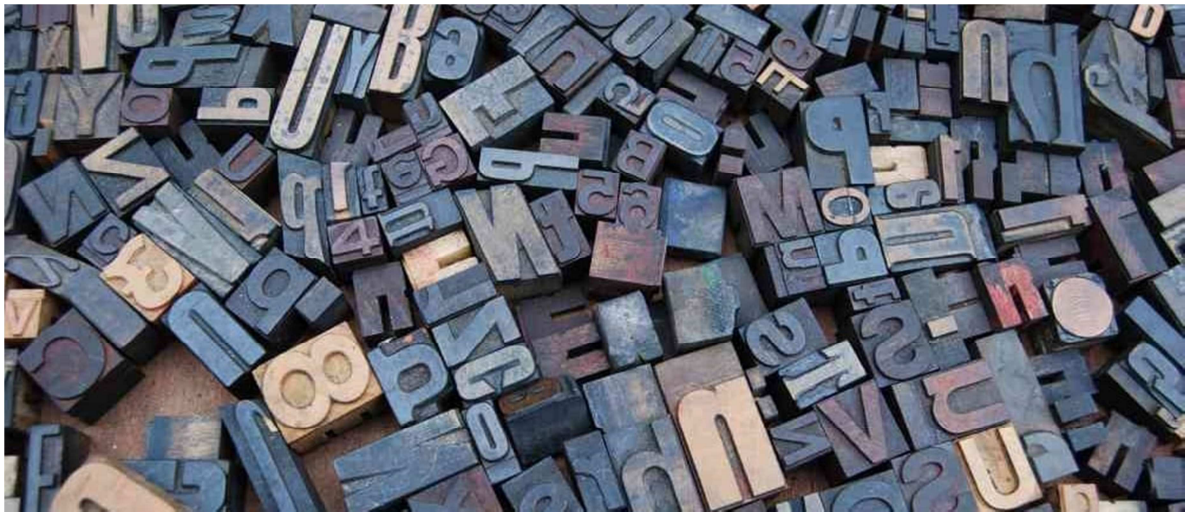


### SLANG 1



**Slang words are an essential part of conversing in English.** American slang is full of eccentric sayings and colloquialisms, which are useful in a wide variety of casual situations. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned English speaker, you'll want to brush up on your command of American slang words!

"Slang" refers to informal vocabulary words that aren't typically found in a dictionary. Many of these slang words have multiple meanings, so you'll have to pay close attention to the context of a conversation in order to use them correctly. This makes it a good idea to practice your English slang words with friends before using them with strangers!

### **Using American Slang Words & Phrases**

As you work your way through this list, keep in mind that American slang can vary depending on the region you're in. For example, certain slang words are more commonly used in rural areas versus in the inner city. You may find a different set of slang words on the West Coast of the US versus the East Coast or in the Midwest versus the Deep South. Not sure which ones to use in your area? Just spend a bit of time with the locals and hear what kind of slang they use!

Keep in mind that slang words are meant for casual conversations, so you won't want to use these in a formal context. You will hear plenty of American slang in popular TV and movies, so chances are you'll already be familiar with many of these words. Also, if you think these English slang words will work "across the pond" in England – think again! While there may be a few crossover phrases, by and large, the countries have their own unique sets of English slang.

### **Conversational English Slang Words**



1. *What's up?* – Hey; what are you doing?

“Hey Tom! What's up?”

“Not much!”

2. *I feel you* – I understand and empathize with you. Eg. “I feel you. That was really unfair.”

3. *I get it* – I understand. Eg. “I get it now! Thank you for explaining that.”

4. *Same here* – I agree.

“I'm having a hard time studying for this exam.”

“Same here.”

5. *My bad* – My mistake. Eg. “My bad! I didn't mean to do that.”

6. *Oh my God!* – (Used to describe excitement or surprise). Eg. “Oh my God! You scared me!”

7. *You bet* – Certainly; you're welcome.

“Thanks for the jacket, Tom!”

“You bet, Sally!”

8. *No worries* – That’s alright. Eg. “No worries about the mess. I’ll clean it up.”

9. *No biggie* – It’s not a problem.

“Thanks for tutoring me, Tom!”

“No biggie, Sally.”

10. *No big deal* – (Same usage as above).

11. *No sweat* – (Same usage as above).

12. *No problem* – (Same usage as above).

## **American English Slang Descriptors**



1. *Laid back* – Relaxed or calm. Eg. “This weekend was very laid back.”

2. *Chill* – (Same as above).

3. *Sweet* – Fantastic.

“I passed the test!”

“Sweet!”

4. *Cool* – (Same as above).

5. *Lame* – The opposite of cool or fantastic. Eg. “That’s so lame that you can’t go out tonight.”

6. *Bomb* – Really good. Eg. “That sandwich was bomb.”

7. *Bummer* – A disappointment. Eg. “That’s such a bummer. I’m sorry that happened.”

8. *Shady* – Questionable or suspicious. Eg. “I saw a shady guy in my neighborhood last night.”

9. *Hot* – Attractive. Eg. “He/she is hot.”

10. *Beat* – Tired. Eg. “I was so beat after that soccer game.”

11. *Sick* – Awesome. Eg. “Those shoes are sick!”

12. *Epic* – Grand or awesome. Eg. “That was an epic party last night.”

13. *Ripped* – Very physically fit. Eg. “Tom is ripped!”

14. *Cheesy* – Silly. Eg. “The romantic comedy we watched was very cheesy.”

15. *Corny* – (Same as above).

16. *Flakey* – Indecisive. Eg. “John is so flakey. He never shows up when he says he will.”

17. *It sucked* – It was bad/poor quality. Eg. “That movie sucked.”

## **English Slang for People & Relationships**





1. *Babe* – Your significant other; an attractive individual. Eg. “Hey babe!” or “She’s a babe.”
2. *Have a crush* – Attracted to someone romantically. Eg. “I have a big crush on him.”
3. *Dump* – To end a romantic relationship with someone. Eg. “She dumped him last May.”
4. *Ex* – An old relationship or spouse. Eg. “That’s my ex girlfriend.”
5. *A turn off* – Something that’s repulsive. Eg. “Bad cologne is a turn off.”
6. *Party animal* – One who loves parties. Eg. “Jerry is a party animal.”
7. *Couch potato* – A lazy person. Eg. “Don’t be a couch potato! Let’s go for a hike.”
8. *Whiz* – A really smart person. Eg. “Sally is a whiz at math.”
9. *Chicken* – Coward. Eg. “Don’t be a chicken! Go ice skating with me.”
10. *Chick* – A girl or young woman. Eg. “That chick is hilarious.”
11. *Getting hitched* – Getting married. Eg. “Tom and Sally are getting hitched.”
12. *Tying the knot* – (Same as above).
13. *They got fired* – They lost their job. Eg. “Did Jerry get fired?”

## American Slang for Social Events



1. *Hang out* – To spend time with others. Eg. “Want to hang out with us?”
2. *I’m down* – I’m able to join. Eg. “I’m down for ping pong.”
3. *I’m game* – (Same as above).
4. *I’m in* – (Same as above).
5. *A blast* – A very fun event. Eg. “Last night was a blast!”
6. *Show up* – Arrive at an event. Eg. “I can’t show up until 7.”
7. *Flick* – A movie. Eg. “Want to see a flick on Friday?”
8. *Grub* – Food. Eg. “Want to get some grub tonight?”
9. *Wasted* – Intoxicated. Eg. “She was wasted last night.”
10. *Drunk* – (Same as above).
11. *Booze* – Alcohol. Eg. “Will they have booze at the party?”

## American English Slang for Actions



1. *Pig out* – To eat a lot. Eg. “I pigged out last night at McDonald’s.”
2. *Crash* – To fall asleep quickly. Eg. “After all those hours of studying I crashed.”
3. *Lighten up* – Relax. Eg. “Lighten up! It was an accident.”
4. *Screw up* – To make a mistake. Eg. “Sorry I screwed up and forgot our plans.”
5. *Goof* – (Same as above).
6. *Score* – To get something desirable. Eg. “I scored the best seats in the stadium!”
7. *Wrap up* – To finish something. Eg. “Let’s wrap up in five minutes.”
8. *Ace* – Pass a test with 100%. Eg. “I think I’m going to ace the exam.”
9. *Cram* – To study a lot before an exam. Eg. “Sorry I can’t go out. I have to cram tonight.”
10. *Bail* – To leave abruptly. Eg. “I’m sorry I had to bail last night.”
11. *Ditch* – To skip an event. Eg. “I’m going to ditch class tomorrow to go to the beach.”
12. *Busted* – Caught doing something wrong. Eg. “I got busted for turning in homework late.”

## Miscellaneous American Slang Words

1. *Freebie* – Something that is free. Eg. “The bumper sticker was a freebie.”
2. *Lemon* – A bad purchase. Eg. “That phone case was a lemon.”
3. *Shades* – Sunglasses. Eg. “I can’t find my shades.”
4. *Shotgun* – The front seat of a car. Eg. “Can I sit shotgun?”
5. *In no time* – Very soon. Eg. “We’ll have our homework done in no time.”
6. *Buck* – One dollar. Eg. “It only costs a buck.”
7. *Rip-off* – A purchase that was very overpriced. Eg. “That phone case was a rip-off.”

## SLANG 2

### 100 British slang words list

1. **All right?** — Used most commonly as a greeting and certainly not one that requires a response. Brits will welcome friends and family members alike by grunting these two words to one another.
2. **Arse** — There could be an entire English dictionary devoted to variations of this single word. Referring to what in the US would be your ass, this word can be coupled with a variety of other words to create whole new realms of British slang (see below).
3. **Arse over tit** — The undignified process of falling over, most commonly occurring when completely arseholed (drunk).
4. **Arseholed** — See above. Be sure not to fall arse over tit.
5. **Ass** — In the British English dictionary, this is not really a curse word, just a donkey. You have been warned.
6. **Bagsy** — One of the first words learned by children throughout the British Isles, shouting bagsy is a way of staking a claim on something. The equivalent of calling shotgun, a successful Bagsy is legally binding in an English court of law (not really).
7. **Bloke** — A man. What in American English might be called a dude.
8. **Baccy** — The tobacco that you use to roll your own fags (no, that’s not what you think it is — see below).
9. **Bog** — Not a muddy marsh, unless you’ve got digestive problems, but a toilet. British people will often find themselves bustin’ for the bog.
10. **Bog roll** — The paper you use in the bog.



11. **Botched** — Something that has not gone according to plan.
12. **Barmy** — If someone calls you this then they're not being kind, it means you are bonkers (see below).
13. **Bonkers** — It means you are a bit barmy (see above!).
14. **Cheesed off** — Annoyed or displeased. The British population spends most of their time cheesed off with the weather.
15. **Chips** — Many an American has come ashore and innocently ordered chips, only to be right royally cheesed off. In the UK, chips are deep-fried strips of potato, and chunky ones at that. In the US, thin bastardized versions of British chips might call themselves french fries.
16. **Chock-a-block** — A place that is very busy. A road, street, or shop full to the rafters could be described this way.
17. **Chuffed** — Thrilled to bits. Happy. Delighted. Just don't show it outwardly, we're British, remember?.
18. **Codswallop** — A load of rubbish, something that is clearly nonsense.
19. **Daft** — A bit stupid. Not particularly offensive, just mildly silly.
20. **Dishy** — A person, usually male, who is very good-looking. David Beckham could be described as dishy, or in fact, a bit of a dish.
21. **Dodgy** — Used to describe something a little bit suspicious or questionable. The American English equivalent is shady.
22. **Dosh** — Money. Cash. Slang for all types of currency.
23. **Dog's Bollocks** — A strange but surprisingly popular term in British slang. If something is exceptionally good it is known as the dog's bollocks.
24. **Easy peasy** — If something is not difficult then it is loudly pronounced as being easy peasy.
25. **Faff** — Faffing around is a very British pleasure. It's taking unnecessary time over something that should be straightforward. A Brit likes nothing more than a good faff.
26. **Fag** — A cigarette.
27. **Fiddlesticks** — A harmless curse word held in reserve solely for use by British grandmothers. Dropping a vase of freshly cut daisies could result in a gently whispered fiddlesticks.
28. **Filch** — Simply to steal.
29. **Flog** — To sell something.
30. **Fluke** — If something happens purely by chance then it is a fluke. It's a lucky occurrence that doesn't often happen.
31. **Flutter** — To bet or place a wager. Most usually used to describe someone who likes to have a small stake on a horse race, for example, Mr. Smith likes to have a flutter.



32. **Full of beans** — Someone who is full of energy might be described as being full of beans. It's possessing endless quantities of get up and go, almost to the point of annoyance.
33. **Gallivanting** — Strutting or striding about with a seemingly endless supply of confidence.
34. **Gander** — To take a look around.
35. **Give us a bell** — Calling somebody on the telephone. In this instance 'us' actually means 'me'.
36. **Gobsmacked** — Completely and utterly awestruck in amazement.
37. **Gormless** — A person who has little clue or idea about what is going on around them.
38. **Gutted** — Being incredibly upset about something. If your favorite sports team has just lost then you might be gutted.
39. **Haggle** — To negotiate or argue over the price of something, entering into a heated and lengthy discussion about its value and worth.
40. **Hanky panky** — In American English this would be known as making out.
41. **Hard** — The British slang definition of hard is somebody who is ready to take on anyone or anything in a fight. Usually a self-inflicted state of mind after several pints of British ale, a hard man is someone to be avoided.
42. **Hard lines** — A way of saying bad luck.
43. **Her Majesty's pleasure** — While this sounds like a pleasant invitation to tea at the Palace, it's best to avoid a stint at Her Majesty's pleasure, as it means spending time in prison.
44. **Honking** — Being violently sick.
45. **Jammy** — Consistently being on the right side of good fortune. If you are repeatedly lucky you might be described as jammy.
46. **Khazi** — British slang for the toilet. Don't forget your bog roll.
47. **Kip** — A short power nap, the English word for a snooze.
48. **Knees up** — A proper British party, full of warm beer and loud music. Just don't end up honking.
49. **Leg it** — To run away, usually from trouble.
50. **Lurgy** — If you have the dreaded lurgy then you are unwell with either the flu or a cold.
51. **Mate** — A good friend or acquaintance. Regularly used as a greeting or term of affection.
52. **Mufti** — A military term that has seeped its way into British slang to mean casual or civilian clothes.
53. **Mug** — If you are a bit of a mug then you are gullible, and will believe anything.
54. **Mush** — Slang for your mouth, i.e. shut your mush.

55. **Naff** — Something that is a bit uncool would be described as naff.
56. **Narked** — Cheesed off, irritated. If you're in a bad mood you might be labeled as narked or even a bit narky.
57. **Nick** — To steal or take something that doesn't belong to you. If you are then caught by the police/law/fuzz then you would be nicked.
58. **Nitwit** — An inoffensive way of describing someone a bit silly.
59. **Nosh** — Food! You might describe a tasty meal as a good nosh up.
60. **Not my cup of tea** — A classic British phrase that is trundled out to describe a situation or circumstance that does not bring one pleasure.
61. **Nowt** — Originating in the North of England (another instance where an entire subcategory of British slang terms could be procured) this word has entered mainstream language to mean nothing.
62. **Nut** — To headbutt someone. Not pleasant.
63. **Off-colour** — Sick, poorly, or generally under the weather. If you are looking off-colour then the chances are you don't look well.
64. **Off your trolley** — Someone who is described as such is usually behaving in a crazy manner.
65. **On your bike** — A not so polite way of telling someone to go away.
66. **Pants** — Tricky for our US cousins to get their heads round, but British pants are our undergarments. They go underneath our trousers. To show one's pants is very uncouth.
67. **Parky** — Used to describe cold weather. Not drastically cold, just a bit chilly.
68. **Pear-shaped** — When something has not gone entirely to plan, it is said to have gone a bit pear-shaped.
69. **Piece of cake** — When something is easy peasy it could be described as a piece of cake. No food or confectionery necessary.
70. **Pinch** — Another word for stealing, or purchasing something at a heavily discounted rate.
71. **Pissed** — This doesn't mean annoyed or angry as in American English. It means blind drunk.
72. **Plastered** — Another British slang term for being drunk. Anyone would think the Brits like a drink.
73. **Porkies** — Spreading lies. Anyone not being straight with the truth could be accused of telling porkies.
74. **Porridge** — Doing a stretch in porridge means serving time in prison.
75. **Prat** — A low-key curse word for a stupid person. Prating around could also be used to describe someone behaving in a foolish way.
76. **Put a sock in it** — This is a fairly rude way of telling someone to be quiet.
77. **Quid** — Slang word for a British pound.

78. **Rubbish** — Everything a Brit throws in the bin is called rubbish. Not trash or garbage, but rubbish.
79. **Scrummy** — A word to describe something deliciously tasty.
80. **Skive** — To skive off work or school is to bunk off or play truant. Hopefully not getting caught in the process.
81. **Sloshed** — Yep, another way to describe being drunk, pissed, blotto, trashed, plastered...
82. **Smarmy** — A person, usually male, who is too smooth for their own good and comes across not as charming, but saccharine sweet to the point of repulsion.
83. **Snog** — A kiss.
84. **Snookered** — Appearing in the English dictionary thanks to the ancient game of snooker, to be snookered means you are in a situation from which you can see no obvious escape.
85. **Sod's law** — when something can go wrong, it will, owing largely to Sod's law.
86. **Shirty** — Someone who is demonstrating signs of irritability might be described as getting shirty.
87. **Spend a penny** — This means going to the bathroom. Originating from a time when public toilets charged one penny for their services.
88. **Squiffy** — On the way to being drunk. Not quite sloshed but only a few drinks away.
89. **Starkers** — Nude. Naked. Without clothing.
90. **Strop** — A public display of displeasure might be described as having a strop.
91. **Swear** — In the United Kingdom to swear is the same as to cuss or curse.
92. **Ta** — Short for thanks.
93. **Toodle pip** — An old English word that means goodbye.
94. **Twee** — Small, dainty, or quaint. A very British term to describe lots of aspects of life in the United Kingdom.
95. **Taking the biscuit** — if you are taking the biscuit when you are starting to push your luck. A similar phrase in American English is to take the cake.
96. **Waffle** — To endlessly drone on about nothing. Someone talking incessantly would be described as waffling on.
97. **Welly** — If you give something welly you've given it a really good go.
98. **Wobbler** — To have a tantrum or throw a strop.
99. **Yakking** — Talking too much.
100. **Yonks** — A general term for a long period of time, i.e. We haven't visited there for yonks.

## IDIOMS

### English Idioms with Common Verbs

#### 1. Hit the books



Literally, ***hit the books*** means to physically hit, punch or slap your reading books. However, this is a commonly used expression among students, especially American college students who have a lot of studying to do. It simply means “to study,” and is a way of telling your friends that you’re going to study.

It could be for a final exam, a midterm test or even an English exam.

*“Sorry but I can’t watch the game with you tonight, I have to **hit the books**. I have a huge exam next week!”*

#### 2. Hit the sack



Just like the first idiom, the literal meaning of this would be physically hitting or beating a sack (a large bag usually used for carrying things in bulk such as flour, rice or even soil). But actually to ***hit the sack*** means to go to bed, and you’d use this to tell your friends or family that you’re really tired, so you’re going to sleep.

Instead of saying *hit the sack* you can also say *hit the hay*.

*“It’s time for me to **hit the sack**, I’m so tired.”*

#### 3. Twist someone’s arm



To ***twist someone's arm*** literally means to take a person's arm and turn it around, which could be really painful if you take it exactly word-for-word. If your *arm has been twisted* it means that someone has done a great job of convincing you to do something you might not have wanted to do.

And if you manage to *twist someone else's arm* it means that you're great at convincing them, and they've finally agreed to do something after you've been begging them.

*"Jake, you should really come to the party tonight!"*

*"You know I can't, I have to hit the books (study)."*

*"C'mon, you have to come! It's going to be so much fun and there are going to be lots of girls there. Please come?"*

*"Pretty girls? Oh all right, you've **twisted my arm**, I'll come!"*

#### **4. Stab someone in the back**



If we take this idiom literally, we could find ourselves in a whole lot of trouble with the police, as it would mean taking a knife or another sharp object and putting it into a person's back.

However, as an idiom, to ***stab someone in the back*** means to hurt someone who was close to us and trusted us by betraying them secretly and breaking their trust. We call the person who does this a ***back stabber***.

*"Did you hear that Sarah **stabbed Kate in the back** last week?"*

*"No! I thought they were best friends, what did she do?"*

*"She told their boss that Kate wasn't interested in a promotion at work and Sarah got it instead."*

*"Wow, that's the ultimate betrayal! No wonder they're not friends anymore."*



## 5. Lose your touch



Literally, this means to no longer have the ability to touch or feel with your fingers or hands. But to **lose your touch** actually means that you lose an ability or talent you once had when dealing with things, people or situations.

We use this when you're usually good at a certain skill or talent, but then things start to go wrong.

*"I don't understand why none of the girls here want to speak to me."*

*"It looks like you've **lost your touch** with the ladies."*

*"Oh no, they used to love me, what happened?"*

## 6. Sit tight



**Sit tight** is a great example of why you can't translate idioms in English word-for-word. It literally would mean that you sit down squeezing your body in a tight way—which if you did would be very uncomfortable, not to mention you'd look really strange. But if a person tells you to **sit tight** they want you to wait patiently and take no action until you hear otherwise.

*"Mrs. Carter, do you have any idea when the exam results are going to come out?"*

*"Who knows Johnny, sometimes they come out quickly but it could take some time."*

*You're just going to have to **sit tight** and wait."*

## 7. Pitch in



This phrase actually makes no sense if you try to take it literally. However, figuratively speaking, it means to contribute (give) to something or someone or to join in.

So if your dad tells the family that he wants everyone to ***pitch in*** this weekend and help clear the backyard, it means he wants everyone to join in on the efforts to clear the yard and get things done quicker.

*“What are you going to buy Sally for her birthday?”*

*“I don’t know. I don’t have much money.”*

*“Maybe we can all ***pitch in*** and buy her something great.”*

The above conversation suggests that every one of Sally’s friends should contribute a little bit of money so they can afford to buy her a bigger and better present together.

## 8. Go cold turkey



Sound weird? Well, you’re right, it does. How can anyone literally go cold turkey? A person can’t transform into the bird we all love to eat for celebrations such as Christmas and Thanksgiving.

To ***go cold turkey*** means to suddenly quit or stop addictive or dangerous behavior such as smoking or drinking alcohol.

This idiom is said to have **originated in the early 20th century** and suggests that a person who suddenly quits something addictive—such as drugs or alcohol—suffers from side effects that make them look and feel like a cold, uncooked turkey. This includes pale (very white) skin and goosebumps (little small bumps on the skin when we're cold or sick).

*"Shall I get your mom a glass of wine?"*

*"No, she's stopped drinking."*

*"Really, why?"*

*"I don't know. A few months ago, she just announced one day she's quitting drinking."*

*"She just quit **cold turkey**?"*

*"Yes, just like that!"*

## 9. Face the music



In literal terms, *facing the music* means turning your body to the direction of the music and standing in front of it. But if your friend or your parents tell you to *face the music*, there's a much harsher meaning.

It means to "face reality" or to deal with the reality of the situation and accept all the consequences, good or bad (but mostly bad). Perhaps you've been avoiding something because you feel unsure or scared of the outcome. Maybe you lied to your teacher and she discovered the truth and now you have to *face the music* and accept the punishment.

*"I can't understand why I failed math."*

*"You know you didn't study hard, so you're going to have to **face the music** and take the class again next semester if you really want to graduate when you do."*

## 10. Ring a bell



If we look at the literal meaning of **ring a bell**, it's just that: You could be ringing the school bell to tell students it's time to go to class or ringing someone's doorbell.

But the idiom means that somebody has mentioned something that sounds familiar to you, perhaps you've heard it before. In other words, when someone says something that you believe you've heard in the past, alarm bells start ringing and you try to remember how or why that name or place sounds familiar.

*"You've met my friend Amy Adams, right?"*

*"Hmmm, I'm not sure, but that name **rings a bell**. Was she the one who went to Paris last year?"*

## 11. Blow off steam



In reality a person cannot blow off steam (the hot rising air from boiling water)—only electrical equipment can, such as the electric jug (appliance for boiling water for coffee). So what does it mean when a person **blows off steam**?

If you're feeling angry, stressed or are experiencing some strong feelings and you want to get rid of them so you feel better again, you will **blow off steam** by doing something such as exercising to get rid of the stress.

*"Why is Nick so angry and where did he go?"*

*"He had a fight with his brother, so he went for a run to **blow off steam**."*

## 12. Cut to the chase



When somebody tells you to **cut to the chase** it means that you've been talking too long and haven't gotten to the point. When a person uses this idiom, they're telling you to

hurry up and get to the important part, without all the details. Be careful how you use this idiom, because if used while talking to someone like a college professor or your boss, it's rude and disrespectful.

If you're speaking to a group of people, like your employees, and say ***I'm going to cut to the chase***, it means that there are a few things that need to be said but there's very little time, so you'll skip to the important parts so everyone understands.

*"Hi guys, as we don't have much time here, so I'm going to **cut to the chase**. We've been having some major problems in the office lately."*

## English Idioms with Common Prepositions

Prepositions are words that indicate where one thing is in relation to another. These include the words *up*, *on* and *over* as you'll see in the idioms below.

### 13. Up in the air



When we literally think about something being ***up in the air***, we have the idea that something's floating or flying in the sky, perhaps an airplane or a balloon. But really if someone tells you that things ***are up in the air*** it means that these things are uncertain or unsure. Definite plans have not been made yet.

*"Jen, have you set a date for the wedding yet?"*

*"Not exactly, things **are up in the air** and we're not sure if our families can make it on the day we wanted. Hopefully we'll know soon and we'll let you know as soon as possible."*

### 14. On the ball





If you look at this phrase literally, it means to be either standing or sitting on a ball—but who would do that?

If ***you're on the ball*** it means that you're very quick to understand certain things, very prepared for something or react quickly (and correctly) to a situation.

For example, if you're planning your wedding that's still one year away from now and you've almost finished with *all* the planning already, you're definitely ***on the ball*** because not many people are that prepared!

*"Wow, you've already finished your assignments? They aren't due until next week, you're really **on the ball**. I wish I could be more organized."*

## 15. Get over something



If you think about it, it's possible to literally ***get over something***, for example get over a fence—but this is not how the phrase is generally used in the English language.

Imagine having a really difficult time, like breaking up with your girlfriend or boyfriend—it's hard. But eventually once time passes and you no longer think about your ex, it means that you've ***gotten over him/her***, you no longer worry about it and it no longer affects you in a negative way. It's also possible to ***get over an illness***, which would mean that you've fully recovered.

*"How's Paula? Has she **gotten over** the death of her dog yet?"*

*"I think so. She's already talking about getting a new one."*

## Cash and Money Idioms in English

### 16. Look like a million dollars/bucks



Wouldn't it be great if we really could *look like a million dollars*? We'd be rich, but that's not the case. If someone tells you that you *look like a million bucks*, you should take it as a huge compliment because it means you look absolutely fabulous and really attractive.

While sometimes we use this idiom for guys, it's more commonly used to compliment females. And while some of your female friends may look beautiful every day, you should save this one for when they've really made an effort and it's a special occasion, like prom or a wedding.

*"Wow, Mary, you look like a million dollars/bucks this evening. I love your dress!"*

### **17. Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth**



Someone who comes from a wealthy and successful family.

*"John was **born with a silver spoon in his mouth**. His parents bought him everything he wanted and sent him to the best private schools."*

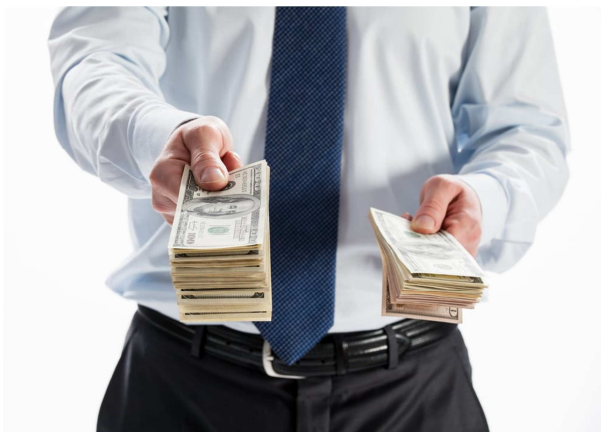
### **18. To go from rags to riches**



To go from being poor to having a lot of money.

*“Actor Jim Carrey went from **rags to riches**. At one time, he was living in a van, but he continued to work hard and eventually became one of the highest-paid comedians in the world.”*

## **19. Pay an arm and a leg for something**



To pay a lot of money for something. You can also say that something “costs an arm and a leg.”

*“The price of chocolate has doubled. I nearly **paid an arm and a leg** for a small candy bar.”*

*“Chocolate **costs an arm and a leg** now.”*

## **20. To have sticky fingers**



To be a thief.

*“The manager fired the cashier because he **had sticky fingers**. He stole more than \$200 in a month.”*

## **21. To give a run for one’s money**

To compete with someone at their level and make them really work for their win.

*“Joe really **gave me a run for my money** in the chess tournament. He almost beat me!”*

## **22. To pony up**



To pay for something or settle a debt.

*“**Pony up** and give me the \$5 you owe me.”*

*“I told my roommate Jane to **pony up** her portion of the rent money.”*

## **23. To ante up**

To pay someone (similar to “pony up”).

The expression **ante up** comes from the game of poker, where players bet their money *before* the cards are dealt. If this expression looks familiar, it’s because *ante* is also Latin for “before.”

Over time, the idiom has come to refer to any type of payment someone owes—not just in poker.

*“You’d better **ante up** and give me that \$10 I loaned you last week.”*

It can also be used to refer to other services besides money that someone’s owed.

**Joe:** *“I’m tired of doing the housework by myself. You need **to ante up** or find a new roommate.”*

**Thomas:** *“I’m sorry. I’ll help more around the house.”*

In this sentence, Joe uses *ante up* to mean that Thomas needs to start helping with the housework.

A similar idiom is **to up the ante**, which means “to raise the stakes/to raise the bet.” In poker, when people *up the ante*, they bet more money than the person before them. This is used similarly in everyday conversation, when someone raises a bet or agrees to do more.

*“Susan agreed to type up the group report, but Billy **upped the ante** when he said he’d type, print and deliver the report to Professor Stephens.”*

*“I wanted to place a \$10 bet on the soccer match, but Daniel **upped the ante** and raised the bet to \$50.”*

## 24. Break even

To neither gain nor lose money.

*“The trip to the beach cost me \$100, but I almost **broke even** after winning \$90 in a contest.”*

## 25. Break the bank



To be very expensive.

*“Taking a week-long vacation would **break the bank**. There’s no way I could afford to do it.”*

## 26. To be closefisted



Someone who doesn’t want to spend money. Similar to being stingy.

*“Carl is so **closefisted**, he won’t even buy snacks for the Christmas party.”*

## 27. To go Dutch



Everyone pays for their own meal at a restaurant.

*“We had a date last night and we **went Dutch**. I paid for my coffee and she paid for her salad.”*

## **28. Shell out money/to fork over money**

To pay for something (usually expensive).

*“I wish I didn’t buy that new car now that I’m **shelling out \$1,000** a month in payments.”*

*“She had to **fork over a lot of money** for traffic fines last month.”*

## **29. Midas touch**



To be able to make money easily. This idiom comes from [the story of King Midas](#), who turned everything he touched into gold.

*“Jane really has the **Midas touch**. Every business she starts becomes very successful.”*

## **30. In the red/In the black**

To lose more money than you make.

*“I’m **in the red** this month after paying that speeding ticket. I’ll need to find some work over the weekend for extra money.”*

The opposite of being in the red is being *in the black*, which means that you’ve made more money than you spent.

*“After working a couple of small jobs over the weekend, I earned an extra \$500 and am back **in the black**.”*

## **31. Receive a kickback**



To receive money illegally/to receive bribes.

*“The police chief was arrested after the news reported he was **receiving kickbacks** from criminals to ignore certain crimes.”*

*“The traffic cop **receives kickbacks** for not writing tickets to politicians.”*

### **32. Living hand to mouth**

To live without a lot of money.

*“The family has been **living hand to mouth** ever since their father lost his job.”*

### **33. To be loaded**



To have a lot of money.

*“Billy paid his Harvard Law School tuition with cash. His family **is loaded**.”*

### **34. Make ends meet**

To make the money needed to pay for food and bills.

*“I don’t make much from my job as a cashier, but I’m able to **make ends meet**. I always have enough money for rent and groceries.”*

### **35. As genuine as a three-dollar bill**

An American idiom used sarcastically to mean that something’s fake.

When something's *genuine*, that means it's real. But the U.S. never made three-dollar bills, which means that there's no such thing as a genuine three-dollar bill.

For example, [the Louvre Museum in Paris](#) has the genuine Mona Lisa. If your school has a picture of the Mona Lisa hanging in the art room, it's not genuine. It's a copy.

That means your school's copy of the Mona Lisa **is as genuine as a three-dollar bill**.

*"That man tried to sell me a Lamborghini from 1953. He said it was the first Lamborghini model ever made but the company didn't exist until 10 years later. His car was as genuine as a three-dollar bill."*

## Body Part Idioms in English

### 36. Rule of thumb



Can thumbs rule or can you literally rule a thumb? If you think about it logically, it means absolutely nothing and makes no sense. However, if you hear someone say **as a rule of thumb**, they mean that it's a general unwritten rule for whatever they're talking about.

These **rules of thumb** are not based on science or research, and are instead just general principles. For example, there's no written scientific rule that you must add oil to boiling water when cooking pasta, but it's a **rule of thumb** and is practiced by most people so the pasta won't stick to the bottom of the pan.

*"As a rule of thumb you should always pay for your date's dinner."*

*"Why? There's no rule stating that!"*

*"Yes, but it's what all gentlemen do."*

### 37. Keep your chin up



Did you just have a massive fight with your friend? Did you fail your English finals? Did your team lose the final match? Did you lose your job?

If you answered “yes” to any of the questions, then you’re probably feeling sad and a little depressed, right?

In this situation, a supportive friend might tell you to **keep your chin up**. When they tell you this, they’re showing their support for you, and it’s a way of saying, “Stay strong, you’ll get through this. Don’t let these things affect you too badly.”

*“Hey, Keiren, have you had any luck finding work yet?”*

*“No, nothing, it’s really depressing, there’s nothing out there!”*

*“Don’t worry, you’ll find something soon, **keep your chin up** buddy and don’t stress.”*

### 38. Find your feet



Is it possible to lose your feet? No way, they’re attached to your body! So what does it mean when somebody says they’re trying to **find their feet**?

If you find yourself in a new situation, for example living in a new country and having to get used to a new college, you could say **I’m still finding my feet**. It means that you’re still adjusting and getting used to the new environment.

*“Lee, how’s your son doing in America?”*

*“He’s doing okay. He’s learned where the college is but is still **finding his feet** with everything else. I guess it’ll take time for him to get used to it all.”*

### Food Idioms

#### 39. Spice things up

To **spice things up** means to make them more interesting or exciting.

*“Instead of just buying Sam a birthday gift, let’s **spice things up** by taking him out for dinner.”*

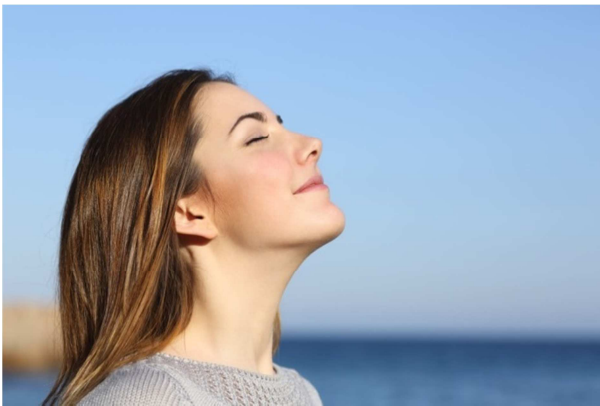
#### 40. A piece of cake



A **piece of cake** refers to a task or job that's easy to complete or accomplish.

*"I expected the English test to be difficult but it was **a piece of cake**."*

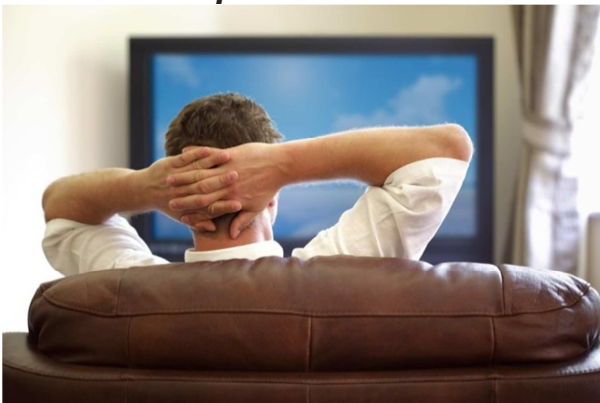
#### **41. Cool as a cucumber**



Cucumbers have a refreshing taste and leave you with a cool, calm feeling. So if you're **cool as a cucumber**, you're someone who's very calm and relaxed.

*"My friend is nervous about taking his driving test but I'm **cool as a cucumber**."*

#### **42. A couch potato**



A **couch potato** refers to someone who spends a lot of time sitting on the couch watching TV.

*"After my uncle retired from his job, he became a **couch potato**."*

#### **43. Bring home the bacon**

To **bring home the bacon** means to make an income or earn a living to support your family.

*"Ever since her father was injured, she's been working two jobs to **bring home the bacon**."*

#### **44. In hot water**

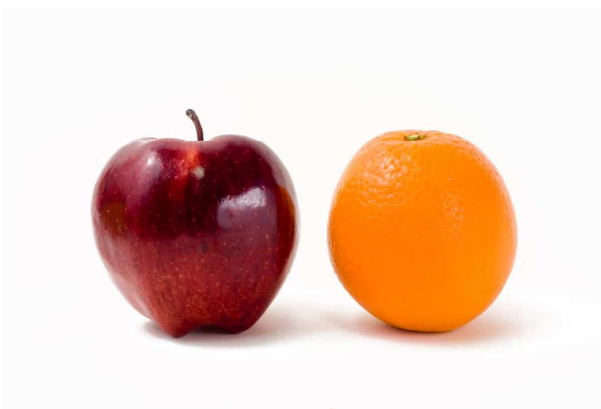




When someone is *in hot water*, they're in a bad situation or serious trouble.

*"My brother is in hot water for failing all his college classes."*

#### **45. Compare apples and oranges**



Apples are very different from oranges both in looks and taste. It's hard to compare two things that are so unlike each other. So then, to *compare apples and oranges* is to compare two very different things.

*"I'm not sure which I enjoy more—pottery or dancing. It's like comparing apples and oranges."*

#### **46. Not one's cup of tea**



If something is *not your cup of tea*, it's an activity you have no interest in, don't enjoy or don't do well in.

*"Camping is really not my cup of tea so I'm going to visit my friend in New York instead."*

#### **47. Eat like a bird**



How much does a bird eat? Not very much, right? So to *eat like a bird* is to eat very little.

*“Don’t trouble yourself cooking such a big meal. I eat like a bird.”*

#### **48. Eat like a horse**



Now, a horse is much bigger than a bird. So how much do you think a horse eats? That’s right, to *eat like a horse* is to eat a large amount of food.

*“My mother has to cook a lot of food when my brother comes to visit. He eats like a horse.”*

#### **49. Butter [someone] up**

To *butter someone up* is to please or flatter someone in order to win his or her favor. This separable phrase may be used in the format *butter [someone] up* or *butter up [someone]*.

*“Everyone seems to be trying to butter up the new boss hoping to become her favorite.”*

#### **50. Food for thought**

*Food for thought* refers to something that’s worth thinking carefully about.

*“Moving to another state is food for thought for many of those affected by the recent hurricanes in Texas and Florida.”*

#### **51. A smart cookie**



Here's an easy one. A **smart cookie** is an intelligent person.

*"It shouldn't be hard too hard for a smart cookie like you to learn Spanish."*

## 52. Packed like sardines



What do you see when you open up a can of sardines? Yes, the fish crammed inside the can. So **packed like sardines** describes a place or situation that's very crowded with people (or animals)—for example, a concert hall or sports event.

*"Were you at the football game last night? The stadium was packed like sardines."*

## 53. Spill the beans

You accidentally knock over a bowl of beans and they all spill out. Think of this image and you'll remember that **spill the beans** means to accidentally or prematurely give out information that's supposed to be kept secret.

*"We were planning a surprise birthday party for Joyce this weekend. But this morning, Owen spilled the beans and now it's no longer a surprise."*

## 54. A bad apple



Imagine a basket of apples with one rotten apple inside. This picture will help you remember that **a bad apple** is someone who creates problems or trouble, or is a bad influence on the other people in a group.

*“Instead of focusing on college, he spends his time hanging out with **bad apples**.”*

## 55. Bread and butter

Bread and butter is a basic food that many of us eat. So the idiom *bread and butter* refers to a job that makes the money you need to live and afford basic necessities like food, housing, etc.

*“Fishing is the **bread and butter** of the friendly people I met on the island last summer.”*

## 56. Buy a lemon



To **buy a lemon** means to buy something (usually a motor vehicle) that doesn't work well and is therefore worthless.

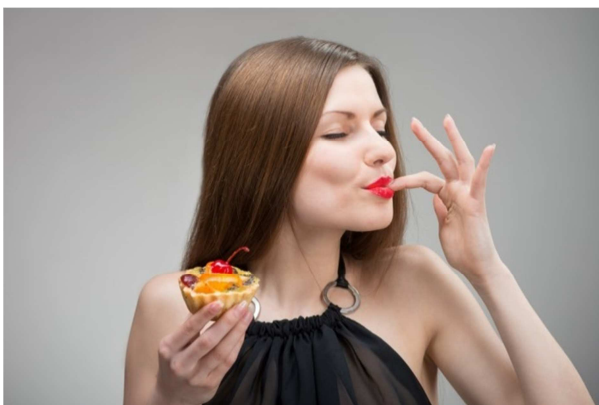
*“The car looked so new and shiny I had no way of knowing I was **buying a lemon**.”*

## 57. A hard nut to crack

Is it easy to crack open a nut? Not always. Well, **a hard nut to crack** refers to a person who's difficult to deal with or to get to know.

*“I tried to be friendly with her but I was told she's **a hard nut to crack**.”*

## 58. Have a sweet tooth



Do you like eating cakes, candy and other sweet-tasting food? If you do, then you can say you **have a sweet tooth**.

*“Yes, I definitely **have a sweet tooth**. I can never walk past a bakery and not stop to buy myself a slice of chocolate cake.”*

## Nature Idioms

## 59. Under the weather





Can you be under the weather literally? Probably yes, if you think about standing under the clouds, rain and sun, but it makes no sense.

If you're feeling ***under the weather***, you're not your usual self and could be feeling a little sick. The sick feeling is nothing serious—perhaps it's just extreme tiredness from studying too much, or having a bad headache because you're starting to get the flu.

*"What's wrong with Katy, mom?"*

*"She's feeling a little **under the weather** so be quiet and let her rest."*

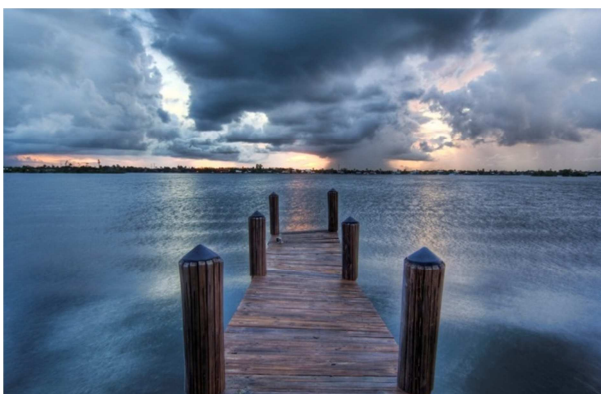
## **60. A storm is brewing**



There will be trouble or emotional upset in the near future.

*"She decided to go ahead with their wedding, even though all they've been doing lately is arguing. I can sense **a storm is brewing**."*

## **61. Calm before the storm**



An unusually quiet period before a period of upheaval (problems, chaos).



*“The strange quietness in town made her feel peaceful. Little did she know, it was just the calm before the storm.”*

## **62. Weather a storm**



To survive a dangerous event or effectively deal with a difficult situation.

*“Last year, they had some financial difficulties when her husband was fired. Together, they **weathered the storm** and figured out how to keep going.”*

## **63. When it rains, it pours**



Bad things occur in large numbers, but many big things happen all at once.

*“First he was laid off, then his wife got into a car accident. **When it rains, it pours.**”*

## **64. Chasing rainbows**



Following dreams, trying to do something that can't be achieved.

*“His paintings have neither style nor imagination, but he insists on being a professional painter. He’s always **chasing rainbows**.”*

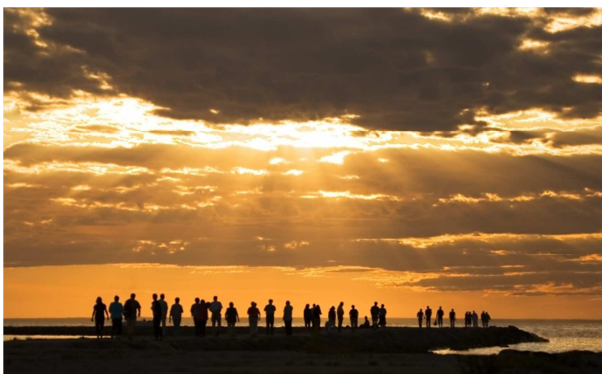
## **65. Rain or shine**



Used to indicate that something will happen no matter what. This is one of the rare idioms that’s also often used literally, for outdoor events that’ll take place whether it rains or not.

*“I’ll see you at the airport, **rain or shine**.”*

## **66. Under the sun**



Refers to everything on Earth, usually used as part of a superlative.

*“Gili Trawangan must be one of the most beautiful islands **under the sun**.”*

## **67. Once in a blue moon**



Very rarely.

*“He used to call his grandma **once in a blue moon**. Now that she has passed away, he regrets not making more of an effort to keep in touch.”*

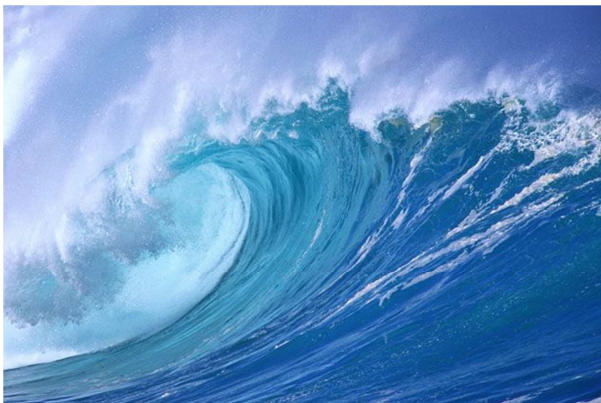
### **68. Every cloud has a silver lining**



There's a good aspect to every bad situation.

*“Don't worry about losing your job. It'll be okay. **Every cloud has a silver lining!**”*

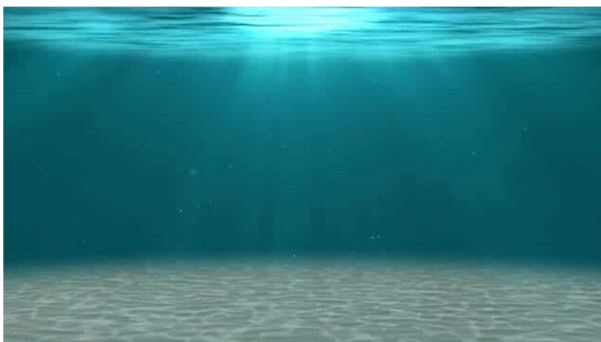
### **69. A rising tide lifts all boats**



When an economy is performing well, all of the people involved will benefit from it.

*“When the economy showed the first signs of recovering, everyone started investing and spending more. **A rising tide lifts all boats.**”*

### **70. Get into deep water**



To be in trouble. Very similar to the idiom ***in hot water*** that we discussed above.

*“He got into **deep water** when he borrowed a lot of money from a loan shark.”*

### **71. Pour oil on troubled waters**





To try to make people feel better and become friendly again after an argument. **This expression comes from the calming effect that oil has on waves** as it spreads over the surface of the sea.

With the ecological disasters following big oil spillage in recent years, some people might now think of this phrase rather differently compared to its original meaning—but it's still interesting to know about.

*“She hated seeing her two best friends arguing, so she got them together and **poured oil on troubled waters.**”*

## **72. Make waves**



To cause trouble, to change things in a dramatic way.

*“She likes to **make waves** with her creative marketing campaigns. They get a lot of attention from customers.”*

## **73. Go with the flow**



To relax and go along with whatever's happening.

*“Quite often in life, good things happen when you don’t make plans. Just go with the flow and see what happens!”*

#### **74. Lost at sea**



To be confused about something or to feel unsure about what to do.

*“I am lost at sea with this new system at work. I just can’t understand it.”*

#### **75. Sail close to the wind**



To act just within the limits of what’s legal or socially acceptable, to push boundaries.

*“They fired their accountant because he sailed too close to the wind.”*

#### **76. Make a mountain out of a molehill**



To exaggerate the severity of a situation.

*“She shouted at him angrily for being five minutes late, but it really didn’t matter that much. She really made a mountain out of a molehill.”*



## 77. Gain ground



To become popular, to make progress, to advance.

*“As Airbnb **gains ground** in many cities all over the world, many locals complain that they can no longer find a place to live. Landlords would rather rent their places out to tourists and earn more money.”*

## 78. Walking on air



Very excited or happy. “Over the moon,” “on cloud nine,” “in seventh heaven” and “in good spirits” are a few more [advanced English expressions you can use to talk about happiness](#).

*“She’s been **walking on air** since she found out that she’s pregnant.”*

## 79. Many moons ago



This is one of those English expressions that’s a little bit formal or dated. You’ll most likely hear it in stories, or when someone is trying to create a dramatic effect.

*“Many moons ago, we used to be two very close friends. Now we’ve gone separate ways and lost contact.”*

### **80. Castle in the sky**



A daydream, a hope, especially for one’s life, that’s unlikely to come true.

*“World traveling used to be a **castle in the sky** for most people a few decades ago, but with cheap flight tickets and the global use of English, many youngsters are living that dream.”*

### **81. Down to earth**



To be practical and sensible.

*“It’s a stereotype, but Dutch people are known for being **down to earth**.”*

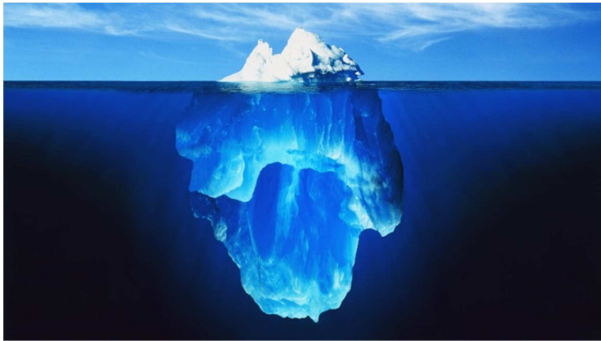
### **82. Salt of the earth**



Being honest and good.

*“My father is the **salt of the earth**. He works hard and always helps people who are in need.”*

### **83. The tip of the iceberg**



Just a small part of something much bigger.

*“Exceptionally long drought periods are just **the tip of the iceberg** when it comes to the global impact of climate change.”*

### **84. Break the ice**



To attempt to become friends with someone.

*“He made a weather joke to **break the ice**.”*

### **85. Sell ice to Eskimos**



To be able to sell anything to anyone; to persuade people to go against their best interests or to accept something unnecessary or preposterous.

The word Eskimo refers to indigenous people who live in very cold, snowy regions—they don't need any ice! If you can sell ice to them, you can sell anything to anyone.

While it's important to recognize common idioms like this one, be aware that [the word Eskimo is considered derogatory \(rude; prejudiced\) by many people.](#)

*"He's a gifted salesman, he could sell ice to Eskimos."*

## 86. Bury your head in the sand



To (try to) avoid a particular situation by pretending that it doesn't exist.

*"Stop **burying your head in the sand**. You haven't been happy with him for years, why are you staying together?"*

## 87. Let the dust settle



To allow a situation to become calm or normal again after something exciting or unusual has happened.

*"You just had big news yesterday, **let the dust settle** and don't make any decisions yet."*

## 88. Clear as mud

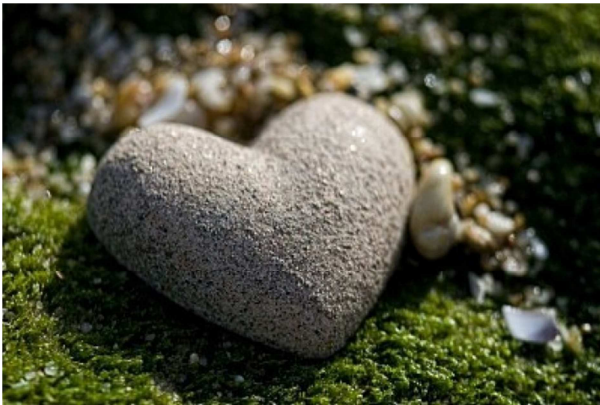




Not clear at all, not easy to understand.

*“He’s a great scientist, but I find his explanation of bacteria and microbes as **clear as mud**.”*

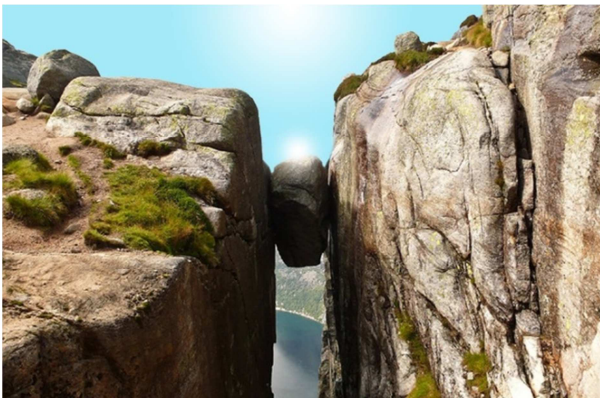
### **89. As cold as stone**



Being very cold and unemotional.

*“In the Victorian times, many women were told to suppress their feelings and, thus, appeared **as cold as stone**.”*

### **90. Between a rock and a hard place**



In difficulty, faced with a choice between two unsatisfactory options.

*“I can understand why she couldn’t make up her mind about what to do. She’s really **between a rock and a hard place**.”*



Other English expressions with a similar meaning are:

- the lesser of two evils
- between the devil and the deep blue sea
- between Scylla and Charybdis
- Hobson's choice

## 91. Nip something in the bud



To stop a bad situation from becoming worse by taking action at an early stage of its development.

*“When the kid shows the first signs of misbehaving, you should **nip that bad behavior in the bud.**”*

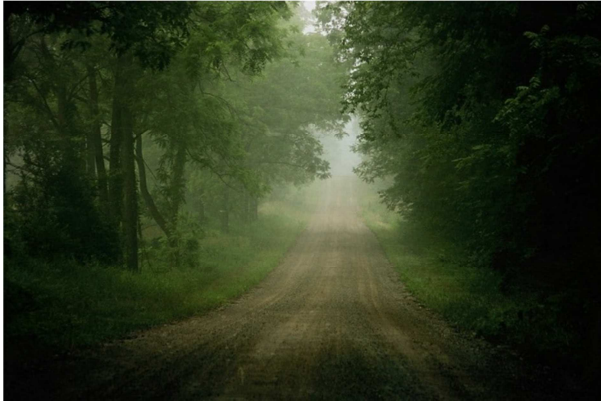
## 92. Barking up the wrong tree



Doing something that won't give you the results you want.

*“If you think she's going to lend you money, you're **barking up the wrong tree.** She never lends anyone anything.”*

## 93. Out of the woods



The situation is still difficult but it's improved or gotten easier. The hardest part of something is over.

*"The surgery went very well and he just needs to recover now, so he's officially **out of the woods.**"*

#### **94. Can't see the forest for the trees**



To be unable to see the whole situation clearly because you're looking too closely at small details.

*"He's worried because the flowers haven't all arrived, but everyone says the wedding has been perfect and beautiful. He just **can't see the forest for the trees.**"*

#### **95. To hold out an olive branch**



To offer to make peace (with a rival or enemy).

*“After years of rivalry with her cousin, she decided to **hold out an olive branch** and go have fun together.”*

## **96. Beat around the bush**



To spend a long time getting to the main point of what you’re saying, especially because it’s embarrassing.

*“I don’t have much time, so stop **beating around the bush** and tell me what actually happened.”*

## CONVERSATION TOPICS

### THE DISCUSSION ON EAR AND BODY PIERCING

- (1) What do you think of pierced ears?
- (2) Do you think there's any difference between a man or woman having his/her ears pierced?
- (3) Do ear-rings / studs make someone look more attractive?
- (4) Why do you think people started piercing their ears?
- (5) Do you think ear piercing is a strange custom?
- (6) Is there any cultural significance of ear piercing in your country?
- (7) Should a man have none, one or both ears pierced?
- (8) What is the earliest age at which you should get a child's ears pierced?
- (9) Were / Are there any rules in your school about pierced ears?
- (10) How many holes do you think is maximum for someone's ears?

- (1) What do you think of body piercing?
- (2) Do you think pierced noses, eyebrows, lips, etc look attractive?
- (3) Why do you think someone would pierce their tongue and wear a stud inside their mouth?
- (4) Why do you think pierced navels and nipples are fashionable?
- (5) What would your mother say if you got your face and body pierced?
- (6) Do you think the body piercing fashion will continue for generations?
- (7) Which cultures do you know of have a long history of piercing?
- (8) Do you think there are similarities between body piercing and indigenous tribes who put bones through their nose?
- (9) Do you think body piercing can be dangerous?
- (10) Do you think every part of the body can be pierced?

## THE DISCUSSION ON EARTH

- (1) What images spring to mind when you hear the word 'Earth'?
- (2) What are your feelings towards the Earth?
- (3) How often do you think about the Earth?
- (4) How much trouble do you think the Earth is in today?
- (5) Would you like to see the Earth from space?
- (6) Why is Earth the only place known in the universe that has life?
- (7) What do you know about the history of Earth?
- (8) Do you think 'Earth' is a good name for our planet?
- (9) What is Earth made of?
- (10) What do you know about the centre of the Earth?

- (1) What do you do in your life to care for the Earth?
- (2) What do you know about the surface of the Earth?
- (3) What do you know about the earth's rotation?
- (4) What natural hazards are there on Earth? Do they affect you?
- (5) Does your religion have an explanation for the creation of Earth?
- (6) What are the biggest challenges facing Earth?
- (7) Do you think it's possible to save the Earth?
- (8) What will happen to the Earth if all humans disappear from it?
- (9) Have you ever used the application Google Earth?
- (10) What do you think is the most beautiful thing about the Earth?

## THE DISCUSSION ON EARTHQUAKES

- (1) What comes to mind when you hear the word 'earthquake'?
- (2) Have you ever experienced an earthquake or tremor?
- (3) Do you think an earthquake is the world's scariest natural disaster?
- (4) What should you do the second an earthquake hits?
- (5) Why do you think people live in areas that have lots earthquakes?
- (6) Would you move to a city like Tokyo or San Francisco, where a huge earthquake could strike at any time?
- (7) What would you put in your emergency earthquake bag?
- (8) What do you think when you see news reports of earthquakes?
- (9) Why do earthquakes happen?
- (10) What's the difference between a magnitude 6 and 7 earthquake?



- (1) What do you know about earthquakes?
- (2) What is your earliest memory of earthquakes (a movie, a story in a book, the real thing...)?
- (3) What would happen to your town if a big earthquake struck?
- (4) What would you do if an earthquake struck right now?
- (5) Do you know where the emergency shelters are in your town (for earthquakes or other natural disasters)?
- (6) Scientists say animals know hours before that an earthquake will strike. How do you think this is possible?
- (7) Do you think scientists will one day be able to make totally earthquake-proof buildings and cities?
- (8) What is the worst earthquake you've seen on the news?
- (9) Do you like earthquake disaster movies?
- (10) Have you ever sent money to earthquake victims (or victims of any other natural disaster)?

## THE DISCUSSION ON EATING

- (1) How much do you enjoy eating?
- (2) What time of the day do you most enjoy eating?
- (3) Do you have a midnight snack?
- (4) Where in your house is your favourite place to eat?
- (5) Who do you like eating with most?
- (6) Do you like watching TV while you eat?
- (7) Are there any rules in your house when you eat?
- (8) Are you a slow or fast eater?
- (9) Are you a fussy / picky eater?
- (10) When was the last time you were so hungry that you felt you could eat a horse?

- (1) Do you ever get bored of eating?
- (2) How many times do you chew your food?
- (3) What do you think of people who eat food on trains or buses?
- (4) Are there any rules in your country about eating in public?
- (5) Do you think eating should always be a social occasion?
- (6) What eating manners do you have in your country that you like and dislike?
- (7) Is the issue of healthy eating important to you?
- (8) Have you ever suffered from eating disorders?

- (9) Have you ever had an eating competition with your family or friends?
- (10) Do you ever eat too much?

## THE DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYMENT

- (1) Do you have good employment prospects?
- (2) What is your employment track record?
- (3) Have you ever visited an online employment agency?
- (4) Do you ever look at the employment pages in newspapers?
- (5) Do you think companies should offer employees lifetime employment?
- (6) Have you ever worked somewhere that had bad employment conditions?
- (7) Do you always study the terms of employment carefully before you accept a job offer?
- (8) Have you ever had your employment terminated?
- (9) Are there any conditions of employment you insist on?
- (10) Are working conditions in your country better than those in other countries?

- (1) What do you understand by the term 'full employment'?
- (2) Is unemployment a problem in your country?
- (3) Is there equal opportunities in employment in your country?
- (4) Do you ever take any notice of employment statistics?
- (5) Would you like to be self-employed?
- (6) Do you think young people care enough about their employment prospects?
- (7) Have you ever tried to change details on your employment contract?
- (8) What rules should there be regarding children and employment?
- (9) Which countries and companies do you think offer the best employment opportunities?
- (10) What help should a government give those looking for employment?

## THE DISCUSSION ON ENDANGERED SPECIES

- (1) Do you worry about the world's endangered species?
- (2) Which animals, fish and plants do you think are most endangered?
- (3) What do you think the growing list of endangered species says about humankind?
- (4) Which endangered species would you least like to see disappear?
- (5) Are there endangered species in your country?
- (6) Do you do anything to protect endangered species?
- (7) Forty percent of all organisms are endangered. What do you think about this?
- (8) Why are so many species becoming endangered?
- (9) Do you think the list of endangered species can ever get shorter?
- (10) Do you like actors from other countries?

- (1) Do you think humans will ever be an endangered species?
- (2) What should governments do to protect endangered species?
- (3) What do you think of the sale of products made from endangered species and how can we stop it?
- (4) Do you think endangered species can be bred in zoos or captive breeding programmes and then released into the wild?
- (5) Would you like to work for an agency that protects endangered species?
- (6) Do you know of any endangered species success stories?
- (7) How important is it to teach children about endangered species?
- (8) Which countries do you think are most guilty for endangering life?
- (9) Do you think honest politicians are an endangered species?
- (10) What question would you like to ask an endangered species?

## THE DISCUSSION ON ENERGY

- (1) Does your country need a lot of energy?
- (2) How can you save the amount of energy you use every day?
- (3) Do you think scientists will solve the world's energy problems?
- (4) What happens if we run out of energy?
- (5) Does your country use a lot of renewable energy?
- (6) What do you think of a future in which we totally rely on nuclear energy?
- (7) What are biofuels and what harm do they cause the environment?
- (8) Have you started buying energy-efficient appliances for your house?
- (9) Do you think its possible to get our future energy from some source we don't yet know of?

(10) What do you think when multinational energy and oil companies say they care about the environment?

- (1) How much energy do you use every day?
- (2) Do you try to save energy?
- (3) What do you think of the world's hugely increasing energy needs?
- (4) Do you think solar cells, wind farms, tidal power, hydropower and thermal energy will solve our future energy needs?
- (5) How would the world be a better place if we used only clean energies?
- (6) What have you done today that has used your country's energy?
- (7) Do you think it's possible for there to be energy wars, started by countries who have run out of energy?
- (8) What do you think low energy houses of the future will be like?
- (9) Does your government have/need an energy conservation policy?
- (10) Do you think our energy demands are sustainable?

## THE DISCUSSION ON ENTERTAINMENT

- (1) What is entertainment?
- (2) What do you do for entertainment?
- (3) How often do you do things for entertainment?
- (4) What home entertainment equipment do you have?
- (5) Do you like entertaining friends at home?
- (6) Who is the most entertaining person you know?
- (7) Do you spend a lot of money on entertainment?
- (8) What is your favourite form of entertainment?
- (9) Would you like to work in the entertainment industry?
- (10) What kind of person makes a good entertainer?

- (1) What kind of TV shows do you watch for entertainment?
- (2) Do you think your English classes are entertaining?
- (3) What is the best evening of entertainment you've had recently?
- (4) Do you think your country needs an Entertainment Secretary/Minister?
- (5) Do you ever stop and watch street entertainment?
- (6) What do you know about corporate entertainment?
- (7) What forms of entertainment have been with us for centuries?
- (8) What new forms of entertainment have emerged in recent years?

- (9) Do you follow entertainment news on the TV or Internet?
- (10) Which country do you think has the world's best entertainment?

## THE DISCUSSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

- (1) What do you think when you hear the words 'environmental problem'?
- (2) Do you add to the environment's problems in your daily life?
- (3) What can you do every day to help the environment?
- (4) Will the problems get worse or will they slowly disappear?
- (5) What is the biggest environmental problem? Why do you think so?
- (6) Which do you think is worse, litter in the countryside or coral bleaching?
- (7) How eco-friendly is your country?
- (8) What causes climate change and how can we reverse it?
- (9) What problems do you know of about water?
- (10) Will we (humans) kill the Earth one day?

- (1) Why is an environmental problem a problem?
- (2) What makes environmental problems?
- (3) Do you think animals are angry with humans for destroying the Earth?
- (4) Which do you think is worse, desertification or noise pollution?
- (5) How would you explain to someone who doesn't know what global warming is?
- (6) How would you feel if all the pandas died and became extinct?
- (7) Who is most responsible for creating environmental problems?
- (8) Is it better if we all went back to nature (left the cities and moved to the countryside)?
- (9) Is it possible for everyone to change their lifestyle to help the Earth?
- (10) Shopping increases environmental problems. Should we stop shopping?

## THE DISCUSSION ON EQUAL RIGHTS

- (1) Do you have equal rights?
- (2) Do other people in your country have more rights than you?
- (3) Is there perfect equality in your country?
- (4) Which group of people in your country are least equal?
- (5) Which areas of inequality make you angriest?
- (6) What do you do when you see inequality in front to you?
- (7) Which countries do you think give least regard to equal rights?



- (8) What do you know about the history of equal rights?
- (9) Which countries have championed equal rights or are good examples of how equality can be achieved?
- (10) What do you think of the saying that “all men are born equal but some are born more equal than others”?

- (1) What kinds of inequality exist in your country?
- (2) What inequalities exist between the sexes?
- (3) Is there a lot of racial discrimination in your country?
- (4) Do you think one day everyone around the world will have equal rights?
- (5) How would you feel if your rights were trampled on?
- (6) Why don't all countries insist on total equality in their societies?
- (7) Do you think the USA is the shining example of equality?
- (8) What examples can you think of to show that our world is the most unequal place imaginable?
- (9) Do politician and the rich and famous have more rights than we do?
- (10) How would the world be different if everyone on the planet enjoyed the same rights and no discrimination existed?

## THE DISCUSSION ON EUTHANASIA

- (1) What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘euthanasia’?
- (2) What is the legal status of euthanasia in your country?
- (3) Do you agree with euthanasia?
- (4) Do you understand why people choose euthanasia to end their life?
- (5) The Ancient Greek for euthanasia is ‘good death’. What do you think of this meaning?
- (6) ‘Passive euthanasia’ is where somebody refuses medication knowing they will die without it. Do you think this is OK?
- (7) ‘Non-aggressive euthanasia’ is where life support systems keeping someone alive are switched off. What do you think of this?
- (8) ‘Aggressive euthanasia’ is where lethal substances are used to kill someone who wants to die. What do you think of this?
- (9) What do you understand by the terms ‘mercy killing’ and ‘assisted suicide’?
- (10) Do you know any famous cases of euthanasia?

- (1) What is the difference between euthanasia and suicide?
- (2) Is there a difference between euthanasia and murder?

- (3) Does a family member or a doctor have the right to turn off a life support machine?
- (4) How long should doctors keep someone alive who is brain dead?
- (5) What does your religion say about euthanasia?
- (6) Don't you think doctors have a duty to keep people alive?
- (7) Is euthanasia a compassionate way for the dying to die?
- (8) Do governments have the right to keep suffering people alive?
- (9) Why not allow euthanasia to save on health care costs?
- (10) Do people have a right to die?

## THE DISCUSSION ON FARMING

- (1) How important is farming in your country?
- (2) Is farming in your country in a healthy condition?
- (3) What crops are farmed in your country?
- (4) What livestock is raised in your country?
- (5) Do you think farming offers a good quality of life?
- (6) How different is farming across the world?
- (7) What do you think of farming GM crops?
- (8) How can subsistence farming become more profitable?
- (9) What do you think of the intensive farming methods used in rich countries?
- (10) Do you think the farming of crops for biofuels is a good idea?

- (1) What are the challenges the farming industry faces today?
- (2) Does farming help or add to global warming?
- (3) Would you like to be a farmer?
- (4) Do you think we could save the world if we all went back to farming?
- (5) Are you interested in farming news?
- (6) Would you prefer to work in dairy farming or arable farming?
- (7) What do you know about factory farming?
- (8) Does farming help preserve the countryside?
- (9) Do you think governments should encourage more organic farming?
- (10) What do you understand by the term 'urban farming'?

## THE DISCUSSION ON FINANCE

- (1) What comes to mind when you hear the word finance'?
- (2) Do you think finance has different meanings to different people?
- (3) Are you happy with the state of your finances?
- (4) Do you think it's important for children to learn about finance in school?
- (5) Are you interested in reading news about the financial world?
- (6) Are you good at saving and sticking to budgets?
- (7) Do you have any interest in talking to a personal financial advisor?
- (8) Have you ever risked money in financial markets?
- (9) Does the finance minister/secretary in your country do a good job?
- (10) Is it better to keep your money under your bed?

- (1) What does the area of finance cover?
- (2) What personal finance decisions have you had to make recently?
- (3) What are the biggest personal finance decisions you'll have to make?
- (4) What kinds of decisions do executives have to make regarding finance?
- (5) Would you like to work in finance?
- (6) What did your parents tell you about finance?
- (7) Do you have a head for finance?
- (8) Do you spend too much time and energy sorting out your finances?
- (9) Do people who always talk about money and finance bore you?
- (10) Are you worried about your financial security in your old age?

## THE DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE

- (1) How often do you think about the future?
- (2) What do you hope for your own future?
- (3) What comes to mind when you think about your future?
- (4) What fears do you have for the future?
- (5) Where do you see yourself in ten, twenty and fifty years from now?
- (6) What futuristic things from science fiction movies do you want to happen in real life?
- (7) Barack Obama said "The best is yet to come". Do you agree?
- (8) What will the world's biggest problem be in the future?
- (9) Do you believe politicians who promise a great future? Why (not)?
- (10) What does the past teach us about the future?

- (1) How would you like to influence the future?
- (2) Does the expression “the good old days” mean that the future will probably be worse?
- (3) Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Why?
- (4) What do you think about the future of where you live?
- (5) What are your plans for the immediate, near and far future?
- (6) What would you plan for your children’s future?
- (7) When you were younger, what did you think about your future?
- (8) What technology will we be using in the future?
- (9) What are some major changes the world will see in the future?
- (10) Would you like to live 100 years in the future or the past? Why?

## THE DISCUSSION ON GAMBLING

- (1) What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘gambling’?
- (2) Do you like gambling?
- (3) Do you think gambling is good or bad for gamblers?
- (4) What forms of gambling are legal and illegal in your country?
- (5) What do different religions say about gambling?
- (6) Why don’t governments make all forms of gambling illegal?
- (7) What kind of criminal activities are associated with gambling?
- (8) Do you think the life of a professional gambler is a glamorous one?
- (9) Have you ever won or lost a lot of money through gambling?
- (10) Do you think buying lottery tickets is a form of gambling?

- (1) Why do you think so many people like gambling?
- (2) What damage does gambling do to society?
- (3) Have you ever been to a horse race or a casino?
- (4) Do you think online gambling is dangerous?
- (5) What makes people so addicted to gambling?
- (6) Do you know anyone who is heavily into gambling?
- (7) Which part of our character makes so many of us interested in gambling?
- (8) How different do you think the world would be if there was no gambling?
- (9) What question would you like to ask a gambling addict?
- (10) What do you think his / her answer would be and why?

## THE DISCUSSION ON GAY RIGHTS

- (1) What do you understand by the term 'gay rights'?
- (2) Are there gay rights movements in your country?
- (3) Do you think 'gay rights' refers more to men or women?
- (4) Do you think the term 'LGBT rights' (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people) is a better description?
- (5) Do people freely talk about gay rights in your country without feeling afraid?
- (6) Are there laws in your country that discriminate against LGBT people?
- (7) Do you think gay people should be able to hold high positions in religions?
- (8) What issues that gays have to deal with are different from those lesbians have to deal with?
- (9) What do you think of same-sex relations and the raising of children?
- (10) Is marriage a relationship between only a man and a woman?

- (1) Do you think the issue of gay rights will disappear in the next few decades?
- (2) Which nationalities do you think are most homophobic?
- (3) In English, to 'come out of the closet' means to let people know you are gay. What do you say in your language for this?
- (4) Is or was homosexuality a taboo subject in your country?
- (5) What does the leader of your country say about gay rights?
- (6) What do you think is the number one issue for gay rights groups?
- (7) Why do you think some people are afraid of gay people?
- (8) What jobs do you think discriminate most against gays?
- (9) Do you always read articles about gay rights in newspapers?
- (10) What law about gay rights would you like your government to pass?



