You could say that you're not very good at speaking of English. Really? The first place to mention. Well, do you? For the time being. The thing is, before you know it. No way! Let me know. No problem. I like to. In the meantime. Of course, thing. How about if you say. See you. Do you mind? First place. Don't have a clue. The blue. After all. From time to time.
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Preface

*Practice Makes Perfect: English Conversation* is designed to give you practice with the vocabulary and structures that are most often used in common types of informal conversations.

The book consists of thirteen chapters, each one devoted to a particular conversational function. Each chapter begins with a typical conversation followed by a discussion of vocabulary and structures that are particularly important for the type of conversation being addressed. Certain expressions are repeated in other chapters so that you will become more familiar with them as they occur in different contexts. Following the discussion section are several sets of exercises to help you feel confident that you understand the material. The exercises also give you practice in using new vocabulary and structures so that you will be able to include them in your personal conversations.

Use this book, practice your English in conversations with your English-speaking friends, and continue to enjoy this language.
Introducing yourself and others

Conversation: Meeting at a party

TODD: Hi—you must be John’s cousin Matt, right? From San Diego?
MATT: Correct! I just got in last night.
TODD: I’m Todd, John’s roommate from Tech. Glad to meet you. I can assure you that I’m not anything like what John has told you.
MATT: I’m happy to meet you, too—and, yes—I have heard about you! Football player and party animal extraordinaire.
TODD: Football, yes—and as a matter of fact, I do like parties. But tell me more about yourself and what you do in San Diego.
MATT: Well, I’m more (of) a surfer than a football player. You know, San Diego has a fantastic coast—and we can surf all day and then party on the beach at night.
TODD: That sounds awesome. How long are you staying?
MATT: Well, I’ll be here for two weeks. John has promised me a nonstop schedule—a kind of a mix of sightseeing, meeting his friends, checking out the local scene, and—hopefully—camping in the mountains for a couple of days.
TODD: John’s a good guy—and you can be sure he knows the local scene. He knows everybody in town. I’m sure he’ll show you a good time. And his friends are here to help.
MATT: Thanks so much—I really appreciate that. I’m still a bit jet-lagged at the moment but should be in good shape by tomorrow. I’m looking forward to hearing what John has in store for me. . . .
TODD: Don’t worry. We’ll all take good care of you. And don’t be surprised if we show up on your doorstep in San Diego one day, ready for surfing!

Improving your conversation

I’m Todd (Jones)

Simply using I’m and then saying your name is one way to introduce yourself. You could also say, for example, My name’s Todd (Jones). It is customary to offer your right hand in a handshake to the other person. In very informal situations, you could just say Hi, I’m Todd, with no handshake.

To introduce one or more people other than yourself, say:

This is (my wife,) Mary. And this is Susan, Bob, and Joe.
To introduce more than one person and also tell how you know them, say:

These are my friends, Susan and Bob. And this is Jim, my coworker.

All of the people introduced would then shake hands. You could also say:

I want you to meet (my friends,) Susan and Bob.

Glad/happy to meet you

When you have been introduced to someone, it is customary to say (I'm) glad/happy to meet you or It's nice to meet you. The reply is I'm happy to meet you or I'm happy to meet you, too. (The underlined words are pronounced slightly louder than the others.)

Right?

Right? is an informal way to ask for confirmation that what you have just said is true. The answer can be That’s right!

This train goes to Washington, right?  
You’re from Panama, right?  
That’s right.  
That’s right, I am.

Correct!

This is an informal answer to a question that asks for confirmation.

You’re Matt, aren’t you?  
This is Economics 101, right?  
Correct!  
Correct!

If you want to tell your questioner that he or she is not correct, you can politely say this with, for example:

No, that’s not right.  
No, that’s not correct.  
No, I’m not Matt; I’m Jim.  
No, she isn’t my sister. She’s my cousin.

(The underlined words in the examples should be spoken slightly louder than the other words in the sentence.)

To sarcastically indicate that something is not correct, Yeah, right! is used.

Dylan, I heard you just won the lottery jackpot!  
Yeah, right! Where did you hear that nonsense?

Am, do, etc.

When a yes-or-no question using the verb to be is asked, the answer can be made emphatic by following it with a tag, in which, if the answer is yes, the verb is said a little louder than the other words. Affirmative tag answers are not contracted.

Are you unhappy?  
Yes, I am.  
Is he sick?  
Yes, he is.  
Are we winning?  
Yes, we are.  
Are they leaving?  
Yes, they are.
When the answer is no, there are two ways to answer with a tag. The underlined words are the ones said a little louder. Negative tag answers are usually contracted. The full form makes them more emphatic.

Are you unhappy? No, I'm not./No, I am not.
Is he sick? No, he's not./No, he isn't./No, he is not.
Are we winning? No, we're not./No, we aren't./No, we are not.
Are they leaving? No, they're not./No, they aren't./No, they are not.

When an information question using any verb other than to be is asked, the answer can be made emphatic by following it with a tag, in which the verb is said a little louder than the other words.

Do you eat meat? Yes, I do./No, I don't./No, I do not.
Does he like school? Yes, he does./No, he doesn't./No, he does not.
Do we wait in line? Yes, we do./No, we don't./No, we do not.
Do they live here? Yes, they do./No, they don't./No, they do not.

As a matter of fact

As a matter of fact is a common expression that has a number of different meanings. In our example conversation it introduces a confirmation of what was previously said. It can go before the main clause or after the verb.

I heard you were looking for a job. As a matter of fact, I am!
Your friend is very good-looking; is he single? He is, as a matter of fact!

You can express the same meaning with actually, but put it after the verb.

I heard you were looking for a job. I am, actually.
Your friend is beautiful, but I'll bet she's married. She is, actually.

Just

This use of just indicates that something happened only a short time before. It can be used with the past tense or with the present perfect tense. For example:

Past tense
I just arrived.
They just finished.
We just ate.
He just called.

Present perfect tense
I have just arrived.
They have just finished.
We have just eaten.
He has just called.

To get in

To get in means to arrive and is usually used in the past tense.

What time did you get in?
They got in late last night.

Another way to say to arrive, when it refers to the future, is to get there.

I hope we get there on time.
She will get there by six.
To get in can also mean to be accepted by a school/college/university or other group with limited membership.

He applied to that college and really hopes to get in.
She didn’t get in her first choice of sororities, but she got in another one, and she’s happy.

I can assure you that . . . /you can be sure (that) . . .

These are common ways of saying that you believe something to be true, hoping to win the confidence of the person you are talking to.

I can assure you that I will work hard.
You can be sure that something interesting will happen.

Here is another way to express that you believe something to be true:

I promise you that we won’t leave until the work is done.

Party animal

Party animal is an informal expression used to characterize someone who spends a lot of time with friends or acquaintances for entertainment—either at home or in public places.

My friend Eric will take you downtown on Saturday night; he’s a real party animal, so you’ll meet lots of people.

Extraordinaire

Extraordinaire is a word borrowed from French, pronounced in English “ek stra or d- NAYRE.” It is used to exaggerate the meaning of the previous word.

I’d like you to meet Marc—he’s our pastry chef extraordinaire. You have to try his cheesecake!

What do you do?

The question What do you do? asks what one’s job or occupation is. When you answer with a form of to be, you give a general job title. Note that the article a is always used when referring to only one person but is never used when referring to more than one person.

What do you do?
What does he do?
What does she do?
What do they do?

I’m a lawyer.
He’s a painter.
She’s a banker.
They’re professors.

When the answer refers to someone who has a special title or position (i.e., is the only one in that position), use the instead of a.

What does he do?
What do you do?
He’s the president of ABC Enterprises.
I’m the school secretary (the only one).

When you answer with another verb, you give more specific information about where you work.

What do you do?
What does he do?
What does she do?
What do they do?

I work for a large firm.
He drives a delivery truck.
She works at Atlas Bank.
They teach French at Loyola.
When a specific time or place is included in the question, the answer refers to how people spend their time, not just what their jobs are.

- **What do you do on weekends?**
  - I relax and hang out with my friends.
- **What does she do at the beach?**
  - She surfs, relaxes on the beach, and goes to the boardwalk for fun.

### Tell me about yourself

Tell me about yourself is a polite way to let someone know that you are interested in learning more about him or her. It is better than asking direct questions, as the person being asked can decide what to tell and what not to tell. For example:

- **Tell me about yourself.**
  - Well, I’m twenty-seven, I have a degree in mathematics, and I’ve been working at SYZ Company for three years. My parents are both economists, and I have a sister who’s a nurse and two younger brothers. They all live in Connecticut, where I was born. I’m crazy about football and have season tickets. I listen to reggae, etc.

- **Tell me about yourself.**
  - Well, I’m from a small town, and I came here to work.

### Awesome

Awesome is an expression that is used a lot—maybe too much!—to say that you think something is really good. Other ways to express the same thing include great, fantastic, terrific, wonderful, and cool.

- **So . . . how do you like it here?**
  - It’s awesome!
- **Did you like the movie?**
  - It was awesome!
- **Thank you for taking me— you’re awesome!**

### Nonstop schedule

Nonstop schedule describes the activities of a very busy person, whether it be because of work, school, family responsibilities, or even social life.

- I don’t have time to see you this week, with my nonstop schedule.

- Other ways to indicate nonstop activity are around-the-clock or twenty-four-seven (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week).

  - I get telephone calls around-the-clock.
  - He works twenty-four-seven, so I hardly ever see him.

### A mix

A mix refers to a combination of different elements, usually indicating variety.

- There will be a good mix of music at the wedding, to keep the grandparents, the parents, and the young people happy.
- We invited a mix of people—family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.
Hopefully

*Hopefully* is a word inserted to indicate your wishes that something will happen. It can come in the middle of a verb phrase (will + hopefully + verb), before the subject, or at the end of a sentence.

- I'll hopefully graduate in two years.
- Hopefully, I'll graduate in two years.
- I'll graduate in two years, hopefully.
- If we leave right away, hopefully we'll arrive on time.

A couple of

*A couple* really means two; however, informally, it can mean more than that—but it does indicate a small number.

- I'll see you in a couple of hours.
- It only costs a couple of dollars.
- He'll be home in a couple of months.
- I'll see you sometime today.
- It costs less than five dollars.
- He'll be home before the end of the year.

A good guy

Calling someone a *good guy* is a common way to recommend a male as being understanding of someone's situation, helpful, or generous. A female with the same kind of recommendation would be called *understanding/helpful/generous*.

- If you're looking for a used car, go see Sam Smith; he's a good guy and will probably give you a good price.
- If you want a teaching job, call Mary Johnson; she's very understanding and will give you good advice.

The local scene

The *local scene* refers to the culture and range of entertainment offered in a particular area.

- I'm moving to Springfield next month. What's the local scene like there? Oh, it's great! There are lots of things to do at night and on weekends.

To show someone a good time

To *show someone a good time* means to make sure he or she is entertained.

- If you come visit in December, we'll show you a good time. All our friends have parties in December!

Thanks so much

*Thanks so much* is a common way of expressing appreciation. Other ways to say this are Thank you very much/Thanks a lot/I really appreciate this/You're a doll (very informal)/You're a sweetheart (very informal).

- The reply to any of these could be You're welcome/No problem/I'm glad I could help you/ Glad to help/Any time.

- Thanks so much for fixing my tire. No problem.
- I really appreciate it.
- Thank you very much for helping us. You're welcome. Any time.
To be in good shape

To be in good shape means to be fit financially or situationally.

My sister's husband has a good job, so they're in good shape financially.
She has a good education and a lot of experience, so she's in good shape for the job market.

A similar expression, to be in shape, means to be physically fit.

She exercises every day to stay in shape.
You look great. How do you stay in shape?

To be looking forward to something

The expression looking forward to indicates that the speaker is very happy about a future event.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Saturday.
She's really looking forward to going to college in the fall.

Another way to say this is with the expression, can't wait to.

I can't wait to see you on Saturday.
She can't wait to go to college in the fall.

To have in store for

The phrase to have in store for indicates an unknown situation that someone presents to someone else; it can be good or bad.

Well, I'm going home, but I have no idea what my family will have in store for me.
We're going shopping tomorrow to see what the designers have in store for us this season.
He's been working there for years, but he never knows what's in store for him until he gets there.

To show up on someone's doorstep

To show up on someone's doorstep means to visit someone without notice. It doesn't necessarily mean that you plan to stay overnight—or longer—but it's possible.

I was just getting ready to go out when my cousin showed up on my doorstep.

Related expressions are drop in and drop by, but these are used only for short visits—never an overnight stay.

We were in town, so we decided to drop in to see you.
Please drop by for a while. I miss seeing you.

To show up, on the other hand, is used negatively to indicate that someone often doesn't appear when expected.

Pia said she was coming, but you never know if she'll show up or not.

Another meaning of show up, when used with a direct object, is to perform or seem better than someone else.

Your singing was fantastic! You showed up all the other contestants.
He will show up the competition with his fantastic speech.
She showed us all up when she came in wearing that red dress!
**Exercise 1-1**

Circle the most appropriate short answer for each question.

1. Is Larry coming tomorrow?
   a. Yes, he does.  
   b. No, he doesn't.  
   c. Yes, he is.  
   d. No, he won't.

2. Do you like chocolate ice cream?
   a. No, I'm not.  
   b. No, I don't.  
   c. Yes, I am.  
   d. Yes, she does.

3. Are we leaving at six?
   a. Yes, they are.  
   b. Yes, they do.  
   c. Yes, we are.  
   d. No, we don't.

4. Is she a lawyer?
   a. No, she doesn't.  
   b. Yes, he is.  
   c. No, he doesn't.  
   d. Yes, she is.

5. Are they here yet?
   a. No, they're not.  
   b. Yes, they're.  
   c. No, they do not.  
   d. Yes, they do.

**Exercise 1-2**

Match each remark in the first column with an appropriate response from the second column. Note: Some remarks have more than one appropriate response.

1. ______ Thank you!  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

2. ______ I just got in from Chicago.  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

3. ______ Are you a doctor?  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

4. ______ Tell me about yourself.  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

5. ______ I'm a real party animal.  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

6. ______ We're in good shape financially.  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

7. ______ You should go to college.  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

8. ______ You're a doll.  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

9. ______ Is this your doll?  
   a. As a matter of fact, no.  
   b. Awesome.  
   c. Glad I could help you.  
   d. He's a cook.

10. ______ What does he do?  
    a. As a matter of fact, no.  
    b. Awesome.  
    c. Glad I could help you.  
    d. He's a cook.
Write a tag answer for each of the following questions.

1. Do you work twenty-four-seven?

2. Are you from New York?

3. Do your parents live in Los Angeles?

4. Are you a student?

5. Is your best friend studying English?

Write a yes-or-no question for each of the following answers.

1. No, we don't.

2. Yes, she is.

3. No, they aren't.

4. Yes, I do.

5. Yes, he does.

6. No, I'm not.
Match the words or expressions in the first column with words or expressions in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. ______ a party animal a. twenty-four-seven
2. ______ extraordinaire b. a combination
3. ______ awesome c. an understanding male
4. ______ a mix d. arrive
5. ______ you're welcome e. attend
6. ______ nonstop f. be accepted
7. ______ hopefully g. current events here
8. ______ in shape h. fantastic
9. ______ a couple of i. glad to help you
10. ______ a good guy j. have plans for someone
11. ______ any time k. if we are lucky
12. ______ the local scene l. no problem
13. ______ look forward to m. physically fit
14. ______ have in store for n. round-the-clock
15. ______ show up o. someone who likes to have fun
16. ______ get in p. two
17. ______ can't wait q. expert
r. want to

Circle the most appropriate response to each remark.

1. Are you Sam's brother?
   a. No, I don't.
   b. That's correct.
   c. I can assure you.
   d. As a matter of fact.

2. I'm the president's brother.
   a. Actually!
   b. You're a doll!
   c. Yeah, right!
   d. You're welcome.

3. We're leaving at six tomorrow morning.
   a. Awesome.
   b. I'm in shape.
   c. Any time.
   d. No, I'm not.
4. I work all the time.
   a. Yes, you’re a party animal.
   b. Yes, you got in.
   c. Yes, you have just arrived.
   d. Yes, you’re busy twenty-four-seven.

5. Are you coming to my party?
   a. I’m looking forward to it.
   b. It’s a mix.
   c. I’m in shape.
   d. I can assure you that.

EXERCISE 1-7

Write a remark or question for each of the following responses.

1. __________________________
   She’s a teacher.

2. __________________________
   You’re welcome.

3. __________________________
   I can assure you that I’ll show up on time.

4. __________________________
   I’m an engineer from Seattle, and I’ve been working here for six months.

5. __________________________
   I can’t wait.

EXERCISE 1-8

Fill each blank with the correct form of the indicated verb.

1. I can’t wait to (see) ____________ you next week.
2. We are looking forward to (see) ____________________ you next week.
3. Are you looking forward to (go) ____________________ on your vacation?
4. What are you looking forward to (do) ____________________ there?
5. I can’t wait to (hear) ____________________ all about it.
Imagine you are introducing two of your friends to each other. Write what you would say and what each of your friends would say. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

Write a conversation between two people, using at least eight of the expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.
Expressing opinions, likes, and dislikes

Conversation: Getting acquainted

LAUREN: Hi—you must be Sarah. I can tell from your picture. I’m Lauren. Finally we meet! So we’re going to be roomies this semester!

SARAH: Yes, I recognize you from your photo, too! I’m so glad to meet you in person—and I see from your T-shirt that you like baseball. I’m a big fan, too!

LAUREN: Well, the T-shirt was a going-away present from my brother, who’s a baseball player. Look on the back—it has a photo of all the players on his team. They actually won the city championship this summer.

SARAH: That’s awesome. I tell you, I’m not very athletic, but I love to watch baseball, even if it’s a Little League game. You could say I’m a professional spectator. What about you, do you play a sport?

LAUREN: Yes, I play tennis. As a matter of fact, I have a scholarship, and I’m going to play for the university. Now tell me, what else do you like to do?

SARAH: Well—what I like to do best is dance. I’m studying classical ballet, but I also like to dance to popular music.

LAUREN: Cool. We have a lot in common. I like to dance, too. Think you’ll be up for checking out the local clubs this weekend?

SARAH: Oh, yeah. And the restaurants, too. Speaking of which—are you hungry? I’d love to grab a bite before it gets too late. I’m starving!

LAUREN: Are you kidding me? I’m always up for going out! How about trying the place up the street? I’m kind of hungry for a good hamburger.

Later:

SARAH: Lauren, what do you think of our room?

LAUREN: To be honest with you, I really can’t stand that dark color on the walls. It’s, like, really depressing. I prefer light colors. Plus, I’d like to change the rug and the bedspreads. Do you like them?

SARAH: No, I agree with you. They’re horrible. With a couple of coats of paint and a few small changes, we’ll make this room comfortable and cozy. Everybody will want to hang out here.

LAUREN: Man, I’m so relieved! I think we’re really going to get along. I’m going to call my mom right now and tell her how cool my new roomie is.
**Improving your conversation**

**Like**

Like has a number of different meanings and uses. **What do you like?** asks what things a person finds pleasing.

Do you **like** ice cream?  Yes, I do./No, I don't.
What kind of ice cream do you **like**?  I like vanilla. My sister **likes** chocolate.

What do you **like to do**? asks what activities a person enjoys.

What do you **like to do** on weekends?  I **like** to relax and go out with friends.

**Would you like . . . ?** is a polite way of asking what someone wants.

What **would you like** for your birthday?  I **would like** a big party.
What **would you like** to do today?  I **would like** to go to the movies with you.

I'm/she's/he's/etc. **like** . . . is often inserted into a conversation to emphasize what someone is currently feeling or thinking. This is especially common among young people.

I'm **like** really mad at him.
She's **like** scared to death.
It's **like** the worst movie I've ever seen.

**Love**

**Love**, when it refers to a person or people, indicates deep affection. When love begins, there is often a feeling of great excitement, called **being in love**.

Her husband **loves** her, but she is no longer **in love** with him.

**Love**, when it refers to a thing, indicates a thing or an activity that a person finds very pleasing.

Do you **like** ice cream?  Yes, I **love** it!/No, I don't **like** it.
Do you **like** to go shopping?  Yes, I **love** it!/No, I don't **like** to.
Would you **like** to dance?  I'd **love** to!/I'm sorry; I promised someone else.

What do you **think of . . . ?**

What do you **think of** this? is a way of asking someone's opinion of something.

What do you **think of** the new teacher?  She's strict, but I **think** she's great. I **like** her.

**Are you kidding me?**

**Are you kidding me?** is an expression that indicates that something is so true—or untrue—that it doesn't need to be said.

Do you **like** to dance?  **Are you kidding me?** I'd rather dance than eat!
Would you **like** to go shopping **tomorrow**? **Are you kidding me?** I have to study!
Up for

To be up for something means to want to do it.

Are you up for going to the movies with us? Yes, I’d love to go.
I’m not really up for doing anything tonight. I’m too tired.

Alternative expressions are to feel like doing something or to be in the mood for (doing) something.

Do you feel like going to a museum? No, I’m not in the mood for (going to) a museum today.

Stand

To stand means to tolerate/to accept.

It’s pretty hot today, but I can stand it.
He went home because he couldn’t stand the hot sun.

Can’t stand often means to not like.

He says he can’t stand his little sister, but we know it’s not true.

Big fan

To (not) be a (big) fan indicates that someone does or does not like something.

I like movies, but I’m not a big fan of science fiction.

Other ways of indicating something one likes include awesome/cool/fantastic/great/amazing.

College is awesome. My professors are cool, the classes are fantastic, the nightlife is great, and my friends are amazing.

These words are interchangeable—all of them work in the positions of the others.

College is great/fantastic/cool/amazing. My professors are awesome/fantastic/amazing, the classes are awesome/cool/great/amazing, the nightlife is awesome/cool/fantastic/amazing, and my friends are awesome/cool/fantastic/great.

Other ways of indicating dislike include horrible/terrible/depressing/gross/disgusting.

I didn’t like that show; I thought it was horrible. The plot was depressing, and the dancing was gross.

Going-away present

A going-away present is a gift customarily given to someone who is leaving for an extended period, perhaps to go to college, to move to another area, or to work in another place.

They gave me a picture of everyone in the office as a going-away present when I left for my new job.

Tell

Tell is used in a number of expressions. It is followed by an object pronoun (me/you/her/him/us/them), the name of a person, or a word that refers to a person or people (friend(s), parent(s), etc.).
Tell me is a way of asking someone to relate information.

Call me and tell me about your classes.

After tell me, the subject-verb order of a question using the verb be is reversed.

- Who is she?  
  Tell me who she is.
- What are you doing?  
  Tell me what you are doing.

With all other verbs, the do/does is dropped, and the verb is conjugated normally.

- What do you do?  
  Tell me what you do.
- Where do they go?  
  Tell me where they go.
- When does he get in?  
  Tell me when he gets in.

Don't tell me indicates that you fear a certain answer.

- Don't tell me you're sick! (I'm afraid you're sick!)

I tell you indicates that you really mean what you are going to say.

- I tell you, the dorm is really gross!  
- I'm telling you, it looks like rain.

Tell is used with the truth, with or without an object pronoun.

- He always tells (me) the truth.

Can tell indicates the ability to know something without being told. It is followed by a new clause with a subject and verb.

- I can tell (that) you had a good day by that smile on your face!
- Can you tell I've been crying?

Say

Say indicates making an utterance but without indicating that it is directed at any particular person.

- What did he say?  
  He said that he didn't know the answer.

Say to + an object pronoun or a person's name can be used to indicate information directed at a particular person or people.

- What did he say to you?/What did he tell you?

You could/might say indicates a suggested conclusion.

- You could say she's in love.
- You might say the cafeteria food is gross.

Speak

To speak means to use a language orally.

- They don't speak English at home.
- She lost her front teeth and speaks with a lisp.
- The teacher spoke for almost two hours.
Speaking of which is an expression that indicates that something mentioned reminds one of other information about it.

I'm going to apply to the state university. Speaking of which, did you know Melissa is going there?
Our state representative is up for reelection. Speaking of which, I heard she is coming to speak at our school next week.

Finally

Finally indicates relief that something long awaited has happened. It goes after a conjugated verb.

I've been looking for my keys all day, and I've finally found them.

An expression with the same meaning is at last, which goes at the beginning or end of the clause.

At last I've found them!
I've found them at last!

So

So has many different uses. In the example conversation it introduces information that both people already know.

So this is your new car. Will you take me for a ride?
So you're getting married! Congratulations!

Actually/as a matter of fact

Actually and as a matter of fact often have the same function. They have many different uses. In the example conversation they indicate that a fact is a little surprising but of interest to the other person.

So you're an Arabic teacher! I actually studied Arabic in college.
I want you to meet my sister. As a matter of fact, she'll be here in a few minutes.

Even if

Even if can introduce a fact that seems a little hard to believe.

I'm going to finish this paper even if I have to work on it all night.

Plus

Plus adds additional information that reinforces an opinion or argument.

I like him. He's really nice. Plus, he's good-looking.

To be honest with you

The phrase to be honest with you introduces a statement that you think a person might not want to hear.

Thank you for inviting me to the movies, but to be honest with you, I'm not really a big fan of horror movies.
Yeah

Yeah is an informal way of saying yes. It is pronounced with two syllables: "ye-uh."

Man

Man introduces something that the speaker feels strongly about. (It can be said to or by a male or a female.)

Man, this course is really hard!
Man, I wish I could take a week off!
Man, your sister is beautiful!

Get along

Get along (with someone) means to live, work, or play with someone without problems or arguments.

He's very easygoing. He gets along with everybody.
Tom and his brother don't get along. They're always fighting.

Hang out

To hang out means to do something socially with one or more other people.

We're going to hang out at Jess's house this afternoon. We'll probably just listen to music, maybe practice that new dance step.

Grab a bite

To grab a bite (to eat) means to get something to eat quickly.

We're in a hurry to get there, so we'll just grab a bite to eat at a fast-food place.

Roomie

Roomie is an informal name for a person who shares a bedroom or home with you.

How do you like your new roomie?

Scholarship

A scholarship is a prize or an award that provides money that enables someone to attend a private school or university.

I'm hoping to get a scholarship so I can go away to college next year.

Little League

Little League is an organization that teaches baseball to children, organizes them into teams, and arranges games and tournaments for them.

He just loves baseball. He's been playing it ever since he was in Little League.
Write a question using like for each of the following answers.

1. _________________________________________________________
   I'd love to have dinner with you.

2. _________________________________________________________
   No, I don't like fast-food restaurants.

3. _________________________________________________________
   We'd like to go to the mountains.

4. _________________________________________________________
   I like to go skiing then.

5. _________________________________________________________
   No, I'm not in the mood for doing that today.

6. _________________________________________________________
   Cherries are my favorite.

7. _________________________________________________________
   I don't know what he likes to do.

8. _________________________________________________________
   No. She prefers vanilla.

9. _________________________________________________________
   Yes, I love it!

10. _________________________________________________________
    Yes, I'd love to!

Fill in each blank with the correct form of say, speak, or tell, as appropriate.

1. It's important that you ________________________ the truth.

2. Her children _________________________ Spanish, Italian, and English.

3. Did you _________________________ him my secret?

4. What did he _________________________ to you?

5. What did he _________________________ you?

Expressing opinions, likes, and dislikes
6. Can you __________ we've been fighting?
7. ________________ what you think.
8. Please don't ________________ that about us.
9. Please don't ________________ my parents where we went.
10. Don't ________________ me you missed the bus again!
11. I ________________ you, that movie is great!
12. Mom called? What did she ________________?

EXERCISE 2.3

Change each question to a statement beginning with “Tell me…”

1. Where are you going?
   ________________________________

2. What are they doing?
   ________________________________

3. How do you get there?
   ________________________________

4. When do you study?
   ________________________________

5. Why is she crying?
   ________________________________

6. What time do we leave?
   ________________________________

7. Who are you texting?
   ________________________________

8. How much does it cost?
   ________________________________
Match the words or expressions in the first column with words or expressions in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

| 1. great | a. amazing |
| 2. horrible | b. awesome |
| 3. can tell | c. be a fan of |
| 4. eat | d. be in the mood for |
| 5. like a lot | e. be up for |
| 6. not argue | f. can’t stand |
| 7. not tolerate | g. care about |
| 8. want to | h. cool |
| 9. think of | i. depressing |
| 10. love | j. disgusting |
|           | k. fantastic |
|           | l. feel like |
|           | m. feel romantic about |
|           | n. get along with |
|           | o. grab a bite |
|           | p. gross |
|           | q. have an opinion about |
|           | r. know |

Circle the word or expression that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. Why did you order this? You know I _________________________ this kind of food.
   a. don’t get along with
   b. grab a bite with
   c. can’t stand
   d. hang out with

2. She can afford to go to college. She has savings, _________________________ she got a scholarship.
   a. even if
   b. plus
   c. yeah
   d. finally
3. We are interested in buying the house we saw this afternoon. ________________, it’s much nicer than we expected.
   a. Actually
   b. Plus
   c. Finally
   d. Even if

4. Do you like your new roomie? Yeah, I ________________ with her pretty well.
   a. hang out
   b. stand
   c. am honest
   d. get along

5. I just saw the movie that won the Academy Award for Best Picture. ________________, what did you think of the dress the actress wore at the ceremonies?
   a. Are you kidding me?
   b. You might say
   c. Speaking of which
   d. I tell you

---

**Circle the most appropriate response to each of the following questions or statements.**

1. What did you think of her dress?
   a. Are you kidding me? It was gross.
   b. Man, I don’t get along with it.
   c. Actually, I’m not up for it.
   d. I can tell you’re honest with me.

2. Would you like to have dinner with me at the new Chinese restaurant?
   a. Plus, my roomie’s going.
   b. Actually, I’m honest with you.
   c. To be honest with you, I can’t stand Chinese food.
   d. You could grab a bite.

3. We’re on the boat. Come over and hang out with us!
   a. I’m up for that.
   b. I tell you, it’s depressing.
   c. Speaking of which, I got the scholarship.
   d. Plus, it’s fantastic.

4. Man! I’m really hungry.
   a. Let’s join Little League.
   b. Let’s grab a bite to eat.
   c. You could say we don’t hang out there.
   d. Speaking of which, I played in the Little League.

5. I’ve had a really bad day.
   a. That’s awesome.
   b. Even if it’s raining.
   c. I can tell.
   d. Even if you’re tired.
Write an appropriate remark or question for each of the following responses. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. ____________________________
   That’s awesome.

2. ____________________________
   Speaking of which, I played in the Little League.

3. ____________________________
   I tell you, it’s depressing.

4. ____________________________
   I’m not in the mood for that.

5. ____________________________
   As a matter of fact, I am.

6. ____________________________
   You might say it’s a little difficult.

7. ____________________________
   Don’t tell me you can’t go!

8. ____________________________
   Finally!

---

Write a conversation between two people in which they ask each other and tell each other what they like and what they like to do. Ask an English-speaking friend to check it for you.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
Answer the following questions. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. What do you like to do when you hang out with your friends?

2. What kind of restaurants do you like?

3. Are you usually up for going to your favorite restaurant, even if you’re tired?

4. Where do you usually go to grab a bite to eat?

5. Is there anything you can’t stand? Why?
Describing people, places, and things

Conversation: Talking about roommates

**ERIC:** So, Michael, what's your new roommate like?

**MICHAEL:** Well, if you have all day, I'll describe him for you. He's quite the character.

**ERIC:** I don't have all day, dude—but basically—do you get along with him?

**MICHAEL:** Actually, yeah—but that's only because we hardly ever see each other. The guy sleeps all day. Sometimes he gets up just to go to his classes, and then he comes back to the room and goes back to bed. Then he'll get up at midnight and study all night.

**ERIC:** Really? You don't eat together, then?

**MICHAEL:** The truth is, I don't even know when he eats, or where.

**ERIC:** Then at least he doesn't leave a mess in the kitchen.

**MICHAEL:** No! The guy is incredibly neat. He actually leaves the bathroom clean every day—and he doesn't seem to have dirty clothes. He's like a ghost.

**ERIC:** Man, I think you have the perfect roommate!

**MICHAEL:** What about yours? What's he like?

**ERIC:** Well, he's the exact opposite of yours. We're a lot alike, and we're together a lot. I mean, we have two classes together and we're in the same fraternity, so we're really good friends.

**MICHAEL:** Sounds to me like you have the ideal roommate!

**ERIC:** Well, yes—and no. Mine is a disaster in the house. In the first place, he always leaves a mess in the kitchen; he doesn't wash the dishes or take out the trash. Plus, he throws his clothes all over the place. Not to mention how he leaves the bathroom . . .

**MICHAEL:** Come on, Eric—he sounds a lot like you. No wonder you get along so well!
Improving your conversation

So

So has many different uses. In the example conversation, it is used to begin a question that is not surprising and may have even been expected.

So how much do you want for the car? (You know I’m interested in buying it.)
So when are we leaving? (We both know we are going somewhere together.)

Another use of so is to mean extremely.

I can’t wait to get there. I’m so excited.

To be like

Like asks for a description of a person, place, or thing.

What’s his wife like? Is she nice? Yes, she’s very nice.
What’s your new house like? It’s big, with four bedrooms and three baths.

To be like is also a slang (informal) expression that means to be thinking or telling your reaction.

She comes home late, and I’m like, “Where have you been?”
He told me I wasn’t studying enough, and I was like, “What do you mean? I study for three hours every night!”
The teacher told me I failed the math test, and I was like, “Oh man, my mom’s going to be upset.”

Look like, smell like, and sound like express similarity of appearance, smell, and sound.

Mary looks (just/exactly) like her mother.
This perfume smells like gardenias.
When I talk to you on the phone, you sound like your dad.

These same combinations can also mean seem like, to indicate a guess about what is happening.

It looks like (it’s going to) rain.
It smells like something’s burning.
It sounds like you’re very upset.

When things are similar, they are said to be, look, smell, or sound alike.

You guys are exactly alike—always getting into trouble.
The twins look alike.
These two roses smell (exactly) alike.
You and your brother don’t sound (at all) alike.

Will

Will—usually in contraction form (‘ll)—is often used to make an offer to do something.

I’ll go to the store for you.
We’ll wash the dishes.
The same contraction can be used to emphasize that an activity is habitual.

Sometimes when I'm alone I'll go for a long walk.
In the summer, he’ll stay up late every night playing poker with his friends.

**Well**

*Well* indicates that what you plan to say next may need a little explanation.

Did you write this letter?  
*Well*, yes, but I was upset at the time, and I really didn’t mean everything I wrote.  
How are you?  
*Well*, I’m OK now, but I’ve had a terrible week.

**Dude**

*Dude* is an informal, friendly way of calling a male friend or acquaintance instead of using his name.

*Dude*, what time are we leaving tomorrow?

**Basically**

*Basically* indicates a summarized or generalized opinion.

What’s your teacher like?  
*Well, basically,* he’s the worst teacher in the whole school.

**Actually/the truth is**

The terms *actually* and *the truth is* indicate that the speaker is telling the truth, even if it is surprising.

Do you like your new job?  
*Actually,* yes—even though I work nine hours a day.

Another expression that means the same thing is *as a matter of fact.*

Are you moving?  
*As a matter of fact,* I am!

**Really**

*Really?* is a way of asking if what was said was the truth.

I’m not going to study tonight.  
*Really?* I thought you had a test tomorrow.

*Really* before an adjective means very.

This movie is *really* good, but I’m *really* tired, so I’m going to bed.

**Hardly ever**

*Hardly ever* means almost never.

You *hardly ever* call me anymore. Are you mad at me?
At least

At least indicates that a situation could be worse.

Ooh, it's so cold outside today! Well at least it isn't raining.

What about . . . ?

What about . . . ? is a way to ask the same question about a different topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you all going to the game?</th>
<th>Yeah, Jack and I are going.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What about Joe?</td>
<td>No, he can't go.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I mean

I mean precedes further explanation of the previous information.

She keeps her house really clean. I mean, she dusts and vacuums every day!

Other expressions that introduce further explanation include in other words and that is.

He studies twenty-four-seven. In other words, he's a serious student. She's a real party animal. That is, she goes out every night.

In the first place

In the first place is used to present the first example of why you do or don't like something. Second/in the second place or plus can precede the next examples. A final example can be preceded by not to mention that.

We're not happy in the suburbs.
In the first place, it takes us almost two hours to get to work.
In the second place, when we get home, we're exhausted.
Plus, we spend so much on gas.
Not to mention that the kids are in day care for more than ten hours!

Then

Then can introduce a logical conclusion.

I've got my tickets, and my bags are packed. Then you're all ready to go.

Come on

Come on is a way to say that someone is exaggerating a little bit.

I have to lose twenty pounds. Come on, Alex, you're not that overweight!

It can also be used to ask for a reconsideration or change of mind.

I'm going to drive home. Come on, dude, you've had too much to drink. Give me your keys!
Wonder

I wonder expresses an unanswered question or doubt. The subject-verb order is different from that of a question.

Where is Ellie? I wonder where Ellie is.
Is Jon married? I wonder if Jon's married.

No wonder indicates that something is obvious.

He's smart, energetic, well educated, and charming. No wonder you like him!

Quite the character

To be quite the character is to be unusual in some way.

She never stops talking but can always make you laugh. Yeah, I hear she's quite the character.
He's really quiet and never talks to anybody, yet the girls all like him. He must be quite the character.

Fraternity

A fraternity is an established social group of university men, who often live together in a frat house and mainly exist for social purposes. Fraternities are also known as Greeks, as they use Greek letters to form their names. Similar organizations exist for women and are called sororities.

Exercise

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. What are you like?
   a. I'm like, what's going on?
   b. I'm a little shy.
   c. I like chocolate.
   d. It's crazy.

2. What do you like?
   a. I'm like, who are you?
   b. I'm always busy.
   c. I like red dresses.
   d. I'm crazy.

3. Who do you look like?
   a. I look like my sister.
   b. It sounds crazy.
   c. I like my sister.
   d. I sing like my father.

4. What is your sister like?
   a. I like my sister.
   b. She likes to ski.
   c. She's tall.
   d. She likes me.

5. What is her boyfriend like?
   a. He likes her.
   b. She likes him.
   c. He's like, go home!
   d. He's very smart.
Write a question using like for each of the following answers.

1. _____________
   He's very tall.

2. _____________
   Yes, she does.

3. _____________
   He's quite the character.

4. _____________
   They like to play basketball.

5. _____________
   She likes to play with dolls.

6. _____________
   I'm honest.

Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. _____ in general
   a. actually

2. _____ the truth is
   b. as a matter of fact

3. _____ almost never
   c. basically

4. _____ not to mention
   d. hardly ever

5. _____ next
   e. I mean

6. _____ it's no surprise that
   f. I wonder

7. _____ very
   g. I'm like

8. _____ in other words
   h. no wonder

9. _____ I don't know
   i. plus

10. _____ I'm thinking
    j. really

k. so
l. then
EXERCISE

3.4

Match each question in the first column with an appropriate response from the second column. Note: Some questions have more than one appropriate response.

1. ______ What is he like?
   a. Actually, he does.

2. ______ What does he do?
   b. Actually, he is.

3. ______ What does he like?
   c. Actually, he likes pizza.

4. ______ Is he a singer?
   d. Actually, he's really nice.

5. ______ Does he play the piano?
   e. As a matter of fact, he doesn't.

6. ______ Is he in a fraternity?
   f. As a matter of fact, he likes video games.

7. ______ Does he call you a lot?
   g. Hardly ever.

8. ______ When does he work?
   h. He doesn't have a job.

   i. He looks like a movie star.

   j. He's a carpenter.

   k. He's a movie star.

   l. He's awesome.

   m. He's nice.

   n. He's quite the character.

   o. As a matter of fact, he is.

---

EXERCISE

3.5

Circle the word or expression that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. Let's go home. I'm __________________________ tired.
   a. feel like  c. really
   b. basically  d. at least

2. We need another player for the team __________________________ Tom?
   a. What about  c. As a matter of fact
   b. Actually  d. Hardly ever

3. It's a really hard course __________________________, I'm up all night studying.
   a. What about  c. Hardly ever
   b. Then  d. I mean

4. She talks a lot __________________________, she's on the telephone from the time she
   gets up 'til she goes to bed.
   a. So  c. Plus
   b. Then  d. Basically

Describing people, places, and things
5. This chair is ______________ comfortable. I could sit here all day.
   a. so
   b. plus
   c. no wonder
   d. seems like

EXERCISE

3.6

Circle the most appropriate response to each of the following questions or remarks.

1. Ben never showed up last night.
   a. Well, he hardly ever goes out.
   b. Come on, let’s go out.
   c. At least he’s sick.
   d. Actually, he’s a party animal.

2. I don’t think I’ll go to the concert. It’s too expensive.
   a. At least it costs $25.
   b. Come on, you have plenty of money.
   c. So you’re going?
   d. I wonder if you have enough money.

3. What do you think of the new mayor?
   a. No wonder he is the mayor.
   b. I’ll call him.
   c. What about Janice?
   d. At least he shows up at meetings.

4. There’s a lot of traffic on Route 66.
   a. So where are we going?
   b. What about Route 95?
   c. Then we’ll get there quickly.
   d. No wonder we like Route 66.

5. So, what do you like about your fraternity?
   a. In the first place, the guys are really cool.
   b. Dude, you’re quite the character!
   c. I mean, she really likes her sorority.
   d. No wonder you’re in a fraternity.

EXERCISE

3.7

The following statements explain why a friend does not like her apartment. Write in the words or expressions (e.g., in the first place, not to mention that, in the second place, plus) that introduce each statement.

I do not like my apartment.

1. ____________________________________________, it’s in a terrible location.

2. ____________________________________________, it’s way too small.

3. ____________________________________________, the kitchen has really old appliances.

4. ____________________________________________, there’s a leak in the roof!
EXERCISE 3.8

Complete the following sentences in your own words to explain why you like or don't like something. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

What do you like or not like? ____________________________________________________________

In the first place, _________________________________________________________________

Second, _________________________________________________________________

Plus, _________________________________________________________________

Not to mention that _________________________________________________________________

EXERCISE 3.9

Write a conversation between you and a prospective roommate in which you describe yourself and ask him or her to do the same. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
Striking up a conversation

Conversation: Running into a friend

JEN: Nicole! Fancy running into you here. Do you have time for a cup of coffee?
NICOLE: Sure. We really need to catch up. Do you work around here?
JEN: At the dress shop across the street. I'm a sales assistant for the time being, but I'm hoping they'll promote me to buyer after I have some experience on the floor.
NICOLE: Oh—I love that shop. Their clothes are so trendy and different from the run of the mill. You look fantastic—I'll bet their sales have gone up since you started working there.
JEN: Well—I try! The thing is, I enjoy the work, because I love the clothes, and I like helping people find what works for them. It's actually quite fulfilling.
NICOLE: Good for you. And I think the idea of becoming a buyer is great. Before you know it, you'll be working on your own designs. I remember how you used to dream of being a fashion designer.
JEN: Yeah, and I think this is a step in the right direction. Now, what are you up to?
The last I heard, you were about to move across country. I hope you're back to stay!
NICOLE: As a matter of fact, I just got back a couple of months ago. I'm glad I went, because now I know I really want to be here. I'm working as a waitress right now but am hoping to get a teaching job. I've applied to most of the local school districts so have my fingers crossed I'll get something this fall.
JEN: What do you want to teach? I've heard there are openings for high school teachers in Howard County.
NICOLE: No way! I haven't even applied there. I'll do it as soon as I get home.
Man, that'll be awesome if they need a biology teacher. Thanks for the tip! Which reminds me—waiting tables isn't all bad. On weekends I get pretty good tips. And banking on the info you just gave me, I think I'll follow you back to work and splurge on a new dress!
JEN: Great. I already have in mind some things for you to try on.

Later:

NICOLE: Wow. I love this one. I guess I'm getting ahead of myself, but I have a feeling this is just what I need for the interview with the principal.
JEN: And for the first day of school!
NICOLE: Thanks so much for your help. Now I'm really pumped! I'm so happy I ran into you today.
JEN: Me, too. Let's make sure we get together more often.
NICOLE: Yeah. I promise I'll keep in touch.
JEN: Take care, and let me know what happens. Bye for now.
NICOLE: Bye—and thanks again!
Improving your conversation

What’s up?

*What’s up?* is an informal way of asking people how they are. *What are you up to?* is a way to ask people what they have been doing lately.

Hey, Kim—*what’s up?*
So, *what are you up to these days?*

Oh, not much. How are you?
Oh, just working, as usual. How about you?

Run into

*Run into* means to see someone by chance or in an unexpected place.

Fancy running into you here

*Fancy running into you here* means I didn’t imagine I would see you. It is often said when you see people in places where you normally don’t see them. Other expressions you could use in this situation are *fancy meeting you here* and *what a coincidence.*

For ages

*For ages* and *in ages* mean for a very long time.

*How’s Dan? I haven’t seen him for ages.*
*Yes, it’s been a long time. He’s fine.*

Before you know it

*Before you know it* means very quickly.

*Oh, I’m so tired of school.*
*Calm down. Before you know it, you’ll be finished and wishing you were back in school again!*

As soon as

*As soon as* indicates that something will happen at the same time that something else happens.

*We’ll eat as soon as your dad gets home.*
*I’ll call you as soon as I get the information.*

Used to

*Used to* has several uses.

*To be used to* (something) indicates a custom or habit.

*At first it was difficult to live here, but now I am used to the cold weather.*
*I work the night shift, so I am used to staying up all night and sleeping during the day.*

*Used to (do)* can indicate action that was once habitual but is no longer done, or a situation that was once true but no longer is.

*She used to live next door to us.*
*He used to smoke.*
*I used to be married to him.*
**Used to (do)** can also indicate an action that was done routinely in the past.

When we were little, we *used to* swim in the lake.
When he was a kid, he *used to* ride his bike to school.

This meaning can alternatively be expressed with *would (always)* or a past tense verb.

When we were little, we *would always* swim in the lake.
When we were little, we *swam* in the lake.
When he was a kid, he *would always* ride his bike to school.
When he was a kid, he *rode* his bike to school.

**Try**

*Try on* means to put clothing, shoes, or accessories on to see if they fit or if you like them.

I would never buy shoes without *trying* them on first.
*Try this dress on.* Let's see how it looks.

*Try out* means to use a car or other equipment to see how well you handle it or if you like it.

Your new camera looks awesome! Would you like to *try it out*?

*Try to/try and* indicate an effort to do something that may not be easy.

Try to be here before eight o'clock. *Try and* be here before eight o'clock.

*Try + verb in -ing form (something)* indicates a suggestion for solving a problem or problematical situation.

I can't get the door open. *Try turning* the key in the other direction.

I *try* is a way to express modesty after receiving a compliment.

You are a good cook! *Thank you; I try.*

**There is/there are**

*There is* is followed by a singular or non-count noun to indicate that it exists.

*There is* a stop sign on the corner.
*There is* milk in the refrigerator.
*There is* too much pollution here.

*There are* is followed by a plural noun to indicate that more than one person, place, thing, or abstract notion exists.

*There are* a lot of bikes on the road.
*There are* too many people in this class.

**Wow**

*Wow* is a common way to express surprise.

Here is your exam. *Wow! I got an A.*
This is where we'll be living for a while. *Wow—it sure needs a lot of work!*
I'll bet

*I'll bet* indicates sincere belief that what you are going to say is true, even though you have no proof.

What’s Maria up to? *I'll bet* she’s making a lot of money.

However, if you are replying to someone else’s statement with *I'll bet*, this indicates that you do *not* believe it.

I hear Maria’s making a lot of money. *I'll bet*.

No way

*No way* is another expression that can mean two opposite things: definitely no or that’s good news.

Are you going to Claudia’s party? *No way!* She hardly speaks to me.

We’re going to the beach for a week. *No way!* That sounds like a lot of fun!

On the . . .

To be *on the floor* means to be working as a salesperson in a store.

I’ll bet you’re tired after being *on the floor* all day.

To be *on the job* means to be working on a project that requires physical labor.

We’re installing the electricity in the new building up the street. How long have you been *on the job*?

Trendy

*Trendy* is an adjective that describes the latest fashions.

It looks like long skirts are *trendy* again this year.

Run of the mill

*Run of the mill* is a way to describe something very ordinary or nondescript. If used before a noun, it has a hyphen between each word; if used without a noun, there are no hyphens.

My shoes are comfortable but not trendy. They are quite *run of the mill*. This book is quite interesting. It’s not just a *run-of-the-mill* romance novel.

Tip

*A tip* is an extra payment made to a server, taxi driver, beautician, barber, or anyone else working to provide a service.

The waiter gave us great service, so he got a good *tip*.

A *tip* can also be a helpful suggestion.

The teacher told us to answer the easy questions first. That was a good *tip*. 
The thing is

The thing is introduces an explanation for a situation.

Why aren’t you ready for school? The thing is, I can’t find my backpack.
How does that guy keep his job? The thing is, he’s a friend of the boss’s sister.
He never does anything.

A step in the right direction

A step in the right direction refers to an action that will lead to success.

I’m so glad you’ve decided to go to college. That’s definitely a step in the right direction.

Be about to

To be about to means to be going to do at that moment.

I can’t talk anymore. We’re about to leave for the airport.
Fasten your seat belt. The plane is about to take off.

Which reminds me

Which reminds me introduces new information that is remembered because of something that was just said. An alternative to this expression is speaking of which.

I’m about to go shopping for Halloween costumes for the kids—which reminds me—do you still have the witch hat you borrowed from me last year?
I heard that Brittany was in town. Speaking of which, did you know she was getting married?

Have one’s fingers crossed

To have one’s fingers crossed means to indicate strong desire or hope that something happens.

I have my fingers crossed that we’ll win the game tonight.

Pumped

To be pumped means to be very excited and ready for an occasion or event. An alternative expression is all fired up.

The whole team is really pumped about the game tomorrow. We’re ready to win.

Bank on

To bank on means to rely on, count on, or trust certain information.

Do you think our candidate will win the election? You can bank on it. All the polls say he’s ahead.

Splurge

To splurge means to spend more money than necessary on something, because you really want it.

She got a bonus at work, so she splurged on a first-class ticket.
Why don’t we splurge and buy the beautiful sofa instead of the run-of-the-mill one?
Another expression that indicates spending a lot of money is go overboard.

It was their anniversary, so they went overboard and stayed at a five-star resort.

Get together

To get together means to meet.

They get together every week to discuss their research.

Keep in touch

To keep in touch means to continue to contact each other.

They have kept in touch for more than thirty years.

Catch up

To catch up can mean to find out the news of a friend you haven’t seen in a while.

Let’s get together for lunch tomorrow. We have a lot to catch up on!

It can also mean to reach someone who is ahead of you.

She’s running so fast, we can never catch up with her.

Catch up can also mean to learn what the rest of the class learned when you weren’t at school.

After being home sick for a week, Adrian had to work hard to catch up on his lessons.

Get ahead of oneself

To get ahead of oneself means to make plans based on something that may not happen. Another expression that has the same meaning is to count one’s chickens before they hatch.

What? You just met him and you’re already planning what to name your children? Aren’t you getting ahead of yourself? You should never count your chickens before they hatch!

Have a feeling

To have a feeling about something is to think that it might be true or might happen.

They’ve never met, but I have a feeling they might like each other.

Make sure

To make sure means to follow all of the steps that will lead to a desired outcome.

Yes, you can take my car, but make sure you bring it back by four o’clock.

Let someone know

To let someone know means to tell a person information that he or she needs.

I’m not sure I can pick you up. I’ll let you know as soon as I find out if my car is fixed.
Me, too

Me, too is a way of saying that you agree with something positive that someone has said or that you have an activity in common with someone else.

I really like living in Springfield. Me, too.
I'm going home now. Me, too.

Me, neither is used to express the same meanings after a negative statement.

I really don't like living in Springfield. Me, neither.
I'm not going home yet. Me, neither.

EXERCISE

Choose between There is and There are to complete the following sentences.

1. __________ only twenty-eight days in February.
2. __________ a lot of people in this city.
3. __________ a big pothole in this street.
4. __________ too many cars on the road.
5. __________ too much traffic here.

EXERCISE

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the indicated verb.

1. We're not used to (live) ___________ in such a small space.
2. We used to (live) ___________ in a big house.
3. He's fine now, but he used to (get) ___________ into trouble all the time.
4. She used to (smoke) ___________. I'm so glad she quit.
5. I can't get used to (get) ___________ up so early.
6. I used to (stay) ___________ up late every night.
7. Are you used to (work) ___________ this hard?
8. I know that guy. He used to (go) ___________ to my school.
9. They are used to (be) ___________ cold in January.
10. It's hard to get used to (drive) ___________ in traffic.
Circle the word or words that best complete each of the following sentences.

1. Always _________________________ your best.
   a. try to do           c. trying on
   b. try doing          d. trying out

2. I love these shoes. I'm going to _____________________
   a. try buying them    c. try them on
   b. try them out       d. try

3. Before you buy any machine you should first _____________________
   a. try buying it      c. try it out
   b. try it on          d. try it

4. You're a very good driver! Thanks, _____________________
   a. I try to.          c. Try me.
   b. I try.             d. I'm trying to.

5. I can't get my finger to stop bleeding __________________________a bandage on it.
   a. Try to put         c. Try on
   b. Try out            d. Try putting

Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. ______ What a coincidence.               a. before you know it
2. ______ That's a wise decision.          b. Fancy meeting you here.
3. ______ I'll bet.                        c. for ages
4. ______ I agree.                         d. get ahead of yourself
5. ______ speaking of which               e. I don't think so.
6. ______ hopefully                       f. I have my fingers crossed.
7. ______ count your chickens before they hatch g. Me, neither.
8. ______ soon                            h. No way!
9. ______ for a long time                 i. Me, too.
10. ______ I don't agree.                 j. That's a step in the right direction.
                                             k. What a surprise.
                                             l. which reminds me
                                             m. Wow!
Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. ______ be hopeful  
   a. be on the floor
2. ______ be all fired up  
   b. be on the job
3. ______ be accustomed to  
   c. be pumped
4. ______ see if something fits  
   d. be used to
5. ______ test something  
   e. catch up
6. ______ be working  
   f. get together
7. ______ spend a lot  
   g. go overboard
8. ______ meet  
   h. have a feeling
9. ______ write, call, or text  
   i. have your fingers crossed
10. ______ make up missed work  
    j. keep in touch
11. ______ get news  
    k. let someone know
12. ______ suspect  
    l. make sure
13. ______ not forget to do  
    m. splurge
                                 n. try it on
                                 o. try it out
                                 p. run into

Circle the most appropriate response to each question or remark.

1. What are you up to? 
   a. I'm not used to wearing a suit.  
   b. I used to try.
   c. I'm pumped up.  
   d. I'm about to go on vacation.

2. I'm going back to school.  
   a. Me, neither.  
   b. That's a step in the right direction.
   c. Don't get ahead of yourself.  
   d. Thanks for the tip.

3. Be sure to talk to my friend. He's in charge of the program.  
   a. Thanks for the tip!  
   b. I'll try it out.
   c. I'll run into him.  
   d. I'm on the job.
4. Fancy meeting you here.
   a. Yes, what a coincidence.
   b. I haven’t seen him for ages.
   c. Yes, it’s a fancy restaurant.
   d. It’s a run-of-the-mill restaurant.

5. It was great to see you again.
   a. I’ll catch up with you.
   b. Be sure to keep in touch.
   c. Try to catch up.
   d. You’re getting ahead of yourself.

EXERCISE 4-7

Match each remark in the first column with all of the appropriate responses from the second column.

1. _______ That was great service.
   a. I have my fingers crossed!

2. _______ What’s up?
   b. I try!

3. _______ This top is so trendy.
   c. I’ll catch up with him later.

4. _______ I have a feeling she’s pregnant.
   d. I’ll keep in touch.

5. _______ Let’s get together soon.
   e. Let me know how it goes.

6. _______ I have a little extra money.
   f. Let’s splurge!

7. _______ You can get a coupon online.
   g. No way!

8. _______ He’s on the job now.
   h. Not much.

9. _______ I’m pumped up about my date.
   i. Thanks for the tip.

10. _______ Do you think he’ll be there?
    j. Try it on!
    k. Wow!
    l. I have a feeling he will.

EXERCISE 4-8

Supply the following information in complete sentences. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. Write three things you used to do but don’t do anymore.
2. Write three things that you are used to doing now that you weren't used to doing some years ago.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Do you keep in touch with an old friend? How?

____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What do you and your friends do when you get together?

____________________________________________________________________________________

5. What are you pumped up about?

____________________________________________________________________________________

EXERCISE 4.9

Write a paragraph of five sentences in which you tell what you try to do every day. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

EXERCISE 4.10

Write a conversation between two old friends who run into each other in a shopping mall—seeing each other for the first time in five years. Use at least eight of the expressions described in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Striking up a conversation 45
Making dates and appointments

Conversation A: Making an appointment with a doctor

RECEPTIONIST: Drs. Manning and Sharp. How can I help you?
LISA: Hello. My name is Lisa Peterson. I'd like to make an appointment to see Dr. Sharp, hopefully sometime next week.
RECEPTIONIST: And what is it you want to see him about?
LISA: I need a complete physical for a new job I'm about to take.
RECEPTIONIST: Do you have a form that has to be filled out?
LISA: Yes, I do—and it looks like I'll need a pretty thorough exam.
RECEPTIONIST: Can you fax it to me? That way I'll know how much time to allot for your appointment.
LISA: Sure. Can you give me your fax number?
RECEPTIONIST: It's 202-739-5906.
LISA: Good. I'll fax it to you right away. Will you call me back when you get it?
RECEPTIONIST: Right.

Later:

RECEPTIONIST: Hello, Lisa. This is Dr. Sharp's office. I see you're going to need an hour-long appointment, and Dr. Sharp won't be able to do that for at least another month. I could give you an appointment with Dr. Manning next Thursday, though, at 1 p.m. Would you like to take that?
LISA: Um... yes, that sounds fine. Is there anything I should do to prepare for the exam?
RECEPTIONIST: Yes. I know this will be difficult, but you mustn't eat or drink anything after midnight the night before. I wish I could give you an appointment earlier in the day, but we don't have any other openings.
LISA: OK. But if there is a cancellation earlier in the day, please let me know. I'd much rather come in early in the morning.
RECEPTIONIST: Of course.
LISA: Thanks very much. Good-bye.
Conversation B: Changing a lunch date

Lisa: Hi, Maria. It's Lisa. Listen, I'm not going to be able to have lunch with you next Thursday. I have to have a physical for my new job, and it's on Thursday at one o'clock—and it's in Alexandria. I'm really sorry. Can we make it another day?

Maria: No problem. How about Friday at 12:30?

Lisa: Oh dear, I can't do that, either. Could you do Wednesday?

Maria: Look, we're going to have to make it the following week. We've both got too much on our plates right now. Let's say Thursday, the twenty-fourth, at one o'clock. OK?

Lisa: Perfect. We'll have a lot to talk about by then!

Improving your conversation

In/on/at to indicate events

Events—dates, appointments, meetings, receptions, parties, concerts, classes, etc.—all have set days, times, and locations that are indicated by certain prepositions.

In indicates the month or year of an event.

Her birthday dinner is in October.
The celebration is in 2014.

On indicates the day or date of an event.

The appointment is on Friday.
Our classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Her party is on August 13.

At indicates the time of an event.

The reception is at ten o'clock.
The concert is at 4:30.

Periods of the day are indicated as follows:

in the morning
in the afternoon
at night

At indicates the location of an event or number in the street address.

The movie is at the State Theater.
The State Theater is at 405 S. Washington Street.

On indicates the name of the street in the address of the location.

The movie is at the theater on State Street.

In indicates a location of an event where the address is already understood.

The movie is in Theater A.
The meeting is in the boss's office.
Modal auxiliaries

Following are explanations of the different uses of modal auxiliaries—verbs that modify other verbs in certain ways. They have the same conjugation in all forms.

I/you/he/she/it/we/they will/can/may/might/could/would/should/must

**Will** can indicate a prediction for the future. The negative form of will is **won’t**.

We will get fat if we eat too much candy.
He won’t be here long—he’s leaving in a few minutes.

**Will + probably** indicates what is likely to happen.

I will probably be home after midnight.
She probably won’t be with me.

**Will** is used to ask and accept favors.

Will you lend me your pen? Yes, I will.

**Won’t** is used to refuse to do something.

Will you lend me a thousand dollars? No, I won’t.

**Can** indicates ability. The negative form of can is **can’t**.

Present tense: She can cook like a pro. She can’t sing, though.
Past tense: She could cook when she was very young. She couldn’t sing then, either.

An alternative way to indicate ability is **be able** to.

She is able to cook.
She was able to cook when she was young.
She will be able to cook like a pro when she finishes culinary school.

**Can** also indicates permission.

Present tense: He can’t go to the movies with us. (His mother said no.)
Past tense: He couldn’t go to the movies with us.
Future: He won’t be able to go to the movies with us.

**May** is another way to ask for and give permission.

May we sit here? Yes, you may./No, you may not.

**May** can also indicate possibility. Alternative ways to indicate this are **might** and **maybe + will**.

It may rain tomorrow.
It might rain tomorrow.
Maybe it will rain tomorrow.

**Could**, in addition to being the past tense of **can**, also indicates a suggestion.

How can I impress my boss? You could wear a suit and tie to work.

**Could** is also a polite way to ask permission.

Could I borrow a cup of sugar? Of course, you can/may.
Should indicates direct or indirect advice.

What should I wear to the interview?
You should go home now.
He shouldn't be here.
Past tense: You should have gone home.

Ought to can be used to give direct or indirect advice. It is not used in a question or in negative form.

What should I wear? You ought to wear a suit.
He ought to come to work on time.
We ought to have been nicer to them.

Would is used with if to indicate how things could be different under different circumstances.

If I were the teacher, I would make sure the children had fun while learning.

Would like is a polite way to say what you want.

We would like three ice-cream cones.
They would like donuts.

Would rather is a way to indicate preference. It is often contracted to I'd, you'd, he'd, she'd, they'd.

She is teaching geometry, but she would rather teach algebra.
I'm leaving now, but I'd rather stay here.

Would can also be a past tense marker, indicating repeated or habitual activity to describe the past.

When we were little, we would go to my grandmother's house every Sunday for dinner.
I would always play with my cousin, Bobby.
Sometimes, we would get into trouble.

Must indicates probability. The negative form is not contracted for this meaning.

He left at four o'clock, so he must be in Chicago by now.
She doesn't answer her phone. She must not be home.

Must not indicates prohibition or strong advice. It is often contracted to mustn't.

You must not put your feet on the table.
You mustn't walk alone after dark.

Have to

Have to indicates obligation or necessity.

Lee has to be at work by seven o'clock.
Do you have to leave so early? No, I don't have to leave. I thought you were ready for everyone to go home.
Supposed to
Supposed to indicates advice to follow a custom.

We’re supposed to be seated at our desks before the bell rings.
You’re not supposed to text during class.

Wish
To wish means to be sorry that something is not true. It is followed by a verb in the subjunctive mood. Present tense subjunctive forms are as follows:

The verb be: use were for all subjects (I, you, he, she, it, we, they).

(You are not here.) I wish you were here.
(We are not in California.) We wish we were in California.
(He is not tall.) He wishes he were tall.

All other verbs: use the past tense form.

(She can’t go to the concert.) She wishes she could go to the concert.
(I don’t like to dance.) I wish I liked to dance.
(She doesn’t study enough.) We wish she studied more.

I wish! indicates that it would please you if something said were really true, even though you believe that it isn’t true.

You’re the best student in the class. I wish!

How about . . . ?
How about . . . ? is a way of making a suggestion.

I want to go shopping. How about going with me this afternoon?
Do you have these shoes in size six? No, but how about these? They’re very similar.

Let’s say
Let’s say is a way of making a more forceful suggestion.

I want to go shopping. Let’s say you do your homework first.
Can you pick me up at 5 p.m.? Let’s say 5:30; I can’t get there by 5.

Oh dear
Oh dear is an exclamation that indicates you wish something weren’t true or hadn’t happened.

Oh dear, I dropped my bag and my stuff is everywhere.
Oh dear, I said Friday and I meant Thursday. I’m so sorry.

Look
Look is an expression that indicates that you want the person you are speaking to to understand what you are going to say next.

You got here late! Look, I said I was sorry.
Listen

Saying listen indicates that you want the person you are speaking to to pay attention to what you are going to say next.

You won't believe what I just heard about Carrie. Listen, I don’t want to hear any more gossip!

Both

Both is used as a pronoun or adjective to refer to any two people, places, objects, or abstract notions.

I invited Todd and Carlos. I hope both of them can come.
We went to New York and Washington. Both are fascinating cities. They are both fascinating cities. Both cities are fascinating.
I couldn’t decide which shoes to buy, so I bought both pairs.

Though

Though can be used to mean however—indicating that there is an alternative answer.

Are you a good baseball player? Is he in the band? No, I’m good at hockey, though. No, he does play the guitar, though.

Have too much on one’s plate

To have too much on one’s plate is an expression that indicates that someone is very busy—probably because of an unusual project or happening.

Look—I’d like to help you out, but we just moved to a new house, I’m learning a new job, and I just have too much on my plate right now.

Right

Right indicates that you understand or agree with what was just said.

Am I supposed to wear a tie? Right.
Yeah, right! is a sarcastic answer that indicates that what was said previously is ridiculous.
You’re wearing a tie, of course. I got all As last semester. Yeah, right! [Of course not!] Yeah, right! [I don’t believe you.]

Perfect

Perfect indicates that you accept a suggestion or offer.

We can discuss this further at the meeting tomorrow. Shall we meet in the cafeteria for lunch? Perfect.
Perfect.

Of course

Of course indicates that what was said is agreed to or obvious.

Will you go over my homework with me? Of course.
Do we have to work tomorrow? Of course! It’s not a holiday.
No problem can mean that a request is accepted.

Is it OK if I come in late tomorrow? No problem.
I have a doctor’s appointment.

No problem can also be used as a reply to an expression of thanks. An alternative expression with the same meaning is you’re welcome.

Thanks so much for fixing my flat tire. No problem.
Excuse me, you dropped your wallet. Oh, thank you! You’re welcome.

**EXERCISE 5-1**

*Fill in each blank with the appropriate preposition (in, on, at).*

1. The game is ______ Fairfax High School, ______ the gymnasium, ______ Saturday ______ eight o’clock ______ the evening.
2. Our wedding is ______ November ______ Springfield Country Club.
3. The inauguration is ______ 2013 ______ the Capitol ______ Washington, D.C.
4. The dinner is ______ Friday ______ six o’clock ______ the evening ______ Emily’s restaurant ______ the back room.
5. The show is ______ July 24 ______ one o’clock ______ the afternoon ______ the art gallery ______ Jefferson Avenue ______ Leesville.

**EXERCISE 5-2**

*Express the following using modal verbs or their alternatives.*

1. (You are a student.) Ask your teacher for permission to leave the classroom.

2. (You are a teacher.) Tell your students that they are not allowed to leave the classroom.

3. Ask your friend if it is important for him to work today.

4. (You are the boss.) Tell your employee that she is obligated to work tomorrow.

5. (You are sick.) Ask your doctor for her advice about when to take the medicine she prescribed.
6. (You are a doctor.) Tell your patient that it is customary to take the medicine just before a meal.

7. (You are a police officer.) Tell a pedestrian not to jaywalk (cross the street in the middle of a block).

8. (You are a pedestrian.) Ask a police officer if it is necessary for you to wait for a green light before crossing.

9. (You are a waiter.) Ask your customer if he prefers his steak medium or well done.

10. Invite your friends to a party at your house on Saturday night.

11. Ask your brother to pick you up at the airport.

12. Tell your sister that you refuse to pick her up.

EXERCISE 5-3

Match the words or expressions in the first column with the words or expressions in the second column that have a similar meaning. There may be more than one match for each item.

1. _____ she prefers
   a. she can
2. _____ she wants
   b. she cannot
3. _____ she is able to
   c. she is supposed to
4. _____ she has permission to
   d. she may
5. _____ maybe she will
   e. she may not
6. _____ she is advised to
   f. she might
7. _____ she probably isn’t
   g. she might not
8. _____ she probably doesn’t
   h. she must not be
9. _____ she accepts
   i. she mustn’t
10. _____ she refuses
    j. she ought to
11. _____ she is advised not to
    k. she should
12. _____ she is not allowed to  
   l. she shouldn't 
13. _____ she is unable to  
   m. she will 
14. _____ maybe she won't  
   n. she won't 
   o. she would like 
   p. she would rather 
   q. she must not 

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the indicated verb.

1. I wish you (be) _______________ here.
2. She wishes she (can) _______________ go to school.
3. We wish they (will) _______________ call us.
4. I wish we (have) _______________ more time.
5. They wish I (do not) _______________ spend my money on cars.
6. He wishes he (be) _______________ back home.
7. Don’t you wish it (be) _______________ your birthday?
8. I wish I (can) _______________ tell you the news.
9. I wish she (call) _______________ me more often.
10. They wish she (live) _______________ closer to their house.

Write a sentence using *I wish* to indicate your dissatisfaction with the statement.

1. You don’t love me.

2. My neighbors make a lot of noise.

3. My mother isn’t here.
4. I'm not married.

5. She can't stay here tonight.

6. He won't move his car.

7. She drives too fast.

8. They come home late.

9. I don't have enough money.

10. Our house is too small.

**EXERCISE 5.6**

Circle the most appropriate response to each question or remark.

1. I wish we could take a vacation.
   a. Perfect.
   b. Yeah, right.
   c. Look—we can't afford it.
   d. Oh dear.

2. We'd rather go to the mountains than the beach.
   a. Listen—why don't you go to the mountains, and we'll go to the beach.
   b. Look—I'm tired.
   c. Perfect. Let's say we all go to the beach.
   d. Oh dear. Then we'll all go to the beach.

3. Can you help me with these packages?
   a. Oh dear, I can.
   b. Oh dear, I can't.
   c. Let's say no.
   d. Perfect.

4. Are you graduating in June?
   a. No problem!
   b. I wish!
   c. You have too much on your plate.
   d. I mustn't.

5. Why is your project late?
   a. No problem!
   b. Of course!
   c. I have too much on my plate!
   d. Right!
Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. ______ Oh dear.          a. How about . . .
2. ______ Perfect.          b. I don’t believe you.
3. ______ Of course.        c. I made a mistake.
4. ______ Let’s say . . .    d. It’s OK with me.
5. ______ Yeah, right.      e. No problem.
6. ______ No problem.       f. Of course not.
7. ______ I wish.           g. Pay attention.
8. ______ Look, . . .       h. That’s a shame.
9. ______ Listen, . . .     i. That’s fine with me.
10. ______ Right.           j. Too bad that’s not true.

Write a question or remark for each of the following responses. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. ____________________________________

   Yeah, right.

2. ____________________________________

   I wish!

3. ____________________________________

   Of course!

4. ____________________________________

   No problem.

5. ____________________________________

   Right.
Write the details (name of event, day, date, time, location) of two events: one that you attended recently and one that you plan to attend in the near future. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

Past event:

Future event:

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Write a telephone conversation in which you make an appointment with a professional of some kind (doctor, lawyer, teacher, businessperson, etc.). Use at least eight of the expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

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Conversation: Looking for a new apartment

RECEPTIONIST: Good morning! How can I help you?
TED: I'd like to rent an apartment in this neighborhood and wonder if you can help me.
RECEPTIONIST: You need to talk to Shirley—she's our go-to agent for apartment rentals. Here, I'll take you to her office.
SHIRLEY: Hello, I'm Shirley. Have a seat and tell me what kind of apartment you're looking for. Is it just for you?
TED: Well, that depends on what's available. I'd really rather live alone, but if I don't see anything that works, I could share a bigger place with a friend of mine.
SHIRLEY: OK. First, tell me what you have in mind.
TED: The most important thing is the location. I want to be in the city, preferably in this neighborhood, so I can walk to the university and to the metro station. I don't have a car.
SHIRLEY: OK, then you don't mind if there's no parking space.
TED: Exactly. But I want a secure building. I also want it to have a living room, a dining room, one bedroom, and, of course, a modern kitchen and bathroom. I don't really need all the bells and whistles, but I would like to have a balcony.
SHIRLEY: And what is your budget? I mean, what monthly rent are you thinking about, including utilities?
TED: I'm hoping to find something for about $700 a month.
SHIRLEY: Look, I can tell you right now there are no decent apartments in this area under $1,200 a month—and none of them have dining rooms or balconies. There are modern, secure buildings that are actually near the metro—but they're at least six miles outside of the city.
TED: There's no way I'm going to live way out there. Do you think you could find a two-bedroom place closer in for, say, $1,400 a month? Something I could share with my friend?
SHIRLEY: Let me do a little research this morning and see what I can find. I'm not going to tell you that it's impossible, but I can't promise anything, either. Give me a couple of hours to see what's out there. If I find anything worthwhile, we can go have a look this afternoon. In the meantime, I need you to fill out this form so I have your contact information. As a matter of fact, both you and your friend will have to fill out an application in order to be approved as tenants. I'm assuming you want a one-year lease. Is that right? Oh, one more thing: you don't have a pet, do you?
TED: Yes, I'm willing to sign a one-year lease, and no, I don't have a pet. And I'll make sure my friend gets rid of his dog. He can leave it with his family—they have a place in the country. I'd better go give him a heads-up right now.
SHIRLEY: Good. Be sure both of you bring your financial and credit information with you.
TED: Right. We’ll see you at noon, then. Thank you very much.
SHIRLEY: See you later.

Improving your conversation

Need

There are several words that indicate that something is required. To need is used to require urgent attention or action to prevent damage.

I need a doctor. I’m really dizzy.
We need to rest. We’ve been working for six hours.
Flowers need water.

Need can also indicate a requirement dictated by someone else.

I need six more credits in order to graduate.
The children need to bring pencils and erasers to class.
To be a taxi driver, you need to have a special driver’s license.

To have to can indicate a personal need or an obligation to someone else.

I have to get my car fixed.
He has to work on Saturdays.
You have to complete the prerequisites before you can take advanced courses.
She was speeding and has to pay a $100 fine.

To be required to indicates you have to do something that is imposed by some sort of authority.

The children are required to do their homework before watching television.
The cadets are required to wear their uniforms to class.
This warrant means you are required to allow the police to search your office.

A requirement is a standard imposed on someone by some sort of authority.

Ability to speak another language is a requirement for this position.
It’s a requirement of the home owners’ association that you keep your yard neat.

A prerequisite is proof of previous instruction or ability necessary for a certain job, course, or position.

This course is open to beginners. There are no prerequisites.
A master’s degree in business is a prerequisite for this job.

Want

To want means to have a desire for something and indicates some belief that it will be attained.

We want to move to a better neighborhood. (We’re saving our money.)
She wants to go to college. (She is trying to make good grades in high school.)
He wants an ice-cream cone. (He is going to the ice-cream store/ordering ice cream.)
Would like indicates a desire that may or may not be possible to satisfy.

  We'd like a house with four bedrooms.
  I'd like to go on a vacation.
  He'd like to be able to visit his family at least once a year.

Mind

To have in mind means to have a good idea of the kind of thing you want.

  Sure, I'll help you decorate your living room. What kind of look do you have in mind?

To have a mind to means to be strongly considering an action.

  He stole money from me! I have a mind to report him.

To mind can mean to not be happy about something. This is the meaning used in the example conversation.

  I don't mind going to the store. I'm happy to do it.

To mind can mean to take charge of a store or shop.

  Thank you for minding the store while I had lunch.

To mind can also mean to babysit.

  Could you mind the children while I go to the store?

To mind can also mean to pay attention to.

  No, I won't babysit for your children, because they won't mind me.
  Don't mind her—she doesn't know what she's talking about.

To make up your mind means to decide.

  Do you want pizza or pasta? Make up your mind!
  I can't make up my mind between the SUV and the van.

To change your mind means to have a different idea or opinion than before.

  I was going to paint the dining room red, but I changed my mind and painted it blue.

Never mind means to disregard what was said. Forget it is another way of expressing this.

  What did you say? Never mind—it wasn't important.

Mind is also a noun that refers to the brain.

  At the age of ninety-five, her body is weak, but her mind is still perfect.

A mind reader is someone who knows what someone else is thinking.

  How was I supposed to know you had a headache? I'm not a mind reader.

There is and there are

There is indicates that something exists, and is followed by a singular noun.

  There is a gas station up ahead.
There are indicates that more than one thing exists, and is followed by a plural noun.

There are several gas stations about three miles down the road.

Words that indicate that nothing exists—such as zero, no, and not any—are followed by a plural noun.

We have exactly zero applications for the position.
There are no heart specialists in this area.
She doesn’t have any brothers or sisters.

Likewise, the pronoun that takes the place of these words, none, is followed by a plural verb.

We have three teachers to contact, but none (of them) are available this week.

Have a look

To have a look means to make a short investigation.

I lost my earring yesterday. Do you think it might be at your house? I’ll have a look and see if I can find it.

Get rid of

To get rid of means to make sure to no longer have something.

The car used too much gas, so we got rid of it. We sold it last week.
You should get rid of that suit. It doesn’t look good on you.

Preferably

Preferably indicates someone’s first choice.

I’d like to buy a new car, preferably one that doesn’t use much gas.

Go-to

Go-to is an expression used as an adjective to describe a person, place, or object that people depend on or “go to first” for what they need.

You need a handyman? Call Ron—he’s my go-to person for everything that goes wrong in the house.
I love Cherrydale Hardware. It’s my go-to store for supplies.

Worthwhile

Worthwhile describes something that has value in terms of time, money, experience, or purpose.

The translation course is intensive, but it is really worthwhile.
Cancer research is a worthwhile cause.

Out there

Out there is an expression that refers to the real world, at the present time.

Go out and have fun! There are a lot of nice people out there.
I’m always careful walking at night. You never know what dangers are out there.
Utilities

Utilities include the services necessary for the functioning of a house or apartment, including those for water and sewage, heating, air-conditioning, electricity, and sometimes trash collection.

Some apartment buildings include the cost of utilities in the monthly rent, and some don’t.

All the bells and whistles

The expression all the bells and whistles refers to the most modern, up-to-date—usually expensive—features of homes and other buildings that are either new or recently remodeled.

The apartment has all the bells and whistles—a soaking tub with jets, multiple showerheads, granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances in the kitchen, energy-efficient appliances, and many more exclusive features.

Country

Country can refer to a nation.

What country are you from? I’m from Colombia.

Country can also refer to the areas that are distant from cities, often where there are farms.

We like to go to the country on weekends, to get some peace and quiet.

A heads-up

A heads-up is a warning that something is going to happen, so that the other person will be ready.

Hey, Mom—I’m bringing a friend home for dinner and wanted to give you a heads-up.

Say

Say can introduce an example of a possibility.

I’m sure you can get someone to pick you up. Why don’t you ask, say, Rosita or Laura?
Why don’t you paint this room a brighter color, say, yellow or green?

In the meantime

In the meantime indicates a period of time between two events. Another word with the same meaning is meanwhile.

It will be a big help if you go to the store and get what we need for dinner. In the meantime, I’ll set the table.
Joey had to go away for six months. In the meantime, Julie went to classes and learned to cook.

One more thing

One more thing is an expression used at the end of a series of remarks. It could be something important that you almost forgot to say or a question that you almost forgot to ask.

OK, now, go to school. Mind the teacher, try to finish all your work, and don’t pick fights with the other kids. One more thing: don’t forget to thank the teacher for helping you with your math!
So, doctor, I’ll take the medicine you gave me and go to physical therapy. One more thing—when do you think I’ll be able to go back to work?
Fill in each blank with an appropriate word or expression from this chapter.

1. Get up! We _________________________ be at the airport by eight o'clock.
2. Do you _________________________ anything from the drugstore?
3. I'm working hard because I __________________________ to save money to buy a house.
4. Are there any _________________________ for this course?
5. Waiter, we __________________________ to order our meal now.
6. He fell down the stairs! He ____________________________ an ambulance.
7. Please, ___________________________ turning the music down?
8. In the military, you are _________________________ obey orders.
9. Writing a ten-page paper is one of the _________________________ of this course.
10. What do I _______________________________ do to get a license?

Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. ______ have to a. babysit
2. ______ want to b. be in charge of the store
3. ______ never mind c. be required to
4. ______ not care d. change your mind
5. ______ not be bothered e. forget it
6. ______ have a new opinion f. have a good mind
7. ______ be intelligent g. have a mind to
8. ______ mind h. need to
9. ______ decide i. not mind
j. pay attention to
k. would like to
l. wouldn't mind
m. make up your mind
Circle the most appropriate response to each question or remark.

1. There are no decent men for me to date.
   a. Come on! There are lots of worthwhile men out there.
   b. Give me a heads-up.
   c. Make up your mind.
   d. Never mind. He's our go-to person.

2. The utilities will cost us a fortune.
   a. It's a prerequisite.
   b. Have a look at the basement.
   c. Still, the house is worthwhile.
   d. It's out there.

3. Why don't you consider a trip to, say, the Caribbean or Hawaii?
   a. It's not a requirement.
   b. One more thing, it's in the country.
   c. I need a heads-up.
   d. I wouldn't mind that.

4. He's our go-to mechanic.
   a. I need to talk to him.
   b. Get rid of the car.
   c. I have a mind to drive home.
   d. This is worthwhile.

5. This house has all the bells and whistles.
   a. I don't see any bells.
   b. It's out there.
   c. I'll mind them.
   d. But it's in the country.

Write a question or remark for each of the following responses. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

1. Give me a heads-up.

2. It's definitely worthwhile.

3. Preferably, in the country.

4. Let's have a look.

5. We wouldn't mind.
6. I've changed my mind.

7. How about, say, a ring or a necklace?

8. None of them are here.

9. She's our go-to travel agent.

10. Get rid of it.

**EXERCISE 6.5**

*Write a word or expression from this chapter for each definition.*

1. to babysit

2. to investigate

3. to feel like doing

4. zero

5. to throw out

6. to warn

7. to have value

8. between now and then

9. to have a new opinion
10. heat, electricity, water

11. Oh, I almost forgot . . .

12. not the city

13. trusted source

14. for example

15. forget it

16. the brain

17. obligatory

18. requirement for beginning

19. modern features

20. in today's world

EXERCISE

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. What do you want to accomplish in the next five years?
2. What do you need to do to reach your goals?

3. What are you required to do at work/at school/at home?

4. What do you have to do this week?

5. What would you like to do this weekend?

6. What chores do you not mind doing?
Making requests and offers

Conversation: Helping a classmate

JIM: Hey, buddy, can I ask you a favor?
ALI: Sure—what can I do for you?
JIM: I wonder if you'd be willing to lend me your biology notes. I missed a couple of classes when I was sick, and now I'm totally lost.
ALI: OK. Why don't we go to the library and copy my notebook and then go to your place and go over the lessons. I'm acing biology this semester, so I'm sure I can get you back on track.

Later:
JIM: Oh, man, that will be a load off my shoulders. I can’t thank you enough.
ALI: Glad to help. As a matter of fact, I have a favor to ask of you.
JIM: Oh yeah? Don’t tell me you need more advice about your girlfriend!
ALI: Well, not exactly. It’s that her sister is coming up for the weekend, and I need to find her a date. Any chance you’d go out with her on Saturday night? We’d all four go to the theater and then out to eat.
JIM: Look, I already agreed to go to the movies with Ben. But how about if I invite her to go to the movies with us instead? Of course, afterward we'd grab a bite to eat, but it won’t be anything fancy.
ALI: That sounds great to me. Let me see what Jessica thinks about it, and I'll get back to you ASAP.
JIM: Good. And by the way, thanks again for the help with biology. I think I’m on top of it now.
ALI: No problem. Don’t hesitate to call me if you have any questions.
JIM: Thanks, buddy. See you later.

Improving your conversation
Making requests

A direct command is the strongest way to request urgent attention.

Take her to the hospital!
Let us rest!
Call the police!
Help me!
Can you can also be used to request attention to a need.  

Can you get me to a hospital right away?  
Can you call the police?  
Can you help me?  

A direct command for assistance in attaining something you want (rather than something you need) is considered rude. Can you is also a little abrupt. 
Will you is the most direct way to request what you want and should always be preceded or followed by please.  

Will you please take me to the airport?  
Please, will you bring me a glass of water?  

Could you (please) is a more polite way to request what you want.  

Could you babysit for my daughter this weekend?  
Could you tell us how to get to Main Street from here?  

Would you (please) is an even more polite way to request what you want.  

Would you (be able to) mow the lawn for me this weekend?  
Would you take me to the store this afternoon?  

Would you mind + -ing is the most formal way to ask someone to do something for you.  

Would you mind helping me with these packages?  
Would you mind telling us how to get to the main highway?  

Would you mind if + subjunctive is a very polite way to ask permission to do something.  

Would you mind if I borrowed your car? No, you can use it for a couple of hours.  
Would you mind if we stayed one more night?  

To mind can mean not be happy about.  

Do you mind if I use your pen? No, I don’t mind.  
Do you mind if I borrow your car? Yes, I do mind! You may not borrow it.  

A favor is something that someone does to help someone else out.  

Will you do me a favor? Of course. What do you need?  
Would you mind if I asked you a favor? Of course not. What can I do for you?  

Offering assistance  

Several expressions are used to offer a favor or assistance.  
I’ll + verb indicates that you are taking action in an emergency. An alternative way to express this is to use the present progressive tense.  

I’ll take you to the hospital.  
I’m calling the police.  

Would you like to + basic verb or would you like me to + basic verb can be used when what the person needs is obvious but not urgent.  

I see you’re tired. Would you like to sit down?  
I see you need a ride. Would you like me to take you home?
Let me know if I can help you or I’ll be glad to help you are formal expressions used by receptionists, secretaries, salesclerks, or other people whose jobs involve providing services to the public.

The doctor will be with you shortly. In the meantime, let me know if I can help you.
Feel free to look through our merchandise, and if you see anything you like or have any questions, I’ll be glad to help you.

Can I help you? is a way to offer assistance to a stranger in need. An alternative expression is Let me help you.

You look lost. Can I help you?
You took quite a fall. Let me help you get up.

How can I help you? is a way to offer assistance to someone who seems to want something. An alternative expression is What can I do for you?

I’m the doctor’s receptionist. How can I help you?
I see you’re waiting for a salesperson. What can I do for you?

Is there any way I can help you? indicates a sincere offer of help to someone you know well. Alternative expressions are Is there anything I can do for you?/Is there anything I can do to help?

Mom, I know you’re not feeling well. Is there any way I can help you?
So you’re moving to your new house next week! Is there anything I can do to help?

Oh yeah

The expression oh yeah can have different meanings, depending on the intonation. In the example conversation, with ascending intonation (from low to high), it affirms interest in what was just said. Following is another example:

I’m leaving for San Francisco tomorrow morning. Oh yeah? What are you going to do there?
How long are you staying?

When oh yeah has descending intonation (from high to low), it affirms previous knowledge of what was just said.

C’mon, let’s eat lunch. I thought you were having lunch with Tim. Oh yeah, I forgot about that.

It’s (just) that . . .

It’s (just) that . . . is an expression that precedes an explanation of something just mentioned or questioned. It indicates that the speaker expects the hearer to understand and accept the explanation.

Why didn’t you turn your paper in on time? I’m sorry, professor. It’s that I had two exams and three other papers due last week.

Another way to express this is the thing is, . . .

Why don’t you ever wash your dishes? The thing is, I always seem to be in a hurry to go somewhere.
Date

A **date** is an appointment with someone—often for the prospect of a romantic connection—for a social occasion.

I’d really like to go to dinner with you on Friday, Rita, but I have a **date** with that new guy at work. He invited me to go to the movies with him.

**Totally**

**Totally means completely, 100 percent, very.**

Oh, the party was **totally** awesome.

We were **totally** confused by his explanation.

Be willing

To be **willing** means to accept participation in an activity.

Are you **willing** to pick me up at the airport?

He can move to Los Angeles if he wants to, but I’m not **willing** to quit my job and go with him.

**Back on track**

To be **back on track** means to be back to normal after a difficult period.

Tran missed three practices after he sprained his ankle, but he’s been doing extra training, and now he’s **back on track** with the rest of the team.

The divorce was hard, but Phil is now getting his life **back on track**.

**On top of it**

To be **on top of it** means to fully understand something or to be able to handle something.

The math course is hard, but I think he’s **on top of it**.

There was a lot to learn in my new job, but now I’m **on top of it**.

**A load off my shoulders/mind**

**A load off my shoulders/mind** is a big relief from responsibility or worry.

When Jan offered to take care of my mother, it was a huge **load off my shoulders**.

The other driver admitted that the accident was his fault, and his insurance company paid for my car repairs. That sure was a **load off my mind**.

**Miss**

To **miss** can mean to not be able to attend an event or participate in normal activities.

I’m sorry I **missed** your party. I was out of town.

Yeah, and you **missed** the chance to meet my cousin from St. Louis.
He missed a week of work when he was sick.
You played the wrong card. Now you have to miss your turn.

**Miss** can also mean to arrive too late for a form of public transportation.

We got stuck in traffic and missed our plane. Now we have to reschedule.

**Miss** can also mean to feel nostalgic or sad about a person you haven't seen, a place you haven't been to, or an activity you haven't participated in for a while.

I miss you, I miss Arlington, and I miss hanging out with you guys.

**Miss** can also mean failure to answer a question correctly on a test or to connect with a ball (or other object) in a game.

She missed six questions on the test and failed it.
You'd better get your eyes checked—you missed the ball three times!

**Go and come**

To go means to move from here or there to another place.

I'm going to the airport tonight.
When are you going to Colorado?

To come can mean to move from there to here.

(I am at work now.) I'm coming to work early tomorrow.
(I am in Colorado.) When are you coming to Colorado?

To come can also mean to move from here to there—when the person you are talking to is expected to be there.

(I am at work now; you are at home.) I'm coming home early this afternoon.
(I am in Virginia; you are in Colorado.) I'm coming to Colorado in August.
(We are both at the office.) I hope you can come to the party at my house next week.

To go over can emphasize that the movement from here to there or to another place is short.

Go over to your neighbor's house and see if she is at home.

To go over can also mean to read or review something in order to understand or remember it better.

I'm going to go over my notes tonight. We have a big test tomorrow.

To come over emphasizes that the movement toward you or toward the person you are speaking to is short.

I'm a little scared. Can you come over?
Her friends came over yesterday and stayed all afternoon.

**Come on over** is an informal invitation that emphasizes that the distance is really short.

I hear a lot of noise coming from your house! Come on over and join the party!
To go ahead means to continue with one's plans.

I'm ready to leave. Then go ahead!
We're going to see that horror movie. Go ahead. But don't say I didn't warn you.

To go ahead and + basic verb means to encourage someone to do something he or she may be hesitating about.

I'm not sure about this car. Go ahead and buy it. It's a good deal.

To go ahead and do something is also a way of saying that you are going to do it right away.

Will you send me more information about your products? OK, I'll go ahead and e-mail you our brochure.
I'm going to go ahead and make the reservation for seven o'clock.

Ace

To ace means to get a very good grade with little effort.

I didn't know he was so smart. He's acing trigonometry.

Fancy

Fancy is used to describe something elegant, possibly with intricate details.

She wore a very fancy dress with lots of ruffles and bows.
It was a fancy party. There were flowers and candles everywhere, and there was a seven-course, sit-down dinner for more than a hundred guests.

Any chance . . . ?

Any chance . . . ? is used to ask informally if something is possible or true.

Any chance you have a lawn mower I could borrow?
Any chance we could get together for a cup of coffee?

How about if . . . ?

The expression how about if . . . ? offers a suggestion for action by one or more people.

We have a long weekend coming up. How about if we all go to the beach?
I know you don't have enough money to buy the car. How about if I lend it to you?

I'll get back to you

I'll get back to you is a promise to find information for someone and contact him or her as soon as you have it.

I don't know how much the real estate tax on this house is, but I'll find out and get back to you right away.

ASAP

ASAP means as soon as possible.

Call me ASAP. I have to make up my mind tonight, and I need your advice.
Instead

Instead indicates a replacement for something else. It is placed after the word that indicates the replacement.

We thought about going to the beach, but went to the mountains instead.

Instead of is used before the replaced alternative.

He bought a truck instead of a car.
We went to the mountains instead of going to the beach.
Instead of going to the beach, we went to the mountains.

By the way

By the way introduces a new topic or a change in subject in the middle of a conversation.

Yes, I really like my new job. By the way, have you heard from Kevin?
Sophia said she would take care of the dog while we're away. By the way, are you still willing to water the plants?

Don't hesitate

Don't hesitate is a way to indicate your willingness to be available for someone.

If you have any questions about this contract, don't hesitate to call me.

See you later

See you later is an informal way of saying good-bye. Alternative expressions include see ya/later/bye/ciao.

OK, I've gotta run. See you later.

EXERCISE 7.1

Circle the most appropriate expression for each situation.

1. You are ready to order a meal in a restaurant. You say to the server:
   a. I want the chicken.
   b. I'd like the chicken, please.
   c. Can you bring me the chicken?
   d. Would you bring me the chicken?

2. A woman has just fallen down and cannot get up. You say to someone with a phone:
   a. Would you mind calling an ambulance?
   b. Could you call an ambulance?
   c. Would you like to call an ambulance, please?
   d. Call an ambulance!

3. Your car has broken down and your cell phone's battery is dead. You say to a stranger:
   a. Would you mind if I borrowed your cell phone to call my mechanic?
   b. Hey, can I borrow your phone?
   c. Let me use your phone!
   d. Give me your phone, please.
4. You are talking with your academic adviser at the university. You say:
   a. How many credits should I get in order to graduate?
   b. How many credits may I get in order to graduate?
   c. How many credits could I get in order to graduate?
   d. How many credits do I need to get in order to graduate?

5. A tow truck has come to take your car to the mechanic's garage. You say to the driver:
   a. Would you like to give me a ride to the garage?
   b. Give me a ride to the garage!
   c. Can you give me a ride to the garage?
   d. I'm willing to ride with you to the garage.

6. A poll is being taken concerning an upcoming election. You say:
   a. I need Walters to win.
   b. I have to have Walters win.
   c. I would want Walters to win.
   d. I want Walters to win.

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**EXERCISE 7-2**

Write an appropriate question or command for each situation.

1. You want the lady in front of you in the theater to take off her large hat so you can see.

2. You want to borrow a ladder from your neighbor.

3. You want a friend to lend you $20.

4. You want your brother to lend you $20.

5. You are in Washington, D.C. You want a stranger on the street to give you directions to the White House.

6. You want to borrow a pen from your classmate.

7. You want the fire department to come to your house to put out a fire.

8. You want a taxi driver to take you to the airport.
9. You are in a car with several friends. You want the driver to drop you off at the next corner.

10. A friend is giving you a ride home. You want him to turn right at the next stoplight.

Exercises

Write an appropriate question or statement offering assistance for each of the following situations.

1. An eight-year-old boy has just fallen off his bicycle and scraped his knee.

2. You are at a party with your small child who will not stop crying and wants to go home.

3. Your best friend is having a party for one hundred people at her home.

4. Your brother didn’t get a paycheck last month.

5. One of your coworkers seems to be having a heart attack.

6. Your neighbor is going on vacation for two weeks.

7. You are a sales assistant at a shoe store. A customer is looking at several pairs of shoes.

8. You are a customer service representative at a large company. A woman has just approached your desk.

9. You and your wife discover that your car has been stolen.

10. A couple of tourists look lost.
Match the words and expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

| 1. ______ be willing | a. answer incorrectly on a test |
| 2. ______ ace | b. be bothered |
| 3. ______ mind | c. be happy to |
| 4. ______ be back on track | d. be sad thinking about |
| 5. ______ come over | e. get a good grade on a test |
| 6. ______ go over | f. get over a difficult period |
| 7. ______ miss | g. have under control |
| 8. ______ be on top of it | h. lose an opportunity |
|  | i. not arrive on time for public transportation |
|  | j. not attend an event |
|  | k. not be happy about |
|  | l. not mind doing |
|  | m. recover from lost time |
|  | n. review |
|  | o. visit a neighbor |

Circle the most appropriate response to each question or remark.

1. Hurry up! I don't want to miss the train.
   a. We'll be back on track.   c. We'll go ahead and walk.
   b. You'll miss me.   d. Go ahead without me.

2. Good news! The judge dismissed the lawsuit against you.
   a. Don't hesitate to call me.   c. I'm on top of it.
   b. That's a load off my mind.   d. I'm back on track.

3. You missed ten out of twenty questions on the exam.
   a. Any chance you can help me?   c. That's a load off my mind.
   b. Do you mind?   d. I aced it.
4. Are you willing to work harder?
   a. I'll work instead.
   b. By the way, don't hesitate.
   c. I'll get back on track.
   d. I'm not on top of it.

5. Do you mind if I call you?
   a. That's a load off my shoulders.
   b. Go over there.
   c. Of course not. Don't hesitate.
   d. Oh yeah?

EXERCISE 7-6

Write an answer for each of the following questions. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. What do you do if you miss a bus, train, or airplane?
   __________________________

2. Do you miss a person or place? What does it feel like?
   __________________________

3. What do you do if you miss a question on a test?
   __________________________

4. What do you do if you miss a class or a day of work?
   __________________________

5. In what games can you miss the ball?
   __________________________

EXERCISE 7-7

Write a question or remark for each of the following answers. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

1. Go ahead. I don't mind.
   __________________________

2. Don't hesitate to call me.
   __________________________

3. That's totally awesome.
   __________________________
4. That's a load off my shoulders.

5. What can I do to help you?

6. I'll call the doctor.

7. I'll come over right away.

8. Sure, I'll go over it with you.

9. Don't miss this opportunity!

10. The thing is, I've been really busy.

EXERCISE 7-8

Write a conversation between two people in which both ask for and offer favors to each other. Use at least eight of the expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.
Expressing doubts and uncertainty

Conversation: Advice to a friend

PAT: Hi, Katie—I’m calling you to cry on your shoulder. Do you mind if I come over? I really need to talk to you.

KATIE: Of course I don’t mind; come over. I’ll make a pot of tea. Pat, what’s the matter?

PAT: It’s just that everything is wrong with my life. In the first place, there are so many problems at work. My boss is really out to get me. He’s on my case for every little thing. Lately I can’t do anything that pleases him. Plus, he makes me so nervous that I’m beginning to make unnecessary mistakes.

KATIE: So, what’s the reason for all that?

PAT: It’s probably because he has problems at home. But that doesn’t give him the right to take it all out on me, does it?

KATIE: It’s just the opposite. It’s at work where he ought to seek a little peace so he can work out his personal problems at home. At least that’s what I think.

PAT: I have the impression that nobody is really happy. The situation at my house doesn’t exactly cheer me up either. You know what? Those two guys I share the house with don’t have a clue about how to keep it clean. They don’t lift a finger to help me. Last night I spent two hours cleaning the kitchen while they pigged out on pizza and watched TV. I’m sick and tired of their behavior. But that’s not the worst! As if that weren’t enough, Brad refuses to talk to me. Like out of the blue he’s decided he wants his space. I really feel like throwing in the towel.

KATIE: Calm down, Pat, and let’s look at one thing at a time. I don’t think things are as bad as they seem right now. For a start, why don’t we make a list of the positive things in your life? That way, you’ll realize what your strengths are. Then we’ll make a plan to begin changing the things that aren’t working for you. You shouldn’t let yourself get depressed.

PAT: Thanks, Katie. You know, I already feel much better. You really know how to cheer me up.

KATIE: I care about you. After all, you are my best friend—and have been from the get-go. I know I can count on you for good advice from time to time.

Improving your conversation

In the first place

In the first place is an expression that precedes the first point or argument you present when trying to convince someone of something.

I don’t want to live in the southern part of the county. In the first place, the schools are not very good there.
For a start

For a start is an expression that precedes the first suggestion related to a plan.

We both want to buy a new house, but for a start, we need to see if we have enough money.

Alternatives to this expression are for starters and to begin with.

I will consider your marriage proposal, but for starters, we need to work out some of our problems.
Let's talk about our plans for the new house. To begin with, we need to decide exactly what we want.

Plus

Plus introduces a second, third, or further point in a positive or negative argument.

I loved that movie. It was a western; Clint Eastwood was in it; plus, it lasted three hours.
I hated that movie. It was a western; Clint Eastwood was in it; plus, it lasted three hours.

In addition

In addition introduces a second, third, or further point in a positive argument. In the following example, it is understood that the speaker likes westerns, likes Clint Eastwood, and was happy that the movie was long.

I loved that movie. It was a western; Clint Eastwood was in it; in addition, it lasted three hours.

Besides

Besides introduces a second, third, or further point in a negative or defensive argument. In the following example, it is understood that the speaker does not like westerns, does not like Clint Eastwood, and was unhappy that the movie was long.

I hated that movie. It was a western; Clint Eastwood was in it; besides, it lasted three hours.

As if that weren’t enough

As if that weren’t enough introduces a final point at the end of a series of positive or negative arguments.

It was a terrible date. He arrived late. He was rude to my parents. And as if that weren’t enough, he was in a bad mood the whole evening.

At least

At least indicates a minimum possible amount.

You have at least $100 in your pocket (possibly more).
He has at least three cars!

At least can introduce a comment intended to show that something is good, in spite of other negative information.

It's cold and rainy, but at least I have my umbrella.
After all

After all introduces a reason or a justification of what was just said.

Don’t expect him to behave like an adult. After all, he’s only ten years old.
I didn’t do my best at work today, but after all, I was sick.

Cry on someone’s shoulder

To cry on someone’s shoulder means to tell someone that you need sympathy and support.

I just got fired from my job. Will you let me cry on your shoulder tonight?

Matter

To matter means to be important.

You really matter to me a lot.
I’m sorry I hurt your feelings. It doesn’t matter. (It’s not important.) I forgive you.

To be the matter indicates what is wrong or what is upsetting someone.

You’ve been crying. What’s the matter?
I just heard that my brother is sick. Do you know what’s the matter with him?

Just the opposite

To be just the opposite indicates that the truth is very different from what was just said.

You must be really excited about your promotion! It’s just the opposite! They’re transferring me to another city, and I don’t want to go.

Out to get

To be out to get someone means to want to hurt or make trouble for that person.

The president of the club refused to listen to any of our suggestions. I think he is really out to get us.

On someone’s case

To be on someone’s case means to constantly criticize or scold someone.

My dad’s always on my case about my long hair. He really wants me to cut it.

Take it all out on

To take it all out on someone means to build up anger and frustration over a problem and then show that anger toward a person unrelated to the problem.

I know you’re disappointed that you didn’t get better grades at school, but don’t take it out on your little sister!
Work out
To work out a problem is to solve it.

We're not going to get married until we can work out our problems.

To work out can also mean to be satisfactory.

The new arrangement of desks at the office is working out very well. Everybody likes it.
Our relationship isn't working out. It's better that we not see each other anymore.

To work out can also mean to exercise.

You look fantastic—I can tell you've been working out.

Not have a clue
To not have a clue means to not know what is happening or what others are thinking.

Do you think Ray has any acting talent? To be honest with you, I don't think he has a clue about what he's supposed to be doing.

Not lift a finger
To not lift a finger means to not do anything to help or contribute.

She is so spoiled. She doesn't lift a finger to help her parents with the housework.

Spend
To spend means to use money or time.

Oh my gosh! I just spent $100 on groceries.
I wish you wouldn't spend so much time playing video games.

Pig out
To pig out means to eat too much.

Oh, I really pigged out on that cake. It was so delicious.

Sick and tired
To be sick and tired means to no longer tolerate something.

He's been here pigging out all week. I'm sick and tired of his behavior.

Out of the blue
To be out of the blue means to appear or happen with no warning.

So I'm driving down the turnpike when out of the blue I get a call from Freddie!

Want one's space
To want one's space is a delicate way of saying you want to end a romantic relationship.

Elizabeth, we've been arguing a lot lately, and I'm getting uncomfortable with it. I really feel like I want my space for a while, so I can think things over.
Throw in the towel

To throw in the towel means to stop trying to do something. An alternative expression is to give up.

Hey, Niko, how are your tennis lessons going?  
I have to quit school; it’s just too hard.  

Oh, I threw in the towel a couple of months ago. I just didn’t have enough time to practice.  
You can’t give up now! You only have a couple of semesters left.

Work

To be working for someone can mean to be employed by that person.

I’m still going to school, but I’m working for my dad this summer.

It can also indicate that a certain strategy or program is suitable for someone.

This new diet just isn’t working for me. I’ve actually gained weight!  
Teaching at the public school really works for her, because she has the same schedule as her children.

Cheer someone up

To cheer someone up means to make someone feel happier.

She was feeling lonely, so we went over and cheered her up.

Count on

To count on someone means to expect that that person will support you when necessary. Alternative expressions are to depend on someone and to rely on someone.

We can always count on Bob to make us laugh.  
She doesn’t worry about spending money; she knows she can depend on her mother to pay her bills.  
You’re always late! I can’t rely on you when I need you.

To be there for someone means to support someone whenever necessary.

I count on Ann. She is always there for me.  
He’s a great dad, always there for his kids.

Do you mind . . . ?

Do you mind . . . ? is a way of asking someone’s permission to do something.

Do you mind if I sit here?  
Do you mind if I smoke?  

No, of course not. (You may sit there.)  
Actually, I do. Smoke really bothers me.

Let’s

Let’s is a way of suggesting an activity for you and one or more other people.

Let’s eat Chinese tonight.  
Let’s not argue about it.
Why don't . . . ?

Why don't . . . ? is another way of suggesting an activity to one or more people. This may or may not include you.

Why don't you study Japanese?
Why don't we invite the neighbors over?

Strengths

Strengths are the positive traits of a person. The negative traits are called weaknesses.

Often in a job interview, they ask you what your strengths and weaknesses are. It's a good idea to emphasize your strengths.

So

So has a number of uses. So many emphasizes that there are a lot.

She has so many friends on Facebook, she can't keep in touch with them all.

So + adjective means very.

He is so funny—he makes everybody laugh.

So can indicate—or ask for—a conclusion as a response to new information.

We don't have enough money to buy a new house, so we have to get extra jobs.
I don't want to buy a new dress. So what are you going to wear to the wedding?

Not exactly

Not exactly, when used before an adjective or a noun, means not at all.

She's not exactly shy. (She's aggressive.)
He's not exactly a stranger. (We know him well.)

Hardly can be used with the same meaning.

He's hardly my best friend. (We are rivals.)
It's hardly rocket science. (It's not difficult.)

From the get-go

From the get-go means from the beginning.

He has been enthusiastic about this project from the get-go.
She's been a pain in the neck from the get-go. Let's get her off the committee.

From time to time

From time to time means sometimes. Other expressions with the same meaning are (every) once in a while/(every) now and then/every so often/occasionally. These expressions can go before the subject or at the end of the phrase.

I'm not still in love with him, but I think of him from time to time.
She's not a big football fan, but every once in a while she goes to a game with me.
Now and then he sends me an e-mail.
We have a family reunion every so often.
Occasionally I get together with my high school friends.

**EXERCISE 8.1**

*Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word or expression (after all, besides, in the first place, in addition, plus, as if that weren’t enough, at least).*

1. I like the house on Oak Street. a. __________________________, it’s in a good neighborhood.
   b. __________________________, it’s in a great school district, c. __________________________, it’s close enough to the school for the kids to walk. d. __________________________, the price is under our budget, and we’d have money for decorating. You’re right, it’s not really close to a shopping center, but e. __________________________, that’s not the most important thing to us. f. __________________________, we have a reliable car for trips to the grocery store.

2. I hope you don’t choose a college on the other side of the country. a. __________________________, we can’t afford out-of-state tuition. b. __________________________, the in-state tuition is much lower. c. __________________________, our state universities are among the best in the country. d. __________________________, think how expensive it would be for you to come home for holidays.

**EXERCISE 8.2**

*Fill in each blank with in addition or besides, as appropriate.*

1. I don’t want to go to school today. It’s really boring, and __________________________, I have a bad headache.

2. I didn’t enjoy the game. There wasn’t much action, and __________________________, we lost.

3. The birthday party was awesome! There was a clown who did really cool tricks, and __________________________, there was a huge chocolate cake.

4. I really want to move to New York. It has interesting neighborhoods, great restaurants, and fantastic museums. __________________________, you can get around easily on public transportation.

5. No, we can’t move to New York. It’s too far away from my family, it’s expensive, and __________________________, you don’t even have a job there!
Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. ______ cry on someone's shoulder
2. ______ take it out on someone
3. ______ be the matter
4. ______ matter
5. ______ be out to get someone
6. ______ be on someone's case
7. ______ be sick and tired of
8. ______ count on someone
9. ______ be working for someone
10. ______ be there for someone
11. ______ cheer someone up
12. ______ want one's space

a. be someone's employee
b. be suitable for someone
c. be weary of
d. be wrong
e. blame an innocent person
f. criticize someone
g. give unconditional support to someone
h. intend to hurt someone
i. want to end a relationship with someone
j. no longer tolerate
k. be important
l. not want to do anymore
m. depend on someone
n. not want to hear anymore
o. scold someone
p. tell someone your problems
q. make someone feel better
r. know someone will be there for you

Circle the most appropriate response to each question or remark.

1. I can't handle this anymore.
   a. Don't lift a finger.
   b. Get off my case.
   c. You can cry on my shoulder.
   d. I'm sick and tired.

2. She criticizes everything I do.
   a. Why is she there for you?
   b. Why is she on your case?
   c. Why does she cheer you up?
   d. Why does she cry on your shoulder?
3. He asked me for a date.
   a. I think he's out to get you.
   b. I think he wants his space.
   c. I think he likes you.
   d. I think he's on your case.

4. Why are you so upset?
   a. My boyfriend wants his space.
   b. My boyfriend just pigged out.
   c. My boyfriend is there for me.
   d. My boyfriend works out.

5. What are his strengths?
   a. He doesn't lift a finger.
   b. I don't have a clue.
   c. He's out to get me.
   d. He spends too much time on the telephone.

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**Exercise 8-5**

Circle the word or expression that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. I really __________________ tonight. Now I don't feel so good.
   a. worked out
   b. pigged out
   c. mattered
   d. cheered her up

2. He's my best friend. He's always __________________.
   a. wanting his space
   b. working for someone
   c. there for me
   d. pigging out

3. They __________________ a lot of time fixing this place up.
   a. worked out
   b. counted on
   c. spent
   d. wanted their space

4. Thank you! That really __________________.
   a. cheers me up
   b. lifts a finger
   c. spends a lot of money
   d. is on my case

5. He spends a lot of money, so he must be rich. It's __________________; he hardly has enough to pay his rent.
   a. out of the blue
   b. just the opposite
   c. a strength
   d. the matter

---

**Exercise 8-6**

Circle the most appropriate response to each question or remark.

1. Is it true you have a great new office manager?
   a. Yes, she doesn't lift a finger.
   b. Yes, she is on your case.
   c. Yes, she doesn't have a clue.
   d. Yes, she is working out.

2. You look fantastic!
   a. Thanks, I've been pigging out.
   b. Thanks, I've been working out.
   c. Thanks, I've been lifting a finger.
   d. Thanks, I've been wanting my space.
3. Can I count on you?
   a. Of course, I am sick and tired.
   b. Of course, I don't have a clue.
   c. Of course, I am always there for you.
   d. Of course, I am on your case.

4. Do you mind if I sit here?
   a. Of course not, go right ahead.
   b. Of course, go right ahead.
   c. Of course not, you may not sit there.
   d. Of course, I'm sick and tired.

5. Can I cry on your shoulder?
   a. Of course. I'm on your case.
   b. Of course. What's the matter?
   c. Of course. I'll take it out on you.
   d. Of course. I'm out to get you.

EXERCISE 8.7
Write a question or remark for each of the following responses. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

1. ____________________________________________
   Yes, it works for me.

2. ____________________________________________
   She doesn't lift a finger.

3. ____________________________________________
   Yes, he's really on my case.

4. ____________________________________________
   Yes, they're always there for me.

5. ____________________________________________
   No, I don't mind.

EXERCISE 8.8
Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. _______ hardly  a. a lot of
2. _______ so          b. besides
3. _______ the get-go  c. every now and then
4. _______ so many     d. every so often
5. _______ plus        e. for a start
Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. Who is always there for you?

2. What happened recently in your life out of the blue?

3. What do you spend a lot of time doing?

4. Who counts on you? What do you do for that person?

5. What cheers you up? Why?
Write a paragraph in which you try to convince someone to agree with your opinion or viewpoint on a topic that matters to you. Use at least eight of the expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.
Talking about future events

Conversation A: Scheduled events

RAJ: What time does the movie start?
INES: It starts at 7:30, and ends at 9:45.
RAJ: Good, we can go on the bus, and get back home before it's too dark. Is there a bus stop near your house?
INES: Yes. It stops on the corner every fifteen minutes.
RAJ: Perfect. I'm looking forward to seeing this movie.

Conversation B: Plans for the very near future

JENNY: What are you doing tomorrow?
PAULA: I'm going to the beach with my family for a week. We're leaving early—at 6 a.m.
JENNY: Oh, nice! So I guess you're planning to go to bed early tonight.
PAULA: Yeah, I'm gonna pack my bag and try to hit the sack by nine o'clock.
JENNY: Good luck with that! What are you taking?
PAULA: I always pack light for the beach—a bathing suit, a couple of pairs of shorts, some T-shirts, a hat, and lots of sunscreen. How about you? What are you doing next week?
JENNY: I'm going to stay home and catch up on some unfinished projects.
PAULA: Like what?
JENNY: Oh, I have a long list! First I'm going to clean up my office, pay bills, write letters, and take care of a bunch of paperwork. Then I'm going to redecorate my bedroom—paint the walls and get new curtains.
PAULA: Wow. What color are you going to paint it?
JENNY: It's a very light blue. I've already picked it out and bought the paint.
PAULA: Cool.
Conversation C: Long-term plans

EMMA: What do you think you'll do when you finish college?

KIM: Oh, I'll probably stay in the city and look for work here. Then I'll go back home on holidays.

EMMA: I love that idea, but I'll probably go closer to home to get a job. I like being close to my family and old friends. Still, life in the big city is certainly tempting!

KIM: Well, maybe you could find a job in a big city closer to home.

EMMA: Yeah, that would be a good happy medium.

KIM: On the other hand, since you like to travel, you could possibly get a job in another country—do something exotic.

EMMA: You're right. I might get really bored just doing the same old thing. I'd learn a lot overseas—even pick up another language. It's definitely something to think about.

KIM: Well, I guess we don't have to decide now, since we're still in our freshman year!

Conversation D: Predictions for the more distant future

TEACHER: What will the world be like fifty years from now?

ANDY: Just think! People will be living on Mars.

EMILY: I'll bet cars will be replaced by little helicopters, so you'll be able to fly ahead in traffic.

HOLLY: There won't be any more wars.

JULIE: Women will make more money than men.

STACEY: No way! Women will stay home and the men will do all the work.

JOE: There will be a better form of government.

ZACK: People will have forgotten how to talk and will only communicate electronically.

HEATHER: There won't be any disease, and people will live to be 150 years old.

COURTNEY: That will be horrible. It will be so crowded!

ANDY: That's why people will be living on Mars!

Improving your conversation

No one can say for sure what will happen in the future, yet we often talk about it. Future events can be described in several different ways, depending on how probable it is that they will happen.

Scheduled events

The present tense is used to talk about the future. It is used to give the time of scheduled events (99 percent probability).

- The flight leaves at four o'clock this afternoon.
- The movie starts at five o'clock, so don't be late.

The present tense is also used to tell what normally happens and is expected to be the same in the future (99 percent probability).

- The stores open at ten o'clock tomorrow morning.
- The children go back to school in September.
- Class ends at 3:15.
- The train stops near our building every hour.
I’ll bet
The present tense is used after the expression I’ll bet, meaning I’m pretty sure it will happen.

I’ll bet she wins the election.
I’ll bet he calls me as soon as he gets home.

Going to
To be going to is used to indicate events planned for the near future (95 percent probability).

We’re going to move to our new house next month.
They’re going to get married in June.

In informal conversation, going to is often pronounced “gonna.”
I’m gonna go see my grandmother this afternoon.

The present progressive (basic verb + -ing) can be used as an alternative to going to (95 percent probability).

We’re moving to our new house next month.
They’re getting married in June.
We’re planning to go to the game tomorrow.
I’ll be doing homework after school.

Will probably
Will probably + basic verb is used to indicate about a 75 percent probability of happening.

She’ll probably be late.
We’ll probably leave early.

Probably won’t + basic verb is used to indicate about a 25 percent probability of happening.

He probably won’t come with me.
You probably won’t like this movie.

May/might
May or might + basic verb can be used to express about a 50 percent possibility of something happening.

He may be late, because he has to work until 6.
She might be late, too.
I might come over tomorrow. It depends on what time I get home.

Maybe
Maybe also expresses about a 50 percent possibility of something happening. Unlike may and might, it is placed before the subject.

Maybe they’ll be late.
Maybe I’ll come over tomorrow.
**Will**

Will + basic verb is tricky, as it can indicate both very high and very low probability. It is used to make a promise (99 percent probability).

I’ll be here at six tomorrow morning.
We’ll call you as soon as we arrive.

It is also used to predict the more distant future (10 percent probability).

My baby will be a doctor when he grows up.
You will get married and have a bunch of children.

**Won’t**

Won’t + basic verb indicates a very low probability that something will happen.

He won’t be at the wedding.
We won’t be able to see you in such a big crowd.

**Hit the sack**

Hit the sack is a very informal way to say to go to bed and sleep.

Man, I was exhausted last night. I hit the sack as soon as I got home.

**Pack light**

To pack light means to prepare only a very small suitcase or carry-on for traveling.

Be sure to pack light, because we’ll have to carry our bags part of the way.

**Catch up on**

To catch up on means to do or learn something that you didn’t do earlier.

When we’re at the beach, I plan to catch up on some important reading.

**Take care of**

To take care of can mean to perform a task.

I was going to call a plumber, but my husband said he would take care of it.
Will you mow the lawn for me? Sure, I’ll take care of it.

Take care of can also mean to attend to a child or other person needing supervision.

They’re looking for someone to take care of her ninety-year-old mother during the day.

**Pick up**

To pick up means to grasp something that is on a lower surface.

I broke the glass and had to pick up all the pieces.

It can also mean to lift.

This box is too heavy. We can’t pick it up.
Pick up can also mean to meet and give a ride to someone.

You can go with us. We'll be glad to pick you up.

To pick up can also mean to learn easily.

I don't think you can pick up Italian just by going to Venice on a vacation. Of course, you will pick up a few useful phrases.

Happy medium

To reach a happy medium means to agree by accepting some parts of one argument and some parts of the opposing argument.

His style was modern, and hers was traditional. They reached a happy medium by buying an old house and putting in modern furniture.

A verb with the same meaning is to compromise.

The only way to keep everybody happy is to compromise.

A bunch of

A (whole) bunch of means a lot of. Alternative expressions include quite a few and a number of.

A whole bunch of friends are coming over tonight. She has quite a few admirers. There are still a number of tickets available.

The same old thing

The same old thing is a way to indicate that activities are routine.

What are you up to these days? Oh, you know, the same old thing—working, taking care of the kids, going to school at night.

On the other hand

On the other hand is an expression that introduces an argument that is contrary to—or opposite to—a previously mentioned argument.

Well, we could use our savings to buy the house. On the other hand, we could use the money to visit your family in Ethiopia.

Since

Since can mean because, usually indicating that something is convenient.

I don't have an appointment for a haircut, but since I was in the neighborhood, I stopped by to see if you had time for me. I was going to go home early today, but since you're here, I'll do your hair.

Since can also indicate the beginning of a time period.

She's been studying English since last September. I've been waiting for you since four o'clock.
Still

*Still* has several meanings. In the example conversations, it introduces information that the speaker feels is contrary to the previous information, indicating a dilemma.

I’d love to buy the house. *Still*, it’s important to go visit my family.

Overseas/abroad

*Overseas* refers to places on the other side of the ocean. *Abroad* refers to all countries except the one you are in.

We lived *overseas* for a number of years.
Many college students have the opportunity to study *abroad*.

Freshman

*Freshman* refers to a student in the first year of high school or college. It can also be another name for the first year. Second-year students are called *sophomores*; third-year students are *juniors*, and fourth-year students are *seniors*.

She may look like a *freshman*, but actually she’s in her *senior* year.
This is the biggest *freshman* class we’ve ever had.

*Senior (citizen)* can also refer to a person who is sixty years old or more.

He’s a *senior* in high school, and his grandmother is a *senior*.

Just think

*Just think* is an expression that introduces a fantasy or real plan the speaker is excited about.

*Just think!* We could get married and have children.
*Just think!* This time tomorrow we’ll be in Rome!

Good luck with that

*Good luck with that* is an expression indicating that the speaker doesn’t think the previous statement is very likely to happen.

They told me I’d win $500 if I wrote the best essay. *Good luck with that.* They told the same thing to all the elementary school students in the whole city.

No way

*No way* indicates that something is impossible, unbelievable—or even wonderful.

*Are you going to major in chemistry*?

*No way!* There’s *no way* I’m going to spend four years working in a laboratory.

*John and Mary are getting married next month*.

*No way!* They were fighting the last time I saw them.

*I’m going to Denmark for two weeks*.

*No way!* Lucky you!
Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word or words.

1. When you grow up, you ________________________ rich and famous.
   a. are being c. will be
   b. are d. were

2. Can you join us tomorrow? That’s impossible because we ________________ sightseeing.
   a. went c. will go
   b. are going d. go

3. Don’t be late. The show _______________________ at 6:30.
   a. will start c. started
   b. is starting d. starts

4. Will you go to the party with me on Friday night? I can’t. I _______________________
   a. study this weekend c. am going to stay in
   b. will stay in d. might

5. I’m not sure what to do. _________________________
   a. Maybe I’ll take the job. c. I won’t take the job.
   b. I’ll take the job. d. I’m taking the job.

6. Is your brother going to the circus with you? ________________________
   a. No. He doesn’t go. c. No. He won’t go.
   b. No. Maybe he doesn’t go. d. No. He is going.

Match the words and expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. ______ go to bed a. attend to someone
2. ______ pack light b. compromise
3. ______ catch up on c. do
4. ______ take care of d. do something you didn’t do earlier
5. ______ pick up e. give a ride to
6. ______ reach a happy medium f. hit the sack
   g. learn a little
   h. learn something you missed
   i. lift
   j. take a small suitcase
Circle the word or expression that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. Our mayor is an excellent politician, he's not exactly a good administrator.
   a. Just think  b. No way  c. On the other hand

2. I'll probably take his course, I've heard he's a hard grader.
   a. Still  b. Just think  c. No way

3. It's great to have a holiday, otherwise we'd be at the office right now.
   a. Just think  b. No way  c. Still

4. I'm exhausted. I'll probably as soon as I get home.
   a. hit the sack  b. pack light  c. reach a happy medium

5. I'm going to ask the teacher to give me an A in this course!
   a. Still  b. Just think  c. Good luck with that

Fill in each blank with an appropriate word or expression that is explained in this chapter.

1. There aren't very many jobs available, I'm going to keep looking.

2. He's seventy-five, so he gets a discount.

3. We're so bored. It seems like every day we do.

4. Maybe if I got a job, I could pick up another language.

5. There will be new students next year.

6. I heard the class is going to be the biggest one ever.

7. You have a lot of airport changes on this trip. You really should.

8. She's staying at home tonight to some reading.

9. I tried to pay for the dinner, but he insisted on it.

10. He wants an apartment, and she wants a house. They could by buying a townhouse.
Write a question or remark for each of the following responses. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

1. __________________________________________________________________________
   I’ll take care of it!

2. __________________________________________________________________________
   I’ll take care of her!

3. __________________________________________________________________________
   Still, I’m not sure it’s a good idea.

4. __________________________________________________________________________
   We could pick up a little Arabic.

5. __________________________________________________________________________
   On the other hand, it’s very expensive.

6. __________________________________________________________________________
   Just think! We’ll be having so much fun!

7. __________________________________________________________________________
   She won’t go.

8. __________________________________________________________________________
   Good luck with that!

9. __________________________________________________________________________
   No way!

10. __________________________________________________________________________
    That sounds like a good happy medium.
Write a letter to a friend in which you tell of your plans for today and tomorrow and of your hopes and dreams for the future. Use all of the future expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.
Making a case or arguing a point

Conversation: Selecting a company officer

Boss: I've called you here to talk about the selection of a new director for the Customer Service Department. As you know, so far there are only two candidates, Martha Francis and Juliette Welch. First, I'd like to hear your comments, both pro and con, about Martha's qualifications for this position.

Ivana: Well, I think Martha is the perfect person for this position. She's been with the company for twenty years, so she knows the business inside out. She's conservative and serious; plus she gets along with everybody.

April: Yikes! In my opinion, if she becomes director, nothing will change. I mean, we wouldn't see anything new—just the opposite—we'd keep on implementing the same programs as always.

Katie: She isn't known for thinking outside the box. What's more, we'd start to see our current customer base fall off, simply because our competitors have enthusiastic new people and innovative programs. I'm just sayin' . . .

Tim: I have to agree with April and Katie on this one. In the first place, Martha is too conservative; plus she'd hardly inspire any enthusiasm among the employees.

Boss: Anybody else want to put their two cents in? OK. Then let's talk about Juliette. What do you guys think?

Ivana: Look, if Juliette gets this job, it will be a total disaster for the company. In the first place, her fancy degree isn't worth squat because she has zero experience. Besides, we don't even know her very well. Good grief, she's only been here since March, and to top it all off, we all know that she was fired from her last job.

Tim: Really. I've heard that her coworkers think she's a bit uppity, like she thinks she's the queen of the office. She's not exactly popular with the other employees. I don't think they'd be happy with her as the boss.

Stan: Well, since I put her name up, I have to say that I see her as a very bright and competent person. Still, I recognize that she lacks experience. And now that you tell me that her personality could cause friction among the employees, then I'll go along with your decision in this case.

Boss: Obviously, we haven't found the ideal person to handle this job. We may have to look outside the company, which I don't particularly want to do. We'll meet here tomorrow at the same time. I'll expect your suggestions—and they'd better be more promising!
Improving your conversation

Pros and cons

Pro can be used as a shortened form of professional—in this case meaning expert.

You painted the walls yourself? Man, you’re a real pro!

Pro can refer to the positive characteristics or positions in an argument. Con refers to the negative ones.

This issue has both pros and cons.
On the pro side, he’s a hard worker.
On the con side, he often comes to work late.

In the first place/plus/in addition

To begin a series of arguments that are intended to convince someone to agree with your pro (positive) argument, use in the first place. Subsequent arguments are introduced by in the second place, in addition (more formal), furthermore (more formal), what’s more, plus, and—to introduce the last argument—finally. For the frosting on the cake can be used instead of finally to indicate that the last argument mentioned is the strongest one of all. As if that weren’t enough and to top it all off are alternative expressions with the same function.

Our lake district is a wonderful place for a vacation. In the first place, it’s easily reached by car, and there is plenty of free parking for all visitors. In the second place, there are luxury hotels, with all the bells and whistles, as well as more economical inns and even campsites for those who like to rough it. What’s more, there are lots of things to do, from golfing to swimming and other water sports, plus many activities organized especially for children. Finally/For the frosting on the cake/As if that weren’t enough/To top it all off, the fresh air and quiet atmosphere guarantee you an invigorating, yet relaxing, break from city life.

Besides

In a con (negative) argument, the same expressions are used, with one exception: instead of in addition, besides is used.

I don’t recommend the lake district for a family vacation. In the first place, it’s very expensive for what it offers. In the second place, it’s just as hot there as it is in the city, and besides, the place is full of mosquitoes. Finally, the roads that take you there are jammed with traffic all summer. Why not opt for a change of scenery and go a little farther away?

So far

So far indicates what has happened between the beginning of something and the present time. It can go before the subject or at the end of the phrase.

We have a hundred signatures on the petition so far.
So far we have a hundred signatures on the petition.

Still

Still has a number of meanings. Here it indicates that what follows is contrary to and more important than what preceded it.
I would like to have that job. **Still,** it would be very difficult for me to move to another city to be able to do it. (I probably wouldn’t accept it if they offered it to me.)

It would be very difficult for me to move to another city to be able to take that job. **Still,** I would like to have it. (I would probably accept it if they offered it to me.)

**On the other hand** can be used for the same purpose.

I would love to move to a place with a better climate. **On the other hand,** my whole family lives here. (I’ll probably stay here.)

My whole family lives here. **On the other hand,** I would love to move to a place with a better climate. (I might move.)

**Since**

**Since** has a number of meanings. It can indicate the beginning of a time period that extends to now.

I haven’t seen my uncle **since** last Friday.

They’ve been living in their new house **since** June.

In the example conversation **since** means because, indicating convenience.

I can take you home, **since** your house isn’t far from mine.

**Since** you came early, you can help me finish setting up for the party.

**Yikes**

**Yikes** is an expression that indicates surprise—either good or bad.

You have just won a trip for two to Hawaii. **Yikes!** Wait ‘til I tell my husband!

You are charged with driving more than fifteen miles over the speed limit. **Yikes!** Wait ‘til I tell my husband!

**Good grief**

**Good grief** is an expression that indicates mild displeasure.

More homework? **Good grief,** Miss Thompson, you’ve already given us a paper to write!

**Just sayin’ . . .**

**Just sayin’ . . .** is an expression that is intended to subtly show the speaker’s desire that you consider something just suggested.

There’s a good movie on tonight, and I have a big flat-screen TV. **Just sayin’ . . .**

It could be that you’re being a little hard on your sister. **Just sayin’ . . .**

**I mean**

**I mean** introduces an explanation or further comment on what was previously said.

I really don’t recommend that teacher! **I mean,** she gives way too much homework.
You guys

You guys is an informal way to address more than one person. In the southern part of the United States, y'all is commonly used instead.

What are you guys doing for the Fourth of July?
What are y'all doing for the Fourth of July?

You people is considered extremely insulting. It’s best not to use it.

Friction

Friction can mean unrest, difficulty, or disagreement between two or more people.

You guys have got to learn to get along. There is too much friction in this office.

Really

Really can be used in several ways. In the example conversation it indicates agreement with what was said before.

The new teacher is fantastic. Really, she says she will help everybody get an A.

Total

Total, when used as an adjective (before a noun), means complete.

He's a total slob. He never cleans his desk.

Zero

Zero, when used before a noun, means no amount of.

She's hard to work for. She has zero patience.

Squat

Squat means nothing at all.

I went to every class, and I didn’t learn squat. It was all a review of the previous class.

Obviously

Obviously indicates that what is going to be said is already known by the listener(s); an alternative is of course.

John’s dog just died. Obviously, he’s feeling sad.

Hardly

Hardly means almost not at all.

She hardly has enough money to live on.

Hardly ever means almost never.

He hardly ever calls his mother.
Not exactly

Not exactly, when used before an adjective, means hardly.
Well, this is not exactly the best pizza I ever ate.

Inside out

Inside out can indicate that an inner surface has become the outer surface.
You have your shirt on inside out.
It can also indicate a thorough knowledge of something.
Get Pierre to help you with your French. He knows the grammar inside out.

Keep on

To keep on means to continue or not stop. It is followed by a verb in -ing form.
We can’t take a break. We have to keep on studying.

Think outside the box

To think outside the box means to be creative or to always have new ideas for solving problems.
When she solved the school’s traffic problem, she was really thinking outside the box.

Fall off

To fall off can mean, literally, to accidentally disappear from a high point.
He broke his leg when he fell off the diving board.
It can also mean to decline or be reduced.
Sales of new houses began to fall off during the month of January.

Put one’s two cents in

To put one’s two cents in means to offer one’s opinion.
Everybody is arguing about this. OK, I’ll put my two cents in: we should go home and think about this and then try to discuss it calmly next week.

A bit uppity

To be a bit uppity means to act as if you were superior to other people. Alternative expressions include to be stuck-up/to be snooty/to be a snob.
Maybe she’s just not used to the job, but the new secretary seems to be a bit uppity.

Put someone’s name up

To put someone’s name up means to nominate someone for a position or office.
No, I’m not running for president of the fraternity. I don’t know who put my name up.
Go along with

To go along with means to accept an idea or decision.

I really don't agree with some of these rules, but I will go along with whatever the majority decides.

Handle

To handle means to do whatever necessary to perform a duty in a satisfactory way.

The job is hard, but I think she can handle it.

To handle can also mean to touch.

Please do not handle the merchandise.

Had better

Had better indicates a warning and implies that if something isn't done, there will be negative consequences. It is usually used in the form of a contraction.

They'd better arrive on time. [Otherwise, they'll miss the bus.]
I'd better not go out tonight. [I have a test tomorrow that I need to study for.]
You'd better not tell anyone my secret. [If you do, I'll be very angry.]

EXERCISE 10-1

Fill in each blank with the word or expression (e.g., in the first place, in the second place, plus, in addition) that best organizes a convincing argument.

1. Man, I'm not going to see that movie.
   a. _________________________, it's a chick flick.
   b. _________________________, it's starring Myra Delgado.
   c. _________________________, it lasts two and a half hours!

2. Girl, I can't wait to see that movie.
   a. _________________________, it's a chick flick.
   b. _________________________, it's starring Myra Delgado.
   c. _________________________, it lasts two and a half hours!

3. This is a house you should consider buying.
   a. _________________________, it's in a fantastic location.
   b. _________________________, it's in a great school district.
   c. _________________________, it has four bedrooms and four bathrooms all on one floor.
   d. _________________________, the kitchen has been completely updated.
   e. _________________________, the backyard is private, and there is room for a swimming pool.
Exercise 10.2

Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. _____ keep on   a. accept
   b. be stuck-up
   c. managing
   d. think outside the box
2. _____ fall off   a. accidentally drop from a higher place
3. _____ handle   a. add your opinion
   b. being snooty
   c. be a snob
4. _____ be uppity   a. be creative
   b. being snooty
   c. be a snob
5. _____ go along with   a. be creative
6. _____ put a name up   a. be creative
   b. be snooty
7. _____ put your two cents in   a. be creative
8. _____ think outside the box   a. be creative

Exercise 10.3

Circle the word or expression that best completes the following sentences.

1. Don’t stop now. You need to ________________________
   a. put someone’s name up
   b. top it all off
   c. keep on trying
   d. be stuck up

2. We need to work harder to keep our profits from ________________________
   a. going along
   b. falling off
   c. handling it
   d. keeping on

3. I’d like to get to know her, but she seems to be ________________________
   a. a bit uppity
   b. falling off
   c. thinking outside the box
   d. putting her two cents in

4. This is a big project. Do you think you can ________________________?
   a. keep on it
   b. top it all off
   c. fall off it
   d. handle it

5. I’ve heard everybody’s opinion except yours. It’s time for you to ________________________
   a. put your two cents in
   b. think outside the box
   c. handle it
   d. be a bit uppity
6. We need to ______________________ if we want to compete in today's market.
   a. think outside the box  
   b. top it all off  
   c. be a bit uppity  
   d. fall off

7. We're in a bit of trouble. Our profits are ______________________
   a. inside out  
   b. falling off  
   c. stuck-up  
   d. topping it all off

8. It's been a bad week. Long days at the office, problems at home, and ______________________
   I've come down with the flu.
   a. to go along with that  
   b. to put your name up to  
   c. handle that  
   d. to top it all off

9. Do you want to be treasurer? I'll ______________________
   a. fall off  
   b. put your name up  
   c. keep on trying  
   d. put your two cents in

10. You think we should get a new car? I'll ______________________
    a. think outside the box  
    b. go along with that  
    c. top it all off  
    d. put your name up

**EXERCISE 10-4**

Circle the word or expression that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. ______________________ you're here, you might as well wait.
   a. Good grief  
   b. Really  
   c. Yikes  
   d. Since

2. It's a beautiful day. Maybe you should take a break and go for a walk with me. ________________
   a. I mean . . .  
   b. Just sayin' . . .  
   c. Still . . .  
   d. Furthermore . . .

3. ________________! You've been working for nine hours.
   a. Good grief  
   b. Since  
   c. Just sayin' . . .  
   d. Still

4. I'm ready for a vacation; ________________, I haven't had one for more than a year.
   a. Still  
   b. I mean  
   c. hardly ever  
   d. so far

5. What's the matter? You ________________ call me anymore.
   a. still  
   b. obviously  
   c. hardly ever  
   d. so far

6. How many miles have we driven ________________?
   a. hardly  
   b. squat  
   c. so far  
   d. still
7. You have the flu ___________________________, you should go home.
   a. Still                        c. Obviously
   b. So far                      d. Total

8. You paid $200 for a pair of shoes? __________________________!
   a. Just sayin’...                c. I mean
   b. Yikes                        d. Squat

EXERCISE

Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. pro a. almost never
2. plus b. almost not at all
3. so far c. because
4. since d. besides
5. hardly e. complete
6. zero f. completely
7. total g. unfriendliness
8. hardly ever h. expert
9. friction i. furthermore
10. good grief j. in addition
11. still k. it’s just a suggestion
12. inside out l. not exactly
13. just sayin’... m. of course
14. obviously n. on the other hand
   o. positive characteristic
   p. squat
   q. until now
   r. what’s more
   s. yikes
Write an appropriate completion to each of the following sentences. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

1. This is a fantastic opportunity. Still, _______________________________________________
2. I don't want that job, and besides, ______________________________________________
3. He plays the violin professionally. Obviously, _______________________________________
4. Yikes! __________________________________________________________________________
5. I'm sad, since you hardly ever ____________________________________________________
6. I'll go along with _________________________________________________________________
7. My best friend is not exactly _____________________________________________________
8. I hope no one/someone puts my name up for _______________________________________
9. This is ridiculous, I mean, __________________________________________________________________
10. So far this week, I haven't ________________________________________________________

Write five sentences indicating what you think you'd better do in order to avoid negative consequences. Indicate what those consequences would be. Use the following sentence as a model. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

I'd better go to bed early tonight; otherwise, I'll be too sleepy to do well on my exam.

________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
Write a convincing argument about a topic that you feel strongly about. Use at least ten of the words or expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

Making a case or arguing a point
Narrating a story

Conversation: A traffic accident

JACK: Hey, buddy, what happened to you? Don’t tell me you broke your leg!
SAM: No, it’s not that drastic. I just twisted my ankle. Still, it hurts a lot, and walking with these crutches is a pain in the neck.

JACK: So when did it happen?
SAM: It was the night of the basketball championship. And the worst thing is that we lost the game and all hopes of winning our title back.

JACK: What a bummer! Sit down here for a minute and tell me all about it.
SAM: Well, it all happened last Thursday. It was pouring down rain and also freezing. I was in a hurry to get to the gym early to chill out a bit before the game. I was all stressed out about the game when I left home, but I got in the car and started to drive toward the gym. All of a sudden my phone rang—it was my girlfriend. She was all excited about the game and wanted to wish me good luck. I started to get pumped up and ready for the game. My girlfriend and I kept on talking when I suddenly realized that the cars in front of me were stopped, and I was going a little fast. I slammed on the brakes, but it was too late. The street was wet, and I hit the car that was stopped in front of me. That hard braking caused me to twist my ankle. I could hardly get out of the car to talk to the other driver because my ankle hurt so much. To tell you the truth, I was so freaked out I didn’t know what to do. I was thinking about the game, my girlfriend, my teammates—it never occurred to me that I wouldn’t be able to play that night. Finally a cop came and made me sign some papers; then an ambulance took me to the hospital. They took some X-rays to see if my ankle was broken or not. Thank goodness it wasn’t broken, but the upshot was that I wasn’t going to play basketball that night. And now I’m stuck with these crutches.

Improving your conversation

The example dialogue is very informal and uses only a few of the traditional markers that indicate the order of events in a narration.

First/second/next/then/after that

In a more formal or longer narration, chronological order can be made clearer with the use of expressions such as first, second, next, then, and after that. The last event in the series is preceded by finally.

First, I got into the car and started to drive toward the gym.
Second, I had an accident.
Then I realized that I had twisted my ankle.
After that, they took me to the hospital. Finally, I went to the game on crutches and watched my team lose.

Note that each of these expressions is followed by a comma (or pause, when speaking), with the exception of then. Second can be replaced with then, next, or after that, which are interchangeable.

This is what happened at the meeting this afternoon. First, we discussed the budget; second, the chairman announced the new position in Human Services. Next we talked about the problems in Customer Service. After that, we had a short coffee break, and then we had a chance to ask questions. Finally, we adjourned.

Finally

Finally can also indicate relief or joy that something long awaited or expected has happened.

After three long days on the road, I finally got to San Antonio. Finally you’re here! We expected you two hours ago.

Thank goodness

Thank goodness and thank God are other ways to express relief, joy, or satisfaction.

Thank goodness you arrived safely. Now we can celebrate.

Thank goodness and thank God (but not finally) can also express appreciation.

We have enough money to live on, thank God.
All of the children are healthy, thank goodness.

To top it all off

Sometimes a series of events are meant to tell a convincing story. To top it all off is an expression that is used to introduce a final event that adds weight to the sum of the previous events. Other expressions with the same function are for the frosting on the cake and as if that weren’t enough.

First, my alarm didn’t go off, and I woke up an hour late. Then I spilled coffee all over my suit and had to change clothes. After that, I got in the car and noticed that it was completely out of gas. Finally, I had to wait in a long line to get gas. And to top it all off, when I left the gas station, I was in the middle of a huge traffic jam.

All of a sudden

Events that interrupt a narration can be preceded by all of a sudden, suddenly, before I knew it, out of nowhere, out of the blue, and just like that—all of which mean without warning.

We were enjoying our picnic, when all of a sudden, it began to rain cats and dogs. They were taking a test, when suddenly the fire alarm went off.
I stepped on a slippery rock, and before I knew it, I was on the ground.
He was driving down the street, and out of nowhere, a car approached from the left.
I was watching TV the other night, when out of the blue I got a call from an old friend whom I hadn’t seen in ages.
I was feeling a little depressed, and just like that, my favorite song came on the radio and cheered me up.
The best thing and the worst thing

The best thing and the worst thing indicate that what follows is the most or least desirable aspect of an issue.

The best thing about this school is that it has wonderful students. They are all eager to learn.
The best thing you can do at this point is be patient.
The worst thing about this apartment is the location. It's not convenient to anything.

The upshot

The upshot of an issue is its result or outcome. This is often used to avoid telling a complete story or explaining an issue in detail.

I'm not going to give you all the details. The upshot is that Caitlyn has left town and won't be back.

An expression that has a similar function is the bottom line.

I just had a long conversation with the chairman of the company. The bottom line is that I've been promoted.

I don't have time to hear your whole story—what's the bottom line? The bottom line is that I got fired and I'm looking for a new job.

Paper

Paper has a number of meanings. Paper is the most common material used for writing, printing, and cleaning, and it is in many manufactured goods. In this function, it is a non-count noun and is not made plural.

This book is made of paper.
We need to conserve paper in order to protect our forests.

Paper can also be a count noun, and can be made plural, when it means document.

We need to fill out a whole bunch of papers when we go to the doctor.

Paper is also a count noun when it means essay, written composition, or thesis.

I have two research papers to write, so I will probably spend the weekend in the library.

A paper can refer to the newspaper. The paper can mean today's newspaper.

She went down to the newsstand to buy a paper.
Have you read the paper yet? The news is amazing!

Bummer

A bummer is an item of bad news or bad luck.

Snow again! What a bummer! Now our flight will be canceled.

For serious occasions or tragedies, a shame would be a better expression.

I'm so sorry to hear about your dad's illness. What a shame!
Pain in the neck

A pain in the neck can refer to anything or any person that is annoying.

I wish my sister would stop banging on the door. She really is a pain in the neck.
I lost my Internet connection again. What a pain in the neck!

Cop

Cop is a slang term that means police officer.

There are cops stationed along the turnpike, waiting for speeders.

To cop out on someone has nothing to do with the police; it means to stop participating in an activity in which other people are counting on you. It indicates that the speaker is unhappy with this decision.

We had five players for the basketball team, but Steve copped out, and now we can't play a proper game.
Sandy promised to drive me to the game, but he copped out on me at the last minute, so now I'll have to take the bus.

Pouring down rain

To be pouring down rain means to be raining heavily. An alternative expression is raining cats and dogs.

The kids can't play outside; it's pouring down rain.
I had to pull the car off to the side of the road because it was raining cats and dogs.

Pumped up

To be pumped (up) means to be excited. An alternative expression is to be all excited.

We are both pumped up for the concert this weekend.
She is all excited about her date with you. Where are you guys going?

Stressed out

To be stressed out means to be very tense, nervous, or worried about something.

She has two sick children at home and is trying to work at the same time. No wonder she is stressed out!

Another way to express this feeling is to say that something stresses you out.

Having two sick children at home really stresses me out.

Freaked out

To freak out or be freaked out means to be extremely scared, angry, or excited. Also, something can freak you out.

He freaked out when he saw his brother driving his new car.
She is freaked out because she has three exams tomorrow.
That car speeding toward us really freaked me out.
Creeped out

To be creeped out means to be disgusted or frightened by something. Also, something can creep you out.

Those pictures of dead bodies really creeped me out.
It creeps me out that he just sits there and never says a word.

Another way to indicate disgust is to be grossed out.
It really grosses me out when the kids have food fights.

Stuck with

To be stuck with means to have to cope with an uncomfortable or undesirable situation.

My brother went out with his friends, and I'm stuck with looking after my little sister.

Chill out

To chill out means to relax or calm down.

Come on over! We're just chillin' out on the back patio.
Oooh! I'm so mad I could scream! Chill out, babe. It's not worth getting upset over.

Realize

To realize means to be aware of, to already know.

I'm sorry I yelled at you. I realize that I was wrong.

Wish

To wish means to be sorry that something isn't true. It is followed by a clause with a subjunctive verb.

[You are not here.] I wish you were here.
[Can't go with you.] I wish I could go with you.

Wish is also used in formal greetings.

We wish you a happy New Year.
I wish you the best of luck.

To tell you the truth

To tell you the truth precedes information that may surprise the listener.

Did you enjoy your trip? To tell you the truth, it wasn't that great.

Too

Too has a number of meanings. It can mean also.

I went home early, and Jon did, too.
It can mean excessively.

She is way too thin. I'm afraid she's anorexic.

It can mean so extreme that there is a negative result.

He has too much free time. He gets into trouble.
She's too nice. It creeps me out.

In front of

In front of indicates the location of something in relation to something else. It can mean facing something else.

The teacher sat in a chair in front of her students and read them a story.

It can mean ahead of, facing in the same direction as, something else.

There were three cars in front of mine, waiting for the light.
I had to stand in line, and there were a lot of people in front of me.

It can mean within someone's eyesight, facing in any direction.

There is a car parked on the street in front of your house.

**EXERCISE 11.1**

*Fill in each blank with the word or expression (e.g., first, next, then, finally, etc.) that best emphasizes the chronological order of the following sentences.*

1. a. ___________________________ I walked into the classroom. b. ___________________________ I sat down. c. ___________________________ I opened my book and started to study. d. ___________________________ the teacher came in and gave us the test.

2. It was a wonderful day. a. ___________________________ I had breakfast in bed. b. ___________________________ I took a long shower and got dressed. c. ___________________________ my boyfriend came over and took me downtown. We went to two museums and d. ___________________________ did some shopping. e. ___________________________ , he brought me back home. f. ___________________________ , when I walked in the door, all my friends and family were there to give me a surprise birthday party!

**EXERCISE 11.2**

*Circle the word or expression that most appropriately completes each sentence.*

1. After five years of studying, he ___________________________ got his degree.
   a. just like that c. finally
   b. suddenly d. after that

2. It's been dry all summer long, and now, ___________________________ it's pouring down rain.
   a. thank goodness c. the bottom line is
   b. before you know it d. to top it all off
3. She was going to help us, but she _________________________.
   a. was pumped up       c. copped out
   b. chilled out          d. realized

4. I wanted to go with them, but I was _________________________.
   a. all excited         c. a bummer
   b. a pain in the neck  d. too late

5. The insects in that horror movie really _________________________.
   a. creeped me out      c. gave me a pain in the neck
   b. chilled me out      d. rained cats and dogs

**EXERCISE 11.3**

Match the words and expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. _______ after that            a. across from
   2. _______ first               b. ahead of
   3. _______ suddenly           c. all of a sudden
   4. _______ upshot              d. annoying
   5. _______ paper              e. as if that weren't enough
   6. _______ bummer             f. bad luck
   7. _______ pain in the neck    g. bad news
   8. _______ cop                 h. before anything else happened
   9. _______ in front of         i. before I knew it
   10. _______ to top it all off  j. bottom line
                                 k. document
                                 l. essay
                                 m. facing
                                 n. for the frosting on the cake
                                 o. in sight of
                                 p. just like that
                                 q. material to write on
                                 r. newspaper
                                 s. next
                                 t. out of nowhere
                                 u. out of the blue
Write an appropriate question or remark for each of the following responses. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

1. ________________________________
   What a bummer!

2. ________________________________
   He's a real pain in the neck.

3. ________________________________
   Thank goodness, we're all safe.

4. ________________________________
   I finished writing it last night, thank God.

5. ________________________________
   Yeah, that's the bottom line.

6. ________________________________
   It was right out of the blue.

Match the words or expressions in the first column with those in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

1. _______ be pumped up  a. be all excited
2. _______ be stuck with b. be angry
3. _______ be raining cats and dogs c. be aware of
4. _______ be freaked out d. be disgusted
5. _______ be stressed out e. be frightened
6. _______ chill out f. be grossed out
7. _______ realize
8. _______ be creeped out
9. _______ wish
10. _______ cop out

That really creeps me out.

You need to chill out.

They copped out on me.

I realize that.

No wonder you’re stressed out!
Form sentences beginning with I wish to indicate your regret that the previous information is not true.

1. You are not here.

2. I can't get a promotion at this company.

3. She is always stressed out.

4. He doesn't know my e-mail address.

5. They never come to see me.

Circle the most appropriate answer for each question or remark.

1. How was your interview?
   a. It was pouring down rain.
   b. It was the worst thing.
   c. It was out of nowhere.
   d. To tell you the truth, it stressed me out.

2. What's the matter?
   a. I'm stuck with the job of collecting money.
   b. I have a pain in the neck.
   c. To tell you the truth, that's the upshot.
   d. The best thing is that she copped out.

3. My dog died yesterday.
   a. What a pain in the neck.
   b. What a shame.
   c. It's raining cats and dogs.
   d. To top it all off, I'm chilling out.

4. Tell me what happened.
   a. I'm out of paper.
   b. That creeps me out.
   c. The upshot is that I'm single again.
   d. It's a good paper.

5. A strange person calls me in the middle of the night and then hangs up.
   a. That chills me out.
   b. That grosses me out.
   c. That creeps me out.
   d. That's a cop-out.
Have you ever been freaked out? Write four or five sentences to describe what happened. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.

Write a narration that describes something that happened recently in your life. Use at least eight of the words or expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.
Retelling a conversation

Conversation A: In the present tense

MIKE: Hey dude, what's up? I hear you have a new job. How's it going?

ADAM: Pretty well, so far. I have a lot to learn, but the people are nice, and there's not too much pressure.

MIKE: What do you do?

ADAM: Basically, I'm learning the ropes of management, studying the history of the company so I know how everything works.

MIKE: That's great! I hope it all works out for you.

MIKE (retelling the conversation): I asked Adam what was up and told him that I heard he had a new job. I asked him how it was going. He told me that it was going pretty well, so far. He said that he had a lot to learn but that the people were nice and that there wasn't too much pressure. Then I asked him what he did. He answered that basically he was learning the ropes of management and studying the history of the company so that he knew how everything worked. Then I told him that that was great and that I hoped it worked out for him.

Conversation B: In the present perfect tense

RENEE: Have you eaten yet?

EMILY: No, but I've already bought my lunch. Want to join me in the park?

RENEE: Thanks, but I've made a reservation for two at Kincaid's Restaurant. Have you ever eaten there?

EMILY: Yes, I've been there several times. It's great!

RENEE (retelling the conversation): I asked Emily if she had eaten yet, and she told me that she had already bought her lunch. She asked me if I wanted to join her in the park, but I told her that I had made a reservation for two at Kincaid's Restaurant. Then I asked her if she had ever eaten there, and she told me yes, that she had been there several times. She said it was great.

Conversation C: In the past tense

JASON: Where were you last night? We missed you at the party.

GINA: Oh, I had to go to my sister's house. They called her from the hospital at the last minute and asked her to work the night shift, so I went over to babysit for her kids. I ended up spending the night at her place.
JASON (retelling the conversation): I asked Gina where she had been the night before and told her that we had missed her at the party. She said that she had had to go to her sister's house—that they had called her sister from the hospital at the last minute and had asked her to work the night shift, so she had gone over to babysit for her kids. She said she had ended up spending the night at her sister's place.

Less formal:

JASON (retelling the conversation): I asked Gina where she was the night before and told her that we missed her at the party. She said that she had to go to her sister's house—that they called her sister from the hospital at the last minute and asked her to work the night shift, so she went over to babysit for her kids. She said she ended up spending the night at her sister's place.

Conversation D: In future tenses

BEN: Hi, Jeremy. What are you guys doing tonight? I'm kind of at a loose end since I broke up with Sydney.

JEREMY: Join us, then—we're going to hang out downtown—probably go to several places. Are you up for that?

BEN: Definitely. Where should I meet you? Better still, can you give me a ride?

JEREMY: Glad to. I'll pick you up at your place at 9:30. OK?

BEN: Perfect. I'll look out for you.

BEN (retelling the conversation): I said hi to Jeremy and asked him what he and the other guys were doing that night. I told him that I had been kind of at a loose end ever since I broke up with Sydney. He told me to join them and said that they were going to hang out downtown—probably go to several places. He asked me if I was up for that. I said that I definitely was and asked him where I should meet them. Then I told him that it would be even better if he could give me a ride. He said he would be glad to and told me that he would pick me up at my place at 9:30. He asked me if that would be OK. I said that it would be perfect and that I would look out for him.

Improving your conversation

Using the present perfect tense

The present perfect tense is used to indicate experience that relates to the present time. The present perfect tense is formed by a conjugation of the verb have followed by the past participle form of the main verb. The past participle form of most verbs is the same form as the past tense form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>Past tense</th>
<th>Past participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>call</td>
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<td>walk</td>
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<td>work</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
However, many frequently used verbs have irregular past participle forms. Several examples follow. Check Appendix A for a complete list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>was/were</td>
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<td>do</td>
<td>did</td>
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<td>eat</td>
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<td>taken</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Expressions often used with the present perfect tense include the following:

**Already**

*Already* means at some time in the past and can indicate that the action does not need to be repeated.

I'm not hungry. I've *already* eaten.
You don't need to close the windows—we've *already* done it.

*Already* can be used in a question, indicating surprise that something has been done.

Have you finished high school *already*? (I can't believe you are old enough!)

**Yet**

*Yet* can be used in a question to find out if something has been done.

Have you eaten *yet*?
Have you taken the test *yet*?

**Not yet**

*Not yet* is used to indicate that something has not been done—and that it should be done in the future.

We're hungry. We haven't eaten *yet*.
I'm not finished traveling. I haven't been to Africa *yet*.

**So far**

*So far* means as of this date or time.

She has come to class on time every day, *so far*.
How many continents have you been to?

*So far, I've only been to North and South America.*

**Ever**

*Ever* means at any time in the past or future. It is placed between the modal verb and the main verb.

Have you *ever* been in California?
I won't *ever* do that again.

*Ever* can be used after *never* to emphasize its meaning.

He was never, *ever*, there.
Modal verbs

Modal verbs have past tense forms, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>Past tense</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>can (ability/permission)</td>
<td>could</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may (permission)</td>
<td>could</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may (possibility)</td>
<td>may have + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>might (possibility)</td>
<td>might have + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>should (obligation/advisability)</td>
<td>should have + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have to/must (necessity)</td>
<td>had to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>must (probability)</td>
<td>must have + past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>will (regularity/reliability)</td>
<td>would</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When I was a teenager, I could do backflips.
When you were in high school, could you stay out late?
I don’t know where she is. She may/might have gone to the store.
You should have been here last night. It was a great party.
Sorry I couldn’t make it—I had to work.
He’s really late. He must have gotten stuck in a traffic jam.
He would come over and say hello every morning.
I called his cell phone, so that he would wake up.

Direct and indirect discourse

A retold conversation is also called indirect discourse. Verbs that indicate what someone communicates to another include say, tell, indicate, explain, shout, yell, complain, cry, whisper, promise, and others. There are certain patterns for indirect discourse.

Pattern 1: Present tense + any other tense

When the communicating verb is in the present tense, the second verb is in its normal tense. This indicates that the speaker continues to affirm belief in what follows.

Joe: I buy French bread and cheese every Sunday morning.
Joe says (that) he buys French bread and cheese every Sunday morning.

Joe: I have bought French bread every Sunday morning for five years.
Joe says (that) he has bought French bread every Sunday morning for five years.

Joe: I bought French bread last Sunday.
Joe says (that) he bought French bread last Sunday.

Joe: I will buy French bread next Sunday.
Joe says (that) he will buy French bread next Sunday.

Pattern 2: Past tense + a previous tense

When the communicating verb is in the past tense, the second verb is in a previous tense, as follows:

present → past     Note that the meaning is still in present time.
Joe: I buy French bread and cheese every Sunday morning.
Joe said (that) he bought French bread and cheese every Sunday morning.
(Joe buys French bread and cheese every Sunday morning.)
present perfect → past perfect  
Joe: I have bought French bread every Sunday morning for five years.  
Joe said (that) he had bought French bread every Sunday morning for five years.

past → past perfect  
Joe: I bought French bread last Sunday.  
Joe said (that) he had bought French bread last Sunday.

future → conditional  
Joe: I will buy French bread next Sunday.  
Joe said (that) he would buy French bread next Sunday.

Indirect yes-or-no questions use pattern 2 plus the word if.

Maria: Are you going out?  
Maria asked me if I was going out.

Ben: Have you bought the bread?  
Ben asked if I had bought the bread.

Ben: Did you buy the wine?  
Ben asked if I had bought the wine.

Ben: Will you bring the wine next Sunday?  
Ben asked if I would bring the wine next Sunday.

Indirect information questions use pattern 2 plus the appropriate question word (who/when/where/why/what/how/etc.).

Alex: What time does the movie start?  
Alex asked me what time the movie started.

Kevin: What have you done?  
Kevin asked me what I had done.

Cathy: Where did they go?  
Cathy asked her where they had gone.

Charles: How long will the surgery take?  
Charles asked how long the surgery would take.

**Dude**

Dude is a very informal way to address a male friend.

Hey, dude—what's up?

**How's it going?**

How's it going? is an informal greeting. It's often answered with pretty well.

Hi, Ethan. How's it going?  
Pretty well, thanks. How are you?

**At the last minute**

At the last minute indicates that something happened immediately before it was too late.

The man picked up his tickets at the last minute—just before the show started.
Pressure

**Pressure** refers to the stress of responsibility people feel when too many things are expected of them at the same time.

It's hard to ever relax. I have so much **pressure** at work—and with two small children, there's **pressure** at home, too.

Learning the ropes

To be **learning the ropes** means to be getting acquainted with a new job or routine.

There's a lot of pressure at first, but once you **learn the ropes**, you'll be fine.

At a loose end

To be **at a loose end** means to temporarily not have anything to do or not know what to do.

Would you like me to paint your room? I'm **at a bit of a loose end**.

End up

To **end up** means to find one's self doing something unplanned or in an unexpected situation.

I fell asleep on the train and **ended up** in New Jersey.
She worked here as a temporary secretary and **ended up** getting a full-time job with the company.

Babysit

To **babysit** means to **take care of** or **look after** someone else's children.

She makes extra money **babysitting** on weekends.
Will you **take care of** the baby for a couple of hours?
I hope you can **look after** the kids while I go to the store.

Give someone a ride

To **give someone a ride** means to offer to take someone somewhere in your car or other vehicle.

I see you missed the bus. If you like, I'll **give you a ride** home.

Pick up

To **pick up** means to go in a vehicle to where someone is waiting, for the purpose of giving him or her a ride.

I'll be glad to give you a ride. I'll **pick you up** in front of the school.
Circle the word or expression that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. You were here yesterday? Then you’ve seen the new office __________________________.
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

2. Have you ______________________ eaten at M Zapp’s restaurant?
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

3. No, I haven’t been there ______________________.
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

4. You have to take five tests? How many have you taken __________________?
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

5. She has never, __________________________, taken a bribe.
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

6. My mom can’t wait to get here. She hasn’t seen the baby ______________________
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

7. Don’t worry about the tickets. I’ve ______________________ bought them.
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

8. Tell me, have my packages arrived ______________________?
   a. already       c. ever
   b. yet           d. so far

---

Fill in each blank with the present perfect form of the indicated verb and the adverb, if mentioned.

1. She ______________________ (take) only half of her medicine.

2. I ______________________ (read) that book twice.

3. You ______________________ (finish, not) your dinner yet.

4. We ______________________ (register, already) for the class.

5. So far, they ______________________ (call) us four times.

6. He ______________________ (be, never) in this house.
7. I _________________________ (see, not) a good movie in a long time.
8. _________________________ (you, do) your homework yet?
9. They _________________________ (buy, already) a new car.
10. _________________________ (she, go) to Florida yet?

EXERCISE

Convert the following sentences from the present tense to the past tense, changing the wording where necessary for them to make sense.

1. Now he can run a mile in four minutes.
   Last year ____________________________________________
2. This year we can take an hour off for lunch.
   Last year ____________________________________________
3. It may rain this afternoon.
   __________________________________________________________ last night, but I’m not sure.
4. He might have the flu.
   __________________________________________________________ last week.
5. You should pay your bills on time.
   __________________________________________________________ last month.
6. What should I say when I see him?
   __________________________________________________________ yesterday?
7. We have to rearrange the furniture so the piano will fit.
   __________________________________________________________
8. The children pick the wildflowers every spring.
   __________________________________________________________
9. It must be nine o’clock now.
   __________________________________________________________ then.
10. She’s leaving because she has to pick up her daughter.
    __________________________________________________________
Change the following direct quotes to indirect discourse.

1. Scott: I'm leaving for the beach tomorrow.
   Scott said ______________________________

2. Eric: The train always arrives on time.
   Eric said _______________________________

3. Adam: We have already eaten lunch.
   Adam said ______________________________

   Jack said _______________________________

5. Val: We'll be there in about five minutes.
   Val said ________________________________

Change the following questions from direct discourse to indirect discourse.

1. My neighbor: Do you have a shovel I can borrow?
   My neighbor asked me __________________________________________________

2. Jan: Will you help me with these packages?
   Jan asked the man _______________________________________________________

3. Laura: What movie are you going to see?
   Laura asked us __________________________________________________________

4. Thomas: Why did you call?
   Thomas asked him _______________________________________________________

5. Renee: Who are you talking to?
   Renee asked her _________________________________________________________

6. Mike: How far is it?
   Mike asked _____________________________________________________________

7. Jason: Do you speak English?
   Jason asked him _________________________________________________________
8. Sydney: When will you come back?
Sydney asked me ________________________________

9. April: Where do you go to school?
April asked her _________________________________

10. Holly: Do you want me to help you?
Holly asked him ________________________________

EXERCISE
12.6

Fill in each blank with an appropriate word or expression explained in this chapter.

1. We were going to leave without him, but he arrived ____________, thank goodness.

2. This is our receptionist's first day on the job, so she's just ________________

3. Listen, ________________, my car broke down, so I don't think I can ________________ home this afternoon.

4. I had to leave that company because I was under too much ________________

5. I was ________________, so I decided to call up my old friend and invite him over.

6. Hey, dude, ________________?

7. The kids are sick, so we won't need you to ________________ tonight.

8. Every time I take on a new project, I ________________ doing it full-time.

EXERCISE
12.7

Make a list of ten things that you do every day. Then write a sentence that tells which of these things you have already done. After that, write a sentence that tells which of these things you haven't done yet. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your sentences.
Listen to a conversation of eight to ten lines between two people, and write down exactly what they say. Then change the direct quotes to indirect discourse. If live conversations are too fast for you to write down, try copying a conversation from a television program that you can replay as needed. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.
While face-to-face conversations are still considered to be the best ones, people everywhere are depending more and more on electronic devices for communication. Apart from the fixed telephone, which has been around since 1876—and is still going strong—conversations are now also carried on through cell phones, e-mail, and other electronic devices.

**E-mail**

E-mail (electronic mail) enables written conversations that are either typed on a computer or cell phone keyboard or entered on a touch screen on a cell phone or other electronic device. These messages are then sent to the desired recipient via the Internet. In order to use e-mail, you need to have an e-mail address, and you need to know the e-mail address of the person with whom you wish to communicate.

E-mail addresses can be assigned by the company that provides an Internet connection or through companies that issue subscriptions through the Internet. An e-mail address begins with a series of numbers or letters (of the individual’s choosing), followed by the symbol @ (pronounced “at”), and then followed by the name of the provider, a period (pronounced “dot”), and finally a suffix of two or three more letters that indicates the domain—the type of organization that is providing the e-mail account. Here are some examples of these final domain letters:

- **com** commercial (the most widely used suffix; preferred by businesses)
- **edu** education (for schools, colleges, and universities)
- **gov** government (for government organizations)
- **net** network (most commonly used by Internet service providers)
- **org** organization (primarily used by nonprofit groups and trade associations)

The suffix can alternatively indicate the name of the source country. For example:

- **au** Australia
- **es** Spain
- **mx** Mexico
- **uk** United Kingdom
IM

An IM is an "instant message," designed to get the immediate attention of the person contacted. Electronic devices give an audible signal when an IM is received.

Texting

Texting is the practice of sending written messages from one cell phone to another, using the receiver’s telephone number.

Texters often leave out the vowels in words or make up abbreviations in order to communicate faster. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cd</th>
<th>could</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cls</td>
<td>class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cn</td>
<td>can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hv</td>
<td>have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prnts</td>
<td>parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ndy</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tchr</td>
<td>teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wd</td>
<td>would</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tweeting

Tweeting is the practice of sending written messages to the general public through a commercial website, called twitter.com. Messages are limited to 140 characters. Important or famous people often use this to keep their constituents, clients, or fans informed of what they are doing or thinking.

Acronyms

Acronyms are combinations of letters that are used as abbreviations to replace words and expressions. Acronyms and other symbols are commonly used in e-mail, texting, and tweeting. They may be in all capital (uppercase) letters, all lowercase letters, or a combination of the two. There are really no rules!

Following is a list of commonly used acronyms and other symbols:

- 😊, :) I’m happy.
- ☹️, :( I’m unhappy.
- @ at
- 2nite tonight
- 4 for/four
- 411 information [traditionally a telephone number to call to get help finding a telephone number]
- 4ever forever
- 4U for you
- 911 emergency; call me [traditionally the contact number for the police or fire department]
- ABT2 about to
- AKA also known as (another name for someone or something)
- asamof as a matter of fact
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASAP</td>
<td>as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWOL</td>
<td>absent without leave (not being where one is supposed to be) [traditionally a military expression]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AYS</td>
<td>are you serious? (really?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBB</td>
<td>boring beyond belief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
<td>before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4N</td>
<td>bye for now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFF</td>
<td>best friends forever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTDT</td>
<td>been there, done that (I don’t need to do it again)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTW</td>
<td>by the way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BYOB</td>
<td>bring your own beer/bring your own bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>chief executive officer [traditionally used to indicate the person in charge of a company]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIY</td>
<td>do it yourself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>dead on arrival [traditionally used by hospital emergency rooms]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI</td>
<td>driving under the influence (of alcohol or drugs) [traditionally used by police departments]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWI</td>
<td>driving while intoxicated (by alcohol or drugs) [traditionally used by police departments]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>estimated time of arrival [traditionally used in airports and train and bus stations]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EZ</td>
<td>easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAQ</td>
<td>frequently asked questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FF</td>
<td>friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSBO</td>
<td>for sale by owner [traditionally used in the real estate industry]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYI</td>
<td>for your information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAL</td>
<td>get a life (don’t be so boring!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GO</td>
<td>get out (that’s unbelievable!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR8</td>
<td>great!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAND</td>
<td>have a nice day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>instant messaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMO</td>
<td>in my opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO</td>
<td>in search of (looking for)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L8R</td>
<td>later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOL</td>
<td>laugh out loud (what you sent me was funny!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTR</td>
<td>long-term relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIA</td>
<td>missing in action [traditionally a military term]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYOB</td>
<td>mind your own business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>not applicable [traditionally used in formal applications]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>no problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTW</td>
<td>not to worry (don’t worry!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>no way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBO</td>
<td>or best offer [traditionally used in “for sale” ads]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>okay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMG</td>
<td>oh my God! (also spelled “omigod”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTC</td>
<td>over the counter (medicine that can be purchased without a doctor’s prescription)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTL</td>
<td>out to lunch (not focused/lacking good judgment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>politically correct (avoiding the use of stereotypes or negative attacks in public)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDA</td>
<td>personal computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDQ</td>
<td>public display of affection (kissing and hugging in public)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLZ</td>
<td>please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POV</td>
<td>point of view (opinion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS</td>
<td>postscript [traditionally used after a signature in a letter to add one more message]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;R</td>
<td>rest and relaxation [traditionally a military term]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSVP</td>
<td>répondez s’il vous plait (please reply to this invitation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUS</td>
<td>are you serious? (really?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO</td>
<td>significant other (the other person in a romantic relationship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOW</td>
<td>speaking of which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRO</td>
<td>standing room only [traditionally used in the theater]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>to be advised/announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>to be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGIF</td>
<td>thank goodness it’s Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>tender loving care [traditionally used for nurses]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTYL</td>
<td>talk to you later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U2</td>
<td>you, too</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UR</td>
<td>you are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W/</td>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W/O</td>
<td>without</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W8</td>
<td>wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XOXO</td>
<td>kisses and hugs [traditionally used in written letters: X = a kiss; O = a hug]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YR</td>
<td>yeah right</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Translate" each of the following messages.

1. Cn U cm ovr asap?

2. AYS? im @schl. BBB

3. its OVR btwn us. sory

4. lol UR crzy

5. im :( w/o U

6. me2

7. CU L8r

8. OMG shes OTL

Write a text message conversation between you and a good friend. Use at least ten acronyms, symbols, or other abbreviations. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your work.
# APPENDIX A

## Irregular past tense and past participle forms

Following are common verbs that have irregular past tense forms. Usually the past participle forms are the same as the past tense forms. Those that are *not* are in bold type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Past tense</th>
<th>Past participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>was/were</td>
<td>been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beat</td>
<td>beat</td>
<td>beaten</td>
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<tr>
<td>become</td>
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<td>become</td>
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<tr>
<td>begin</td>
<td>began</td>
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<td>Verb</td>
<td>Past tense</td>
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<td>hurt</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>quit</td>
<td>quit</td>
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</tr>
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<td>read (pronounced “red”)</td>
<td>read (pronounced “red”)</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Verb</td>
<td>Past tense</td>
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<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>send</td>
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APPENDIX B

Short tag questions and answers

Present tense

Be

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am, am I not? (formal)</td>
<td>Yes, you are.</td>
<td>No, you aren't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am, aren't I? (informal)</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, you aren't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm not, am I?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, you aren't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are, aren't you?</td>
<td>Yes, I am.</td>
<td>No, I'm not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You aren't, are you?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, I'm not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He is, isn't he?</td>
<td>Yes, he is. (she)</td>
<td>No, he isn't. (she)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He isn't, is he? (she)</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, he's not. (she)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is, isn't there?</td>
<td>Yes, there is.</td>
<td>No, there isn't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There isn't, is there?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, there's not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are, aren't we?</td>
<td>Yes, we are.</td>
<td>No, we aren't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We aren't, are we?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, we're not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are, aren't they?</td>
<td>Yes, they are.</td>
<td>No, they aren't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They aren't, are they?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, they're not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are, aren't there?</td>
<td>Yes, there are.</td>
<td>No, there aren't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There aren't, are there?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modal verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can I can, can't I?</td>
<td>Yes, you can.</td>
<td>No, you can't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can't, can I? (you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could I could, couldn't I?</td>
<td>Yes, you could.</td>
<td>No, you couldn't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I couldn't, could I? (you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>Affirmative answers</td>
<td>Negative answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May (permission)</strong></td>
<td>Yes, you may.</td>
<td>No, you may not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can, can’t I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can’t, can I?</td>
<td>Yes, you may.</td>
<td>No, you may not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May (possibility)</strong></td>
<td>Yes, you may.</td>
<td>No, you may not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will, won’t I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I won’t, will I?</td>
<td>Yes, you may.</td>
<td>No, you may not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Might</strong></td>
<td>Yes, you might.</td>
<td>No, you might not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will, won’t I?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I won’t, will I?</td>
<td>Yes, you might.</td>
<td>No, you might not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Must</strong></td>
<td>Yes, you do.</td>
<td>No, you don’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have to, don’t I?</td>
<td>Yes, I do.</td>
<td>No, I don’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t have to, do I?</td>
<td>Yes, he does.</td>
<td>No, he doesn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have to, don’t we?</td>
<td>(she/it)</td>
<td>(she/it)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have to, don’t you?</td>
<td>Yes, they do.</td>
<td>No, they don’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He has to, doesn’t he?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(she/it)</td>
<td>Yes, they do.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They have to, don’t they?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No, they don’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Should</strong></td>
<td>Yes, you should.</td>
<td>No, you shouldn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I should, shouldn’t I?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I shouldn’t, should I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>Yes, you should.</td>
<td>No, you shouldn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Would</strong></td>
<td>Yes, you would.</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would, wouldn’t I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wouldn’t, would I?</td>
<td>Yes, you would.</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
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</table>

**Pattern for all other verbs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I do, don’t I?</td>
<td>Yes, you do.</td>
<td>No, you don’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t, do I?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We do, don’t we?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You do, don’t you?</td>
<td>Yes, I do.</td>
<td>No, I don’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He does, doesn’t he?</td>
<td>Yes, he does.</td>
<td>No, he doesn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(she/it)</td>
<td>(she/it)</td>
<td>(she/it)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They do, don’t they?</td>
<td>Yes, they do.</td>
<td>No, they don’t.</td>
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</table>
### Present perfect tense

**Pattern for all verbs**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have, haven’t I? I haven’t, have I? (you/we/they)</td>
<td>Yes, you have. (I/we/they)</td>
<td>No, you haven’t. (I/we/they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He has, hasn’t he? He hasn’t, has he? (she/it)</td>
<td>Yes, he has. (she/it)</td>
<td>No, he hasn’t. (she/it)</td>
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### Past tense

**Be**

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<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was, wasn’t I? I wasn’t, was I? We were, weren’t we?</td>
<td>Yes, you were.</td>
<td>No, you weren’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were, weren’t you? You weren’t, were you?</td>
<td>Yes, I was. Yes, we were.</td>
<td>No, I wasn’t. No, we weren’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He was, wasn’t he? He wasn’t, was he? (she/it)</td>
<td>Yes, he was. (she/it)</td>
<td>No, he wasn’t. (she/it)</td>
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<tr>
<td>There was, wasn’t there? There weren’t, were there?</td>
<td>Yes, there was. Yes, there were.</td>
<td>No, there wasn’t. No, there weren’t.</td>
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### Modal verbs

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<td><strong>Can</strong> I could, couldn’t I? I couldn’t, could I? We could, couldn’t we? We couldn’t, could we? You could, couldn’t you? You couldn’t, could you?</td>
<td>Yes, you could. Yes, I could. Yes, we could.</td>
<td>No, you couldn’t. No, I couldn’t. No, we couldn’t.</td>
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<td><strong>Could</strong> I could have, couldn’t I? I couldn’t have, could I? We could have, couldn’t we? We couldn’t have, could we? You could have, couldn’t you? You couldn’t have, could you?</td>
<td>Yes, you could have (could’ve). Yes, I could have. Yes, we could have.</td>
<td>No, you couldn’t have. No, I couldn’t have. No, we couldn’t have.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yes, he could have. (she/it/they)</td>
<td>No, he couldn’t have. (she/it/they)</td>
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<td>Questions</td>
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<td>Negative answers</td>
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| **May**
permission (same as could)
possibility
I may have, right?
I may not have, right?
We may have, right?
You may have, right?
You may not have, right?
He may have, right?
He may not have, right? (she/it/they)

| **Might**
I might have, right?
I might not have, right?
We might have, right?
We might not have, right?
You might have, right?
He might have, right?
He might not have, right? (she/it/they)

| **Should**
I should have, shouldn’t I?
I shouldn’t have, should I?
We should have, shouldn’t we?
You should have, shouldn’t you?
You shouldn’t have, should you?
He should have, shouldn’t he?
He shouldn’t have, should he? (she/it/they) | Yes, you **may have.**
Yes, I **may have.**
Yes, we **may have.**
Yes, he **may have.**
Yes, you **might have.**
Yes, I **might have.**
Yes, he **might have.**
Yes, you **should have** (should’ve).
Yes, I **should have.**
Yes, we **should have.**
Yes, he **should have.** (she/it/they) | No, you **may not have.**
No, I **may not have.**
No, we **may not have.**
No, he **may not have.**
No, you **might not have.**
No, I **might not have.**
No, he **might not have.**
No, you **shouldn’t have.**
No, I **shouldn’t have.**
No, we **shouldn’t have.**
No, he **shouldn’t have.** (she/it/they) |
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<td>I would, wouldn’t I?</td>
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<tr>
<td>I wouldn’t, would I?</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t.</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t.</td>
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<tr>
<td>We would, wouldn’t we?</td>
<td>No, we wouldn’t.</td>
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<td>We wouldn’t, would we?</td>
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<td>You wouldn’t, would you?</td>
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<td>No, we wouldn’t.</td>
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<td>He would, wouldn’t he?</td>
<td>Yes, he would.</td>
<td>No, he wouldn’t.</td>
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<td>He wouldn’t, would he?</td>
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<td>(she/it/they)</td>
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<th>Negative answers</th>
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<td><strong>Would</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would have, wouldn’t I?</td>
<td>Yes, you would have (would’ve).</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I wouldn’t have, would I?</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t have.</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>We would have, wouldn’t we?</td>
<td>No, we wouldn’t have.</td>
<td>No, you wouldn’t have.</td>
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<td>We wouldn’t have, would we?</td>
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<td>No, you wouldn’t have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You would have, wouldn’t you?</td>
<td>Yes, I would have.</td>
<td>No, I wouldn’t have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You wouldn’t have, would you?</td>
<td>Yes, we would have.</td>
<td>No, we wouldn’t have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>He would have, wouldn’t he?</td>
<td>Yes, he would have.</td>
<td>No, he wouldn’t have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(she/it/they)</td>
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<td>(she/it/they)</td>
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</table>

**Pattern for all other verbs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I did, didn’t I?</td>
<td>Yes, you did.</td>
<td>No, you didn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t, did I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</em></td>
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</table>

**Past perfect tense**

**Pattern for all verbs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I had, hadn’t I?</td>
<td>Yes, you had.</td>
<td>No, you hadn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I hadn’t, had I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Short tag questions and answers 153
Future tense  
Pattern for all verbs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will, won’t I?</td>
<td>Yes, you will.</td>
<td>No, you won’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I won’t, will I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future perfect tense  
Pattern for all verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Affirmative answers</th>
<th>Negative answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will have, won’t I?</td>
<td>Yes, you will have.</td>
<td>No, you won’t have.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I won’t have, will I?</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td>(I/you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(you/he/she/it/we/they)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX C
Glossary

A
@, 139
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at, 47, 48
at a loose end, to be, 132
at least, 25, 27, 81, 82
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at the moment, 1
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1 Introducing yourself and others

1.1
1. c 2. b 3. c 4. d 5. a
1.2
1. c, h, n 2. b, k 3. a, e, i, l 4. g 5. b, j, k 6. b, l 7. f, l 8. c, h, n 9. a, m 10. d
1.3
1. Yes, I do./No, I don’t. 2. Yes, I am./No, I’m not. 3. Yes, they do./No, they don’t. 4. Yes, I am./No, I’m not. 5. Yes, he (or she) is./No, he (or she) isn’t.
1.4
Answers will vary, but questions should begin as follows.
1.5
1.6
1. b 2. c 3. a 4. d 5. a
1.7
These are possible answers. 1. What does she do? 2. Thank you. 3. Don’t be late! 4. Tell me about yourself. 5. We finish tomorrow.
1.8
1. see 2. seeing 3. going 4. doing 5. hear
1.9
Answers will vary.
1.10
Answers will vary.

2 Expressing opinions, likes, and dislikes

2.1
2.2
2.3
1. Tell me where you’re going. 2. Tell me what they’re doing. 3. Tell me how you get there. 4. Tell me when you study. 5. Tell me why she’s crying. 6. Tell me what time we leave. 7. Tell me who you’re texting. 8. Tell me how much it costs.
2.4
1. a, b, h, k 2. i, j, p 3. r 4. o 5. c, g 6. n 7. f 8. d, e, l 9. q 10. c, g, m
2.5
1. c 2. b 3. a 4. d 5. c
2.6
1. a 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. c
2.7
Answers will vary.
2.8
Answers will vary.
2.9
Answers will vary.
### Describing people, places, and things

3-1 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. d


3-3 1. c 2. a, b 3. d 4. i 5. l 6. h 7. j, k 8. e 9. f 10. g

3-4 1. d, i, l, m, n 2. h, j, k 3. c, f 4. b, o 5. a, e, g 6. b, o 7. a, e, g 8. e, g, h

3-5 1. c 2. a 3. d 4. d 5. a

3-6 1. a 2. b 3. d 4. b 5. a

3-7 1. In the first place 2. Second/In the second place 3. Plus 4. Not to mention that

3-8 Answers will vary.

3-9 Answers will vary.

### Striking up a conversation

4-1 1. There are 2. There are 3. There is 4. There are 5. There is

4-2 1. living 2. live 3. get 4. smoke 5. getting 6. stay 7. working 8. go 9. being 10. driving

4-3 1. a 2. c 3. c 4. b 5. d

4-4 1. b, h, k 2. j 3. e, h 4. i 5. l 6. f 7. d 8. a 9. c 10. e, h

4-5 1. i 2. c 3. d 4. n 5. o 6. a, b 7. g, m 8. f, p 9. j, k 10. e 11. e 12. h 13. l

4-6 1. d 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. b

4-7 1. b, i 2. h 3. j, k 4. a, g, k 5. d 6. f 7. i 8. c, i 9. a, e 10. a, g, l

4-8 Answers will vary.

4-9 Answers will vary.

4-10 Answers will vary.

### Making dates and appointments

5-1 1. at, in, on, at, in 2. in, at 3. in, at, in 4. on, at, in, at, in 5. on, at, in, at, on, in

5-2 1. May/Can I leave? 2. You mustn’t/must not leave. 3. Do you have to work today? 4. You have to work tomorrow. 5. When should I take the medicine? 6. You’re supposed to take the medicine just before a meal. 7. You can’t/mustn’t jaywalk./You’re not supposed to cross here. 8. Do I have to/Am I supposed to/Are you supposed to wait for a green light? 9. Would you rather have your steak medium or well done? 10. Will/Can/Could you come to a party at my house on Saturday night? 11. Will/Can you pick me up at the airport? 12. No, I won’t pick you up.

5-3 1. p 2. o 3. a 4. a, d 5. d, e, f, g 6. j, k 7. h 8. q 9. m 10. n 11. l 12. b, e, q 13. b 14. d, e, f, g

5-4 1. were 2. could 3. would 4. had 5. didn’t 6. were 7. were 8. could 9. called 10. lived

5-5 1. I wish you loved me. 2. I wish my neighbors didn’t make so much noise. 3. I wish my mother were here. 4. I wish I were married. 5. I wish she could stay here tonight. 6. I wish he would move his car. 7. I wish she didn’t drive so fast. 8. I wish they didn’t come home so late. 9. I wish I had enough/more money. 10. I wish our house were bigger./I wish we had a bigger house./I wish we lived in a bigger house.

5-6 1. c 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. c

5-7 1. c, h 2. d, e, i 3. d, e, i, l, m 4. a 5. b, f, j 6. d, e, i, l 7. j 8. k 9. g 10. l

5-8 Answers will vary.

5-9 Answers will vary.

5-10 Answers will vary.

162 Answer key
Expressing wants and needs

1. have to 2. need/want 3. want 4. prerequisites 5. would like 6. needs 7. would you mind 8. required to 9. requirements 10. need to/have to

Answers will vary.

Making requests and offers

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. d 5. c 6. d

Answers will vary.

Expressing doubts and uncertainty

1. a. In the first place b. In addition/Plus c. plus/in addition d. As if that weren't enough e. after all f. At least/Besides 2. a. In the first place b. After all c. Besides d. As if that weren't enough

Answers will vary.
Talking about future events

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. a 6. c
2. f 2. j 3. d, h 4. a, c 5. e, g, i 6. b
3. c 2. a 3. a 4. a 5. c
4. Still 2. senior 3. the same old thing 4. overseas 5. a whole bunch of 6. freshman
7. pack light 8. catch up on 9. taking care of 10. reach a happy medium/compromise

Answers will vary.

Making a case or arguing a point

1. a. In the first place b. In the second place/Plus c. Besides/What's more/Furthermore
2. a. In the first place b. In the second place/Plus c. In addition/Plus
3. a. In the first place b. In the second place c. In addition/What's more/Plus d. Furthermore e. Finally/For the frosting on the cake/As if that weren't enough/To top it all off

Answers will vary.

Narrating a story

1. First b. Then c. After that/Next d. Finally e. Finally f. For the frosting on the cake/To top it all off/As if that weren't enough

Answers will vary.

Retelling a conversation

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. a 8. b
2. has taken 2. have read 3. haven't finished 4. have already registered 5. have called 6. has never been 7. haven't seen 8. Have you done 9. have already bought 10. Has she gone
3. he could run it in five minutes 2. we could take thirty minutes 3. It may have rained 4. He might have had the flu 5. You should have paid your bills on time 6. What should I have said when I saw him 7. We had to rearrange the furniture so the piano would fit 8. The children would pick the wildflowers every spring 9. It must have been nine o'clock 10. She left because she had to pick up her daughter.

Answers will vary.
12-4 1. he was leaving for the beach tomorrow  2. the train always arrived on time  3. they had already eaten lunch  4. the plane had taken off at 9:15  5. they would be here/there in about five minutes

12-5 1. if I had a shovel he could borrow  2. if he would help her with the packages  3. what movie we were going to see  4. why he had called  5. whom she was talking to  6. how far it was  7. if he spoke English  8. when I would come back  9. where she went to school  10. if he wanted her to help him

12-6 1. at the last minute  2. learning the ropes  3. dude, give you a ride  4. pressure  5. at a loose end  6. how's it going  7. babysit  8. end up

12-7 Answers will vary.

12-8 Answers will vary.

13  **Electronic conversation**

13-1 1. Can you come over as soon as possible?  2. Are you serious? I'm at school. Boring beyond belief.  3. It's over between us. Sorry.  4. Laugh out loud. You're crazy.  5. I'm unhappy without you.  6. Me, too.  7. See you later.  8. Oh my God. She's out to lunch.

13-2 Ansrs wl vry. ;}


13-2 Ansrs wl vry. ;}

Answer key 165
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