

# American English

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*Slang, idioms, phrasal verbs, acronyms and more. A treasure trove.*

*This is a work in progress...*



**“English doesn’t borrow from  
other languages.  
English follows other languages  
down dark alleys, knocks them over  
and goes through their pockets  
for loose grammar.”**

*By Abel A. Kay*

[www.abelakay.com](http://www.abelakay.com)

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# Only in the USA

*Stuff only Americans say. Stuff foreigners only hear when in the US.*

**Awesome**

Many foreigners don't even know of this word until they arrive at the US.

**Have a good one!**

Greeting of choice when parting ways.

**Hell, yeah!**

Informally a strong YES.

**How is it going?**

Widely the greeting of choice.

**How y'all doing?**

Southern style greeting. Considered redneck slang.

**That's bizarre!**

That's weird! (as in strange)

# American VS. British

*It's not just potatoes and tomatoes.*

<b>American English</b>	<b>British English</b>
apartment	flat
corn	maize
counter-clockwise	anti-clockwise
crazy; insane	mad
diaper	nappy
diversion	detour
elevator	lift
fix	mend
gas	petrol
movie	film
package	parcel
Santa (or Santa Claus)	Father Christmas
subway	metro
to trash (something)	to bin (something)
truck (semi; tractor)	lorry
zip code	postcode

# Numbers

## 007

Synonym to James Bond

Read: **double-O-seven**.

*James Bond*

## 101

Basic knowledge about something; nuts and bolts

*I will give you a "web design 101."*

*He doesn't know anything about cars; not even the 101.*

*Last month I bought a book named "Cooking 101."*

## 411

Information; basic info; 411 is the information number in the US

*Can you give me the 411 on this topic?*

## 420

This number means "drugs" or "use of recreational drugs", especially cannabis (marijuana). This comes from the fact that smoking marijuana at that time (4:20 pm) was socially acceptable in the US.

Read: **four-twenty**.

*I like to smoke, but I don't do 420!*

*Welcome to join our party for adults on Friday evening! Please no smoking, no 420 and no hard liquor.*

*University students are often 420-friendly.*

## 90210

Zip code for a famously rich neighborhood in Beverly Hills, California; used to mean "richness".

Read: **nine-O-two-one-O**.

*You act like you grew up in the 90210 zip code.*

*She is such a snob, like she comes from 90210! So disgusting!*

## Ground zero

The place where the two New York World Trade Center towers collapsed on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001

## for one

personally; in my opinion. It is usually always used with the pronoun "I".

*I, for **one**, don't agree with his idea.*

*I, for **one**, always liked those strange African delicacies.*

# A

## a penny out of your paycheck

Almost nothing / very little / not worth mentioning or worrying about

*This accounts for **a penny out of your paycheck**.*

## to **account** for

to cost

Preposition to use: **for**

*This **accounts for** 3 days of work.*

*This will **account for** my whole salary.*

*Cars **account for** 20% of Beijing's pollution.*

## action

excitement; places of interest or playful events

*Where is the **action** in this town?*

*I went to my local bar last night. There was really zero **action!***

## add up

to make sense; to be logical

Preposition to use: **up**

*The numbers just don't **add up**.*

*Do you really think this make sense? To me, this whole theory doesn't **add up**.*

## a far cry

not as good as it used to be before

*His music is **a far cry** from what it used to be twenty years ago.*

*Julio Iglesias' Beijing concert in 2013 was **a far cry** of what he used to deliver when he was younger.*

## all about

*What's this fight **all about**?*

## for **all** intents and purposes

effectively, practically, in essence; for all that matters

*For **all intents and purposes**, his political campaign is dead.*

*This treaty, for **all intents and purposes**, is no longer viable.*

by **all** means

absolutely

*If you can find a use for this old computer, by all means keep it!*

*By all means, I will join the party tonight!*

*Can you come to dinner tomorrow? By all means, I'd love to!*

**all-nighter**

an entire night spent doing something (usually studying, working or having fun)

*I was so sleepy today at work, after the **all-nighter**!*

*Are we going to pull another **all-nighter**? This is a lo of stuff to read in just one evening.*

*Her eyebags tell me that she had an **all-nighter** last night.*

**at long last**

fnally

***At long last** they lived happily ever after.*

***At long last**, it rained.*

**at the drop of a hat**

English idiom; meaning instantly, immediately, suddenly, on the slightest signal.

*He changed his attitude **at the drop of a hat**.*

not for **all** the tea in China

Not at any price; not at all / under no circumstances

*I won't do it—not for **all** the tea in China!*

jerking to **attention**

being suddenly taken away from deep thinking (about saomething)

*Jerking to **attention**, she swiveled away from the microscope and looked up at ...*

*This sentence would usually be preceded by someone calling the person's name.*

to get **away** with murder

Go unpunished for something done; receiving little or no deserved punishment for something done

Prepostion to use: **with**

*She got **away** with murder because he loved her so much.*

*Children usually get **away** with murder when with their grandparents, for doing things they would never do (and get **away** with murder) with their parents.*

# B

## **baby boomers**

American generation of people born between 1946 and the early 1960s.

Clinton was an early **baby boomer**.

As the entire generation of **baby boomers** is moving into retirement, a huge burden is being added to America's welfare system.

**Baby boomers** are mostly children of what we call the "Greatest Generation," which represents the generation that went through WWII.

## **baloney**

another name for Bologna sausage; but it is mostly used to say "nonsense" or "foolishness"

That's **baloney!**

His whole speech was a **baloney!**

## **bang for the buck**

value for the money (spent or invested); a good cost-to-benefit ratio. (IDIOM)

Want more **bang for your buck**? Then read this book!

If you follow these instructions you will get more **bang for your buck**.

Some fifty years ago, Americans and English started to use "**bang for the buck**" and "bounce for the ounce," as a slang for "return on investment."

## **beat**

exhausted; very tired

After working all day I am really **beat**.

## **beef (with)**

problem; issue

Preposition to use: **with**

What's his **beef** with me?

America's **beef** with nations of the Middle East is not based on religion.

## **beef up**

to ramp up; to increase; to ratch up

Preposition to use: **up**

She has **beefed** up media appearances in the last weeks.

The government is **beefing** up security for the Olympic games.

## been there, done that

An expression used to say that one has been in the situation or experienced that which another is talking about. It is usually a negative scenario that is being discussed.

Can also be heard as: **been there, done that, got the T-shirt.**

—*Damn, I forgot my homework at home!*

—**Been there, done that!**

*Miss Tewes, who has just got divorced, says she doesn't plan to get married at this time. She says, 'Been there, done that.'*

## few and far between

scarce; infrequent; rare

*My business trips to Hong Kong are few and far **between**.*

*Lately, news about the MH370 flight are few and far **between**; but two years ago there were news about this topic every day.*

## bias

Prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another. It is usually done in a way considered to be unfair.

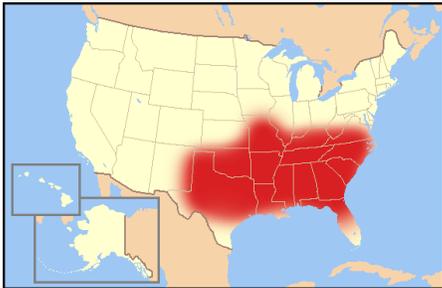
*There was evidence of **bias** against foreign applicants.*

*The umpire was totally **biased** against the Canadian team.*

**Bias** can also be interpreted as prejudice, partiality or partisanship.

## Bible belt

The Bible Belt is an informal region in the southeastern and south-central United States in which socially conservative evangelical Protestantism plays a strong role in society and politics, and Christian church attendance across the denominations is generally higher than the nation's average.



*I lived in the **Bible Belt** for years! I know these folks!*

## big guns

powerful people; something that makes doing something a lot easier

*Nobody dared to tell him he was wrong. He brought in two **big guns** from the boss' office.*

*Ok, so this won't work. Hold on; let me bring in the **big guns** and then we'll have this problem fixed in no time! You will see!*

*Seeing that his tools were too small, he decided to bring in the **big guns**! With that huge sledge hammer and that machine saw, we finished the job in less than two minutes!*

to flip (to give) someone the **bird**

to make a very impolite sign by raising your middle finger towards someone

*He flipped me the **bird**, and then he was gone! (Blake Shelton; "Some Beach")*

to have a **blast**

To really enjoy something; to have a good time.

—“How was the Jack Johnson concert?”

—“It was awesome. Everyone had a **blast**.”

—“Thanks for inviting me to your party last night, I had a **blast**.”

*The students are enjoying the game. It seems, they are having a **blast**.*

to **boil** down to

come down to; end result

Preposition to use: **down to**

*In the end, it **boils** down to the fact that we are different.*

**BRB**

Be right back

*Used when chatting on a computer or phone and letting the other party know that there will be a short absence from keyboard.*

**by** a mile

by a very large amount; usually an exaggeration

*Oh, she won the race **by** a mile!*

*The new president won the election easily. He beat all his opponents **by** a mile!*

*Oh my goodness, your arrow missed the target **by** a mile!*

**by** a whisker

by a very small amount

*She lost the race **by** a whisker.*

**by** and large

as a whole

*Mammals have, **by** and large, bigger brains than reptiles.*

***By** and large, my neighbor works from home.*

**by** all means

absolutely

*If you can find a use for this old computer, **by** all means keep it!*

***By** all means, I will join the party tonight!*

*Can you come to dinner tomorrow? **By** all means, I'd love to!*

## **BYOB**

BYOB is often placed on an invitation to indicate that the host will not be providing alcohol and that guests are welcome to bring their own. Some business establishments allow patrons to bring their own bottle, sometimes subject to fees or membership conditions, or because the establishment itself does not have license to sell alcohol.

Read: **B-Y-O-B**

*Bring your own booze; bring your own bottle*

# C

## No **can** do

Can't do! / Can't do something / impossible

*Sorry, Hank! **No can do!** I can't sell you this car; I promised it to Jim.*

## per **capita**

per person;

*Some countries' per **capita** income is incredibly low.*

## **casualty**

A person killed or injured in a war or accident; a fatality.

**Don't confuse with the Spanish word *casualidad*, meaning "chance".**

*World War II had by far the most **casualties** of all wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

## not for all the tea in **China**

Not at any price; not at all / under no circumstances

*I won't do it—not for all the tea in **China!***

## Vultures are **circling**

Danger is approaching / something bad is about to happen

*My speech was pointless. I felt vultures **circling** as nobody was paying attention to my words.*

## hidden skeleton; skeletons in the **closet**

dark secrets

*There is no hidden skeletons in my **closet**.*

*Simple people have rarely skeletons hiding in their **closets**.*

*To say "I will find all the skeletons hiding in his **closet**" means more or less like "I will find out about his darkest secrets."*

*"Is there any skeletons that I should be aware of?" she asked him.*

## White-**collar** worker

A salaried professional or an educated worker who performs semi-professional office, administrative, and sales-coordination tasks

*White **collar** workers are usually pretty good at office software.*

*As more and more Chinese move to urban areas, the Chinese white-**collar** population has exploded in the last twenty years.*

**come to grips with**

deal with (a subject or a problem); handle an issue

*I still haven't **come** to grips with the death of my parents.*

*Have you **come** to grips with the fact that the next president of the US might be not your choice?*

**comeuppance**

a punishment or fate that someone deserves

*He got his **comeuppance**.*

*New Hampshire voters gave him his **comeuppance**.*

*Not getting one's **comeuppance** is kind of like getting away with murder.*

**confetti**

Confetti are small pieces or streamers of paper, mylar, or metallic material which are usually thrown at parades, sporting team winners, and celebrations, especially weddings and game shows.

***Confetti** covers the floor every year on January 1.*

a far **cry**

not as good as it used to be before

*His music is a far **cry** from what it used to be twenty years ago.*

*Julio Iglesias' Beijing concert in 2013 was a far **cry** of what he used to deliver when he was younger.*

# D

## Designated driver

Refers to the selection of a person who remains sober as the responsible driver of a vehicle on a social occasion in order to drive his or her companions home safely.

*I am **designated driver** tonight!*

*Some bars offer discounts on juices and other non-alcoholic drinks to **designated drivers**.*

*The term "**designated driver**" was coined in Scandinavia in the 1920's, and later became popular in the US.*

## To get to **do** something

To have the privilege or right to do something

*Why he **gets to** drive a BMW, and I only get to drive a Mazda? We have the same position!*

*My wife **gets to** eat ice cream every day! I have no time!*

*American people **get to** have the cheapest internet in the world!*

*If you are famous you **get to** have many things which other people can never have in their life!*

## No can **do**

Can't do! / Can't do something / impossible

*Sorry, Hank! **No can do!** I can't sell you this car; I promised it to Jim.*

## been there, **done** that

An expression used to say that one has been in the situation or experienced that which another is talking about. It is usually a negative scenario that is being discussed.

Can also be heard as: **been there, done that, got the T-shirt.**

*—Damn, I forgot my homework at home!*

*—Been there, **done** that!*

*Miss Tewes, who has just got divorced, says she doesn't plan to get married at this time. She says, 'Been there, **done** that.'*

## dour

severe, unfriendly, gloomy

*His situation is quite **dour**.*

*Last winter was **dour**.*

## to **dread**

to fear; to be afraid of

*I **dread** walking into that classroom.*

*I **dream** those exams.*

**down the line**

in the future; eventually; after all

*We don't know what's **down** the line.*

***Down** the line, Trump's cabinet is a collection of unconventional characters.*

**to hunker down**

to not to move; to wait out (a storm)

Preposition to use: **down**

*We'll hunker **down** during the storm.*

**at the drop of a hat**

English idiom; meaning instantly, immediately, suddenly, on the slightest signal.

*He changed his attitude at the **drop** of a hat.*

**so still you could hear a pin drop**

Very quiet

*When I came into the room, it was so still you could hear a pin **drop**. Then everyone shouted "Happy birthday!"*

*Please be quiet. Be so quiet you can hear a pin **drop**.*

**get one's ducks in a row**

Get one's life in order; get one's affairs in order; get one's things organized.

*Jane is organized. She really gets all her **ducks** in a row right away.*

*You can't hope to go into a company and sell something until you get your **ducks** in a row.*

**If it looks like a duck, and it walks like a duck, it's a duck!**

Used to say that something is probably exactly what it seems to be, and therefore we should not trust too much about it.

*Look! You say this is authentic, but to me, it's not! If it looks like a **duck** and walks like a **duck**, it's probably a **duck**!*

*They call it a clinic; not a prison. But if it looks like a **duck** and walks like a **duck**; then it's a **duck**!*

# E

## **elephant in the room**

English idiom for an obvious truth that is being ignored (usually, on purpose) or not being dealt with.

*Everybody in the meeting expected the boss to talk about the late payment of salaries, but everyone was afraid to mention the topic. This is becoming a big **elephant** in the room.*

*American businessman Donald Trump quickly became the **elephant** in the room for the Republican Party.*

*Chinese people never talk about the two big **elephants** in the room, when they are with strangers: politics and freedom of speech.*

## **expat**

An expatriate (often shortened to expat) is a person temporarily or permanently residing, as an immigrant, in a country other than that of their citizenship. The word comes from the Latin terms *ex* ("out of") and *patria* ("country, fatherland").

*I've been an **expat** in China for more than five years.*

*The **expat** community in Brazil is extremely vibrant.*

# F

## X factor

The dangers that some military people face which civilian people do not face (or which they receive payment), is known as X factor.

*How would the neighbors know? They don't have any clue of something called X **factor**!*

## a far cry

not as good as it used to be before

*His music is a **far** cry from what it used to be twenty years ago.*

*Julio Iglesias' Beijing concert in 2013 was a **far** cry of what he used to deliver when he was younger. He doesn't even look like the shadow of what he used to be.*

## so far so good

Up to here, everything is fine

*So **far**, so good! We are ahead in the polls!*

*Did you finish the exercise up to point 3, the teacher asked. "OK. So **far**, so good!"*

## to feel the heat

to feel pressure

*Saudi Arabia and Russia are **feeling** the heat of plummeting oil prices.*

## feud

fight

*The two rappers have an escalating **feud**—both in their personal lives as well as on Twitter.*

*It is well known that Bill Gates and Steve Jobs had a 20-year-long **feud** going on.*

## few and far between

scarce; infrequent; rare

*My business trips to Hong Kong are **few** and **far** between.*

*Lately, news about the MH370 flight are **few** and **far** between; but two years ago there were news about this topic every day.*

## to flip (to give) someone the bird

to make a very impolite sign by raising your middle finger towards someone

*He **flipped** me the bird, and then he was gone! (Blake Shelton; "Some Beach")*

**for** all intents and purposes

effectively, practically, in essence; for all that matters

**For** all intents and purposes, his political campaign is dead.

This treaty, **for** all intents and purposes, is no longer viable.

not **for** all the tea in China

Not at any price; not at all / under no circumstances

I won't do it—not **for** all the tea in China!

up **for** grabs

available for anyone (or for the first taker); free to the taking; not yet claimed

Around 100 delegates in the US electoral map are up **for** grabs on every election cycle.

These Gucci bags are all up **for** grabs in a truly unique commercial offer.

OK, the last cookie is up **for** grabs, guys!

**for** one

personally; in my opinion. It is usually always used with the pronoun "I".

I, **for** one, don't agree with his idea.

I, **for** one, always liked those strange African delicacies.

**to account for**

to cost

Preposition to use: **for**

This **accounts for** 3 days of work.

This will **account for** my whole salary.

Cars **account for** 20% of Beijing's pollution.

look no **further**

no need to keep searching; typical speech pattern for sales-men and orators

Look no **further**, ladies and gentlemen! This is the best choice you will make in your life!

Look no **further**: this is what you have been looking for!

# G

to **get** lucky

**Please don't use in formal circles!**

to get laid; to have sex

*He thought he would **get lucky!** What an idiot!*

*Teenage boys spend a good deal of time thinking how to **get lucky.***

to **get** to do something

To have the privilege or right to do something

*Why he **gets to** drive a BMW, and I only get to drive a Mazda? We have the same position!*

*My wife **gets to** eat ice cream every day! I have no time!*

*American people **get to** have the cheapest internet in the world!*

*If you are famous you **get to** have many things which other people can never have in their life!*

**get** one's ducks in a row

Get one's life in order; get one's affairs in order; get one's things organized.

*Jane is organized. She really **gets** all her ducks in a row right away.*

*You can't hope to go into a company and sell something until you **get** your ducks in a row.*

to **gain** ground

advance; increase in size; to win

*The Clintons are trying to **gain ground** on the healthcare issue.*

*The Roman empire **gained** a lot of **ground** in the second century AD.*

to **get** away with murder

Go unpunished for something done; receiving little or no deserved punishment for something done

Preposition used: **away with**

*She **got** away with murder because he loved her so much.*

*Children usually **get** away with murder when with their grandparents, for doing things they would never do (and **get** away with murder) with their parents.*

to **give** up on something / to not to **give** up on something

to abandon

Preposition to use: **up on**

*She keeps ignoring him but he hasn't **given** up on her.*

*If this situation persists I will have no choice but to **give** up on my Norwegian classes; they are getting more and more expensive.*

## Going, going, gone

Gone; used to describe something that is about to be no more

*This stock is **going**, going, gone!*

## keep up the **good** work

Praise used to encourage someone

*Good job! I couldn't have done it better! Keep up the **good** work.*

## so far so **good**

Up to here, everything is fine

*So far, so **good**! We are ahead in the polls!*

*Did you finish the exercise up to point 3, the teacher asked. "OK. So far, so **good**!"*

## up for **grabs**

available for anyone (or for the first taker); free to the taking; not yet claimed

*Around 100 delegates in the US electoral map are up for **grabs** on every election cycle.*

*These Gucci bags are all up for **grabs** in a truly unique commercial offer.*

*OK, the last cookie is up for **grabs**, guys!*

## come to **grips** with

deal with (a subject or a problem); handle an issue

*I still haven't come to **grips** with the death of my parents.*

*Have you come to **grips** with the fact that the next president of the US might be not your choice?*

## Ground zero

The place where the two New York World Trade Center towers collapsed on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001

*I went to **ground** zero for the holidays. It was an amazing experience!*

## big **guns**

powerful people; something that makes doing something a lot easier

*Nobody dared to tell him he was wrong. He brought in two big **guns** from the boss' office.*

*Ok, so this won't work. Hold on; let me bring in the big **guns** and then we'll have this problem fixed in no time! You will see!*

*Seeing that his tools were too small, he decided to bring in the big **guns**! With that huge sledge hammer and that machine saw, we finished the job in less than two minutes!*

# H

She tucked a rebellious lock of **hair** behind her ear.

From the book “Heaven’s Strain”, by Sunni Jeffers

at the drop of a **hat**

English idiom; meaning instantly, immediately, suddenly, on the slightest signal.

*He changed his attitude at the drop of a **hat**.*

to **have** a blast

To really enjoy something; to have a good time.

—“How was the Jack Johnson concert?”

—“It was awesome. Everyone **had** a blast.”

—“Thanks for inviting me to your party last night, I **had** a blast.”

*The students are enjoying the game. It seems, they are **having** a blast.*

so still you could **hear** a pin drop

Very quiet

*When I came into the room, it was so still you could **hear** a pin drop. Then everyone shouted “Happy birthday!”*

*Please be quiet. Be so quiet you can **hear** a pin drop.*

**Heat** surged into her face, then drained away, leaving her feeling clumsy. [...] Her temples began to throb.

From the book “Heaven’s Strain”, by Sunni Jeffers

to feel the **heat**

to feel pressure

*Saudi Arabia and Russia are feeling the **heat** of plummeting oil prices.*

**hidden** skeleton; skeletons in the closet

dark secrets

*There is no **hidden** skeletons in my closet.*

*Simple people have rarely skeletons **hiding** in their closets.*

*To say “I will find all the skeletons **hiding** in his closet” means more or less like “I will find out about his darkest secrets.”*

*“Is there any skeletons that I should be aware of?” she asked him.*

## Zero **hour**

The hour or time when something is planned to happen (in military jargon)

*Tomorrow is zero **hour**.*

## to **hunker** down

to not to move; to wait out (a storm)

Preposition to use: **down**

*We'll **hunker** down during the storm.*

## **HWP**

Height and weight proportionate

Read: **Height and weight proportionate**. Usually it is never read as HWP.

*Often used in personal ads online and/or newspapers, meaning "no fat people".*

*Example: Looking for a date. Please be **HWP**.*

# I

to be **in** the know

to be aware of something; to be informed; to be included in the circle of people who know about something

*He is **in** the know.*

*At last night's dinner party, she was still not **in** the know about their affair.*

*For those of you not **in** the know, here is the info...*

for all **intents** and purposes

effectively, practically, in essence; for all that matters

*For all **intents** and purposes, his political campaign is dead.*

*This treaty, for all **intents** and purposes, is no longer viable.*

**IRS**

Read: **I-R-S**

*Internal Revenue Service*

**ROI**

Return on Investment

Read: **R-O-I**

*These companies have a proven record for a solid ROI.*

# J

## to take a **jab**

to hit

Preposition to use: **at**

*She took a **jab** at her brother and her dad, who she thinks old-fashioned.*

*Don't even think about taking a **jab** at me! It will backfire at you!*

*Instead of taking a **jab** at her Arts teacher in a very public manner, she decided to speak to him directly and ask him to stop harrasing her.*

## **jerking** to attention

being suddenly taken away from deep thinking (about saomething)

Prepostion to use: **to**

***Jerking** to attention, she swiveled away from the microscope and looked up at ...*

*This sentence would usually be preceded by someone calling the person's name.*

## the **jury** is still out

If the jury is still out on a subject, no decision has been made or the answer is not yet certain

*The **jury** is still out on that one!*

*About gay marriage in America, for the ast majority of people, the **jury** is still out.*

# K

## keep up the good work

Praise used to encourage someone

Preposition to use: **up**

*Good job! I couldn't have done it better! **Keep** up the good work.*

## low key

low profile; discreet

*He is very low **key**; all I know about my neighbor is that he is from somewhere in the Middle East.*

*Tomorrow's meeting should be low **key**; no reports and minutes are needed.*

*David Bowie always kept his private life low **key**, and was seldom seen on tabloids' cover pages.*

## No kidding!

Expression of sarcasm meaning "of course" / no joking

*"I think they lied when they said that taxes would get lowered this year."*

*"No **kidding**! Did you really believe they would do that?"*

*Another example:*

*"I think sometimes I just talk too much. I should think before I say things."*

*"No **kidding**! Who told you that?" (meaning "of course you talk too much")*

## to be in the know

to be aware of something; to be informed; to be included in the circle of people who know about something

*He is in the **know**.*

*At last night's dinner party, she was still not in the **know** about their affair.*

*For those of you not in the **know**, here is the info...*

## The next thing you know is

Immediately after / right after / soon

*He signed a contract with the Chinese company. The next thing **he knew**, he was in a meeting in Beijing.*

*We heard a loud noise from behind the bushes. The next thing **we knew**, a bear was running towards us.*

*She started learning music. The next thing **she knew**, she was famous.*

*We are meeting rarely. Next thing **we know**, we will feel like strangers.*

# L

## Lariat

rope; lasso

*He could throw a **lariat** around a running steer's head from 20 yards away.*

*Lariat comes from the Spanish word "**la reata**", which literally means "to reattach something or somebody."*

## new lease on life

A fresh start; renewed vigor and good health.

This term with its allusion to a rental agreement dates from the early 1800s and originally referred only to recovery from illness. By the mid-1800s it was applied to any kind of fresh beginning.

*Since she forgave me I feel like I got a new **lease on life**.*

*The new government made poor people feel like they had a new **lease on life**.*

## walk of life

line of work; chosen profession or job

*He'll do fine with whatever walk of life he chooses.*

## liberal

Open to new behavior or opinions and willing to discard traditional values.

**Antonym: conservative**

*They have more **liberal** views toward marriage and divorce than some people in this town.*

## down the line

in the future; eventually; after all

*We don't know what's down the **line**.*

*Down the **line**, Trump's cabinet is a collection of unconventional characters.*

## to lock somebody up

to put in jail

*"**Lock her up!**" quickly became the chant at the 2016 RNC. It refers to Hillary Clinton and her illegal use of private email servers for official use.*

## at long last

finally

*At **long last** they lived happily ever after.*

*At **long last**, it rained.*

### so long

good-bye; farewell

So **long**, Gru! (from the movie “Despicable Me”)

People say “so **long**” instead of “good-bye” when they don’t expect to see somebody ever again, or for a very long time.

### If it **looks** like a duck, and it walks like a duck, it's a duck!

Used to say that something is probably exactly what it seems to be, and therefore we should not trust too much about it.

Look! You say this is authentic, but to me, it's not! If it **looks** like a duck and walks like a duck, it's probably a duck!

They call it a clinic; not a prison. But if it **looks** like a duck and walks like a duck; then it's a duck!

### **look** no further

no need to keep searching; typical speech pattern for sales-men and orators

**Look** no further, ladies and gentlemen! This is the best choicde you will make in your life!

**Look** no further: this is what you have been looking for!

### low key

low profile; discreet

He is very **low** key; all I know about my neighbor is that he is from somewhere in the Middle East.

Tomorrow’s meeting should be **low** key; no reports and minutes are needed.

David Bowie always kept his private life **low** key, and was seldom seen on tabloids’ cover pages.

### Platonic love

A type of love that is non-sexual. The term is named after Greek philosopher Plato.

Many popular websites for dating now have a section dedicaed to **Platonic** relationships.

Platonic **love** was highly popular in Englnad during the reign of king Charles I, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### to get lucky

**Please don't use in formal circles!**

to get laid; to have sex

He thought he would **get lucky**! What an idiot!

Teenage boys spend a good deal of time thinking how to **get lucky**.

# M

## pea under the **mattress**

a small issue; a trivial matter; something not really important

*The princess couldn't sleep because of the pea under her **mattress**.*

*We don't have a pea under our **mattress**; we have a whole watermelon!*

*Why do you create so much fuss about this? It's just a pea under the **mattress**!*

## by all **means**

absolutely

*If you can find a use for this old computer, by all **means** keep it!*

*By all **means**, I will join the party tonight!*

*Can you come to dinner tomorrow? By all **means**, I'd love to!*

## **media**

The main means of mass communication (broadcasting, publishing, and the Internet), regarded collectively.

*The **media** publicized their demands.*

*The campaign won **media** attention.*

*Synonyms of **media** are 'the press' and 'the fourth estate'<sup>1</sup>, among others.*

## by a **mile**

by a very large amount; usually an exaggeration

*Oh, she won the race by a **mile**!*

*The new president won the election easily. He beat all his opponents by a **mile**!*

*Oh my goodness, your arrow missed the target by a **mile**!*

## **MILF**

### Warning! Bad word!

"Mother I'd Like (to) Fuck"

A MILF is any mother that is sexually desirable. This word became popular after the 1999 movie "American Pie."

Read: **milf**; not M-I-L-F

*Dude... Cassandra's mom is a **milf**! MILF! MILF! MILF!*

## **mixed message**

contradictory saying; flipp-flopping; change of mind

*If we accept this deal now, we will be sending a **mixed message** to the world.*

---

<sup>1</sup> The other three estates being the **executive**, the **legislative** and the **judicial** branches of power.

*China is supporting its stock market with huge amounts of money, but at the same time the government is scared of the rollercoaster rides of some shares, like Alibaba and XiaoMi. This is bad; it sends a **mixed message** to investors.*

*–"First he told me I can do it. But this morning he told me, this is against the rules. Too many **mixed messages!**"*

to put one's **money** where one's **mouth** is

*to do what you say / to not to speak of one thing and do another.*

*Example:*

*I went to see the horseraces. One man was telling everybody that the black horse would win the race. And he suggested everybody put their money on that black horse! But, later on, he secretly put his own money on a white horse! He was NOT putting his **money** where his **mouth** was!*

pressure is **mounting**

*pressure is increasing*

*The exams are tomorrow; the pressure is **mounting** and I feel nervous.*

*The pressure is **mounting** for the athletes as the Olympic games are closing in.*

to get away with **murder**

*Go unpunished for something done; receiving little or no deserved punishment for something done*

*Preposition to use: **away***

*She got away with **murder** because he loved her so much.*

*Children usually get away with **murder** when with their grandparents, for doing things they would never do (and get away with **murder**) with their parents.*

# N

## **new lease on life**

A fresh start; renewed vigor and good health.

This term with its allusion to a rental agreement dates from the early 1800s and originally referred only to recovery from illness. By the mid-1800s it was applied to any kind of fresh beginning.

*Since she forgave me I feel like I got a **new** lease on life.*

*The new government made poor people feel like they had a **new** lease on life.*

## The **next** thing you know is

Immediately after / right after / soon

*He signed a contract with the Chinese company. The **next** thing he knew, he was in a meeting in Beijing.*

*We heard a loud noise from behind the bushes. The **next** thing we knew, a bear was running towards us.*

*She started learning music. The **next** thing she knew, she was famous.*

*We are meeting rarely. **Next** thing we know, we will feel like strangers.*

## **all-nighter**

an entire night spent doing something (usually studying, working or having fun)

*I was so sleepy today at work, after the **all-nighter!***

*Are we going to pull another **all-nighter**? This is a lo of stuff to read in just one evening.*

*Her eyebags tell me that she had an **all-nighter** last night.*

## a resounding “**no**” / a resounding “yes”

a strong “no” / a strong “yes”

*The answer is a resounding **no**.*

*If you straw poll politicians about this topic, the answer would be a resounding yes.*

## **No can do**

Can't do! / Can't do something / impossible

*Sorry, Hank! **No can do!** I can't sell you this car; I promised it to Jim.*

## **No kidding!**

Expression of sarcasm meaning "of course" / no joking

*"I think they lied when the ysaid that taxes would get lowered this year."*

*"**No kidding!** Did you really believe they would do that?"*

*Another example:*

*"I think sometimes I just talk too much. I should think before I say things."*

*"**No kidding!** Who told you that?" (meaning "of course you talk too much")*

**Not** for all the tea in China

Not at any price; not at all / under no circumstances

*I won't do it—**not** for all the tea in China!*

**nothing** short of

absolutely, completely

*What he did for his country was **nothing** short of awesome.*

*His disrespectful demeanor during last Friday's dinner was **nothing** short of unbelievable.*

# O

## **off-base**

incorrect; without any real base

*I think her opinion in the matter is **off-base**.*

## to run for **office**

to try to win an election by votes

**Preposition to use: for**

*I am not a politician. I did not spend my entire life running for **office**.*

*After taking a five-year break, Jeb Bush is running for **office** this year.*

*Do you think the mayor of New York will run for **office** next year again?*

## for **one**

personally; in my opinion. It is usually always used with the pronoun "I".

*I, for **one**, don't agree with his idea.*

*I, for **one**, always liked those strange African delicacies.*

## A penny **out** of your paycheck

Almost nothing / very little / not worth mentioning or worrying about

*This accounts for a penny **out** of your paycheck.*

## the jury is still **out**

If the jury is still out on a subject, no decision has been made or the answer is not yet certain

*The jury is still **out** on that one!*

*About gay marriage in America, for the ast majority of people, the jury is still **out**.*

## to run **out** of something

to not to have anymore something

**Preposition to use: out of**

*I've run **out** of gas.*

*We're running **out** of cash.*

*He ran **out** of patience with those issues.*

## right **out** of the gate

right off the bat; at the very start

*Right **out** of the gate, she dealt a sharp personal attack on Clinton.*

to switch **over**

to change sides

Preposition to use: **over to**

*He switched **over** to the other political party.*

*Less than five years after moving to Alabama, the whole family switched **over** to a new religion.*

**over** and over

Repeatedly, many times. Can also be used as "over and over again".

*The little girl demanded **over** and over to be picked up so she could see the performers on stage.*

*he is doing the same mistake, **over** and over again.*

# P

## **Panacea**

Greek goddess of healing; figuratively used as something intended to bring a solution to a multi-faceted problem.

*Legalizing drugs will become either a **Panacea** or a Pandora's box.*

*Restricting guns on American citizen will not be a **Panacea** for current social issues in the US.*

## **pea** under the mattress

a small issue; a trivial matter; something not really important

*The princess couldn't sleep because of the **pea** under her mattress.*

*We don't have a **pea** under our mattress; we have a whole watermelon!*

*Why do you create so much fuss about this? It's just a **pea** under the mattress!*

## **A penny** out of your **paycheck**

Almost nothing / very little / not worth mentioning or worrying about

*This accounts for a **penny** out of your **paycheck**.*

## **per** capita

per person;

*Some countries' **per** capita income is incredibly low.*

## so still you could hear a **pin** drop

Very quiet

*When I came into the room, it was so still you could hear a **pin** drop. Then everyone shouted "Happy birthday!"*

*Please be quiet. Be so quiet you can hear a **pin** drop.*

## **Platonic** love

A type of love that is non-sexual. The term is named after Greek philosopher Plato.

*Many popular websites for dating now have a section dedicaed to **Platonic** relationships.*

***Platonic** love was highly popular in Englnd during the reign of king Charles I, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

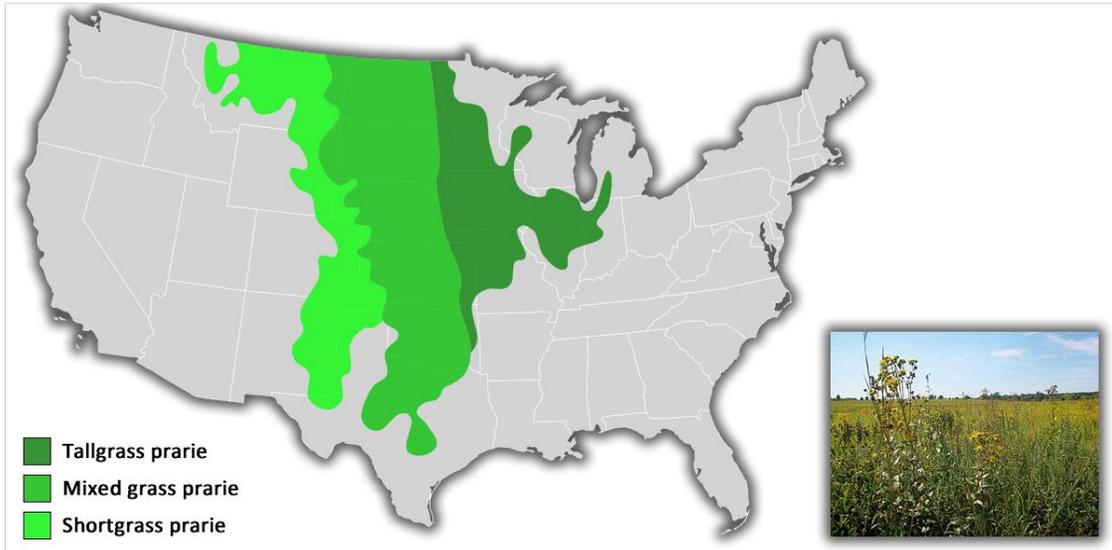
## **POTUS**

*President of the United States of America*

## **prarie**

Prairies are ecosystems considered part of the temperate grasslands, savannas, and shrublands biome by ecologists, based on similar temperate climates, moderate rainfall, and a composition of grasses, herbs, and shrubs, rather than trees, as the dominant vegetation type. Temperate grassland regions include the Pampas of

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay as well as the steppes of Eurasia. Lands typically referred to as "prairie" tend to be in North America.



"The Little House on the Prairie" was a famous show in the 1960s, with Jack Landon as the main star.

### **pressure** is mounting

pressure is increasing

The exams are tomorrow; the **pressure** is mounting and I feel nervous.

The **pressure** is mounting for the athletes as the Olympic games are closing in.

### **pull** yourself together!

Avoid breaking down; stop acting too distraught or emotional; keep a stiff lip

Dad! **Pull** yourself together; don't cry in front of my classmates! It's embarrassing!

You need to **pull** yourself together if you will talk about this sad topic in front of all these people.

### for all intents and **purposes**

effectively, practically, in essence; for all that matters

For all intents and **purposes**, his political campaign is dead.

This treaty, for all intents and **purposes**, is no longer viable.

### to **put** up (something)

to publish (a sign, a commercial or a website)

Preposition to use: **up**

They **put** up a new website about this issue in less than one hour.

to **put** up with (something or somebody)

to bear

Preposition to use: **up with**

*I don't want to **put** up with his behaviour any longer!*

*Americans had to **put** up with this issue for more than ten years.*

*During history, Roman farmers and citizen **put** up with many unfair and crazy emperors.*

to **put** one's money where one's mouth is

to do what you say / to not to speak of one thing and do another.

*Example:*

*I went to see the horseraces. One man was telling everybody that the black horse would win the race. And he suggested everybody put their money on that black horse! But, later on, he secretly put his own money on a white horse! He was **NOT putting** his money where his mouth was!*

# Q

## **quiver**

a container to hold arrows or darts

*While racing on his horse, he reached for his **quiver** and took another arrow.*

# R

## to **ramp up**

to beef up; to increase; to ratch up

Preposition to use: **up**

She has **ramped up** media appearances in the last weeks.

The government is **ramping up** security for the Olympic games.

## **redneck**

**Please don't use in formal circles!**

Derogatory term used to describe poor or lowly white people in the Southern United States, usually opposed to modern ways and liberal points of view.

Synonym: **hillbilly**

**Redneck** is not as offensive as the term "white trash" which suggests immorality.

This bar is full of **rednecks**.

## a **resounding** "no" / a **resounding** "yes"

a strong "no" / a strong "yes"

The answer is a **resounding** no.

If you straw poll politicians about this topic, the answer would be a **resounding** yes.

## **right** out of the gate

right off the bat; at the very start

**Right** out of the gate, she dealt a sharp personal attack on Clinton.

## **rip off**

A cheat, something that is not worth the money asked.

That T-shirt is a complete ripp off.

—"Dude, you were so ripped off. This car is only worth half the price you paid!"

## **ROI**

Return on Investment

Read: **R-O-I**

These companies have a proven record for a solid ROI.

### elephant in the **room**

English idiom for an obvious truth that is being ignored (usually, on purpose) or not being dealt with.

*Everybody in the meeting expected the boss to talk about the late payment of salaries, but everyone was afraid to mention the topic. This is becoming a big elephant in the **room**.*

*American businessman Donald Trump quickly became the elephant in the **room** for the Republican Party. Chinese people never talk about the two big elephants in the **room**, when they are with strangers: politics and freedom of speech.*

### get one's ducks in a **row**

Get one's life in order; get one's affairs in order; get one's things organized.

*Jane is organized. She really gets all her ducks in a **row** right away.*

*You can't hope to go into a company and sell something until you get your ducks in a **row**.*

### skid **row**

A squalid district inhabited by derelicts and vagrants; a life of impoverished dissipation.

This expression originated in the lumber industry, where it signified a road or track made of logs laid crosswise with other logs over it. Around 1900 the name Skid Road referred to the part of town frequented by loggers, which had many bars and brothels, and by the 1930s the variant skid row, with its current meaning came into use.

*His drinking was getting so bad, we thought we would be heading for skid **row**.*

*That part of town is our skid **row**.*

### to **run** for office

to try to win an election by votes

**Preposition to use: for**

*I am not a politician. I did not spend my entire life **running** for office.*

*After taking a five-year break, Jeb Bush is **running** for office this year.*

*Do you think the mayor of New York will **run** for office next year again?*

### to **run** out of something

to not to have anymore something

**Preposition to use: out of**

*I've **run** out of gas.*

*We're **running** out of cash.*

*He **ran** out of patience with those issues.*

# S

## SCROTUS

*Supreme Court of the United States*

## under **siege**

*to be surrounded by enemies; to be in trouble*

*The city of Jerusalem has been under **siege** many times.*

*After the news came out, he has been under **siege** for his comments about women.*

## nothing **short** of

*absolutely, completely*

*What he did for his country was nothing **short** of awesome.*

*His disrespectful demeanor during last Friday's dinner was nothing **short** of unbelievable.*

## hidden **skeleton**; **skeletons** in the closet

*dark secrets*

*There is no hidden **skeletons** in my closet.*

*Simple people have rarely **skeletons** hiding in their closets.*

*To say "I will find all the **skeletons** hiding in his closet" means more or less like "I will find out about his darkest secrets."*

*"Is there any **skeletons** that I should be aware of?" she asked him.*

## **skid** row

*A squalid district inhabited by derelicts and vagrants; a life of impoverished dissipation.*

*This expression originated in the lumber industry, where it signified a road or track made of logs laid crosswise with other logs over it. Around 1900 the name Skid Road referred to the part of town frequented by loggers, which had many bars and brothels, and by the 1930s the variant skid row, with its current meaning came into use.*

*His drinking was getting so bad, we thought we would be heading for **skid** row.*

*That part of town is our **skid** row.*

## **so far so good**

*Up to here, everything is fine*

***So far, so good!** We are ahead in the polls!*

*Did you finish the exercise up to point 3, the teacher asked. "OK. **So far, so good!**"*

## so long

good-bye; farewell

**So long, Gru!** (from the movie "Despicable Me")

People say "**so long**" instead of "good-bye" when they don't expect to see somebody ever again, or for a very long time.

## SOTU

State of the Union (speech)

## to **school** somebody

to teach somebody a lesson; to lecture somebody

He **schooled** me about my behaviour; I felt so embarrassed.

The senator from Iowa **schooled** the arrogant candidate's use of the word "fair trade".

We all know that going to school isn't the same as getting **schooled**.

"You've been **schooled!**"

## To get to do **something**

To have the privilege or right to do something

Why he gets to **drive a BMW**, and I only get to **drive a Mazda**? We have the same position!

My wife gets to **eat ice cream every day!** I have no time!

American people get to **have the cheapest internet in the world!**

If you are famous you get to **have many things** which other people can never have in their life!

## Where do you **stand** on ...? (to stand on something)

What is your opinion about ...? / Where do you stand on Clinton?

**Preposition to use: on**

Basically, this means "what is your position about an issue?" and it is mostly used during political debates.

Hillary Clinton explained to viewers where she **stands** on abortion, immigration and gun control.

Mr. Senator, where do you **stand** on foreign policy and the trade deficit with China?

## so **still** you could hear a pin drop

Very quiet

When I came into the room, it was so **still** you could hear a pin drop. Then everyone shouted "Happy birthday!"

Please be quiet. Be so **still** you can hear a pin drop.

## to **straw** poll

to make an unofficial vote or poll to determine the opinion of a group of people

Let's **straw** poll about this issue and see how it fares.

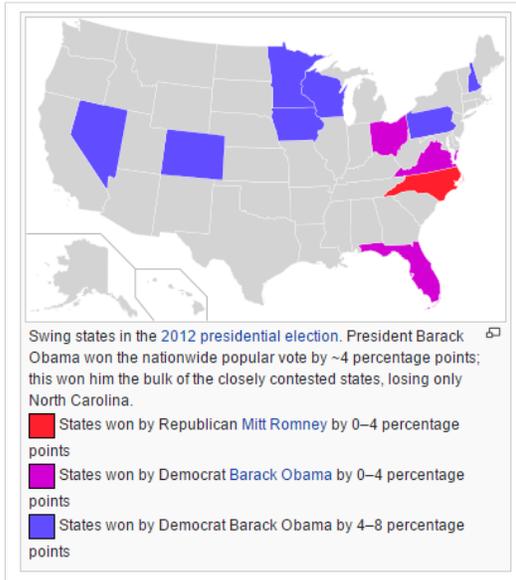
## **swear** like a sailor

English idiom of someone who uses bad language all the time

He **swears** like a sailor.

## swing state

In presidential politics of the United States, a swing state (also, battleground state or purple state, in reference to red states and blue states) is a state in which no single candidate or party has overwhelming support in securing that state's electoral college votes. Such states receive a large share of the attention and campaigning of political parties in presidential elections, since winning these states is the best opportunity for a party to gain electoral votes. Non-swing states are sometimes called safe states, because one candidate has strong enough support that they can safely assume that they will win the state's votes.



*In the 2016 presidential elections, **swing states** are crucial for both candidates.*

## to switch over

*to change sides*

**Preposition to use: over**

*He **switched over** to the other political party.*

*Less than five years after moving to Alabama, the whole family **switched over** to a new religion.*

# T

## tabloid

(newspaper, usually not accurate about news but more focused on gossips and scandals)

Reading **tabloids** is like sugar; the more you have, the more you crave for it.

Some celebrities are real **tabloid** magnets; you'll see them everyday on the papers' front pages.

**Tabloids** tend to exaggerate news about the future and all the bad things that are about to happen to us.

## to take a jab

hit

She **took** a jab at her brother and her dad, who she thinks old-fashioned.

Don't even think about **taking** a jab at me! It will backfire at you!

Instead of **taking** a jab at her Arts teacher in a very public manner, she decided to speak to him directly and ask him to stop harrasing her.

## Not for all the tea in China

Not at any price; not at all / under no circumstances

I won't do it—not for all the **tea** in China!

## temples

Side-pieces on a set of glasses.

**Some temple types:**

**Skull temples:** bend down behind the ears, follow the contour of the skull and rest evenly against the skull.

**Library temples:** generally straight and do not bend down behind the ears. Hold the glasses primarily through light pressure against the side of the skull.

**Riding bow temples:** curve around the ear and extend down to the level of the ear lobe. Used mostly on athletic, children's, and industrial safety frames.

## The next thing you know is

Immediately after / right after / soon

He signed a contract with the Chinese company. The next **thing** he knew, he was in a meeting in Beijing.

We heard a loud noise from behind the bushes. The next **thing** we knew, a bear was running towards us.

She started learning music. The next **thing** she knew, she was famous.

We are meeting rarely. Next **thing** we know, we will feel like strangers.

## to tie up

to close, to become congested

Prepostion to use: **up**

Traffic was **tied** up during the blizzard.

### **been there, done that**

An expression used to say that one has been in the situation or experienced that which another is talking about. It is usually a negative scenario that is being discussed.

Can also be heard as: **been there, done that, got the T-shirt.**

—*Damn, I forgot my homework at home!*

—***Been there, done that!***

*Miss Tewes, who has just got divorced, says she doesn't plan to get married at this time. She says, 'Been there, done that.'*

### **toe-to-toe**

toe to toe; compete against each other

*Nobody wants to fight with him **toe-to-toe**; he is too strong.*

*The candidates are standing **toe-to-toe** in front of the cameras; they are ready to fight for their ideas.*

### **pull yourself together!**

Avoid breaking down; stop acting too distraught or emotional; keep a stiff lip

*Dad! Pull yourself **together**; don't cry in front of my classmates! It's embarrassing!*

*You need to pull yourself **together** if you will talk about this sad topic in front of all these people.*

# U

## underdog

a person, team, etc., that is expected to lose in a contest or battle; a less powerful person that struggles against a more powerful person or company

*I always root for the **underdog** instead of the favorite.*

*As a lawyer, she consistently represented the **underdog**.*

*She is a heavy **underdog** in New Hampshire.*

## under siege

to be surrounded by enemies; to be in trouble

*The city of Jerusalem has been **under** siege many times.*

*After the news came out, he has been **under** siege for his comments about women.*

## add up

to make sense; to be logical

Preposition to use: **up**

*The numbers just don't add **up**.*

*Do you really think this make sense? To me, this whole theory doesn't add **up**.*

## up for grabs

available for anyone (or for the first taker); free to the taking; not yet claimed

*Around 100 delegates in the US electoral map are **up** for grabs on every election cycle.*

*These Gucci bags are all **up** for grabs in a truly unique commerical offer.*

*OK, the last cookie is **up** for grabs, guys!*

## keep up the good work

Praise used to encourage someone

*Good job! I couldn't have done it better! Keep **up** the good work.*

## to lock somebody up

to put in jail

*"Lock her **up**!" quickly became the chant at the 2016 RNC. It refers to Hillary Clinton and her illegal use of private email servers for official use.*

## to put up (something)

to publish (a sign, a commercial or a website)

Preposition to use: **up**

*They put **up** a new website about this issue in less than one hour.*

to put **up** with (something or somebody)

to bear

Preposition to use: **up with**

*I don't want to put **up** with his behaviour any longer!*

*Americans had to put **up** with this issue for more than ten years.*

*During history, Roman farmers and citizen put **up** with many unfair and crazy emperors.*

to tie **up**

to close, to become congested

Preposition to use: **up**

*Traffic was tied **up** during the blizzard.*

# V

## **Vultures** are circling

Danger is approaching / something bad is about to happen

*My speech was pointless. I felt **vultures** circling as nobody was paying attention to my words.*

# W

## to **wage war**

To be against somebody / to pursue someone in fight /to fight / Always use "on" after this phrasal verb!

Preposition to use: **on**

*ISIS is **waging war on** other Muslim people.*

*I don't want to **wage war on** you!*

## If it looks like a duck, and it **walks** like a duck, it's a duck!

Used to say that something is probably exactly what it seems to be, and therefore we should not trust too much about it.

*Look! You say this is authentic, but to me, it's not! If it looks like a duck and **walks** like a duck, it's probably a duck!*

*They call it a clinic; not a prison. But if it looks like a duck and **walks** like a duck; then it's a duck!*

## **walk** of life

line of work; chosen profession or job

*He'll do fine with whatever **walk** of life he chooses.*

## **Where** do you stand on ...? (to stand on something)

What is your opinion about ...? / Where do you stand on Clinton?

Preposition to use: **on**

*Basically, this means "what is your position about an issue?" and it is mostly used during political debates.*

*Hillary Clinton explained to viewers **where** she stands on abortion, immigration and gun control.*

*Mr. Senator, **where** do you stand on foreign policy and the trade deficit with China?*

## by a **whisker**

by a very small amount

*She lost the race by a **whisker**.*

## come to grips **with**

deal with (a subject or a problem); handle an issue

*I still haven't come to grips **with** the death of my parents.*

*Have you come to grips **with** the fact that the next president of the US might be not your choice?*

to put up **with** (something or somebody)

to bear

Preposition to use: **up with**

*I don't want to put up **with** his behaviour any longer!*

*Americans had to put up **with** this issue for more than ten years.*

*During history, Roman farmers and citizen put up **with** many unfair and crazy emperors.*

### **White-collar worker**

A salaried professional or an educated worker who performs semi-professional office, administrative, and sales-coordination tasks

***White collar workers** are usually pretty good at office software.*

*As more and more Chinese move to urban areas, the Chinese **white-collar** population has exploded in the last twenty years.*

Keep up the good **work**

Praise used to encourage someone

Preposition to use: **up**

*Good job! I couldn't have done it better! Keep up the good **work**.*

### **would-be**

prospective; possible; future

***Would-be** immigrants to the US have to go through many background checks.*

# X

## **X factor**

The dangers that some military people face which civilian people do not face (or which they receive payment), is known as X factor.

*How would the neighbors know? They don't have any clue of something called X factor!*

## **X-rated**

Not suitable for children / with sexual content

*This site is X-rated.*

# Y

a resounding “no” / a resounding “**yes**”

a strong “no” / a strong “yes”

*The answer is a resounding no.*

*If you straw poll politicians about this topic, the answer would be a resounding **yes**.*

pull **yourself** together!

Avoid breaking down; stop acting too distraught or emotional; keep a stiff lip

*Dad! Pull **yourself** together; don't cry in front of my classmates! It's embarrassing!*

*You need to pull **yourself** together if you will talk about this sad topic in front of all these people.*

# Z

## Ground **zero**

The place where the two New York World Trade Center towers collapsed on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001

## **Zero** hour

The hour or time when something is planned to happen (in military jargon)

*Tomorrow is **zero** hour.*

# Acronyms

## BRB

Be Right Back

Used when chatting on a computer or phone and letting the other party know that there will be a short absence from keyboard.

## BYOB

**BYOB** is often placed on an invitation to indicate that the host will not be providing alcohol and that guests are welcome to bring their own. Some business establishments allow patrons to bring their own bottle, sometimes subject to fees or membership conditions, or because the establishment itself does not have license to sell alcohol.

Read: **B-Y-O-B**

*Bring your own booze; bring your own bottle*

## HWP

Height and weight proportionate

Read: **Height and weight proportionate**. Usually it is never read as HWP.

*Often used in personal ads online and/or newspapers, meaning "no fat people".*

*Example: Looking for a date. Please be HWP.*

## IRS

Read: **I-R-S**

*Internal Revenue Service*

## MILF

### Warning! Bad word!

"Mother I'd Like (to) Fuck"

A MILF is any mother that is sexually desirable. This word became popular after the 1999 movie "American Pie."

Read: **milf**; not M-I-L-F

*Dude... Cassandra's mom is a **milf**! MILF! MILF! MILF!*

## POTUS

*President of the United States of America*

## **ROI**

Return on Investment

Read: **R-O-I**

*These companies have a proven record for a solid ROI.*

## **SEC**

South-eastern Conference

*It is used to represent the US states that have election primaries and caucuses on March 1<sup>st</sup>, which is also called Super-Tuesday.*

## **SCROTUS**

Supreme Court of the United States

## **SOTU**

State of the Union (speech)

## **VPN**

Virtual Private Network

*In China, almost all foreigners use VPN, because without it they cannot use websites like Facebook, YouTube, Google or even Gmail.*

*VPN is able to trick the Chinese firewall to access foreign websites.*

# Humor

Let's face it:

Busy Teacher.org



## English is a crazy language

There is no **EGG** in **EGGPLANT** nor **HAM** in **HAMBURGER**; neither **APPLE** nor **PINE** in **PINEAPPLE**. **ENGLISH MUFFINS** weren't invented in **ENGLAND**. **QUICKSAND** can work **SLOWLY**, **BOXING RINGS** are **SQUARE**, and a **GUINEA PIG** is neither from **GUINEA** nor is it a **PIG**.

And why is it that **WRITERS WRITE** but **FINGERS DON'T FING**, **GROCERS** don't **GROCE** and **HAMMERS** don't **HAM**? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make **AMENDS** but not one **AMEND**? If **TEACHERS TAUGHT**, why didn't **PREACHERS PRAUGHT**? If a **VEGETARIAN** eats **VEGETABLES**, what does a **HUMANITARIAN** eat?

In what other language do people **RECITE** at a **PLAY** and **PLAY** at a **RECITAL**? We **SHIP BY TRUCK** but **SEND CARGO BY SHIP**. We have **NOSES** that **RUN** and **FEET** that **SMELL**. We **PARK** in a **DRIVEWAY** and **DRIVE** in a **PARKWAY**. And how can a **SLIM CHANCE** and a **FAT CHANCE** be the same, while a **WISE MAN** and a **WISE GUY** are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your **HOUSE** can **BURN UP** as it **BURNS DOWN**, in which you **FILL IN** a form by **FILLING IT OUT**, and in which an **ALARM** goes **OFF** by going **ON**. And, in closing, if Father is **POP**, how come Mother's not **MOP**?



