welcome to Bargain Rental Car.

Jeff: I'd like to reserve a rental car.

Agent: What city will you be **picking up from**?

Jeff: Chicago.

Agent: Which **airport location**? O’Hare or Midway?

Jeff: Hmm I'm not sure. Is there a downtown location?

Agent: Sure. We have an office at 401 State St.

Jeff: Is that near Prairie State College?

Agent: I really don't know.

Jeff: That's okay. I'll go ahead and make a reservation for that location.

Agent: For what date and time?

Jeff: For November 11, around 7 p.m.

Agent: **Returning to** the same location?

Jeff: No. I’d like to**drop it off** at the Chicago O’Hare airport.

Agent: Okay. On what date and time?

Jeff: It'll be that Sunday, November 13, around the same time.

Agent: What size car would you like? A **compact, mid-size,**or **full-size**?

Jeff: I’d like **the most economical**.

Agent: That would be the compact. The rental **fee** would be $32.25 a day, giving you a **grand total** of $62.50 for the two days.

Jeff: Does that include **taxes** and fees?

Agent: No. With all **applicable** taxes and fees, you grand total comes to $77.40.

Jeff: Okay, that's fine.

Agent: Your last name?

Jeff: McQuillan. M, C, Q, U, I, L, L, A, N.

Agent: And your first name?

Jeff: Jeff.

Agent: J, E, S, S?

Jeff: No, J, E, **F as in Frank,** F.

Agent: What credit card will you be using?

Jeff: I'll be using a MasterCard.

Agent: Okay, I have a compact reserved for pickup at our downtown location on November 11 at 7 p.m., returning November 13 at 7 p.m. at Chicago O’Hare. Is there another reservation I can help you with?

Jeff: No, that's all. Thanks.

Agent: It's my pleasure. Have a good afternoon and thank you for calling Bargain Rental Car.

**Category:** Travel

**Daily English 75 - Getting Childcare**

My friend Susan is an engineer and she's also a **single mom**. She has been working some **odd hours** lately and was having a **tough** time finding **childcare** for her 4-year-old daughter and her 8-year-old son.

Her daughter, Kimberly, is enrolled in a **preschool** and Susan is able **to drop her off** **on her way**to work. But, the preschool closes at 6:00 p.m. and sometimes Susan can't get there in time **to pick her up**.

Her son, Paul, is in the second grade and goes to a **public** school near their house. Paul gets out of school at 3 p.m. but Susan never **gets off work** before 6:00 p.m., and sometimes later.

So, what can she do with the kids after school? I went with Susan to check out a **latchkey**program at the local **community center**. It seemed like a good idea. Paul would be picked up from his school and he could stay at the center to do his homework and to play in the center until as late as 7 p.m. The **tuition** was fairly **low** and there was **rolling admission**. The trouble was, there was very little **supervision** of the kids and the staff seemed **inexperienced**.

Now, Susan is considering hiring a **nanny**. The nanny would pick both kids up from their schools and bring them home. The nanny could make dinner for them and stay with them until she got home. This would be ideal, but a good nanny is **hard to come by**and is very expensive to hire, even the ones who don't **live in**.

I don't **envy** Susan. Single moms‚ and dads‚ **have it tough**.

**Category:** Relationships + Family

**Daily English 76 - Asking for and Giving Instructions**

The supervisor at my work asked me the other day to **help out** one of the new employees. She needs some basic **orientation** on how to **login** to our network. So I made an appointment with her to come to my **cubicle** for a little training session.

Jeff: Hi, Lucy, how are you **settling in**?

Lucy: Just fine thanks. **I appreciate you taking**the time to help me out with this software. **May I ask you what we will be**covering today?

Jeff: Sure. Before I do that, **could you tell me if**you've worked with this program before? That will help me figure out how to **proceed**.

Lucy: I've done a little work with it, but not much.

Jeff: Well, **it's a good idea to** have the manual ready, since it can get a bit **hairy**. You should start by logging in with your username and password.

Lucy: How do I do that?

Jeff: You can just click on the button in the corner. **Be sure to**enter the password you created. You can write it down until you memorize it, but **you might want to** keep it in a safe place.

Lucy: Okay. Then what?

Jeff: Well, then just select the network you want to work with, and you're all set.

Lucy: Great, thanks for your help, Jeff. **May I trouble you to**show me how to **print** reports **out**from the program?

Jeff: Sure. I'll do what I can to help.

**Category:** Business | Travel

**Daily English 77 - Shopping at the Mall**

I needed a new pair of pants for a wedding I was attending next week, so I went to the **mall**during my lunch hour. The mall had a big variety of stores, including two **department** **stores**, so I was sure to find something that was just right. I found a space in the **parking** **structure** and entered the mall through the main entrance. This was right next to the food court.

Okay, where to start?

I headed to one of the two department stores. On the way there, though, I saw a nice pair of pants in a **window** **display** of a men’s clothing store. I decided to go in. As I walked in, I saw a**sales** **clerk** hanging some shirts on a **rack**.

She said, “Hi, can I help you find something?”

“Oh, I’m just **browsing**,” I said.

“Okay. Let me know if you need any help.” I told her thanks, and started looking around the store. There were some nice sweaters folded on the shelves and some dress pants on the racks. I made my way toward the back of the store and found the same pair of pants I saw in the window display. And, they were **on** **sale**! They were 50 percent off. I started looking for my size. There were plenty of smalls and larges, but no mediums.

The sales clerk was walking by just then so I asked her, “Do you have any other sizes **in** **theback**?” But, I was out of luck. This was all they had. “But,” she said, “I have another pair of pants in a medium and they’ve been **marked** **down**, too. Would you like to try them on?”

I said I did and followed her to the dressing room. She said, “My name is Cheryl. Let me know if you need anything else.” I tried the pants on and they **fit** **perfectly**. I liked the color, too.

I took the pair of pants to the **register**. The sales clerk asked, “Are you ready?” I told her I was and she started **ringing** **me** **up**. The clerk told me the total and asked me, “How would you like to pay for this?”

“With my MasterCard,” I said and handed her my credit card.

She processed the card and asked me sign the credit card receipt. She handed me a copy and a bag with my new pair of pants in it. She said, “There you go. I hope you like the pair of pants. Thanks for coming in.”

I thanked her and left. I couldn’t believe I got my shopping done so quickly. **There’s a first time for everything.**

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports | Shopping

**Daily English 78 - Seeing a Play**

I **ran into** my neighbor, Dennis, yesterday afternoon. He asked if I wanted two tickets to the theater. He had **season tickets** but couldn't go to this performance. It was **opening night** of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. I jumped at his offer and invited Lucy to come along.

We arrived at the theater a half an hour before **opening curtain**. We had the tickets **in hand**and didn't need to pick them up at the **will call**window. The doors to the theater were open and we handed our tickets to the **ticket takers** standing in the **doorway**.

We looked for our seats and were pleasantly surprised to find that we had some of the **best seats in the house**! I thought we would be sitting in the **balcony**, but we were in the **orchestra section**in the center. This was great! The lights **dimmed** and the curtain **went up**.

After the second **act**, there was an **intermission**. Lucy and I went into the **lobby** and bought drinks from the bar. After about 15 minutes, the lights **flickered** and we went back to our seats.

After the last act, the audience gave the actors a **standing ovation**. This was the best play I had seen **in ages**. The acting was superb, the **staging** and **direction** were fresh. I **couldn't have asked for** a better theater experience. I owed Dennis **big time**for giving me his tickets.

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Daily English 79 - Disagreeing Politely in a Business Setting**

Lucy: I don't think this is going **to work**. This plan **calls for** the new office to open by July and I think that's too **ambitious**. I don't see how the **groundwork** can be done any earlier than September.

Jeff: **I understand your concern.** I don't want to **rush** the opening of the new office either. But, as I see it, a lot of the preparations were made last year when we considered opening an office in Miami. Even though the site is different, a lot of the**cost projections** are the same.

Lucy: **That may be, but** remember that one of the reasons we **scrapped** the Miami plan was because the budget was too big.

Jeff: **That's not how I saw it.**I think the major reason we didn't go ahead with the Miami plan was a problem with **timing**. But, I know that the budget was a concern, too. As you can see, though, this plan has a lower budget than the Miami plan.

Lucy: **I don't agree.**If you add in all of **the extras**, the budget is the same, if not higher. I think we need to **go back to the drawing board**on this.

Jeff: **I have to disagree.**This plan is the best we've come up with and is workable.

Lucy: I'm afraid we just **don't see eye to eye**on this. Let's **call a meeting** with the rest of the team and see what they think.

Jeff: Okay, let's do that.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 80 - Asking for Directions**

I went to Vancouver for a meeting this week. I have always liked Vancouver, and **on top of that**, my cousin Dominick just moved there. I **got in touch** with him and he **invited me over** to see his new **place**.

On the way over, though, I **got** a little **lost**. I knew I was in the right area, but I was **turnedaround**. He lived in an apartment over an old bakery and I couldn't find it.

I stopped a man who was walking by to ask for directions.

Lucy: **Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to** the Cross Bakery building?

Man: The Cross Bakery building? Oh sure. You're actually walking in the **opposite direction.**

Lucy: Oh, **you're kidding**! I thought I was **heading** east.

Man: No, east is the **other direction**. To get to the Bakery, you need to turn around and go three**blocks** to Broadway. When you get to the **intersection** of Broadway and Elm, you **hang a left**.**Go straight down** that street for half a block and then you'll see the building on your left.

Lucy: Okay, let me see if I've got that. I need to go down Elm until I **hit** Broadway, then I **make a left** and the building is on my **left hand side**. Is that right?

Man: Yeah, **you've got it**. Do you want me to show you the way?

Lucy: Thanks for the offer, but I think I've got it. Hopefully, I won't get lost again on my way there!

**Category:** Travel

**Daily English 81 - Airplane Announcements**

I had to fly from Minneapolis to Los Angeles recently, and like most travelers, I've almost memorized the standard safety announcement made by the **flight attendants**. It goes something like this:

Good afternoon and welcome to Flight 345, service to Los Angeles International Airport. We appreciate your full attention to this important safety announcement. This 747 aircraft is equipped with four **emergency exits**, two in the front of the plane and two in the **aft**. Be sure to identify the nearest exit to you, which may be behind you. If the plane should **lose pressure**, an **oxygen mask** will drop from the compartment above your seat. Reach up, pull down on the mask until the tubing is fully extended. Place the mask over your nose and mouth, **secure it**with the **elastic band**and breathe normally.

Passenger seat cushions on this aircraft may be used as a flotation device and detailed instructions may be found on the safety information card in the seat pocket in front of you. Smoking is not permitted at any time while on board this aircraft. Also, federal law prohibits tampering, disabling, or destroying these **detectors** in the **lavatories**. Your **compliance** with all crew member instructions, all placards, and lighted seat belt and no smoking signs is required.

The following electronic devices may not be used during **takeoff** or **landing**: portable compact disk players, portable computers, and cellular phones which should be in the off position and**stowed**. Now in preparation for takeoff, please fasten your**seatbelt**, return your seatback and tray tables to the full **upright** and locked position. Your carry-on luggage must be stowed in the**overhead compartments** or underneath the seat in front of you. On behalf of all Mar Vista Airline employees, we'd like to thank you for selecting us today. We hope you enjoy your flight.

**Category:** Travel

**Daily English 82 - In a Rut**

Woman: What do you want to do tonight?

Man: I don't know. What do you want to do?

W: I have no idea. Do you think we're **in a rut**?

M: What do you mean?

W: Well, we do the same things every weekend. We go to the same restaurants. We see the same friends. **You know what I mean?**

M: Yeah, I guess you're right. It's easy to get **bogged down** in **the day to day**, and forget to**change things up** once in a while. Let's **break out** and do some thing completely different tonight.

W: Okay, I'll look in the **events section** of the paper to see what's going on tonight. Hmm, we could go to a concert. There is a good one tonight. **I bet** it's not **sold out**. But, we'll have to drive an hour to the **venue**.

M: An hour? That's a bit of a **bummer**. Let me **take a peek**and see what else there is. How about going dancing? We haven't done that in a while. There's a **club** in Silver Lake that's supposed to be **hopping** on Friday nights. Eddie from work told me that they have a really good**DJ** and a big **dance floor**, and the **cover charge** isn't bad.

W: I'm not really **in the mood** for dancing, actually. You know what? I just feel like staying home tonight and **vegging**, after all. How about you?

M: Yeah, I was hoping you'd say that. It's nice to **have the option** **to go out** but I'd rather **stay in**. Maybe we can go out tomorrow night.

W: Yeah, definitely, tomorrow night.

**Category:** Home + Community

**Daily English 83 - Planning a Business Luncheon**

One of my co-workers, Betty, was **retiring** this month after working for the company 23 years. I was put **in charge** of planning a retirement lunch **in her honor** at a restaurant nearby. The company was **picking up the tab** and it was **up to me** to set a day and time. After asking the people in the department and finding out their **availability**, I called the restaurant to make a reservation.

Manager: Bruno's.

Jeff: Hi, I'm calling from Nika Corporation. We would like **to hold** a business lunch at the restaurant.

Manager: Oh, certainly. I'm Linda, the manager. I can help you with that. How many will there be in your **party**?

Jeff: There will be about 18 people.

Manager: Okay. For a party that size, we have a separate **banquet room**in the back.

Jeff: Is there an extra **charge** to reserve the room?

Manager: No, as long as you can **guarantee** at least 15 guests, there is no extra charge.

Jeff: That's great. I'd like to go ahead and reserve the room, then, for Friday, December 2, at around noon. This is a retirement party and we'd like to bring a cake for the **guest of honor** and some bottles of champagne. Will that be acceptable?

Manager: The cake is no problem at all, but we do charge a **corkage fee** of $15 a bottle for any alcohol not purchased from the restaurant.

Jeff: Oh, that's fine.

Manager: Great. I have the banquet room reserved for a luncheon for Nika Corporation on the 2nd of December. May I have your name and contact information?

Jeff: Sure. I'm Jeff McQuillan and my number is **323-555-6840, extension 42.**

Manager: Thanks, Mr. McQuillan. I'll give you a call a week **in advance**to confirm the**arrangements**.

Jeff: **Sounds good.** Thanks for your help.

Manager: Thank you for choosing Bruno's. We look forward to seeing you on the 2nd.

**Category:** Business |Food + Drink

**Daily English 84 - Bargaining with a Seller**

It was Saturday afternoon and I was shopping in the **garment district** in downtown L.A. If you want to find good **deals** on clothes, shoes, and **accessories**, this is the place to come. To get the best deal, though, you have to be ready to bargain.

I walked by a **stall** and saw a purse I liked. The owner had just finished **making a sale**.

Lucy: Does this**come in**any other colors?

Man: Yeah, we **have this** one **in** white and blue. I also have this other style in green.

Lucy: How much is the blue one?

Man: It's $32.

Lucy: $32? What about the green one?

Man: That's $30.

Lucy: That seems a little high. **Can you do better on the price**?

Man: This is a designer bag and it's good quality. It's a **bargain** at that price.

Lucy: **Is that your best offer?**

Man: That's the best I can do.

Lucy: Well, I don't know. I think I'll **shop around.**

Man: Okay, how about $28.

Lucy: **That's still more than I wanted to spend.** What if I take the blue one and the green one?

Man: I'll give you both of them for $55.

Lucy: That's not much of a **break** on the price. How about $50 for both?

Man: **You drive a hard bargain.** The best I can do is $54. You won't find it cheaper anywhere else.

Lucy: Why don't we **split the difference** and make it $52?

Man: Okay, okay. **You've got a deal.**

**Category:** Money | Shopping

**Daily English 85 - The Blind Date**

I **broke up**with my boyfriend last month. We had **gone out** for a year and I was ready to **settle down**. But, I could tell that he still wanted to **play the field** before getting married. I don't think Don ever **cheated on**me, but I finally realized that he wasn't **the** **marrying type**.

My friend Sheila was **thrilled** to hear that we had **split up**. She never liked Don and she was anxious **to set me up with** some of her single friends. I told her that I didn't want to go on any **blind dates**. But, she kept telling me about this guy Alan. She thought he was my **soul mate** and she was sure that he would be my **Mr. Right**. According to Sheila, he was **good looking**, he had a **good sense of humor**, he was **bright** and **witty**, and was **kind** and **considerate**. In the end, I told Shiela to give him my **number**. He called and we agreed to meet for coffee.

I walked into the cafe and looked around. I saw a **nice looking**guy sitting by himself near the window.

Lucy: Hi, are you Alan?

Alan: Yeah. **You must be** Lucy.

Lucy: Did you have trouble finding the cafe

Alan: No, I've actually been here before. I'm really glad you could make it. Sheila has been telling me all about you.

Lucy: Well, Sheila likes to play **matchmaker**. But, it's nice to meet you, too.

Alan: To tell the truth, I'm not **big on** blind dates.

Lucy: Yeah, me neither. But, I'm glad I came.

Alan: Yes, so am I.

**Category:** Money | Shopping

**Daily English 86 - Asking About Jobs**

I was at the store **the other day**. I saw a former co-worker, Michael, across the room. He used to work at my company until he quit a few months ago to start a new job as a **public relations officer** at Missouri University. It's a job he's been **working toward**for years. He wasn't happy working for a corporation and wanted to get into either a **non-profit** organization or a university. I wanted to see how he was doing. **The truth was**, I was thinking of**making a move** myself.

Becky: Hey, Michael. Remember me? I'm Becky. We used to work at Lekmans together.

Michael: Oh, sure. How are you? **Long time, no see.**How are things at Lekmans?

Becky: It's about the same. I've been thinking of**making a change**myself. **Do you mind if** I ask you a few things about your job at the university?

Michael: No, not at all. **Go ahead.**

Becky: Well, **I was wondering**what the salaries are like? I mean are they much lower than the corporate world?

Michael: Well, **I can't speak for** all universities, **but** my salary is a definitely lower than at Lekmans. I just don't think the salaries are **comparable** when you leave a major corporation.

Becky: Yeah, that's what I thought. But, I've heard that the **perks** are better. **I was wondering if**that was really true.

Michael: I'd have to say **yes and no**on that. I don't get a big end-of-the-year bonus like I did at Lekmans but I get to take classes for free if I want to. I've always wanted to get a graduate degree so I'm taking classes now to do that.

Becky: Oh, that's great. It sounds like you're really happy with your move.

Michael: Yeah, I guess I am. Working at a university **really suits** me.

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 87 - Hotel Housekeeping**

I'm so glad that the hotel I **booked** didn't **turn out**to be a **dump**. The last time I went on vacation, I booked it online **sight unseen**, and it turned out to be a **run down hotel**. This hotel was completely different. The **decor** was tasteful and updated, the **staff** was friendly, and the rooms were well-maintained.

Well, that is, until my second day there. When I left my room in the morning, I had removed the**"Do Not Disturb" sign** from my door so that **housekeeping** would know I needed my room**made up**. When I got back in the afternoon, though, it hadn't been done properly. The **maid** had**made the bed**, cleaned the bathroom, and **re-stocked the mini-bar**, but she hadn't **vacuumed**the carpet and didn't leave any soap or clean towels. I called down to the **front desk** to make a complaint.

"Front desk. How may I help you?‚"

"Hello. I'm in room **1201** and housekeeping didn't leave any soap or clean towels. And, the floor still needs to be vacuumed.‚"

"Oh, I'm so sorry. Let me **connect you** with housekeeping." I waited on hold.

"Housekeeping.‚"

"Yes, this is room 1201. The maid who cleaned my room didn't leave any soap or clean towels, and the floor needs vacuuming.‚"

"Okay. I'll get someone up there right away to take care of that."

About 10 minutes later, the maid knocked on the door. I **stepped out of** the room and she left the**toiletries** in the bathroom and vacuumed. That was pretty quick service. I'm glad I didn't get **the run-around**.

**Category:** Travel

**Daily English 88 - Socializing at a Reception**

Man: Hi, it's a bit **crowded** in here.

Woman: Yes, it's always like this on the first night of the conference. Is this your first time**attending**?

Man: Yes, it is. **By the way,**I'm Dan Morimoto.

Woman: I'm Gwen Renault. Were you here this morning for the opening **keynote**? I thought the**speaker** was excellent.

Man: No, unfortunately, I didn't arrive to the **venue** until late morning. Luckily, I **pre-registered** and just had to pick up my **registration packet**, so I was able to catch the **luncheon** speaker and she was very good.

Woman: You know, I attended a really interesting session this afternoon on **ethics** in the profession. It was a **panel discussion** and there was some lively **debate**. The luncheon speaker, Stephanie Morse, presented some of her **findings** from her new **ground-breaking study**.

Man: I'm sorry I missed it. It sounds interesting. Do you plan on staying for the **duration** of the conference?

Woman: No, I'm afraid I have to leave early tomorrow. **Will you excuse me?**I see a colleague of mine over there and I'd like to say hello.

Man: Oh, sure. **It was nice meeting you.**

Woman: **Yes, you too.**

**Category:** Business

**Daily English 89 - A Good Listener**

Woman: Hi, **long time no see.** How have you been?

Man: Oh, I've been fine, but I'm having some trouble with my son.

Woman: **Tell me all about it.**

Man: Oh, he's 14 and in the past few months, he's become quieter and a bit **secretive**. He locks himself in his room and I think he's **running around with** the**wrong crowd**.

Woman: **Oh, I see. What makes you think that?**

Man: Well, he's become friends with a couple of older boys who are in a band. And one night last weekend, he came home really late, way past his **curfew**.

Woman: **Really?** What happened?

Man: He told me that his friend's car **broke down** and they had to walk home.

Woman: **I see what you mean. I understand why you're concerned.** Have you tried talking to your son about it?

Man: I haven't yet. I just keep hoping it's **just a phase he's going through**.

Woman: You may be right, but it **doesn't hurt**to find out more about what's going on in his life.

Man: You're right. I should talk to him. Sometimes, it's not easy being a parent. Thanks. It helps to**get it off my chest**. You're always so easy to talk to.

Woman: I don't know about that, but **my door is always open**. Stop by anytime.

**Category:** Relationships + Family

**Daily English 90 - Room Service**

I was staying at a nice**resort hotel** in Arizona on a short vacation. I had been out on the **golf course** playing a **round** of golf. When I got back into the room, I was feeling pretty hungry. I was meeting some friends for a late dinner around 8:30. I wanted a **snack**. I took a look at the **room service** menu and called their number.

Woman: Room service. What would you like to order?

Jeff: Hi, I'm in room 1201 and **I'd like an order of the calamari** and a **slice** of **cheesecake**.

Woman: Do you want the calamari **appetizer** or the **entree**?

Jeff: I'd like the appetizer.

Woman: **Anything to drink?**

Jeff: A diet Coke. About **how long will that take?**

Woman: It'll be about 30 minutes.

Jeff: Okay. Thanks.

There was a knock on my door about a half hour later.

Jeff: **Who is it?**

Woman: Room service...Hi, where would you like me to put the tray?

Jeff: On the desk would be fine.

Woman: The total is $16.75.

Jeff: Oh, that's **higher** than I'd expected.

Woman: There's a 12%**service charge** for room service and there's also the usual food tax.

Jeff: Oh, I see. Can I **charge it to the room**?

Woman: Sure. Just fill in the total here, write in your room number, and sign at the bottom.

Jeff: Okay, there you go. Thanks.

Woman: Thank you and have a nice day.

The calamari and the cheesecake really **hit the spot**.

**Category:** Travel

0091 Thanksgiving

0092 Types of Work

0093 Diversity at Work

0094 Nervous at an Interview I

0095 Nervous at an Interview II

0096 High School Reunion

0097 Checking Into a Hotel

0098 Winter Weather

0099 Sitcoms and Game Shows

0100 Making Unkind Comments

0101 Returning a DVD Player

0102 Wait-Listed for a Flight

0103 Making a Sales Call

0104 Bar Hopping

0105 Driving Directions

0106 High School Jobs

0107 Going to the Dentist

0108 Asking Someone Out

0109 Being an Entrepreneur

0110 Hotel Reservations

0111 Last Minute Holiday Shopping

0112 Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa

0113 New Year's Party

0114 Writing a Thank You Note

0115 New Year's Resolution

0116 Holiday Travel

0117 Impressions of LA

0118 Small Talk at a Business Lunch

0119 Bad Pickup Lines

0120 Employee Performance Review

0121 Cooking Dinner

0122 Packing Toiletries for a Trip

0123 Pop and Jazz Music

0124 Asking for Clarification in a Business Meeting.

0125 Moving

0126 Awards Show Season

0127 Answering Machine Messages

0128 Hiring Contractors

0129 A Flaky Friend

0130 Allergic to Cats

0131 Sharing an Apartment

0132 Getting Through on the Phone.

0133 Going to a Wedding

0134 Dating Someone's Ex

0135 Scheduling a Meeting

0136 Having a Baby

0137 Meeting an Out of Town Friend.

0138 Hotel Tour Desk

0139 Job Layoffs

0140 Buying on the Internet

0141 A Brainstorming Session

0142 At a Nightclub

0143 Fighting a Parking Ticket

0144 Who Pays?

0145 The Big Game

0146 Suggestions at Work

0147 Reading and Watching the News

0148 Paying the Bills

0149 Watching Sports on TV

0150 Volunteer Work

0151 Eating at a Buffet

0152 Planning a Company Retreat

0153 A Complaint Letter to a Tour Company

0154 Using Email

0155 A Good Review of a Play

0156 Rumors and Secrets

0157 Taking the Bus in Los Angeles

0158 Shopping with My Wife

0159 Moonlighting

0160 A Flirt

0161 A Bad Boss

0162 Training a New Employee

0163 Saving and Spending Money

0164 Seeing a Specialist

0165 A Practical Joke

0166 A Marriage Proposal I

0167 Marriage Proposal Part II

0168 The Home Improvement Store

0169 Describing People’s Looks

0170 Questions and Answers at a Presentation

0171 Buying a Used Car

0172 Legal Problems

0173 Buying Souvenirs

0174 A Potluck

0175 Places to Live

0176 Time Off from Work

0177 A Wild Driver

0178 A Fight

0179 Shopping for a Cell Phone

0180 Airport Layover

0181 Company Profiles

0182 A Star Trek Convention

0183 At the Pharmacy

0184 Running a Meeting

0185 Ways to Pay

0186 Dating a Younger Man/Woman

0187 Enjoying the Outdoors

0188 Correcting Misunderstandings at Work

0189 Getting Home Late from School

0190 Taking a Phone Message

0191 Changing Money

0192 Winning the Lottery

0193 Placing a Business Order

0194 An Unwanted House Guest

0195 At an Amusement Park

0196 A Business Plan

0197 An Apology

0198 Starting a Band

0199 A Love Letter

0200 Meeting a Deadline

0201 Making a Bet

0202 At the Gas Station

0203 Text Messaging

0204 Using Visuals in a Presentation

0205 Shopping for Shoes

0206 A Generation Gap

0207 Giving Birth in a Hospital

0208 Corporate Image

0209 Extreme Sports

0210 A Family Road Trip

0211 Giving Bad News and Condolences

0212 Asking for a Raise

0213 Buying a Bicycle

0214 A Jealous Girlfriend

0215 Getting a Men’s Haircut

0216 Outsourcing Operations

0217 Lost and Found

0218 Getting a Driver's License

0219 Giving Compliments

0220 Giving Opinions in a Meeting

0221 Long Distance Relationships

0222 Alternative Medicine

0223 A Mistake in the Hotel Bill

0224 Holiday Promotions

0225 Feeling Homesick

0226 Holiday Decorating

0227 Describing Symptoms to a Doctor

0228 A Christmas Feast

0229 Irritating Co-workers

0230 A New Year’s Cruise

0231 The Supermarket Checkout

0232 Business Bookkeeping

0233 Asking for a Date

0234 Seeing an Eye Doctor

0235 Parking Instructions

0236 An On-Site Estimate

0237 Getting Revenge

0238 Traveling Off-Season

0239 A Birthday Party

0240 Working Overtime

0241 At the Bakery

0242 The Comedy Club

0243 Speaking to a Store Clerk on the Phone

0244 Critiquing Someone’s Work

0245 Characteristics of an Ideal Mate

0246 Understanding Addresses

0247 Asking for Recommendations

0248 Business Websites

0249 At a Casino

0250 Cheating on a Test

0251 Stranger on an Airplane

0252 A Workers Strike

0253 Traveling by Train

0254 Good Hygiene

0255 Questions About a Product

0256 Looking for Ideas

0257 Finding a Book at a Bookstore

0258 Moving in Together

0259 Making a Restaurant Reservation

0260 Business Trends

0261 Describing People’s Personalities

0262 Missing the Tour Group Bus

0263 Getting Older

0264 Preparing for a Video Conference

0265 Listening to the Radio

0266 Making a Move on Someone

0267 Getting a Traffic Ticket

0268 Get-Rich-Quick Schemes

0269 Health Insurance Plans

0270 Airport Announcements

0271 Using an ATM

0272 Time Management

0273 Telling Secrets to Parents

0274 Buying Stamps at the Post Office

0275 A Soccer Match

0276 The Stock Market

0277 Garage Sales

0278 Meeting the Future In-laws

0279 Saying Goodbye

0280 Viral Marketing

0281 All-Inclusive Vacations

0282 Offending Someone

0283 A Restaurant Drive-Thru

0284 A Friendly Rivalry

0285 A Movie Collection

0286 Describing Facial Features

0287 A Traffic Jam

0288 A Business Contract

0289 Communication Problems

0290 Riding the Subway

0291 Going on a Diet

0292 Business Insurance

0293 Being Affectionate in Public

0294 Living in a Condo or Co-op

0295 Playing Video Games

0296 Bad Manners at a Business Lunch

0297 Being Rich and Poor

0298 Visiting a Museum

0299 An Old Love

0300 Arriving for an Appointment

0301 Buying a Men’s Suit

0302 A Problem with a Restaurant Check

0303 A Traditional Wedding

0304 A Potential Partnership Meeting

0305 Describing People’s Body Types

0306 Giving First Aid

0307 Cable and Satellite TV

0308 Formatting a Document

0309 Describing Distances and Giving Directions

0310 Shopping for Furniture

0311 A Mid-life Crisis

0312 Different Work Styles

0313 A Suspicious Neighbor

0314 Buying a Digital Audio (MP3) Player

0315 Going to the Park

0316 Business Emails and Abbreviations

0317 Setting the Table

0318 Writing a Love Song

0319 Being Under Stress

0320 Micromanaging the Staff

0321 Buying a Jacket or Coat

0322 Picking up a Rental Car

0323 Rooms in a House

0324 Corporate Sponsorship

0325 Describing People’s Moods

0326 Finding the Right Wine

0327 Getting Caught in the Rain

0328 Dishonesty at Work

0329 Being Persuasive

0330 Traveling by Bus

0331 Washing Clothes

0332 Profit and Loss

0333 Quitting Smoking

0334 Hiding from the Police

0335 Getting a Car Serviced

0336 Going Out of Business

0337 Reading Comic Books

0338 Refusing an Invitation

0339 Star-crossed Lovers

0340 Office Competition

0341 An Annoying Cell Phone User

0342 At the Butcher’s

0343 Being Alike and Different

0344 At the Convention Center

0345 The Seven-year Itch

0346 Using the Restroom

0347 Writing a Postcard

0348 Showing Disapproval and Sympathy

0349 Taking Vitamins and Supplements

0350 A Movie Review

0351 Asking for a First Date

0352 Understanding Interest Rates

0353 Describing the Taste of Food

0354 Being Scared

0355 Finding a Bargain

0356 Starting a Franchise Business

0357 Describing Facial Expressions

0358 Surfing the Internet

0359 A Fist Fight

0360 A Management Dispute

0361 Feeling Lonely

0362 Getting In-Flight Service

0363 Using the Telephone

0364 Filing Taxes

0365 Putting the Children to Bed

0366 Talking About Prices

0367 Going into the Military

0368 A Corporate Takeover

0369 Going to Happy Hour

0370 Describing a Bad Experience

0371 A Scandal

0372 A Bully at Work

0373 Ordering Food Delivery

0374 A Graduation Ceremony

0375 A Call from a Telemarketer

0376 Asking About Business Hours

0377 Reporting a Stolen Car

0378 Talking About Time

0379 A Routine Procedure

0380 Hiring Temp Workers

0381 Watching the TV News

0382 Types of Hotels and Accommodations

0383 Mending a Broken Heart

0384 Accepting Credit Cards

0385 Exercising at the Gym

0386 Learning How to Drive

0387 Describing Talent and Ability

0388 Investing Your Money

0389 Getting a Cold

0390 Dietary Restrictions and Preferences

0391 Traveling and Medical Needs

0392 An Untrustworthy Co-worker

0393 Trash and Recycling

0394 Describing Hatred and Anger

0395 Watching the Olympic Games

0396 Dealing in the Black Market

0397 Being a Divorced Parent

0398 Parts of a City

0399 A Bachelor Party

0400 Working in a Dead End Job

0401 Giving Warnings and Cautions

0402 Buying Back-to-School Supplies

0403 Understanding Drug Labels

0404 Delegating Work

0405 Buying Computer Accessories

0406 Participating in Internet Discussion Groups

0407 Waiting for a Man or Woman to Call

0408 Calling Someone You Haven’t Met About a Job

0409 Describing a Musical Performance

0410 Being Evasive

0411 Eating Junk Food

0412 Corporate Spying

0413 Talking About Intelligence

0414 Common Traffic Signs

0415 Being Clean and Dirty

0416 Finding a Niche in Business

0417 Getting Travel Documents

0418 Getting Bad Service

0419 Planting a Garden

0420 Workplace Safety

0421 Internet Dating

0422 Shopping for Underwear

0423 Reading Food Labels

0424 Being in Debt

0425 Serving Drinks and Cocktails

0426 Talking About Product Quality

0427 Planning a Protest

0428 Getting a Dream Job

0429 Giving Awards and Congratulations

0430 Talking About Books

0431 Health in Developing Countries

0432 Using the Copier

0433 Describing People’s Voices

0434 Using Coupons and Rebates

0435 Describing Aches and Pains

0436 Dealing With an Angry Client

0437 Having a Best Friend

0438 Renting an Apartment

0439 Talking about Censorship

0440 Being a Self-Made Man/Woman

0441 Preparing Food for Cooking

0442 Flying on Low-Cost Airlines

0443 Having a Slumber Party

0444 Planning for Retirement

0445 Problems with Drugs and Medical Devices

0446 Going to a Home Improvement Store

0447 Heating and Cooling a Home

0448 Making Business Contacts

0449 Using an Instruction Manual

0450 Getting a Bad Reputation

0451 Buying Car Insurance

0452 Dealing with Unhappy Employees

0453 Making an Emergency Medical Call

0454 Hailing and Taking a Taxi

0455 Ending a Bad Date

0456 Sending Business Packages

0457 Apologizing for a Bad Date

0458 Going to the Playground

0459 Watching Political Commentary Shows

0460 Working in a Bad Economy

0461 Using a Guidebook

0462 Having Doubts About Getting Married

0463 Washing the Car

0464 Talking About Inventory

0465 Describing Boring and Exciting Things

0466 Having a Good or Bad Bedside Manner

0467 Buying Men’s Shirts

0468 Organizing Your Office

0469 Rearranging Living Room Furniture

0470 Avoiding Show and Movie Spoilers

0471 Trying to Get Off the Phone

0472 Feeling Nervous About Public Speaking

0473 Showing Respect and Disrespect

0474 Having Trouble Sleeping

0475 Hiring a Hitman

0476 Taking Chances in Business

0477 Planning a Gourmet Meal

0478 Having Plumbing Problems

0479 Using Frequent Flyer Miles

0480 Riding in a Carpool

0481 Listening to Music

0482 Talking About Architecture

0483 Using Hair Products and Accessories

0484 Getting a Performance Evaluation

0485 Being Clumsy

0486 Having Limited Mobility

0487 Watching Videos on the Internet

0488 Getting Around Regulations

0489 Talking About Wealth

0490 Eating Spoiled Food

0491 Having a Temper Tantrum

0492 Importing and Exporting Goods

0493 Ordering at a Sandwich Shop

0494 Types of Story Endings

0495 Describing Winds and Storms

0496 Driving a Company Car

0497 Shopping for Bedding

0498 Joking and Making Fun of People

0499 Marrying a Gold Digger

0500 Taking Minutes of a Meeting

0501 Buying Glasses

0502 Storing Luggage on an Airplane

0503 Seeing a Dentist

0504 Training Inexperienced Employees

0505 Teaching Children About Safety

0506 Being Generous and Stingy

0507 Guarding One’s Privacy

0508 Regretting Past Actions

0509 Going on a Cruise

0510 Taking a Shower or Bath

0511 Getting Plastic Surgery

0512 Changing the Subject in Conversation

0513 Snooping and Eavesdropping

0514 Describing Old and New Clothes

0515 Starting a Blog

0516 Naming and Appointing Officials

0517 Watching Competitive Sports

0518 Learning Self-Defense

0519 Describing Family Relations

0520 Getting Directions and Parking Instructions

0521 Describing Speech and Language Ability

0522 Developing a Healthy Mind

0523 Having Trouble Making a Decision

0524 Talking About Failure

0525 Falling in Love

0526 Talking About Age

0527 Describing Men’s Bodies

0528 Negotiating Salary

0529 Insulting Other People

0530 Exterior Parts of a Car

0531 Describing Fabric Patterns

0532 Using an Online Email Program

0533 Making Funeral and Burial Arrangements

0534 Types of Guns and Weapons

0535 Describing Speed and Pace

0536 Using a Computer Keyboard

0537 Types of Bank Accounts

0538 Finding the Perfect Gift

0539 Spending Time with Family

0540 Promoting a New Product

0541 Reporting the News

0542 Renting a Movie

0543 Describing Different Smells

0544 Working from a Home Office

0545 Getting Around Without a Car

0546 Having an Open House

0547 Shopping for a Hat

0548 Working for an Impossible Boss

0549 Using a Camera

0550 Differences in Male and Female Friendships

0551 Scheduling a Medical Appointment

0552 Reviewing Job Applications

0553 A Homeowners’ Association

0554 An Emergency Airplane Landing

0555 Lying and Telling the Truth

0556 Scheduling an Appointment

0557 Applying for a Passport

0558 Being a Strict Parent

0559 Ending a Restaurant Meal

0560 Learning Work Rules and Routines

0561 Being Forgetful

0562 Buying Fake Products

0563 Reducing Household Expenses

0564 Working in a Laboratory

0565 Dating a Friend’s Ex

0566 Having a Wild Party

0567 Visiting a Patient in the Hospital

0568 Describing Brisk and Slow Business

0569 Traveling for Singles

0570 Guessing a Number

0571 Assigning Blame in a Car Accident

0572 Blowing the Whistle at Work

0573 Discussing Social Class

0574 Shopping for Produce

0575 Being an Early or Late Riser

0576 Using Unfair Influence

0577 Magic and Illusions

0578 Eating a Home-Cooked Meal

0579 Telling People Where You’re From

0580 Retiring From a Job

0581 Reading a World Map

0582 A Parent-Teacher Conference

0583 Going to a Spa

0584 Calling in Sick to Work

0585 Being Clear or Confusing

0586 Getting a Girlfriend/Boyfriend Back

0587 Feeling Disillusioned

0588 Hiring Business Consultants

0589 Having Skin Problems

0590 Paying Airline Fees

0591 Handling a Traffic Stop

0592 Dealing with Website Hackers

0593 Staying Home from School

0594 Competition and Prizes

0595 Suffering from Allergies

0596 Applying for Unemployment Benefits

0597 Describing Touch and Textures

0598 Suggesting a Nightcap

0599 Shopping for Warm-Weather Clothes

0600 Talking About Sight

0601 Paying an Unexpected Visit

0602 Calling an Ambulance

0603 Praising a Performance

0604 Harming a Professional Reputation

0605 Talking About Astronomy

0606 Reading a Bus Schedule

0607 Being Pestered on the Phone

0608 Formatting Text

0609 Types of Car and Vehicles

0610 Preparing to Travel

0611 Having an Overbearing Father

0612 Introducing a Speaker

0613 Being a First-Time Parent

0614 Experiencing an Earthquake

0615 Watching Daytime Talk Shows

0616 Having a Business Mentor

0617 Buying Bathroom Supplies

0618 Eating at a Casual Restaurant

0619 Packing Clothes for a Trip

0620 Making Quick and Slow Decisions

0621 Picking a Fight

0622 Having Well- and Badly-Behaved Children

0623 A Hit-and-Run Accident

0624 Advantages and Disadvantages in Life

0625 Being Famous and Anonymous

0626 Wiring Money to Another Country

0627 Being Spontaneous or Well-Planned

0628 Introducing a New Product

0629 Being Hungry and Full

0630 Making a Medical Diagnosis

0631 Customizing a Personal Webpage

0632 Negotiating a Business Deal

0633 Moving Out of a Home

0634 Resembling One’s Parents

0635 Arranging Airport Transfer

0636 Being Lazy and Energetic

0637 Planting Flowers and Trees

0638 Fire and Firefighters

0639 Ordering Soups and Salads

0640 Being Genuine and False

0641 Sharing With Others

0642 Installing Windows and Doors

0643 Liberal and Conservative News

0644 Giving a Successful Presentation

0645 Shaving Your Face

0646 War-Related Disabilities

0647 Using a Smartphone

0648 Working on Commission

0649 Disliking a Sibling’s Boyfriend or Girlfriend

0650 Buying Television and Movie Programs

0651 Psychological Disorders

0652 Outdoor Advertising

0653 Reading Product Reviews

0654 Talking About Sound and Volume

0655 Staying in a Vacation Rental

0656 Ordering Business Stationery

0657 Checking Accounts and Writing Checks

0658 Judging a Contest

0659 Finding Love on Valentine’s Day

0660 Work-Related Injuries

0661 Demanding an Apology

0662 Doctor-Patient Confidentiality

0663 Having Problems Concentrating

0664 Preparing a Video Resume

0665 Types of Sandwiches

0666 Traveling to Less Popular Sites

0667 Trying to Remember

Daily English 668 Having Cash Flow Problems

Kylie: I’ve just **crunched the numbers** and we’re not going to be able **to meet payroll** next month because of **cash flow** problems.

Miguel: That can’t be. The cash flow **projections** from last month showed that we’d be fine.

Kylie: We didn’t **anticipate** a **shortfall** in **income** this month and didn’t **set aside** enough cash **to hedge** against a cash flow problem.

Miguel: What can we do? We need a **stopgap** solution now.

Kylie: Well, we could try to extend our **line of credit** at the bank.

Miguel: We’re already **overextended** at the bank. I don’t want **to push our luck**.

Kylie: The other option is **to hold off on** paying our **suppliers** and hope that our income goes up next month, **as predicted**.

Miguel: Do you really think we can hold them off for that long?

Kylie: I’ll have a talk with our biggest suppliers and **give them assurances** that they’ll get paid. Let’s just hope they’re not having cash flow problems of their own!

**Category:** Business|Money

**to crunch the numbers** – to make a calculation, especially in accounting or finance; to perform a mathematical operation, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing to get an result or answer  
\* I wonder whether these students would be able to crunch the numbers without a calculator.  
**to meet payroll** – to be able to pay the salaries of one’s employees; to be able to pay people the money they are owed for the work they have done  
\* If the company isn’t able to meet payroll, why is anyone still working there?  
**cash flow** – liquidity; the amount of money a company has available to pay its bills and other expenses, without considering how much money a company has invested in assets  
\* Many companies struggle with cash flow for the first two years, because all of the money they make from sales has to be used to pay off loans and invest in growth.  
**projection** – forecast; an educated guess about what will happen in the future based on what has happened in the past  
\* Our projections show that the firm will double in size by 2014.  
**to anticipate** – to foresee; to believe that something will happen in the future and prepare for it  
\* I didn’t anticipate it would rain today. If I had, I would have brought an umbrella.  
**shortfall** – a shortage; a lack; a situation in which one does not have enough of something  
\* When the government collects fewer taxes, schools have to find creative ways to cover their funding shortfall.  
**income** – revenue; the amount of money that is received; the amount of money coming into an organization or business during a certain period of time  
\* It’s often easier to reduce expenses than to increase income.  
**to set aside** – to reserve; to determine that one will not use part or all of something right now, instead saving it for later or for someone else  
\* It’s a good idea to set aside a little money each month, just in case we need it in a future emergency.  
**to hedge** – to protect oneself against certain risks, especially financial risks; to do something that will reduce the problems created by some future event, especially related to finance  
\* They’re investing in gold to hedge against fluctuation in the housing market.  
**stopgap** – a temporary fix or solution; something that will temporarily fix a problem, although it will not last forever  
\* They hired temporary workers as a stopgap for the heavy workload they had last month.  
**line of credit** – a loan; an amount of money that one takes from a bank, although one must pay it back later with interest  
\* Which bank gave you a line of credit to make repairs on your house?  
**to overextend** – to have too much debt or too many commitments; to not be able to keep one’s promises, especially related to one’s time or the money one owes to another person  
\* Annie already works two jobs and takes care of her three children, so she really overextended herself by agreeing to lead the parent-teacher association.  
**to push (one’s) luck** – to try to get too much of a good thing, so that one fails and ends up in a worse position; to try to continue one’s history of having very good luck or having unexpected successes, even though there are no guarantees that one will continue to be that lucky  
\* It didn’t snow at all last week while we repaired our home, so we decided to push our luck and replace the roof, even though we know it normally snows a lot this time of year.  
**to hold off on** – to delay or postpone something; to decide to not to do something now, instead doing it at some future time  
\* They’ve decided to hold off on the wedding until they’ve saved enough money for a house.  
**supplier** – a company that sells goods or products to another company  
\* Trey really likes shopping at this grocery store, because most of the suppliers are local farmers.  
**as predicted** – as expected; as one had believed would happen; a phrase used when one’s prediction comes true  
\* As predicted, the cost of health care increased again last year.  
**to give (someone) assurances** – to give someone a feeling of confidence that something will happen; to tell someone that everything is okay; to help someone stop worrying about something  
\* If you want people to vote for you, you need to give them assurances that their lives will become easier once you are president.

**to hedge** - means to protect oneself against certain risks, especially financial risks, or to do something that will reduce the problems created by some future event.

\* How can we hedge against foreign exchange risk?

**to hedge (one’s) bets -** means to reduce the likelihood that something bad will happen by doing many different things.

\* We know most goldfish die within a few days, so we’re hedging our bets by buying lots of them.

**to be hedged in** - means to not have enough space, or to be surrounded by something.

Their backyard is hedged in by the railroad tracks.

**hedge** - is a small group of plants that are planted in a row very close to each other, usually to separate two parts of a property.

\* They trim the hedge along their walkway each spring.  
  
**to hold off on (something) -** means to delay or postpone something, or to decide to not to do something now, instead doing it at some future time

\* Reyna is going to hold off on going to college until she can save up a little more money.

**hold on -** is used to ask someone to wait a short period of time.

\* Hold on! I want to go with you, but I need to put on my jacket first.

**to hold onto (something) -** means to keep something and not sell it or throw it away.

\* Why did you hold onto these comic books for so many years?

**to be held up** - means to be delayed by something.

\* I’m sorry I came to the meeting a few minutes late, but I was held up in traffic.

Making Controversial Comments

Vivian: That **news commentator** should be **fired** for making such **inflammatory** comments. At least I won’t watch this show again until she is.

William: As usual, you’re **making a mountain out of a molehill**. She was just expressing her opinion, **albeit** a **controversial** one.

Vivian: Her opinion is **offensive**. **Mark my words**: Before the end of the week, a lot of people will be **up in arms** calling for her **head on a platter**.

William: I doubt it. It’ll all **blow over**. It’s just a **tempest in a teapot**.

Vivian: No way. She’ll never **get away with it**.

William: Oh, yeah?

Vivian: Yeah.

William: Do you want to make a **bet**?

Vivian: Sure, I’ll take that bet. What does the winner get?

William: Just the pleasure of seeing the other person **eat her words**.

**news commentator** – a person whose job is to talk about current events or politics, usually on a TV or radio program  
\* If you have such strong opinions about what’s happening, maybe you should become a news commentator so you can tell other people what you think.  
**to be fired** – to lose one’s job; to be told one no longer needs to work in a particular organization or position  
\* Can employees be fired for using drugs during their personal time?  
**inflammatory** – something that makes other people very angry; something that causes strong, negative reactions  
\* The website was blocked because it contained too much inflammatory material.  
**to make a mountain out of a molehill** – to exaggerate; to treat a small problem as if it were much more important than it actually is  
\* I know you’re angry about what Jake said, but don’t make a mountain out of a molehill! I’m sure he didn’t mean to upset you.  
**albeit** – although; a word used to modify what one has just said, making it less forceful  
\* It was a beautiful wedding ceremony, albeit a very wet one since it started raining heavily as they said their vows.  
**controversial** – something that many people have strong opinions about and cannot agree on  
\* The town’s decision to ban smoking in bars and restaurants was very controversial.  
**offensive** – something that causes other people to become very angry and upset or to feel insulted  
\* The way you assume that all women enjoy cooking and cleaning is very offensive.  
**to mark (one’s) words** – to listen to what someone is saying; to pay attention to what someone is saying  
\* Mark my words, this is going to be the worst storm this region has ever experienced.  
**up in arms** – active and agitated; with a lot of excitement and/or anger directed at someone or something, making people want to take action or fight  
\* When the police decided to begin using video cameras to issue speeding tickets, many drivers were up in arms.  
**head on a platter** – an informal phrase used to talk about someone who needs to be punished for something, often by losing his or her job  
\* If you ruin these negotiations, I’ll have your head on a platter.  
**to blow over** – to lose importance over time; for an argument or situation to no longer be important, often because people have forgotten about it  
\* I know your wife is angry right now, but if you wait a few days, I’m sure everything will blow over.  
**tempest in a teapot** – a situation where many people become angry or upset over something that is not really very important  
\* The bride started screaming that the roses were the wrong shade of yellow, but it was really a tempest in a teapot. Nobody else could even see the difference in color.  
**to get away with (something)** – to not be punished for one’s bad actions; to not be punished for breaking a law or rule; to not experience the negative consequences of one’s actions  
\* Sarah’s little sister always gets away with things that Sarah would have been punished for.  
**bet** – an arrangement where Person A agrees to pay or do something if Person B is correct, and Person B agrees to pay or do something if Person A is correct  
\* Let’s make a bet: If I’m right, you’ll wash the dishes all week, but if you’re right, I’ll take care of the kids on Saturday.  
**to eat (one’s) words** – to admit that one was wrong; to say that one’s earlier prediction was incorrect  
\* Conchita said her nephew would never graduate from college, but he made her eat her words when he went on to earn his Ph.D.  
  
**offensive** - in this podcast, refers to something that causes other people to become very angry and upset or to feel insulted.

“Do you think magazines with photos of naked women are offensive?”

**When talking about sports, the word “offensive”** is related to attacking and earning points, not defending oneself against the other team.

“The coach taught us some great new offensive techniques that helped us destroy the other team’s defenses.” **In the military, an “offensive”** is an effort to attack the enemy.

“This was the site of a major offensive in World War II.”

**“to take the offensive”** means to attack and criticize another person before he or she can do the same thing. “If you don’t take the offensive and start saying bad things about your opponent, he’s going to do it to you first.”

**“to blow over”** means to lose importance over time, or for an argument or situation to no longer be important, often because people have forgotten about it.

“Everyone thought their argument would blow over, but now it’s two years later and they still aren’t talking to each other.”

**“to blow up”** means to be destroyed by an explosion.

“Can using a cell phone near a gas pump really cause a gas station to blow up?”

**“to blow up at (someone)”** means to become very angry and start shouting at someone unexpectedly:

“I’m sorry I blew up at you, but I was really angry”

**“to blow up in (one’s) face”** means for one’s plans to suddenly not work out:

“Olga thought she had done a good job planning the conference, but then everything blew up in her face.”

To Forgive and Forget

Luc: You’ll never guess who called and left a **voicemail** message today.

Angela: Who?

Luc: Barbara!

Angela: Oh, really? What did she want?

Luc: She said she was calling to **RSVP** for our party this Saturday.

Angela: Did she?

Luc: Stop **playing innocent** with me. Did you or did you not invite her to our party this Saturday?

Angela: I may have. Okay, I did.

Luc: **Correct me if I’m wrong,** but didn’t you and Barbara have a **knock-down, drag-out fight** last month?

Angela: We may have.

Luc: And didn’t you say that you’d never speak to her again **much less** invite her over to our house? (much less – а тем более)

Angela: That’s **water under the bridge.** You know what they say: **“To err is human, to forgive divine.” (err (э) –** заблуждаться, divine (дИвайн) - божественный**)**

Luc: I can’t believe my ears. You **ranted and raved** for days that you’d **hold against her** for the rest of your life all of the terrible things she said about you. (ranted (рантед) – разглагольствовал, raved (рейвд) - бредил )

Angela: I was being **overdramatic.** I don’t think I ranted and raved, actually. We just had a little **spat.** It’s best just **to forgive and forget. (spat (спат) -** размолвка**)**

Luc: Unbelievable! Why can’t you have a **selective memory** when we have fights?

**Category:** Relationships + Family

**Glossary**  
**voicemail** – a system for recording audio messages from people who call one’s telephone number when one is not available to speak with them  
\* Press 7 to repeat the voicemail message, or 9 to delete it.  
**RSVP** – an abbreviation of a French phrase, Répondez s'il vous pla?t, meaning “Reply, if you please,” often used on invitations to request that the recipient let the organizer know whether he or she will attend.  
\* The party is next Thursday, so please RSVP by Tuesday so that we can be sure to buy enough food.  
**to play innocent** – to pretend not to understand what another person is talking about, especially when one has done something wrong  
\* Don’t play innocent with me! I know you read my diary.  
**correct me if I’m wrong** – an informal phrase used when one is fairly certain that one is correct, but wants the other person to tell one if one is incorrect  
\* Correct me if I’m wrong, but didn’t you tell me that James had no brothers?  
**knock-down, drag-out fight** – a violent, long fight in which people hit each other, making each other fall down  
\* The spectators became very excited as they watched the knock-down, drag-out fight.  
**much less** – a phrase used to emphasize something that is part of what one has previously said, meaning that if A is true, then B is certainly true  
\* Mahmoud is a vegetarian who never eats eggs or milk, much less meat.  
**water under the bridge** – something that should be forgotten and is no longer important, often used when talking about a fight or an unpleasant relationship  
\* That all happened more than 30 years ago, and as far as I’m concerned, it’s water under the bridge.  
**to err is human, to forgive divine** – a famous quotation from Alexander Pope, an English poet, meaning that everyone makes mistakes, but it is unusual and very special for people to forgive other people’s mistakes  
\* We all need to learn to accept others’ apologies. After all, to err is human, to forgive divine.  
**to rant and rave** – to complain loudly; to say in very strong words the reasons why one is angry, or to talk repeatedly about one’s anger  
\* Whenever Geraldo returns from doing business at the bank, he always rants and raves about the poor customer service.  
**to hold (something) against (someone)** – to hold a grudge; to refuse to forgive someone for something bad that he or she did in the past  
\* I can’t believe you’re still holding against me the fact that I broke that sculpture! I was only three years old at the time!  
**overdramatic** – with very strong emotions and feelings, doing and saying things with a reaction that is stronger than necessary, especially to get attention from other people  
\* Samantha was sad when her cat died, but her sister became very overdramatic, crying for days and insisting on a special ceremony for its burial.  
**spat** – an unimportant disagreement or fight that doesn’t last for very long  
\* How often do you and your wife have a spat?  
**to forgive and forget** – to decide that something is no longer important and stop being angry at someone for what happened or for what was said  
\* I was very angry when Viktor said those things last week, but I’ve decided to forgive and forget. I hope we can be friends again.  
**selective memory** – the ability to remember only certain things, forgetting about other things, especially when they match one’s bias or one’s ideas about how something should be  
\* Traci remembers that vacation as the best time of her life, but she has such a selective memory! She has completely forgotten about getting bitten by mosquitoes, getting sick, and having her purse stolen.

**“much less,”** in this podcast, is a phrase used to emphasize something that is part of what one has previously said: “I’d never volunteer for that organization, much less make a donation.”

**The phrase “less and less”** refers to a gradual decrease or reduction: “As Sheila continues to focus on her career, she has less and less free time.”

**The phrase “less than (something)”** means not very much of something: “We didn’t like our time in Houston, because the people were less than friendly.”

**Finally, the phrase “in less than no time”** means very soon or very quickly: “We’ll have your house painted in less than no time.”

**Finally, the phrase “no less than”** is used for emphasis when talking about very large numbers: “I must have called you no less than 10 times this morning. Why didn’t you answer the phone?”  
  
**In this podcast, a “spat”** is an unimportant disagreement or fight that doesn’t last for very long: “When their spats started becoming more frequent and more serious, they decided to start seeing a marriage counselor.”

**The verb “to spat”** can mean to fall down like rain: “Rain started to spat against the windshield, and then it became hail.”

**Finally, the word “spat”** is also the past tense of “to spit,” which means to send a small amount of liquid out of one’s mouth very quickly: “The children spat watermelon seeds out of their mouth to see who could spit the farthest.” Or, “Look! There’s a stain wherever you spat tobacco juice on the floor.”  
  
671 - Vacationing on an Island

Mohsen: I need to get off this **island**. I’m getting **island fever**. (get off – убраться)

Ella: We’ve only been here two days. **Give it a chance**. We’re here to enjoy a slower **pace of life**, remember?

Mohsen: When you said we were going on an island vacation, I didn’t know we’d be so **isolated**. There isn’t a **living soul** within five miles! (isolated - айсолейтид)

Ella: This isn’t isolated; it’s **secluded**. We have **privacy** and **serenity**. Isn’t that what we wanted?

(secluded - уединенный ; privacy – привэси – Конфиденциальность; serenity – безмятежность)

(Isn’t that what we wanted - Разве это не то, что мы хотели?)

Mohsen: I wanted a vacation with all of the **creature comforts**.

Ella: That’s what we have, don’t you think? We’re staying in a very nice house.

Mohsen: Yes, but what about the creature comforts? I have no **Internet access** and no **cell phone service**. This is what I call **roughing it**.

Ella: We agreed that we both needed a little time away **to unwind**. The **whole point** of this vacation is for us to relax.

Mohsen: I’m **cut off from civilization** and I have no access to email and my favorite websites. What could be more **stressful** than this?! (cut off – отрезан ; civilization - сивалажейшн)

**Category:** Travel

**Glossary**  
**island** – an area of land surrounded by water  
\* When did the Hawaiian Islands become part of the United States?  
**island fever** – cabin fever; a feeling of anxiousness when one cannot move around freely, often because of geographic limitations  
\* I enjoyed the first few days of our vacation, but once we had seen everything there, we started to get island fever and I couldn’t wait to go back home.  
**to give (something) a chance** – to delay one’s evaluation that something is bad, instead waiting long enough to find out whether it is good or bad; to experience something fully before concluding whether one does or does not like it  
\* Yes, higher-level math such as trigonometry can be confusing at first, but give it a chance. It will probably get easier.  
**pace of life** – the speed at which things are done in a particular lifestyle or culture, especially related to the amount of stress and the sense of urgency people have  
\* When Walter moved from New York City to Wyoming, it took him a while to get used to the slower pace of life.  
**isolated** – far away from other people and cities; with a great distance between oneself and areas with people, without communication with other people or places  
\* Dangerous prisoners are sometimes isolated from the other prisoners.  
**living soul** – a human being; a person who is alive  
\* This cemetery wouldn’t be so scary if there were other living souls around us.  
**secluded** – being used by only one or a few people, without other people nearby  
\* Jacob looked for a secluded place where he would be able to propose to his girlfriend without having other people see and hear them speaking.  
**privacy** – the ability to keep things secret, especially related to one’s confidential information or personal thoughts and actions  
\* Adult children living with their parents may not have as much privacy as they’d like.  
**serenity** – tranquility; calm; a feeling of peace and relaxation, without worry  
\* If we want to have more serenity in our lives, maybe we should consider meditation.  
**creature comforts** – things that are not really necessary, but make one feel good and relaxed, such as hot water and favorite foods  
\* Lynn doesn’t like to go camping, because she misses her creature comforts, like taking a long, hot bath while listening to her favorite music.  
**Internet access** – the ability to go online to find information, read emails, participate in chat rooms, etc.; the ability to access the World Wide Web  
\* We don’t have Internet access at home, so I have to go to the library to read my email.  
**cell phone service** – the area where one can use a cell phone; an area where one’s mobile phone can send and receive signals  
\* We don’t have very good cell phone service up in the mountains.  
**to rough it** – to go camping or otherwise spend time outdoors, without many of the things that one relies on for comfort and ease at home; to live for a period of time without certain technologies and other things that make life more comfortable.  
\* Amanda thinks she’s roughing it if she doesn’t have a hair dryer and a curling iron to do her hair each morning, so she would never want to go camping with us.  
**to unwind** – to relax and become calmer, especially after a period when one has experienced a lot of stress.  
\* Do you think it’s a good idea to use alcohol to unwind?  
**whole point** – the main idea or objective; the most important reason why someone is doing something  
\* The whole point of going out to dinner is so that we don’t have to cook or wash dishes.  
**to be cut off from civilization** – to be separated from one’s normal life in a city or town, without communication with other people or interaction with technologies  
\* If you were cut off from civilization for one week, how would you survive?  
**stressful** – filled with feelings of anxiousness and worry, often caused by needing to do too many things in a short period of time  
\* Many people feel that the holidays are stressful, because they have to spend a lot of time shopping, wrapping presents, buying special foods, and going to parties and other events.  
  
The word “**island**,” in this podcast, means an area of land surrounded by water:

“Richie dreams of vacationing on a tropical island where he can surf every day.”

The phrase “**no man is an island**” expresses the idea that humans need to be around other people and cannot be happy by themselves, or that they need help from other people:

“Pierre seems self-sufficient, but no man is an island and I’m sure he gets lonely sometimes.”

The phrase “**marooned on a desert island**” is often used as a small game to ask people what they would want to have if someone left them alone on a small island:

“If you were marooned on a desert island, which book would you most want to have?”  
  
**“to be cut off from civilization”** means to be separated from one’s normal life in a city or town, without communication with other people or interaction with technologies:

“When Toshiyuki’s parents took away her cell phone for one week, she felt as if she had been cut off from civilization.”

The phrase “**to cut (someone) off**’ also means to stop supporting someone financially:

“His parents have been sending him money every week for years, but now that he’s finishing college, they’re going to cut him off.”

When driving, the phrase “**to cut (someone) off**” means to move in front of another car very quickly and with a small distance between the two cars, so that it has to slow down:

“Did you see how that guy just cut us off? He almost caused an accident!”

672 - Asking for More Time

Dan: Hello.

Marcia: Hi, Dan. What’s the **status** on the project? We’re still **on schedule**, right?

Dan: Uh, well, I’ve been meaning to call you about that. We’ve had a **slight delay**. (я хотел тебе об этом позвонить; небольшая задержка)

Marcia: What do you mean by “slight”? Are you saying that you won’t be able to meet the **deadline**? (что не сможете уложиться в срок)

Dan: Not exactly. I’m only asking that you **grant** us a short **extension**. (grant – пособие; grant предоставили)

Marcia: How short?

Dan: A week or two, **tops**. We hit a minor **snag**, but we should have everything **up and running** in no time.

(snag – (снаг) загвоздка)

Marcia: If the project has **come to a grinding halt**, then it doesn’t sound like a minor snag. We’re running on a **tight schedule** and we don’t have a lot of time **to spare**. (grind – (грайнд) молоть) (**come to a grinding halt -** остановился) (spare (спеэ) - запасной) (halt - халт)

Dan: I know that **all too well**.

Marcia: Good, then I don’t have **to spell it out** for you. (spell - объяснять)

Dan: No, you don’t. My **head is on the chopping block** and **the clock is ticking**. (chopping block - разделочной доске)

**Category:** Business

**Glossary**  
**status** – the current condition; the most up-to-date information about the quality, timing, or progress of something  
\* All of the employees are supposed to send weekly reports on the status of their work.  
**on schedule** – on time; making enough progress so that something will be completed when it should be; expected to meet one’s deadline  
\* The buses are usually on schedule, but for some reason, my bus was 20 minutes late this morning.  
**slight** – very small, minor, and unimportant  
\* We saw a slight increase in sales last month, but not enough to really make a difference.  
**delay** – something that causes one to become behind schedule; something that slows one down and makes it difficult or impossible to finish something when it was planned to be finished  
\* When there’s a lot of snow and ice, expect a delay when driving across town.  
**deadline** – the date and time when something is due or must be turned in; the time by which something needs to be completed  
\* The deadline for this grant proposal is Friday at 3:00 p.m. Do you think we can finish everything before then?  
**to grant** – to officially give something to someone, especially giving permission or authority  
\* If the board of directors grants approval, we’ll be able to hire two new employees next month.  
**extension** – the act of making something bigger or longer in space or time  
\* We are proposing a bridge extension that would reach to Main Street.  
**tops** – maximum; at most  
\* We can pay you $11 per hour, tops.  
**snag** – a problem; something that causes a problem or a delay, but that one probably will be able to find a solution for  
\* When the lead actress lost her voice, it was a snag for the show, but fortunately they were able to find another actress who could play her role.  
**up and running** – operational; functioning normally  
\* The mechanic promised to have their car up and running again by the end of the day.  
**to come to a grinding halt** – to completely stop; to no longer be able to work or operate at all  
\* Traffic came to a grinding halt during the snowstorm.  
**tight schedule** – a situation when a lot of work needs to be done in a very short period of time  
\* The engineers are on a tight schedule to design the new freeway by the end of the month.  
**to spare** – to have an extra amount of something  
\* Do we have any food to spare? I brought a few friends home for dinner.  
**all too well** – very well; very familiar and very clearly understood  
\* - Did you know this town is expected to flood after tomorrow’s storm?  
\* - Yes, I know it all too well.  
**to spell (something) out** – to explain something in great detail; to be explicit  
\* Let me spell it out for you: if you don’t make your mortgage payments, your bank will take away your home.  
**for (one’s) head to be on the chopping block** – for one to be at risk of losing one’s job or otherwise suffering negative consequences if something does not go well, or if some result is not achieved  
\* Could you please help me with these preparations? My head is on the chopping block if the conference isn’t a success.  
**the clock is ticking** – a phrase meaning that very little time is left before something else happens, implying that one should hurry up and do something  
\* Her birthday is tomorrow! I can’t believe you still haven’t bought her a gift. Hurry up and go to the store! The clock is ticking.

**The word “slight,”** in this podcast, means very small, minor, and unimportant:

“The baby has a slight fever, but the doctor said not to take her to see him until it reaches 104.”

Or, “Please let us know if there’s even the slightest possibility you might be able to come to our home for Thanksgiving.”

**The word “slight”** can also describe someone who is very thin and possibly unhealthy:

“Janik is a very slight boy, even though his parents are always trying to feed him more.”

**The phrase “to not have the slightest idea”** means to not be aware of something at all:

“I’ve known them for quite a while, but I didn’t have the slightest idea they were brothers! They don’t look anything alike.”

**the word “snag”** means a minor or medium-sized problem, especially something that causes a problem or a delay, but that one probably will be able to find a solution for:

“The engineers hit a snag when they couldn’t find a way to keep the processor cool enough for the software to run.”

**A “snag”** is also part of a tree that can be seen above the water when the rest of the tree is hidden under the water:

“Watch out for that snag, or it might tear a hole in your raft.”

**The phrase “to snag”** means for a piece of clothing to be caught on something that sticks out, usually stretching or ripping as a result:

“Yolanda’s dress snagged on the corner of the countertop and ripped.”

**The verb “to snag”** also informally means to get something:

“How did you snag such a great deal?”

Daily English 673 - Walking or Running as Exercise

Reina: Okay, I’m ready to walk my way to better **fitness**!

Lars: I’m glad you’re so enthusiastic about starting **to exercise**.

Reina: I’m totally **psyched**! Check out my new **tennis shoes**. (psyche – (сайки) душа; psyched – (сайкт) восторг )

Lars: They’re **brand new**? You haven’t **broken them in** yet? I hope you don’t get **blisters**. (brand (бранд) бренд) (blister (блиста) blisters (блистерс) волдырь)

Reina: Stop worrying. Let’s go, I’m ready **to work up a sweat**! (sweat (свэт) потеть)

Lars: Wait. There are a few things you need to know before we start. It’s a good idea **to stretch** and **to warm up** to avoid injuries. (stretch – (стреч) растянуть )

Reina: I stretched already and as soon as we get started, I’ll warm up slowly. Let’s go!

Lars: All right, here we go, nice and slow.

Reina: Come on! How are we supposed to increase our **heart rate** if we walk this slowly? **Pick up the pace**! (Pick up – подобрать; Pick up the pace - Ускорьте темп)

Lars: I don’t want to get **shin splints**. It’s important that we start slowly and maintain a **low-impact workout**. (shin splints - Шинсплинт) (low-impact – низкое воздействие) (workout - тренировка)

Reina: Forget it! I’ll **race** you. The last one to the park buys lunch. **Ready, set, go**! (race рэйс гонка)

Lars: Wait!

**Category:** Health + Medicine

**Glossary**  
**fitness** – one’s level of physical health and strength; one’s ability to complete physical activities without great difficulty  
\* Vadim spends hours at the gym each week, because fitness is really important to him.  
**to exercise** – to do physical activities in order to make one’s body stronger and healthier  
\* If we want to lose weight, we need to start eating better and exercising more.  
**psyched** – an informal term meaning very excited, enthusiastic, and eager to do something  
\* Marleah is psyched about starting her new job at the hospital.  
**tennis shoes** – comfortable shoes used to participate in sports and other physical activities, closed with shoelaces  
\* Lauren wears high-heeled shoes at work, but she carries tennis shoes in her bag so that she can wear more comfortable shoes while walking to the subway after work.  
**brand new** – recently bought and never before used  
\* Why would you wear a brand new shirt to paint the house? It’s just going to get ruined.  
**to break (something) in** – to wear something, especially shoes, for short periods of time so that it adapts to one’s body and become more comfortable; to use something for short periods of time so that one becomes used to it  
\* Be sure to break your hiking boots in on some short walks before you go on any long-distance hikes.  
**blister** – a small, painful, raised area of skin that is filled with a clear liquid, usually caused by having something rub against that area repeatedly  
\* After raking all the leaves, Mariah realized that she had blisters on her hands.  
**to work up a sweat** – to do a difficult physical activity that results in a small amount of water on one’s skin, caused by the body’s efforts to stay cool  
\* It’s so hot outside today that we could work up a sweat just by walking around the block!  
**to stretch** – to move one’s body parts in unusual ways, pushing them as far as they will go in a certain direction to make the muscles work and to become more flexible  
\* If you stretch every morning, eventually you’ll be able to touch your toes without bending your knees.  
**to warm up** – to do a physical activity gently or slowly for a few minutes, gradually increasing one’s heart rate and breathing before beginning more difficult physical activity  
\* If we don’t warm up before playing basketball, we’re more likely to get injured.  
**heart rate** – the speed at which one’s heart beats (contracts to move blood through one’s body).  
\* His resting heart rate is 65 beats per minute.  
**to pick up the pace** – to begin to do something more quickly; to hurry; to move more quickly  
\* Let’s pick up the pace, or else we won’t get home before dark.  
**shin splints** – a condition where one experiences pain on the front of one’s leg between one’s knee and foot, often caused by running on hard surfaces and/or wearing shoes that do not have enough padding  
\* Shayna’s shin splints became so painful that she had to stop running competitively.  
**low-impact** – exercise that does not require hitting one’s body parts against hard surfaces; exercise that is not very strenuous or difficult  
\* The doctor recommended low-impact exercise instead of running.  
**workout** – a session or short period of physical exercise, especially when it is something that one does regularly  
\* This morning Grant did a 30-minute aerobic workout at the gym, followed by 20 minutes of lifting weights.  
**to race** – to compete to see who can do something fastest, especially to see who can run to a particular place most quickly  
\* Let’s race to see who can finish the test first.  
**ready, set, go** – a phrase used to start a race, so that people prepare to do something when they hear “ready, set,” and then begin to do it when they hear “go”  
\* When I say, “go,” run to the fence. Ready, set, go!

**The phrase “to break (something) in,”** in this podcast, means to wear something for short periods of time so that it adapts to one’s body and becomes more comfortable:

“Leather jackets are stiff at first, but once you break them in, they become more comfortable.”

**The phrase “to break in”** means to enter a building without permission, usually to steal something:

“Have the police caught the man who broke into the store last night?”

**When talking about skin, the phrase “to break out”** means for one’s skin to become covered in small red blemishes:

“Is it true that eating chocolate can cause your skin to break out?” Or,

“Hal’s skin breaks out whenever he eats shellfish.”

**Finally, the phrase “to break out”** can mean to leave a prison or jail without permission: “Some of the prisoners are planning to break out next Thursday.”

**the verb “to stretch”** means to move one’s body parts in unusual ways, pushing them as far as they will go in a certain direction to make the muscles work and to become more flexible:

“Taking a yoga class is a great way to learn how to stretch.”

**The phrase “to stretch (one’s) legs”** means to take a short walk, especially after one has been seated for a long period of time:

“It isn’t good to sit in front of the computer for hours at a time. Why don’t we take a break and stretch our legs?”

**Finally, the phrase “to stretch the truth”** means to exaggerate or to say something that isn’t entirely true: “Raymond was stretching the truth when he said that he was an expert skier. The truth is, he has skied only three times.”

Daily English 674 - Threatening Other Countries (threat – срэт - угроза)

Tania: Did you see the news today? Canada has been doing **military exercises** near the Canada-U.S. **border**. I think they’re trying **to send us a message**. (Canada – ‘кэнэда) (Канада проводит военные учения)

Emilio: They’re just **saber-rattling**. They think we’re **amassing weapons** near the border and they’re **posturing**. (saber-rattling - бряцание оружием) amass (эмас) собирать; weapon (вэпн)

Tania: I don’t think they’re just posturing. (posture (посчэ) поза)

Emilio: Canada is no real **threat**. No one in the government wants **to bear the responsibility** of **violating** Canada’s **treaty** with us. (Канада не представляет реальной угрозы); to bear (be(ə)) нести; treaty (трити) договор

Tania: How can you say that? All of this **military aggression** makes me nervous. If Canada decides **to attack**, we would have no choice but **to retaliate**. Things could **escalate** very quickly. nervous (‘новис) нервный; (we would have no choice - у нас не будет другого выбора); retaliate (риталиэйт) мстить, отвечать тем же; escalate (‘эскэлэйт) обостряться

Emilio: That’s why I’m well prepared.

Tania: Well prepared? How?

Emilio: Haven’t you seen me building my **underground bunker**? I’ll be safe there if Canada, or anyone else, **strikes**. (Haven’t you seen - Разве вы не видели) (bunker (банкэ) бункер) (I’ll be safe - Я буду в безопасности) (strike (страйк) удар/забастовка)

Tania: An underground bunker?

Emilio: Yes, and if you ask nicely, I’ll save a place for you.

**Category:** Daily Life|Government + Law

**Glossary**  
**military exercise** – war game; a way to train an army or navy group, or a way to test equipment for warfare, by testing systems as if an actual battle or war is happening  
\* Sometimes countries use computer simulations as military exercises to help officers develop the best ways to make decisions.  
**border** – the line between two countries, states, or provinces; the geographic line separating or dividing two parts of a piece of land on a map  
\* Which states share a border with Nebraska?  
**to send (someone) a message** – to communicate indirectly; to make sure someone understands what one is thinking without saying it directly  
\* Dan has bad breath, but nobody wants to tell him directly, so his co-workers are trying to send a message by putting a large bottle of mouthwash in the office bathroom.  
**saber-rattling** – a display, demonstration, or show of strength and fighting power  
\* Are they really going to attack us, or is it just saber-rattling?  
**to amass** – to collect and accumulate; to gather many items and keep them in one place  
\* It has taken ten years and thousands of dollars to amass this DVD collection.  
**weapon** – a tool used to hurt or kill other people while fighting  
\* Which weapon would you prefer: a sword or a knife?  
**to posture** – to present oneself in a particular way; to convey a certain impression  
\* Delia is always posturing as an expert in music, but she has never studied music in any serious way.  
**threat** – risk; something that can cause harm or danger and may do so in the near future  
\* The conference speaker said that the personal automobile is a serious threat for the environment.  
**to bear the responsibility** – to be held accountable for something; to admit that one has done something wrong and accept the consequences of it  
\* Who will bear the responsibility if this deal fails? Your company or mine?  
**to violate** – to break a rule or agreement; to disobey or not follow a rule or agreement  
\* If you violate the terms of this agreement, you might have to pay hundreds of dollars in fines.  
**treaty** – an official agreement between two countries  
\* According to the treaty, our country has to help if their country is attacked.  
**military aggression** – for a nation’s armed forces (army, navy, air force, etc.) to show their power and strength against another country’s armed forces  
\* The members of this church believe that all military aggression is wrong, so they never serve in the army.  
**to attack** – to initiate or begin a fight or battle; to begin to hurt or kill another person or group, without waiting for them to hurt one’s own group first  
\* That dog just attacked the little girl for no reason!  
**to retaliate** – to take revenge; to do something bad to another person after he or she has done something bad to oneself  
\* If you read your sister’s diary, she might retaliate by doing something worse to you.  
**to escalate** – to increase in intensity or importance; to become more serious or important, involving more people and authority  
\* When the teacher caught the student cheating on the exam, he escalated the situation by calling the principal and the student’s parents.  
**underground bunker** – a strong, safe place where soldiers can find protection below the surface of the earth  
\* The soldiers were cold and wet in the underground bunker, but at least they were protected from gunfire.  
**to strike** – to attack; to hit someone; to send a bomb  
\* If the enemy strikes tonight, will we be prepared to fight back?  
  
**The word “border,”** in this podcast, means the geographic line separating or dividing two parts of land on a map:

“The border between Oregon and Washington follows the Columbia river.” Or,

“Do we need a passport to cross the U.S./Canadian border?”

**The word “border”** can also refer to the division or separation between other things:

“Biochemistry straddles the border between biology, chemistry, and genetic engineering.”

**The word “border”** also refers to a line along the edge of an object:

“The information would be easier to read if you put a border around the table.” Or,

“What a beautiful lace border you’ve put on the tablecloth!”

When talking about a yard or garden**, a “border”** is an area along the edge of the grass where flowers or other plants grow:

“Lynn bought a lot of tulips to plant along the border.”  
  
In this podcast**, the verb “to strike”** means to attack or to hit someone, or to send a bomb:

“When the pilot made a mistake, the bomb struck a hospital instead of the military base.”

**The phrase “to strike a match”** means to move a match against a hard surface to create a fire:

“Shannon tried to strike the match, but it was wet and wouldn’t light.”

**The phrase “to strike a deal”** means to reach an agreement:

“Let’s strike a deal: I’ll wash your car if you’ll help me with my essay.”

**Finally, the phrase “to strike a balance”** means to spend the right amount of time or give the right amount of attention to two or more things:

“Many people struggle to strike a balance between work and family.”

Daily English 675 - Having Furniture Delivered

I was waiting patiently for the furniture store **to deliver** my new bed. I was given a **window** of 1:00 to 4:00. At 4:50, the **delivery truck pulled up** in front of my house. (I was given a **window** - Мне дали окно) (1:00 - читается 'ван о клок'; 4:50 - фор фифти) (**pulled up -** "пулд ап" подъехал)

Zuly: Hello.

Danny: Hi! We’re from Reliable Furniture. We’re here to deliver your new bed.

Zuly: **I thought you’d never get here**. The new bed should go in the bedroom. Follow me. You’ll **haul away** the old bed, right? (haul - "хоул" тянуть)

Danny: We will for an **extra charge**.

Zuly: I thought that was included in the price of the new bed.

Danny: Let me check the **paperwork**. Oh, I guess it is. We’ll take away the old bed and bring in the new one. (paperwork - документы)

Zuly: Okay, this way. You can bring the bed right in here. (right in here - прямо сюда)

Danny: Okay, here you are. We’re all done. (We’re all done - Все готово)

Zuly: Aren’t you guys going to remove the **bubble wrap**, **assemble** the pieces, and **set up** the bed? (bubble wrap "бабл" пузырчатую пленку; assemble the pieces - соберете детали) (set up - установить)

Danny: We can, but it’ll cost extra.

Zuly: I’m sure that’s included in the price of the new bed.

Danny: Let me check...Okay, I guess we’ll set it up. We’re just **running a little late**, that’s all. We got a late start from the **warehouse** this morning and it’s already past **quitting time**. (running a little late - немного опаздываем) (warehouse - склад) (quit - "квыт" выход; quitting "квытинг")

...

I wasn’t too happy, **to say the least**, but I **was at their mercy** and didn’t say anything. But as soon as they’re finished, I’ll be ready **to give them a piece of my mind**! (least - меньше всего; to say the least - мягко говоря) (at their mercy - в их власти) (...a piece of my mind - поделиться с ними своими мыслями)

**Category:** Home + Community|Shopping

**Glossary**  
**to deliver** – to take something to another place and leave it there, especially something that has been purchased  
\* How long will it take for you to deliver the pizza to my house?  
**window** – a period of time during which something will happen; the range of times when something will happen  
\* In Jacob’s busy schedule, he only has a 30-minute window each day to eat lunch.  
**delivery truck** – a large vehicle used to carry many things and take them where they need to go  
\* The worst part about living next to the grocery store is that there are so many noisy delivery trucks in the evening  
**to pull up** – to drive to a place and stop there, especially at a building (подъехать)  
\* After you place your order, please pull up and pay at the second window.  
**I thought you’d never get here** – a phrase used to let someone know that he or she has arrived later than expected.  
\* I thought you’d never get here! I’ve been waiting for you for more than 40 minutes.  
**to haul away** – to take something away, especially when it is a very large and heavy object that is no longer useful and needs to be sold or thrown away  
\* Please call the garbage company and find out how much they would charge to haul away our broken refrigerator  
**extra charge** – an additional amount of money that must be paid for some purpose  
\* Most movie rentals cost $1, but there’s an extra charge for our most popular films.  
**paperwork** – the forms that must be filled out or completed for a particular process to take place  
\* I never realized how much paperwork was involved in buying a home!  
**bubble wrap** – large pieces of plastic that have been put together so that there are many small areas filled with air between the two pieces of plastic, put around delicate or fragile objects so that they do not break (пузырчатая пленка)  
\* Little kids like to jump on pieces of bubble wrap to hear the popping sound.  
**to assemble** – to put something together so that it can be used; to put many small pieces together in a particular way to produce the final product  
\* How long did it take you to assemble that swing set for your children?  
**to set up** – to put something in position, or to put many small pieces in position so that something can be used  
\* Do you need help setting up the stage for the concert?  
**to run a little late** – to be slightly behind schedule; to not have made as much progress in doing something as one had expected  
\* I called the office to say that I was running a little late and that they should start the meeting without me  
**warehouse** – a large building or storage facility where many objects are kept until they are needed, especially until they are taken to stores where they will be sold  
\* If we start to run out of digital cameras, please call the warehouse so they can send more cameras to our store.  
**quitting time** – the end of a workday; the time of day when one stops working and goes home  
\* Jack’s boss pressures him to work past quitting time most days.  
**to say the least** – at a minimum; a phrase used to show that what one has just said is an understatement, and one actually feels much more strongly about it  
\* Trent’s $1,000,000 donation to the school was generous, to say the least.  
**to be at (someone’s) mercy** – to be in a situation where someone else has control over the outcome; to be dependent on another person’s actions for something to be done  
\* Wanda filled out the job application and now she’s at the hiring manager’s mercy.  
**to give (someone) a piece of my mind** – to tell someone what one really thinks, especially when one is angry and upset  
\* When Quentin was fired, he took the opportunity to give his boss a piece of his mind, telling her how much he disliked her management style.  
  
**The word “window,”** in this podcast, means a period of time during which something will happen:

“The post office gave us a three-day window for when the package will be delivered.”

**The phrase “a window of opportunity”** refers to a short period of time when something can be done: “When Cambria’s boss went on vacation, it was her window of opportunity to show the vice-president that she was capable of managing the department.”

**When talking about computers, the word “window”** refers to one rectangular box that appears on the screen where one can do work or view information:

“I usually have three windows open on my computer: my email, a word processor, and a spreadsheet.” **“Finally, the phrase “a window on the world”** is something that lets people learn what is happening in other parts of the world:

“These radio news programs are my window on the world.”  
  
**In this podcast, the phrase “to be at (someone’s) mercy”** means to be in a situation where someone else has control over the outcome and to be dependent on that person’s actions:

“If we go to the park today, we’ll be at the mercy of the weather.”

**The word “mercy”** refers to one’s decision or choice to be kind and forgiving:

“Do you think the judge will have mercy on him and give him only a few years in prison?”

**The phrase “to beg for mercy”** means to desperately ask someone to be nice and kind, especially if one does not fully deserve it:

“The man begged for mercy, but victim’s family didn’t think the deserved any.”

**Finally, the phrase “it’s a mercy”** means one is fortunate that nothing worse happened: “It’s a mercy we only lost $40,000 when housing prices fell. Other people lost much more.”

Daily English 676 - Selecting a Health Insurance Plan (плана медицинского страхования)

Mikhail: What’s all this? (Что это все такое?)

Carol: It’s **open enrollment** at my company and I’m thinking of **switching health plans**. I have an **HMO** right now and I’m thinking of switching to a **PPO**. That way, I can see doctors outside of my current **network** and still be covered. (В моей компании открыт процесс регистрации)

Mikhail: I’m so glad I don’t have to worry about things like that. I’m still a **dependent** on my mother’s plan, at least for another year.

Carol: Lucky you. Look at all of this **literature**! How am I supposed **to make heads or tails of this** to compare one plan with another? (heads or tails - Орел или решка)

Mikhail: Wow, yeah, that’s really confusing.

Carol: Tell me about it. I want to know if these new plans have **coverage** for my **pre-existing conditions** and **prescription drugs**, and if not, what the **out-of-pocket** costs would be. (prescription drugs - отпускаемые по рецепту лекарства) (out-of-pocket - наличными)

Mikhail: **Don’t look at me**.

Carol: And how am I supposed to figure out what my **copay** and **deductible** would be? (copay - доплата; deductible - вычитаемый)

Mikhail: **You’re on your own** on this one. **It’s all Greek to me**! (Это для меня китайская грамота)

**Category:** Business

**Glossary**  
**open enrollment** – a period of time once a year when employees can sign up for one of several health insurance plans and other benefits offered by the employer  
\* We won’t be allowed to change our health insurance plan until the open enrollment period.  
**to switch** – to change; to stop using or having one thing and start using or having another thing  
\* Cherise switched cell phone providers because she found out another company offered better coverage.  
**health plan** – a health insurance policy; an arrangement where an individual or an employer pays a certain amount of money each month and a health insurance company pays a certain percentage of his or her medical costs  
\* Does your health plan pay for this type of surgery?  
**HMO** – health maintenance organization; a type of health plan where individuals receive most of their health care from a primary care doctor who provides referrals to other specialists when needed  
\* Under the HMO, you’ll need to go to your primary care physician for everything, whether you’re just sick, have a broken leg, or need skin treatment.  
**PPO** – preferred provider organization; a type of health plan where individuals can see any of the doctors within a particular group of doctors and clinics, without getting a referral first  
\* Xander loves his PPO, because he can make appointments with specialists without first needing to see his regular doctor.  
**network** – a large group of related people, organizations, or things that are connected in some way  
\* Which cell phone network provides the best coverage in mountain areas?  
**dependent** – a person who relies on another person for financial support and other benefits, often a young person who is still reported on his or her parents’ taxes and receives benefits through his or her parents’ health insurance policy  
\* Most children don’t need to file tax returns as long as they are claimed as a dependent on their parents’ tax returns.  
**literature** – printed material describing something and providing information, often as brochures  
\* Dr. Sanchez gave Ilia a lot of literature about different treatment options.  
**to make heads or tails of (something)** – to be able to understand something that is very confusing and complex  
\* Lauren says she can’t make heads or tails of the new application forms.  
**coverage** – the protection or extent of services provided by an insurance company  
\* Our health insurance policy provided full coverage for having a baby.  
**pre-existing condition** – a medical condition or health problem that one had before signing up for a particular health insurance policy  
\* Most insurance companies won’t pay for any treatments related to pre-existing conditions.  
**prescription drug** – a medicine that cannot be purchased without a doctor’s written prescription (instructions for the pharmacist)  
\* Olivia takes a prescription drug for her headaches, because medicines she buys at the drugstore aren’t strong enough.  
**out-of-pocket** – the portion of medical costs that an individual with health insurance has to pay; the medical expenses that are not covered by health insurance and must be paid by the individual  
\* The Hansons have an annual out-of-pocket maximum of $10,000 for the entire family.  
**don’t look at (someone)** – a phrase used to show that one does not want to be consulted or asked about something, usually because he or she has no knowledge or information about the topic, or because one does not want to be involved  
\* When Betty realized that her wallet was missing, she thought I may have taken it, but I said, “Don’t look at me! I’ve never touched your wallet.”  
**copay** – the amount or percentage an individual must pay each time he or she receives some medical service, with the rest being paid by the health insurance company  
\* Gerhard has to pay a $25 copay each time he sees his doctor.  
**deductible** – the amount of money an individual or family must pay in a year before health insurance begins to pay for anything  
\* They bought health insurance policy with a $1,500 deductible, so they have to pay the first $1,500 of any medical bills, but their health insurance will cover anything beyond that.  
**to be on (one’s) own** – to need to do something alone, without receiving help from others  
\* Ariana has been on her own since she turned 18 and her parents stopped helping her financially.  
**it’s all Greek to me** – a phrase used to show that one does not understand anything, usually because it is very complex or unfamiliar  
\* I don’t understand the instructions for assembling this desk. It’s all Greek to me!

**The verb “to switch,”** in this podcast, means to stop using or having one thing and start using or having another thing:

“Why did you decide to switch jobs?” Or,

“You might be able to save money by switching cell phone companies.”

**The phrase “to switch sides”** means to change which person or team one supports:

“What can I do to make you switch sides and vote for me instead of my opponent?”

**The phrase “to switch shifts”** means to exchange work times with a co-worker:

“Blake is scheduled to work tomorrow evening, but he has a conflict, so he asked me to switch shifts with him.”

**Finally, the phrase “to switch off”** means to alternate doing something with someone else:

“Digging this hole will take a long time. Let’s switch off. First you dig, then I will.”

**the word “network”** means a large group of related people, organizations, or things that are connected in some way:

“I wish the United States had a better railroad network so we could travel across the country by train more easily.”

**When talking about computers, a “network”** is a group of computers that are connected together to share information:

“Please save a copy of your report on the network so we can read it even when your computer is turned off.” **When talking about business, a “network”** is the group of all the professional contacts one has:

“When Trixie lost her job, she turned to her network to ask for help.”

Daily English 677 - Feeding a Picky Eater (Picky-пики-придирчивого; Eater-едока)

Jeremy: It’s really nice of you to make dinner for me tonight.

Keeley: I’m glad to do it. You’re been so helpful to me, **it’s only fair** that I **return the favor**. I hope you’ve **brought your appetite**. (it’s only fair- будет справедливо; favor-услуга) (**brought your appetite-** пробудили аппетит.)

Jeremy: You bet.

Keeley: Great! Here’s the first **course**, a light soup. How do you like it? (first course-первое блюдо)

Jeremy: It has an interesting **flavor**. (flavor-вкус)

Keeley: You **don’t care for it**.

Jeremy: It’s just a little **greasy for my taste**. (greasy-гризи-жирный; taste-тэйст-вкус)

Keeley: Sorry about that. Why don’t you try this dish? It’s an old family **recipe**. What’s wrong? (sorry about that-прости за это; dish-блюдо; recipe-рэсипи-рецепт)

Jeremy: Oh, nothing. I just don’t think it’s **agreeing with me**. Maybe it’s an **acquired taste**. (**acquire-**эквайе-приобретать)

Keeley: Okay, maybe I can **whip up** something else for you... (whip-вып-кнут; whip up-расшевелить)

Jeremy: I don’t want **to put you to all that trouble**. Sorry to be so **fussy**. (put you-доставлять; all that trouble-столько хлопот; fussy-фасси-суетливый/привередливый)

Keeley: No, no trouble at all.

...

I like cooking, but with such a **picky eater** like Jeremy, I might be cooking **into** next Tuesday!

**Category:** Food + Drink

**Glossary**  
**it’s only fair** – it is nice and just; a phrase used to present something that one should do to be nice  
\* Since you washed the dishes last night, it’s only fair if I wash them tonight.  
  
**to return the favor** – to do something nice for someone after he or she has done something nice for oneself  
\* Thank you so much for lending me money when I needed it. I hope someday I can return the favor.  
**to bring (one’s) appetite** – to come to an event feeling hungry, especially when coming to someone’s home for a meal  
\* I asked Heather if we should bring anything to her dinner party, but she said we should just bring our appetite.  
**course** – one of several things eaten in order during a meal, usually soup or salad, an entrée, and dessert  
\* This is a five-course meal, so don’t fill up on salad and bread  
**flavor** – the way something tastes, especially whether it is sweet, salty, sour, or bitter  
\* How many flavors of ice cream does this shop offer?  
**to not care for (something)** – to not like something; to not enjoy something and think it is bad  
\* Generally, I don’t care for horror movies. They leave me scared for days.  
**greasy** – oily; with a lot of fat and oil  
\* These French fries are so greasy that my fingers are covered in oil.  
**for (one’s) taste** – in one’s opinion; according to one’s likes and preferences  
\* The climate in Alaska is too cold for my taste. I prefer warmer parts of the country.  
**recipe** – instructions for cooking or baking something  
\* This recipe calls for one cup of flour and half a cup of sugar.  
**to agree with (someone)** – to be pleasant for someone; for someone to like something and not be bothered by it, especially when talking about food  
\* Something I ate last night didn’t agree with me, and my stomach has hurt all day.  
**acquired taste** – something that one learns to enjoy eating over time; something that one does not enjoy the first time one eats or drinks it, but later learns to appreciate it  
\* For many people, wine is an acquired taste.  
**to whip up** – to cook something quickly, especially when little effort is required  
\* Grandma Mable is amazing. She can whip up a batch of chocolate cookies in just a few minutes.  
**to put (someone) to all the/that trouble** – to create a lot of work for another person; to do something that makes another person need to do a lot of work, especially for one’s benefit  
\* When I accepted your invitation to stay at your house, I didn’t know I’d be putting you to all the trouble of borrowing a bed and moving it here.  
**fussy** – picky; difficult to please; with many requirements and preferences that are difficult to meet.  
\* Karina is a fussy housekeeper, who wants everything to be exactly in its place.  
**picky eater** – a person who eats few things and has many requirements for the food that he or she will eat; a person who dislikes many types of food and drink  
\* As a child, Earle was a picky eater who wouldn’t eat anything that was green.  
**into** – until and through; to be doing an activity from now until a future point in time  
\* That garage is such a mess that we’ll be cleaning it into next month.  
  
**The word “course,”** in this podcast, means one of several things eaten in order during a meal, usually soup or salad, an entrée, and dessert:

“For the first course, we could choose between chicken-noodle soup and tomato soup.”

**The phrase “of course”** is used when one is sharing information that is understood and will not be surprising:

“Of course, we should buy tickets early just in case they sell out.”

**The phrase “par for the course”** refers to something one would expect to happen, especially when it is a bad or unpleasant thing:

“Melissa behaved terribly at the family reunion, which was par for the course, considering her bad feelings about most family members.”

**The phrase “in due course”** means in the future at an appropriate time:

“We’ll talk about the possibility of a raise in due course.”  
  
**the phrase “to whip up”** means to cook something quickly, especially when little effort is required:

“We’re going to whip up a quick breakfast and then drive to the coast for the day.”

**The phrase “to whip”** means to hit a person or animal’s back with a long piece of rope or leather, usually as a punishment:

“Sherman thinks it’s wrong to make horses run faster by whipping them.”

**The phrase “to whip through (something)”** means to do something very quickly:

“How did you whip through the math problems so quickly?”

**the phrase “to whip around”** means to turn very quickly:

“We didn’t realize Jake was listening to our conversation until, all of a sudden, he whipped around and starting telling us his opinion.”

Daily English 678 - Reporting Damaged Luggage

I picked up my **luggage** off of the **baggage carousel** and noticed that the **handle** was broken and some of my clothes were falling out of the open **zipper**. The bag looked like it had been **mishandled**, but could someone have **tampered with** it, too? I went to the baggage claim office to report what I found. (falling out of the open zipper - выпадая из открытой молнии; mishandled - неправильно обработанный; tamper - трогать/портить; claim office - бюро приема заявок)

Clerk: Next. How can I help you?

Jordan: I **retrieved** my bag and found that it’s been damaged.

Clerk: What’s the problem?

Jordan: The handle is broken and I think someone has **gone through** my bag. (handle - ручка; gone through - рылся)

Clerk: That was probably security. They may have **searched** your luggage. (searched-обыскали ваш багаж)

Jordan: Yes, but my camera is **missing** and everything is in **disarray**. I’m not sure if other things are missing. (camera-камэра; disarray-дисЭрэй-беспорядке)

Clerk: Why don’t you make a more thorough **inspection** over there and then you can file a **claim** for anything that’s missing or broken.

Jordan: Will I be **compensated** for the damage to my luggage and for my missing camera?

Clerk: I really **can’t say**.

Jordan: How long will it take for someone to contact me?

Clerk: I really can’t say. Next!

...

I knew a **blow off** when I heard it, but I looked through my bag anyway and filled out the forms. Who knows? **Miracles** do happen, don’t they? (I knew a blow off when I heard it - Я почувствовал удар, когда услышал это)

**Category:** Travel

**Glossary**  
**luggage** – suitcases; baggage; the cloth, leather, or plastic containers that one fills with objects one wants to have while traveling  
\* This airline allows each passenger to check two pieces of luggage.  
**baggage carousel** – the large conveyor belt in an airport that moves passengers’ luggage slowly in a circle so that passengers can find their bag and take it off the device when they arrive at their final destination  
\* Most suitcases are placed on the baggage carousel, but very large items like large musical instruments and skis are placed over here.  
**handle** – the part of something that fits in one’s hand and is used to lift up and carry objects  
\* When she dropped the tea kettle, the handle broke.  
**zipper** – two long pieces of metal or plastic with many small teeth that are attached together with a small piece of metal or plastic that is moved up and down to separate or connect two pieces of fabric, often used on clothing  
\* Do you prefer jackets with zippers or buttons?  
**to mishandle** – to treat something poorly; to use something in an inappropriate way, often damaging it  
\* Our application was mishandled, and that’s why we had not received a response.  
**to tamper with** – to do something that damages an object, especially when one does not have permission to touch or look at it  
\* It looks like someone tampered with the lock on our car.  
**to retrieve** – to get back; to obtain again; to find and recover something that one has not had for a period of time  
\* Do you know how I can retrieve my sent messages in this email program?  
**to go through** – to open something and quickly look at all the different pieces inside it, often when searching for something  
\* Harriet went through everything in her purse three times, but she still hasn’t been able to find her keys.  
**to search** – to look for something; to seek  
\* The security guards searched everyone’s backpacks and bags before they let them into the football stadium.  
**missing** – something that cannot be found; something that has been misplaced and whose current location is unknown  
\* How long have your sunglasses been missing?  
**disarray** – disorder; messy; without things being put in their proper place  
\* After the robbery, the entire house was in disarray.  
**inspection** – investigation; the act of reviewing something, often when searching for a particular piece of information  
\* The health department conducts inspections of all the restaurants in the city at least once each year.  
**claim** – an official report describing a problem and requesting payment or compensation as a solution  
\* Somebody hit our car while it was parked on the street last night, so now we need to file a claim with the insurance company.  
**to compensate** – to pay someone for a specific purpose, often for a service that has been provided or to apologize for one’s mistake  
\* In my opinion, getting more vacation time doesn’t compensate for reducing my salary.  
**to not be able to say** – to not know the answer to something and not know how to respond to another person’s question  
\* A: Do you think it will rain tomorrow?  
\* B: I really can’t say.  
**blow off** – an excuse; something one says to avoid answering another person’s question, or to avoid dealing with a certain problem, especially because one thinks it is unimportant  
\* If this company really cared about customer service, it wouldn’t send these standard letters as a blow off every time a customer complained about something.  
**miracle** – something that happens and cannot be explained by nature or science; something that has been performed by a supernatural force or God  
\* Jean thought it was a miracle that her husband was able to walk again after the bad car accident.  
  
**The word “handle,”** in this podcast, means the part of something that fits in one’s hand and is used to lift up and carry objects:

“The handle on my briefcase broke while I was walking down the street, but my laptop wasn’t damaged when it fell to the ground.”

**As a verb, “to handle”** means to deal with or cope with a situation:

“Do you think you can handle taking care of five kids all day by yourself?”

**The phrase “to handle”** can also mean to be responsible for completing some work:

“I’ll handle the billing while you’re on vacation next month.”

**Finally, the phrase “to handle”** can mean to control an animal or drive a vehicle:

“How old were you when you learned to handle wild horses?” Or,

“Was it difficult to learn how to handle a motorcycle?”  
  
**In this podcast, the phrase “to blow off”** means to make an excuse or to say something to avoid answering another person’s question or avoid dealing with a certain problem, especially because one thinks it is unimportant:

“Reporters are starting to ask questions about our company’s scandal and we can’t just blow it off. We need to give them real answers.”

**The phrase “to blow off steam”** means to engage in some activity to become calmer and less angry or stressed:

“Exercising can be a great way to blow off steam when work gets too stressful.”

**Finally, the phrase “to blow over”** means for something unpleasant to be forgotten:

“I know she’s angry at you right now, but this will all blow over in a few weeks.”

Daily English 679 - Getting a Makeover (Makeover - Преобразование/Макияж)

Kurt: Come with me.

Ellie: Where are you taking me? (Куда вы меня ведете?)

Kurt: I’m giving you a **makeover** and you **have no say** about it.

Ellie: A makeover?! I don’t need a makeover.

Kurt: Yes, you do. I’m your best friend and this is an **intervention**. You’re so busy these days that you’ve **let yourself go**. (intervention-вмешательство; let yourself go-расслабиться)

Ellie: I haven’t let myself go. I just don’t spend as much time as I used to **primping** and **getting dolled up**, that’s all. (primp- прихорашиваться; dolled up - наряжаться)

Kurt: On that we agree. Your clothes are **frumpy** and your hairstyle is 10 years **out-of-date**. Come on. I’m taking you to get a new **look**. It’ll be a complete **transformation**. (frumpy- неаккуратная; out-of-date - устаревший)

Ellie: Okay, I admit that my **appearance** needs a little **updating**, but I’m not giving you **free rein** on what changes to make. (appearance - внешний вид; rein - поводья)

Kurt: I’m willing to let you have some say in that – if you’ll **come quietly**. (willing-желать)

Ellie: And if I don’t?

Kurt: You’re getting this makeover **one way or another**, even if I have to **drag you kicking and screaming**! (one way or another - так или иначе; to drag -драг-тащить; scream скриим - крик )

**Category:** Clothing + Grooming (уход)

**Glossary**  
**makeover** – a service in which one changes one’s appearance by changing one’s hair, makeup and clothing; a professional service that changes one’s appearance  
\* Carrie agreed to get a makeover, but she wouldn’t let anyone cut her long hair.  
**to have no say** – for one’s opinion not to matter; for one to not be in control of a situation; for one not to be able to determine what will happen  
\* As soon as I turn 18 years old, I’ll be able to do whatever I want and you will have no say in it.  
**intervention** – a process in which close friends or relatives tell someone something that is difficult or painful to hear, especially to confront someone about a serious problem, like alcoholism or a drug addiction  
\* Jake, we’ve asked you to come here tonight for an intervention. We’re all worried about how much you’ve been drinking lately.  
**to let (oneself) go** – to stop caring about one’s physical appearance; to stop worrying about whether one is beautiful; to stop trying to dress well and look pretty  
\* Jacques is afraid to get married because he thinks his future wife will let herself go.  
**to primp** – to spend time in front of a mirror, making small changes to make oneself more attractive and more beautiful  
\* How many hours a day do you think she spends primping in front of the mirror to look like that?  
**to get dolled up** – to dress up; to put on nice clothes and do one’s hair and makeup nicely; to try to look as nice as possible for a special occasion or event  
\* The senior prom is a special night when all of the students can get dolled up.  
**frumpy** – referring to things that are old, wrinkled, and out of style or not fashionable  
\* When you wear such frumpy clothing, it makes you look at least 10 years older than you actually are.  
**out-of-date** – outdated; not modern or current; not fashionable; relating to an earlier period of time  
\* The market is changing so quickly that this new product will be out-of-date by the time we’re able to manufacture it.  
**look** – style; one’s type of physical appearance  
\* Martina likes to wear different glasses every day to change her look.  
**transformation** – a major or important change; a complete or thorough change  
\* If a phone company wants to be successful, it will have to go through a transformation to better serve smart phones and provide wireless Internet service.  
**appearance** – the way one appears or looks to other people; the way one is seen physically  
\* Sarah warned her parents that her boyfriend was a really nice person, but because of his long hair and tattoos it might take them a while to get used to his appearance.  
**to update** – to change something to make it more modern or more appropriate for the current situation.  
\* Would you please update your sales report with the most recent figures?  
**free rein** – the ability or permission to do whatever one wants without being controlled or monitored by other people  
\* You can have free rein to decorate your room however you want, but you can’t spend more than $100.  
**to come quietly** – to do something without protesting or fighting against it; to agree to do something without complaining about it  
\* I need you to do something right now and I don’t have time to explain it. Please trust me and come quietly.  
**one way or another** – a phrase used to insist that someone do something when he or she does not have control over how it will be done; a phrase used to make someone do something he or she does not want to do  
\* You have to pay your taxes one way or another, so just do it without complaining.  
**to drag (someone) kicking and screaming** – to force someone do something he or she does not want to do; to make someone do something he or she is strongly opposed to and is complaining loudly about  
\* I don’t want to go to a country music concert. If you want me to go with you, you’ll have to drag me kicking and screaming.  
  
**“to let (oneself) go,”** in this podcast, means to stop caring about one’s physical appearance and stop worrying about whether one is beautiful:

“After the birth of her twins, Meghan really let herself go.”

**“to let (something) go”** means to stop worry about something:

“Yes, you lost some money, but it was just $20, so let it go!”

**The phrase “to let (someone) down”** means to disappoint someone, or to do something that makes another person feel sad:

“He apologized to his parents for having let them down.”

**The phrase “to let (something) slip”** means to share a secret accidentally:

“I didn’t mean to tell him, but somehow I just let it slip.”

**Finally, the phrase “to let (someone) in on (something)”** means to share a secret with someone or to let someone know what is happening:

“Why did you let her in on our plans?”

**the word “look”** means style or one’s type of physical appearance:

“You’ll need to change your look if you want to be treated as a business professional.” Or,

“Do a lot of people in Texas like the cowboy look?”

**The phrase “to give (someone) a look”** means to look at someone with a particular facial expression:

“Don’t give me that look! If you don’t like what I’m doing, just tell me!”

**The phrase “to take a long, hard look”** means to examine or inspect something carefully:

“Shamus took a long, hard look at his life and realized he needed to make some important changes.”

**Finally, the phrase “to not like the look of (something)”** means that one thinks something bad will happen:

“I don’t like the look of those dark clouds. I think a bad storm is coming.”  
  
 “outfits” (pieces of clothing that are designed to be worn together) for everyone to see.

Daily English 680 - Recognizing an Unsung Hero (unsung - невоспетый/незамеченных)

Fumi: You may have everyone else **fooled**, but I know the real reason for the success of this project.

Issac: What?

Fumi: You. You’ve been **working behind the scenes to bolster** the people who weren’t **up to the task**. Without you, this project would have been **sunk** months ago. (bolster - поддерживать; weren’t **up to the task -** несправились с задачей; sunk - затонувший)

Issac: That’s nonsense. (nonsense - чепуха, ерунда)

Fumi: No, it’s not. I know you don’t like the **limelight**, but you were the **linchpin** of this operation. Without you, we’d all have **egg on our faces** today. (limelight - в центре внимания; linchpin - чека, шпилька, стержень)

Issac: You’re **giving me way too much credit**. I don’t want to hear another word about it. (вы слишком много мне доверяете)

Fumi: I’m not surprised at your reaction. Most **unsung heroes** like **to keep a low profile**. (low profile - оставаться в тени)

Issac: What?! I’m **nothing of the kind**! (ничего подобного)

Fumi: Yes, you are. You’re far too **modest**. And soon, I won’t be the only one who thinks so!

Issac: What are you **proposing** to do?

Fumi: Don’t worry. I’m not planning a **ticker-tape parade**, but it’s time your contributions are **recognized** for what they are around here! (**ticker-tape parade -** парад с конфети; contribution - вклад; **recognized -** признан; for what they are around here - что он здесь)

**Category:** Business

**to fool (someone)** – to trick or deceive someone; to make someone believe something that isn’t true  
\* The salesman fooled me! I should have known the price was too good to be true.  
**to work behind the scenes** – to do something that is necessary for a project to succeed, but isn’t noticed by most people  
\* TV reporters get all the recognition, but a lot of people work behind the scenes to create those news stories.  
**to bolster** – to make something stronger; to help someone feel stronger and more confident; to improve something  
\* We need a good meal to bolster the soldiers’ strength before the next battle.  
**up to the task** – ready and prepared to do something; with the necessary qualifications and abilities to do something  
\* Being a parent is hard work. Do you really think you’re up to the task?  
**to be sunk** – to be in a position where one will fail or not be successful  
\* Now that our two best players are injured, our team is sunk.  
**limelight** – receiving a lot of attention from other people and possibly the media; at the center of everyone’s interest and attention  
\* Wendy loves the limelight. I wouldn’t be surprised if she becomes a famous actress.  
**linchpin** – the most important person or thing in a group; the person or thing that everyone and everything else depends on for success  
\* That policy was the linchpin of her presidency.  
**to have egg on (one’s) face** – to be embarrassed publicly; to be in a position where one appears to be stupid or foolish, or where one’s actions appear to have been stupid or foolish  
\* If tomorrow’s conference doesn’t go well, we’ll all have egg on our face.  
**to give (someone) too much credit** – to praise someone too much; to give someone too many compliments; to believe that someone has done more work than he or she actually has  
\* We know Janik did a good job, but it seems like you’re giving him too much credit. A lot of his success was just due to luck.  
**unsung hero** – a person who makes an important contribution to a successful project, but is not recognized for his or her work  
\* The police department is planning a ceremony to honor the unsung heroes who are doing good work in the community.  
**to keep a low profile** – to do something in a way so that one will not be noticed by other people; to not want to have other people’s attention  
\* The boss can be really strict, but if you do your work well and keep a low profile, you shouldn’t have any trouble.  
**nothing of the kind** – not at all an example of what one has just been talking about; a phrase used to strongly deny something  
\* A: You’re one of the best painters in the world.  
\* B: I’m nothing of the kind. I know a lot of better painters than me.  
**modest** – humble; not wanting to talk about one’s skills or abilities; not wanting to say that one does something better than another person  
\* Seung is so modest. You’d never know he’s such a great pianist, because he makes it sound like he can play only the easiest songs.  
**to propose** – to suggest; to present an idea for what should be done, how, and when  
\* Ali proposes that we increase profits by raising prices, but other people don’t think that will work.  
**ticker-tape parade** – a parade held in a downtown area to honor a person by throwing confetti (many small pieces of paper) down from building windows as he or she walks by below  
\* One of the first ticker-tape parades occurred in 1886 when the Statue of Liberty was dedicated.  
**to recognize** – to realize that something is important or noteworthy; to realize that something has certain characteristics  
\* The mayor is going to recognize Sheryl as the city’s teacher of the year.  
  
**The verb “to fool,”** means to trick or deceive someone, or to make someone believe something that isn’t true:

“How did you fool your little brother into giving you all his candy?”

**The phrase “to fool (oneself)”** is used to talk about making oneself believe something that isn’t true:

“If you think you can eat all this junk food and still lose weight, you’re fooling yourself.”

**The phrase “you could have fooled me”** is used when one does not believe what another person has said:

“You talk about wanting to be a better person, but you could have fooled me. I’ve seen what you do when you think nobody is looking.”

**the phrase “to fool around”** can mean to have a sexual relationship with someone who is married or in another serious relationship:

“When Annie caught Max fooling around with his secretary, she filed for divorce.”  
  
**the phrase “to be sunk”** means to be in a position where one will fail or not be successful:

“If I can’t find a job and start making some money soon, our family will be sunk.”

**The phrase “sink or swim”** refers to a situation where one must learn to do something very quickly, without help from other people, or have a lot of problems:

“Kevin became president of the company almost overnight, and it was sink or swim, because nobody there could tell him how to do the job.”

**The phrase “a sinking feeling”** refers to one’s realization that something bad will happen: “I have a sinking feeling we’re going to run out of gas before we get to the next gas station.”

Daily English 681 - Disagreeing about Religion (Несогласие)

Jim: You know that **religion** is a **taboo** subject, especially with Paul. Why were you **baiting him** all through dinner? (baiting - травил; bait - приманка )

Tammy: I wasn’t baiting him. We have very different views on **spirituality** and I wanted to discuss the subject with him. (spirituality - духовность)

Jim: You were making **disparaging remarks** about his **faith** and some of the things he holds most **sacred**. I think you were trying to be **provocative**. (disparage диспариж - унижать/пренебрегать; remark - замечание; sacred - сэкрид - священный; provocative - провакэтив - провокационный)

Tammy: I may have said a few things that were provocative, but I don’t understand how people can believe in **superstitions**. (superstition - супэстишен - суеверие)

Jim: **There you go again**! People’s religious beliefs shouldn’t be called superstitions. (belief бэлиф вера/убеждение)

Tammy: I’m just **calling it like I see it**. I didn’t know you were such a **fundamentalist**. (фундаменталист - буквальное толкование Священного Писания в религии)

Jim: I’m not a fundamentalist. In fact, I’m an **atheist**, or at least an **agnostic**, but I still try to show respect for other people’s beliefs.

Tammy: Beliefs are made to be challenged. If you can’t **defend** your beliefs, you shouldn’t have them.

Jim: Ladies and gentlemen, **behold** the voice of **tolerance**. (behold созерцать, узрите голос терпимости)

**Category:** Daily Life|Government + Law

**Glossary**  
**religion** – a system of belief about the origins and purpose of life, including the ceremonies and rituals that are connected with it  
\* Becca was raised as a Christian, but lately she has been studying other religions, such as Buddhism and Jainism.  
**taboo** – something that is unacceptable in a particular culture or society and should not be spoken about  
\* Whenever Melina’s family gets together, they never talk about her drinking problem, because it’s a taboo subject in their family.  
**to bait (someone)** – to say certain things to try to get a strong reaction from someone, especially by making him or her become angry  
\* Just ignore him! He’s only baiting you because he wants to see you get angry in front of the manager.  
**spirituality** – interest in and beliefs about the origin and meaning of life and religion  
\* Dag has started reading a lot about spirituality, because he wants to understand what happens after we die.  
**disparaging remark** – something one says to show that one does not think someone or something is good or important  
\* Why does your mother always make so many disparaging remarks about how your sister dresses?  
**faith** – a belief in something that cannot be seen or felt  
\* Tiffany’s faith was tested when a lot of bad things started happening to her family.  
**sacred** – holy; related to a god or religion  
\* Which books are sacred in your religion?  
**provocative** – done to make other people become angry or upset, or to have a strong reaction  
\* I just finished reading a provocative book about racism.  
**superstition** – a belief that something is lucky or unlucky  
\* Do you believe in the superstition that walking under a ladder is bad luck?  
**there you go again** – a phrase used to emphasize that one has just done exactly what one was denying or promising not to do again  
\* Yolanda, you promised to manage your money better this year, but now there you go again, needing to ask your parents to help you pay your bills.  
**to call (something) like (one) sees it** – to provide one’s true opinion without softening it at all, even though one knows other people might become upset by what one says  
\* For years we’ve avoided talking about politics whenever Grandpa visited, but from now on, I’m just going to call it like I see it, even if it upsets him.  
**fundamentalist** – someone who follow religious laws very strictly and believes everything in the holy books is true  
\* Christian fundamentalists believe the world was created in just seven 24-hours days.  
**atheist** – a person who does not believe in God; a person who denies the existence of God  
\* Marcus is an atheist who believes that after we die, our spirit just stops existing and there is no life after death.  
**agnostic** – a person who does not know whether or not God exists; a person who believes it is not possible to know whether God exists  
\* Sue doesn’t follow any major religions, but she thinks it’s possible that God exists, so she calls herself an agnostic.  
**to defend** – to protect someone or something from attack; to say or do things to show that something is true or good when someone else is confronting it  
\* How can you defend the actions of a murderer?  
**behold** – a word used to draw attention to something, often in a funny way  
\* Behold! I have created a five-course gourmet meal for us to eat tonight.  
**tolerance** – a willingness to let other people do, say, and believe what they want without feeling the need to criticize or change them  
\* Not everyone shares our beliefs, so we need to learn tolerance if we’re going to succeed in life.  
  
**The phrase “to bait (someone)”** in this podcast, means to say certain things to try to get a strong reaction from someone, especially by making him or her become angry:

“Do you think she really believes those things, or was she just saying those things to bait you?”

**The phrase “to rise to the bait”** means to react strongly to what someone is saying when he or she is trying to make one angry:

“He’s trying to make you mad. Don’t rise to the bait.”

“Bait” is the small piece of food or other object used to attract a fish or animal so that one can catch it:

“Would worms or bugs be better bait for catching salmon?”

**The phrase “to bait”** means to put a piece of bait on a hook or in a trap:

“Careful you don’t hurt your finger when you bait the hook.”  
  
**In this podcast, the word “faith”** means a belief in something that cannot be seen or felt:

“Sandra’s deep faith in God guides all her actions and decisions.”

**The phrase “faith healing”** refers to the ability to make a person healthy without using medicine, asking God to take away the illness or injury:

“Pentecostals believe in faith healing.”

**The word “faith”** can also refer to the feeling of confidence and trust that one has in another person:

“You can have faith in me. I won’t let you down.”

**The phrase “in good faith”** means with true and honest intentions:

“I signed that agreement in good faith, without realizing how risky it would be.”

Daily English 682 - Minor Medical Injuries

Cherise: **Rise and shine**! Isn’t it a lovely day? I love **getting back to nature**. There’s nothing like going **camping**. How did you sleep? (There’s nothing like going camping - Нет ничего лучше похода)

Evan: That was the most **miserable** night of my life! (miserable-несчастный)

Cherise: Really? What happened?

Evan: I woke up in the middle of the night and thought I heard a bear. I got up, **stubbed my toe**, and **tripped**. I have **scratches** all over my arms, not to mention these **bruises** on my legs. See? (stubbed my toe - ушиб палец ноги; tripped - путешествие/споткнулся/падение; scratche царапать)

Cherise: Oh, don’t you know that there aren’t any bears this late in the year?

Evan: How should I have known that? This was my first time camping.

Cherise: All right. Why are you holding your neck like that?

Evan: I couldn’t get comfortable at all sleeping on the ground. I woke up with a **crick in my neck**. (crick растянуть мышцу)

Cherise: Stop moving around like that or you’ll really hurt yourself.

Evan: Oh, I have a **cramp** in my shoulder! It hurts! (cramp - судорога)

Cherise: I told you not **to twist** around like that. Just let it **work itself out**. (twist around - вертеться)

Evan: All of this had to happen to me after getting **a stitch in my side** and a **charley horse** hiking five miles yesterday. I’ve **had it**! I’m going back to **civilization**. (stitch боль/стежок/шов/петля; charley horse - спазмы в мышцах ног; hiking - пеший туризм)

Cherise: How are you getting there?

Evan: What do you mean? I’m walking.

Cherise: Without food or water? You’d better wait for me or you may end up bear **bait** after all! (bait - приманка)

**Category:** Health + Medicine

**Glossary**  
**rise and shine** – wake up; it’s time to get up  
\* Rise and shine! It’s time to get out of bed and get ready for school.  
**to get back to nature** – to spend time outdoors and experience a feeling of harmony with the natural world  
\* I wish we could get back to nature without dealing with bugs  
**to go camping** – to spend time outdoors, sleeping in a sleeping bag or in a tent  
\* When we go camping, we usually sit around a big fire at night.  
**miserable** – very unpleasant and uncomfortable; something one does not want to repeat because one suffered while doing it  
\* Daniel was miserable the whole time he had the flu.  
**to stub (one’s) toe** – to hit one’s foot against something by accident, causing pain  
\* The kids forgot to clean up their toys last night, so I stubbed my toe against their toy cars when I walked to the bathroom in the dark.  
**to trip** – to fall or almost fall when one hits something with one’s foot  
\* Watch where you’re going, or you might trip over this uneven pavement.  
**scratch** – a long, thin, shallow line cut into one’s skin so that a little bit of blood appears  
\* Did you get those scratches on your arm from playing with the cat?  
**bruise** – a large, discolored area on one’s skin, often blue, brown, or purple, caused by hitting part of one’s body against something, usually by accident  
\* Kaitlin has a bruise from where she was hit by a baseball.  
**crick in (one’s) neck** – an uncomfortable feeling in the muscles on the side of one’s neck, often affecting one’s ability to turn one’s head  
\* They bought a new mattress, hoping that it would prevent James from getting a crick in his neck.  
**cramp** – a feeling of pain caused by a muscle that will not relax  
\* After paddling the canoe all morning, Sheila had a horrible cramp in her arm.  
**to twist** – to rotate something in one direction  
\* When you play tennis, try not to twist your wrist as you swing the racket.  
**to work itself out** – for a problem to fix itself; for something bad to correct itself without needing help  
\* The project is behind schedule, but I’m sure everything will work itself out by next week.  
**a stitch in (one’s) side** – a pain felt on the side of one’s body between one’s hip and arm, often cause by doing too much of a physical activity, especially running  
\* Whenever I run for more than one mile, I get a stitch in my side.  
**charley horse** – a painful cramp in a large muscle, especially in one’s leg  
\* If you don’t stretch before exercising, you’re more likely to get a charley horse.  
**to have had it** – to be very tired of something or frustrated with something and not want to do or have any more of it  
\* I get so many spam messages in this email account that I’ve had it! I’m going to open a new account with a different company.  
**civilization** – a place and time where people live together, often in cities, following certain societal rules and ways of behaving and enjoying certain technologies and comforts  
\* The Harveys try to escape civilization at least once a year, staying in a cabin in the woods without electricity or running water.  
**bait** – a small piece of food or something sweet used to attract an animal, often so that one can catch it  
\* Do you think cheese or peanut butter would be better bait for this mousetrap?  
  
**The verb “to camp,”** in this podcast, means to spend time outdoors, sleeping in a sleeping bag or in a tent:

“Do you want to go camping this weekend?”

**A “camp”** is a place where young people go for a period of time during vacations from school:

“Melba wants to go to tennis camp.”

**A “day camp”** is a camp that has activities for children only during the day, so that the children go home at night:

“Sofia is too young for summer camp, but her parents enrolled her in a day camp instead.”

**A “fat camp”** is a camp where overweight people learn how to eat better and exercise more:

“Coco lost more than 20 pounds at fat camp last summer, and we hardy recognized him!”

**Finally, a “concentration camp”** is a place where prisoners are treated very badly:

“Have you read about the Auschwitz concentration camp?”  
  
In this podcast, **the verb “to twist”** means to rotate something in one direction:

“Felipe twisted his head to see what was happening in the row of seats behind him.”

**The phrase “to twist (one’s) wrist/ankle”** means to move one’s body part in a way that causes an injury: “Linnae twisted her ankle when she tripped over the hole, and now she needs to make an appointment with her doctor.”

**The phrase “to twist (someone’s) arm”** means to persuade or convince someone to do something he or she does not want to do:

“If you want to go get some ice cream, just say so! You don’t need to twist my arm!”

**Finally, the phrase “to twist the knife in the wound”** means to do something that makes a situation worse, or to hurt someone more than he or she is already hurting:

“I already feel bad about what happened, so anything you say will just twist the knife in the wound.”

Daily English 683 - Using a Video-Sharing Website

Melissa: You’re looking at the next **overnight sensation**. I’m **uploading** my video right now, and by this time tomorrow, I wouldn’t be surprised if it’s had over 100,000 **views**. It’s going **to go viral**. (sensation - сенсейшен сенсация, 100,000 one hundred thousand, viral вайрел популярный/вирусный)

Frank: You and your **amateur** videos. Who is going to watch something with such low **production** **value**? (amateur - амэте любитель; production value - стоимость производства)

Melissa: You’d be surprised. I have my own **channel** on YouGube, with over 5,000 **subscribers**.

Frank: Are you sure that’s not because your **username** is AngelinaJolie?

Melissa: No, it’s because people enjoy my videos, mark them as their **favorites**, and **share** them with their friends. **Word of mouth** – that’s why I’m so **popular**. (Word of mouth - из уст в уста)

Frank: But what about the **comments** on your videos? How many of those are positive and how many are negative?

Melissa: I don’t read the comments. I assume they’re all positive, and my videos have never been **flagged**. (flagged флэгд отмеченный флагом)

Frank: All right, so is this another video of you dancing with your cat?

Melissa: No, my cat and I are dancing and singing. That’s why we’re both going to be **the next big thing**. (the next big thing - следующая вещь, которая будет очень популярна)

Frank: Right, I’ll get in line right now to buy tickets to your **upcoming** Vegas show. (Я встану в очередь прямо сейчас).

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports|Technology

**Glossary**  
**overnight sensation** – something that becomes very popular among many people very quickly, without anyone having been aware of it previously  
\* Every time we introduce a new product, we hope it becomes an overnight sensation.  
**to upload** – to move a file from a single computer to the Internet or a network of computers where it can be accessed by many different users  
\* To make a photo calendar, first you need to upload your favorite photographs to this website.  
**view** – one instance of someone visiting a particular website, seeing a particular image, or watching a particular video  
\* This video has been getting about 10,000 views each day.  
**to go viral** – for something to become very popular online and be shared with many people by being sent electronically via email and social networking sites  
\* Advertising agencies dream of producing ads that can go viral.  
**amateur** – not professional; without polished skills for doing something; doing something as a hobby or just for fun, but not as one’s career  
\* During the day, Drake is a dentist, but in the evenings he’s an amateur DJ for the local radio station.  
**production value** – the quality of a video or movie, often referring to the sharpness of the image, the clarity of the sound, and the sophistication of the editing and special effects  
\* If we’re going to improve the production value of these videos, we’ll need to invest in some better video cameras.  
**channel** – station; one group of programs that are created or gathered by a single person or company and shared via television, the radio, or the Internet  
\* They’re planning to get a satellite dish so they can watch hundreds of TV channels.  
**subscriber** – someone who has signed up and/or paid to receive copies of something, especially of a newspaper or magazine  
\* How many subscribers does this magazine have?  
**username** – the short word or phrase used to identify a particular user for an online account or discussion forum  
\* Do you create a different username for each of your online accounts, or do you try to use a single username for everything?  
**favorite** – a website or video that one likes and has put on a special list to make it easier to find again in the future and recommend to other people  
\* If you save websites in your favorites folder, you can just click on them when you want to visit them again, without needing to retype the URL.  
**to share** – to send or give something to another person so that he or she will become aware of it and enjoy it as one continues to enjoy it oneself  
\* If you win the lottery, will you share the money with me?  
**word of mouth** – the process of sharing information by telling other people about something orally, not in writing  
\* The new restaurant is surprisingly popular, considering that it doesn’t pay for any advertising and instead relies only on word of mouth.  
**popular** – being liked and admired by many people  
\* Which will be the most popular TV shows this spring?  
**comment** – remark; something that is written to express one’s opinion about something, especially online  
\* How often do you leave comments on blogs?  
**flagged** – marked as something that has broken the rules or is questionable or unusual in some way  
\* If any of the payment transactions are flagged as being suspicious, make sure the money is received before you mail out the order.  
**the next big thing** – the next trend or fad; the next thing that will become extremely popular and well-known among many people  
\* They’ve invested all their money in hydrothermal power, hoping it will become the next big thing.  
**upcoming** – happening in the near future; anticipated  
\* Are you ready for the upcoming conference?

**The word “view,”** in this podcast, means one instance of someone visiting a particular website, seeing a particular image, or watching a particular video:

“Some of the most popular videos have more than one million views.”

**A “view”** can also be one’s opinion:

“What’s your view on the new legislation?”

**The word “view”** can also refer to what one is able to see:

“Would we need to pay more for a room with a view of the ocean?”

**The formal phrase “in view of (something)”** means considering something, especially when explaining one’s reasons for doing something:

“In view of the problems in the housing market, the government is creating programs to help people pay their mortgage.”

**Finally, the phrase “with a view to (something)”** means with a plan to do something in the future:

“He’s studying biochemistry with a view to applying to medical schools next year.”  
  
**In this podcast, the phrase “to be flagged”** means to be marked as something that has broken the rules or is questionable or unusual in some way:

“His travel plans were flagged as suspicious and potentially terrorism-related.”

**The phrase “to flag (someone) down”** means to move one’s hands in the air to make a car stop:

“When their car broke down on the freeway, they had to pull over and try to flag down someone who could help them.”

**The phrase “flag-waving”** refers to very strong, extreme feelings of patriotism or a love for one’s country:

“Do you think she really believes in all that flag-waving, or is she just doing it to win the election?”

**Finally, the verb “to flag”** can also mean to lose strength and become tired:

“After the 12th mile of the marathon, Chenalise really started to flag.”

Daily English 684 - Asking for Information About a Coworker

Amina: What’s the **lowdown** on the new guy? (lowdown - подноготная)

Earl: Which new guy?

Amina: You know, the cute one. **Fill me in**. Is he single? (Заполните меня)

Earl: I don’t know. I have no idea.

Amina: You’re working with him side-by-side and you haven’t **gleaned** any personal information about him? (glean - глин - собирать)

Earl: We talk about work. It’s not my job **to pry** into his personal life. (pry - прай - подглядывать)

Amina: I need to get **the scoop** on Mr. Perfect and you’re my **source**. (scoop - скуп - совок/сенсация)

Earl: You don’t know anything about him, so how do you know he’s perfect? Maybe when you get to know him, you’ll find out he’s a **selfish**, **self-centered jerk**. (selfish - эгоистичный, self-centered - эгоцентричный)

Amina: Wait, **catch me up** on what’s going on here. Have other people asked you about him? (catch me up - поймай меня)

Earl: Yeah, maybe about a dozen of the women in this office. They’ve been **bombarding** me with questions. (dozen - дюжина)

Amina: Oh, sorry. I didn’t know.

Earl: Yeah, I’m not the guy’s **social secretary**. You women have **to satisfy your own curiosity** elsewhere.

Amina: **Point taken**, but do you know if he’s **shown interest in** any of the dozen women you’ve talked to? (Point taken - дело принято)

Earl: Ugh! (Ugh - аг - ух/фу/тьфу)

**Category:** Business|Relationships + Family

**Glossary**  
**lowdown** – the interesting, possibly secret information about someone or something  
\* When I asked Eiko for the lowdown on the business deal, she refused to tell me anything.  
**to fill (someone) in** – to give someone the information he or she wants or needs  
\* Is it true that Hinton asked you out on a date? Fill me in!  
**to glean** – to learn something or find something out indirectly, without asking about it directly  
\* Have you been able to glean any information about their budget range for the project?  
**to pry** – to ask personal, obtrusive questions about things that should be private, secret, or confidential  
\* I don’t mean to pry, but how old are you?  
**the scoop** – all the most important information about something, especially when it is a secret  
\* What’s the scoop on why the politician really resigned from his job?  
**source** – the person who provides information on a particular topic; where information comes from  
\* The teacher was impressed with Josephina’s report because she used several good and reliable sources, unlike her classmates.  
**selfish** – caring only about one’s own happiness or comfort, and not caring about other people  
\* Samantha is so selfish! She never shares anything with anyone.  
**self-centered** – thinking only about oneself and how something will affect oneself or what will benefit oneself  
\* Bryan is so self-centered. He probably thinks the world was created just for him!  
**jerk** – a rude, uncaring, thoughtless person whom one does not like  
\* What a jerk! I can’t believe he wouldn’t open the door for you.  
**to catch (someone) up** – to give someone the information he or she needs in order to know as much about something as everyone else does  
\* I had to step out of the room for a minute, but please catch me up. What did you guys talk about while I was gone?  
**to bombard** – to ask someone many questions very quickly  
\* Ever since they sent out that press release last week, they’ve been bombarded with phone calls from reporters.  
**social secretary** – a person who schedules another person’s personal (not professional) meetings and dates  
\* How many social secretaries does the U.S. President have?  
**to satisfy (one’s) own curiosity** – to find the answers to one’s questions by oneself; to discover the things one wants to know without help from other people  
\* Marissa has always been fascinated by Southeast Asia, so she decided to satisfy her own curiosity by taking a trip to Thailand.  
**point taken** – an informal phrase used to mean that one understands and agrees with what another person has just said  
\* - I really dislike the way you chew with your mouth open.  
\* - Point taken. I’ll try to stop doing it.  
**to show interest in** – to be interested in someone or something, especially to be interested in starting a romantic relationship  
\* When Vinny started showing interest in the trombone, his parents signed him up for music lessons.  
  
**The phrase “to fill (someone) in,”** in this podcast, means to give someone the information he or she wants or needs:

“What happened here? Please fill me in.”

**The phrases “to fill (something) out” or “to fill in the blanks”** mean to complete a form by providing information where it is requested:

“Please fill out this medical questionnaire before you see the doctor.”

**The phrase “to fill out”** means for a young person’s body to change and become more like an adult body:

“Rebecca really filled out over the summer, and now she is a young lady.”

**Finally, the phrase “to fill up”** can mean to eat too much of something:

“They filled up on bread while waiting for their food, and they were not able to eat much of what they had ordered.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to catch (someone) up”** means to give someone the information he or she needs in order to know as much about something as everyone else does:

“Could someone please catch us up on what happened last week?”

**The phrase “to catch up with (someone)”** means to go somewhere quickly so that one reaches another person who started earlier:

“I have to work late, so I won’t be able to join you for dinner, but I’ll try to catch up with you for a movie afterwards.”

**The phrase “to catch up”** means to become reacquainted with someone, talking about everything that has happened since the last time two people saw each other:

“It’s so good to see you again! Let’s catch up over coffee.”

Daily English 685 - Getting Feedback on Writing

Xica: I just got my paper back from Professor Rodriguez and it’s all **marked up**. (marked up - размечена)

Lucas: Let me see. It doesn’t look too bad. This is a **draft**, right? His note at the top says to make **revisions** before handing in a final version (что нужно внести изменения, прежде чем сдавать окончательную версию). He’s trying to help you get a better grade.

Xica: Maybe, but there’s nothing he likes about the essay. Look at all of those **comments** in the **margins** (поля). He **underlined** the entire **introduction** and wrote “**run-on sentence**” next to it. (run-on sentence – длинное предложение, лучше разбить на несколько предложений).

Lucas: That’s easy to fix, and it is a run-on sentence, you know.

Xica: And in the **body**, he wrote that I had no **transitions** (переходы; слова для плавного чтения текста: in addition, moreover) and that my arguments weren’t **well supported**.

Lucas: Well, transitions are easy to put in and you just need **to cite** a few more **sources** -- that’s all.

Xica: Yeah, but that’s not all. Next to the **conclusion**, he wrote that I didn’t properly **summarize** my main points. See what I mean? There’s nothing he likes about this essay.

Lucas: I think you should take the **constructive criticism** as it’s meant (как это имеется в виду) – to help you.

Xica: It’s easy for you to say. You’re done with college. It’s kind of **demoralizing** to get your paper back all marked up (с пометками).

Lucas: True, but you forget that I have my own **battle wounds** (боевые раны) – lots of them!

**Category:** Daily Life|Education

**Glossary**  
**marked up** – edited; revised; corrected, usually by drawing lines and comments in red ink  
\* The professor marked up Jim’s essay because he used the passive voice instead of the active voice.  
**draft** – an initial version of a written document that needs to be reviewed and edited one or more times before it is finished  
\* How many drafts did you go through before you had the final version?  
**revision** – edit; a suggested change to improve a written document  
\* Most of these revisions focus on sentence structure and word choice.  
**comment** – a written opinion about something or additional information about something, usually written for the consideration of the original author  
\* Most of the comments were positive, but some people really disliked the third paragraph.  
**margin** – the white space at the top, bottom, and right- and left-hand sides of a page; the white space around printed text  
\* The teacher asked us to use one-inch margins for our homework assignment.  
**to underline** – to draw a thin line underneath text, usually for emphasis  
\* This style guide says we should underline the titles of books and put the titles of songs in italics.  
**introduction** – the first paragraph(s) of an essay, used to present the subject of the entire essay and let readers know how the rest of the essay is structured  
\* The introduction should be interesting enough to catch the readers’ attention and get them interested in what is coming next.  
**run-on sentence** – a sentence that is very long, usually because it uses “and,” “or,” and “but” too many times, and would be better if separated into two or more smaller sentences  
\* Run-on sentences can be very difficult to understand. Try expressing the same ideas in two to three shorter sentences instead.  
**body** – the main part of an essay, usually the paragraphs between the introduction and conclusion  
\* You should use the body of your essay to provide detail and include supporting statistics.  
**transition** – a word or short phrase used between sentences or between paragraphs to make the writing smoother and help readers follow the flow of ideas  
\* “Additionally,” “in addition,” “moreover,” and “furthermore” are all transitions that have the same meaning.  
**well supported** – with a lot of proof or evidence; with a convincing or persuasive reason to believe something  
\* Janey’s essay about the need to eat more fruits and vegetables was well supported by statistics from the American Medical Association.  
**to cite** – to refer to what is written in another document or what has been said by an expert in order to support one’s own argument or idea  
\* If you cite an encyclopedia in your essay, be sure to include the page number.  
**source** – the book, article, or interview where a particular piece of information comes from, especially when referring to that information in one’s writing  
\* Most students know that a peer-reviewed scientific journal article is a much better source than a webpage found on Wikipedia.  
**conclusion** – the final paragraph(s) in an essay, used to restate one’s main argument or idea, briefly referring to the main ideas that were included in the body of the essay  
\* Make sure your conclusion refers back to the main ideas you discussed throughout your essay.  
**to summarize** – to state the main points or main ideas of a larger document, usually in just a few sentences  
\* Our homework assignment is to summarize the novel in just one paragraph.  
**constructive criticism** – advice that is meant to help someone improve something by showing him or her what is wrong with it  
\* At first, I was hurt by Quinton’s constructive criticism, but then I realized he was just trying to help me.  
**demoralizing** – frustrating and depressing; making one feel like one shouldn’t try to do something because one is very bad at it or because it won’t be successful  
\* The company’s president has been announcing budget cuts every week for the past three months, and it is very demoralizing for the employees.  
**battle wound** – something that happened to one in the past and was difficult or painful, and that one remembers clearly, but is no longer difficult or painful and has actually made someone stronger in some way  
\* They’ve been happily married for more than 30 years, and they often laugh when talking about their battle wounds from the first few difficult years of marriage.

**The word “comment,”** in this podcast, means a written opinion about something or additional information about something, usually written for the consideration of the original author:

“Please send me your comments by Friday, and we’ll have a new version for your review by next Wednesday.”

**The phrase “for comment”** means for review:

“Send this report to the managers for comment.”

**A “comment”** can also be one’s opinion or critique about something:

“This novel is an interesting comment on race relations in the 1960s.”

**Finally, the phrase “no comment”** is used when one is being asked many questions by reporters and does not want to respond or be quoted:

“Is it true you stole $3 million from the company?” “No comment.”  
  
**In this podcast, the word “margin”** means the white space at the top, bottom, and right- and left-hand sides of a page, or the white space around printed text:

“Young tried to make his essay seem longer by using a large font and very big margins.”

**A “margin”** is also the amount by which something wins or loses, or exceeds a certain minimum amount:

“The team is expected to win by a 15-point margin.” Or,

“What kind of profit margins do you anticipate for the company next year?”

**When talking about statistics, the “margin of error”** reflects how likely it is that the actual number will be different than the calculated number:

“Does this poll have a large margin of error?”

## Daily English 686 - Roles Within a Family

Larissa: I’m really nervous about meeting your family.

Vince: You don’t need to be. They’ll love you and you’ll **fit right in**. (fit right in - подойдет)

Larissa: Okay, but I want to make sure I know everyone I’ll be meeting. Your Grandmother Celine is the **matriarch** of the family and your Uncle Nick is the **black sheep** of the family, is that right? (matriarch мэтриак матриарх/родительница) (black sheep - someone who is a failure and an embarrassment to relatives / тот, кто является неудачником и позором для родственников)

Vince: That’s right, but none of us **let on** that Uncle Nick is considered the **prodigal son**. He was really **rebellious** when he was young and left home when he was 17. He came back 15 years later, but nobody really knows what happened during that time. He’s always been a little **eccentric**. (but none of us let on - но никто из нас не говорит) (let on - делать вид) (prodigal – продигал - блудный) (rebellious - мятежный) (eccentric – эксцентрик/ чудак/оригинал)

Larissa: I’ll be sure **to steer clear of** Uncle Nick, in that case. Let’s see, you told me that he is the oldest and your Aunt Sue is the **baby** of the family. Where does your Aunt Lily **come in**? (to steer clear of- держаться подальше от) (baby - the youngest child; the youngest sibling) (come in - появляется)

Vince: She’s the **middle child** and is always the **scapegoat** for anything that goes wrong. At least that’s what my grandfather has told me all these years. (scapegoat – скейпгоут - козел отпущения)

Larissa: That’s your Grandfather Albert, the **patriarch** of the family, right? (patriarch – петриак – патриарх/лидер семьи)

Vince: Yes, you’ve got it. I’m **impressed** you remembered so much about my family.

Larissa: If I’m walking into the **lion’s den**, then I want to be prepared. (den – дэн - логово)

Vince: Don’t think of it that way. They’re all going to love you.

Larissa: **Famous last words**! (фраза неверия/несогласия)

**Category:** About You|Relationships + Family

**Glossary**  
**to fit right in** – to become part of a group, usually because one has many things in common with the other members; to be welcomed in a warm, friendly way into a group of people  
\* If you enjoy playing chess, you’ll fit right in with the school’s Chess Club.  
**matriarch** – the female leader of a family or of a larger group of people; the older woman who controls a family or group  
\* Everyone gathers in the matriarch’s house for important holidays.  
**black sheep** – someone who is a failure and an embarrassment to relatives  
\* Everyone else in the family is a doctor, lawyer, scientist, or engineer, but poor Ricky has always been the black sheep, never having success in any of his work.  
**prodigal son** – a son who spends a lot of money and does things the family does not approve of, but later returns to the family and is welcomed with love  
\* Their family refers to the oldest child as the prodigal son, because he traveled internationally for several years and spent all of his inheritance, but then came back older and wiser.  
**rebellious** – referring to someone who does not want to accept authority, follow the rules, or do what one is supposed to do or what one is told to do  
\* In-Young was very rebellious as a teenager and never did anything his parents wanted him to do.  
  
**eccentric** – with very strange, unusual ideas and behaviors, very different from those of other people  
\* Professor Maser is a little eccentric, always wearing a top hat and a bowtie, and refusing to shake hands with anyone.  
**to steer clear of** – to stay away from someone or something; to not interact with someone or something  
\* The doctor said that we should be able to avoid stomach problems by steering clear of spicy food.  
**baby** – the youngest child; the youngest sibling  
\* Now that their baby is about to graduate from high school, they’re trying to prepare to live alone, without their children.  
**to come in** – to be included in something; to be considered as a part of something  
\* You’ve talked a lot about how the decision will affect you, but where do your husband’s feelings come in?  
**middle child** – the second of three children in a family; a person who has one older sibling and one younger sibling  
\* As a middle child, Jean-Marie never felt he received enough attention from his parents.  
**scapegoat** – a person who is blamed for problems or bad things that happen, especially when he or she did not really cause it  
\* Wayne was fired after profits fell, but it wasn’t really his fault. The company used him as a scapegoat.  
**patriarch** – the male leader of a family or of a larger group of people; the older man who controls a family or group  
\* When Grandpa Schmidt passes away, who will become the new family patriarch?  
**impressed** – affected or influenced in a particular way by what one has seen, heard, or experienced, usually in a positive way  
\* Wow! I’m really impressed by how quickly you’ve learned the language!  
**lion’s den** – a scary, intimidating place where there is some danger, but one must go there anyway  
\* Participating in a panel interview often feels like entering the lion’s den.  
**famous last words** – a phrase used to express one’s disbelief or disagreement with what another person has just said  
\* - This old bridge is safe. Nothing bad can happen if we use it.  
\* - Famous last words!

**The phrase “to let on,”** in this podcast, means to let someone know something, or to give an indication of one’s thoughts or feelings:

“Even though her marriage was falling apart, she never let on at work, so none of her co-workers knew what was happening until she filed for divorce.”

**The phrase “to let (someone) down”** means to disappoint someone, usually by not doing something:

“He was supposed to meet us here at 3:00 to help us move, but he really let us down.”

**The phrase “to let (someone) down gently”** means to give someone bad news in the nicest way possible:

“When you break up with her, please let her down gently.”

**Finally, the phrase “to let (one’s) hair down”** means to relax and have fun:

“After working really hard for the past two months, we’re all ready to take some vacation and let our hair down.”  
  
**In this podcast, the word “baby”** means the youngest child or the youngest sibling in a family:

“Even though Egret is 56 years old, his mother still talks about ‘her baby’.”

**The word “baby”** is also used as a term of affection for someone whom one loves:

“Baby, do you want to see a movie tonight?”

**Some people use the word “baby”** to refer to someone who is acting in a silly, childish way:

“Don’t be such a baby! The power went out, but there’s nothing to be afraid of.”

**Finally, the word “baby”** can be used to describe vegetables that are eaten when they are much smaller than normal:

“He always eats a couple baby carrots with his lunch.” Or,

“This baby asparagus is so tender and delicious!”  
  
Old television shows like Leave It to Beaver “portrayed” (showed) this ideal American family and home. More modern television shows are more likely to focus on “dysfunctional” (not working property) American families.

## Daily English 687 - Shopping for a Television

Byung: **This is what I’m talking about**! It’s time **to upgrade** to a **big-screen TV** and this is the perfect place to buy one.

Nelly: They certainly have a large **selection**. These new TVs have **pictures** that are much **sharper** than our current one.

Byung: There’s no **comparison**. These new TVs have a much better **resolution**. Just look at the **brightness** and the **contrast**! Our old TV looks **washed out** by comparison. (washed out – без ярких цветов)

Nelly: And listen to that **sound quality**. It’s like being in a movie theater with **surround sound**.

Byung: Yeah, it’s time we moved into the 21st **century**.

Nelly: According to what I’ve read, with a **viewing distance** of 10 feet, we should look for a **screen size** of about 40 inches.

Byung: I was thinking more like a 60-inch screen.

Nelly: A 60-inch TV?! That would **take up** the entire living room wall.(to take up - to occupy)

Byung: That’s exactly what I **had in mind**! (to have in mind - to want; to be thinking about)

**Category:** Shopping|Technology

**Glossary**  
**this is what I’m talking about** – a phrase used when one has found what one has been looking for or what one has been interested in for a long time  
\* Look at this video camera! Now this is what I’m talking about! Too bad it costs so much.  
**to upgrade** – to get or buy a newer, bigger, or better version of something  
\* Why don’t you upgrade your cable service to the next level, so you can have more channels?  
**big-screen TV** – a television set with a very large screen (flat surface where images are shown)  
\* Our new big-screen TV lets us see more details than we could on our old, small TV.  
**selection** – the variety of objects or options available for one to choose from, especially when deciding what to buy  
\* This store has an excellent selection of fine wines and cheeses.  
**picture** – image; the things that are seen on a television screen  
\* Seeing pictures of the destruction made us realize how powerful the hurricane was.  
**sharp** – clear, with defined lines around objects; easy to see; easy to distinguish between one or more images or things  
\* My photos are always blurry. How do you take such sharp photographs?  
**comparison** – the process of considering how two or more objects are alike or different  
\* A fair comparison of these two food mixers should include speed and quality, not just price.  
**resolution** – how detailed an image is; how easily details in an image can be seen  
\* You’ll need to give the printer a high-resolution copy of your logo before they can make your business cards.  
**brightness** – a measure of how much light comes from an electronic screen, making text easier to read and images easier to see  
\* Your laptop’s battery will last longer if you reduce the brightness of the screen.  
**contrast** – the strength of the difference between two or more objects, especially between dark and light  
\* Some photographers like to take pictures at sunrise because they think it gives their photos better contrast.  
**washed out** – dull and faded, without bright colors; a little bit hard to see; faint  
\* After years of hanging on a sunny wall, the painting has become washed out and faded.  
**sound quality** – how well recorded music or voices can be heard; a measure of how clear sounds are  
\* I really like this band’s music, but the sound quality is terrible. They need to record their music in a better studio.  
**surround sound** – with speakers on all sides of the audience, not just in front  
\* Almost all movie theaters have surround sound, because it makes people feel like the action they’re seeing is happening all around them.  
**century** – a 100-year period  
\* Do you prefer classical music from the 18th century or the 19th century?  
**viewing distance** – a measure of how much space there is between the person looking at something and the object he or she is looking at  
\* The museum increased the viewing distance for its most famous pieces of art, because the curator doesn’t want anyone to reach out and touch the art.  
**screen size** – how small or large the screen is on a television set or computer monitor  
\* Linnea’s eyes aren’t very strong, so her doctor advised buying a computer monitor with a larger screen size.  
**to take up** – to occupy; to use a certain amount of space, time, or some other resource  
\* Why did you park your car in the middle of the driveway? You’re taking up all the space and there’s nowhere for me to park.  
**to have in mind** – to want; to be thinking about  
\* First, tell us what you have in mind for the party, and then we can start talking about whether your budget is realistic.  
  
**The word “picture,”** in this podcast, means an image, or the things that are seen on a television screen:

“It’s amazing how such a tiny cell phone screen can produce such a high-quality picture!”

**A “picture”** can also refer to a drawing or photograph:

“Hal hangs his daughter’s pictures in his office, and he often looks at pictures of his daughters while he is working.”

**A “motion picture”** is a movie or film:

“Which motion picture was the first one made in color?”

**The phrase “picture-perfect”** describes something that looks exactly as it should:

“The bride wants everything to be picture-perfect for the wedding.”

**Finally,** **the phrase “to get the picture”** means to understand something:

“If I don’t find a job this week, we won’t have enough money to pay the rent and my family will become homeless. Get the picture?”  
  
**In this podcast, the phrase “to take up”** means to occupy or to use a certain amount of space, time, or some other resource:

“I didn’t realize the file would take up so much of the USB drive.”

**The phrase “to take (someone) up on (an offer)”** means to accept an offer:

“Yes, I offered to help you move, but I didn’t think you’d take me up on it!”

**The phrase “to take (someone) on”** can mean to hire someone:

“The advertising department wants to take on five new employees this year.”

**Finally, the phrase “to be taken in”** means to be tricked or fooled by someone or something:

“How could you be taken in by those images? Obviously, they had been changed with photo-editing software.”

## Daily English 688 - Ending a Business Relationship

Jerry: Who’s going **to break the news** to Tech Experts? (to break the news – плохие новости)

Camila: You mean about **pulling the plug** on using their services? (To pull the plug – закончить отношения или соглашение; to pull the plug (to unplug) – вытащить вилку)

Jerry: Yeah, the **contract** we signed with them last year is almost up, and as we decided last month, we’ll be going with another company. (Yeah (an informal way of saying yes); “To be up” – закончится, “Your time is up”)

Camila: I think we should **hold off** on telling them until after all of our current projects are done. We still have two more **in the hopper.** (“To hold off on (something)” – отложить; “in the hopper” – то над чем сейчас работают; hopper – хопэ - бункер)

Jerry: Okay, but I don’t want **to drag our feet** in telling them, even if we’re not happy with their service. As a **professional courtesy,** we should let them know soon. (“To drag your feet” – волочить ноги; courtesy - вежливость)

Camila: That may be true with other companies, but Tech Experts has really **let us down** this past year. If we didn’t have an **airtight** contract with them, we would have switched companies long ago. (“To let (someone) down” – подвела; airtight – герметичный, у контракта нет слабых мест)

Jerry: Well, maybe they’ll learn from their mistakes. After all, they’ve been in business a long time.

Camila: Yeah, but **old habits die hard.** And if you ask me, the company is **on its last legs.** **It’s only a matter** of time before they lose most of their customers, **at the rate they’re going.** (“Yeah, but old habits die hard.” – трудно исправимы; “To be on your last legs” – скоро закроется)

Jerry: I don’t know about that, but I do know one thing. It’s a good thing you’re not their **PR rep!** (“Public relations”; “Rep” stands for representative)

**Category:** Business|Technology

**to break the news** - to tell someone something he or she does not want to hear; to share bad news with someone

\* The hardest part of being a doctor is having to break the news to the family when the patient has passed away.

**to pull the plug** - to end a project, relationship, or agreement; to stop doing something

\* Why did you decide to pull the plug on the contract negotiations?

**contract** - a legal agreement; an official, written agreement

\* According to the contract, we have to pay the full amount by the 4th of each month.

**to be up** - to end; to finish on a particular date and time

\* The lease is up at the end of the summer, and then we'll need to look for new tenants.

\* Time is up. Please put down your pencil and turn in your exam

**to be up to (someone)** - means that someone can make a particular decision.

\* Do you want to sign up for a Basic or Premium Membership? It's up to you.

**to be up to (something)** - means to feel prepared to do something.

\* I don't think Harouki is up to medical school.

**to be up to doing (something)** - means to want to do something.

\* Are you up to going to the party tonight?

**to be up on (something)** - means to have a lot of knowledge or to be very well informed about something.

\* Are you up on events in the Middle East?”

to hold off on - to delay; to postpone; to wait to do something until later.

\* Please hold off on buying your airplane tickets until you're sure you are eligible for a visa to enter the country.

**in the hopper** - active; currently being used or worked on; in process.

\* Grant has published five novels, and he has two more in the hopper.

**to drag (one's) feet** - to procrastinate; to do something very slowly or later than one should.

\* If we hadn't dragged our feet this morning, we could have left work early this afternoon.

**professional courtesy** - something that one does or says in a business environment because it is nice, kind, and polite

\* As a professional courtesy, please call to tell us if you're going to arrive late.

**to let (someone) down** - to disappoint someone by not meeting expectations or by not doing what one was supposed to do

\* Pierre promised he could get $2 million in sales last year, so he really let us down by getting only $750,000.

\* I think I let my parents down by not becoming a lawyer

**to let (oneself) go** - means to stop paying attention to one's physical appearance or to stop trying to look nice.

\* After getting married, Kaitlin really let herself go, gaining almost 30 pounds.

**to let (something) go** - means to stop worry about something or to decide to forget something.

\* That happened more than 10 years ago! Why can't you just let it go?

**to let up** - means to become softer or gentler.

\* Why don't you stay here where it's warm and wait for the storm to let up?

**airtight** - completed very carefully so that there are no mistakes or errors; having no weaknesses.

\* This proposal is airtight. There's no way they won't choose us over our competitors.

**old habits die hard** - a phrase used to mean that it is difficult for people or organizations to change, and they are more likely to continue doing things as they have done them in the past, even if those ways are not very good.

\* Mariah weighs 300 pounds and she says she would like to lose weight, but old habits die hard.

on (one's) last legs - about to die or fail; very weak and worn out; almost finished.

\* The investigation is on its last legs, and if the detectives don't find a suspect soon, they're going to close the case.

**it's only a matter of time** - a phrase used to mean that something will happen in the future, although one doesn't know exactly when

\* It's only a matter of time before someone invents a car that can fly.

**at the rate (one) is going** - a phrase used to refer to how someone is acting or performing or how someone has been acting or performing in the recent past, assuming that it will not change in the future

\* At the rate they're going, they will have spent all their savings by the end of the year.

**PR rep** - a public relations representative; a person whose job is to influence how people view a particular company or organization, especially whether they think it is good or bad

\* The company hired a PR rep to help management deal with the scandal.

0689 Listening to a Political Speech

Kylie: Can you understand a word he’s saying?

Ramis: I doubt if anyone can. He’s **talking out of both sides of his mouth**. First he says he’s **fighting for the little guy**, and then he says he’s a **champion** for businesses. (talking out of both sides of his mouth – говорить противоположные вещи) (little guy – бедные люди, без власти) (champion for businesses – борец/защитник бизнеса)

Kylie: I thought he’d be different, but he’s just like any other **politician**.

Ramis: He looks **sincere,** and he sounds sincere, but when you actually listen to what he says, it’s nothing but **double-talk**. (double-talk – двойной смысл)

Kylie: You’ve got that right. I **wouldn’t trust him any farther than I could throw him**. Now what is he saying?

Ramis: He says that he can **cut** taxes and increase government services. Now how do you suppose he could **pull that off**?

Kylie: He can’t. These are just **campaign promises**. Once he gets into office, he’ll **renege** on every one of those promises. (renege – отречься от)

Ramis: Year after year it’s the same thing – broken promises and the **same old same old**. Why do we **put up with** it? (same old same old - что-то скучное, предсказуемое, унылое) (put up with it - терпеть)

Kylie: Why? I have an answer for you. Do you want **to run for office**?

Ramis: Me?! Are you kidding? **Not on your life**. (Not on your life – абсолютно не интересно)

Kylie: Right. That’s how I feel. I’m willing **to sit back** and let somebody else do the job. I guess we’ve **dug our own graves**. (to sit back – наблюдать и не быть вовлеченным)

**Category:** Daily Life|Government + Law

**to talk out of both sides of (one's) mouth** - to say different things to different people; to present different opinions about a single thing when speaking with different people.

\* Libby often talks out of both sides of her mouth, telling one person she plans to go to college while telling another person she plans to get a job.

**to fight for the little guy** - to try to improve the situation for poor or powerless people; to do or say things that will help people who do not have very much power or influence.

\* Nancy has dedicated her life to fighting for the little guy, working for nonprofit organizations that help the world's poorest people.

**champion** - someone who leads a cause; someone who is recognized by others by fighting for other people's rights or needs.

\* Who was the greatest champion for women's right to vote in American history?

**politician** - a person who works in politics; someone who works in the public sector and must be elected to his or her job.

\* If I hope to work in politics, I need to improve my public speaking skills.

**sincere** - truthful, honest, and direct, without hiding anything.

\* Please accept our sincere thanks for your hospitality.

**double-talk** - a way of speaking that can have more than one meaning, used to confuse or mislead people.

\* We won't listen to any more of your double-talk. Please answer the question.

**to not trust (someone) any farther than (one) can throw (him or her)** - a phrase used to show that one does not trust someone at all and thinks he or she is very untrustworthy and unreliable.

\* You're going to loan money to Desiree? I wouldn't trust her any farther than I can throw her, and there's no way I would lend her even a little money.

**to cut** - to reduce or decrease.

\* They're cutting expenses by taking the bus instead of driving.

**to pull (something) off** - to be able to do something successfully, especially when it seems very difficult or impossible.

\* Ahmed is a full-time student, works 30 hours a week, and takes care of his younger sister. How do you think he pulls it off?

**campaign promise** - something a politician promises to do while trying to be elected and asking people to vote for him or her.

\* One of Akihiro's campaign promises was to double funding for education, but after he was elected, he realized it would be impossible.

**to renege** - to take back a promise; to not do what one has promised to do.

\* But you promised to take him to the ballgame! You can't renege again.

**same old, same old** - referring to something that is ordinary, normal, and expected, happening the same way it has always happened.

\* A: What did your boss say when you asked him for a raise?

B: It was the same old, same old. He said there isn't room in the budget, but maybe there will be next year.

**to put up with** - to tolerate; to continue to live with something that is unpleasant or undesirable.

\* They live next to a pig farm, but I don't know how they can put up with the smell.

**to run for office** - to try to be elected for a position or job; to ask people to vote for oneself; to participate in elections as a candidate.

\* Hayashi is running for office because he thinks that's the best way he can make real changes in his community.

**not on your life** - a phrase used to show strong refusal or a complete lack of interest in doing something.

\* A: Do you want to go bungee jumping with me next weekend?

B: Not on your life! I would be too scared.

**to sit back** - to observe something, but not become involved or participate.

\* A: Aren't you going to tell the kids to stop fighting?

B: No, let's just sit back and see what happens.

The verb **“to cut,”** in this podcast, means to reduce or decrease:

“Fierce storms cut the supply of fresh oranges.”

The phrase **“to cut (someone) off”** can mean to stop providing financial support:

“His parents cut him off once he graduated from college.”

The phrase **“to cut (someone) off”** can also mean to change lanes while driving very quickly, immediately in front of another car, so that the other driver has to apply the brakes:

“Did you see how that car just cut me off? He could have caused an accident!”

The phrase **“to cut (something) short”** means to end something earlier than planned, usually before it has finished:

“The workday was cut short due to a power outage.”

Finally, the phrase **“to cut both ways”** means to have advantages and disadvantages:

“Lowering taxes can cut both ways: people have more money to spend, but there are fewer government services.”

In this podcast, the phrase **“to sit back”** means to observe something, but not become involved or participate:

“The manager wants to sit back for a few days and see what happens before making any decisions.”

The phrase **“to sit back”** can also mean to sit down and relax:

“I want a vacation where I can just sit back and relax on the beach.”

The phrase **“to sit tight”** means to not move or to not take any action:

“Please sit tight for just a few minutes and wait for your turn.”

Finally, the phrase **“to be sitting pretty”** means to be in a very good situation, comfortable and possibly with a lot of money:

“He sold his Internet business for almost $2 million, and now he's sitting pretty.”

Daily English 690 - Types of Views

Andrea: Help me decide on which type of hotel room **to book**.

George: I want the one with a bed.

Andrea: Very funny. We have a choice of different views, and each one is a different price. For instance, a room with a **city view** is $175 a night and a **panoramic view** is $275 a night.

George: $275 a night?! That’s **highway robbery**!

Andrea: If you think that’s too **steep**, there are a few other options. We can get a **courtyard** room with no view for $120 a night or a room with an **obstructed** or **peek-a-boo ocean views** for $130 a night. (steep – отвесный, крутой) (obstruct - заграждать) (peek-a-boo - подглядывание)

George: I don’t really care which type of room we get as long as we don’t **end up with** a room on the **ground floor**. I don’t like having people walking **back and forth** outside my window all night.

Andrea: Okay, I can request a room on an **upper** floor. You really don’t have a **preference**?

George: No, not really.

Andrea: There is a **penthouse** room for $400 a night.

George: What?! For that price, I’d better get a view of the Eiffel Tower, the Parthenon, and the Great Wall of China!

**Category:** Travel

**Glossary**

**to book** - to reserve; to make arrangements to have or do something at a particular date and time in the future.

\* The earlier you book your flight, the cheaper it will be.

**city view** - the ability to see the buildings in a city from a particular window or position.

\* One of the most famous city views in New York City is probably of Times Square.

**panoramic view** - the ability to see a very wide area of one's surroundings from a particular window or position.

\* Once we reach the top of the mountain, we'll enjoy a panoramic view of nearby lakes.

**highway robbery** - overpriced; something that is extremely expensive, costing more than one believes it is worth.

\* The way airlines charge passengers high fees to check their luggage is highway robbery!

**steep** - very expensive; at a very high price.

\* Tuition at universities is so steep that some students are deciding not to continue their education.

**courtyard** - an outdoor area that is completely surrounded by buildings, usually decorated with plants, trees, and benches or tables and chairs.

\* On nice days, most of the office workers eat their lunch in the courtyard.

**obstructed** - blocked; not able to be seen or accessed because another object is in the way.

\* If you go the theater, don't sit in 24J! Your view of the stage is completely obstructed by a pillar.

**peek-a-boo** - a partial view of something, especially if another object moves in a way that allows one to see the more distant object only some of the time.

\* This window gives us a peek-a-boo view of the lake, as long as the wind is strong enough to push those branches out of the way.

**ocean view** - the ability to see the sea from a particular window or position.

\* At first they were really excited to buy a home with an ocean view, but then they realized how windy it was that close to the sea.

**to end up with** - to ultimately have or get a particular thing, especially after a period of waiting or making an effort.

\* How did you end up with a degree in basket weaving?

**ground floor** - first floor; the lowest, first floor of a building, at the same level as the ground outside.

\* During an earthquake, is it safer to be on the ground floor or on the top floor of a tall building?

**back and forth** - going in two different directions repeatedly; moving forwards and backwards

\* He walked back and forth in the hospital's waiting room while waiting to hear the results of his daughter's surgery.

**upper** - high; above; not the bottom

\* The dentist says I have three cavities in my upper teeth.

**preference** - a desire to do or have one particular thing instead of another.

\* My preference would be to see a romantic comedy, but it's your turn to choose the movie.

**penthouse** - the nicest, most expensive room or group of rooms in a hotel or apartment building, almost always on the top floor.

\* The bathroom in their penthouse apartment is bigger than our entire house!

The word **“steep,”** in this podcast, means very expensive:

“That restaurant is too steep for me! Let's go to a deli instead.”

The word **“steep”** can also refer to a rapid change in the amount of something, either an increase or a decrease:

“What caused the steep fall in stock prices?” Or,

“Is it legal for the landlord to have such steep rent increases?”

**When talking about a road, hill, or mountain, “steep”** refers to the angle and how quickly it increases or decreases in height over a particular distance:

“This trail is really steep, so only experienced hikers should use it.”

**Finally, as a verb, “to steep”** means to put something solid into a hot liquid so that the liquid obtains the same flavor:

“How long should I let this teabag steep?”

**In this podcast, the word “upper”** means high or above, not on the bottom:

“They keep medicine on the upper shelves of the closet, where their children cannot reach it.”

The phrase **“to have the upper hand”** means to have an advantage over another person:

“Soriah has been playing poker for 20 years, so she has an upper hand over the younger players.”

The phrase **“a stiff upper lip”** refers to someone's ability to control his or her emotions and not let other people know that one is sad or upset:

“He has a stiff upper lip, and even when his wife died he never let anyone see him cry.”

Finally, an **“upper”** can be an illegal drug that makes someone feel happy and energetic:

“Is she naturally that happy, or is she taking uppers?”

Daily English 691 - Dangerous Freeway Driving

I do a lot of driving in my job. You would think that driving several hours **each way** would **get old** really fast, but I have ways of making an **interminable** drive seem much more exciting.(each way – both directions) (get old – неинтересно, monotonous) (interminable - бесконечный)

I like to drive fast on the freeways. I usually **pass** all of the slower cars by staying in the **passing lane**. When there’s a slow-moving car in the passing lane, though, I **tailgate** it until the driver moves over to another lane. If the driver doesn’t move over, I **weave back and forth** from one lane to another until I get around it. **What can I say**? I just don’t like anyone **to keep me from** the **open road**. (pass – пас - обгонять) (tailgate – следует очень близко или дверь багажника)

Sometimes, I **encounter** another driver who likes to drive fast and we have a **drag race**. I know how **to bird dog** the other car until I see a way **to speed up** and **overtake** it. That’s why I almost always win. (encounter - сталкиваться) (to bird dog – наблюдать внимательно) (to overtake - обогнать)

As you can see, I know how **to spice up** a boring drive. I hope to see you soon – **on the road**. (spice up - оживить)

**Category:** Transportation

**Glossary**

**each way** - in both directions; going somewhere and coming back; both halves of a round-trip

\* Kyoko's commute is 45 minutes each way.

**to get old** - to become tiresome, boring, monotonous, and uninteresting.

\* Laura doesn't like working as a customer service representative. She says that listening to people complain all the time gets old.

**interminable** - very long, uninteresting, and boring

\* Doesn't Professor Faber notice that almost half of the students fall asleep during her interminable lectures?

**to pass** - to move around another car when driving, usually because one wants to go faster than that car.

\* Trent drives 50 miles per hour on the freeway, so of course most other drivers try to pass him.

**passing lane** - the parallel area on the left-hand side of the road, separated by painted lines, intended to be used by the fastest cars that want to move around slower cars, which should travel in the other parallel areas on the middle and right-hand side of the road.

\* Can you get a ticket for driving too slowly in the passing lane?

**to tailgate** - to follow another moving car very closely, leaving dangerously little space between the two cars.

\* Please stop tailgating the car in front of us! If the other driver slows down, you won't be able to brake quickly enough and we'll get in an accident!

**to weave** - to change direction many times while moving, especially while driving and changing lanes frequently.

\* Asu likes to ride a motorcycle because he can weave through heavy traffic more easily than he can in a car.

**back and forth** - repeatedly going in one direction and then in the opposite direction.

\* Look how everyone is swaying back and forth to the music.

**what can I say** - an informal phrase used when one is admitting that one's actions are slightly bad or inappropriate, but one does not want to change that behavior.

\* I know smoking is bad for me, but what can I say? It helps me relax.

**to keep (someone) from** - to prevent someone from having or doing something; to not allow someone to have or do something.

\* How long are you going to try to keep your daughter from dating?

**open road** - the feeling of freedom one has when driving in an area with little traffic.

\* Troy can't wait to get his driver's license so he can start to explore the open road.

**to encounter** - to find or meet someone without planning to do so.

\* As a teacher, do you find it uncomfortable when encountering your students outside of school, like in a grocery store?

**drag race** - an informal competition to see which car can go faster when both cars are stopped at the beginning of the race, often at a stoplight.

\* This car accelerates really quickly, so I'm sure it could win a drag race.

**to bird dog** - to observe, watch, or monitor something very carefully.

\* Police officers have been bird dogging the suspect for weeks.

**to speed up** - to accelerate; to go faster; to do something more quickly; to increase in speed.

\* They asked the taxi driver to speed up because they were worried they might miss their flight.

**to overtake** - to pass; to go past another car or person because one wants to go faster.

\* It's very dangerous to overtake another car on a curve because you can't see whether other cars are coming from the other direction.

**to spice up** - to make something more interesting and exciting.

\* Let's spice up this party by putting on some dance music.

**on the road** - while traveling, especially by car.

\* I'll be on the road next week, but you can reach me on my cell phone.

**The phrase “to get old,”** in this podcast, means to become tiresome, boring, monotonous, and uninteresting:

“I used to like that show, but now it's getting old. They need to add some new characters.”

**The phrase “the good old days”** refers to a period of time in the past that one believes is better than today:

“In the good old days, we didn't have television, cell phones, or the Internet, but life was simple and we were happy.”

**The phrase “for old times' sake”** means to do something as a reminder of something fun or enjoyable one used to do:

“Let's go to the beach together one last time, for old times' sake.”

**Finally, the phrase “to be an old hand at”** means to have experience doing something and to be good at it:

“After 20 years of working in a mechanic's shop, she's an old hand at fixing cars.”

**In this podcast, the verb “to pass”** means to move around another car when driving, usually because one wants to go faster than that car:

“You can get a ticket if you go faster than the speed limit while passing other cars.”

**The phrasal verb “to pass over”** means to overlook someone or something, especially when someone was not given a raise or promotion:

“Ingrid was really upset when she was passed over for a promotion at work.”

**Finally, the phrase “to pass the time of day with (someone)”** means to spend time speaking with someone else in a friendly way:

“I spent a few hours at Blake's house, just passing the time of day.”

Daily English 692 - Recommending Someone for a Job

Harry: I’ve **put in a good word for you** with my boss. He said **to stop by** the store at 4:00 today and he’ll **interview** you for the job.

Judy: Okay, I think I can make it around 4:00.

Harry: Not around 4:00. You need to be there at 4:00 **sharp**, got that? I’m **sticking my neck out** for you by **recommending** you for this job, so don’t **let me down**. (sharp - exactly at) (sticking my neck out - I am going to take a risk, высовывать (свою) шею)

Judy: All right, I’ll be there. It’s not like it’s my idea to get a job at your store. I didn’t ask you **to put your reputation on the line**. I don’t think that job is **a good fit** for me.

Harry: You can’t **afford to be choosy**. You need a job, and you need it right now. (choosy - разборчивый)

Judy: I’m not in a hurry. I want to find a job that really **suits my talents**.

Harry: I’m sick of you sleeping on my couch and **mooching off me**. By the time you find a job that suits your talents, I’ll be in a **nursing home** – or an **insane asylum**! (mooch - слоняться)

**Category:** Business

**Glossary**

**to put in a good word for (someone)** - to say something good about another person; to recommend someone for an opportunity or position.

\* The committee is going to review my artwork tomorrow. Could you please put in a good word for me?

**to stop by** - to go somewhere for a short period of time, usually informally.

\* If you have time tomorrow afternoon, please stop by for a cup of coffee.

**interview** - a formal meeting where one person asks another person many questions to learn about his or her experience and knowledge and determine whether that person should be offered a certain position or opportunity.

\* During the interview, they'll probably ask you to identify your greatest strength and your greatest weakness.

**sharp** - precisely; exactly; at a specific time.

\* Blake promised to be there at 8:30 sharp, but he overslept and didn't arrive until almost 10:00.

**to stick (one's) neck out** - to take a risk; to give one's opinion or to do something even though it may have negative consequences and other people may not like it.

\* If I stick out my neck for you by saying that you're going to have to do something nice for me, too.

**to recommend** - to say that someone should do (or not do) something based on one's opinion, knowledge, or experience.

\* If you want to eat some great pizza, I recommend the new restaurant on 42nd Street and Taylor Avenue.

**to let (someone) down** - to disappoint someone; to not meet someone's expectations, hopes, or standards.

\* Darla was supposed to finish the report by Tuesday afternoon, but she let us down when she didn't meet the deadline.

**to put (one's) reputation on the line** - to put one's reputation at risk; to do or say something that might change the way other people think about oneself.

\* I put my reputation on the line when I recommended that other people invest in your business. If your business fails, they'll never respect me again.

**a good fit** - a match; something that is comfortable and convenient.

\* Cory has always liked big cities, so living in New York will be a good fit for him.

**to afford to** - to be able to do something because it does not present any problem.

\* They wanted to wait for Harvey, but ultimately, they decided they couldn't afford to wait anymore, and they left without him.

**choosy** - picky; having very high standards for selecting something; accepting only the very best; willing to take or have only things that meet all of one's high standards.

\* Lilian is so choosy! All these sweaters look fine to me, but she's still searching for the perfect one.

**to suit (one's) talents** - to make good use of one's strengths and interests; to be appropriate for and matching what one is qualified to do.

\* Sheila has always been good with numbers, so becoming an accountant or an engineer would probably suit her talents.

**to mooch off (someone)** - to take things for free from another person; to ask another person to provide money, food, shelter, clothing, or other things without offering to pay for them.

\* Wouldn't you be embarrassed to be mooching off your parents as a 33-year-old?

**nursing home** - a facility where elderly people live when they have medical problems and can no longer take care of themselves because they need a nurse or doctor to be present.

\* Gretl took care of her father-in-law for years, but they recently had to move him to a nursing home where he could receive specialized medical care.

**insane asylum** - a facility or medical institution that houses and treats people with severe mental or psychological problems.

\* In the old days, people with disabilities were sometimes placed in insane asylums.

**The phrasal verb “to stop by,”** in this podcast, means to go somewhere for a short period of time, usually informally: “Professor Samuels, may I stop by your office tomorrow to ask you some questions about the homework?”

**The phrase “to stop in”** has the same meaning:

“Could you please stop in the post office and buy some stamps on your way home?”

**The phrase “to stop over”** means to have a layover, or to need to spend some time in an airport before getting on another airplane:

“We have to stop over in Houston before we can fly on to Portland.”

**The phrase “to stop up”** means to block something so that other things cannot move through it:

“If you put all that food down the sink, you'll stop up the plumbing.”

**In this podcast, the word “sharp”** means precisely, exactly, or at a specific time:

“Breakfast is at 7:30 sharp. If you're late, they won't serve you.”

**The word “sharp”** also describes something with a very fine point or edge that can cut other things:

“This knife is really sharp, so it cuts fruits and vegetables easily, but be careful not to cut your finger.”

**The word “sharp”** can also describe something that bends or turns quickly:

“To find our house, make a sharp turn after you pass the stoplight.”

**Finally, someone who has a “sharp tongue”** criticizes people very strongly, or says bad things about other people: “We don't like spending time with Grandma Erma because she has a sharp tongue.”

Daily English 693 - Following a Dress Code

Tae: What are you doing? Why are you taking all of my clothes out of my suitcase? I just finished **packing** that.

Nicole: You’ve packed all of the wrong things. We’re going on a **luxury cruise** and all you’ve packed are shorts and t-shirts.

Tae: I’m going on vacation, and I don’t have **to dress to impress**.

Nicole: You’ve never been on a cruise like this one, but I have, and there’s a **dress code**. You’ll need **formal wear** for some of the dinners. (formal wear - формальная одежда; wear - носить)

Tae: I’m not wearing a **suit and tie** on vacation.

Nicole: No, not a suit and tie. There’ll be a dance the final night of the cruise, that’s **black tie**, so you’ll need your **tuxedo**. I’m bringing a few **cocktail dresses** myself. Don’t worry. You can go **semi-formal** the rest of the evenings. (tuxedo такси:доу - смокинг) (semi-formal – не полностью формально; casual – противоположность formal)

Tae: This is **ridiculous**. I have to wear **business attire** 300 days out of the year and you’re making me **dress up** when I finally go on a vacation. (attire - одежда) (dress up - наряжать)

Nicole: You don’t have to dress up the entire time. You can go **California casual** during the day. I’m just asking that you look **presentable** a few hours each day. Is that so hard? (presentable – выглядеть нормально)

Tae: I knew there was a **catch** when you booked this vacation. It’s less a vacation for me than a dress-up party for you! (catch - trick)

**Category:** Clothing + Grooming | Travel

**Glossary**

**to pack** - to put things into a bag or suitcase, usually so that one can take them with one while traveling.

\* Don't forget to pack your toothbrush and deodorant for the camping trip!

**luxury cruise** - a vacation where one is on a very large ship, eating nice food, wearing nice clothes, enjoying entertainment, and relaxing.

\* This luxury cruise features performances by some very famous singers.

**to dress to impress** - to choose what one will wear based on how one will be perceived by other people; to try to make sure other people have a good opinion of oneself by wearing clothing that they will admire.

\* When you have your first interview, it's important to dress to impress.

**dress code** - rules about what one can and cannot wear or what one is expected to wear or not wear.

\* The elementary school has a dress code that doesn't allow students to wear t-shirts with rude words printed on them.

**formal wear** - clothing used for very special occasions.

\* If this is an event with formal wear, the women will probably be wearing long dresses, not short ones.

**suit and tie** - the clothing worn by most businessmen, consisting of pants with a matching suit jacket, a shirt with buttons on the front, and a long piece of fabric tied around one's neck so that it hangs down in the front.

\* I could never work in a bank because I would hate having to wear a suit and tie every day.

**black tie** - an event where people are supposed to wear very nice, fancy, formal clothing, including tuxedos for men.

\* She wants to have a black tie wedding at a luxury hotel, but he wants to have an informal, outdoor wedding on the beach.

**tuxedo** - a special type of suit that men wear for formal occasions, with black pants and a matching black suit jacket, a white shirt with buttons on the front, and a small bow tied around the neck.

\* Mike decided to rent a tuxedo for the awards ceremony instead of buying one, since he's probably never need to wear one again.

**cocktail dress** - a short or long dress worn by a woman for a special occasion, often made with special, fine fabrics.

\* Dasha bought a beautiful red cocktail dress with lace and beading.

**semi-formal** - somewhat formal; between formal and casual

\* Is it okay for women to wear pants to a semi-formal event?

**ridiculous** - very silly and not logical; something that other people will laugh at and think is very strange or inappropriate.

\* He looks ridiculous in his clown costume, with curly orange hair, a red nose, and huge shoes.

**business attire** - clothing worn in a professional work environment.

\* Shorts and sandals definitely are not appropriate business attire in this company.

**to dress up** - to wear clothes that are nicer than what one normally wears

\* Her husband asked her to dress up for their date next Friday, but he still hasn't told her where they're going to go.

**California casual** - the type of informal clothing often worn by people in California, nicer than jeans but not as nice as business casual.

\* Yes, you can wear a button-down shirt and slacks to a California casual event, but don't wear a tie.

**presentable** - looking nice, clean, and pretty enough to be seen by other people.

\* Sure, you can come over for breakfast anytime, but please give me enough time to brush my hair and make myself presentable.

**catch** - trick; something that is hidden or obscured and makes an offer less attractive.

\* Are you really offering to sell your brand-new pickup truck for just $5,000? What's the catch?

**The verb “to pack,”** in this podcast, means to put things into a bag or suitcase, usually so that one can take them with one while traveling:

“Please try to pack everything in just one small suitcase.”

**The verb “to pack”** can also mean for many people or animals to go into a small area:

“Hundreds of people packed into the auditorium to hear the speaker.”

**The phrasal verb “to pack down”** means to press something into a container to make room for more:

“Did you remember to pack down the brown sugar while you were measuring it?”

**“To pack (something) away”** means to store something because it won't be needed for a long time:

“Where did you pack away the Christmas decorations?”

**the phrase “to pack a gun”** means to carry a gun:

“You're a banker! Why do you need to pack a gun?”

**In this podcast, the word “catch”** means a trick, or something that is hidden or obscured and makes an offer less attractive:

“This book promises to teach us how to make thousands of dollars - the only catch is that it costs almost that much!”

**A “catch”** is normally the act of being able to grab a ball or another object that is thrown to one before it falls on the ground:

“A good baseball player needs to be able to catch balls, too, not just hit them with the bat.”

**The phrase “a good catch”** describes a relationship or a marriage where the other person is very wealthy, successful, or beautiful:

“Do you believe she really loves you, or does she just think you're a good catch?”

Daily English 694 - Going to the Emergency Room

I arrive in the **emergency room**. I had been at a party earlier in the evening when I accidentally cut my finger. My finger wasn’t **severed**, but it did have a very deep cut and I thought I might need **stitches**. I check in at the **admissions desk** and I’m told to take a seat and wait. (check in - регистрироваться; admission - допуск; admissions - прием)

Saturday, 10:40 p.m.

I’m still waiting to see a doctor. The **waiting room** is **filled to capacity,** and I expect it to be a long night.

Saturday, 11:15 p.m.

Several **ambulances** pull up to the door and **EMTs** wheel in several people on **stretchers**. I hear that there had been a **pileup** on Freeway 215, and these were the victims. I can see a doctor performing **triage** and the most **critical** cases are taken into **exam rooms** and maybe directly into **surgery**. (pull up - подъехали) (wheel in - вкатили) (stretcher - носилки) (pileup - скопление) (triage - сортировка)

Sunday, 1:25 p.m.

I decide to **give up** and go home. If I hadn’t **bled to death** by that time, I could probably wait until Monday to see my regular physician.

My evening in the emergency room wasn’t a **total loss**, though. I learned a valuable lesson: Never **voluntarily** go to the emergency room!

**Category:** Health + Medicine

**Glossary**

**emergency room** - the part of a hospital that is always open for patients who have very serious, life-threatening problems and can come without an appointment.

\* The nurse said we should monitor the baby's temperature, and if it reaches 105, we should take her to the emergency room.

**severed** - separated or detached, usually by cutting, often used to talk about a body part.

\* His leg was severed in a horrible car accident.

**stitch** - a piece of thread sewn into one's skin to close a deep cut.

\* When Nate dropped a sharp knife on his toe, he had to get three stitches.

**admissions desk** - the table or counter where one first goes when entering a facility or office to explain why one has come and request an appointment or visit.

\* The man at the admissions desk gave us several forms to fill out and asked us to bring them back with a copy of our insurance card.

**waiting room** - a large area with many chairs where people wait until it is their turn to be seen by a doctor or dentist, often with magazines for people to read.

\* I was in the waiting room for more than 20 minutes, so I asked the receptionist how much longer it would be before I would see the doctor.

**filled to capacity** - completely full, without room for anyone else or anything else.

\* The auditorium was filled to capacity with people who wanted to hear her speak.

**ambulance** - an emergency vehicle used to transport people with serious medical problems to a hospital, filled with equipment and supplies so that they can receive medical treatment while traveling.

\* Do you think you can drive yourself to the hospital, or should we call an ambulance?

**EMT** - emergency medical technician; a person whose job is to provide medical assistance in an emergency, especially taking care of that person until he or she can be brought to a doctor or hospital.

\* The EMT kept Aunt Mildred alive while she was in the ambulance on her way to the hospital.

**stretcher** - a narrow bed on wheels used to move a sick or injured person who cannot walk or sit.

\* The nurses pushed Kara down the hall on a stretcher, because she was still unconscious.

**pileup** - a traffic accident involving many cars, each one crashing into the car in front of it.

\* The ice storm caused a seven-car pileup.

**triage** - the process of determining which patients need medical treatment immediately and which ones can wait, based on how sick or injured they are.

\* The nurses began performing triage as soon as they arrived at the site of the explosion.

**critical** - very serious, especially referring to a dangerous or life-threatening illness or injury.

\* The wound is very painful, but it isn't critical.

**exam room** - a room where a doctor interacts with a patient to determine what is wrong and what type of treatment needs to be provided.

\* They asked Walt to go into the exam room, take off his shirt, and wait for the doctor to come in.

**surgery** - a medical procedure that requires cutting open part of one's body so that a doctor can fix or remove something.

\* The doctors said surgery is the only way to fix Xavier's knee.

**to give up** - to stop trying to have or do something, usually because it seems extremely difficult or impossible.

\* Lauren tried to be an actress for 15 years before deciding to give up and try a different career.

**to bleed to death** - to die from a loss of blood; to die because one has lost too much blood through a cut or wound.

\* Yes, you've cut your finger, but I don't think you'll bleed to death. Just put pressure on it.

**total loss** - something that had no useful purpose or result; something that was worthless or pointless.

\* Attending that conference wasn't a total loss. Although we already knew most of the information we were given, we learned one or two new things.

**voluntarily** - willingly; without being forced to do something; doing something because one wants to

\* Did you join Alcoholics Anonymous voluntarily, or did someone make you do it?

**The word “stitch,”** in this podcast, means a piece of thread sewn into one's skin to close a deep cut:

“He's had several broken bones, but he's never needed to get stitches.”

**A “stitch”** can also be a piece of thread to hold two pieces of fabric together:

“Did you do those stitches by hand, or did you use a sewing machine?”

**“Cross-stitch”** is a type of sewing used for decoration or adornment, making designs by sewing the thread in small “x” shapes:

“She made a cross-stitch wall hanging for her newborn daughter.”

**The phrase “in stitches”** is old-fashioned, but it describes someone who is laughing uncontrollably and cannot stop: “His jokes were so funny that we were all in stitches for hours.”

**In this podcast, the word “critical”** means very serious, especially referring to a dangerous or life-threatening illness or injury:

“He has a critical illness, so the doctors are observing him in the Intensive Care Unit.”

**In other contexts, the word “critical”** refers to strong criticism:

“Why is she always so critical? I've never heard her say something nice about anyone else.”

**The word “critical”** can also mean serious or important:

“They're facing a critical shortage of rice and wheat.” Or,

“How much money you save each month is a critical factor in how comfortable your retirement will be.”

**Finally, the word “critical”** can refer to one's ability to make judgments or evaluate something:

“The professor asked his students to write a critical review of the proposed new laws.”

Daily English 695 - Being Late for an Event

Eric: Let’s **get a move on** or we’ll be late – again!

Carmen: **Hold your horses**. I’m **on the verge of** being ready. **Rome wasn’t built in a day**, you know. (verge - грань)

Eric: A day? I’d **settle for** a week. Why is it that every time we have someplace to be you’re always **running late**?

Carmen: That’s because I **march to the beat of a different drummer**. Life isn’t about **watching the clock**; it’s about **living in the moment**. (march – маач - маршировать) (march to the beat of a different drummer - маршировать в такт другого барабанщика)

Eric: Okay, at this **very** moment, we’re late.

Carmen: Just **give me a couple of minutes** more and I’ll be ready. After all, none of our friends expect us to be **punctual** anymore. They all **know better**. (punctual – панкчуал – пунктуальный)

Eric: Yeah, and I should, too. From now on, I’ll start getting ready when you say you’re **all set**. Then I’ll just have minutes to wait – not hours!

**Category:** Daily Life|Entertainment + Sports

**The phrase “to settle for,”** in this podcast, means to accept something that is not what one really wanted, but is satisfactory:

“They asked for 18,000 for their used car. Do you think they'll settle for $16,000?”

**The phrase “to settle down”** means to become calmer and quieter:

“Hey, settle down in there! You guys are making way too much noise, and I need to study!”

**The phrase “to settle in”** means to begin to feel comfortable and content in a new environment:

“How long did it take you to settle into your new job?”

**The phrase “to settle up”** means to pay the money one owes:

“While traveling together, they agreed to put all the expenses on one credit card and then settle up at the end of the trip.”

**In this podcast, the word “very”** is used for emphasis:

“She showed up to the wedding wearing the very dress that I had planned to wear! Thank goodness I changed my mind at the last minute.” Or,

“This manufacturer claims to use only the very best ingredients for its dog food.”

**The phrase “the very thought” or “the very idea of (something)”** means that even thinking of something, even though one wasn't actually doing or having it, was enough for something else to happen:

“When she was pregnant, even the thought of raw meat made her want to throw up.”

**Finally, the phrase “very much so”** is used to show strong agreement with someone or something:

A: “Do you really believe that?”

B: “Yes, very much so.”

Daily English 696 - Investing Your Money

Karen: My company offers a **401(k)** plan. Do you think I should have one?

Jimmy: Yes, definitely. I had a 401(k) account when I worked for McQ Corp, and when I started working on my own I converted it to an **IRA**.

Karen: I really don’t understand any of these **investment** options. I talked to an investment specialist at my bank, but I left her office just as confused as when I went in.

Jimmy: Look, you want to have a **diversified portfolio** of lower-risk and higher-risk investments. On the low-risk end, put money in **bonds**, **CDs**, or a **money market** account. You want **to balance that out** with some riskier investments that may bring a higher **return**, such as **mutual funds** and **stocks**.

Karen: Wow, all of that just **went over my head**. I don’t **know a CD from a bond**.

Jimmy: It’s really simple. Your choice **ranges from** a **fixed** return to a **variable** return, and the variable investments carry different levels of risk.

Karen: My head hurts. Are you sure I really need all of these investments?

Jimmy: Not all of them, but it would be smart to invest your money in something.

Karen: Not if I spend it all first, right?

Jimmy: Right. You know what they say: “**A fool and his money are soon parted**!”

**Category:** Business|Money

**Glossary**

**401(k)** - a plan that helps people save money for retirement, offered by a company to its employees so that individuals can put a certain amount of money into the plan each month, where it is invested, without paying taxes on it until the money is taken out of the plan

\* In 2011, the maximum amount you can put in a 401(k) is $16,500.

**IRA** - individual retirement account; a plan that helps people save money for retirement, created by an individual (not an employer), usually allowing money to be invested without paying taxes until the money is taken out of the plan.

\* How much money do you put into your IRA each year?

**investment** - money that is used to try to make more money, usually by contributing it to a business activity or a loan so that one receives dividends or interest.

\* Buying stock in Uncle Henry's business was a terrible investment and we lost almost all our money.

**diversified** - with a variety of different kinds of things; not all the same.

\* Growing diversified crops, with many different kinds of vegetables and grains, seems less risky than growing just corn.

**portfolio** - all the investments owned by someone, especially stocks.

\* Energy-related stocks make up 60% of her portfolio.

**bond** - an agreement for a company or government to pay back a certain amount of money with interest.

\* Bonds don't pay very high interest rates, but they are safe because the interest payments are guaranteed.

**CD** - certificate of deposit; an agreement for a bank to pay a certain amount of interest if the individual keeps a large amount of money deposited with the bank for a certain period of time.

\* What are the current interest rates for a two-year, $10,000 CD?

**money market** - a checking account that pays interest.

\* The bank pays 1.7% interest on our money market account as long as we maintain a minimum balance of $75,000.

**to balance (something) out** - to maintain a balance or equilibrium; to counteract; to do something that evens out something else.

\* Jenna ate a huge bowl of ice cream yesterday, but she tried to balance it out by working out at the gym for an extra hour.

**return** - the percentage earned on one's investment; the amount of money received divided by the amount of money invested.

\* We were really pleased to get an 8% return on our investments last year.

**mutual fund** - a company that combines investments from many small, individual investors and invests all the money in a combination of stocks and bonds to try to get higher returns and better diversification than the individual investors could.

\* Kayla invests $50 in a mutual fund each month.

**stocks** - shares; partial ownership of a company that can be bought and sold to try to make money.

\* George is researching stocks in the energy and technology sectors.

**to go over (one's) head** - to not be understood at all because it is too complex or difficult.

\* I tried to read an article about quantum physics, but it went over my head.

**to know (something) from (something)** - to recognize that two things are different; to understand two things well enough to be able to recognize the differences between them.

\* Before I took that cooking class, I didn't know a whisk from a spatula.

**to range from (something) to (something)** - to vary between; to have a value between two points.

\* The car's fuel efficiency ranges between 23 and 36 miles per hour.

**fixed** - not changing; set; with a constant value.

\* Our rent is a fixed monthly cost, because we always have to pay the same amount.

**variable** - changing; not set; with a value that changes over time.

\* If you want to save more money, try to reduce your variable costs, like your electricity, gas, and water bills.

**a fool and his money are soon parted** - a phrase meaning that foolish, unwise people do not know how to save their money, so they spend it or lose it and are unable to save it.

\* Do you really think it's a good idea to buy a luxury car before you've finished paying off your student loans? A fool and his money are soon parted.

**The word “return,”** in this podcast, means the percentage earned on one's investment, calculated as the amount of money received divided by the amount of money invested:

“Would you rather have a guaranteed 3% return, or a 20% chance of getting a 20% return?”

**The phrase “in return for (something)”** means in exchange for something, or as payment for something:

“We'll give you meals and a place to sleep in return for free childcare.”

**Finally, the phrase “the point of no return”** refers to the point in an activity or process where it becomes impossible to stop or reverse what one is doing:

“The editor called to make some last-minute changes, but we were already past the point of no return, because the book had already been printed and shipped.”

**In this podcast, the word “fixed”** means set or not changing, or something that has a constant value:

“Are these prices fixed, or is there room for negotiation?”

**The word “fixed”** can also mean held in place or attached to something else:

“Is this poster fixed to the wall with tacks or tape?”

**The phrase “fixed ideas”** refers to opinions or beliefs that are very strong and cannot be changed by other:

“He's always had very fixed ideas on the role of government in helping poor people.”

**Finally, the phrase “How are you fixed for (something)?”** is used to ask someone whether they have enough of something in order to do something:

“How are you fixed for time to finish this report by Friday?”

Daily English 697 - Eating a School Lunch

Chris: What are you doing? Let’s get into the hot **lunch line**. (the line where people are waiting to get their food)

Sybil: See this **lunchbox**? My mom made me **brown-bag** it today. She says that the lunches served at school aren’t **nutritious** enough. (brown bag - бумажный коричневый пакет)

Chris: That **sucks**. What did she make you?

Sybil: A salad.

Chris: Oh, **gross**. I really feel sorry for you. What else? (“Gross” means disgusting)

Sybil: Let me see. There are some carrot sticks, too. (little carrots that are cut up)

Chris: **Sucker**! You should have **thrown a fit**. I wouldn’t have **taken it lying down**. Listen to me. You should **ditch** that lunch and buy lunch instead, like me. (“To throw a fit” means to get very angry

) (“To take (something) lying down” means to accept something without opposing or protesting)

(“To ditch” (ditch) here means to get rid of something)

Sybil: I can’t. I don’t have any **lunch money**. Do you want **to trade** some of yours for mine?

Chris: **You’re dreaming**. There’s no way I’m trading my pizza for your salad and carrot sticks.

Sybil: Not even if I do your math homework?

Chris: Math homework? Now you’ve got my attention.

Sybil: Only if you give me the entire **slice** of pizza.

Chris: You **drive a hard bargain**. How about this? I’ll **split** the pizza with you, if you’ll do my homework. (“To drive a hard bargain” means that you are good at negotiating something)

Sybil: You must really think I’m a sucker if you think I’d agree to that!

**Category:** Education | Food + Drink

**Glossary**

**lunch line** - the line of people waiting to receive food and pay for it in a cafeteria, especially in a school or hospital.

\* If you like the food and want more of something, you'll need to stand in the lunch line again.

**lunchbox** - a container used to bring food for lunch from home to one's school or workplace.

\* Sofia's daughter wanted a lunchbox with a picture of Mickey Mouse.

**to brown-bag it** - to bring food for lunch from home to one's school or workplace instead of paying for a lunch in a restaurant or cafeteria.

\* They realized they could save hundreds of dollars each year by brown-bagging it instead of going to restaurants

**nutritious** - healthy; referring to food that has many vitamins, minerals, and fiber, without too much sugar, fat, or salt.

\* Most people prefer cookies and candy over more nutritious sweet foods, like apples and bananas.

**to suck** - to be bad, unpleasant, disappointing, or unwanted.

\* This sucks! I waited in line for almost two hours, and now when I finally reached the ticket counter they're telling me the show is sold out!

**gross** - yucky; icky; disgusting; very unpleasant or unattractive.

\* That bathroom is so gross! The shower is covered with mildew, and it doesn't look like the toilet has ever been cleaned in months.

**sucker** - a rude word used to describe a person who has been tricked, used, or manipulated by another person.

\* Did you really buy that old car for $7,500? Sucker! I bet it breaks down the first time you take it on the highway.

**to throw a fit** - to have a temper tantrum; to express one's anger or disappointment loudly by screaming or yelling and generally behaving badly.

\* The little boy threw a fit in the toy store when his mother said he couldn't buy a toy gun.

**to take (something) lying down** - to accept something without protesting or opposing it even though one is unhappy about it or disappointed by it.

\* Did you hear the company plans to cut everyone's salary by 10%? We won't take it lying down!

**to ditch** - to get rid of something; to throw away something; to not use or have something.

\* Sheila finally ditched her old computer and bought a newer, faster one.

**lunch money** - money used to buy lunch in a cafeteria or restaurant, especially when referring to money given to a young child by his or her parents.

\* Becca accidentally left her lunch at home this morning, but her teacher lent her some lunch money.

**to trade** - to exchange; to give someone something so that he or she will give one something else.

\* Blue is my favorite color, but I was given a red balloon. Would you trade with me?

**you're dreaming** - an informal phrase used to show that whatever another person has just proposed or suggested is completely unacceptable and silly or naive; no way.

\* If you think I'm going to clean your room for you, you're dreaming!

**slice** - a piece of food that is cut from a larger piece of food, especially when talking about bread, pies, cakes, cheese or meat.

\* How many slices of turkey would you like on your sandwich?

**to drive a hard bargain** - to be a good negotiator; to be good at getting other people to agree to what one wants.

\* The sellers drove a hard bargain and we ended up paying the full asking price for the house.

**to split** - to share something, with each person getting one part of something.

\* When you go out on a date, do you always let the man pay, or do you split the bill?

**The word “gross,”** in this podcast, is an informal word meaning yucky, icky, disgusting, and very unpleasant or unattractive:

“Don't pick your nose! That's gross!”

**The phrase “to gross (someone) out”** means to do something that makes another person feel disgusted:

“It really grosses me out when I see you chew with your mouth open.”

**When talking about money, “gross”** is the amount of money earned or received before subtracting any expenses or taxes:

“His gross income was over $150,000, but after paying rent, wages, and insurance, his actual income was just around $43,000.”

**The verb “to gross”** means to make a certain amount of money:

“Our business should be grossing a million dollars per year within three years.”

**Finally, the word “gross”** can also mean very wrong, unethical, or immoral:

“Those shootings were a gross violation of the law.”

**In this podcast, the verb “to split”** means to share something, with each person getting one part of something:

“I don't think I can eat an entire order of French fries. Do you want to split them with me?”

**The phrase “to split hairs”** means to argue over a very small, unimportant difference:

“Is there really an important difference in beliefs between the two churches, or are they just splitting hairs?”

**The phrase “to split the difference”** means to divide an amount of money into two equal parts:

“He wanted to sell it for $50 and she didn't want to pay more than $30, but in the end, they decided to split the difference at $40.”

**Finally, the phrase “to split up”** means to break up or to end a romantic relationship:

“They've decided to split up and start dating other people.”

Daily English 698 - Making Ethnically or Racially Offensive Remarks

Mike: Did you hear what Dan said? He called me a **mick**. What **decade** is he living in? (“mick” is an old term for someone who was from Ireland or had relatives from Ireland)

Patti: He’s just **ignorant**. I’m sure he wasn’t trying to be **offensive**. (ignorant – игнорэнт - невежественен)

Mike: Well, I take offense. And **to add insult to injury**, did you hear what else he said? (add insult to injury - и в довершение всего)

Patti: What?

Mike: He said that he was speaking **on behalf of** the Irish in the community when he said he liked the plan. **How dare he** speak for other people? It’s **presumptuous**. (speaking on behalf of - говорил от) (presumptuous – прэзамптьюэс - самонадеянно)

Patti: He was trying **to make a point** and probably just **got carried away**. I agree that what he said could be **insulting**, but let’s **give him the benefit of the doubt**. (to make a point - донести свою точку зрения) (the benefit of the doubt - презумпцию невиновности)

Mike: You can be **magnanimous** if you want to be, but I know an **ethnic slur** when I hear one. (magnanimous – магнанэмэс - великодушным) (ethnic slur – слэр - этническое оскорбление)

Patti: It wasn’t an ethnic slur. It wasn’t the **politically correct** term, that’s all. He’s a little **behind the times**.

Mike: Behind the times?! He’d have to live to 150 **to catch up** to the present!

**Category:** Daily Life | Government + Law

**Glossary**

**mick** - a word for an Irish person, usually offensive.

\* Don't call me mick. I'm Irish, but that word is an insult!

**decade** - a period of 10 years

\* Which wars were fought in the same decade as the Vietnam War?

**ignorant** - without knowledge of something; unaware of something; never having been taught about something.

\* Blake has never traveled outside the United States and he's completely ignorant about other cultures.

**offensive** - hurting someone's feelings in a rude way; insulting.

\* Several of the employees have complained that you were telling offensive jokes during your lunch break.

**to add insult to injury** - to make a bad situation worse; to do something that worsens the current situation, which is already negative.

\* I lost my keys and sat on my glasses. Then, to add insult to injury, I spilled hot coffee on the front of my shirt.

**on behalf of** - for someone else; as a representative for another person or group of people.

\* Craig accepted the award on behalf of his team.

**How dare (one)** - a question asked when one is very angry over another person's inappropriate and rude behavior.

\* How dare you tell my brother to leave your house because he wasn't invited?

**presumptuous** - doing something that is inappropriate because one does not have a right to do it; assuming that one may do something when one actually should not.

\* It was very presumptuous of Dan to ask how old the clerk is, implying that she is too young for the job.

**to make a point** - to do something deliberately to demonstrate or prove something else.

\* The protesters are trying to make a point about what's wrong with the new law.

**to get carried away** - to do too much of something, usually because one was very excited and wasn't able to realize he or she should have stopped.

\* Ingrid loves baking, but sometimes she gets carried away and makes way too many cakes and cookies.

**insulting** - hurting someone's feelings in a rude way; offensive.

\* Harold is a genius, but he can be very insulting when he assumes other people aren't as smart or well educated as he is.

**to give (someone) the benefit of the doubt** - to assume that someone said or did something with good intentions or for a good reason, even though the results were negative; to assume that someone did something for the right reasons.

\* I think you should give him the benefit of the doubt and assume that when he commented on your weight, it was because he was genuinely concerned about your health.

**magnanimous** - very kind, forgiving, and generous.

\* Chi-Young made a magnanimous offer to help his friend pay for college.

**ethnic slur** - an insult based the social or cultural group that one is identified with; an offensive word or phrase about a person's ethnicity.

\* Ethnic slurs are allowed under freedom of speech, but that doesn't mean we should use them.

**politically correct** - using words and phrases that are chosen very carefully so that they do not offend anyone.

\* Some people who are trying to be politically correct refer to short people as “vertically challenged,” but that seems silly to me.

**behind the times** - old-fashioned; outdated; not related to what is happening now in modern times; seeming to be more appropriate in an earlier time.

\* Lyonne's knowledge of computers is really behind the times. He doesn't even know how to use email or search the Internet.

**to catch up** - to reach the same position, place, or level as other people after one has been behind or below them.

\* Our book club will be discussing the end of the book and I haven't finished the second chapter yet. I need to catch up before our next meeting.

**The phrase “to get carried away,”** in this podcast, means to do too much of something, usually because one was very excited and wasn't able to realize he or she should have stopped:

“While redecorating their home, they got carried away and painted all of the rooms bright pink.”

**The phrase “to be carried along by (something)”** means to be excited and determined to continue to do something:

“Even though the runner was very tired, he was carried along by the cheers of the crowd.”

**Finally, the phrase “to carry (something) off”** means to be able to do something that is very difficult or that seems impossible:

“Nobody thought he could carry it off, but his first performance in a movie won an Oscar.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to catch up”** means to reach the same position, place, or level as other people after one has been behind or below them:

“Our competitor's sales are growing 20% faster than ours, but with the right marketing strategy, we can catch up.”

**The phrase “to catch (someone) up”** means to give someone the information he or she needs in order to know as much as everyone else:

“I had to step out of the meeting for a few minutes. Can you catch me up on what was discussed while I was gone?”

**Finally, the phrase “to not catch (something)”** means to not hear or understand what was said:

“I didn't catch that. Could you please repeat what you said a little more loudly?”

Daily English 699 - Dealing With the Paparazzi

Fredo: I feel like a **prisoner** in my own home! I can’t step outside without the **paparazzi snapping** pictures of me. They **stake out** my house 24 hours a day. (“To snap” – снэп - щелчок (snap) here means to take a photograph) (stake out – застолбить - to watch some place or some person in a hidden, secret way)

Amanda: I suppose that’s **the price of fame**. You do have the most popular podcast in the world.

Fredo: But they’re such a **pain in the neck**! They don’t just take pictures. They **chase** me in my car and follow me into restrooms, trying **to corner me**. It’s an **invasion of privacy**. (“To corner (someone)” – загнали в угол)

Amanda: You’re right, but **look on the bright side**. The paparazzi give you plenty of **exposure**. They keep your name – and your face – **in the spotlight**. (“To be in the spotlight” means to get a lot of attention from other people) (exposure - being seen by many people)

Fredo: It would be fine if they just took a few **candid shots** while I’m at dinner or at the store, but they try to take photos when I’m out of town, trying **to catch me** doing something I shouldn’t. (“candid shots” would be pictures of someone who doesn't know they're being photographed or doesn't care)

Amanda: At least, that’s good news for your wife. She can **call off** that **private detective** she hired to follow you from city to city! (“To call off” is a two-word phrasal verb meaning to end something, to cancel)

**Category:** Entertainment + Sports

**Glossary**

**prisoner** - a person who is forced to stay in a jail or another building, held by other people and not allowed to leave.

\* Gertrude's uncle was a prisoner for several months during World War II.

**paparazzi** - a photographer who tries to take photographs of famous people to sell to newspapers and magazines, usually following them wherever they go.

\* The movie star wanted to have a quiet wedding, but the paparazzi figured out where it was being held.

**to snap** - to take a photo; to use a camera to take a picture.

\* I wish I had a camera to snap a photo of the look on your face right now!

**to stake out** - to watch a place or person in a secret, hidden way, trying to observe something that other people don't want to be seen.

\* The police are staking out the bank because they heard there might be a robbery there this week.

**The price of fame** - the disadvantages or negative consequences of being famous and having access to many advantages.

\* Yes, movie stars are rich, but the price of fame is losing their privacy.

**pain in the neck** - something or someone who is very annoying, upsetting, or uncomfortable that one would prefer not to have or deal with.

\* Filling out all these forms is a pain in the neck!

**to chase** - to follow someone at a high speed while that other person is trying to get away.

\* The police chased the criminal who was running down the street.

**to corner (someone)** - to put someone in a position where he or she cannot leave because there is nowhere else to go; to put someone in a position where he or she must do what one wants because there are no other options.

\* He has tried to avoid answering our questions for months, so if we want his answer, we'll have to corner him.

**invasion of privacy** - a violation of one's right to lead a private life where others do not know one's personal information; a lack of respect for a person by not letting him or her do things alone, without other people knowing what he or she is doing.

\* Would you ever read your daughter's diary? It's such an invasion of privacy, but sometimes it's the only way to know what's really happening in a teenager's life.

**to look on the bright side** - to see the advantages or the good side of a bad situation; to be positive or optimistic.

\* Yeah, your car is broken beyond repair, but look on the bright side - you'll save a lot of money on gas and insurance while you're riding the bus!

**exposure** - being seen by many people; with many people being aware of something or someone.

\* Winning a Pulitzer Prize is a great way for authors to get a lot of exposure for their work.

in the spotlight - with a lot of attention from many people and/or the media.

\* As a public relations professional, his job is to keep his clients in the spotlight so everyone knows who they are.

**candid shot** - a photograph taken of someone who didn't know he or she was being photographed, showing how someone was actually doing something, without posing for the photo.

\* We used to spend a lot of time trying to get our kids to smile for the camera, but then we realized that candid shots are easier and they tend to be better photos anyway.

**to catch (someone)** - to observe someone doing something he or she would like to hide and keep a secret, usually because it is inappropriate or wrong.

\* Have you ever caught someone stealing something from your store?

**to call off** - to abandon or cancel; to end something; to tell someone that his or her services are no longer needed; to stop doing something.

\* Call off your dogs! I'm just trying to deliver a package, and they won't let me come to the front door!

**private detective** - a person whose job is to find out secret information about someone, usually by spying and following a person around to take pictures.

\* Meghan hired a private detective to find out whether her husband was having an affair.

**The phrase “to stake out,”** in this podcast, means to watch a place or person in a secret, hidden way, trying to observe something that other people don't want to be seen:

“After Melody's boyfriend broke up with her, she started staking out his apartment to see who else he was dating.”

**The phrase “to stake (something) up”** means to use small pieces of wood or metal to help something stand up:

“The tree is too tall and old to support its heavy branches, so we decided to stake them up.”

**Finally, the phrase “to stake (one's) life on something”** is used to show that one fully supports something and is 100% sure it is true or correct:

“When we asked Hans whether he was sure his plan would work, he said, 'I'd stake my life on it.'”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to call off”** means to tell someone that his or her services are no longer needed, or to cancel or stop doing something:

“Officials called off the game due to the heavy rain.” Or,

“Why did they decide to call off the wedding?”

**The phrase “to call the shots”** means to be able to make decisions because one has authority or power:

“Personally, I think it's a bad idea, but the boss likes it and he's the one who calls the shots.”

**Finally, the phrase “to call it a day”** is used to announce that one will stop doing something, usually before it is finished, because one is tired or has been doing it for too long:

“We've been working on this for hours. Let's call it a day and continue next week.”

Daily English 700 - Starting a New Workweek

Naomi: Wow, you look like you had a rough weekend. A little too much partying, huh?

(“huh” - (huh) is how it is generally spelled - is a noise that you may make at the end of a statement to make it into a question)

Aaron: You said it. I'm planning to ease into the new workweek. I need time to chill and to recover. Could you take a meeting this morning with our new client?

(“you said it” means you are exactly correct; that's right, that's correct)

(“To ease (ease) into (something)” means to begins something slowly, gradually)

Naomi: What will you do?

Aaron: I'll be sitting here waiting for hump day. The weekend can't come soon enough!

(“Hump day” is Wednesday, the middle of the week)

(“can't come soon enough” - you hope that it happens soon)

Naomi: It's Monday and you're already looking forward to next weekend?

Aaron: You got it.

(“You got it,” meaning that's correct, that's exactly right)

Naomi: And you want to slack off, while I take on the lion's share of your work. Is that what you're saying? (“To slack (slack) off” to relax, to be lazy, not to do your job the way you should do it)

(“To take on” means to do, to begin a new project)

(“He has the lion's share of the work,” he's doing most of the work for that project)

Aaron: Just this once. I'll return the favor the next time you have a rough weekend.

Naomi: What are you planning for next weekend?

Aaron: Why do you ask?

Naomi: I want to know how long I'll have to wait for a chance to sit back and watch you work!

**Glossary**

**weekend** - Saturday and Sunday; the days of the week when most offices are closed, and most professionals do not work.

\* Do you want to go to the beach this weekend?

**to party** - to go to one or more exciting parties; to spend a lot of time with other people, especially in a noisy way with lots of alcohol and excitement.

\* How can you party every weekend and still get such good grades?

**you said it** - a phrase used when one fully agrees with what another person has said, that's exactly right.

\* - I'm not sure how to fill out these forms. They are so confusing!

\* - You said it!

**to ease into** - to begin to do something gradually, in a slow, gentle way.

\* Most new employees ease into their job, but Johannes jumped right in and started working as hard as he could from the very first day.

**workweek** - Monday through Friday; the days of the week when most offices are open and most professionals work.

\* When Melissa was younger, she didn't mind a 70-hour workweek, but now that she has children, she'd like to spend less time at the office.

**to chill** - to relax and not do anything or think about anything.

\* This past week has been so stressful! I just want to chill in front of the TV.

**to take a meeting** - to attend a meeting; to agree to have a meeting with someone.

\* Do you have time to take a meeting with these journalists? They want to conduct a quick interview and learn about our new facilities.

**hump day** - Wednesday; the day in the middle of the workweek.

\* This is going to be a difficult week, but if we can just make it to hump day, we'll be fine.

**can't come soon enough** - a phrase used when one is very eager for something to happen and is looking forward to it.

\* Money is really tight, so our year-end bonuses can't come soon enough!

**You got it** - a phrase used to mean that what another person has said is 100% correct; that's exactly right

\* - Does this mean that if the police see me talking on a cell phone while driving, they can give me a ticket?

\* - You got it.

**to slack off** - to relax, be lazy, and not do one's job or meet others' expectations.

\* If you keep slacking off like this, you're going to fail all your courses.

**lion's share** - the larger or greater part of something; the majority of something; more than 50% of something.

\* As Director of Media Relations, Hazel writes the lion's share of the company's press releases.

**just this once** - only one time; this time but never again.

\* Suzanne never helps out around the house. It would be wonderful if just this once she would offer to wash the dishes.

**to return the favor** - to do something nice for someone because he or she has done something nice for oneself.

\* Kaitlynn helped us move last summer, so now we need to return the favor and help her move next weekend.

**to sit back** - to observe something from a distance, without becoming involved or without participating; to see how something is done without affecting it.

\* How could people just sit back and watch those boys fight, without doing anything to try to make them stop?

**The word “rough,”** in this podcast, means difficult or challenging:

“That exam was really rough! I didn't know any of the answers.”

**The word “rough”** can also be used to describe things that do not have a flat surface:

“She was surprised by how rough the frog's skin was.”

**The word “rough”** can also mean not gentle:

“Don't be so rough with your baby sister!”

**The phrase “to be rough around the edges”** means to not be polished, elegant, or well educated:

“He's very good at his job, but he's rough around the edges, so his manager doesn't let him interact with clients very much.”

**Finally, the phrase “rough and tumble”** refers to noisy physical behavior, especially when talking about children:

“Jakey always liked rough-and-tumble play, but his sister preferred to sit quietly and read a book.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to sit back”** means to observe something from a distance, without becoming involved or without participating; to see how something is done without affecting it:

“We've decided to sit back for a while and see what happens before making any decisions.”

**The phrase “to sit up”** means to sit with better posture, with one's back and neck in a straight line:

“Sitting up can make you look younger and more confident.”

**The phrase “to sit in judgment”** means to form opinions about something, especially when one disapproves of something, but doesn't really have the right to disapprove:

“How can you sit in judgment over her decision to quit college if you've never been in that position?”

# Daily English 701 - Improving Your Looks

Leo: Where have you been?

Mai: I’ve been meeting with an **agent**. You know I’ve wanted to pursue a career in acting for a long time, but today I actually met with a real agent. She thinks I have **potential**. (pursue – пэсъю - преследовать)

Leo: Is she going **to sign you**?

Mai: She might. She suggested a few improvements that are going to make me more **salable** as an actress.

Leo: What did she suggest?

Mai: Well, she thought I should get some **hair extensions** to make my hair look longer and **fuller**.

(“Hair extensions” are basically artificial hair, not your own hair, that you attach or put on your hair to make your hair look longer)

(“Fuller hair” - фулэ would be hair with more volume, hair that has a lot of shape)

Leo: There’s nothing wrong with your hair.

Mai: Well, she thought it could use some **sprucing up**. She also recommended getting my teeth **capped**. At the very least, she said I should have **teeth whitening** done.

(“To spruce up (something)” - спру:с - to make something look a little nicer, to improve the way it looks)

“To cap your teeth” - dentist put little pieces over each of your teeth.

Leo: Your teeth look nice and natural. There’s nothing wrong with them.

Mai: She also suggested getting a **spray tan**, so I’d look healthier.

(A “spray tan” is where you go to a place and they basically paint your body; they spray this chemical to make your skin look darker)

Leo: You already look healthy. Is she crazy?

Mai: No, I think she’s giving me good **constructive criticism**. I want to make myself as salable as possible.

Leo: It sounds like she wants **to stamp out** all of your **individuality** and turn you into a **clone** of every other actress out there.

(“To stamp out” - to end or eliminate something, to get rid of something)

Mai: I was thinking of taking her advice. I want to be salable.

Leo: You’re a person, not a piece of meat. Salable, **schmalable**! **Don’t you even think about it**!

**Glossary**

**agent** - a person whose job is to represent actors, musicians, writers, or other types of artists to help them find work.

\* Sara is thinking of becoming a model, but she needs to find a good agent first.

**potential** - the possibility of being able to do something; the qualifications and ability to do something that one is not yet doing.

\* With her great people skills and interest in biology, she has a lot of potential to become a doctor.

**to sign you** - to create a legal agreement to work with and/or represent a particular person.

\* How old were you the first time a professional basketball team wanted to sign you?

**salable** - able to be sold easily, especially because something is very useful or attractive.

\* Troy would be more salable as a business consultant if he started wearing suits and ties instead of shorts and flip-flops.

**hair extension** - a piece of artificial hair that is attached to one's own hair or scalp (the skin on one's) head to make one's hair look longer and/or fuller.

\* The key to having natural-looking hair extensions is to make sure they're the same color as your real hair.

**fuller** - hair with more body and volume; hair that has a lot of shape and seems to move, rather than hanging straight down from one's head.

\* Lynn uses mousse and a hair dryer every morning to make her hair appear fuller.

**to spruce up** - to make something look nicer or neater; to improve the appearance of something.

\* My parents are coming to visit tomorrow, so I need to spruce up my apartment.

**to cap teeth** - to allow a dentist to put small pieces on each tooth, entirely covering the visible surface of each tooth, to improve their appearance.

\* He had uneven, yellow teeth until he asked his dentist to cap them.

**teeth whitening** - a procedure that lightens the color of one's teeth, making them less yellow or gray and whiter.

\* After years of drinking coffee and red wine, his teeth were so discolored that he paid for a professional teeth whitening.

**constructive criticism** - advice that may be very negative but is intended to help another person improve.

\* When giving constructive criticism, it's important to let other people know you're trying to support them as much as possible.

**to stamp out** - to end or eliminate something; to get rid of something.

\* What can we do to stamp out poverty and hunger in our community?

**individuality** - uniqueness; the characteristics that make a person special, unlike anyone else.

\* Many students don't like wearing uniforms, because they would rather wear clothes that express their individuality.

**clone** - an exact copy of another person; someone who seems just like another person, copying his or her appearance and behavior.

\* Mariah and her sister are so much alike; they could be clones!

**sch(m)** - a common prefix for many Yiddish words, often attached to English words to create Yiddish-like words for humor.

\* Books, schmooks! Why do you spend so much time reading textbooks when you could be having fun with us?

**Don't you even think about it** - a phrase used to warn someone not to do something because one thinks it is a very bad idea and one will be upset if he or she does it.

\* You want to throw her a surprise birthday party! Don't you even think about it! She's very shy and it would really embarrass her.

**The word “agent,”** in this podcast, means a person whose job is to represent actors, musicians, writers, or other types of artists to help them find work:

“Ingot's agent suggested he audition for three Broadway musicals.”

**An “agent”** can also be something that creates change:

“Cell phones have been an important agent of change for how people communicate with one another.”

**An “undercover agent” or a “secret agent”** is a law enforcement officer who does not wear a uniform and tries to learn information by pretending to be someone else:

“A secret agent was able to develop a close relationship with several of the gang members, learning about their drug deals.”

**Finally, a “double agent”** is a spy who works for two countries at the same time:

“He worked as a double agent, selling U.S. secrets to the Russian government and Russian secrets to the U.S. government.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to stamp out”** means to end or eliminate something:

“Our researchers dream of finding a cure to stamp out AIDS.”

**The verb “to stamp”** usually means to put one's foot down very heavily:

“The boys wore cowboy boots and stamped to the beat while dancing.”

**The phrase “to stamp on (an insect)”** means to kill an insect by stepping on it with one's foot or shoe:

“Mother shrieked and then stamped on the spider.”

**Finally, the phrase “to rubber-stamp”** is used to talk about how someone, usually a government official, approves something without really thinking about it:

“The president just rubber-stamps anything put on his desk. I don't think he even reads the documents first.”

# Daily English 702 - Finding Other Singles

I was tired of being **single**. All of my friends had **paired up** and I was **left hanging**. Like everybody else these days, I tried using the Internet to find other singles, but I never had any luck. **Cruising for** my ideal woman among a bunch of **lonely hearts** is like looking for a **needle in a haystack**. I needed another **strategy**.

(“To pair up” - to become involved in a romantic relationship, to no longer be single)

(“To be left hanging” means to remain wanting to do something or have something but you don't have it; other people have it, but you don't)

(“To hit on (something)” here means to find someone, to discover something, or to realize something)

I finally **hit on** a brilliant idea. I would find places where single women naturally **congregate** and simply **show up**. It may turn out to be a **wild goose chase**, but I was willing **to give it a shot**.

(“To congregate” is when a group of people come together)

(“To show up” - to go somewhere without plans, without making special arrangements, often without getting the permission of the people who are there. They don't know you're going to be there; suddenly you “show up,” you arrive, you appear. It doesn't always have to be unplanned)

(“wild goose chase” means to try to do something that you are not successful in doing because it is difficult or impossible)

That’s how I decided to take a jewelry-making class at the community center. I may not know much, but I do know that two things that naturally go together are women and jewelry.

I got to the class a few minutes late so I could make a **grand entrance**. But when I walked in, I got the **shock of my life**. The room was full of single women **all right**, but not one of them was under the age of 70!

(“To make a grand entrance” is to enter a room at a certain time or in a certain way so that everyone notices you)

(“The shock of your life” is some very unexpected, powerful surprise, something that surprises you in a big way)

They were definitely glad to see me. I even received a couple of invitations to dinner that day. But to be honest, that wasn’t the kind of **dinner date** I had been looking for!

(“dinner date” is an invitation to eat dinner with another person)

**Category:** Relationships + Family

**Glossary**

**single** - not involved in a romantic relationship; not married or dating anyone.

\* Which bar in town is the best place to meet other singles?

**to pair up** - to become involved in a romantic relationship with another person and no longer be alone.

\* When Janet was younger, she was never very interested in dating, but once she turned 30, she became very interested in pairing up.

**to be left hanging** - to remain wanting to have, do, or know something, especially if other people have, do, or know it; to be unsatisfied in some way, especially when everyone else is satisfied.

\* We went to a book reading, but the author only read the first part and left us hanging. She said we'd have to buy the book and read it if we wanted to find out what happens at the end.

**to cruise for** - to go to a nightclub, dance hall, bar, or a similar place, looking for a new romantic partner or sexual partner.

\* Are you going to go cruising for women dressed like that? You'd have more luck if you wore nicer clothes and combed your hair.

**lonely heart** - a person who is single but feels alone and unsatisfied and wants to find a romantic partner.

\* Not everyone who is single is a lonely heart. Some people just prefer not to date.

**needle in a haystack** - something that is very difficult to find, usually because it is very rare or uncommon.

\* Searching for a lost wallet at Disneyland is like looking for a needle in a haystack. There's no way you'll find it.

**strategy** - a plan for how one will do something.

\* The company is trying to develop a creative marketing strategy for its newest product.

**to hit on** - to suddenly find, discover, or realize something.

\* After thinking about the math problem for hours, Sebastian finally hit on the correct answer.

**to congregate** - for large numbers of people or animals to meet in one place; to gather.

\* About 3,000 people congregated at the federal building, protesting the new proposed taxes.

**to show up** - to appear; to attend something, especially without planning it ahead of time or making special arrangements.

\* Is it okay to just show up at the dinner even thought I forgot to tell them I was coming?

**wild goose chase** - an effort to do something when one cannot succeed because it is too difficult, foolish, or impossible.

\* He spent his life on a wild goose chase, looking for the fountain of youth.

**to give (something) a shot** - to try to do something even though one is unlikely to succeed; to try to do something even though one doesn't expect to succeed.

\* I'm a horrible baker, but I'm going to try to make her a birthday cake anyway. I'll at least give it a shot.

**grand entrance** - the act of entering a room at a certain time or in a certain way so that one can attract everyone else's attention and make a strong impression.

\* Meghan's grand entrance was ruined when she accidentally tripped and fell while walking through the door.

**shock of (one's) life** - a very strong, powerful, and unexpected surprise.

\* Winning one million dollars in the lottery was the shock of his life!

**all right** - a phrase used to emphasize that something is true, correct, and believable.

\* - Are you sure you saw Greg?

\* - It was him all right. There's no doubt about it.

**dinner date** - an invitation to eat dinner at a restaurant with another person, usually in the hopes of beginning or strengthening a romantic relationship.

\* Over the past month, Damian has asked 13 women to go out with him on a dinner date, but none of them have said yes.

**The phrase “to cruise for,”** in this podcast, means to go to a nightclub, dance hall, bar, or a similar place, looking for a new romantic partner or sexual partner:

“How do you have time to study if you spend every evening cruising for cute girls?”

**The verb “to cruise”** also means to move at a steady, unchanging speed:

“The police officer gave us a ticket for cruising on the freeway at 100 miles per hour.”

“Cruise control” is a car feature where the car keeps going at a set speed, without the driver doing anything:

“Using cruise control is great, because you don't have to keep your foot on the gas pedal.”

**Finally, a “cruise”** is usually a vacation holiday spent on a very large boat:

“They're saving their money to go on a Caribbean cruise.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “all right”** is a phrase used to emphasize that something is true, correct, and believable:

“My plan will work all right. I'm sure of it.”

**The phrase “all right”** can also mean without any problems:

“Do you feel all right?” or, “Katy left the meeting in tears. Can you check to see if she's all right?”

**The phrase “to do all right”** means to be successful, especially professionally, and have enough money:

“He's been working as a stock broker for years, so I'm sure he's doing all right financially.”

**Finally, the phrase “it's all right for (someone)”** is used when one is jealous or envious of another person:

“It's all right for her to wear short skirts to work, because her legs are perfect, but what about the rest of us?”

# Daily English 703 - Attending an Auction

Diane: This is so exciting! I’ve never been to an **auction** before.

Martin: Sit down. It’s about to start. The **auctioneer** is on the **podium** with her **gavel** and she’s ready to start the **bidding**.

(“auctioneer” - the person whose job it is to lead the auction, to announce what's being sold, and to ask people how much they want to pay)

(“gavel” is like a small hammer - wooden hammer that you hit against the table to get people's attention)

Diane: Are you bidding on the first **lot**?

Martin: No, the **reserve** is too high. See? The **opening bid** is over 10,000 dollars. I’m not surprised. Items of that quality don’t appear on the **auction block** very often.

(“auction block” - «выставленный на аукцион»)

Diane: What are those people doing on the phone?

Martin: They are bidding **on behalf of** people who can’t be here, the **absentee** bidders. Hey, stop waving that **paddle** around! The auctioneer is going to think that you’re placing a bid.

(on behalf of - от имени)

(“absentee” is the person who isn't there; they are absent)

(paddle – весло/лопатка)

Diane: Oh, sorry. Listen, the price is up to 30,500 dollars. **Going, going, gone**! The auction house is going to make a nice **commission** on that one. This is so much fun!

(“commission” is a percentage of the sales price that you receive for selling a certain thing)

Martin: Shhh! I’m going to bid on the next lot. Where is the paddle?

Diane: The paddle?

Martin: Yeah, the paddle. Where did you put it?

Diane: I had it just a minute ago.

Martin: Find it, **or else** I’m putting your head on the block.

Diane: The auction block?

Martin: No, the **chopping block**!

**Category:** **Shopping**

**Glossary**

**auction** - an event or place where things are sold to the person who is willing to pay the most for them.

\* A lot of fine art is sold at auctions because it would be difficult to put a price tag on the pieces.

**auctioneer** - a person whose job is to lead an auction, announcing what is for sale and identifying who is willing to pay the most money.

\* If you want to buy something, make sure the auctioneer can see and hear you.

**podium** - a small raised area that is a little higher than the surrounding floor, where a speaker stands so that he or she can be seen by the audience, and/or a wooden stand the speaker stands behind and places books or notes on so that he or she can read the notes while facing and speaking to the audience.

\* Whenever he approaches the podium, he gets really nervous, his heart rate speeds up, and his hands begin to sweat.

**gavel** - a wooden hammer held in one's hand and hit against a table to get everyone's attention, especially in a courtroom.

\* The judge hit her gavel on the table to get everyone's attention.

**bidding** - the process of many people taking turns announcing how much they are willing to pay for something until only one person is willing to pay the final price.

\* Some people get too excited during the bidding and they end up spending more money than they had planned.

**lot** - a group of objects that are sold together.

\* They saved a lot of money by buying baby clothes in lots on eBay.

**reserve** - the minimum price at which something will be sold.

\* The car didn't sell because nobody was willing to pay more than $5,000 and the reserve was $7,500.

**opening bid** - the amount proposed by the auctioneer to begin bidding on a particular item, so that the first bid is equal to that amount and all other bids must be higher.

\* If the opening bid is too low, the bidding process can take a long time.

**auction block** - the raised surface where objects are displayed as they are sold at an auction.

\* Are bidders allowed to go up to the auction block and take a closer look at what they're bidding on?

**on behalf of** - doing something for another person, especially someone who is not able to do something at a particular place and time.

\* I am honored to accept this award on behalf of all our team members.

**absentee** - someone who cannot be present; someone who is not able to be at a particular place and time to participate in some meeting or activity.

\* Our state allows absentee voters to vote by mail.

**paddle** - a flat round or square piece of wood or plastic with a handle, held in the air with one's hand, usually marked with a large number so that one can place a bid at an auction.

\* If the auctioneer sees your paddle in the air, she'll assume you're bidding on the item she's talking about.

**going, going, gone** - a phrase used by an auctioneer when he or she thinks only one person is still bidding, indicating that the opportunity to bid will end and nobody else will be able to buy something.

\* I hear $235. Is that the final bid? Going, going, gone to the lady in the blue hat.

**commission** - the percentage of a sales price that one receives for helping to sell something.

\* The clerks at this store work on commission, so they're always eager to help shoppers make a purchase.

**or else** - a threat; a phrase used to show another person that he or she must do what one is asking, or there will be negative, unspecified consequences.

\* Jennifer said to her little brother: “Give me back my diary, or else!”

**on the chopping block** - at risk of losing one's job or life, referring to the piece of wood that used to be used when cutting someone's neck to separate the head from the body.

\* If this presentation doesn't go well, I'll be on the chopping block!

**The word “lot,”** in this podcast, means a group of objects that are sold together:

“This auction catalog describes all the lots in great detail.”

**The phrase “(one's) lot in life”** refers to one's situation, especially when it is not a good or happy one and when one does not have much or any control over it:

“Do you really think poverty is your lot in life?”

**The phrase “to draw lots” or “to cast lots”** means to decide who will do or receive something by having each person take one of several pieces of paper or an object from a container, where one is different from all the others:

“Nobody wanted to give the first presentation, so they decided to draw lots.”

**Finally, a “lot”** can refer to a piece of land:

“Do you know if anyone's planning to build a house on that empty lot?”

**In this podcast, the word “paddle”** means a flat round or square piece of wood or plastic with a handle, held in the air with one's hand, usually marked with a large number so that one can place a bid at an auction:

“Who was bidding with paddle number 146?”

**A “paddle”** is also a piece of wood with a wide end and a long handle, placed in the water and used to move a boat forward or backwards:

“Rowing the canoe paddles all afternoon made his arms very sore.”

**Finally, a “paddle”** can be a special attachment for an electric mixer, used for stirring dough:

“Don't forget to scrape the paddle attachment every few minutes while you're making the cookie dough.”

# Daily English 704 - Reselling Products for Profit

Jessie: Where are you going?

Masa: I’m going **to stand in line** to get one of the first iDopes. They **go on sale** this morning at 9 a.m.

(“To stand in line” means to stand with many other people, one in front of the other)

(Dopes - допинги)

(A “dope” is, when it's a person, a stupid person. You say to someone, “Boy, he's a real dope,” you mean that person is really stupid. It's an insulting term, obviously.

“Dope” as a noun would be a drug, like cocaine or heroin, something that you would take to get high - to get intoxicated.)

(“To go on sale” means they become available for people to buy them.

“on sale,” - store is selling it at a discount

“go on sale” to indicate the day or the time when they you can buy them.)

Jessie: Why don’t you just wait a couple of days when there’ll be no line?

Masa: I’m sure they’re going **to sell out**, and plus, I’m going to buy an extra one so I can **resell** it.

Jessie: You’re going to resell it? Oh, you mean like **scalping tickets**.

(“To scalp tickets” means to buy tickets for a concert or a sporting event - a game - at the regular price and then sell it to someone else at a higher price)

Masa: You got it. I can put a **markup** on it and make a nice little **profit**.

(“markup” is an increase in the price when you sell it to someone else)

Jessie: You mean you’re going to **jack up the price**.

(“To jack up the price” means to increase the price of something, to make something more expensive)

Masa: I’m not **gouging** anybody. I’m just putting a little **premium** on a product that’s **in demand**.

(“To gouge” here means to hurt someone by charging a very high price)

(“To be in demand” means people want it, it's desirable)

Jessie: But what if they don’t sell out? Won’t you be **stuck with** an extra iDope?

(“To be stuck with (something)” means to have something that is not desirable, but that you cannot get rid of, you can't get someone else to take from you.)

Masa: I won’t have any problems **unloading it**. Trust me, this is a simple case of **supply and demand**. I’ve got the supply and there’s a big demand. Hey, where are you going?

(“To unload” means here to sell something)

Jessie: I’m going with you. You’re not the only one in this house who wants to earn a little extra **dough**.

(“Dough” is an informal term for money)

Masa: I didn’t say you could go with me.

Jessie: Why can’t I?

Masa: Because then I’d be helping you **to junk up the market**. And that would be **shooting myself in the foot**.

(“to junk up the market” relates to the idea that if there are too many people selling something - that is, if the supply increases, price will go down; people won't pay a high price if they can get it for less somewhere else)

**Category**: Business | Money

**Glossary**

**to stand in line** - to stand with many other people, one in front of another, waiting to do or receive something when only one person at a time can do or receive that thing.

\* We had to stand in line at the bank for more than 20 minutes. I wish they had more employees to work with all the customers.

**to go on sale** - to become available for people to buy or to begin to have a lower sales price.

\* As soon as the movie tickets go on sale, we're going to buy one for each member of our family.

**to sell out** - for a store or seller to not have any more of an item because they have all been sold.

\* In the days before the big storm, all our local stores sold out of bottled water, canned food, and flashlights.

**to resell** - to buy something and then sell it again without first using it, usually because one wants to sell it for more than one paid.

\* Shayla already has a piano, but she bought a great keyboard for only $20 at a garage sale and now she's going to try to resell it to make some extra money.

**to scalp tickets** - to buy tickets, especially for a concert or sporting event, at the standard price and then sell them to individuals at a much higher price.

\* Some people make thousands of dollars by scalping tickets for the most popular concerts.

**markup** - an increase in the price when one resells something; the percentage difference between the price when one buys something and when one sells it.

\* If we buy these cameras for $50 each and sell them with a 50% markup, our sales price should be $75.

**profit** - the amount of money one makes from a business activity after paying all expenses; the difference between one's total revenues (amount of money received) and total expenses (amount of money paid out)

\* Nobody expects the restaurant to make a profit in its first year.

**to jack up the price** - to increase the price of something; to make something much more expensive than it normally is or than it previously was.

\* If universities keep jacking up the price of tuition, many young people won't be able to get a college education.

**to gouge** - to hurt someone by charging a very high price.

\* When the airport closed and all flights were canceled, hotels could have made a lot of money by gouging travelers with expensive rooms, but instead they offered discounted rooms at reasonable prices.

**premium** - extra; an additional amount of money; additional value; something that makes something better than other versions of the same thing.

\* The airline offers premium seats with more leg room and better food to first-class travelers.

**in demand** - desirable; wanted by many people; with many people wanting to buy or have something.

\* Computer programmers with experience developing applications for mobile phones are in demand right now, so they can find jobs easily.

**to unload (something)** - to be able to sell something; to be able to get rid of something, usually because other people want to buy it.

\* The store owners bought too many units of the new product, and unfortunately they haven't been able to unload them to buyers.

**supply and demand** - the economic theory that prices are set based on the interactions between the number of people or businesses willing to make and sell something at a particular price (supply) and the number of people or businesses willing to buy something at a particular price (demand)

\* Supply and demand teaches us that, in most cases, the lower the price of something is, the more people will want to buy it.

**dough** - money; cash.

\* How much dough did you have to spend to buy that new car?

**to junk up the market** - to make many extra items available for sale, so that the price of all those items has to decrease in order for there to be enough people willing to buy them.

\* Some people think international trade simply junks up the market with cheap imports.

**The phrase “to sell out,”** in this podcast, means for a store or seller to not have any more of an item because they have all been sold:

“The theater troupe was really excited to have all its tickets sell out for the first five shows.”

**The phrase “to sell out”** means for a person to change his or her mind or do something against his or her principles in order to gain money or some benefit or advantage:

“Janice always said she'd never work in weapons development, but she sold out when the defense company offered her a really high salary.”

**In this podcast, the word “premium”** means an extra or additional amount of money or value that makes something better than other versions of the same thing:

“Our premium tour package includes a suite at a five-star hotel and meals at gourmet restaurants.”

**If something is “at a premium,”** it is scarce, meaning that many people want to buy or have it, but few items or units are available:

“Real estate is at a premium in Manhattan.”

**The phrase “to put a premium on (something)”** means to think something is worth more than other things, or to value something more highly:

“Their family has always put a premium on education.”

**At a gasoline station, “premium”** is a type of gasoline with very high quality that costs more than regular gasoline:

“Lynn buys only premium gasoline for her new luxury car.”

# Daily English 705 - An Exclusive Guest List

Catherine: Do you have a **draft** of the **guest list**? We need to get the **invitations** out next week.

Ralph: It’s not quite done yet. I keep **going back and forth** about a few people I’m not sure about, like Lacy Say.

(“To go back and forth” means to be unable to make a decision)

Catherine: Lacy Say? She’s a **has-been**. She hasn’t been in a movie for years. We only want people on the **A-list** at this party.

(“has-been” is someone who was well known and popular a long time ago, but is not popular or is not important anymore)

(“A-list” would be the most popular, the best-known performers, especially actors and singers)

(“B-list” would be actors and singers who aren't very good, and so forth)

Ralph: What about Jess McGillan? I’m **on the fence** about him.

(“To be on the fence” means to be unable to make a decision because you see the good and the bad of each possibility)

Catherine: He’s definitely a **D-lister**. This party is very **exclusive,** and we don’t want any D-listers **rubbing elbows with VIPs**.

(“exclusive” you mean that it is available for only a small group of people)

(“To rub elbows with (someone)” means to spend time at a party or some event with someone who is famous)

Ralph: I understand that, but what if we don’t get enough A-listers to come?

Catherine: That will not happen. This party has to be a success!

Ralph: And if we don’t have enough guests because we’ve **excluded** so many D-list **celebrities**?

Catherine: There will always be **gatecrashers**. We can let in a few **to buff up** the numbers, **if push comes to shove**.

(“gatecrasher” is a person who goes to a party even though they were not invited; they just go to the party and show up)

Ralph: What happens to the exclusivity of the party if that happens?

Catherine: If that happens, this party has **bombed,** and I don’t care if we even let in podcasters!

**(**“To bomb,” as a verb, here means to fail very badly, to do a very poor job**)**

**Category: Entertainment + Sports**

**Glossary**

**draft** - an early version of a written document that is incomplete and/or has many errors and needs to be edited and changed at least one time before the final version if ready to be shared with other people.

\* How many drafts did you write before trying to get your novel published?

**guest list** - the names of all the people one expects to come to a party or event.

\* The guest list includes the bride and groom's relatives and closest friends.

**invitation** - a written card or letter asking someone to come to a party or event and providing all the important information like the date, time, and place, as well as what the person should wear and bring.

\* We received an invitation for a summer barbeque, and it says we should bring our own beer.

**to go back and forth** - to be unable to make a decision; to believe something is right or correct and then change one's mind and believe another thing is right or correct, repeating the process many times without being able to decide or choose.

\* Yolanda keeps going back and forth about that dress, because she likes it a lot, but she doesn't really have enough money to buy something that expensive.

**has-been** - someone who was well-known, popular, and powerful in the past, but is not important or influential anymore.

\* He had some success early in his career, but he hasn't done anything worthwhile in the past 10 years. He's a has-been.

**A-list** - the most popular and wealthiest performers, especially actors and singers.

\* Movies can make a lot more money if they have A-list actors.

**on the fence** - unable to make a decision about something because one can see reasons for and against making a particular choice.

\* Isaiah is on the fence about whether he should accept the job offer, because it seems like a great opportunity, but he would have to move across the country.

**D-lister** - an actor who is not well-known or popular.

\* I've never met any celebrities - not even a D-lister!

**exclusive** - something that is desirable and available to only a small group of people, because not everyone is popular, beautiful, powerful, or rich enough to have or do it.

\* Only members of the club can take advantage of this exclusive offer.

**to rub elbows with (someone)** - to spend time with famous, rich, and powerful people, especially at parties or important events.

\* This conference will be a great opportunity to rub elbows with industry leaders.

**VIP** - a very important person; someone who has a lot of power and influence and is treated with respect for that reason.

\* The best parking spaces are reserved for the company's VIPs.

**to exclude** - to not include someone; to not allow someone to have, do, or participate in something.

\* People who make more than $40,000 per year are excluded from our financial assistance programs.

**celebrity** - a person who is very famous, especially an actor or singer.

\* When they were in Los Angeles, they went on a tour to see celebrity homes in Hollywood.

**gatecrasher** - a person who goes to a party even though he or she was not invited.

\* That's going to be the best party of the year! Even if I don't get an invitation, I'll go as a gatecrasher.

**to buff up** - to improve or polish something; to make something slightly better.

\* You'd be much more likely to get a job offer if you buffed up your appearance for interviews.

**if push comes to shove** (до крайности) - a phrase used to indicate that one will do something if the situation becomes very bad or difficult and that action becomes necessary.

\* I think most parents would steal to feed their children, if push comes to shove.

**to bomb** - to fail very badly; to a very poor job.

\* Their first album bombed, but their second album is a huge success.

**The word “draft,”** in this podcast, means an early, incomplete version of a written document:

“When you write your first draft, try not to worry too much about specific words and phrases. You can always edit what you've written later.”

**A “draft”** can also refer to a breeze or wind that comes through a crack in a wall, door, or window:

“Do you believe you can get sick by sitting in a draft while your hair is wet?”

**In sports, “the draft**” is the process teams use to pick new players:

“Who do you think will be picked first in the draft?”

**Finally, “the draft”** is the process where the government tells people they must fight in a war:

“Normally U.S. military service is voluntary, but during a war, all young men must participate in the draft.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to buff up”** means to improve or polish something, or to make something slightly better:

“Gracie is taking a class in public speaking to buff up her presentation skills.”

**The phrase “to buff up”** can also mean to make one's muscles larger and more defined or toned by lifting weights:

“He spends hours every day at the gym, trying to buff up.”

**The verb “to buff”** means to rub something with a cloth to make it clean and shiny:

“If you buff this silver vase, it will look like new again.”

**Finally, an old-fashioned children's game called “blind man's bluff”** is played by having one child cover his or her eyes and then try to catch the other children who are running around him or her.

# Daily English 706 - Feeling Ill from Food While Traveling

Rumi: I’m as **sick as a dog**!

Hugo: **It serves you right**. I **warned** you not to eat food sold by **food vendors** on the street. **Cleanliness** is not a priority at some of those food **stands**.

(“It serves you right” implies that you did something wrong, and because you did something wrong now you are suffering)

(“food vendor” would be a person who's selling food on the street, often from a truck)

(“Cleanliness” means very clean)

Rumi: I’m not one **to turn up my nose up at** street food. On the street is where you’ll find the most **authentic** food, the food the locals eat. And plus, I have a **stomach of steel**.

(“to not turn your nose up at (something)” - you don't think that you are better than someone or something)

Hugo: You had a stomach of steel, and there’s no way **to guard against undercooked** or **contaminated** food.

(“To guard against (something)” means to protect yourself from something)

(contaminate загрязнять)

Rumi: Okay, you’re right.

Hugo: It’ll probably take days for whatever it is that’s making you sick **to work itself out of your system**. **Some** vacation!

(“To work itself out of your system” means for your body to be no longer affected by it. Really, it's another way of saying it will take a while for you to get better)

(word “some” is bad or is not as good as you wanted it to be; it's showing your disappointment)

Rumi: Just be grateful you’re not **puking your guts out** like I am.

Hugo: Believe me, I’m **thanking my lucky stars**.

**Category: Food + Drink | Travel**

**Glossary**

**sick as a dog** - very sick; very ill; with many physical symptoms of not being healthy or well.

\* After eating an entire bag of cookies, Hank felt sick as a dog.

**it serves you right** - a phrase used when one feels another person deserves the negative consequences of his or her actions; a phrase used to show that one has no sympathy for the bad things another person is experiencing, because one believes they are the result of his or her own actions.

\* It serves you right that you lost your job. You shouldn't have stolen money from your employer.

**to warn** - to tell someone about the negative consequences that may happen if things do not change; to alert someone to a danger or problem that may or will occur.

\* The instruction manual warned us not to turn on the coffeemaker before reading all the instructions.

**food vendor** - a person or small business that sells food, usually in a small, wheeled cart or truck on the street or sidewalk.

\* Some of the best hot dogs in New York City are sold by food vendors, not in restaurants.

**cleanliness** - the state of being clean, sanitary, hygienic, and orderly; the state of not being dirty.

\* When we went into Abbe's apartment, we saw rats in the kitchen and cockroaches in the bathroom. It was clear that cleanliness is not very important to her.

**stand** - a booth where things are sold, especially when the building is temporary (not permanent) and can be moved easily.

\* When they go to the carnival, the first thing they did was to look for the food stands selling cotton candy.

**to turn up (one's) nose up at** - to act as if one is better than or superior to something and does not want or need it; to think something is not good enough for oneself.

\* If you were really hungry, you wouldn't turn up your nose at the food your parents serve. Instead, you'd eat whatever was available.

**authentic** - real; true; something that actually exists.

\* Is that an authentic Gucci purse?

**stomach of steel** - a phrase referring to one's ability to eat almost anything without getting sick, regardless of how unhealthy, unclean, or unusual it is.

\* You must have a stomach of steel to be able to eat fried chicken, creamy pasta, and spicy beef in a single meal!

**to guard against** - to protect oneself from something; to take precautions against something or to prevent something from happening.

\* The doctor said that the best way to guard against infection is to wash our hands after using the bathroom and before eating.

**undercooked** - not cooked enough; not cooked thoroughly; cooked, but without having reached a safe temperature at which all the bacteria are killed.

\* If the pork is pink, it's probably undercooked and we shouldn't eat it.

**contaminated** - not clean or pure; with some harmful or dangerous substance mixed in.

\* That water is contaminated! We shouldn't drink it without boiling it first.

**to work itself out of (one's) system** - for a virus or bacterial infection to stop affecting one's body and stop making one ill; for one's body to get rid of an illness or infection.

\* The doctor said I should stay in bed for a few days until the flu works itself out of my system.

**some** - a word used to emphasize that something is not what it should be, or that it is the opposite of what it should be.

\* Some wedding! The groom never showed up and the bride just cried and cried.

**to puke (one's) guts out** - to vomit, throw up, or regurgitate a lot.

\* If Oliver keeps drinking this much, he'll start puking his guts out in front of all his friends.

**to thank (one's) lucky stars** - to be grateful for something; to be appreciative of someone or something; to be glad, happy, and relieved that something has happened in a particular way.

\* She thanks her lucky stars that she was late that morning and didn't ride her regular bus, which was in an accident that day.

**The phrase “to guard against,”** in this podcast, means to protect oneself from something:

“For many people, cutting up their credit cards is the best way to guard against overspending.”

**The verb “to guard”** can mean to protect a person or object by standing near it and looking for threats:

“How many people guard the Queen's jewels?”

**In a prison, the verb “to guard”** means to watch over a prisoner so that he or she cannot escape:

“The most dangerous criminals are sometimes guarded by several police officers.”

**A “security guard”** is a person whose job is to protect a building and/or control who can enter that building:

“When you arrive at the front desk, just tell the security guard you're here to see me.”

**In this podcast, the word “some”** is used to emphasize that something is not what it should be, or that it is the opposite of what it should be:

“Some job! As a restaurant reviewer, she gets paid to travel and eat!”

**The word “some”** can also describe something that was very good or impressive:

“That's some car you're driving! How much did it cost?”

**Sometimes the word “some”** can be used to mean that something is large or significant in size:

“Wow, that's some hamburger! Do you think you can eat it all by yourself?”

**Finally, the phrase “and then some”** is used after a number to show that one thinks the real number is probably even bigger:

“Top actors can earn one million dollars per episode of popular TV shows, and then some!”

# Daily English 707 - Looking Back on One’s Life

Nick: I’m turning 40 this year and **what do I have to show for it**?

Danielle: Actually, you’ve **accomplished** a lot. Do you know what your problem is? Your **expectations** are too high and your goals are **unattainable** for most people.

(unattainable - недостижимый)

Nick: Not for me. They shouldn’t have been. I had my life all **planned out** and nothing is **turning out** the way it should.

(“To turn out” is another phrasal verb meaning to become, to have a certain result, or to end in a particular way)

Danielle: I would never have **pegged you** for someone with **regrets** about how his life has turned out.

(“To peg” is to categorize someone or identify someone, to believe that someone has a certain characteristic)

Nick: But I was supposed to make my first million dollars by the time I was 30. By 35, I should have met someone and **settled down**, maybe had a child or two. None of that has **panned out**.

(“To settle down” - meaning usually to get married, to buy a house, or to live a calmer life, perhaps to have children)

(“To pan out” is similar to the verb “to turn out.” - meaning to be successful)

Danielle: You have lots of friends and a full life. Maybe things didn’t turn out the way you had imagined, but wouldn’t you say you were generally **content**?

(“To be content” means to be happy, to be calm, to be satisfied)

Nick: I was before I started thinking about my **upcoming** birthday.

Danielle: Then stop thinking about it. Too much **brooding** could definitely lead to regrets – not to mention **premature aging**!

**(**“To brood” means to think about something too much; you're thinking about it so much that you become worried or sad or depressed, so it's always a negative thing**)**

**Category: About You | Daily Life**

**Glossary**

**what do I have to show for it?** - a rhetorical question (a question one asks oneself, not expecting to receive an answer) one asks when one is disappointed that one cannot observe the results of one's actions and feels one's efforts were wasted.

\* I spent all day in the kitchen, and what do I have to show for it? Burnt bread, an undercooked chicken, and mushy green beans.

**to accomplish** - to achieve; to do something, especially if it is difficult or admirable.

\* Nobody expected Grace to accomplish so much in her first three months on the job.

**expectation** - standard of performance; what one anticipates will happen in the future; what one believes should happen.

\* Mariah believes the secret to raising smart children is to have high expectations for them and never accept anything less than their best effort.

**unattainable** - desirable but impossible; not able to be reached because something is too difficult; impossible.

\* That kind of lifestyle is unattainable on our income unless we decide to have a lot of credit card debt.

**planned out** - with a clear, detailed idea of how and why something should happen.

\* The conference is this weekend! We should have had everything planned out months ago, but we're still trying to make arrangements for speakers and food.

**to turn out** - to become; to end in a particular way.

\* They were disappointed their offer on the home wasn't accepted, but as it turned out, they found an even better home the next week.

**to peg (someone)** - to identify or categorize someone in a particular way; to believe that a person has certain characteristics.

\* Most people peg Charles as a nerd because he wears glasses and talks about physics all the time, but he's also a member of a rock band and a world-class snowboarder.

**regret** - a feeling of sadness that something has happened; a wish or desire that one had done something differently in the past, because one is disappointed with the results of that action or decision.

\* One of Jan's biggest regrets is that he never earned a college degree.

**to settle down** - to get married and live a calm life, usually in a home, no longer traveling, changing jobs, or partying.

\* He'll probably settle down when he meets the right girl, but until then, he wants to have as many adventures as possible.

**to pan out** - to be successful; to happen as one expected something to happen; to meet one's expectations.

\* We thought we'd be able to make $100,000 by selling our home, but that didn't pan out once the housing market crashed.

**content** - happy, calm, and satisfied; not extremely joyful, but not sad or mad either.

\* Xavier is a very simple man. All he needs to feel content is a good meal and a soft bed.

**upcoming** - scheduled to happen soon.

\* Will I see you at the upcoming meeting?

**to brood** - to think about something too much, becoming worried, sad, and depressed.

\* My father always said that it doesn't do any good to brood over things you can't control.

**premature aging** - the physical changes that make one appear to be older than one actually is.

\* Spending too much time in the sun can dry out your skin and create wrinkles, leading to premature aging.

**The phrase “to plan out,”** in this podcast, means to create a clear, detailed idea of how and why something should happen:

“The committee has done a great job planning out the company's emergency response for natural disasters.”

**The phrase “to plan ahead”** means to make a plan for the future:

“Even before their kids were born, they were planning ahead and saving money to pay for the children's college education.”

**A “game plan”** is used to talk about how one intends to win in sports or business:

“The marketing director described his game plan for increasing sales before the end of the year.”

**Finally, a “master plan”** is a very detailed plan for how one will control something that is complex:

“Do you think God has a master plan for our lives, or are all these events just random?”

**In this podcast, the word “content”** (pronounced “conTENT”) means happy, calm, and satisfied:

“At first we wanted to hire the best person in the field, but at this point, we'd be content with anyone who knows how to use a computer.”

**As a noun, “contents”** (pronounced “CONtent”) refers to whatever is inside a box or container:

“The writing on the box said, 'Do not drop - fragile contents.'”

**The word “content”** can also be used to describe how much of something there is in a food or beverage:

“What has a higher alcohol content: beer or wine?”

**The word “content”** can also refer to the meaning and significance of written text:

“They've created a beautiful website, but the content is terrible.”

**Finally, a “table of contents”** is a list at the beginning of a long document or book, indicating on which page each chapter or section begins.”

Daily English 708 - Trademarks and Logos

Bianca: Look at this **logo** I **designed** for our new line of products.

Vien: That’s really nice, but it looks a lot like our **competitor’s** logo. In fact, it’s almost **identical**.

Bianca: No, it’s not. The color is a different **shade** of green, the **graphic** is smaller, and instead of a picture of a woman, I’m using a picture of a man. They’re **nothing alike**.

(“nothing alike,” we mean they are completely different)

Vien: That’s not what most people would say. Looking at your logo and our competitor’s logo **side by side**, I’d say this was a clear case of **trademark infringement**.

(“To infringe on (something)” means to violate or to break some sort of rule or law)

(infringement - нарушение)

(“side by side” means two things are placed or put right next to each other so that you can look at them and see how they are different and how they are similar)

Bianca: Okay, to be honest, I purposely made them look a little alike so that customers will **associate** our products with their **brand**. So what? I don’t think that’s a big deal.

Vien: Our competitor has **exclusive rights** to use its logo. If ours is too similar, the **trademark registry** and the courts are going **to nail us**.

Bianca: So, what do you want me to do?

Vien: **Go back to the drawing board** – **literally**!

**(**“Literally” refers to the actual, direct meaning of words, not a symbolic meaning of the word**)**

**Category: Business**

**Glossary**

**logo** - an image used to identify a company or organization.

\* Don't forget to put the company's logo at the top of the press release.

**to design** - to create the image, form, shape, or style of something.

\* Who designed her wedding dress?

**competitor** - a company that sells products or services that are similar to those sold by one's own company, so that both companies are trying to reach the same buyers.

\* Whenever our company comes up with a new idea, our competitors copy it as quickly as they can.

**identical** - the same as something else; with no differences.

\* Those identical twins are so much alike that even their own relatives can't tell them apart!

**shade** - a slight difference in the color of something.

\* Which shade of blue is your new shirt, light blue or bright blue?

**graphic** - an image, especially one that was created by computers, usually without any text.

\* People would be more likely to buy from our website if we had better graphics.

**nothing alike** - completely different; not similar in any way.

\* Lynette and Michel have the same parents, but you'd never guess it, because they are nothing alike.

**side by** **side** - with two things placed next to each other so that one can compare and contrast them directly.

\* Before deciding which stock to invest in, we compared their past financial performance side by side.

**trademark infringement** - a violation of the laws against using another company's logo, brand name, or design for one's own company or other use.

\* When our competitor began using our logo and name, changing only one letter, we sued the company for trademark infringement.

**to associate** - to connect two things; to believe that two things are related or connected to each other in some way.

\* Do you believe higher crime rates are associated with drug and alcohol abuse?

**brand** - a particular name and design for a particular product.

\* Which brand of razors do you use to shave your face?

**exclusive rights** - the legal ability to do something and not let anyone else do it; the ability to do something that nobody else is allowed to do.

\* When Hermione wrote her first book, the publishing company asked her to give them exclusive rights to publish any of her future novels.

**trademark registry** - an official list of all the protected trademarks (words, phrases, images, logos, etc.) and the organization that enforces protection of the items on that list.

\* If you want to protect your company's new logo, fill out this application and submit it to the trademark registry.

**to nail (someone)** - to get someone in trouble and punish him or her for having done something wrong.

\* If the professor sees us cheating on the exam, he'll nail us.

**to go back to the drawing board** - to begin something again; to give up on what one had been working on or had recently completed and start over again, usually because the first version wasn't good or appropriate.

\* An ad agency might spend months developing a campaign, but if the client doesn't like it, they have to go back to the drawing board.

**literally** - referring to the actual, direct meaning of the words, not the symbolic meaning of those words.

\* He said he'd give anything to have that job, but of course he didn't mean it literally.

**The word “graphic,”** in this podcast, means an image, especially one that was created by computers, usually without any text:

“The graphic has a cool design, but it's too hard to read the words.”

**A “graphic designer”** is someone who uses computers to create interesting images and logos:

“Does your company produce its newsletter in-house, or does a graphic designer do it for you?”

**Something that is “graphic”** has a lot of details, especially if they are grotesque or unpleasant:

“This video game is very graphic and shows too much blood for young children to play it.”

Or, “I wish James wouldn't be so graphic when he talks about his injuries and illnesses. Only his doctor wants to hear those kinds of things.”

**In this podcast, the verb “to associate”** means to connect two things or to believe that two things are related or connected to each other in some way:

“A lot of people associate movies with eating junk food, such as popcorn and candy.”

**The phrase “to associate with (someone)”** means to spend time with someone, especially if they are not well liked or admired:

“Mariah's parents moved her to a different school because they didn't like the young people she was associating with.”

**Sometimes an “associate”** is a colleague or co-worker:

“Every Thursday, Miguel and his business associates eat lunch together in a restaurant.”

**Finally, an “associate professor”** is a person who works in a university, teaching classes, but without as much power or responsibility as a full professor:

“Traci worked as an associate professor for years before she was promoted to a full professor.”

Daily English 709 - Taking Someone for Granted (Принимать кого-то как должное)

Phil: Did you hear that Melissa has finally **left** Eric? **It’s about time**!

Cameron: Oh, that’s sad. It’s always sad when two people can’t **make it work**.

Phil: Well, it wasn’t **for a lack of trying**, **on Melissa’s part (**I tried very hard**)**. She **bent over backwards** trying **to please** Eric and he always **took her for granted**. If you ask me, Melissa was always **too good for him**.

(Она изо всех сил старалась угодить Эрику, а он всегда воспринимал ее как должное.)

(“To bend over backwards” - изо всех сил старался. do everything possible for something to happen, especially when you are trying to make things easier for another person)

(bent - согнутый, bent over – наклонился, backwards - назад)

(“To take for granted” - Принять как должное. means not to appreciate what another person is doing, to not appreciate his or her actions or behaviors, to not thank them)

Cameron: Really? I don’t know Eric too well, but he seemed nice.

Phil: Yeah, he’s nice **on the surface**, but he’s really a **slimeball**. Trust me, I know.

(slimeball - слизняк) (slime - слизь)

(“slimeball” is an informal word describing someone who you don't want to spend a lot of time with because you don't respect him; you don't think that he's a good person)

Cameron: I believe you, but what’s Melissa going to do now?

Phil: I think she should find a nice guy who’ll **appreciate her**.

(“To appreciate” (is the opposite of “to take for granted) is to recognize their good qualities, to value them, to let them know that you are happy, to thank them)

Cameron: Someone like you?

Phil: She **could do worse**. I’d **treat her right** and make her happy.

(“could do worse” - Phil is saying that he's not perfect - he's not the perfect person, but he's a pretty good person, a good choice for Melissa)

Cameron: You sound like a man with a plan.

Phil: “Be prepared.” Isn’t that what the **Boy Scouts** say?

**Category: Relationships + Family**

**Glossary**

**to leave (someone)** - to choose to end a romantic relationship with another person, especially when that other person does not want to end the relationship.

\* Brian's father left his mother when Brian was just three years old.

**it's about time** - a phrase used to show that one is glad or relieved that something has finally happened, and that one wishes it had happened sooner.

\* It's about time you asked your boss for a raise! You've been with the company for 10 years, and they're still paying you the same salary.

**to make (something) work** - to try very hard to make something be successful, especially when talking about a relationship.

\* They tried to keep the restaurant open, but in the end they just couldn't make it work and they had to close their business.

**for a lack of trying** - due to one's unwillingness to try to do something that is difficult or unpleasant, usually used in the negative.

\* Nancy studied really hard, so if she fails the exam, it won't be for a lack of trying.

**on (someone's) part** - referring to one person's involvement or participation in something, or to one person's opinion or belief about something.

\* There were a lot of bad feelings on Liu's part. He has never been able to forgive his sister for what she did.

**to bend over backwards** - to do everything possible to make something happen, especially to make something easier for another person.

\* The customer service representatives are fantastic! They always bend over backwards to solve their customers' problems.

**to please** - to make someone happy or satisfied; to do or say something that another person will like.

\* Jessina always tried to please her parents by earning good grades in school.

**to take (someone) for granted** - to not appreciate another person and/or his or her actions and behaviors; to not recognize someone for the good things he or she does.

\* Don't let your boss take you for granted! Make sure she knows just how much you contribute to the team.

**too good for (someone)** - superior to someone; better than someone.

\* Becca's parents have always thought their daughter was too good for their son-in-law, and it has really affected Becca's marriage.

**on the surface** - superficially; relating to how someone or something seems at first, before one really understands he, she, or it well.

\* Being a lawyer seems like a great career on the surface, but soon you realize how much stress it involves.

**slimeball** - someone who does bad, sneaky, tricky things and whom one does not want to spend time with because one does not respect him or her.

\* That guy is such a slimeball! He was dating three women at once, without letting them know it.

**to appreciate (someone)** - to value another person; to recognize the good qualities or characteristics of another person and let that person know that he or she is admired.

\* We really appreciate our employees, and we try to prove it to them by offering generous compensation and vacation leave.

**to be able to do worse** - a phrase used to talk about something that is not perfect, but is not bad and is actually better than many other similar things.

\* The job isn't perfect, but he likes it and he could do worse.

**to treat (someone) right** - to be kind, thoughtful, and considerate toward another person, not abusing or mistreating him or her.

\* Our nonprofit organization tries to help women whose boyfriends or husbands don't treat them right.

**Boy Scouts** - an organization that teaches boys practical skills, values, and strong morals as they grow up.

\* Sammy learned how to survive in the wilderness, tie knots, and start a fire while he was in the Boy Scouts.

**The verb “to leave,”** in this podcast, means to choose to end a romantic relationship with another person, especially when that other person does not want to end the relationship:

“What percentage of men leave their wife for a younger woman?”

**The phrase “to leave home”** means to move out of one's parents' home:

“In the past, many Americans left home when they were 18 years old.”

**The phrase “to leave well enough alone”** means to stop trying to change a situation because its current state is acceptable:

“Politicians need to learn to leave well enough alone and stop making more silly laws for us to follow.”

**Finally, the phrase “to leave it at that”** is used to show that one will not continue to do more of something:

“We're about 80% done, so let's leave it at that for today and finish the report tomorrow morning.”

**In this podcast, the verb “to please**” means to make someone happy or satisfied, or to do or say something that another person will like:

“It's impossible to please Mr. Haftl! No matter what we say or do, he's never content.”

**The phrase “if you please”** is put on the end of a command to make it very polite and a little old-fashioned:

“Close the window, if you please, so the cold air can't get in.”

**The phrase “as (one) pleases”** is used to talk about someone doing something the way he or she wants to do it, without considering how other people think it should be done:

“Do you think parents should let their children do as they please, or should they control their children's activities?”

Daily English 710 - Doubting One’s Language Use

Flora: Can you help me? I’m working on this email to Emil and I’m having trouble **coming up with** the right words in French.

(“To come up with (something)” to think of something, to have an idea for something or an idea about something)

Andy: My French isn’t much better than yours, but I’ll **give it a shot**.

Flora: Okay, read this sentence for me. What I want to know is if that is a **suitable** way to say that I’m sick, but that I’m not seriously ill.

Andy: **Word choice** can be **tricky**, but I think that’s the **appropriate** word, with the right meaning and the right **connotations**.

(“Word choice” is picking the right word to say exactly what you want to say)

(“connotation” – коннотация / смысл; - is an additional meaning to a word or a phrase; the ideas that you think of when you hear that word)

(denotation - definition that you will see in a dictionary)

(“stubborn” – упрямый (критика); “strong-willed” – волевой (комплимент); - the connotations are different, even though the denotations are similar)

Flora: Okay, now read this sentence. It doesn’t **sound right** to me. Is this the right **usage** of the word “*faire*”? I really **doubt** it.

Andy: That’s because you’re using the wrong **form** of the verb, I think. Now if only I can think of the correct form. My French is really, really **rusty**.

Flora: Now that you’ve pointed out the problem, I can **look it up** later. What about this paragraph? The last sentence **sounds awkward** to me.

(“To look (something) up” meaning to search for it in books, dictionaries, grammar books)

Andy: It sounds okay to me, but then again, I’m not a **native speaker**.

(“Then again” means on the other hand)

Flora: Ugh, this is so frustrating! It’s such a **production** every time I write him an email.

(“Production” here means something that requires a lot of work)

Andy: Maybe Emil will learn English and **your troubles will be over**.

Flora: Yes and maybe **monkeys will fly out of my butt**!

Category: About You | Daily Life

**Glossary**

**to come up with** - to think of; to have an idea about or for something.

\* How did you come up with such a creative marketing campaign?

**to give it a shot** - to try to do something, especially when one doesn't think one will be successful, usually because it is too difficult.

\* I'm not very good at fixing cars, but I'll give it a shot.

**suitable** - appropriate; acceptable; okay to use, have, or do in a particular situation.

\* Shorts and a t-shirt aren't suitable for a wedding.

**word choice** - the selection of a particular word when there are several other that have similar meanings.

\* Su asked the teacher to talk about selecting the correct word choice for this sentence among the words “angry,” “furious,” “mad,” and “upset.”

**tricky** - difficult; challenging, with a high probability of making a mistake.

\* Some of the math questions on that test were really tricky.

**appropriate** - suitable; acceptable; okay to use, have, or do in a particular situation.

\* Racist and sexist jokes are never appropriate in the workplace.

**connotation** - the additional meanings related to the core or main meaning of a word; the ideas that a particular word makes someone think of.

\* The words “stubborn” and “strong-willed” have the same meaning, but “stubborn” has a more negative connotation.

**to sound right** - for a phrase to seem to be accurate or grammatically correct based only on how one reacts when hearing it, without understanding the underlying rules.

\* It just doesn't sound right, but I can't explain why and I don't know how to fix it.

**usage** - the way a word or phrase is used grammatically.

\* Kim wrote her report on how the usage of slang changes over time.

**to doubt** - to be unsure whether something is true or correct; to believe that something is possibly false or incorrect, but not know with certainty.

\* This résumé seems too good to be true. I doubt the candidate really has an Olympic gold medal, a Nobel Peace Prize, and a Purple Heart.

**form** - one of many possible conjugations /спряжений and tenses of a verb.

\* Which form of the verb is correct here:

“I will have eaten” or “I would have eaten”?

**rusty** - unpracticed; describing a skill that is not as strong as it once was, because one has not used it in a long time.

\* Paulo hasn't taken a math class since high school, so his algebra skills are really rusty.

**to look (something) up** - to search for a word or concept in a reference book like a dictionary, thesaurus, or encyclopedia to learn more about it.

\* As a pharmacist, Busaraporn often looks medicines up in special books to learn more about them.

**awkward** - uncomfortable; difficult to do, use, or observe; inconvenient; problematic.

\* Most teenagers are awkward while their bodies are changing during puberty.

**native speaker** - a person who is raised in an environment where a particular language is used and therefore learns to speak it perfectly.

\* Make sure a native speaker reviews the translation before you publish it.

**production** - something that requires a lot of work and/or the involvement of many people because it is complex.

\* Once you have kids, packing for a weekend trip becomes a production. There are so many things you have to bring!

**(one's) troubles will be over** - a phrase used to talk about some unspecified time in the future when the problems one is currently facing will no longer exist.

\* Stephen doesn't have enough money for food right now, but he dreams that once he finishes school and gets a job, all of his troubles will be over.

**monkeys will fly out of my butt** - a very informal phrase used to show one does not believe something will happen.

\* - Within 20 years, we will achieve world peace.

\* - Sure, and monkeys will fly out of my butt!

**The phrase “to give (something) a shot,”** in this podcast, means to try to do something, especially when one doesn't think one will be successful, usually because it is too difficult:

“This recipe seems really hard, but we'll give it a shot.”

**The phrase “to give (something) one's best shot”** means to work as hard as one can to do something difficult:

“I doubt we can clean the house in just four hours, but let's give it our best shot.”

**The phrase “a long shot”** refers to something that is unlikely to succeed:

“Yolanda is going to apply for the job, even though she knows it's a long shot.”

**Finally, the phrase “a shot in the dark”** refers to a guess made without any actual knowledge about the topic:

“If you don't know the answer to a question on the test, at least take a shot in the dark.”

**In this podcast, the word “form”** means one of many possible conjugations and tenses of a verb:

“Why do so many verbs have irregular forms?”

**A “form”** is often a piece of paper that requests information, usually as part of an application:

“Just fill out this form and pay $40, and then we'll give you your new driver's license.”

**The phrase “to take form”** means to begin to have a certain shape and begin to be established:

“When the construction crew started working across from our home, it was interesting to watch the building take form over time.”

**Finally, the phrase “true to form”** refers to someone who is doing what one expects of him or her, often a negative thing:

“True to form, Gretl refused to share her cookies with anyone else. She has always been very selfish.”

Daily English 711 - A Difficult Place to Find

Ricardo: I’m **making one more pass** and if we don’t see a sign for the hotel, I’m **heading back** into town. I’m tired and I want a shower.

(“To head back” - to begin to go back to the place from which you came, to return to where you were before)

Marsha: I’m sure we’ll find it. When I talked to the **desk clerk**, she said that the hotel is **hidden away** behind some trees and **to keep an eye out** for their white sign.

(“desk clerk”/receptionist is the person who answers the phone for a business or an office)

(“To be hidden away” means that you cannot easily see something, usually because it is behind something else)

(“to keep an eye out” is very common; it means to look for something, to be aware of the things around you)

Ricardo: Did she say **blink and you’ll miss it**? Because we’ve driven past this **stretch** three times and I don’t see a sign.

(“blink and you'll miss it,” they mean that if you're not looking carefully you will go right by it; you will miss it; you will not see it perhaps because it is well hidden, or perhaps because it is very small)

(“Stretch” here refers to a certain part or a certain section of a road, between one point and another)

Marsha: She just said that they’re a little **off the beaten path**.

(“To be off the beaten path” means to be in a place that is not normally visited by a lot of people)

Ricardo: If they know that their hotel is so hard to find, why don’t they make it more **prominent** with some kind of **landmark**?

(prominent - известный, видный)

Marsha: That’s part of the **charm** of a small hotel **hideaway**. It doesn’t have **neon signs,** and it’s **tucked away** far from the tourist areas.

(hideaway - укрытие)

(“To be tucked away” means to be far away from other people, other buildings)

Ricardo: That’s all good and fine, but we have to find it first. Okay, this is the last pass. **Keep your eyes peeled**.

(“To keep your eyes peeled” / “keep an eye out,” means to look for something very carefully)

Marsha: There it is! I’ve **spotted** the sign. It’s over there, see?

Ricardo: Yeah, now I see it. **Geez**, it’s like **finding a needle in a haystack**!

(“Geez,” spelled usually (geez), is an expression of surprise or relief or some sort of uncertainty)

**Category: Travel**

**Glossary**

**to make one more pass** - to try to do something one more time, especially when trying to find something while driving.

\* Okay, we'll make one more pass to try and find the ice cream shop, but this is the last time!

**to head back** - to begin to go back in the direction from which one came; to turn around so that one can go back to where one started.

\* The kids were screaming so much in the backseat of the car that the parents decided to head back home.

**desk clerk** - receptionist; a person whose job is to answer the phones and greet people who come into an office or business.

\* The desk clerk has to sign a form whenever the mail carrier delivers packages.

**hidden away** - not easily seen because something is partially or entirely behind something else, not where one would expect to see it.

\* When traveling as a tourist, it's a good idea to keep your money and passport hidden away.

**to keep an eye out** - to look for something; to be aware of one's surroundings.

\* Keep an eye out for holes on the dirt road, or you might trip and fall.

**blink and you'll miss it** - a phrase used to tell someone that the thing he or she is looking for is very small and/or very hard to find, so he or she must be actively looking around for it.

\* They used to joke that the town they grew up in was so small, they had to tell people, “Blink and you'll miss it.”

**stretch** - a particular section of a road between two points.

\* This stretch of highway has a lot of dangerous curves.

**off the beaten path** - sites that are not well-known and are rarely visited by tourists.

\* When Jimmy travels, he likes to eat at restaurants that are off the beaten path, and not described in tourist guidebooks.

**prominent** - seen easily, often because something is very large or very different from the things around it.

\* When you drive to the city, the first thing you'll see is a prominent sign that says, “Welcome to Bainbridge!”

**landmark** - an important building, statue, or natural object that helps one identify where one is.

\* The Statue of Liberty is probably the best-known landmark in New York City.

**charm** - the characteristics that make something likeable, especially in a sweet or old-fashioned way.

\* Part of her charm is the way she blushes whenever anyone compliments her.

**hideaway** - a place where one can go to be far away from other people and be left alone, without interruption.

\* Many writers do their best work in secret hideaways.

**neon sign** - a sign with words and images shown in bright lights created by putting gas in glass tubes.

\* The neon sign said, “open,” but the doors of the restaurant were locked.

**tucked away** - far away from other people, buildings, or things, in a quiet place.

\* They own a cabin that's tucked away in the Appalachian Mountains.

**to keep (one's) eyes peeled** - to actively look for something when one knows it will be difficult to find.

\* In New York City, drivers always have to keep their eyes peeled for a parking space.

**to spot** - to find something that one has been looking for; to catch a glimpse of something; to see.

\* Vince has great vision and was able to spot the airplane before anyone else could see it.

**geez** - a word used to show one's surprise, relief, or bewilderment.

\* Geez that was a hard test!

**to find a needle in a haystack** - to find something that is very difficult to find, usually because it is very small or because it is one of many similar objects.

\* Getting a good job in this economy is like finding a needle in a haystack.

**The phrase “to make one more pass,”** in this podcast, means to try to do something one more time, especially when trying to find something while driving:

“The flight instructor agreed to let her student make one more pass at landing the plane before taking control of it herself.”

**The phrase “to make a pass at (someone)”** means to try to start a romantic or sexual relationship with someone, perhaps by saying something, making a facial expression, or touching the other person:

“Don't you see that man winking at you? I'm sure he's trying to make a pass at you.”

**Finally, the phrase “to come to a pretty pass”** is not very common, but means for a situation to have become very difficult or bad:

“Things would have to come to a pretty pass before I'd steal food from a store.”

**In this podcast, the word “stretch”** means a particular section of a road between two points:

“The children believe that this stretch of road is haunted and ghosts live here.”

**A “stretch”** can also refer to a period of time without interruption:

“Her teenage son can sleep for 14-hour stretches!”

**The phrase “by any stretch (of the imagination)”** is used to emphasize the truth of something negative that one has just said:

“Those fashion models aren't overweight by any stretch of the imagination.”

**The phrases “the final stretch” and “the home stretch”** refer to the last part of a project or activity:

“We're in the home stretch now. All we have to do is write the conclusion and then we'll be done with this report.”

Daily English 712 - Types of Business Entities

Ron: I’m only your **tax accountant**, but let me give you a piece of advice. If you’re planning to start a business, you’ll want to carefully consider what type of **business entity** you want to do business under.

Marcela: Is that important? My parents ran a **mom-and-pop** store for 40 years and they never had to think about stuff like that.

(“piece of advice” is really the same as a sentence or one statement of advice - one idea)

(business entity - предприятие)

(tax accountant - налоговый бухгалтер)

(mom-and-pop store - семейный магазин)

Ron: I don’t know about your parents’ business, but opening a store these days means having to think about the **tax implications** and **liability issues**.

(the tax implications and liability issues - налоговые последствия и вопросы ответственности)

Marcela: Liability issues?

(вопросы ответственности)

Ron: Yes. What if somebody **sues** you? Without proper **safeguards**, a **lawsuit** could **bankrupt** you and your business.

(sue - подать в суд)

(lawsuit – судебный иск)

Marcela: I’d never thought of that.

Ron: You’ll probably want to consider forming a **corporation** or an **LLC**. You’ll be a **sole proprietor**, right? You’re not **going into business with** someone else, are you?

(Limited liability company (LLC) - общество с ограниченной ответственностью (ООО))

(sole proprietor - индивидуальный предприниматель)

(You’re not going into business with someone else - Вы ведь не собираетесь вести бизнес с кем-то еще)

Marcela: I’ll have two **partners** actually.

Ron: In that case, you’ll also want to think about things like the **transferring of interests** and the **duration** of the entity.

(the transferring of interests - передача интересов)

(the duration of the entity - длительность существования сущности)

Marcela: Wow, starting a business is a lot more complicated than I thought.

Ron: My advice? Get a **lawyer**, and the sooner the better!

**Category:** Business

**Glossary**

**tax accountant** - a person who helps many clients record their financial transactions and fill out forms for paying taxes.

\* Tax accountants have to work a lot of hours in March and April right before taxes are due, but they have more free time during the rest of the year.

**business entity** - a single business and especially the way it is structured.

\* How many new business entities are created each year on average?

**mom-and-pop** - owned by a married couple; referring to a family-owned business.

\* Kianka creates graphic designs for mom-and-pop businesses that aren't big enough to hire full-time graphic designers.

**tax implication** - the way that a particular action or decision results in one paying higher or lower taxes.

\* Because of the tax implications, it's better to get married in December than in January.

**liability issue** - related to concerns about being sued, having risk, or being blamed for something and having to pay money as a result.

\* Any business that works with young children has a lot of liability issues.

**to sue** - to take someone to court and legally demand money from him or her because one believes one has been hurt by something that he or she has done.

\* You can be sued if your dog bites someone.

**safeguard** - a precaution; something that one does to protect oneself from something that might happen.

\* Should we buy travel insurance as a safeguard in case our flight is canceled?

**lawsuit** - a legal case; the process through which one person legally demands money from another person after being hurt by something he or she has done, where a judge decides whether and how much money should be paid.

\* Dorian filed a lawsuit against his employer for not having provided appropriate safety equipment at the factory where he worked.

**to bankrupt** - to make a person or business very poor by taking away all the money.

\* Feeding four teenage boys is going to bankrupt us!

**corporation** - a large company that legally is separate from its owners.

\* Twenty years ago, Jodi never imagined that her small business would become such a large corporation.

**LLC** - limited liability company; a type of business entity that has some characteristics of a corporation and some characteristics of a partnership.

\* We decided to form an LLC so that if the company were ever sued, at least we wouldn't lose our home and personal savings accounts.

**sole proprietor** - a person who is the only owner of a business and receives all the profits, but is also responsible for all the debts and liabilities.

\* Do you work as a sole proprietor, or are you on the company's payroll?

**to go into business with (someone)** - to open a business with another person; to start a business by sharing the costs (and future profits) with another person.

\* They met in college and always talked about how much fun it would be to go into business together.

**partner** - a person with whom one works closely, especially a person who shares ownership of a business or project.

\* Your proposal sounds interesting, but I can't agree to it before speaking with my partner.

**transferring of interests** - the process of giving away or selling one's partial ownership of something to another person.

\* They were best friends while they owned the business together, but when Marlah decided she wanted to do something else, they started fighting over the transferring of interests.

**duration** - how long something lasts; the period of time when something exists or is active or applicable.

\* They've agreed to provide free technical support for the duration of the contract.

**lawyer** - attorney; a person who has studied the law and received a license and whose job is to advise other people about the law, write contracts, and more.

\* When Gregory was arrested, the first thing he did was hire a lawyer.

**The verb “to sue,”** in this podcast, means to take someone to court and legally demand money from him or her because one believes one has been hurt by something that he or she has done:

“Harvey is going to sue his former employer for firing him unfairly.”

**The phrase “to sue for damages”** emphasizes that one is taking someone to court in order to receive money:

“I know you're upset that your home was destroyed, but you can't sue the city for damages just because it wasn't able to warn you a hurricane was coming.”

**Finally, the phrase “to sue for libel”** means to take someone to court and demand money because that person wrote things that were untrue about oneself:

“How can those tabloid newspapers print those kinds of stories? You'd think the celebrities would sue them for libel.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “the transferring of interests”** means the process of giving away or selling one's partial ownership of something to another person:

“When Renee and Akish filed for divorce, the lawyers spent a lot of time discussing the transferring of interests in their family-owned business.”

**The phrase “to take an interest in (something)”** means to be interested in something:

“I didn't know you took an interest in karate.”

**The phrase “to lose interest in (something)”** means to no longer be interested in something:

“She used to watch the show, but over time she lost interest in it.”

**Finally, the phrase “to pique (one's) interest”** means to do or say something to attract someone's attention and make him or her interested in something:

“This advertising campaign is designed to pique young men's interest in cologne.”

«Эта рекламная кампания призвана пробудить интерес молодых людей к одеколону».

Daily English 713 - Being Physically Strong

Takeshi: What do you want me to do with this **piano**?

Paula: I want you to move it from the living room to the family room. You’re **as strong as an ox** and that’s why I called you for help.

Takeshi: Lucky me. I don’t think I can move that piano by myself, though.

Paula: You’re **built** and **have muscles coming out of your ears**. Come on! Let’s put those muscles to work!

(built - in this context means they have very strong muscles)

Takeshi: I haven’t been **working out** as much recently. I don’t think I’m **up to the job**.

(“To work out” is a to exercise, to do physical exercise)

(“to be up to the job” means to be prepared and ready to do something)

Paula: I’ll **cut you some slack**. I’ll help.

(“To cut (someone) some slack” (Я дам вам немного поблажки) is an expression meaning I will make the situation easier for someone else, in this case so they don't have to work as hard)

Takeshi: What I’m trying to tell you is that you’ll need at least three big guys to move this piano. **There’s no way around it**.

(“there's no way around it” means that you cannot change something)

Paula: Come on. **Be a man**. **Suck it up**! I’m willing **to put my back into it**, so let’s move this thing.

(“Come on” means let's go)

(“Suck it up!” is a phrase used to tell someone that he or she needs to stop complaining and do what is necessary, even if it is difficult)

(“To put your back into (something)” means to work very hard, especially at something that requires a lot of physical strength)

Takeshi: You are completely **deluded** if you think we’re going to move this piano one inch. **I, for one**, am **not putting my back out** trying **to do the work of three**!

(“To be deluded” means to be confused, to believe something that is not true, or to be fooled)

(“I, for one” – я, например)

(“To put your back out” means to injure or to hurt the back)

**Category:** About You | Daily Life

**Glossary**

**piano** - a large musical instrument that one sits in front of, pressing many white and black keys with one's fingers.

\* “Moonlight Sonata” by Beethoven is one of my favorite pieces for the piano.

**as strong as an ox** - very strong; with the ability to move very heavy things.

\* Arnold is as strong as an ox! Did you see him pick up that tree?

**built** - with well-defined muscles; with a strong, beautiful body that is very powerful and can lift heavy things.

\* If you spent that much time in the gym, you could be built, too!

**to have (something) coming out of (one's) ear** - to have a lot of something; to have more of something than one needs.

\* Poor Margaret has work coming out of her ears! She really needs to hire an assistant.

**muscle** - a part of one's body under the skin that connects pieces of bone and allows one to move in certain ways; the internal parts of one's body that provide strength and movement.

\* Sheila painted the outside of her house over the weekend and her muscles really hurt today.

**to work out** - to exercise; to do a lot of physical activity to improve one's physical health and/or lose weight.

\* Even if you dislike running, there are lots of other ways to work out, like swimming, dancing, and playing sports.

**up to the job** - prepared and ready to do something; feeling competent and able to do something.

\* None of these applicants seem up to the job. Let's keep looking for someone with more experience.

**to cut (someone) some slack** - to make a situation easier for another person, so that he or she does not have to work as hard; to make something easier for someone.

\* Do I really have to fix the plumbing right now? Cut me some slack! I've been at work all day and I really just want to rest for a few minutes when I get home.

**there's no way around it** - it's unavoidable; a phrase used to show someone that there is no way to change something, because it is real or actual.

\* If Viktor doesn't find a job soon, they'll have to sell their home and move into an apartment. There's no way around it.

**be a man** - a phrase used to tell a man that he needs to be braver or stronger and stop complaining or crying.

\* What are you crying for? Be a man!

**suck it up** - a phrase used to tell someone that he or she needs to stop complaining and do what is needed, even if it is difficult.

\* Just one more mile and then we'll be at the top of the mountain. Suck it up! You can do it!

**to put (one's) back into it** - to work very hard while performing some physical action that demands a lot of strength.

\* These boxes are pretty heavy, but if we put our backs into it, I think we can move them together.

**deluded** - fooled, tricked, and confused; believing something that is not true.

\* Some people are deluded into thinking that taking vitamins is a substitute for a good diet.

**I, for one** - a phrase used to emphasize one's position or opinion about something.

\* I, for one, think she would be a very good president.

**to not put (one's) back out** - to not injure one's back by doing too much difficult, physical labor.

\* When Hugh turned 70, he finally agreed to hire a gardener so he wouldn't put his back out.

**to do the work of (a number)** - for one person to do the same amount of work that is normally performed by a larger number of people.

\* Randall is very efficient and can easily do the work of two or three people.

**The word “built,”** in this podcast, means with well-defined muscles, or with a strong, beautiful body that is very powerful and can lift heavy things:

“Elvira dreams of dating a male model who is tall, dark, and built.”

**A “built-in”** is something that is part of something else and cannot be moved:

“They bought a 1929 house with beautiful built-in bookcases.”

**The phrase “built-up”** refers to an area that has a lot of buildings and not very many natural areas:

“We lived in a built-up area for years before we finally realized that we wanted to live in a more rural area.”

**Finally, the phrase “jerry-built” or “jerry-rigged”** refers to something that is built very poorly and will not last for very long:

“The tornado victims are living in jerry-built shelters until they can find permanent housing.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “suck it up”** is used to tell someone that he or she needs to stop complaining and do what is needed, even if it is difficult:

“Stop complaining! Just suck it up and get the work done!”

**Normally the verb “to suck”** means to use pressure to pull a liquid into one's mouth:

“The thicker a milkshake is, the harder it is to suck it up the straw.”

**The verb “to suck”** is also used informally to talk about something that seems unfair and unpleasant:

“You lost your keys right before your job interview? That sucks!”

**Finally, the phrase “to be/get sucked in”** means to become involved in something, especially if one didn't really want to become involved in it:

“How did you get sucked into watching that TV series?”

Daily English 714 - Dining with a Foodie

I invited my friend Nick to try a new restaurant with me. This restaurant was **the latest thing**, and since Nick was a **foodie**, I thought he would **have an interesting take on** the meal.

(“The latest thing” is something that everyone is now doing or someplace everyone is now going; it's considered new, exciting, interesting.)

(“The latest thing” is what is very popular right now, that everybody wants to get or to try)

(“To have a take on (something)” means to have an opinion, a perspective, an idea about something. What's your opinion? What are your ideas about it?)

(“To have an interesting take” would be to have an opinion that other people thought was interesting)

...

Anita: So, what did you think of the first course?

Nick: I thought it was **passable**.

(“Passable” means acceptable, okay, but not excellent, not great)

Anita: Just passable?

Nick: Yes, it was a **run-of-the-mill** dish you could find in any **fine dining** restaurant. No **gourmet** would be **bowled over** by it.

(“run-of-the-mill” (заурядный, обычный) - means ordinary, not special, very standard, very typical, maybe a little dull, not very exciting)

(“to be bowled over” means to be very impressed, to be amazed, to be surprised by something)

(“to bowl” would be to throw the ball - the “bowling ball”)

(be bowled over – сбит шаром для боулинга)

Anita: Oh, I thought it was pretty good. What about the main course?

Nick: I thought the fish wasn’t **seasoned** properly and it was **a touch overcooked**.

(“To season” is to put certain spices, salt, pepper onto food)

(touch overcooked – слегка пережаренный)

Anita: I’m sorry to hear that.

Nick: And the wine **pairing** was all wrong.

Anita: I’m not a wine **aficionado**, so I guess my **palate** isn’t as **sophisticated** as yours. I thought the wine was wonderful.

(“Aficionado” is someone who is very passionate about something; that is, someone who enjoys something, who has a lot of knowledge about something)

(“palate” is the part of your mouth that can detect or that can sense taste)

Nick: Hmm, in my opinion, the entire meal was **forgettable**.

(“To forget” means not to remember)

...

That was the last time I invited Nick to join me for a meal. I thought the meal was delicious, but Nick’s comments **left a bad taste in my mouth**!

**Category:** Food + Drink

**Glossary**

**the latest thing** - something that is new, exciting, interesting, and innovative; something that interests people because it is the beginning of a new trend or fad.

\* This MP3 player is the latest thing for music lovers.

**foodie** - a person who is very interested in fine food and enjoys good meals and wines.

\* If your favorite meal is eating hamburgers at McDonald's, you probably aren't a foodie.

**to have an interesting take on** - to have an interesting perspective, opinion, or belief; to have opinions that other people like to hear about.

\* Yuki always has an interesting take on the latest movies.

**passable** - acceptable, but not excellent; something that is not bad, but is not very good either.

\* The first draft of my essay was passable, but it needs a lot of editing.

**run-of-the-mill** - ordinary, not special; standard; typical.

\* Jose Luis has decided to start his own business, because he doesn't want to work in his run-of-the-mill job anymore.

**fine dining** - the experience of eating very nice, expensive food in a restaurant that is fancier that what is normally served at home or in most restaurants.

\* I love fine dining, but I hate getting dressed up to go to those restaurants.

**gourmet** - a person who is very knowledgeable about fine food and knows how to prepare it and/or enjoy eating it.

\* Lynn is a gourmet baker who always has special ingredients in her kitchen.

**to be bowled over** - to be very impressed, amazed, shocked, or surprised by something.

\* We were bowled over by the movie. It was so much better than we had expected!

**seasoned** - having a different flavor because many herbs and spices have been added; flavored with small leaves and seeds.

\* Pork chops are delicious when they are seasoned with rosemary and mustard.

**a touch** - a little bit; slightly.

\* The presentation was a touch rushed, but the information he presented was very clear.

**overcooked** - cooked for too much time, so that something becomes dry and tough.

\* Fish fillets can become overcooked in just a few minutes. It doesn't need to be in the oven for very long.

**pairing** - two things that are served together or eaten together.

\* Most people recommend a white wine pairing with seafood dishes.

**aficionado** - someone who is passionate about something, enjoys it very much, and has a lot of knowledge about it.

\* Shelley is a movie aficionado. She watches all the movies at the theater and then watches them again in her home on DVD.

**palate** - the parts of one's mouth that perceive different flavors in food and drinks; the ability to perceive small differences in the way things taste.

\* Marco used to enjoy eating fine foods, but years of eating only junk food has ruined his palate.

**sophisticated** - elegant, fancy, rich, and with style; associated with high education, culture, and wealth.

\* Bianca wants to go on a sophisticated cruise in the Bahamas, but I'd rather spend the week fishing at the lake.

**forgettable** - something that was not very good or interesting and will not be remembered; something that is not worth thinking about again.

\* The actors in the play were good, but the play itself was forgettable.

**to leave a bad taste in (one's) mouth** - to give someone a bad impression; to not be perceived favorably; to make someone feel unpleasant or uncomfortable.

\* These transactions may be legal, but they leave a bad taste in my mouth.

**The phrase “a touch,”** in this podcast, means a little bit, or slightly:

“This paint color is a touch too bright for the living room, don't you think?”

**The phrase “to get in touch with (something)”** means to think about one's own thoughts and feelings and really understand them:

“Rebecca likes to spend time outdoors because it helps her get in touch with her true thoughts and feelings.”

**The phrase “to be in touch”** means to be in contact with someone or to have the latest information about something:

“Are you in touch with your aunts?”

Or, “A good politician needs to be in touch with the needs of local communities.” The phrase “out of touch” has the opposite meaning:

“Some elderly people feel they are out of touch with modern technology.”

**In this podcast, the word “pairing”** refers to when two things are served together or eaten together:

“All the waiters at that restaurant have been trained to recommend excellent wine pairings.”

**A “pair”** normally refers to two things that belong together:

“Harvey went to the mall to buy a new pair of shoes.”

**The phrase “in pairs”** means in groups of two:

“The teacher asked his students to solve the math problems in pairs.”

**The phrase “to pair off”** means for people to come together and begin romantic relationships:

“We were all just friends for years, but recently everyone has started pairing off and I've been left by myself.”

**Finally, the phrase “an extra pair of hands”** refers to help one receives from another person:

“We could use an extra pair of hands on this project.”

Daily English 715 - Outsiders Moving In

Leti: I am **sick and tired** of people coming from the big cities into our small town and **buying up** all of the houses and **acting like they own the place**.

George: This is a **dying town** and it needs **fresh blood**. I don’t hear the business owners complaining about the new **infusion** of money into the town.

(infusion - вливание)

Leti: Oh, yeah? Well, the **flip side** is that their spending is **jacking up prices** and making it harder for the families who have lived here for **generations**.

(“flip side” of something is the opposite side of a certain argument or issue)

(“To jack up” - to increase. It's normally used with the word “prices.”)

George: The **times are changing** and we need **to adapt**.

Leti: I say that the **newcomers** are the ones who need to adapt. After all, they’re moving to our town.

George: With that kind of **us against them mentality**, there may be a day when you succeed in **driving out** those newcomers.

(С таким менталитетом «мы против них» может наступить день, когда вам удастся вытеснить этих новичков.)

(“newcomers” are the people who have just moved into an area; they are new to the area)

Leti: I **look forward to** that day.

(“To look forward to (something)” is to be excited about it, to be waiting for it to happen)

George: All I have to say is **beware what you wish for**!

**Category:** Daily Life | Home + Community

**Glossary**

**sick and tired** - very frustrated and upset about something that continues to happen or has been happening for a long period of time.

\* I'm sick and tired of hearing Isaac complains about his job!

**to buy up** - to purchase all of something, so that nothing remains for sale.

\* Whenever we're expecting a big storm, people buy up all the flashlights, bottled water, and canned food at the local grocery stores.

**to act like (one) owns the place** - to seem too comfortable or confident in a place or situation where one does not really belong.

\* I know she's the new manager, but I didn't like the way she walked in on her first day and acted like she owned the place.

**dying town** - a town or city that is not doing well economically or socially, with few businesses and many empty homes, often because large employers have closed and young people have moved to other places.

\* Ever since the factory closed, Springfield has been a dying town.

**fresh blood** - new people or participants; people who have not been present or have not been involved in some activity before.

\* This company needs some fresh blood with new ideas to increase sales.

**infusion** - addition; something that is added to something else to make it larger or greater.

\* Scientific research projects often benefit from the infusion of new technology.

**flip side** - the opposite of something; a phrase used to present an advantage when one has been talking about a disadvantage, or vice versa.

\* Desman always speaks with a lot of enthusiasm, but the flip side is that he speaks too quickly.

**to jack up prices** - to increase the price of something, usually by a large amount; to raise the amount one charges when selling something.

\* Gasoline stations are using the rising price of oil as an excuse to jack up prices.

**generation** - a group of people born around the same period of time, such as grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren.

\* Why does the younger generation think it is more comfortable with mobile technology than older generations?

**times are changing** - a phrase used to show that things change over time, especially traditions, behaviors, attitudes, and values.

\* In the past, women had to wear skirts or dresses, but times changed and now women can wear shorts in public.

**to adapt** - to change in response to the changes happening in one's environment; to change in ways that allow one to better fit into society.

\* This department has a very different way of doing things than my old department, but I think I can adapt.

**newcomer** - a person who has recently moved to an area or joined an organization.

\* Levi is a newcomer who has been working here for only a few weeks, but he has already impressed everyone with his management skills.

**us against them** - the idea that one belongs to a particular group of people fighting against or disagreeing with another group of people.

\* Managers keep trying to take away our benefits, but I'm a union member and it's us against them.

**mentality** - a way of thinking about something; perspective.

\* My mother always said that a positive, optimistic mentality can help you overcome any problem.

**to drive out** - to do something that makes other people leave a town or area and not come back; to do or say something that makes a situation so unpleasant for another person that he or she must leave.

\* Those birds make so much noise that they've almost driven us out of our home!

**to look forward to** - to anticipate something with eagerness and excitement; to be excited about something that is going to happen in the future.

\* Thank you for taking the time to read this proposal. I look forward to receiving your response soon.

**beware what you wish for** - a phrase used to warn someone that the consequences of what he or she is hoping for may not be what he or she expects, and may actually create problems.

\* Sure, it might be nice if it were sunny every day, but beware what you wish for! Without rain, all the plants would die.

**The verb “to adapt,”** in this podcast, means to change in response to the changes happening in one's environment:

“Do you think the water plants in this area will be able to adapt to rising sea levels and warmer ocean temperatures?”

**The phrase “to adapt”** can also mean to change something for some purpose:

“How much does it cost to adapt a typical home for wheelchair access?”

Or,

“We need to adapt these exam materials for non-native speakers.”

**Finally, the phrase “to adapt a (book/novel/play)”** means to change something that was written to prepare it for filming as a movie or TV show:

“Ramona was thrilled when her literary agent said a film studio was interested in adapting her book for TV.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to drive out”** means to do something that makes other people leave a town or area and not come back:

“The people of Salem, Massachusetts used to drive out young women whom they thought were witches.”

**The phrase “to drive (something) up/down”** means to make something increase or decrease:

“Unrest in the Middle East is driving up gas prices.”

Or,

“The large number of houses on the market is driving down home prices.”

**The phrase “What are you driving at?”** is used to ask someone what he or she really means, or what his or her main point is:

“You've been talking for 20 minutes, but I still don't understand your point. What are you driving at?”

Daily English 716 - Working Without Supervision

Veronica: Where’s Stan?

Kyle: He’s not here.

Veronica: When will he be back?

Kyle: I’m not sure. He hasn’t been here for a couple of days.

Veronica: A couple of days?! He’s supposed to be here **overseeing** the **day-to-day operations.** You’re his **second-in-command.** Where is he?

(“second-in-command” - заместитель)

Kyle: I honestly don’t know. He’s been **MIA** since Tuesday.

(MIA - missing in action - пропал без вести)

Veronica: I come all the way here to talk to him about **budget overruns** and I find that he’s been **shirking his responsibilities,** too. I’ve a feeling he’s been **phoning it in** for a long time now. So, have you been **covering for him?**

(come all the way here - проделала весь этот путь сюда)

(budget overruns - перерасходе бюджета)

(shirking - уклоняется)

(to phone it in - is to do something with low enthusiasm or effort) (работать по телефону проще чем руками)

(covering for him- прикрываешь)

Kyle: Me? I’m just trying to do my job. When Stan isn’t here, I do my best to fill in. But I’m not saying anything against Stan.

Veronica: I appreciate your **loyalty,** but **when push comes to shove,** you’ve got to look out for yourself, right?

(to fill in - here means to do the work of someone)

(when push comes to shove - когда дело доходит до драки)

(to look out for yourself - заботиться о себе)

Kyle: Uh, I guess. I’m not sure.

Veronica: Well, I do. I need **to look out for my best interests** and that’s making sure this place has proper **supervision.** How would you like a **promotion?**

Kyle: You mean you’re **firing** Stan and giving me his job?

Veronica: Do you want the job or don’t you?

Kyle: Can I talk to Stan first? I don’t want him to think I’m a **backstabber.**

(backstabber - предатель)

Veronica: You can...if you can find him.

**Category:** Business

**Glossary**

**to oversee** - to monitor and supervise; to carefully watch how other people are doing their work, making sure everything is running smoothly.

\* The regional sales manager will be responsible for overseeing all of the sales representatives working in these 12 states.

**day-to-day operations** - the tasks and activities that must be completed to keep an office running well, without thinking about long-term strategy.

\* Christof is responsible for most of our day-to-day operations, from contacting potential customers to sending out invoices.

**second-in-command** - the person who is responsible for a project or organization when the person who is normally in charge is not available.

\* As executive vice-president, Henry is second-in-command and the president relies on him heavily whenever she travels.

**MIA** - missing in action; absent without an explanation; not where one should be.

\* Bill has a lot of family problems right now, and he has been MIA a few times this past week. I hope he's okay.

**budget overrun** - expenses that are greater than planned; with something costing more than it was expected to.

\* They'll be really pleased if we can finish this project on time and without any budget overruns.

**to shirk (one's) responsibilities** - to not do all of the things one is supposed to do.

\* Dan told his wife:

“I know you're tired after a long day at work, but that doesn't mean you can shirk your responsibilities here at home.”

**to phone it in** - to complete a task using very little effort and giving it little attention, as though it did not matter very much.

\* Jenny will start her new job in two weeks. In the meantime, she seems to be phoning it in at her old job.

**to cover for (someone)** - to do or say something to protect another person and not let him or her get in trouble, especially when that person isn't doing all the work he or she is supposed to do.

\* Why do you always cover for your co-workers? It's important that your boss knows you're the one doing all the hard work around here.

**to fill in** - to try to help when and where it is needed, especially at work.

\* Hugo wasn't feeling well and had to go home early. Do you think you can fill in during this meeting?

**loyalty** - supporting another person and being faithful to him or her.

\* I've always admired his loyalty to his country.

**when push comes to shove** - under extreme circumstances, when there is a lot of pressure or a strong incentive to do something.

\* Normally, Ziet obeys all of the traffic laws, but when push comes to shove, he'll speed to avoid being late for work.

**to look out for (one's) best interests** - to do what will benefit oneself, even if it has negative consequences for other people.

\* It's nice that you want to help your sister, but at some point you have to look out for your best interests.

**supervision** - monitoring and being responsible for how well another person does his or her work, or for how well a project is completed.

\* Little children need constant supervision in the kitchen so that they don't hurt themselves.

**promotion** - an increase in the responsibilities, duties, and pay one receives for one's work within a single organization, usually accompanied with a new title for one's position.

\* Janik is hoping for a promotion from Analyst to Senior Analyst.

**to fire** - to tell someone that he or she no longer has a job and will not continue to work in a particular business or organization.

\* Amie was fired for stealing from the company.

**backstabber** - a person who secretly says bad things about another person or secretly does bad things to another person to get some advantage or benefit.

\* Franz is such a backstabber! I thought he was my friend, but apparently, he was saying terrible things about me to our boss.

The phrase “**to phone it in**,” in this podcast, means to complete a task using very little effort and giving it little attention, as though it did not matter very much:

“We thought that Emil was committed to helping our cause, but he's just be phoning it in since he joined us.”

The phrase “**to phone (something) in**” also means to report something:

“If you see a drunk driver driving dangerously on the road, phone it in to the police.”

The phrase “**to phone (something) in**” can also mean to place an order by telephone:

“Every Thursday, the receptionist phones in everyone's lunch order to the local deli.”

“The doctor has phoned your prescription in, so it should be ready for you to pick up at the pharmacy soon.”

In this podcast, the phrase “**to fire**” means to tell someone that he or she no longer has a job and will not continue to work in a particular business or organization:

“You can't fire someone for old age. That would be illegal.”

The verb “**to fire**” also means to shoot bullets or cause an explosion with a bomb:

“The police officers fired at the criminal because she had a gun.”

The phrase “**fired up**” means very excited about something and eager to do something:

“It's fun to see how fired up young children are about the first day of school.”

Finally, the phrase “**to fire questions at (someone)**” means to ask someone many questions very quickly:

“The reporters fired questions at the newly elected mayor.”

Daily English 717 - Starting a New School Year

Mom: It’s your first day at a new school. I’m worried about you.

Paul: Mom, I’ll be fine.

Mom: Do you have all of your books and **supplies** in your **backpack?** Oh and I’ve **packed you a lunch** already. (backpack - рюкзак)

Paul: You didn’t have to do that, Mom. I was going to buy lunch at school.

Mom: Now you won’t have to. I hope you make some new friends. It’s no fun being a **loner.** It’s not that you have to be **popular.** I just don’t want you **to feel left out.** (loner - одиночка) (feel left out - обделенным)

Paul: I’ll be fine, Mom. I’d better go, or I’ll be late.

Mom: Do you think the school will do something special **to kick off** the new **school year?** I hope your teachers aren’t too **strict.** Oh, your backpack **weighs a ton!** But you can leave most of your books in your **locker,** right? (kick off - начать)

Paul: They don’t have lockers at my new school, but I’ll be fine.

Mom: I hope the teachers don’t already have **seating plans.** I know you like to sit near the back of the **classroom.** And I hope you won’t have too much **homework** on the first day... (“seating plan” is when a teacher decides where each student will sit)

Paul: Mom, stop **fussing.** Everything will be fine.

Mom: You’re my baby and I’m worried about you.

Paul: Mom, I’m not starting kindergarten. I’m starting college, remember?

Category: Education | Relationships + Family

**Glossary**

**popular** - very well liked by many people.

\* Movies often show that the head cheerleader and the quarterback on the football team are the most popular kids in high school. Is that really true?

**to feel left out** - to feel that one does not belong in a group, although one would like to; to perceive that one is not truly accepted by another group of people and is not welcome to do what they do.

\* Desiree felt left out at the party. Everyone else was talking, laughing, and having a great time while she just sat on the couch and sipped her drink.

**to kick off** - to start something, especially with a lot of enthusiasm.

\* The festival kicks off with a big show with a lot of local celebrities.

**school year** - the academic year, usually from early September to early June.

\* Trent wakes up early every day during the school year, but during summer vacation, he prefers to sleep in until noon.

**strict** - following the rules and insisting that other people follow the rules; inflexible.

\* Alexey's parents are very strict and they never let him stay out past 10:00 p.m.

**to weigh a ton** - to be very heavy.

\* These boxes weigh a ton! Can you please help me move them?

**locker** - one of many tall metal cupboards that stand next to each other and are attached to the wall at many high schools, with individual doors that can be locked, used to store books, jackets, bags, and other items.

\* In our high school, the school principal randomly checks students' lockers for drugs and alcohol.

**seating plan** - a map showing which seats are for which people; a drawing that assigns individuals to specific seats.

\* Are you going to create a seating plan for your wedding reception, or will you let people sit wherever they want to?

**classroom** - a room where a teacher presents information and students learn.

\* In elementary school, we were in just one classroom all day. Now that we're older, we move to different classrooms for different subjects.

**homework** - school assignments; tasks that students must complete in the evening outside of their regular class time.

\* I have so much homework! I have to write two essays, solve 20 math problems, summarize six chapters, and read this short story by the end of the week.

**to fuss** - to worry about many things that do not seem important to other people; to treat something as being more important than it actually is.

\* Melanie spent hours fussing in front of the mirror while getting ready for her date.

**The word “popular,”** in this podcast, means very well liked by many people:

“Which smart phone is the most popular, and why?”

Or, “Who is the most popular girl in school?”

**The word “popular”** can also refer to something many people do:

“The government changed its policy according to the popular opinion of voters.”

**The word “popular”** also refers to things that are related to ordinary people:

“Popular literature tends to be considered less sophisticated than the classics.”

Or, “The English Café episodes can give you insight into American popular culture.”

**Finally, the phrase “popular belief”** refers to something that many people believe:

“According to popular belief, eating carrots can improve your eyesight.”

Sometimes this is shortened to **“pop”:**

“This radio station specializes in pop music.”

**In this podcast, the phrase “to kick off”** means to start something, especially with a lot of enthusiasm:

“Let's kick off summer vacation by taking a trip to the beach!”

**The phrase “to kick (someone) off (something)”** means to take someone off a team or out of a group:

“The cyclist was kicked off the team for using steroids and other drugs.”

**The phrase “to kick up (one's) heels”** means to have a great time and enjoy oneself:

“After a long week at work, Wendy was ready to kick up her heels and have fun with her friends.”

**Finally, the phrase “to kick the bucket”** is used in humorous ways to mean to die:

“What do you want to do in life before you kick the bucket?”

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0835 Getting Shocking News

0836 Working Shifts

0837 Driving While Calling and Texting

0838 Talking About Immigration

0839 Getting a Divorce

0840 Translating a Document

0841 Adopting a Child

0842 Taking a Standardized Test

0843 Passing Through Airport Security

0844 Dealing With Corrupt Officials

0845 Dropping Out of College

0846 Donating Blood

0847 Experiencing a Blackout

0848 An Unscrupulous Partner

0849 Bargaining With Store Owners

0850 Betting on Sports

0851 Finding a House to Buy

0852 Working in a Factory

0853 Reading an Obituary

0854 Singing Christmas Carols

0855 Learning Fire Safety

0856 Training Salespeople

0857 Being Arrested by the Police

0858 Donating an Organ

0859 Attending an Ex’s Wedding

0860 Insider Trading

0861 Planning a Children’s Party

0862 Getting a Massage

0863 Limiting Free Speech

0864 Going to Business School

0865 Believing in Predictions

0866 Using Renewable Energy

0867 Talking About Attractive Men and Women

0868 Mergers and Acquisitions

0869 Touring Celebrity Homes and Filming Locations

0870 Using Caffeine as a Stimulant

0871 Listening to Club Music

0872 A Publicity Stunt

0873 Avoiding Giving an Opinion

0874 Poor Road Conditions

0875 Shopping at the Supermarket

0876 Preparing a Professional Portfolio

0877 Cheering Someone Up

0878 Recovering from an Illness or Injury

0879 Saying No

0880 Forming a Union

0881 Eating Genetically Modified Foods

0882 Playing a Practical Joke

0883 Taking Care of a Willful Child

0884 Types of Meetings

0885 Talking to a Bank Teller

0886 Driving Through a Speed Trap

0887 A Destructive Storm

0888 Advertising in TV and Movies

0889 Taking Up a New Hobby

0890 Enjoying Nature

0891 Checking on the Status of an Application

0892 Preparing for the Busy Season

0893 Sports-Related Injuries

0894 Understanding Modern Art

0895 Government Reactions to Protests

0896 Preparing a Speech

0897 Cooking a Meal

0898 People of Different Ages

0899 Purchasing and Using an E-Ticket

0900 Simplifying Information

0901 Participating in a Clinical Trial

0902 Being Chivalrous and Protective

0903 Listening to a Traffic Report

0904 Working Overseas

0905 Getting a Marriage License

0906 Using Illegal Drugs

0907 Buying Tools at a Hardware Store

0908 Being Territorial at Work

0909 Buying Electronic Books

0910 Plagiarizing a Paper

0911 Correcting and Explaining in Conversation

0912 Working as a Lobbyist

0913 Experiencing Motion Sickness

0914 Wanting Peace and Quiet

0915 Learning to Read Music

0916 Being Forced Out of a Position

0917 Types of Families

0918 Preparing for a Disaster

0919 Visiting Childcare Centers

0920 Leasing Business Equipment

0921 Describing Chance and Probability

0922 Getting a Second Opinion

0923 Having Bad Credit

0924 Getting Access to Important People

0925 Going Through Customs

0926 Getting an Advantage in Sports

0927 Being Tidy and Messy

0928 Understanding Corporate Structure

0929 Trying to Locate Someone

0930 Fearing Bioterrorism

0931 Solving a Mystery

0932 Rebuilding Consumer Trust

0933 Letting Go of the Past

0934 Watching Special Effects

0935 Showing Signs of Age

0936 Working With the IT Department

0937 Being a Stay-at-Home Dad

0938 Learning to Ride the Subway

0939 Planning a Wedding

0940 Ending Excessive Spending

0941 Types of Shopping Areas

0942 Daily Chores on a Farm

0943 Making a Will

0944 Working as an Intern

0945 Using Electronics While Traveling

0946 Designing a Building

0947 Seeing a Circus Performance

0948 Listening to Motivational Speakers

0949 Dealing With a Contagious Disease

0950 Visiting a Construction Site

0951 Parts of a Hospital

0952 Dealing With Rising Production Costs

0953 Living With Insects and Spiders

0954 Participating in Winter Sports

0955 Dating a Possessive Person

0956 Running a Family-Owned Business

0957 Doping in Sports

0958 Selecting a Neighborhood to Live In

0959 A Territorial Dispute

0960 Giving Someone Your Recommendation

0961 Learning to Dance

0962 Recovering After a Setback

0963 Admiring a Baby

0964 Using Infographics

0965 Meeting Your Boyfriend’s/Girlfriend’s Parents

0966 Converting to Another Religion

0967 Feeling Embarrassed

0968 Recording an Outgoing Voice Mail Message

0969 Using Electronics on Airplanes

0970 Having a Backup Plan

0971 Getting in to See a Busy Doctor

0972 Paying an Employee Under the Table

0973 Attracting Someone’s Interest

0974 Talking About Old Crimes

0975 Making Food from Scratch

0976 Showing Immaturity

0977 Parts of the Body

0978 Getting Access to Restricted Areas

0979 Types of Humor

0980 Retiring Abroad

0981 Diplomatic and Economic Sanctions

0982 Home Shopping

0983 Breaking Bad Habits

0984 Competing in Business

0985 School Fundraisers

0986 Buying and Selling Family Heirlooms

0987 Taking Prescription Drugs

0988 Playing Fair in Business

0989 Dealing with a Mass Transit Strike

0990 Being Socially Popular

0991 Describing Distances

0992 Loan Forgiveness Programs

0993 Doing Spring Cleaning

0994 Describing Accuracy and Inaccuracy

0995 Proper Behavior at a Formal Event

0996 Importing Goods to the U.S.

0997 Writing One’s Memoirs

0998 Meeting a New Neighbor

0999 Being Vague and Unfocused

1000 Reaching a Milestone

1001 Practicing Yoga

1002 An Unwelcome Business in the Neighborhood

1003 Describing Duration

1004 Being Modest and Boastful

1005 Complimenting Your Host

1006 Taking a Campus Tour

1007 Getting Mugged

1008 Money Laundering

1009 Basic Military Commands

1010 Using GPS When Driving

1011 Building with Wood and Metal

1012 Preventing Shoplifting

1013 Living With a Hoarder

1014 Becoming a Spy

1015 Conducting a Search

1016 Doing Pro Bono Work

1017 Driving an Off-Road Vehicle

1018 Raising Teenagers

1019 Losing a Passport While Traveling

1020 Making Verbal Mistakes

1021 Mental Disorders

1022 Being Cited for a DUI

1023 Learning to Act

1024 Dealing with Crises

1025 Maintaining Internet Privacy

1026 Marrying Young

1027 Adding Condiments to Food

1028 Describing Order and Sequence

1029 Types of Vandalism

1030 Adopting a Pet

1031 Following a High-Profile Court Case

1032 Different Management Styles

1033 Discussing a Victory or Loss

1034 Making Changes to a Hotel Reservation

1035 Using a Self-Checkout Machine

1036 Farming and Agribusiness

1037 Ending a Party

1038 Types and Characteristics of Apartments

1039 Taking a Test Drive

1040 Dealing with Bureaucracy

1041 Being Rescued

1042 Being Diagnosed With and Treated For Cancer

1043 TV Shows Being Renewed and Cancelled

1044 Issuing a Public Apology

1045 Being Infatuated With Someone

1046 Types of Luggage

1047 Having Breathing Problems

1048 Launching an Initial Public Offering

1049 Buying Theater Tickets

1050 Describing Stomach Problems

1051 Getting and Making Threats

1052 A Product Recall

1053 Buying Food at the Concession Stand

1054 Finding a Roommate

1055 Riding Scooters and Motorcycles

1056 Finding Emerging Markets

1057 Storing Food

1058 Preventing Binge Drinking

1059 Feeling Restless and Jumpy

1060 Disposing of Sensitive Documents

1061 Shopping for Men’s Shoes

1062 Being a Bachelor

1063 Preparing for a New Baby

1064 Spotting Trends

1065 Making Soups and Stews

1066 Buying a Luxury Car

1067 Major Dental Work

1068 An Expiring Business Lease

1069 Disinheriting a Child

1070 Getting a Mortgage Loan

1071 Waiting for Drug Approval

1072 Working Part-Time Jobs

1073 Seeking Asylum

1074 Becoming a Vegetarian/Vegan

1075 Defying Orders

1076 Celebrity Product Lines

1077 Buying Travel Insurance

1078 Watching Action Movies

1079 Receiving Letters and Packages in the Mail

1080 Automating Production

1081 Personal Grooming

1082 Traveling to a Remote Island

1083 Types of Pants

1084 Learning a New Operating System

1085 Having Good and Bad Luck

1086 Giving Bribes to Children for Good Behavior

1087 Selecting Window Treatments

1088 Selling a Business

1089 Unconventional Marriages

1090 Speaking About the Future

1091 Punishing Children

1092 Keeping a Meeting On Track

1093 Having a Picnic

1094 Tracing One’s Genealogy

1095 Childhood Fitness

1096 Improving Online Reviews

1097 Landscaping a Home

1098 Riding in a Limousine

1099 Child Sports Injuries

1100 Making and Receiving a Job Offer

1101 Problems Getting Along With Family

1102 Discussing Capital Punishment

1103 Sports Tryouts

1104 Making a Discovery

1105 Dressing Appropriately for an Event

1106 Getting a Flat Tire

1107 The Death of a Pet

1108 Foreign Currency Exchange Rates

1109 Reading Poor Handwriting

1110 Experiencing a Drought

1111 Symptoms of Depression

1112 Doing Impressions

1113 Having a Family Portrait Taken

1114 Forms of Government

1115 Buying Meat from a Butcher

1116 Reading and Processing Emails

1117 Assembling Furniture

1118 Bidding on Online Auctions

1119 Methods for Quitting Smoking

1120 Breaching a Contract

1121 Outdoor Sun Protection

1122 Making Peace

1123 Describing Pleasant Scents

1124 Hiding Money Offshore

1125 Serving Alcoholic Drinks

1126 Using a Pawnshop

1127 Paying for College

1128 Store Promotions and Giveaways

1129 Experiencing Virtual Reality

1130 Eating Breakfast Foods

1131 Visiting an Archaeological Site

1132 Defending Your Ideas at Work

1133 Getting Immunizations Required by Schools

1134 Describing Position and Location Within a Group

1135 Having Hearing Problems

1136 Missing a Deadline

1137 Using Battery Power

1138 Dating Nice Guys and Bad Boys

1139 Major Historical Periods

1140 Dealing With a Language Barrier

1141 Proofreading a Document

1142 A Boating Accident

1143 Repairing an Appliance

1144 Being Assertive and Meek

1145 Using Herbs and Spices in Cooking

1146 Negotiating With a Street Vendor

1147 Types of Students in School

1148 Distinctive Facial Features

1149 Delaying Making a Decision

1150 Avoiding Topics in Conversation

1151 Working as a Street Performer

1152 Collecting Debt

1153 Getting Advice from Mothers-in-Law

1154 Visiting Historic Sites

1155 Getting an Online Degree

1156 Unsafe Factory Conditions

1157 Describing Nudity

1158 Cold Weather Complaints

1159 Describing the Fit of Clothing

1160 Being Reprimanded at Work

1161 Traveling by Light Rail

1162 Staying in an Inexpensive Hotel

1163 Types of Religious Leaders

1164 Making Office Renovations

1165 Eating Spicy Foods

1166 Discussing Philosophy

1167 Birth Order and Sibling Rivalries

1168 Reading Contracts Carefully

1169 Being Talkative and Reserved

1170 Naming Children

1171 Cancelling a Service

1172 Booking Space for Business Events

1173 Flying on a Budget Airline

1174 Describing Video Quality

1175 Getting a Fresh Start

1176 Limits to Advancement at Work

1177 Pedestrian Safety

1178 Using Profanity

1179 Reading Food Labels

1180 Price Gouging

1181 Making a Comeback

1182 Finding a Parking Space

1183 Air and Water Pollution

1184 Being Boastful

1185 Smuggling Across Borders

1186 Being in a Severe Storm

1187 Visiting Churches, Mosques, and Temples

1188 Advertising to Children

1189 Sentencing a Criminal

1190 Dealing With Foot Problems

1191 Living on the Fringes of Society

1192 Using a Property Management Company

1193 Reducing Food Waste

1194 Using a Map Program

1195 Types of Allergies

1196 Checking Facts and Figures

1197 Reaching a Legal Settlement

1198 Failed Government Projects

1199 Eating on the Run

1200 Learning a Skilled Trade

1201 Types of Non-alcoholic Drinks

1202 Describing Student Achievement

1203 Completing a Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation Program

1204 Controlling Information to the Media

1205 Bragging About Success With Women

1206 Outdoor Vacation Sports and Activities

1207 Gauging the Doneness of Meat

1208 Living on Low Wages

1209 Questioning Mental Competency

1210 Small Town Charm

1211 Watching Movie and TV Franchises

1212 Providing Tech Support

1213 Using Different Payment Systems

1214 Experiencing Dread

1215 A Fear of Heights

1216 Working in a Job You Love

1217 Fighting the Effects and Signs of Aging

1218 Describing Relative Location

1219 Expressing Disapproval

1220 Ramping Up Production

1221 Buffing Up Home Security

1222 Describing Amounts and Movement of Liquid

1223 Experiencing a Difficult Childhood

1224 Setting Timers and Alarms

1225 Being a Good Samaritan

1226 Describing Sounds

1227 Altering Clothing

1228 Designing a Product Line

1229 Telling Others to Go Away

1230 Expressing Disapproval of Elected Officials

1231 Feeding a Large Family on a Small Budget

1232 Intimidating a Coworker

1233 Improving Flexibility and Mobility

1234 Traveling With Pets

1235 Joining a Secret Society

1236 Dressing Inappropriately for Work

1237 Disagreements About Spending Money

1238 Making Accusations

1239 Sharing an Online Account

1240 Giving Correct Change

1241 Breaking an Arm or a Leg

1242 Having Difficulty Reaching a Group Decision

1243 Getting an Anesthetic

1244 Preparing Packages for Shipping

1245 Measuring Mass and Volume

1246 Getting a Gynecological Exam

1247 Doing Meal Planning

1248 Describing Old and New Equipment

1249 Making Temporary Repairs

1250 Dealing With Bossy People

1251 Getting a Confession

1252 Reneging on a Promise

1253 Using a Ridesharing Service

1254 Being Under a Corrupting Influence

1255 Talking About Gemstones

1256 Describing Fast and Slow Speech

1257 Repairing Damage to an Auto Body

1258 Causes of Plane Crashes

1259 Discovering a Family Secret

1260 Transport and Shipping Mishaps

1261 Reading About Research on Health

1262 Failing a Driving Test

1263 Bragging About Success With Men

1264 Customer Loyalty Programs

1265 Watching a Fight

1266 Being a Refugee

1267 Types of Nurses

1268 Conducting Employee Background Checks

1269 Problems with the Heating System

1270 Cold and Frozen Treats

1271 Disapproving of a Remarriage

1272 Returning and Exchanging Merchandise

1273 Improving School Security

1274 Childish Fighting and Misbehavior.

1275 Working as a Musician

1276 Using an On-site Daycare

1277 Inconsiderate Subway/Train Passengers

1278 Applying to a Selective School

1279 Baking for People with Dietary Restrictions

1280 Describing Poor Audio Quality

1281 Going to the Playground

1282 Working in a Scientific Field

1283 Forgetting Someone’s Birthday

1284 Discovering a Minor Theft

1285 Types of Commendations

1286 Experiencing Headaches

1287 Using Adapters and Converters

1288 Being a Job-Hopper

1289 Problems With Drinking Water

1290 Describing Car Speed and Power

1291 Types of Metal

1292 Being a Victim of Extortion

1293 Types of Body Noises

1294 Chaperoning a Field Trip

1295 Buying a Watch

1296 Taking a Buyout

1297 Types of Neighborhoods

1298 Claiming Credit for an Invention

1299 Trading Insults

1300 Diversifying a Workforce