



The Fearless Fluency Club: Vocabulary

1. To Go Down a Path/Road: [idiom] *to make a choice to do something*

- So, ceramics and baking. I saw the connection and I went down that path at the same time.
- I thought about trying drugs but I decided not to go down that road.

2. Combo (Combination): [casual] *a number of things joined together*

- That's a good combo; they're working together to decide the best cake.
- I'm going to order the combo meal: burger, fries, and a drink.

3. The Other Side: *another perspective different from one's experience or thoughts*

- It's really interesting to hear the other side of it (wedding planning); because I'm sure not everyone was like me (easy going).
- Lisa told me what happened, but I need to hear the other side of the story to see if it's true.

4. Coordinate/Coordinator/Coordinated: *to place or arrange in proper order or position*

- There's also a role called the "day of" coordinator.
- It's difficult to coordinate our schedules.
- Mike is really coordinated. He can easily run, dribble the basketball, and shoot a basket!

5. The Day Of: *the same day as the event*

- If the wedding and the day-of events don't go smoothly, it actually makes the venue look bad.
- It's the day of the wedding, and I still don't have my tuxedo.

OR I don't have my tuxedo and it's the day of! Oh no!

6. To Escort: *to accompany somebody, usually for protection*

- You'll escort mom down before the ceremony truly starts.
- John will be my escort tonight at the party.
- The policeman escorted the thief to the police car.

7. To Upgrade: *to improve something or replace it with something better*

- I used to iron and steam linens for every event, but we've upgraded to a company now.
- We've been upgraded to first class on the flight!

8. In Advance: *ahead of time; beforehand*

- How far in advance does the first wedding meetings usually happen?
- I'll need to know when you are getting here, so make sure to call me in advance.

9. Short Notice: *doing something or requesting something with little time to prepare*

- We're going to give out a deal if anybody would like to book the venue short notice.
- Sorry about the short notice, but I was wondering if you could babysit tomorrow.

10. Clash: *to violently collide; to go together poorly; to disagree*

- They're buying these different elements that once put together might clash.
- The two sports teams will clash tonight.
- I always seem to clash with Bob, he's just so difficult.

11. Test Run: *to test something or an activity to make sure it works*

- You always want to test run your table-scape before you buy everything.
- Give that lawn mower a test run before buying it. (*noun*)
- You should always test run your presentation before you give it. (*verb*)

12. Good to Go: *to be ready or finished*

- The decorators know what they're doing, they're professionals, they've done this before... you're good to go.
- Alright, your car is good to go. I fixed the brakes.

13. To Have a Moment / To Take/Need a Moment: *To Have a Moment: to noticeably angry or sad; To Take/Need a Moment: to pause what you're doing and relax or reflect*

- Everyone involved in the wedding is allowed to have a moment.

- She needs a moment to relax.
- The children have been so noisy today. I'm going to take a moment by myself.

14. A Sticking Point: *a point or issue on which agreement cannot be reached*

- Is there some typical thing when planning a wedding that there's often sticking points for people?
- Martha's messiness became a sticking point between her and her roommate.

15. I Hear You: *[casual] to express understanding with someone, especially when there's disagreement, usually followed with "but"*

- "I hear you. Everyone loves free things; but I can't give that to you."
- I hear you, Julia, but I just don't think it's a good idea to lend you \$500.

16. To Stand Up For Something/Yourself: *to defend or support something or someone, usually courageously from a moral standpoint*

- I've also learned how to stand up for myself when it's valid.
- Stand up for the cause of liberty! Vote for Ron Paul!

17. To Get Personal: *to be unkind or insulting, to place blame on someone*

- Working with brides can be hurtful and it can get personal, and you grow and you learn and you learn how to appreciate different personalities.
- They were arguing about cleaning the apartment, but then it got personal when Larry said that Mark is lazy.

The Fearless Fluency Club: vocabulary Questions

Write answers to these questions, read the questions and your answers out loud, ask them with a speaking partner or teacher, and give as many details as possible to practice speaking.

1. Have you nearly **gone down a path** that would've greatly changed your life?
2. What foods and drinks make a good **combo**?
3. Have you ever hear a rumor and later heard **the other side** of the story?
4. Are you **coordinated**?
5. Have you ever had a big project that you didn't finish until the **day of**?
6. Have you ever been **escorted** or **escorted** somebody yourself?
7. What was the last thing you've **upgraded** in your life?
8. What's something you like to know **in advance**?
9. Have you ever had to do something on **short notice**?
10. Do you know anybody who you frequently **clash** with?
11. Have you given anything a **test run** before?
12. Would you be **good to go** if someone handed you a free ticket to fly to New York tomorrow?
13. How do you **take a moment** to relax?
14. What has been a **sticking point** in a relationship in your life?
15. Describe a conversation in which you could respond with, "**I hear you...**"
16. Have you ever **stood up for** somebody or yourself?
17. If you were having an argument with someone, and they suddenly **got personal** with you how would you react?

The Fearless Fluency Club: Grammar

Phrasal Verbs

Let's go in-depth with a few phrasal verbs during the grammar lesson.

To Come Through

1. *To physically move from one location to another; similar to “to go through”; NEVER split*

- It was raining when we came through the city.
- The emergency doctor shouted, “Coming through!” as he ran through the hallway.

****Extra Material****

1. *Wow, 5 years. You've had a lot of couples come through. Lots of experiences...*
2. *The signal's coming through!*
3. *And the wind is just coming through the trees...*
4. *Hello. Sorry, coming through!*
5. *I came through the struggle with my head high*

[Listen to Lacrae's song “Broke” here](#)

2. *To win or achieve something, to be considered a success; NEVER split*

- After a difficult first period, the team came through and won the match.
- I thought I would fail the exam, but actually, I came through with flying colors!
- My mom always comes through whenever I need her.

****Extra Material****

1. *Despite a few hitches, the boys came through in fine style.*
2. *You came through for me.*
3. *They laughed at me wantin' you/ Said, I was reaching for the moon/ But oh, you came through/ Now they'll have to change their tune, yes*

[Listen to Ella Fitzgerald's song “They All Laughed” here](#)

3. To reveal a hidden emotion; NEVER split

- She tried to look sad that her friend Joe was single again, but her excitement came through when she asked him, “Are you going to start dating someone again soon?”
- After they broke up, she tried to look happy at work, but her sadness came through by the look in her eyes.

****Extra Material****

1. A few flashes of his anger came through, too.
2. Usually even-keeled, his annoyance came through his voice.

Question Time: Who always comes through for you? (Sample answer: My neighbor always comes through for me whenever I ask for a favor.)

To Branch Out

To explore something new; NEVER split

- I’ve been studying Spanish for the past five years, and this year I decided to branch out and try Japanese.
- He had always been a banker, but at the age of 50, he branched out and started a woodworking studio.

****Extra Material****

1. How did you decide to branch out of that? (out of cake decorating to wedding planning)
2. You seem to want to branch out. What’s stopping you?
3. After this, we branch out into other sports, eh?
4. And the flowers I knew/ In the fields where I grew/ Were content to be lost in the crowd/ They were common and close/ I had no room for growth/ And I wanted so much to branch out

[Listen to Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, and Emmylou Harris’s song Wild Flowers here](#)

Question Time: When was a time in your life when you decided to branch out? (Sample answer: I had never joined an online course, but I decided to branch out and try the Fearless Fluency Club.)

To Bring Together

to unite something or someone, literally or figuratively; CAN be split

- We were worried when the boss brought us together for an early-morning meeting.
- Rebuilding the city after the tornado seemed to bring everyone together.

****Extra Material****

1. Weddings have the floral, the table-scapes, the place settings... bringing that all together in one piece...
2. Weddings, they bring everyone together.
3. We will bring together the greatest minds in America.
4. Common scars brought us together

[Listen to Destroyer's song "Introducing Angels" here](#)

Question Time: What kind of event brings people together in your life (literally or figuratively)?
(Sample answer: My grandmother's sickness brought together my family. Even though some of us don't get along with each other, we tried to work together to help my grandmother.)

To Fall Out

To be separated from something (literally) or someone (figuratively); often "had a falling out with someone"; NEVER split

- The girl was so excited because her first tooth fell out at school.
- I'm not sure why Sue looks so sad. Do you think she fell out with James?

OR Do you think she had a falling out with James?

****Extra Material****

1. So many things could happen: they were adopted, they had a falling out...
2. My hair is falling out.
3. Question me again, Soder, and we will have a falling out.
4. Client's names... Really? Yup. And can you imagine the fall out when this goes public?
5. The lone wolves howl/ On Moonlight Bay/ Dark moon is out/ When friends fall out

[Listen to The Guess Who's song "When Friends Fall Out" here](#)

Question Time: Have you ever had a falling out with someone? What happened? Was the relationship repaired?? (Sample answer: After my parent's divorce, I had a falling out with my mom, but we're trying to repair our relationship slowly now.)

To Show Up

1. To be visible or appear; NEVER split

- If you want to keep your job, you can't show up to work 15 minutes late every day.
- She had always dreamed of a boy showing up at her door with flowers.

****Extra Material****

1. Even if they say, "Mom's not coming," mom is very likely to show up last minute.
2. Every so often, Andy would show up with fresh bruises.
3. We were wondering when you'd show up.
4. When we make plans, I expect you to show up!
5. Cause you're a buzzkill every time you come around/ Those beers might as well have been poured out/ Why are you still showing up and bringing me down?

[Listen to Luke Bryan's song "Buzzkill" here](#)

2. To outperform someone or make someone look unskilled (on purpose or not); CAN be split

- My comedy routine went well, but the next performer completely showed me up!
- John was always trying to show up his teacher by presenting new facts about their lesson.

****Extra Material****

1. She showed you up.
2. First you took my money then you made me go/ You showed me up and made a fool of me

[Listen to Conway Twitty's song "One For The Money" here](#)

3. To perform adequately; NEVER split

- The President of the United States needs to show up every day because he has a lot of responsibility.
- Wow, you really showed up today! I can't believe you scored 4 goals! [*really + show up = to perform really well, or "to come through"*]

****Extra Material****

1. *No matter what, you have to show up for your kids.*
2. *Thanks for showing up for yourself.*
3. *I'm talking about showing up for your commitments.*

Question Time: In your culture, is it common to show up at a friend's house without telling your friend in advance? (Sample answer: *In the US, it's really unusual to just show up at a friend's house, even for a quick "hi." We always message in advance.*)

Grammar Worksheet

Fill in the blank: Fill in the sentences with the correct phrasal verbs from the grammar lesson. Make sure to use the correct verb tense. Answers are at the bottom of the page.

To Come Through	To Fall Out
To Branch Out	To Have a Falling Out
To Bring Together	To Show Up

1. Holly had been looking for a job at a bakery for five months, but it seemed like no opportunities were _____.
2. Her mom suggested to her, “Why don’t you try _____? Maybe you could try working in a restaurant kitchen instead?”
3. But Holly wanted to bake bread, cakes, and pastries, not full restaurant meals, so she decided to _____ her friends to see if anyone had an idea.
4. Her friends really supported her and told her, “You’re really _____ and working hard to find a job. I’m sorry you haven’t found one yet.”
5. Then one of her friends jumped up and shouted, “Hey! I have an idea! My sister just _____ with her boss at the local bakery. Maybe she could give her job to you!”
6. It was the perfect plan. Holly _____ to the bakery the next day.
7. A plaque on the wall showed the motto of the bakery: “_____ good bread and good people since 1982.”
8. After a quick interview, Holly got the job! She quickly called her friend and told her, “I’m sorry that your sister _____ with the boss, but you really _____ for me. Thanks so much!”

Answers: 1) showing up/coming through 2) branching out 3) bring together 4) showing up 5) fell out/ had a falling out 6) showed up 7) Bringing together 8.1) fell out/ had a falling out 8.2) showed up/ came through

The Fearless Fluency Club: Pronunciation

Let's shadow a few of the vocabulary sentences that Alexandra and I said in the conversation. Listen to the pronunciation tips and speak with the lesson. I recommend taking notes on this page while you're watching the pronunciation lesson.

The sentences

1. To Go Down a Path:

I saw the **connection** and I, kind of, went **t** down that **path** **at** the **same time**.

[I saw the **connec-shun** and I, kind of, wen' down tha' **path** a' the **same time**.]

2. To Branch Out:

How did you **decide** to **branch out** of **that**?

[How did you **decide** to **branch oud** of **that**?]

[How'd **joo** decide **t'**branch **ouda** tha'?] <<fast option

3. Short Notice:

We're going **to** give out **a deal** if **anybody** would like **to book it** short **notice**.

[We're going-**na** give **ouda deal** if **anybody** would like **t'book i'** shor' **notice**.]

4. Good to Go:

You're good to go.

[**Yer good t'go**.] OR a fast option >> [**Yer good da go**.]

5. To Stand Up For:

I've also **learned** how **to** stand up **for myself** when it's **valid**.

[I've also **learn'd** how-**da** stand up **fer myself** when it's **valid**.]

Shadowing tips:

1. Try to imitate my voice during the video lesson. Speak with me and also speak during the pauses.
2. Record your voice:
 - Listen to Alexandra's voice and my voice
 - Compare your pronunciation to ours
3. Share your recording in our Facebook group or via email to get some feedback

Bonus

Some extra material related to this month's lesson.

****For all of these videos, click “CC” to see the full subtitles and catch each word.**

The Weaver House: *where Alexandra is the event/wedding planner*

*Make sure to click on “Gallery” to see fun wedding pictures

<https://weaverhousenc.com/>

Wedding Planners Share Their Horror Stories: *a humorous perspective from wedding planners*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6nKfOMME8Y>

Our good friends Davey and Marissa Morgan are **wedding photographers**. Check out their pictures for another look at all the different types of weddings that exist in the US

https://www.daveymorgan.com/g_weddings.html

Our other friend Drew Carlisle is a **wedding videographer**. Check out his videos to see more about weddings in the US

<https://carlislefilms.com/portfolio-page-blog/>

Plan a Wedding in 5 Days: *learn each step of planning a wedding in record time!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uByeIlLZvrM>

Why Weddings are a Total Rip-Off: *an interesting look at wedding prices*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5BeLinyfpg>