American English Slang: Dialogues, Phrases, Words & Expressions for English Learners

Jackie Bolen

Published by Jackie Bolen, 2021.
American English Slang: Dialogues, Phrases, Words & Expressions for English Learners

Jackie Bolen

www.eslspeaking.org
TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Author: Jackie
Introduction to American English
Chill
My
Pit

Hooked
The Chicken or the

No

No Big
Chow
Party
Speak of the
Plus
Hit the

From Dawn Till

Stuck in a Traffic Jam
Down to
Sit
Have a
When Pigs
Running Late
Feeling Under the
Before You
About the Author: Jackie Bolen

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

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

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

Jackie Bolen

Twitter: @bolen_jackie

Email: jb.business.online@gmail.com
You may also want to check out these other books by Jackie Bolen. It's easy to find them wherever you like to buy books.

- English Collocations in Dialogue
- Advanced English Conversation Dialogues
- 1001 English Expressions and Phrases
Welcome to this book designed to help you expand your knowledge of slang in American English. My goal is to help you speak and write more fluently.

Let's face it, English can be difficult to master, even for the best students. In this book, you'll find dialogues that are ideal for intermediate-level students.

The best way to learn new vocabulary is in context.

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

– Review frequently.

– Try to use some of the phrases and expressions in real life.

– Don’t be nervous about making mistakes. That's how you'll get better at English!

– Consider studying with a friend so you can help each other stay motivated.

– Use a notebook and write down new words, idioms, expressions, etc. that you run across. Review frequently so that they stay fresh in your mind.
– Be sure to answer the questions at the end of each dialogue. I recommend trying to do this from memory. No peeking!

– I recommend doing one dialogue a day. This will be more beneficial than finishing the entire book in a week or two.

Good luck and I wish you well on your journey to becoming more proficient with American English slang.
Chill Out

Keith is telling Sam that he's going to leave.

Hey, I think I'm going to

Chill You just got here. Why are you leaving?

I'm tired of playing third wheel with you couch

Come on stay. We'll watch a flick or something.

Nah, I'm going to I want to catch some rays at the beach.

You're such a pain in the Why don't we come with you though?
I'm tired of sitting around too.

Vocabulary

Leave; depart.

Chill Relax.

Third Describes someone who is spending time with a couple.
Couch People who aren't that active, instead preferring to sit on the couch and watch TV or play video games.

A movie.

Go somewhere.

Catch some Go outside in the sun.

A pain in the Describes someone who is annoying or bothersome.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

My youngest is such _____.
Let's _____. There are some weird people here.
I don't mind being the _____, depending on the couple.
Let's _____. We need to be there in 15 minutes.
I want to _____ this weekend for sure.
Hey, _____. We don't have to be there for another hour.
Do you want to catch ____ this weekend?
My kids are basically _____ and never want to go outside.

Answers

a pain in the neck
bail
third wheel
roll
catch some rays
chill out
a flick
couch potatoes
My Bad

Owen is apologizing for cancelling a plan with Nate.

Nate: Hey, so what happened last night? We were supposed to hang out.

My bad. I pulled an all-nighter the night before and crashed hard. I didn't even see your messages until this morning.

Okay. No It was a bummer though! I wanted to see you. I did hit the books though for that test next week so not all was

Are you free this weekend? Let me buy you dinner to make up for it.

I'm Friday night?

Perfect.

Vocabulary

Hang Spend time with someone.

Pulled an Stayed up the entire night to study or work.
Suddenly had no energy.

No It's okay.

Too bad.

Hit the Studied.

Not all was There was something positive in a bad situation.

I'm An expression that shows you want to do the thing that the other person is suggesting. Same as, “I'm in.”
**Practice**

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

____ with whatever. What are you thinking?
Oh, _____. I don’t even care about that.
I ____ last week and I’m still tired from it.
Bobby, you need to _____. Isn’t your test tomorrow?
Do you want to ____ this weekend?
It was annoying but _____. We were able to recover the data.
I ____ so hard last night after 10 hours at the beach.
That’s a ____ about your car not starting.

**Answers**

I’m down
no worries
pulled an all-nighter
hit the books
hang out
not all was lost
crashed
bummer
**Pit Stop**

*Ted and Ryan are on a road trip.*

Hey buddy, can we make a **pit** I need to **drain the**

Can you make it to a gas station without having a

Ummm...maybe not. Just **pull** okay? Or you might have to do **damage**

Okay! Hurry up though. I'm getting **hangry** and want to get something to eat.

Okay. I will! I know how grumpy you get when you don't eat breakfast.

**Vocabulary**

**Pit** Stopping to get snacks or go to the bathroom on a road trip.

**Drain the** Go to the bathroom.

Disgusting.
Too much information. Used to express displeasure when someone tells you something that you think should be kept private.

Temper tantrum.

**Pull** Stop the car on the side of the road.

**Damage** Trying to contain a bad situation.

Hungry + angry combined

________
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

I always get so _____ when I skip breakfast.
I need to _____ before we leave.
My son had a huge _____ this morning about what to wear to school.
We'll need to do _____ on this one. The report has already leaked out.
Stop right there! It's already _____.
Can we make a _____, please? I'd love to get another coffee.
Please _____ right now. I'm feeling carsick.
So ____. Did you see that guy pick his nose?

Answers

hangry
drain the lizard
meltdown
meltdown
TMI
pit stop
pull over
gross
Dumped

Alex got dumped by his girlfriend.

Hey what's up? You don't look so good.

I just got dumped by Kendra. And just when we started talking about getting hitched.

Sorry to hear that. Wasn't she super flakey though, always cancelling at the last minute?

Yeah, and I straight up caught her lying to me more than a few times.

Better off without her. Let's get ripped this weekend. It'll take your mind off of it.

Yeah, I want to blow off some Just don't post about it on social media. I don't want to get busted by my boss. He just added me as a friend on Facebook.

Vocabulary

A way to greet a close male friend (if you're also a guy).

Broken up with.
**Getting** Getting married.

Describes someone who doesn’t follow through with what they say or always cancels plans.

**Straight** Speaking honestly.

Drunk.

**Blow off some** Relax; let loose.

**Added me:** Becoming friends with someone on social media.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

What do you like to do to _____?
I'll never work on another project with her if I can avoid it. She's so _____.
I got _____. last night at the work Christmas party. I hope that I didn't do anything too embarrassing.
Did you hear that Ted _____ Lindsay?
My grandma just _____ on Instagram. It's so cute!
I _____ never want to talk to that guy again.
Tom and I are _____ next month.
Hey ___, how are you doing these days?

Answers

blow off some steam
flakey
ripped
dumped
dumped
added me
straight up
getting hitched
bro
*Hooked On*

*Kerry and Sabrina are talking about snowboarding.*

Hey Sabrina, you're looking good these days! What's up?

I'm hooked on snowboarding. I have a few epic fails but no broken bones yet. I've been going every weekend.

Where do you go?

Whistler usually. I have a season's pass.

Did you pick up some How do you get there?

Yeah, I just bought a used car!

That sounds awesome.

Do you board? We can go together.

I'm I haven't gone in years but it's a piece of right?

*Sabrina:* Yeah, it's just like riding a Seriously, let's go next weekend.
Vocabulary

Addicted.

**Epic** Major problems.

Awesome; great.

A car.

Great!

*I'm* I want to do it.

**A piece of** Describes something that's easy to do.

**Like riding a bike:** Describes something that you can easily do after many years of not doing it.
**Practice**

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Don’t worry about that test. I wrote it last year and it was _____. _____! I loved that new video you just posted.
You’ll be fine. It’s just _____.
_____ for whatever. Just let me know the plan.
I’m so ____ on The Queen’s Gambit.
Once you get some _____, you’ll never want to go back to taking the bus.
That’s a _____ bike you have there.
We had a few _____ at the beginning of the project but things are running smoothly now.

_______

**Answers**

a piece of cake
sick
like riding a bike
I’m game
hooked
wheels
sweet
epic fails
**The Chicken or the Egg**

*Bob and Sam are talking about Sam's son.*

Hey, how's your son doing these days? I heard he got into a bit of trouble?

He **drives me up the** He's both a **slacker** and a **stoner**. I don't know if it's **the chicken or the egg** but whatever the case, he's **flunking** out of high school because he's always

You were such a **keener** in school. How did this happen?

Trust me. I have no idea.

What does he say when you talk to him?

He just yells, **off my** We can't even have a real conversation about it. I'm scared he's ruining his life.

Well, I'm here for you if you need to talk about things.

**Vocabulary**

**Drives me up the** Makes me crazy.
Describes someone who is lazy.

Describes someone who likes to do illegal drugs often.

The chicken or the Which thing comes first?

Failing.

On drugs.

Describes someone who is the opposite of lazy.

Get off my Stop bugging me.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Seriously, _____. I don't want to talk about this anymore.
It ____ when he doesn't put his dishes in the dishwasher.
You're such a _____, studying two weeks before the test.
Is it ____? It's difficult to tell in this situation.
Let's get ____ after work tonight.
I was a ____ in high school but I quit when I went to university.
I'm ____ math but I don't care.
My daughter is a ____ and doesn't care about school. She'd rather just hang around with her friends.

Answers

get off my back
drives me up the wall
keener
the chicken or the egg
high
stoner
flunking
slacker
Mary, Sam, and Annie are friends who are at their high school dance.

Hey Let's This dance is so

Yeah for real. **Corny** is the only word for it.

Do you want to head back to my We can **nuke** some pizza pockets and watch a movie or something?

I'm **bummed** about leaving. I had such **high** But yeah, I'm in. Let's go.

I'll come too. Should we ask Tony?

**Sam:** Nah, let's keep it small. My parents will get **pissed** if too many people come over.

**Vocabulary**

**Ya'll:** A way of addressing more than one person, commonly used in the Southern USA.
Small or amateur.

Cheezy, not slick.

Where someone lives; place of residence.

Microwave (verb).

Feeling let down about something.

**High** High expectations.

**Pissed:** Angry.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

I had _____ for that movie. Why did everyone think it was so good?
My dad is _____ at me for crashing his car last week.
Let's ____. I'm getting so tired.
Hey ____, what are we doing this weekend?
Let's hang out at my ____ tonight.
I'm so ____ that I didn't get into UBC.
My dad is super ____ but also quite entertaining.
Just ____ it for 3 minutes.
That amusement park? It's _____. Don't waste your time going.

Answers

high hopes
pissed
split
ya'll
pad
bummed
corny
nuke
rinky-dink
Junkies

Ted and Sam are in a bad part of town.

Hey, can we stop and grab a coffee? I'm running out of gas here.

Can you hold out for a few minutes? There are so many junkies and cops around this part of town. I try to never stop here if I can avoid it. It's just too

I can hold out for a bit.

Sorry.

No Hey, what about going to Bean Around the World on the Drive? That place really hits the

Awesome. Thanks for understanding.

Vocabulary

Get; pick up.

Running out of gas: Getting tired.

Totes: Totally; of course.
Hold  Wait.

People addicted to drugs.

Police officers.

Sketchy; not safe.

No  No problem.

Hits the  Describes something that's satisfying.

———
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase

I know Taco Casa is so unhealthy but that really ____. Can you ____ a pizza on your way home for dinner? Let's ____ for a better offer. Call the ____. I think a robbery is happening across the street. Oh, ____. That wasn't a big deal to me at all. Can we call it a day? I'm ____. There are so many ____ in downtown Vancouver. Let's hit the gym before work tomorrow. _____. I think this ski run is kind of ____. Let's take the easier one.

Answers

hit the spot
grab
hold out
cops
no sweat
running of gas
junkies
totes
dicey
Eddy and Cindy are talking about their aunt Anne.

How was the family dinner?

It big

What happened?

Oh you know Anne. She's basically a Karen every time she leaves the house. She was yelling at the waitress about nothing. And then refused to pay for her dinner.

I can't

It gets worse. She hit the booze and got blackout We had to drive her home afterwards. And then my mom made me Uber there in the morning to get her car for her.

Not I hate stuff like that.

Vocabulary

Describes something terrible.
**Big** In a large way.

Generally refers to an obnoxious, entitled, middle-aged white lady.

**I can't** Describes an event that is too frustrating or annoying to even talk about.

Alcohol.

**Blackout** Drinking alcohol to the point where you can't remember what happened.

**Uber:** A ride-sharing service. It can be used as a noun or a verb.

Hip; awesome; great.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Hey, it's so _____ that you got a better job. 
_____ I can't believe he said that. 
It _____ when I lost my job but I found a better one quickly. 
Why don't we _____ home after the concert? 
I'm getting old. I can't remember the last time I got _____. 
Stop being a _____. It's embarrassing. 
Let's pick up some _____ after we go to the grocery store. 
I want a smoke _____ but my husband will kill me.

Answers

cool
I can't even
sucked
Uber
blackout drunk
Karen
booze
big time
No Biggie

Keith is asking his girlfriend Mandy for some help.

Hey can you help me out with the garden this weekend?

You

You’re so That’s why I love you. Plus, you’re hot too.

You really know how to flatter a girl. It’s no

Okay, let’s crack open a bottle when we’re done and kick back a bit.

Vocabulary

Honey, sweetie (said to someone you’re in a romantic relationship with).

You Agreeing to something.

Describes someone who is generally relaxed about things.

Describes someone good-looking.
No  Not a big deal.

Crack open a  Open a bottle of wine.

Kick  Relax.

Awesome; great.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase

That's so _____ about your new job!
Will you give me a ride to the airport on Tuesday? _____.
Oh, _____. I don't mind at all.
Hey _____, let's get sushi tonight.
Your new boyfriend is so _____.
Let's _____ and BBQ tonight.
When should we _____? Is it too early?

Answers

wicked
you bet
no biggie
babe
hot
kick back/chill
crack open a bottle
Tim and Sara are talking about their high-school classmate, Sam.

Hey dude, did you hear that Sam got

No, what went

Well, he straight up said a bunch of homophobic things to Lucy in front of so many people. People even recorded it with their phones.

Tim: Why am I so out of the Anyway, What a Who does that?

Yeah, super He has a such a big

Tim: I hope Principal Brown brings the hammer

Nah, she's probably going to do nothing, like usual.

Vocabulary

Describes someone who is rejected or dismissed because of their bad behaviour.

Went Happened.
**Straight** Honestly.

**Out of the** Not knowing some information.

Describes someone who is not cool.

Describes someone who can't be trusted.

**A big** Describes someone who talks too much.

**Brings the hammer** Punishes.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase

She always _____. Watch out.
That hockey player got ____ because of his racist comments.
I’m so ____ when it comes to office politics but I like it that way.
Does anyone else find that new guy super ____?
I ____ want to tell her to just sit down and be quiet.
My uncle Tony has such _____. I hate inviting him to family gatherings.
What ____ between you two?
My last boyfriend was such a _____. Breaking up with him was the best decision I've ever made.

Answers

brings the hammer down
cancelled
out of the loop
sketchy
straight up
a big mouth
went down
loser
Peanuts

*Lucy and Annie are talking about their jobs.*

Hey, what's up?

Oh, you know. Just working for **peanuts** as a **paper-pusher** at NewTech.

Sorry to hear that. Are you **hard up** for cash?

A little but I'm **getting** Why?

I know a way to make a **quick buck** but you'll have to work Friday and Saturday nights.

Nah, I'm already **maxed out** with my night courses too. Remember when we used to **goof off** and smoke **joints** during lunch in high school?

Those were the days. Now we have these ridiculous **white collar** jobs.

**Vocabulary**

A small amount of money.
Someone who does admin at work but doesn't make any real decisions.

**Hard** Describes someone who doesn’t have any money.

**Getting** Describes someone who can pay the bills but doesn’t have a lot of extra money.

**A quick** Easy money.

**Maxed** At capacity.

**Goof** Have fun by ignoring some responsibilities.

Marijuana in cigarette form.

**White** Describes a job that doesn't require manual labour; a desk or office job.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase

I need to find a _____ job. My body can't handle construction anymore.
He's just a ____. The real decisions get made by Cindy.
I'm ____ but I'm nervous about how expensive having kids will be.
We're ____. Sorry, we can't squeeze you in.
Bring some ____ to the beach, okay?
If you want to make _____, check out my company. They're hiring temporary workers.
Ted loves to ____ at school and his grades are suffering because of it.
I'm so tired of working for ____. There has to be a better option.
If you're ____, why not move back in with your parents?

Answers

white collar
paper-pusher
getting by
maxed out
joints
a quick buck
goof off
peanuts
hard up
No Big Deal

Anne and Jen are talking about Jen's old job.

Hey Jen, how's your job going these days?

Oh, you didn't hear? It was a

Oh no! That's terrible. What happened?

No big I got a new job the next week. Anyway, the head honcho was so chintzy and kept trying to rip me off on my paycheck.

Anything to make a right? That's so bad.

I'm so happy I quit. My new job is so much better.

Vocabulary

Describes something that didn't work out.

No big It's not a large problem.

Head The boss.

Very cheap.
Rip me Steal money from.

Dollar.

You only live once!
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Go for it. ____!
My uncle is ____ but he's also a millionaire because of it.
Do you have a ____ to spare?
Oh, ____. I don't care about stuff like that.
The ____ wants to meet with me next week.
Did that guy just try to ____? Did you see that?
That program turned out to be a ____.

Answers

YOLO
chintzy
buck
no big deal
head honcho
rip me off
bust
Gary and Andy are talking about their teenage kids.

How are the kids these days?

Oh you know, they basically scarf down all the food in the house at every possible moment. And then zone out playing video games for hours.

Same here. My kids chow down on all the good stuff after I go grocery shopping and it's gone in a day.

Mine go nuts for pizza. Whenever I get take-out, I have to say, your Leave a piece for me.”

You sound almost laid My kids go psycho for it too. I got smart and now take some out for my wife and I before I even bring it into the house.

You’re winning at life my friend.

Vocabulary

Scarf Eat a lot very quickly.

Zone Relax; lose concentration or focus.
**Chow** Eat food.

**Go** Go crazy for something because you love it.

**Hold your** Wait.

**Laid** Describes someone who is relaxed about something.

**Go** Act irrationally or crazy.

**Winning at** You have life figured out; good move!
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase

You know you're _____ when the kids clean up their dishes without you asking them!
Is it time to _____? I'm hungry.
My kids _____ ice cream like it's water.
_____. You'll have to wait in line like the rest of us.
I'm scared he's going to _____ if I confront him about this. Will you come with me?
I always _____ in math class; it's so boring.
Let's _____ and finish this by 5:00.
I want to be more _____ but I always have a million things going on in my head.

Answers

winning at life
chow down
scarf down
hold your horses
go psycho
zone out
go nuts
laid back
*Party Animal*

*Kevin and Mark are talking about the party they were at last night.*

Dude, you’re such a **party** You were so **wasted** last night. It was

Yeah, I had a **blast** until I ran into my

 Seriously? I didn't know that. That was why you left so early?

Yeah, she's **cray** and I didn't want to deal with her. She **ghosted** me after dating for six months. Who does that?

She's You're better off without her.

Yeah, I know. But I'm still angry so I didn't want to have a big after I’d been drinking so much.

You're a wise man, my friend.

**Vocabulary**

**Party** Someone who likes to go to parties and drink a lot.

Drunk.
Describes something that happened which is amazing or awesome.

A A lot of fun.

Crazy

Suddenly stopped responding to messages without explanation, usually in a dating relationship.

Describes someone who is boring, without originality or style.

Big fight.

________
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

I think you two will need to have a _____ eventually.
That guy is such a _____. I've never seen him without a drink in his hand.
My boss is _____. I can't believe he expects me to work for free on weekends.
That girl is so _____. Why does everyone like her so much?
I had ____ camping this year.
That guy I was talking to online just _____ me.
Dude! Your jump was _____.
Let's get _____ this weekend.

Answers

showdown
party animal
cray
crystalline
crystal clear
basic
a blast
ghosted
epic
wasted
Speak of the Devil

Jerry and Linda are talking about Kenny's new look.

Jerry: Have you seen Kenny lately? He looks like a million bucks, always wearing flashy clothes and driving his fancy new car.

Linda: I haven't seen him lately but guys like that are a dime a dozen in this town. They all made their money in finance, I think.

Jerry: Speak of the devil! I think I see him coming in the door right now! Let's call him over.

Linda: I don't want to beat around the bush so I'll just say it. I don't like Kenny! He ripped me off on his old TV that he sold me. It was hanging on by its' last

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

Vocabulary

Speak of the devil: The person you are talking about appears at that exact moment. For example, you are talking about a coworker and then they walk into the room right then.

Looks like a million bucks: To look attractive or well put together.
A dime a dozen: Something that is very common, not special.

Beat around the bush: Avoid talking about something important, or not getting to the main point directly.

Ripped me off: To make a bad deal with someone. To be stolen from.

Get out of here: To leave a place, usually quickly.

Flasy: Bright, shiny, expensive.

Last legs: Something that is close to breaking/stopping/not working.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Tim _____ these days with his new haircut.
Job offers like that are _____.
I want to _____ so badly! I hate this school.
“Oh, _____! We were just talking about you!”
Honestly, I hate that my boss loves to _____. I wish he'd just get to the point.
I'm so embarrassed that he_____.
My brother got a _____ new haircut in preparation for his job interview.
I'm going to have to buy a new car. This one is on its' _____.

Answers

looks like a million bucks
a dime a dozen
get out of here
speak of the devil
beat around the bush
ripped me off
flashy
last legs
Ed is inviting Cindy to be his date for a wedding.

Hey, did you hear that Tom and Sara are tying the knot next month? Do you want to be my plus

Is there an open

They have deep I'm sure there will be.

Okay. I'm up for it then. We can pig out on wedding get drunk and cut up the dance floor!

I have the exact same vision. I'm I'll send you all the details but it's on May 23 at 4:00.

Thanks for inviting me.

Vocabulary

Tying the Getting married.

Plus A date for a party, wedding, or other event.

Open As much free alcohol as you want at a wedding or party.
**Deep** Describes someone who has lots of money.

**Up for** I'll do it; I'm game; I'll go.

**Pig** Eat a lot.

Food.

Describes someone who has had too much alcohol.

Excited.

Awesome; great.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

That's so _____ about your new job!
Who's _____? I haven't heard the latest gossip.
Wherever you want to go for lunch, I'm ____.  
I hope there's an ____ at our Christmas party.  
Let's get some ____. I'm famished.  
I'm so ____ to see Tony. It's been years.  
My company has ____ and money is no object.  
Do you want to be my ____ for my cousin's wedding?  
I want to ____ tonight! I skipped lunch. How about ABC buffet?  
I can't get ____ tonight—I have to work early tomorrow.

Answers

rad
tying the knot
up for it
open bar
grub
pumped
deep pockets
plus one
pig out
drunk


**Hit the Sack**

*Jerry and Larry are talking about being very busy.*

Jerry: I have to hit the sack. I'm so tired right now.

Larry: Have you been burning the midnight oil lately?

Jerry: Yeah, I've been trying to study for this test. I should have started earlier.

Larry: Well, better late than But, make sure to get enough sleep. If you're tired, you won't remember anything.

Jerry: You're right. It was many moons ago that I got a decent night's sleep.

Larry: Don't give up. I think you'll ace it.

Jerry: Well, here's hoping I come up Time to knuckle down and get to work.

**Vocabulary**

**Hit the sack:** Go to bed.
Many moons: A long time ago.

Burning the midnight oil: Staying up late working or studying.

Better late than never: Encouragement after getting a late start to something.

Ace: To get a high mark on a test or do well at something like a job interview.

Come up trumps: To get exactly what is needed at the last minute.

Knuckle down: To focus deeply on something.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Don't forget to _____ early. It's your big game tomorrow!
Although it was _____ ago, I still think about my ex-boyfriend.
I've been _____ lately, working a second job.
Honestly, it's _____ but he dropped the ball on this project.
You won't _____ the test unless you study.
That guy has an uncanny ability to always _____.
It's the last thing I want to do but I know it's time to _____ and study.

Answers

hit the sack
many moons
burning the midnight oil
better late than never
ace
come up trumps
knuckle down
Sam is talking to Edward about his new car.

Dude! Your car is ballin'. You killed it with that color and those rims.

Yeah, it's the bomb for sure. What are you driving these days?

Basically a I'm hoping to get a new one when I get my bonus. Do you get lots of chicks with that thing?

Oh, you know me. I have a cool car but I'm hopelessly out of Hahaha.

Nah bro, put some shades on and we'll go You'll do

Yeah! That sounds great.

Vocabulary

Describes something cool or fashionable.

Killed Did really well at something.

The Something amazing or awesome.
A car that is always breaking down.

Young women who are attractive.

Out of Describes someone who isn't fashionable.

Sunglasses.

Driving around, trying to meet people.

Good.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase

Hey, you'll do _____ on this test. Don't worry.
I'm so _____ and I don't even care.
That teacher is _____.
Let's go _____ tonight. I'm bored.
Where are all the _____ at?
You _____ on that presentation!
I need to grab my _____ before we go.
He's _____ with that fancy new car of his.
Your car is _____. It's time to stop throwing money away fixing it and just get a new one.

Answers

alright
out of style
the bomb
cruising
chicks
killed it
shades
ballin'
a lemon
Eric and Mandy are talking about working a lot.

Eric: How's work going these

Mandy: The usual. I have to work from dawn till We have all these strict deadlines from clients and are always running out of

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

Mandy: Not if I want to get ahead in this industry. I'd love to take my time on projects. But, that's not going to cut

Vocabulary

These days: Lately.

From dawn till dusk: Working very long hours (early morning to late at night).

Strict A definite time when something needs to be finished.

Running out of time: Lacking time to finish or do something.
Cut back on: Reduce.

Free time: Leisure time when not working or studying.

Get ahead: Make gains, especially compared to other people.

Take my time: Not hurry.

Not going to cut it: Something you do isn't good enough.
Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct word or phrase.

Please do it again. That's ____.
I hate having to work under _____. It's very stressful.
In my ____, I love to hang out with friends.
I have to work ____ during the year-end.
I'd love to ____ my drinking but it's difficult around the holidays.
I'd love to ____ and make a good decision about which program to take.
It's difficult to ____ in Vancouver when housing is so expensive.
____, I'm trying to get in better shape.
We're ____ and will need to stay late tonight.

Answers

not going to cut it
strict deadlines
free time
from dawn till dusk
cut back on
take my time
get ahead
these days
running out of time
Swag

Angela and Lucy are talking about a gig tonight.

Hey, did I hear that you’re playing a gig tonight at the Metro?

Yeah, do you want to come?

Are you giving away any

No It’s such a myth that musicians make Most of us are struggling to make ends

Okay, okay! I’ll come anyways. What time?

10:45.

So late. But I’ll catch some Z’s now so I’ll be good for later.

Break a

Vocabulary

A concert or performance, somewhat informal.

Something free you get at an event.
Something free, in any situation.

Lots of money.

**Struggling to make ends** Finding it difficult to make enough money to pay all the bills.

**Catch some** Get some sleep.

**Break a** An expression to say, “Good luck” to someone just about to go on stage.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Hey, _____ tonight, okay?
They don’t pay her the _____ for nothing!
Did you get some good _____ at the conference?
_____ and we'll talk later.
Let’s go to Costco on Saturday afternoon. They always have so many _____.
Can you come to my _____ this weekend?
Sid is ____. Should we try to help him out?

Answers

break a leg
megabucks
swag
catch some Z’s
freebies
gig
struggling to make ends meet
Richard is stuck in a traffic jam and telling Linda that he'll be late for their appointment.

Richard: Linda? Hi. Sorry, I'm going to be late for our coffee. There's a traffic jam somewhere up ahead. We're crawling along at a snail's pace.

Linda: Oh no. What time will you be here?

Richard: It's impossible to tell. There's a lot of traffic. I'll be as fast as I can.

Okay. Keep me updated, please. I need to leave in about an hour to pick up my kids from school.

Richard: I didn't know you needed to leave at a specific time. I'll keep you updated.

Linda: Sure. Better late than never. I was in the same boat yesterday meeting my husband.

Vocabulary

Coffee date: Meeting with someone over coffee. May, or may not be a romantic date.
**Traffic jam:** Cars that aren't moving quickly because of an accident or heavy traffic up ahead.

**Snail's pace:** Very slow.

**Impossible to predict:** Unable to give an exact time, answer, etc.

**Keep you updated:** Give me information as you know it.

**Better late than never:** It's better to do something not on time than not at all.

**In the same boat:** Experiencing the same thing.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

There's a big _____ up ahead. Let's take another route.
It was due 3 weeks ago but _____.
I hope Toronto will win the Stanley Cup but it's _____.
Everything in this company moves at a _____.
Are you free for a _____ next Tuesday morning?
You and Tom are _____.
I'll _____ every week.

Answers

traffic jam
better late than never
impossible to predict
snail's pace
coffee date
in the same boat
keep you updated
Down to Earth

Casey is talking to Dan about his crush on Tina.

Hey, so what's up with you and Tina?

Seriously, nothing. I have a crush on her but I'm too nervous to ask her out. Every time I talk to her, I can never bring myself to do it.

Stop being such a She's down to She won't be mean if the answer is no.

I'm just scared of rejection I guess.

Well, it's not rocket Just talk to her and see what the vibe is. I'm rooting for

Give it another I'll buy you lunch if you do, no matter what the answer is!

Vocabulary

Initial liking of someone in a romantic way.

Describes someone who is scared of something.
Down to Easy-going.

It's not rocket It's not that difficult to do.

Feeling.

Rooting for Cheering for you.

Another One more try.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Just give it ____. I'm sure you'll get it.
Don't be such a ____ and just do it!
Honestly, ____. I have no idea what's taking him so long.
We're all ____.
She's very ____ and easy to talk to.
Did you hear that Ted has a ____ on Sally?
What's the ____ like?

________

Answers

another shot
chicken
it's not rocket science
rooting for you
down to Earth
crush
vibe
Jason and Linda are talking about when to leave to get the train.

Jason: Hey, let's get moving! Time is money.

Linda: Sit I need to grab a few things before we go.

Jason: Come on. We have to get to the train station on time. I hate always being the bad guy about stuff like this.

Linda: Well, to be fair, you've been as clear as mud about what time we needed to leave. Traffic won't be as bad as you think.

Jason: There are always traffic jams at this time. Let's get a move on.

Linda: Okay, I'll be ready in the blink of an Stop bugging me!

Vocabulary

Sit tight: Wait patiently and don't take any action right now.

Clear as mud: Confusing or not easy to understand.
**Time is money:** To try to get someone to work faster or more efficiently.

**Traffic jams:** When cars aren't moving quickly because it's busy.

**Get a move on:** Hurry up.

**Bad guy:** Someone who always has bad news/enforces a rule.

**In the blink of an eye:** In a short amount of time.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

If you leave after 8 am, there will be lots of _____.
Let's _____. I don't want to be late for school.
I try to always remember that _____.
I had a terrible teacher in high school. His explanations were as _____.
_____ while I check and see what time the movie starts.
I hate to be the _____. but you need to get it together or you're going to get fired.
Don't miss the eclipse. It'll happen _____.

Answers

traffic jams
get a move on
time is money
clear as mud
Sit tight
bad guy
in the blink of an eye
Have a Blast

Sandy is trying to convince Danielle to come out to a club that night.

Hey, I heard you weren't coming tonight? You know we'll have a

Nah, that music at that club is so

I feel you but I also think you should lighten up a bit! The music doesn't matter as much as a hang with all your peeps.

I still think I'll take a rain

Lets be real. The FOMO is going to get you so I'll see you there.

If you do, you do. If you don't, you don't.

Okay fine.

Vocabulary

Have a Have fun.

Boring; not interesting.
I feel I understand.

**Lighten** Relax; chill out.

Friends.

**Take a rain** Do the activity or event some other time.

Fear of missing out.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

I don't care what you say. _____ is a real thing.
I think you'll get along better with Tony if you _____.
He's a nice guy but very _____.
Can I ____? I have a headache.
_____ but I still don't think it's the right decision.
Where are all my ____ at?
You'll _____ tonight! Just enjoy it.

Answers

FOMO
lighten up
vanilla
take a rain check
I feel you
peeps
have a blast
When Pigs Fly

Jerry and Linda are talking about their kids.

Jerry: My kids are buttering me up because they don't want to have to help put up Christmas lights.

Linda: You're lucky that you can get some help once in a My kids never pitch in for stuff like that. When pigs right?

Jerry: Ah, it's all smoke and mirrors at my house usually. My kids make a show out of cleaning up after themselves after dinner but their rooms are still like a

Linda: What have we gotten ourselves into?

Vocabulary

When pigs fly: Something that is very unlikely to happen.

Pitch in: To contribute to or help with something.

Buttering me up: To flatter or please someone because you want something in return. For example, a child who is extra nice to their parents around Christmas because they want an expensive video game system.
Smoke and mirrors: Flashy things that distract from what is real.

Christmas lights: Lights on houses for decoration around Christmas.

Once in a while: Sometimes.

Make a show out of: To do something in a flashy way.

Pigsty: Usually refers to a very messy room or space.


**Practice**

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

I like to let loose _____.
His presentation was all _____. No real substance.
My kids love to help me put up _____.
We all ____ every Saturday morning to clean up the house.
My kid’s bedroom is a _____.
My mom always used to say, “_____” when I asked her for money!
I know when my kids are ____ but I fall for it anyway. Their sweet smiles!
I hate that my coworkers always _____ finishing even the smallest task.

_______

**Answers**

once in a while
smoke and mirrors
Christmas lights
pitch in
pigsty
When pigs fly
buttering me up
make a show out of
Zeke wants to let Sid know that he is running late.

Sid. Hi. So sorry but I'm running late and can't meet you for dinner at 6:30.

Oh, okay. You're late once in a blue I don't mind. What time do you think you'll get here?

By 7:00 at the latest, I think. There was a car crash ahead of me on the highway.

Oh no! Is it cleared?

It will be soon. It looks like the police are finishing up now and traffic is moving slowly. Hopefully, we'll be rolling.

Sure. See you when you get here. No I'll just have a glass of wine to kill It isn't terrible, to say the least.

Zeke: Can't complain about that, right? Thanks for understanding. I appreciate it. Oh, and it's my treat so order a okay?

Vocabulary

Running Being behind schedule.
Once in a blue Not often.

Car crash: Accident.

Rolling Will start moving shortly.

No rush: Don't hurry.

Kill Do something to fill time.

Order a Get a bottle of wine, instead of just a glass at a restaurant.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

Hey Ted, I'm sorry but I'm _____.
I'd love to see the report but it's _____. I can wait.
I only smoke _____.
There's a ____ on Whyte Ave. Let's find a different route.
I usually watch Netflix when I have to _____.
Let's ____ for the whole table.
Get ready! We'll be ____ on all these new contracts.

Answers

running late
no rush
once in a blue moon
car crash
kill time
order a bottle
rolling soon
Feeling Under the Weather

Jerry and Linda are talking about not feeling well.

Linda: Hey, what's up with you these days?

Jerry: I've been sick for months now. I'm started to get worried about it.

Linda: I know you're feeling under the weather but this too shall pass.

Jerry: Thanks Linda, I appreciate you checking in on me every day.

Linda: It's the least I can You've helped me with so many things over the years. Just don't kick the bucket on me, okay?

Vocabulary

Feeling under the weather: Not feeling well; feeling sick.

Couch potato: Someone who spends lots of time on the couch watching TV or movies or playing video games. Not active.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away: Eating healthy keeps you from getting sick.
This too shall pass: A bad time period that will eventually end.

Checking in on: To see how someone is doing.

It's the least I can do: No problem; it's a small thing, usually when you feel like you should do more.

Kick the bucket: Die.
Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

My dad keeps phoning and _____ me. It's almost too much!
I keep nagging my son to get active because he's such a _____.
I called in sick because I was feeling a bit _____.
I'm convinced that the saying, “_____” does work!
My son has been pretty down lately but I told him that, “_____.”
Lunch is on me. _____, seeing as you've been making me meals all week.
I hope that I don't _____ before I'm 80 but I'm nervous about how much I smoke!

Answers

checking in on

couch potato

under the weather

An apple a day keeps the doctor away

This too shall pass

It's the least I can do

kick the bucket
Before You Go

If you found this book useful, please leave a review wherever you bought it. It will help other English learners, like yourself find this resource.

You may also want to check out this book: Advanced English Conversation Dialogues by Jackie Bolen. You can find it wherever you like to buy books. Improve your English vocabulary in a fun and interesting way.
Don't miss out!

Click the button below and you can sign up to receive emails whenever Jackie Bolen publishes a new book. There's no charge and no obligation.

Sign Me Up!

https://books2read.com/r/B-A-YWZK-RNSOB

BOOKS2READ

Connecting independent readers to independent writers.
Did you love *American English Slang: Dialogues, Phrases, Words & Expressions for English* Then you should read *English Collocations in Dialogue: Master Hundreds of Collocations in American English Quickly and Easily* by Jackie Bolen!
Learn hundreds of English collocations in a fun and engaging way! Sound like a native speaker with these common words that are used in the USA and around the world.

Find out how people speak American English in real life. That's where *English Collocations in Dialogue* comes in. You'll see the collocation used in a dialogue, find out what it means and then get an opportunity to practice what you've learned. It's everything you need to improve your English vocabulary and score higher on the TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS exams.

Jackie Bolen has fifteen years of experience teaching ESL/EFL to students in South Korea and Canada. With her help, you'll improve your English vocabulary and conversational skills in no time at all!

**Pick up a copy of the book today if you want to...**

Have hundreds of collocations in American English at your fingertips. See how they are used in real life. Improve your American English. Speak English fluently and confidently. Have some fun while learning English vocabulary. Improve your TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS score.

These are the collocations that you'll hear over and over again in real life. Spend time mastering them and you'll be speaking and writing English like a pro. Speak more fluently and gain some confidence with this book. Yes, it really is that easy!

*English Collocations in* Jackie Bolen will help you stay motivated while consistently improving your English skills. Get your copy today.