

199

REALLY USEFUL ENGLISH PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS

FOR INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED ESL/EFL LEARNERS



JACKIE BOLEN

199 Really Useful English Phrases and Expressions:
For Intermediate-Advanced ESL/EFL Learners

Jackie Bolen

www.eslspeaking.org

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How to Use this Book

Welcome to this book designed to help you expand your knowledge of phrases and expressions in American English. My goal is to help you increase your vocabulary and to be able to speak and write more fluently. In this book, you'll find hundreds of English phrases that are used in boardrooms, over a meal, and with friends and family around the world.

The best way to learn new vocabulary is in context. First, you'll see the phrases with a simple definition. Then you can see each one in a dialogue. Finally, there are some comprehension questions to see if you've understood the dialogue.

To get the most bang for your buck, be sure to do the following:

- Review frequently.
- Make sure to do the comprehension questions in this book (cover up the answers while you're doing them!)
- Use each expression or phrase in real life as soon as possible.
- Don't be nervous about making mistakes. That's how you'll get better at English!
- Consider studying with a friend so that you can help each other stay motivated.
- Use a notebook and write down new collocations phrases or words that you run across. Review frequently so that they stay fresh in your mind. Make some flashcards for the ones that are particularly difficult to remember.
- Be sure to do some extra reading. Choose something that is slightly below your level and try to read it for at least 20 minutes a day. Read quickly and if you don't know a word, guess what the meaning is instead of stopping and looking it up in a dictionary. This is one of the best ways to learn phrases and expressions naturally. You'll start to notice the same words over and over again.

About the Author: Jackie Bolen

I taught English in South Korea for 10 years to every level and type of student. I've taught every age from kindergarten kids to adults. Most of my time has centered around teaching at two universities: five years at a science and engineering school in Cheonan, and four years at a major university in Busan where I taught upper-level classes for students majoring in English. In my spare time, you can usually find me outside surfing, biking, hiking, or snowshoeing. I now live in Vancouver, Canada where I teach at private English academies.

In case you were wondering what my academic qualifications are, I hold a Master of Arts in Psychology. During my time in Korea, I completed both the Cambridge CELTA and DELTA certification programs. With the combination of almost ten years teaching ESL/EFL learners of all ages and levels, and the more formal teaching qualifications I've obtained, I have a solid foundation on which to offer advice to English learners.

I truly hope that you find this book useful. I would love it if you sent me an email with any questions or feedback that you might have.

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You might also be interested in these books: *Advanced English Conversation Dialogues* and *The Big Book of Phrasal Verbs in Use*. Both of them are by Jackie Bolen. You can find them wherever you like to buy books. They have hundreds of helpful English phrases and expressions that can be used in a wide variety of situations. Learn to speak more fluently in American English.

Set #1: Tough Break

#1: Tough break

When something bad or unlucky happens.

#2: Spice things up

To make things more interesting or exciting.

#3: Getting on in years

Becoming older.

#4: Eat like a bird

To eat very little.

Jen and Linda are talking about eating habits

Jen: My friend eats a lot but still doesn't gain any weight, despite **getting on in years**. It's quite impressive.

Linda: Lucky guy. I **eat like a bird** but still have to watch my weight. I do try to **spice things up** though with different kinds of salads. It does get boring though. You can only do so much with lettuce and tomatoes, right?

Jen: Tough break! I eat whatever I want but my wife can tell when I start to eat too much junk food! And my pants don't fit well either, if I'm honest with myself!

Questions

1. Who doesn't eat much?
2. Who eats a lot?
3. How does Linda spice things up with her food?

Answers

1. Linda doesn't eat much.
2. Jen and Jen's friend eat a lot.
3. She eats a variety of salads.

Set #2: Speak of the Devil

#5: Speak of the devil

The person you're talking about appears at that exact moment in time.

#6: A dime a dozen

Describes something common and not special.

#7: Ripped me (him/her/them/us) off

To be stolen from. Or, a victim of a bad deal.

#8: Beat around the bush

Avoiding talking about the main issue or point.

Jeff and Lana are talking about a guy they know named Ken.

Jeff: Have you seen Ken? He looks like a million bucks these days. That new haircut and stylish suits.

Lana: I haven't seen him but guys like that are **a dime a dozen** in this town, aren't they? So much money flying around.

Jeff: Speak of the devil! I think I see him coming in the door right now! Let's call him over and see what he's up to.

Lana: I don't want to **beat around the bush** so I'll just say it. I don't like Ken! He **ripped me off** on his old TV that he sold me. I don't want to even look at that guy. I was so angry that he did that.

Jeff: Okay. Let's get out of here then before he sees us then.

Questions

1. Does Lana want to talk to ken?
2. Why doesn't Lana like Ken?
3. Why does Jeff say, "Speak of the devil!"

Answers

1. No, she doesn't.
2. She doesn't like him because he ripped her off.
3. He says that because they saw Ken when they were talking about him.

Set #3: Food for Thought

#9: Food for thought

Something to think about.

#10: Agree to disagree

To stop talking about something when you can't agree.

#11: Don't see eye to eye

To not agree with someone.

#12: Make waves

To cause trouble.

Jon and Linda are discussing Linda's friend.

Jon: I don't want to **make waves** here, but I don't think your friend is making a good financial decision with her house.

Linda: Oh. Maybe you just **don't see eye to eye**? I think she knows what she's doing. She's bought and sold a few houses now.

Jon: Well, I understand why you'd think that. You're in a similar situation. Anyway, it's some **food for thought**! I'm personally hoping to avoid making the same mistake as your friend.

Linda: Well, you might do well to reconsider some of your own decisions. You went bankrupt in your 20s, right?

Jon: Hmmm. Let's **agree to disagree**. We're never going to settle this over a beer.

Questions

1. Who is maybe making a bad decision?
2. Do Jon and Linda agree in the end?
3. Is this a friendly conversation?

Answers

1. Linda's friend might be making a bad decision.
2. No, they don't.
3. No, it's not. There is a lot of negative language.

Set #4: A Living Wage

#13: A living wage

A salary that is high enough to cover monthly bills relatively easily.

#14: Hit the bottle hard

Drink a lot of alcohol.

#15: Once in a blue moon

Something that doesn't happen often.

#16: Quit cold turkey

To suddenly stop doing something addictive (often refers to smoking).

Jamie and Lynette are discussing their coworkers.

Jamie: Why are all of our coworkers living hand to mouth? We get paid **a living wage**. It seems strange to me.

Lynette: Well, I think most of them **hit the bottle hard** after work every day. That costs a lot. Don't they go to the bar almost every day and have at least three or four drinks? But, your guess is as good as mine.

Jamie: I've noticed that too. I used to drink a lot but now it's only **once in a blue moon**. I had to **quit cold turkey** for a couple of years before I could get a handle on it. Now, I can have one or two and stop.

Questions

1. Do they get paid well at their workplace?
2. Does Jamie drink a lot now?
3. How do many of their coworkers spend their money?

Answers

1. Yes, they get paid decently (a living wage).
2. No, she doesn't drink that much.
3. They spend a lot of their money drinking alcohol.

Set #5: Jump the Gun

#17: Jump the gun

Do something too quickly.

#18: Rule of thumb

A general, unwritten rule about something.

#19: A smart cookie

Describes an intelligent person.

#20: Through thick and thin

In the good times and bad times.

Jeb and Lisa are talking about buying a car and their friendship.

Jeb: Hey Lisa, don't **jump the gun** on buying a car. It's wise to do some research first. A good rule of thumb is one hour of research for every \$500 you plan to spend on something! It's a rule that has served me well on many purchases.

Lisa: You're such a **smart cookie**. What would I do without you? Seriously, I really appreciate having you as a friend.

Jeb: I'm not sure! But, you're a really good shoulder to cry on and you've been with me **through thick and thin**. I appreciate you too.

Lisa: Ahh. . . let's hang out more!

Questions

1. What is Lisa thinking about buying?
2. What advice does Jeb give Lisa?
3. Have they been friends for a while?

Answers

1. She's thinking about buying a car.
2. He says to spend a lot of time doing research before making a big purchase like a car.
3. Yes, they have.

Set #6: Butterflies in My Stomach

#21: Butterflies in my stomach

To feel nervous about something.

#22: A piece of cake

Describes something easy to do.

#23: Second wind

Having some energy after initially feeling tired.

#24: Knock 'em dead

To wish someone good luck or success at doing something.

Jay is talking to his friend Lacey about running a marathon.

Jay: I'm thinking about running a marathon. I have **butterflies in my stomach** though when I even think about it. It's going to be difficult!

Lacey: No! It'll be **a piece of cake** for you. You're very fit. I think you could probably do it without even training.

Jay: Hopefully. As long as I get my **second wind**. I do plan on training as well though. It's crazy to run that far without some longer training runs beforehand.

Lacey: Fingers crossed that you'll **knock 'em dead**. I'll come to cheer for you! And I'll rally our other friends too.

Questions

1. How does Jay feel about running a marathon?
2. Does Lacey think it'll be difficult for Jay?
3. Will Lacey come to watch him run?

Answers

1. He feels nervous about it.
2. No, she thinks the marathon will be easy for him.
3. Yes, she will.

Set #7: Spill the Beans

#25: Spill the beans

To tell a secret.

#26: Some irons in the fire

A few different plans are in the works.

#27: Your secret is safe with me

What you say to reassure someone you won't tell their secret.

#28: On the same wavelength

To have similar thinking about something.

Jerrika and Lara are talking about a work situation.

Jerrika: I want to nip this in the bud now that the cat is out of the bag. Everyone is talking about. I overheard a bunch of people in the bathroom.

Lara: Oh, **spill the beans**, Jerrika. I haven't heard anything about it. You know how out of the loop I am.

Jerrika: Well, I'm thinking about leaving the company, but nothing is final yet. I do have **some irons in the fire**. I don't want people talking about it because I may end up staying. It's still up in the air.

Lara: Say no more. **Your secret is safe with me**.

Jerrika: Thanks Lara. We're definitely **on the same wavelength**.

Questions

1. What is Jerrika's secret?
2. Do many people know this secret?
3. Will Lara tell people that Jerrika is thinking about leaving the company?

Answers

1. Her secret is that she might end up leaving her company.
2. Some people know but not everyone at work.
3. No, she won't.

Set #8: Couch Potato

#29: Couch potato

Someone who spends a lot of time on the couch watching TV or playing video games.

#30: An apple a day keeps the doctor away

An idiom that means eating healthy will prevent you from getting sick.

#31: Feeling under the weather

Not feeling good.

#32: Kick the bucket

To die (very informal saying).

Jason is talking to Lynne about his poor health.

Jason: I know, I know. My mom used to tell me to not be such a **couch potato** and that **an apple a day keeps the doctor away**. I wish that I'd listened to her! She was right, of course. My doctor just told me the same thing.

Lynne: Keep your chin up! I know you're **feeling under the weather** but this too shall pass. You will eventually start to feel better.

Jason: Thanks Lynne, I appreciate you checking in on me every day. And for the homemade soup as well.

Lynne: It's the least I can do. You've helped me with so many things over the years. Just don't **kick the bucket** on me, okay? You have to fight this.

Questions

1. How is Jason's health these days?
2. Does Jason exercise and eat healthy foods?
3. Have Lynne and Jason been friends for a while?

Answers

1. It's not good.
2. No, he doesn't.
3. Yes, they have.

Set #9: Sketchy

#33: Sketchy

Not completely legal or right.

#34: Isn't my cup of tea

Describes something that you wouldn't do or aren't interested in.

#35: Out of the loop

Not knowing anything about a certain situation

#36: On the up and up

Describes something legal or right.

Jayce and Larry are discussing a situation at work.

Jayce: I think I've found a way that I can kill two birds with one stone on this project at work. It's a little bit **sketchy** though. I'm not sure if I should do it, or not.

Larry: Oh Jayce, you know that stuff like that **isn't my cup of tea**. I like to keep everything **on the up and up**. I don't even want to hear about it. I'm so scared of getting fired during my probation period.

Jayce: Yeah, I know. You're always aboveboard. I appreciate that about you.

Larry: Well, keep me **out of the loop**! I don't want to hear any more about it.

Questions

1. Does Larry ever do anything sketchy?
2. Is Jayce willing to do something sketchy?
3. Does Larry want to know more about Jayce's plan?

Answers

1. No, likely not.
2. Yes, he is.
3. No, he doesn't.

Set #10: Cutting Corners

#37: Cutting corners

Doing something cheaply or badly.

#38: In hot water

In trouble for something.

#39: Barking up the wrong tree

Blaming someone for something that isn't their fault.

#40: Greener pastures

Describes a better opportunity or situation.

Jennifer is talking about her company with Lisa.

Jennifer: My company has been **cutting corners** on this latest project and we're **in hot water** now. I warned my boss about it but she didn't take me seriously. She only cared about the bottom line.

Lisa: Well, honestly, it's time for your company to face the music. They've been doing some sketchy stuff for years, right?

Jennifer: Hey, hey. I know. You're **barking up the wrong tree**! I don't have anything to do with making the decisions. And you're totally right about the sketchy stuff going on.

Lisa: I know. But, I wish you'd find some **greener pastures**. There are a million companies that would love to have you.

Questions

1. How is Jennifer's company doing?
2. Does Jennifer have anything to do with the bad decisions at her company?
3. What's Lisa's advice for Jennifer.

Answers

1. Her company is in big trouble.
2. No, she doesn't.
3. She hopes that Jennifer will find a new job.

Set #11: Out of the Woods

#41: Out of the woods

A bad situation that has improved. Usually refers to medical issues.

#42: Sick as a dog

Very unwell.

#43: Best wishes

A hope that someone is doing well.

#44: Got up on the wrong side of the bed

Describes someone grumpy.

Jim is talking to Leanne about his father who is sick.

Leanne: How's your family doing these days? The kids, your parents? Is everyone doing okay?

Jim: Well, my dad got Covid-19 when he was in the hospital for a heart attack. He barely survived.

Leanne: Oh no. Is he okay?

Jim: Well, he's **not out of the woods** yet. He's still **sick as a dog**, but he's not at death's door like he was when he was in the hospital.

Leanne: Okay, good to hear. Well, not about the being sick but about not dying. Send him my **best wishes**, okay? I hope he recovers quickly.

Jim: Don't waste your breath. He always acts like he **got up on the wrong side of the bed**. He's being a jerk to everyone looking after him. Honestly, some of the nurses probably hope that he dies.

Questions

1. What happened to Jim's father?
2. Is Jim's father okay now?
3. Does Jim like spending time with his father?

Answers

1. He had a heart attack as well as Covid-19.
2. He's still very sick but won't die from it.
3. Likely not because he's usually grumpy.

Set #12: What's his Deal?

#45: What's his (her/their/your) deal?

What's wrong with him?

#46: Give her a ring

Call someone.

#47: Hit the nail on the head

To describe precisely or exactly the situation or problem.

#48: Get in touch with

Contact someone.

Jeff and Linda are talking about their friend Ben.

Jeff: I'm worried about Ben. I don't understand half the stuff he's saying. He just talks nonsense most of the time.

Linda: What's his deal?

Jeff: Maybe dementia? He's getting on in years. He was always a pretty sharp guy with all kinds of opinions about everything.

Linda: Hmmm . . . you may have **hit the nail on the head**. Maybe we should **get in touch with** his daughter? I'm not sure she knows what's happening. Do you have her contact information?

Jeff: Yes, I do. Good idea. I'll **give her a ring** this week and she is she knows about this situation.

Questions

1. What's wrong with Ben?
2. What will Linda and Jeff do?
3. Are they good friends?

Answers

1. Ben is getting older, and his friends can't understand what he's saying a lot of the time.
2. They'll get in touch with Ben's daughter.
3. Yes, they are.

Set #13: Call it a Day

#49: Call it a day

To stop working.

#50: My treat

To offer to pay for something, usually food or drinks.

#51: Go dutch

Each person pays for their own food or tickets, etc.

#52: Sweet tooth

Describes someone who likes sugary foods.

Jen and Lisa are talking about getting some dinner together.

Jen: I'm so tired and it's late. Let's **call it a day** and grab some dinner and a beer or two. It's **my treat**.

Lisa: Sure, I'd love to, but only if we **go dutch**. You pay way too often for me! Didn't you buy me lunch last month?

Jen: Sure, if you insist. Let's check out that dessert place. They have sandwiches and then I can satisfy my **sweet tooth**. They have some decadent treats and I'm sure they have nice wines as well.

Lisa: Sounds good. And don't just pick up the bill when I'm in the bathroom, okay? That's your classic move.

Jen: Okay, fine! If you insist.

Questions

1. Who often pays when they go out together?
2. Who is going to pay for dinner tonight?
3. Why does Jen want to go to the dessert place?

Answers

1. Jen often pays.
2. They will each pay for their own dinner.
3. She wants to go there because she has a sweet tooth.

Set #14: Hitting the Books

#53: Hitting the books

Studying.

#54: No pain, no gain

Working hard for something good or worthwhile.

#55: Make some bank

To earn lots of money.

#56: The calm before the storm

A quiet period before a very busy time.

Jeremy is talking to Liz about going back to school.

Jeremy: I'm thinking about going back to school! **Hitting the books** again. It's crazy at my age, right?

Liz: Well, as I like to say, “**No pain, no gain!**” If you're going to **make some bank** at a new job afterwards, then why not? And it's also never too late to change careers. People do it all the time in their 50s or 60s.

Jeremy: That's what I thought too. I'm going to enjoy **the calm before the storm** though. I'm going to be busy once it starts up in September. Do I even know how to study or write papers these days?

Liz: Oh, you'll weather the storm just fine. It will all come back to you. You'll be doing circles around those young kids.

Questions

1. Will Jeremy make more money at his job after he goes back to school?
2. When does school start?
3. Is Liz confident that Jeremy will do well at school?

Answers

1. Yes, he will.
2. It starts in September.
3. Yes, she is.

Set #15: Bite the Bullet

#57: Bite the bullet

Doing something that's been avoided for a long time.

#58: Lemon

A fruit but can also refer to a car that is always breaking and needing repairs.

#59: When it rains, it pours

Multiple bad things happening at the same time.

#60: Crack the whip

To be tough on someone.

Jeb is talking to Layton about buying a new car.

Jeb: I decided to finally **bite the bullet** and get a new car. My old car was always in the shop for repairs. I got so tired of it.

Layton: Oh wow, a brand new car? Did it break the bank?

Jeb: Kind of, but I didn't want another **lemon**.

Layton: I know, **when it rains, it pours**, right? Your car was always in the shop! I would have hated that.

Jeb: For real. Now, I just have to **crack the whip** on my employees to get out there and make more money for me to pay for it.

Questions

1. Why did Jeb buy a new car?
2. Does Jeb own his own business?
3. Did Jeb make a sudden decision about buying a new car?

Answers

1. He bought a new car because his old one was often broken.
2. Yes, he does.
3. No, he didn't. He's been thinking about it for a while.

Set #16: Touch Base

#61: Touch base

To check in with someone.

#62: Shake things up

To make a big change; reorganize something.

#63: Playing catch up

To try to reach the same level as others after getting a late start.

#64: Call the shots

Make the decisions.

Jade and Karen are talking about a new product.

Jade: I want to **touch base** with you and find out where you're at with that new product. Do you think your company will make the switch?

Karen: On you know Keith. He likes to take things slowly and is reluctant to **shake things up**. He resists change at all costs.

Jade: If you don't upgrade what you're currently using, you'll be **playing catch up**. All your competitors are already using it.

Karen: Big picture, Keith knows that. We've been trying to tell him this for years now. Unfortunately, I don't **call the shots** or hold the purse strings. He's terrible with technology so never wants to change anything.

Questions

1. Who is Jade?
2. Does Karen make the decisions at her company?
3. Does Karen's company need to upgrade to some new products and technology?

Answers

1. Jade works for a company trying to sell a product to Karen's company.
2. No, she doesn't.
3. Yes, they do.

Set #17: Taken to the Cleaners

#65: Taken to the cleaners

Not doing well; struggling.

#66: In the red

Losing money. In the black = making money.

#67: It's only a matter of time

Something is certain to happen but the exact timing is unknown.

#68: Under the wrong impression

Incorrect thinking about something.

Ethan and Emily are talking about how their company is doing.

Ethan: Do you feel like we're getting **taken to the cleaners** this quarter? Sales have been down and our production costs are steadily increasing,

Emily: Unless that new model starts selling, we'll be **in the red**. I'm actually pretty worried about it.

Ethan: **It's only a matter of time** before some of us get the pink slip, I think. They can't afford all of us with such few sales.

Emily: Maybe I'm **under the wrong impression**, but I didn't think it was that bad yet. I haven't heard any rumours about people being let go.

Questions

1. How do Ethan and Emily know each other?
2. Is their company doing well?
3. Who thinks the situation is worse?

Answers

1. They work at the same company.
2. No, they are losing money now.
3. Ethan thinks the situation is worse than Emily's.

Set #18: Cut to the Chase

#69: Cut to the chase

Get to the most important thing(s).

#70: Talk shop

Talk about business.

#71: Blank check

Unlimited freedom, usually regarding financial matters.

#72: Make it work

To do anything in your power to make something succeed.

Laura is talking with Chris about his meeting with a client.

Laura: Hey, how did your lunch meeting go with Johnny? You were going to talk to him about that potential deal, right?

Chris: All small talk. He was purposely avoiding talking about the deal I think. Finally, I said, “Let's **cut to the chase** and **talk shop**.” I was annoyed.

Laura: So what happened when you said that?

Chris: He still didn't want to talk about the deal. I think he has a **blank check** from his boss to do whatever he wants, but he's too inexperienced to know how to **make it work**. He didn't even know how to start negotiating prices or contracts. It was a total waste of time from our end.

Questions

1. Who is Johnny?
2. Was Johnny interested in making a deal? Why or why not?
3. How did Chris feel about the meeting?

Answers

1. Johnny works at another company and Chris was trying to make a deal with him.
2. No, he wasn't. Chris thinks he doesn't know how to.
3. He was frustrated.

Set #19: House Hunting

#73: House hunting

To look for a new place to live.

#74: Save up for a down payment

To save money for the large chunk of money required to purchase a house.

#75: Pay off my mortgage

To finish paying back the bank for money borrowed to buy a house.

#76: Throw a housewarming party

To host a party after moving into a new place.

Ted is talking to Craig about buying a house.

Craig: What are you up to this weekend?

Ted: I'm going **house hunting**. I'm finally going to get a place of my own. Thank god because I'm so tired of renting and terrible roommates.

Craig: How exciting! It's almost impossible to **save up for a down payment**. I'm impressed that you did it.

Ted: It was a lot of overtime at work, combined with frugal living. I'll never be able to **pay off my mortgage** though. I'll probably still have it when I die.

Craig: Well, let me know if you **throw a housewarming party** and if you need help moving. I have a van.

Questions

1. Who is looking for a new house?
2. Will Ted rent or buy?
3. How did Craig offer to help Ted?

Answers

1. Ted is looking for a new place.
2. He's going to buy something.
3. He offered to help him move.

Set #20: Noise Pollution

#77: Noise pollution

Ambient noise in a place. For example, cars honking.

#78: Traffic jams

Too many cars on the road which makes progress slow.

#79: Rush hour

The busiest time in the city, when people are getting to and from work.

#80: Hang out

Spend time with someone (or a pet).

Kathleen is talking to Kenny about living in Busan, South Korea.

Kathleen: Kenny! You lived in Busan? What's it like? I've heard that it's a beautiful city and one of the best in Asia.

Kenny: Well, there's a lot of **noise pollution**. And **traffic jams** too during **rush hour**. It takes forever for me to get home from work.

Kathleen: It sounds terrible.

Kenny: Oh no, I gave you the wrong impression. It's actually amazing! There are six beaches within city limits. Most people just **hang out** there, especially in the summer. I just learned how to surf last summer. And the food is amazing! I love to eat at the street stalls in Nampo-Dong.

Questions

1. Is Busan a nice place?
2. What are the negative things about Busan?
3. Where does Kenny like to eat?

Answers

1. Yes, it's nice, but there are some negative things.
2. Busan can be loud and busy.
3. He likes the food at the street stalls in Nampo-Dong.

Set #21: A Bitter Divorce

#81: A bitter divorce

A divorce that is full of bad feelings and anger.

#82: Joint custody

When both parents look after their kids after a divorce (sole custody= only 1 parent).

#83: Pay child support

When a divorced parent gives money to the other parent to help care for the children.

#84: A broken home

A home where the parents are divorced.

Sierra and Brian are gossiping about some people that they both know.

Sierra: Did you hear the news? Jeremy and Katie are going through a **bitter divorce**. Everyone is talking about it.

Brian: Really? I'm so out of the loop. I haven't talked to either of them in years. What about the kids? Are they doing **joint custody**?

Sierra: Yes. Jeremy will have them on weekends, but he has to **pay child support** to Katie, which of course, makes him so angry.

Brian: Poor kids. That was a pretty dysfunctional family. They were always fighting, right? I remember they'd even fight at parties or whatever.

Sierra: A **broken home** might be better than all that conflict.

Questions

1. Are Jeremy and Katie friendly towards each other?
2. Who will look after the kids most of the time?
3. Does Sierra think that the divorce is a good thing?

Answers

1. No, they aren't.
2. Katie will look after the kids most of the time.
3. Yes, she does.

Set #22: Same Old, Same Old

#85: Same old, same old

The usual; nothing has changed.

#86: From dawn till dusk

Working from early in the morning until late at night.

#87: Strict deadlines

A definite time that something needs to be finished or done.

#88: Get ahead

To make gains, especially when compared to other people.

Eric is talking to Mandy about her job.

Eric: How's work going these days?

Mandy: Same old, same old. I have to work **from dawn till dusk**. We have all these **strict deadlines** from clients and are always running out of time. We need to hire more people but my boss is so lazy and cheap.

Eric: Can you cut back on your hours? That's terrible not having any free time.

Mandy: Not if I want to **get ahead** in this industry.

Eric: Do you at least get overtime pay?

Mandy: No, that's the worst part about it.

Questions

1. Does Mandy work a lot?
2. Has she always worked a lot at her job?
3. Is it possible for Mandy to work fewer hours?

Answers

1. Yes, she does.
2. Yes, she has.
3. No, not really.

Set #23: New Year's Resolution

#89: New Year's resolution

Something you resolve to do for the upcoming year. For example, stop smoking.

#90: Eating habits

A general way of eating (healthy or unhealthy).

#91: Processed food

Food that has been manufactured. It usually contains a lot of salt, sugar, and fat.

#92: A balanced diet

A wide variety of healthy food.

Sun and Todd are talking about New Year's resolutions.

Sun: Do you have a **New Year's resolution** planned for 2022? I know that you always make one.

Todd: Yes, it's a tough one this year! I want to change my **eating habits** by not eating so much junk food and **processed food**. I'm going to focus on home-cooked meals and smaller portion sizes. I've been eating way too much fast food lately.

Sun: Mine is very similar. I'm not going to go on a diet, but I want to eat a **balanced diet** with more fruits and vegetables. And I want to avoid the second helpings, especially at dinner. Plus, I'm terrible with snacking at night while I watch TV.

Todd: Let's check in with each other every week to stay on track.

Questions

1. Do Sun and Todd both have New Year's resolutions?
2. What is Todd's resolution?
3. Does Sun currently eat a lot of fruits and vegetables?

Answers

1. Yes, they do.
2. Todd wants to change his eating habits to be healthier.
3. Probably not.

Set #24: Grab Dinner

#93: Grab dinner

Get something to eat for dinner.

#94: Surf the web

Go online using a web browser like Chrome or Firefox.

#95: Get online

Use the Internet.

#96: Social media accounts

An account with Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, etc.

Terry and Tom are talking about what they're doing after work.

Terry: Do you want to **grab dinner** after work? I'm thinking that new vegan place that just opened up across the street. I've heard it's great.

Tom: Sorry, I can't. I have to help my 90-year-old grandma access the Internet. She got the Internet hooked up but can't **surf the web** for some reason. I tried to help her over the phone but I'm not sure what's going on.

Terry: That's amazing. My mom who is only 60 barely knows how to **get online** or **check her email**. I get so frustrated trying to help her!

Tom: I know, right? Plus, she has all sorts of **social media accounts**. My grandma would have been a computer programmer or something if she were born 50 years later.

Questions

1. Can Tom have dinner with Terry?
2. What is Tom doing tonight?
3. Is Terry impressed by Tom's grandma?

Answers

1. No, he can't.
2. He's helping his grandma get on the Internet.
3. Yes, he is.

Set #25: Opening Night

#97: Opening night

The first night of something (movie, musical, or other kinds of performance).

#98: Movie trailer

A short teaser to get you to watch the whole movie.

#99: Box office hit

A movie that sells many tickets and makes a lot of money.

#100: Supporting role

An actor or actress who isn't the main character.

Sid and Manny are talking about the new James Bond movie.

Sid: Are you going to watch that new James Bond movie? It comes out on the 22nd. I think? Let me check. Oh yes, it does.

Manny: Oh yeah, for sure. I never miss an **opening night** for a Bond movie. I've seen the **movie trailer** at least 10 times now. It's going to be a huge **box office hit**.

Sid: I heard that Tom Cruise has a **supporting role**.

Manny: Yes, he does. Do you want to go together?

Sid: Sure!

Questions

1. Do they both like James Bond movies?
2. When will Manny see the movie?
3. Is Tom Cruise the main actor?

Answers

1. Yes, they do.
2. He'll see the movie at the first opportunity (opening night).
3. No, he isn't.

Set #26: Not Feeling Well

#101: Not feeling well

Feeling sick.

#102: Lifestyle changes

Change in what you eat, exercise frequency, drinking, smoking, etc.

#103: Get plenty of sleep

Generally 7-8 hours a night.

#104: Quit smoking

To stop smoking cigarettes.

Tanya is talking to Kim about her health.

Kim: Did you go to the doctor yet? I know you were **not feeling well**. Weren't you sick for a few weeks?

Tanya: I was and I did. She said that I'd need to make some **lifestyle changes**. My bad habits are catching up with me.

Kim: Oh no! What did she recommend?

Tanya: She said that to reduce my stress level, **get plenty of sleep**, and eat a balanced diet. Basically just to look after myself a bit better.

Kim: That doesn't sound so bad. Do you have to **quit smoking**?

Tanya: Yes, of course my doctor told me to. But I'm not willing to change that.

Questions

1. What was the doctor's advice to Tanya?
2. Is Tanya generally healthy?
3. What is Tanya feeling stressed out about?

Answers

1. The doctor told her to make some lifestyle changes.
2. No, she isn't.
3. We don't know.

Set #27: Apply to University

#105: Apply to university

Send in an application to go to a university.

#106: Good grades

High marks in classes. Usually A/A+.

#107: Get a scholarship

Free money for university, often based on grades or financial need.

#108: Choose a major

Select a course of study for university or college. For example, engineering or English.

John is talking to Ted about his plan for university.

Ted: Did you **apply to university** yet?

John: Yes, for the U of T. I get **good grades**, so I'll get in and I might **get a scholarship**. And then the U of C as another option but I really don't want to go there.

Ted: That's great! Did you **choose a major**?

John: Not yet. Everyone does general studies in their first year at the U of T. But next year, I want to choose something so I can have a good salary when I graduate. I'm thinking either engineering or computer science.

Ted: You're one smart cookie John.

Questions

1. Does John do well at school?
2. Why hasn't John chosen a major?
3. Why might John get a scholarship?

Answers

1. Yes, he does.
2. He hasn't chosen a major because nobody does in their first year.
3. He might get one because he has very good grades.

Set #28: Climate Change

#109: Climate change

Change in weather patterns, due to increasing average temperature of the Earth.

#110: Fossil fuels

Non-renewable sources of energy like coal, oil, and natural gas.

#111: Preaching to the choir

Telling someone something that they already know and believe.

#112: Renewable energy

An energy source that doesn't run out like the sun and wind.

Kent is talking to Jim about his final project for a class he's taking.

Jim: So what are you doing your final project on? It's a big one, right? Worth 50% of your final grade?

Kent: Yes, it is. The environment. The idea that **Climate change** is real and **fossil fuels** are running out. And that it's the biggest issue of our time.

Jim: You're **preaching to the choir** here. I've been talking about global warming and the need to develop more sources of **renewable energy** for years. Decades even. I wish everyone has gotten on board sooner.

Kent: Okay, good to hear! I've learned a lot from this project and want to tell everyone. I hope I'm not annoying too many people!

Questions

1. Does Kent care about the environment?
2. Does Jim believe in climate change?
3. Why are fossil fuels running out?

Answers

1. Yes, he does.
2. Yes, he does.
3. They are running out because they're non-renewable sources of energy.

Set #29: Had My Back

#113: Had (have) my back

Supported me.

#114: Held (hold) a grudge

Not forgiving or forgetting a negative thing from the past.

#115: A roller coaster of emotions

Emotional ups/highs and downs/lows.

#116: Lost (lose) my temper

Yelled or got very angry at someone.

Marty is talking to June about someone that he had to fire.

Marty: I know it was controversial to fire Jimmy, but you **had my back** when it came to that. Thank you. I appreciate it.

June: That guy had to go. He not only had a mean streak, but he also **held a grudge**. Plus, he wasn't that great at his job either.

Marty: For real. This year will be better and hopefully won't be **a roller coaster of emotions**. Jimmy caused so much drama.

June: I know, I **lost my temper** more last year than I had in my entire life. He just got under my skin.

Questions

1. Did Marty and June both agree that Jimmy should get fired?
2. Does June normally lose her temper?
3. Why did Jimmy get fired?

Answers

1. Yes, they agreed.
2. No, she doesn't.
3. He got fired because he was mean and also held grudges.

Set #30: Work Overtime

#117: Work overtime

Work that is beyond the normal or usual hours.

#118: Minimum wage job

A job that pays the legal minimum per hour.

#119: Emergency fund

Money stored away in case of emergency (illness, job loss, etc.)

#120: Living expenses

The basic amount it costs each month to live (rent, food, car payment, etc.)

Tony is talking to Athena about getting fired.

Athena: What? You got fired? How did that happen? I thought you loved working at that company?

Tony: Well, there was a heavy workload and they wanted us to **work overtime** but for the regular **pay rate**. That's ridiculous for a **minimum wage job**. So I said that I wouldn't do it and they could fire me if they wanted to.

Athena: You shouldn't have to do overtime without extra pay. I'm happy that you stood up for yourself. Are you okay for cash?

Tony: Yes, I have an **emergency fund** that can cover my **living expenses** for a few months. And I'm sure I can find a new job in a few weeks.

Questions

1. Why did Tony get fired?
2. Does Tony have enough money even though he got fired?
3. Did Tony have a well-paying job?

Answers

1. He didn't want to work overtime without extra pay for doing so.
2. Yes, he does. He has an emergency fund.
3. No, he didn't.

Set #31: Make a Budget

#121: Make a budget

Write down how much money you'll spend and then don't go over that.

#122: Stick with it

Not change something; not give up.

#123: Saving for retirement

To save money for after you stop working.

#124: Financially savvy

Describes someone who is good, or smart with money.

Meenu is talking with Tim about how she handles money.

Meenu: What's new these days? Not much but I'm tired of being broke, so I went to a financial advisor.

Tim: Oh, that's great. Not about being broke but about getting some advice! What did they say?

Meenu: That I basically waste money on things like eating out and entertainment and that I need to **make a budget** and **stick with it**.

Tim: Well, maybe it's time to get serious about **saving for retirement** at our age. I've started investing recently.

Meenu: You're so **financially savvy**. I wish I knew how you did it!

Questions

1. Is Meenu good with money?
2. Is Tim good with money?
3. How does Meenu waste money?

Answers

1. No, she isn't.
2. Yes, he is.
3. On eating out and entertainment things.

Set #32: Save the Environment

#125: Save the environment

Do things like recycling, buying fewer things, not driving, etc. to help the environment.

#126: Save electricity

Do things to reduce electricity usage. For example, turning off lights.

#127: Helpful guide

A written document or video that shows how to do something.

#128: Bear in mind

Please remember.

Tanya is talking to Keith about reducing electricity usage.

Tanya: I'm wondering if we can save money on bills and **save the environment** as well. Everything is getting more expensive these days.

Keith: You mean the utility bills? I don't keep track of the electricity bill. Has it gone up recently

Tanya: Yes, the rates have gone. I think we can **save electricity** quite easily. I found a **helpful guide** online. We don't do any of the recommendations!

Keith: Okay, let's implement some of the ideas. But **bear in mind** that I'm also very lazy about this kind of thing.

Questions

1. Who is more concerned about electricity usage?
2. Is Keith good about saving electricity?
3. What is Tanya's plan to save electricity?

Answers

1. Tanya is more concerned about it.
2. No, he isn't.
3. She found some ideas in an online guide.

Set #33: The Plane Was Overbooked

#129: The plane was (is) overbooked

The airline sold too many seats for the number of people on the plane.

#130: A bumpy flight

Turbulence while flying.

#131: Carry-on luggage

Bags that you bring with you onto the plane to store about you, or under the seat.

#132: Connecting flight

A second, third (or fourth, etc.) flight after an initial one.

Jill is talking to Cayla about how terrible her business trip was.

Jill: My trip was terrible! **The plane was overbooked** and it was **a bumpy flight**. There was no room for my **carry-on luggage**. And I had to run to catch my **connecting flight**. Plus there were lots of crying babies so I couldn't sleep.

Cayla: Wow! That's too much. I'm amazed by your bad luck. Don't you always seem to have bad flights?

Jill: I know, right? Bad luck seems to follow me. I shouldn't complain though. I only have to travel once in a while for work.

Questions

1. Why did Jill have a bad flight?
2. Was Jill going on vacation?
3. Where did Jill have to put her carry-on luggage?

Answers

1. There were multiple issues: it was overbooked, bumpy, late, etc.
2. No, she was traveling for work.
3. It doesn't say but the flight attendants must have found a spot for it.

Set #34: Get Together with Family

#133: Get together with

Spend time with someone.

#134: Extended family

Aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, etc.

#135: Earn a living

Make money from a job.

#136: Christmas baking

Sugary treats and desserts that people make around the holidays.

Tim and Sam are talking about their winter vacation plans.

Tim: Any big plans for winter vacation? You guys often take a big trip, don't you?

Sam: No big trip this year because of Covid. I'll **get together with** my **extended family** though. But, I'll likely get called into work at some point during the holidays.

Tim: You've got to **earn a living**, right? No work for me but lots of family and friends as well. And of course, I'm sure I'll achieve my personal best in the amount of **Christmas baking** eaten. I break the record every year!

Questions

1. Who might work during the holidays?
2. Will they both see their families?
3. Who has a sweet tooth?

Answers

1. Sam might work.
2. Yes, they will.
3. Tim has a sweet tooth.

Set #35: My Computer Freezes

#137: Computer freezes

A problem with a computer where you can't click anything on the screen.

#138: First things first

Take on the first thing before doing other things.

#139: Scheduled maintenance

Routine maintenance that happens on a schedule of some kind.

#140: Install updates

Usually refers to electronics where you have to update the software.

Terry is talking to Sienna about his computer problem.

Terry: I'm trying to write an essay, but my **computer freezes** every couple of minutes. Can you help me? You know a lot about computers, right?

Sienna: Hold on. **First things first.** Did you shut down your computer yet and restart it? That's always step one with computer issues.

Terry: I will. It says it's going to do some **scheduled maintenance** and **install updates**.

Sienna: Okay. Install the updates. That will likely solve your problem. Call me back if it doesn't.

Questions

1. Does Terry know a lot about computers?
2. What's the first thing you should do when you have a computer problem?
3. Why wasn't his computer working?

Answers

1. No, he doesn't.
2. You should shut down and restart the computer.
3. It likely wasn't working because he hadn't installed the software updates.

Set #36: Wash the Dishes

#141: Wash the dishes

Cleaning the plates, cutlery, bowls, glasses, etc. after using them.

#142: Happily married

A good marriage where the people generally get along well.

#143: I'm jealous of you

A feeling where you want what the other person has.

#144: It's not all it's cracked up to be

Something is not as good as it might appear to be.

Allan is talking to Owen about why his wife is mad at him.

Allan: My wife is upset because I didn't **wash the dishes**. She's always hassling me about it. I'm tired of it.

Owen: Are you supposed to wash the dishes all the time and then you don't? Aren't you **happily married**? I always thought you got along well with your wife.

Allan: Yes, it's my job. But, I prefer to do it on weekends instead of every night. We are generally happy but fight over this. I'm **jealous of you** and your single life.

Owen: Oh, **it's not all it's cracked up to be** during a pandemic.

Questions

1. Why is Allan's wife upset?
2. Why didn't Owen like being single during the pandemic?
3. Is Allan feeling happy about his marriage?

Answers

1. She's upset because he didn't wash the dishes.
2. He didn't say, but he might have felt quite lonely.
3. Not right now.

Set #37: Come Off It

#145: Come off it

What you can say to someone when you want them to stop hassling or bugging you.

#146: Went back on

Didn't keep a promise.

#147: Let me down

Disappointed me.

#148: Messed up

Did something wrong or incorrectly.

Andy is annoyed at Nicole for not doing something she promised to do.

Andy: Hey Nicole. The drain is clogged up again with your long hairs. You promised to clean the sink and I promised to knock off the late-night video gaming. Don't you remember that? Why am I always finding hairs in the sink?

Nicole: Oh, **come off it**. It's not a big deal. I could do with you not hassling me all the time. I do clean the sink.

Andy: I've never seen you clean the sink. You **went back on** your word! I carried out my end of the deal. You **let me down**.

Nicole: Okay, you're right. I **messed up**, and I'm sorry. I'll pay more attention to it.

Questions

1. How does Nicole respond to Andy at first?
2. What did Andy promise not to do?
3. What does Nicole promise to do in the end?

Answers

1. She is angry and annoyed at him for bugging her.
2. He promised to stop playing video games late at night.
3. She promises to pay more attention to her hair in the sink.

Set #38: A Needle in a Haystack

#149: A needle in a haystack

Describes something extremely difficult to find.

#150: Athletic build

A way to describe someone who is in good shape and exercises a lot.

#151: Outgoing personality

Describes someone who isn't shy and who likes being around people.

#152: A good sense of humour

Describes someone who likes to laugh and joke around.

Tina is talking to Jen about her troubles with online dating.

Tina: Online dating is so difficult! It's like finding **a needle in a haystack**. I've wasted so much time chatting with people and going on terrible dates.

Jen: So what are you looking for?

Tina: Nothing complicated. Someone with an **athletic build, outgoing personality, and a good sense of humour**. Shouldn't be too difficult, right?

Jen: Well . . . you do have quite high expectations. Life isn't a fairy tale, you know?

Questions

1. Is Tina having a difficult time with dating?
2. Why might it be difficult for Tina to meet someone?
3. Does Tina think she has high expectations?

Answers

1. Yes, she is.
2. Her expectations are very high.
3. No, she doesn't.

Set #39: The Weather Forecast

#153: Weather forecast

Predication about the upcoming weather.

#154: Torrential rain

Very heavy rain.

#155: Keep in touch

Stay connected via phone, email, text, etc.

#156: Stay safe

What you can say to someone when you want to wish them well in a dangerous situation.

Karen and Bill are talking about the weather.

Karen: Look at all those dark clouds! It looks like a big storm is coming.

Bill: The **weather forecast** is calling for **torrential rain** and high winds later today. It will probably be the worst storm of the year so far.

Karen: Oh no. I hope it'll be safe to drive home tonight. Maybe I should leave work a bit early. Are you going to?

Bill: No, I think it'll be fine. But **keep in touch** and let me know when you make it. **Stay safe!** It might be treacherous out there.

Questions

1. Is the weather going to improve later in the day?
2. What is Karen worried about?
3. Will Bill talk to Karen later?

Answers

1. Likely not.
2. She's worried about it being safe to drive later.
3. Yes, he asked Karen to let him know when she makes it home.

Set #40: Sweep and Mop

#157: Sweep and mop

Clean the floors.

#158: Make your bed

Make a bed tidy by organizing the blankets and pillows.

#159: Clean your room

Tidy a bedroom.

#160: Make a mess

To make something not tidy.

A dad is talking to his child about what chores he has to do.

Child: Ahh, chores. Okay, fine. What do I have to do?

Dad: Well, you can either wash the dishes after dinner, or **sweep and mop**. Plus, I expect you to **make your bed**, **clean your room**, and if you **make a mess**, clean it up. All the usual things that you always have to do.

Child: Dad! That seems like a lot. I'm not going to do any of those things. Why can't you do that stuff?

Dad: Well, you do live here! Unless you want to move out? Then you don't have to do any chores that you don't want to do.

Questions

1. Does the child have to sweep and mop and wash the dishes after dinner?
2. Does the child have to keep his room clean?
3. How does the child feel about chores?

Answers

1. No. He can choose one of those things.
2. Yes, he does.
3. He doesn't want to do them.

Set #41: Housing Prices

#161: Housing prices

The average cost of housing in an area.

#162: Affordable housing

Housing that is designed to be cheaper than usual. Usually subsidized by the government.

#163: Housing developments

Large numbers of houses or apartments being built at the same time in an organized way.

#164: Working Joe

Representative of the average working person.

Kerry and Joe are talking about housing prices in Vancouver.

Kerry: Did you hear that the city of Vancouver is taking action to address **housing prices**? Finally. They've been talking about it for years.

Joe: What are they doing? I'd love to move but **affordable housing** is hard to come by.

Kerry: They're building 10 new **housing developments**. It's not really enough but at least it's something.

Joe: It's about time. It's almost impossible for the **working Joe** to buy a house here. Do you have the information for that? I'd love to get it.

Questions

1. Are houses cheap or expensive in Vancouver?
2. What is the city doing to make housing more affordable?
3. Can the average person with a job buy a home in Vancouver?

Answers

1. They are very expensive.
2. They are making some new housing developments.
3. No, they can't.

Set #42: Applying for Jobs

#165: Applying for jobs

Seeking employment by sending out applications and resumes.

#166: High unemployment rate

A higher than usual number of people who don't have jobs, measured as a percentage.

#167: Entry-level job

A basic job that doesn't require much, or any experience.

#168: Hang in there

A saying that means, "Don't give up."

Nathan is talking to Zeke about his job search.

Nathan: I've been **applying for jobs** but no bites. There are many job seekers with the **high unemployment rate**. I might have to take an **entry-level job**. I don't want to do but I'm not sure that I have a choice.

Zeke: Hang in there. You could do an internship maybe? Get some experience and then you could land a better job.

Nathan: Nah, I need to earn money now. I can't afford to work for free. I've got bills to pay and student loans to pay off.

Questions

1. Has Nathan had any job interviews lately?
2. Why doesn't Nathan want to do an internship?
3. Are there lots of people looking for work where Nathan lives?

Answers

1. No, he hasn't.
2. He doesn't want to do that because he needs to make money.
3. Yes, many people are looking for work.

Set #43: Parking Ticket

#169: Parking ticket

A fine you have to pay for parking a car illegally.

#170: Food poisoning

An illness caused by contaminated or spoiled food.

#171: Not all rainbows and unicorns

Life isn't as good as it might appear to somebody else.

#172: Asked somebody out

Asked a person if they wanted to go on a date (in a romantic way).

Ian and Ted are talking about their weekends.

Ian: How am I doing? Well, I had a rough weekend. I got a **parking ticket**, and then maybe got **food poisoning**.

Ted: Oh wow. That sounds terrible. You always have interesting stories though, right? Trouble seems to follow you!

Ian: I'm envious of your life. It seems much calmer.

Ted: Well, it's **not all rainbows and unicorns**. I **asked somebody out**, but she said no. I felt so embarrassed.

Questions

1. In general, who gets into more trouble?
2. Does Ted have a date lined up?
3. Did Ian have a good weekend?

Answers

1. Ian is often in trouble.
2. No, he doesn't.
3. No, he didn't.

Set #44: Highly Profitable

#173: Highly profitable

Something that makes a lot of money.

#174: Core values

A person or organization's most important beliefs.

#175: Take action

Do something.

#176: On the same page

Agreeing about something.

Lindsey and Ted are talking about their partnership with Tim.

Lindsey: I'm not comfortable with our partnership with Tim. I know it's **highly profitable**, but I don't want to be associated with him. It raises questions about what our **core values** are. He's just such a sketchy guy.

Ted: I agree. We should **take action** on this ASAP. I've been having the same doubts about it. We need to get out of that deal.

Lindsey: Okay, good. I'm happy that we're **on the same page**. I'll give Tim a call and let him know.

Questions

1. Does their company make money because of the partnership with Tim?
2. Do Lindsey and Ted agree on what needs to be done?
3. Are they currently doing something illegal?

Answers

1. Yes, it does.
2. Yes, they do.
3. Not exactly, but it's a bit sketchy.

Set #45: The Latest Gossip

#177: The latest gossip

The most recent rumours.

#178: Casual acquaintances

People who know each other, but not well.

#179: Love at first sight

A strong romantic connection between two people meeting for the first time.

#180: Strong chemistry

A good connection between two people.

Ethan is talking to Nancy about her new boyfriend.

Ethan: So, **the latest gossip** is that you have a new boyfriend. Tommy, right? That's exciting!

Nancy: Yes! We were **casual acquaintances** but ran into each other again at a birthday party. We have a lot in common now. More than we did years ago.

Ethan: Exciting! That's great.

Nancy: He's not my usual type and it certainly wasn't **love at first sight** or anything like that. But, with time, I found that we had **strong chemistry**. I think he might be the one!

Questions

1. Did Nancy immediately like her new boyfriend?
2. When did Nancy run into Tommy again?
3. Is Tommy the type of person that Nancy usually dates?

Answers

1. No, she didn't.
2. They ran into each other at a birthday party.
3. No, he isn't.

Set #46: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

#181: Greenhouse gas emissions

What is released (mostly carbon dioxide) when fossil fuels are burned.

#182: Rising sea levels

How the ocean level is rising year, after year because of global warming.

#183: Ozone layer

A layer in the atmosphere that absorbs UV rays.

#184: Clean energy sources

Sources of energy like the wind and sun that don't produce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sid and Drew are talking about the environment.

Sid: Did you hear that **greenhouse gas emissions** went way down during Covid? At least one good thing came from the pandemic.

Drew: Oh yeah. I heard that. That's good news but I'm not sure it's enough to combat **rising sea levels** and melting ice caps. Not to mention all the holes in the **ozone layer**. We have so many big problems.

Sid: Oh, I hear you. We need to develop more **clean energy sources** for sure. At least the Earth got a break for a couple of years.

Questions

1. What positive thing happened during the pandemic?
2. What are some of the environmental problems mentioned?
3. What does Sid think is the solution?

Answers

1. Greenhouse gas emissions went down during that time.
2. Rising sea levels, melting ice caps, and holes in the ozone layer.
3. He thinks the solution is to develop more clean energy sources.

Set #47: Spoil my Appetite

#185: Spoil my appetite

Eating too many snacks before a meal so that you're not hungry.

#186: Skipped lunch

Didn't eat lunch. Many people also “skip breakfast.”

#187: Unseasonably warm

The temperature is hotter than normal for that time of year.

#188: Record highs

The temperature is higher for a specific day than at any time in history.

Bob and Gary are talking about going hiking after work.

Bob: Sure, we can go hiking after work, but I'll need to grab a quick snack first. My wife is cooking dinner and I don't want to **spoil my appetite**, but I **skipped lunch** today. I need a bit of energy.

Gary: Great! Yeah, it's **unseasonably warm** and it'd be a shame to not get outside. We can stop at that grocery store before we go and you can grab something.

Bob: Sure, that sounds great. I'll just run in quickly. Thank you global warming for these **record highs**!

Questions

1. Why does Bob need to get a snack before they go hiking?
2. Why doesn't he want to eat a meal?
3. What does Bob attribute the hot weather to?

Answers

1. He needs to get a snack because he skipped lunch.
2. He doesn't want to eat a meal because his wife is cooking dinner.
3. He attributes it to global warming.

Set #48: Attempted Kidnapping

#189: Attempted kidnapping

Unsuccessfully taking someone against their will.

#190: Living under a rock

An idiom to describe someone who doesn't know the latest news or gossip.

#191: Repeat offender

Describes someone who has committed more than one crime.

#192: Organized crime ring

A group of people who do illegal things together.

Jen is telling Athena about some crime happening in their city.

Jen: Hey Athena, did you hear about the **attempted kidnapping** in the river district? It's been all over the news.

Athena: I didn't know about that. I've been **living under a rock**. Did the police arrest a suspect yet?

Jen: Yeah, they got him. He is a **repeat offender** and part of an **organized crime ring**. He's done this kind of thing before.

Athena: He should be locked up for a long time.

Questions

1. What bad thing happened?
2. Has the attempted kidnapper committed other crimes?
3. Had Athena heard about this situation?

Answers

1. There was an attempted kidnapping.
2. Yes, he has.
3. No, she hadn't.

Set #49: Booking my Flight

#193: Booking my flight

Reserving a plane ticket.

#194: Window seat & Aisle seat

The seats on an airplane (or bus/train) next to the window and next to the aisle.

#195: Lost my luggage

When suitcases or other belongings go missing or don't show up on time when flying.

#196: Checked into the hotel

Got the room key and information you need for staying at a hotel.

Amy is talking to Liz about her travel experience.

Liz: I heard that your trip was terrible!

Amy: Well, I hate the **window seat** so I requested an **aisle seat** when **booking my flight**. But, I guess the travel agent didn't do it. Then the airline **lost my luggage** and I couldn't get it back for days.

Liz: Wow! That's bad news.

Amy: Nah, it was fine after I **checked into the hotel**. Then, I could relax. Finally. It was stressful though.

Questions

1. Did Amy end up sitting in an aisle seat?
2. Was her luggage at her destination on time?
3. Was the rest of the trip terrible after the flight?

Answers

1. No, she didn't.
2. No, it wasn't.
3. No. She was able to relax at the hotel.

Set #50: Caught a Cold

#197: Caught a cold

Got sick (sore throat, runny nose, headache, etc.)

#198: Can't afford to

Don't have enough money to do something.

#199: In a jiffy

Very quickly.

Keith is talking to Jen about not feeling well.

Jen: Oh Keith, you don't look so good!

Keith: I'm not feeling great. I **caught a cold** last week and I'm only just starting to feel a little bit better now.

Jen: Stay away from me! I **can't afford to** get sick. I have a big project coming up at work and I can't miss any days.

Keith: No problem! I don't want to be near people. I just had to pop out for a minute to get some groceries. I'll be back home and spending money online shopping to make myself feel better **in a jiffy**.

Questions

1. Why does Jen want Keith to stay away from her?
2. How does Keith plan to make himself feel better?
3. Why did Keith have to leave the house?

Answers

1. She wants him to stay away because she doesn't want to get sick.
2. He'll do some online shopping.
3. He had to leave the house to get some groceries.

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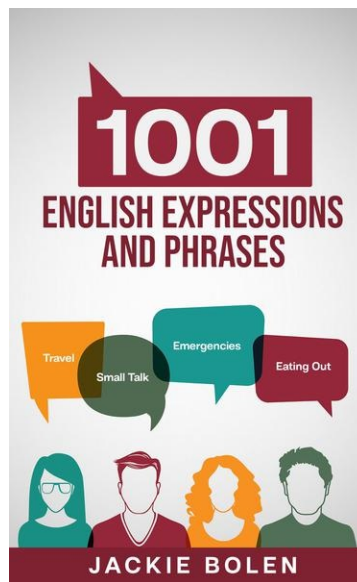
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