



## Bored to death

**Meaning/Usage:** Very bored

**Explanation:** Death is the worst thing, so using it to compare how you feel is telling someone that you are **very** bored.

"I have nothing to do. I'm *bored to death*."

"I hate it when I'm *bored to death*."

"Would you rather be super busy or *bored to death*?"

A: "Hey Seth, what are you doing?"

B: "I'm reading a book. What are you doing?"

A: "I'm *bored to death*. Let's do something."

B: "Sure. Come over and we can play some games."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm so bored, I could die."

"I'm dying of boredom."

## You've got to be kidding

**Meaning/Usage:** This is used when a true statement is ridiculous.

**Explanation:** "Kidding" is the same as joking. When a person hears something that is true, but it is not expected, the person will use this idiom to express that the statement is ridiculous.

A: "Hey Jared. Mom told me to tell you that you shouldn't stay out too late."

B: "*You've got to be kidding me*. I'm 30 years old."

A: "Patrick won the school election by two votes."

B: "He's not that popular how did this happen?"

A: "Nobody voted because they expected Jason to win."

B: "*You've got to be kidding me*."



### Other Common Sentences

"I really hope you're wrong."

"Please tell me it ain't so."

## Sick and Tired

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when you no longer enjoy something because you have done it too many times.

**Explanation:** It is common to say, "I'm sick of it" or "I'm tired of it." Both of these are negative terms. If you have to do something again, it will either make you feel sick or tired because you do not enjoy it.

"I'm *sick and tired* of eating the same thing for lunch everyday."

"I'm getting *sick and tired* of this song. They play it way too often at this club."

"I'm *sick and tired* of listening to him nag all the time."

A: "Where are you going for lunch today?"

B: "I don't know... how about a burger?"

A: "No. I eat that almost everyday. I'm getting *sick and tired* of them."

B: "Let's go eat teriyaki then."

### Other Common Sentences

"I'm getting sick of this phone. I think I'll buy a new one."

"I'm tired of the same routine. I need to find something new and different."

## Call it a day

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to express that the work day is over.

**Explanation:** "Call it" is often times used to make a decision. When you add "day" to this, then a person is making a decision to say that the day is



over. This is mostly used to end a working day.

"Let's *call it a day*. I'm too tired to continue working."

"We can't continue working without Mike, so let's *call it a day*."

"It's already nine o'clock. Let's *call it a day*."

A: "How much more work do we have for tonight?"

B: "I think we finished everything for the day."

A: "Good. Let's *call it a day* then."

Other Common Sentences

"Let's turn in for the night."

"I think we should pick it up from the morning."

pick it up = continue

## Get on one's nerves

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when someone or something is bothering you.

**Explanation:** Your body uses your "nerves" to feel any sensation such as a tap on the shoulder, a poke, a hot fire that is too close, or anything else. In this phrase, "nerves" is not used in a physical way, but to express that they are **feeling** bothered by what is happening.

"You're beginning to *get on my nerves*."

"Will you please stop doing that? It's *getting on my nerves*."

"His whining is *getting on my nerves*."

A: "He doesn't like his birthday present."

B: "He's starting to *get on my nerves*. It's one thing to not like it, but it's another to complain about it. We tried our best to get him a good present."

A: "Yeah. It's bothering me too."

Other Common Sentences

"You're beginning to annoy me."



"His complaints are starting to bother me."

## Couch potato

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when someone watches too much television.

**Explanation:** This was created for someone watching too much television because in some western countries, a person usually sits on the "couch" and eats "potato" chips while watching television.

"My husband is a *couch potato*. He sits in front of the TV all day long."

"You have a huge belly because you're a *couch potato*."

"I should be more active and less of a *couch potato*."

A: "James. We're going to play basketball. Do you want to play?"

B: "No, I'm going to watch TV today."

A: "You did that all day yesterday. You better stop being a *couch potato* or you're going to get a big fat belly."

Other Common Sentences

"Good luck trying to get his attention. He's glued to the television."

## Read one's mind

**Meaning/Usage:** When someone says something that you were also thinking about.

**Explanation:** This is a stronger way of saying, "I was thinking of that too."

"You *read my mind*."

"I was going to suggest that. You must have *read my mind*."

A: "Do you want to go play pool?"

B: "You *read my mind*. That's exactly what I was thinking too."



## Feel blue

**Meaning/Usage:** Feel sad

**Explanation:** Long time ago, blue was related to the rain. Whenever the fictional god Zeus was sad, he would make it rain (crying).

"What a gloomy day. It makes me *feel blue*."

"Whenever I *feel blue*, I like to listen to upbeat music."

"Matt's feeling a little *blue right* now. Let's go cheer him up."

A: "Where is Matt these days? I haven't seen him in a while."

B: "He *feels a little blue* because he can't find a girlfriend."

A: "Let's go cheer him up."

Other Common Sentences

"I feel a little depressed right now."

"I don't know why, but I just feel sad."

"Even though it's a nice day, I feel gloomy inside."

## Fender bender

**Meaning/Usage:** A small car accident

**Explanation:** "Fender" is the car body part that is right above the tire. "Bender" is derived from bend. Since the fender is a small part compared to the hood and door, and bend is not as bad as break or crack, combining these two indicates that the accident is very small. Like a small dent or scratch.

"I got into a small accident. It was just a *fender-bender*."

"I got into a *fender bender* in the parking lot."

"I can't believe the damage is going to cost me 300 bucks. It was just



a *fender bender*."

A: "I got into a car accident."

B: "That sucks. You didn' t get hurt did you?"

A: "No. It was just a *fender bender*."

Other Common Sentences

"It was a small accident."

"I rear ended him, but luckily there was no damage."

## Get foot in the door

**Meaning/Usage:** Taking or passing the first step of a longer process;  
Generally used when referring to an entry level position that will eventually lead to better opportunities.

**Explanation:** There is no use trying to get to the 10th floor if you can't even get through the door. So getting through the door is extremely important. This statement expresses optimism.

"It's not a great position, but at least my *foot is in the door*."

"I need to find a way to *get my foot in the door*."

"I'm doing an internship for SK Telecom. It's an opportunity to *get my foot in the door*."

A: "Did you find a job yet?"

B: "No. I'm still looking."

A: "With the sagging economy, it's hard to find a job."

B: "Yeah. I'm even considering a lower position. At least I'll have *my foot in the door*."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm working in the mail room. But I'm hoping I can change positions now that I'm in the company."

"I hate my position, but it's the only way I could start in this company."



## Chicken

**Meaning/Usage:** Being afraid or scared

**Explanation:** Chickens are very timid, afraid or scared of many things. It is common to use animals to express traits such as "sly as a fox" or "strong as a bear."

"There's nothing to be scared of. Don't be a *chicken*."

"Everyone thinks I'm a *chicken* because I didn't go bungee jumping with them."

"Stop being a *chicken* and just go."

A: "Did you ask Martha on a date?"

B: "No. I was about to, but I got a little nervous."

A: "You're such a *chicken*."

Other Common Sentences

"I didn't know you were afraid of insects. You're a scaredy cat."

"He's a coward. He wouldn't even go on the rollercoaster ride."

"Jack is scared of everything. He's such a sissy."

## Give somebody a hard time

**Meaning/Usage:** Make someone feel bad for making a mistake.

**Explanation:** This can be done by complaining to the person a lot, ignoring the person, giving them a punishment, or anything that will make the person go through a hard or difficult time.

"Suzie *gave him a hard time* for not showing up to her recital."

"Stop *giving me a hard time*. There was nothing I could do about it."

"If you don't finish your project, the manager is going to *give you a hard time*."

A: "My mom *gave me a hard time* for one bad grade on my report card."

B: "That's a tough situation. My parents never *gave me a hard time* for bad grades."





### Other Common Sentences

"Albert is making it difficult for me."

"He's getting on my case about my comment."

## Make up one's mind

**Meaning/Usage:** Make a decision

**Explanation:** This is usually used when someone can't make a decision. Not only does it mean to make a decision, it also implies to do it quickly.

"We don't got all day, *make up your mind*."

"*Make up your mind*, we don't have much time."

"I can't *make up my mind*. Can you help me decide?"

"If you don't *make up your mind*, I'll choose for you."

"Both of them look really good. I can't *make up my mind*."

A: "I don't know which one to get."

B: "They're both pretty good, so just pick one."

A: "I always regret it when I pick the wrong one."

B: "You're picking between white chocolate or regular chocolate. There is no wrong answer so hurry up and *make up your mind*."

### Other Common Sentences

"I can't decide which one to take."

"I don't know if I should get the Volvo or the Ford."

"I like both of them too much to decide."

## Go Dutch

**Meaning/Usage:** Each person paying for themselves. For example, going Dutch on a date is indicating both guy and girl will pay for themselves instead of one buying for the other.





**Explanation:** Why "Dutch" is used in this way is not completely confirmed. One reason is because of Dutch doors that contained two equal parts. Another reason was due to the rivalry between the English and Dutch in the 17th century.

"You don't have to pay for me. Let's *go dutch* today."

"I can't believe John didn't pay for me. We ended up *going dutch* on the whole date."

"I actually prefer *going dutch* because I don't want to feel indebt to anyone."

A: "How was your date with Sarah?"

B: "I'm not sure. It was just ok."

A: "Why do you say that?"

B: "She didn't let me pay for her share. She insisted that we *go dutch* for everything."

Other Common Sentences

"I'll pay half of it."

"Let's pay together."

"I didn't pay for her. We paid our own share."

## Throw in the towel

**Meaning/Usage:** Give up; quit; surrender

**Explanation:** When a boxer was getting beaten so badly, the coach or manager would throw a towel in to stop the fight. This phrase can be used outside of boxing to simply express quitting.

"I was ready to *throw in the towel*, but I stayed with it."

"He's not a quitter, so he's not going to *throw in the towel*."

"I saw a fight last almost two hours before one guy *threw in the towel*."

A: "The boxing match is great."

B: "One guy is really getting beat up."

A: "Do you think he's going to give up?"

B: "He's not going to *throw in the towel*, they rarely do that these days."



### Other Common Sentences

"There's no chance for me to win. I'm calling it quits."

"I don't think I can win, so I'm going to give up."

"I'd rather surrender than get the hell beaten out of me."

## Goose bumps

**Meaning/Usage:** The literal tiny bumps you get all over your body when you are experiencing intense emotions.

**Explanation:** In some countries, they call it chicken skin because the tiny bumps on the arm looks like chicken skin. But in the US, they use "goose bumps."

"I was so touched by the movie that I started getting *goose bumps* all over my arms."

"When she told me that she loved me, I got *goose bumps*."

"I get *goose bumps* anytime I'm scared."

"John told us a story and everyone got *goose bumps*."

A: "Did you watch the speech?"

B: "No, I missed it. Was it good?"

A: "It was so touching that I got *goose bumps* everywhere."

### Other Common Sentences

"I was so inspired by the speech that I had a tingling sensation run across my body."

"I felt a jolt of excitement when I heard the good news."

"My arms were tingling when I heard that story."

## Stay in touch

**Meaning/Usage:** To stay connected



**Explanation:** When you can touch someone, you are literally close to that person. "Stay in touch" is indicating that the person wants to keep communicating so they will be "close" as friends.

"Call me more often man. We got to *stay in touch*."

"I hope you *stay in touch* with me. I'll give you my contact information."

"Let's *stay in touch*. I'll email you whenever I can."

"Are you *staying in touch* with her, or are you guys not talking any more?"

A: "Since you are moving to England, I'm really going to miss you."

B: "Yeah. I'm going to miss you a lot too."

A: "You promise that you'll *stay in touch*?"

B: "Of course. We'll always keep in touch."

Other Common Sentences

"*Keep in touch*. I'll want to know how you're doing."

"Julie told me that she would keep in touch with me."

## Have the guts

**Meaning/Usage:** Brave; courage

**Explanation:** "Guts" is the stomach area. Having "guts" is representing you have a strong stomach. When you have "guts" you are saying you are brave or have a lot of courage.

"I don't *have the guts* to go bungee jumping."

"He doesn't *have the guts* to ask her on a date."

"He *has a lot of guts* to be hunting by himself."

A: "I heard you went to Sky Mountain Park. How was it?"

B: "It was pretty fun."

A: "Did you go on the monster ride?"

B: "No. I didn't *have the guts* to go on that ride. It was too scary."



### Other Common Sentences

"He's very courageous."

"He's got balls to be doing that."

"He isn't afraid of anything."

## Rain or Shine

**Meaning/Usage:** Not allowing the weather to prevent you from doing something.

**Explanation:** For outdoor activities, rain can stop someone from doing something. This phrase is used to express determination of doing something no matter what external forces try to stop them.

"We're going camping this weekend *rain or shine*."

"*Rain or shine*, the protesters are out there every day."

"I don't care about the weather. I'm going golfing *rain or shine*."

A: "I'm going hiking this Saturday. Do you want to come?"

B: "That sounds good. *Rain or shine*, count me in."

A: "If it's raining, looks like you're going by yourself, because I'm staying home."

### Other Common Sentences

"I'm going to go even if it's a downpour."

"Are you still going to go even if it's raining cats and dogs?"

"Unless it's pouring out, let's meet at seven in the morning."

## I'm beat

**Meaning/Usage:** Very tired

**Explanation:** "Beat" can mean to lose. It can also mean to be hit over and over again. When someone loses or they are hit over and over again, they are either mentally tired or physically tired. This phrase is saying you are very tired for



whatever reason.

"I had a tough day today. *I'm totally beat.*"

"I don't want to go out tonight. *I'm beat.*"

"*I'm beat* so I'm going to sleep early today."

A: "Hey Steve, we're going to go to a club tonight. Wanna come?"

B: "I worked a 12 hour shift today. *I'm beat* so I'm going to just stay home tonight."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm very tired."

"I'm exhausted."

## Easier said than done

**Meaning/Usage:** This is used when something is easy to say but very hard to do.

**Explanation:** This phrase is very literal. Often times people tell you to do something that sounds easy, but it is actually hard. So in response, you can say this phrase.

"That's *easier said than done.*"

"It's a lot tougher than that. It's one of those things that are *easier said than done.*"

"Michael thinks everything is so easy. He doesn't realize it's *easier said than done.*"

A: "Do you do any stock trading?"

B: "No, but how hard could it be. Just buy when it goes down and sell when it goes up."

A: "It's *easier said than done.*"

Other Common Sentences

"It's harder than you think."



"It's not as easy as you think."

"If you think it's that easy, why don't you do it?"

## It's about time

**Meaning/Usage:** When you want to express that you waited a long time. A synonym of this would be, "finally."

**Explanation:** When you wait for something, the time on a clock is the biggest factor.

"*It's about time.*"

"*It's about time.* I waited two hours for you."

"*It's about time* I got a chance to play."

A: "I've been waiting for 3 weeks to try out the new laptop. Isn't it my turn yet?"

B: "Yes. It's your turn. I'll get it for you."

A: "*It's about time.*"

## Jump to conclusions

**Meaning/Usage:** Making a conclusion without having all the details

**Explanation:** If you need five pieces of information to come to a conclusion, jumping (or skipping) over 3 of them will cause you to make an incorrect conclusion. This term is often used when an incorrect conclusion is made by someone who didn't have all the information.

"I incorrectly blamed Jeff for breaking my phone. I shouldn't have *jumped to conclusions.*"

"I thought you took my book. I shouldn't have accused you. I *jumped to conclusions.*"

"Will you stop *jumping to conclusions.* You should get all the facts before you make any decisions."

A: "I'm so mad at Jake. I think he told my girlfriend that I was on a date."



B: "What makes you think Jake told her?"

A: "Because he's like that."

B: "He sometimes does stupid things, but you shouldn't *jump to conclusions*."

## Keep an eye on

**Meaning/Usage:** To watch after; to supervise; to take care of

**Explanation:** When you have your eye on something or you are watching something, then you are paying attention to something or someone.

"Can you *keep an eye on* my daughter while I go get the car?"

"Don't worry about your luggage. I'll *keep an eye on* it."

"My mom will *keep an eye on* our equipment while we go get the truck."

A: "Excuse me sir."

B: "Yes."

A: "I have to go to the bathroom. Can you *keep an eye on* my suitcase for a minute?"

B: "No problem."

Other Common Sentences

"Can you watch my bag for me?"

"Can you watch my suitcase while I go to the bathroom."

## Out of the blue

**Meaning/Usage:** Out of nowhere; spontaneously

**Explanation:** Although "blue" represents being sad, it is also commonly used to represent the ocean or the sky. Both are extremely big. If someone says to look for something that is in the sky or the ocean, there is no way to know where. Therefore, this phrase was created to represent coming out of nowhere.





"He's pretty funny because he will crack a funny joke *out of the blue*."

"Grace started crying for no reason. It was totally *out of the blue*."

"I don't know why he started getting mad. It was *out of the blue*."

A: "Did you hear what happened with Tiffany?"

B: "She broke up with her boyfriend last night."

A: "What? I thought they had a great relationship."

B: "So did I. It was totally *out of the blue*."

#### Other Common Sentences

"She showed up out of no where."

"He pulled a rabbit out of nowhere. That's why it was so impressive."

## Know something inside out

**Meaning/Usage:** Have knowledge of every detail of something.

**Explanation:** There are two sides of a flat object like a coin. There is also an inside or outside to many objects. This phrase is saying you know both sides, which indicates knowing everything about it.

"Ask Mary to help you with your homework. She *knows calculus inside out*."

"If you got the answer from Matt, I would trust it. He *knows that stuff inside out*."

A: "I'm having trouble with my car. I can't seem to figure out what's wrong with it."

B: "You should ask James about it."

A: "Does he know a lot about cars?"

B: "He's a mechanic. He *knows the car engine inside out*."

#### Other Common Sentences

"I know that theory like the back of my hand."

"I can perform those steps with my eyes closed."

"I know each step by heart."



## Give someone a hand

**Meaning/Usage:** To help someone

**Explanation:** A physical task is usually done with the hands. Giving someone a hand is letting them borrow your hands, or in other words, helping them out.

"Give a hand" also represent applauding, but this section is about helping someone.

"Can you *give me a hand* setting up the dining table?"

"I'm going to *need a hand* changing the tire on the car."

"Are you going to have time to *give me a hand* tomorrow?"

"Let me know if you need help. I'll have time all day today to *give you a hand*."

A: "When are you going to move into your new apartment?"

B: "I want to, but I'm going to need some help."

A: "I have time this weekend. Do you want me to *give you a hand*?"

B: "That would be great."

Other Common Sentences

"Can I get your help on this?"

"Can you help me out?"

"Do you need any help?"

"Let me know if you need any help."

## Now and then

**Meaning/Usage:** Once in a while

**Explanation:** "Then" is an unspecific time in the future. When a person does not do something regularly, they can use this phrase to imply once in a while.



"I go on a hike every *now and then*."

"My mother calls me every *now and then* to see if I'm doing well."

"It's not something I can do all the time, but I do it every *now and then*."

A: "Do you like skiing?"

B: "I really enjoy skiing. It's one of my favorite sports."

A: "You must go very frequently then."

B: "I wish I could, but it's too expensive, so I only go every *now and then*."

Other Common Sentences

"I like to go bowling once in a while."

"I can't go often, but I go golfing with my friends from time to time."

## Nuke – Microwave

**Meaning/Usage:** To cook something in the microwave oven.

**Explanation:** "Nuke" is a shortened terminology of nuclear. Because the microwave is powerful, this idiom was created.

"Don't *nuke* an egg. It will explode in the microwave."

"If I can't finish my dinner at a restaurant, I just take it home and *nuke* it when I want to eat it."

"The best way to heat up food is to *nuke* it."

A: "What are you going to eat for lunch?"

B: "I have some pasta in the fridge. You want some?"

A: "Sure. How are you going to cook it?"

B: "It's already cooked. I'm just going to *nuke* it."

Other Common Sentences

"Throw it in the microwave."

"The microwave will heat it up real fast."

"Do you like microwavable food?"



## On the dot

**Meaning/Usage:** The exact time

**Explanation:** A dot is seen as a very small target. It is like hitting the very center of a dart board or the bulls-eye. When it refers to time, it means exactly that time not a minute after or before.

"I don't want to be waiting for you, so you'd better be there at three o'clock *on the dot*."

"He's supposed to show up at four *on the dot*. If he is late even a minute, I'm taking off."

"You'd better be here by 1:30, because we're leaving at two o'clock *on the dot*."

**A:** "We have to go to Los Angeles tomorrow. What time should we meet?"

**B:** "We have to be at the airport at 4:00 o'clock, so let's meet at two o'clock *on the dot*."

Other Common Sentences

"Meet me at the bus station at six o'clock sharp."

"Let's meet at the book store exactly at 1:00."

## Keeping my fingers crossed

**Meaning/Usage:** Hoping for good luck

**Explanation:** In recent days, children would cross their fingers when they lie to avoid punishment for telling a lie. Another way this is used is to cross the fingers while making a promise to invalidate the promise. Christians used the gesture of crossing fingers to recognize one another in times of persecution. Therefore, people cross their fingers wishing for good luck from God.

"Their team is not favored to win. But I hope they do. I'm *keeping my fingers crossed*."



"I have a one in ten chance of winning the television. I better *keep my fingers crossed*."

"I hope it works. Let's *cross our fingers*."

A: "The championship game is tonight. Are you going to watch it?"

B: "Yeah. My favorite team lost their best player. I don't think they will win."

A: "You never know. They can get lucky."

B: "I'm *keeping my fingers crossed*."

## Out of this world

**Meaning/Usage:** Amazing

**Explanation:** When something is of this world, it is not normal. This phrase is used to indicate that it is not normal in a positive way. It is so different and amazing that it is not a part of this world.

"That's the coolest thing I've ever seen. It's really *out of this world*."

"It's totally *out of this world*. You're going to be impressed."

"The concert was *out of this world*. It was an awesome experience."

A: "Did you see the new 3D movie at the IMAX theatre?"

B: "No. Was it any good?"

A: "It was better than good. It was *out of this world*."

Other Common Sentences

"The movie totally blew me away. It was awesome."

"The essay was very creative and original. I was very impressed."

"I've never seen anything like that before."

## Over one's head

**Meaning/Usage:** When something is mentally too difficult to understand.



**Explanation:** To understand something, information needs to go **inside** the brain. This is used to say that the information failed to go inside.

"I don't know the answer to that problem. The subject is *over my head*."

"Don't bother explaining it to him. It's way *over his head*."

A: "I have to write a paper on the theory of relativity. Do you know anything about it?"

B: "I won't be able to help you. The theory of relativity is way *over my head*."

Other Common Sentences

"I don't understand the meaning. It might be too deep for me."

"It's beyond my comprehension, so don't bother trying to explain it."

## Pain in the ass

**Meaning/Usage:** A source of trouble or annoyance; used to indicate that something bothers you very much. "Ass" can be seen as profanity, so another way of saying this would be "Pain in the butt" or "Pain in the neck."

**Explanation:** When something gives you trouble and bothers you a lot, it gives you pain. To look for more colorful ways to express this, people started saying "pain in the neck." Another variation came out when people started to say "Pain in the rear end." This later became "Pain in the butt" or "Pain in the ass."

"What a *pain in the ass*."

"I had a customer who kept asking easy questions. It was a total *pain in the ass*."

"I have a meeting at 7:00 in the morning. It's a *pain in the ass* waking up that early."

"Having to deal with traffic every day is a *pain in the ass*."

A: "I have to go to the post office."

B: "I thought you went yesterday?"



A: "They made a mistake on the postage so the package was returned."

B: "What a *pain in the ass*."

#### Other Common Sentences

"Going to get a health check up is a pain in the neck."

"I hate mowing the lawn. It's a real drag."

"I have to pick up my brother at the airport every week. It's a serious burden because I'm busy these days."

## Piece of cake

**Meaning/Usage:** Describes something that is easy to do.

**Explanation:** In the 1870's, cakes were given as prizes for winning competition. To the winner, it was an easy task. Therefore, "cake" started representing something easy. Another phrase that is similar is "cake walk," which also represents something that is easy.

"You won't have any problems with it. It's a *piece of cake*."

"It's not that difficult. Actually, it's a *piece of cake*."

"Learning to type is a *piece of cake*. It just takes persistence."

"Sociology 101 is a *piece of cake*. You should get an A in that class."

A: "I have an interview for citizenship tomorrow. Do you know what they ask?"

B: "The only questions they ask are in the manual they provide."

A: "Was it difficult?"

B: "Since all the questions and answers are already provided, it was a *piece of cake*."

#### Other Common Sentences

"My homework today was as easy as pie."

"The assignment was a breeze."





## Sooner or later

**Meaning/Usage:** Eventually

**Explanation:** When something should happen, but you don't know when it will happen, you can use this term to express that it will eventually happen.

"Don't keep waiting for him to confess. He'll tell you *sooner or later*."

"He'll come to his senses *sooner or later*."

"She'll realize that she's doing something wrong *sooner or later*."

A: "Why does Sarah date so many guys. Doesn't she know most of them are jerks?"

B: "I know. She needs to get hurt before she'll realize what's going on."

A: "I guess she'll figure it out *sooner or later*."

B: "Yeah... but I'm hoping it is sooner than later."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm not worried about it. He'll eventually return my CD."

"I'll graduate from school eventually."

## Pull someone's leg

**Meaning/Usage:** Making someone believe something that is not true.

**Explanation:** This came from London long time ago where criminals would trip someone to make them fall. After they fall, another criminal acting like they are helping the fallen person would take valuables out of their pocket. Although pulling a leg is not tripping, it can be seen as falling away from the truth.

"You expect me to believe that? Stop *pulling my leg*."

"I'm just kidding. I was just *pulling your leg*."

"I didn't know you believed me. I was just *pulling your leg*."

A: "I was eating at a restaurant and this lady next to me started eating my



food right in front of me."

B: "What? You can't be serious. Nobody would ever do that."

A: You're not gullible at all. I was trying to *pull your leg*."

## Put oneself in one's place

**Meaning/Usage:** To think from another point of view.

**Explanation:** To get a better understanding by thinking from the view of the other person. Another way of saying this is to "put yourself in one's shoe."

"What was I supposed to do? Try to *put yourself in my place*."

"It's easy to be understanding if you always *put yourself in the other person's place*."

"If you *put yourself in my place*, you would understand why I did that."

A: "You know I didn't mean to hurt you, but I had no choice."

B: "That's no excuse for what you did to me."

A: "Try to *put yourself in my place*. What would you have done?"

B: "I see your point."

Other Common Sentences

"If I were in your shoes, I would have done the same thing."

"I can't blame you because I would have done the same thing if I were in your situation."

## I can eat a horse

**Meaning/Usage:** To express the desire to eat a lot of food.

**Explanation:** One explanation is that there is a lot of meat on a horse. Also not many people eat horses, but they would if they are very hungry. Combining the willingness to eat a large quantity of meat, and the willingness to eat meat that is not normally eaten suggests that the person is extremely hungry.



"I'm so hungry that *I can eat a horse*."

"I feel like *I can eat a horse* right now."

"If I didn't eat anything for two days, I would feel like *I can eat a horse* too."

A: "I didn't eat anything all day."

B: "You must be really hungry."

A: "*I can eat a horse* right now."

### Other Common Sentences

"I'm starving. I think I can eat a whale."

"I'm famished. I could eat anything right now."

## Read between the lines

**Meaning/Usage:** To understand the underlying meaning of something that is not completely clear.

**Explanation:** There are no words between the lines. However, there are many written text like poetry, proverbs, or riddles that require you to understand more than what is written to completely understand it. This phrase became popular so people started using it to refer to understanding hidden meaning.

"If you *read between the lines*, you would have understood what he was implying."

"Steve isn't very good at *reading between the lines*. You have to tell him exactly what you want."

"Martha can *read between the lines* very well. She picks up on everything."

A: "Did you read chapter three for our English class?"

B: "Yeah. I think the author was indicating that he was supporting the war."

A: "Even though he said one thing, he meant another. You have to *read between the lines* to fully understand his stance."

B: "That might be true. I should go read it again."



## Rings a bell

**Meaning/Usage:** To remember something

**Explanation:** A bell is used to alert us of many things such as a door bell, telephone bell, school bell, clothes dryer bell, etc. When we hear the bell, we know what the bell represents. To ring a bell became a way of saying that you remember something. Another explanation comes from Pavlov. He created an experiment where he rang a bell before he gave food to a dog. He did this repeatedly and the dog started to drool before he saw any food because the dog knew the food would come after the bell rang.

"I can't put my finger on it, but it definitely *rings a bell*."

"It *rings a bell*, but I'm not one hundred percent sure."

"Oh, oh, oh... that *rings a bell*. Where did I see that from?"

A: "Did you go to Martha Lake High School?"

B: "Yeah. Why?"

A: "I met this girl. Her name is Jane Summerland. Do you know her?"

B: "That name *rings a bell*, but I don't remember for sure."

Other Common Sentences

"That reminds me of something."

"That sounds so familiar."

"I know what you're talking about but I can't pin point it."

## Bug

**Meaning/Usage:** To annoy

**Explanation:** Bugs, like mosquitoes can be annoying when they are buzzing around your ear, or bothering you in some other way.

"I need to concentrate on this, so stop *bugging* me."

"I need to get out of the house. My little brother has been *bugging* me all day."



"Let's go *bug* John."

"If you *bug* me one more time, I'm going to kick your butt."

A: "Johnny, will you play Star Craft with me?"

B: "I can't. I'm doing my homework."

A: "Come on. I need someone to play with."

B: "Stop *bugging* me. I said I'm busy."

Other Common Sentences

"Stop pestering me."

"Stop bothering me."

## Sleep on it

**Meaning/Usage:** To take time to think about something.

**Explanation:** Some people report that they think more clearly after a good night sleep. Also, some people say they often times regret a decision they have made. When something is important, making a decision after a good night sleep is a good practice.

"I've been thinking about this problem for two hours. I think I will *sleep on it*. It might come to me in the morning."

"I don't think I can decide now. Let me *sleep on it* and I'll tell you my answer tomorrow."

"I'm going to need to *sleep on it*. I don't want to rush my answer right now."

A: "Do you know if you are going to buy the leather set or the cashmere set?"

B: "I've been thinking about it for three hours. I really can't decide."

A: "Why don't you *sleep on it*."

## Play it by ear

**Meaning/Usage:** To decide to do something as the situation develops; choosing to deal with a situation as more events unfold.



**Explanation:** The original meaning is to play music without using a score or music sheet to look at. Just as a musician will play something unplanned without looking at something, this idiom is to do something unplanned depending on the situation.

"I'll have to *play it by ear* because I don't know how long they want me to work."

"We'll have to *play it by ear* for next Friday because everything is uncertain."

"Should we plan something for this Saturday or should we *play it by ear*?"

A: "What are you doing next weekend?"

B: "Nothing. Did you want to do something?"

A: "Yeah, but I might have to give my dad a ride to the train station. I don't know the exact time yet."

B: "Let's *play it by ear* then. Just call me when you find out for sure."

Other Common Sentences

"I don't have any reservations tonight so let's just wing it."

"We'll just do things as they come along."

## Speak of the devil

**Meaning/Usage:** When someone appears just as you are talking about that person.

**Explanation:** This is from English and is shortened from the original phrase, "Speak of the Devil and he doth appear." The shortened form presented in this lesson became popular.

"I was at a party last night, and I saw Jake play the guitar in front of an audience... *Speak of the devil*, there's Jake right now."

"Joanne did great on her presentation. *Speak of the devil*... Hi Joanne."

A: "Andy was walking down the street and he tripped over beggar."

B: "I was there too. It was so funny. He just got up and pretended nothing happened."



A: "*Speak of the devil.* There's Andy now."

## Grab a bite

**Meaning/Usage:** To get something to eat

**Explanation:** "A bite" refers to food. This is a pretty literal so it is simply saying to get something to eat.

"When do you want to go *grab a bite*?"

"I don't have much time, so let's *grab a quick bite*."

"If you didn't have lunch yet, let's *grab a bite* to eat."

A: "Did you have lunch yet?"

B: "Not yet. I'm swamped with work."

A: "You have to eventually eat so let's just *grab a bite* somewhere close."

Other Common Sentences

"Let's go eat."

"Where should we have lunch today?"

"Let's have lunch together."

## Take it easy

**Meaning/Usage:** To relax; to stop working so hard; to calm down

**Explanation:** Usually used to calm someone down when they are too excited, or when you want to tell someone to relax because they are working too much.

"You're pushing yourself too hard. *Take it easy*."

"*Take it easy* man. You're putting too much pressure on yourself."

"I don't want to *take it easy* so stop telling me to *take it easy*."

A: "Work has me working seventy hours a week."

B: "You should *take it easy*. You're going to get sick at this rate."





A: "I wish I could, but I have deadlines to meet."

#### Other Common Sentences

"Relax a little. You're overworked."

"Take a little break. You need it."

## Go with the flow

**Meaning/Usage:** To do things as other people are doing it because it is easier to do; to not go against the common way of doing things

**Explanation:** Rowing up the river is very difficult to do. If you go with the flow, you are following the path of the least resistance.

"Why do you do everything differently? You should just *go with the flow*."

"If you don't know where the shuttle is, just *go with the flow*. Everyone is going in that direction."

"If you don't want to stand out, *go with the flow*."

A: "I got a speeding ticket. Do you think I should go to court to fight it?"

B: "What are you going to tell the judge?"

A: "That I was basically *going with the flow*."

B: "That's not going to work. I would just pay the fine."

#### Other Common Sentences

"Do it like everyone else does it."

"If you're unsure how to do it, see how everyone else is doing it."

"The best way not to stand out is to blend in with everyone."

## Twenty-four seven

**Meaning/Usage:** Constantly; always available; every minute of the day and night



**Explanation:** There are 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week.

"7-11 is a great store because they are open *twenty-four seven*."

"If a business doesn't provide *twenty-four seven* customer support, they will not succeed."

"You better be careful because I'm going to be watching you *twenty-four seven*."

"They're available *twenty four hours a day*, 365 days a year."

**A:** "What web hosting place do you recommend?"

**B:** "Most of them are pretty good. Just make sure they have twenty-four hour technical support."

**A:** "All of them have *twenty-four seven* support. It's a necessity these days."

Other Common Sentences

"The cops are watching this area all-day every-day."

"There's no way to cross the border because they're constantly monitoring all the passage ways."

## Under the weather

**Meaning/Usage:** Feeling sick; not well

**Explanation:** When a sailor gets sick on a boat, they would go under the deck and away from the weather to get better. This phrase became popular to express sickness.

"I'm going to stay home because I'm feeling *under the weather* today."

"I told my boss that I was *under the weather*. She told me to stay home for the day."

"My wife is feeling *under the weather*, so I need to get home early today."

**A:** "Why didn't you come to school today?"

**B:** "I was *under the weather* this morning. I need to get some rest."

**A:** "Well, I hope you start feeling better."

Other Common Sentences:



"I'm feeling a little sick today."

"I don't feel too well."

"I'm not feeling that great. I think I should get some rest."

## Don't sweat it

**Meaning/Usage:** To tell someone not to worry

**Explanation:** When people worry a lot, they can sweat. This became a popular way to tell someone not to worry.

"You can't do anything about it, so *don't sweat it*."

"You tried your best, so *stop sweating it*."

A: "I'm worried about my final examination."

B: "You didn't take it yet?"

A: "I took it yesterday. I'm not sure how I did."

B: "If you tried your best, there's nothing you can do about the results, so *don't sweat it*."

Other Common Sentences

"Don't worry about it."

"Nothing you can do about it."

## You can say that again

**Meaning/Usage:** Completely agreeing with a statement

**Explanation:** When you hear something you agree with, you can simply agree. But if you completely agree, then you wouldn't mind hearing it again. This is not literally telling the person to say it again, but to tell the person that you "really" agree.

A: "Britney Spears is so hot!"



B: "*You can say that again.*"

A: "It was a long year. We accomplished quite a bit."

B: "I'm just glad that we're almost done."

A: "*You can say that again.*"

Other Common Sentences

"I hear ya."

"You got that right."

"Damn right."

## Broke

**Meaning/Usage:** To have no money

**Explanation:** "Broke" is an informal way of saying "broken." Long time ago broken was defined as "having no money" or to "become bankrupt, to fail." Although the meaning long time ago meant bankrupt, it is used regularly just to express you don't have any money at that moment.

"I'm flat *broke*."

"I can't afford to buy that television. I'm totally *broke*."

"I can't pay my bills. I'm *broke*."

A: "Let's go see a movie."

B: "I can't. I barely have enough money for food. I'm *broke* until my next paycheck."

Other Common Sentences

"I don't have any money."

"I don't even have a dime to spare."

## Beats Me



**Meaning/Usage:** To not know; to not understand

**Explanation:** Not many resources on this phrase, but could come from beating information out of someone. When someone is holding back information, they would get beat until they tell the answer. In this case, the person could be saying that even if I was beaten, I wouldn't know. Therefore, it became popular to say "beats me" to indicate you do not know.

"It **beats me** how they finished before us."

"**Beats me** why he was so mean to you."

"**Beats me** how she found out we did it."

A. "So how did you and Tim do in your race?"

B. "I finished in third and Tim finished in second."

A. "You got third? How did Tim beat you?"

B. "**Beats me**, I guess he has been training really hard."

Other Common Sentences

"I have no idea how to do this."

"I don't know what he's talking about."

## I Don't Buy it

**Meaning/Usage:** Disagree; to not be convinced

**Explanation:** This phrase comes from a popular way of getting agreement, which is "buy in." For example, a company director can say, "we need buy in from all the board members to proceed." In this statement, "buy in" is getting agreement. Therefore, if you "don't buy it," then you are not agreeing.

"He said he didn't do it but I **don't buy it**."

"Their prices are supposed to be better but I **don't buy it**."

"She said she was sorry but I **don't buy it**."

A. "So what were you guys arguing about?"



B. "He said some mean things to me the other day."

A. "Did he apologize to you?"

B. "Yes, but I don't buy it."

Other Common Sentences

"I don't believe it."

## Keep Your Cool

**Meaning/Usage:** To act normal

**Explanation:** "Cool" is described as composure and the absence of excitement in a person. To maintain composure, you wouldn't get excited and you would act normally.

"I know you're upset but you have to **keep your cool**."

"Here she comes, **keep your cool**."

"**Keep your cool**. You don't want to mess this up."

A. "Are you ready for your job interview?"

B. "Yes, but I'm a bit nervous about it."

A. "Just **keep your cool** and you will do fine."

Other Common Sentences

"You need to stay calm."

"Don't let it bother you."

## Sort Of

**Meaning/Usage:** A little; kind of

**Explanation:** Usually used to express a lesser degree.

"Dinner was **sort of** expensive."



"I **sort of** like her."

"I **sort of** know how to cook."

A. "Do you know how to get to the airport?"

B. "**Sort of.** But it's hard for me to explain."

A. "Never mind then, I will just look the directions up."

B. "Sorry I couldn't be more help."

Other Common Sentences

"A little bit."

"I kind of know."

## Good For You

**Meaning/Usage:** Expressing that you are happy for a person

**Explanation:** This is pretty literal. However, this can be used sarcastically.

"**Good for you**, you finally passed your test."

"I heard you got accepted to college, **good for you**."

"I heard you got married recently, **good for you**."

A. "I was really surprised when I was offered the promotion."

B. "Why is that?"

A. "I just figured it would go to someone with more experience."

B. "**Good for you**, you deserve it as much as anyone."

Other Common Sentences

"I am proud of you."

"All credit goes to you."

## Good Luck





**Meaning/Usage:** Wishing someone well. Also can mean that it is not possible.

**Explanation:** The literal definition of wishing someone well is very literal. It is used very frequently in this way. However, another popular way this phrase is used is when you don't think a person can do something. The third sentence below is an example of this.

"Good luck on your interview tomorrow"

"I heard you're going to look for a new house, good luck."

"Good luck trying to find a better deal than this one."

A. "My son has his first baseball game tonight."

B. "Is he nervous?"

A. "He is actually very excited for it."

B. "Tell him we said good luck!"

Other Common Sentences

"I wish you the best."

"Hope you do well."

## Shotgun

**Meaning/Usage:** To claim the front seat in a car.

**Explanation:** Instead of people fighting over who will sit in the front seat, people would decide who gets the front seat by whoever shouts out "shotgun" first.

"Why does he always get to ride shotgun?"

"If we go to the store with mom I call shotgun."

"I am heading out to the party. Do you want to ride shotgun?"

A. "Hey James, mom said she would give us a ride home?"

B. "I call shotgun!"

A. "That's not fair you always sit in the front seat."

B. "You just need to say it before me next time."



### Other Common Sentences

"I will sit in the front passenger seat."

"I get to sit in the front seat next to the driver."

## Who Cares

**Meaning/Usage:** To express something is not important to you.

**Explanation:** This phrase is usually used by itself when you are responding to a statement someone made. The example sentences below show a full sentence to provide more context, but it is normally used by itself.

"Who cares if they win or lose?"

"Who cares whether or not it rains."

"Who cares about what they think."

A. "Did you happen to watch the game last night?"

B. "No I was not home."

A. "I was just wondering who won?"

B. "Who cares, I don't really like either teams."

### Other Common Sentences

"It doesn't matter."

"I do not care."

## Big Deal

**Meaning/Usage:** Something really important. Often times used with "no" to express that the event is not as important as they think.

**Explanation:** This phrase is also used sarcastically. For example, if someone says "I did 30 push-ups this morning." Someone else can respond, "Big deal. I



did 50 push-ups!"

"Passing my driver's test was no **big deal**."

"He thinks he is such a **big deal**."

"It's no **big deal** if we don't go tonight."

A. "I think I might have lost that screwdriver you let me borrow last week."

B. "It's no **big deal**, I have another one."

Other Common Sentences

"He thinks he is all that matters."

"It's not that important."

## What a Small World

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when a person knows someone you know by chance

**Explanation:** The world is very large with a lot of people in it. When two people know the same person by chance, then the world doesn't seem so big. In this case, the phrase "what a small world" is commonly used.

"I didn't know that you knew my uncle. **What a small world**."

"You have family in Florida too? **What a small world**."

"I went to high school with his mom, **what a small world**."

A. "Do you see that guy over there?"

B. "Yes, what about him."

A. "We used to play football together in high school."

B. "Wow, **what a small world**!"

Other Common Sentences

"What are the chances of that?"



## What's going on?

**Meaning/Usage:** To ask what is happening

**Explanation:** This is fairly straightforward and is used more in spoken English.

"What's going on tonight?"

"I'm not sure why she is upset, what's going on?"

"What's going on with your job?"

A. "It seems like she is a bit upset."

B. "What's going on?"

A. "I think she got into an argument with her husband."

B. "That's too bad. Hopefully they can work things out."

Other Common Sentences

"What is happening?"

## Now You're Talking

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to agree with someone

**Explanation:** This is similar to "you can say that again." When someone talks and talks and talks, and then finally says something you really like or agree with, you can say, "now you're talking."

"A cold drink sounds great, now you're talking!"

"Now you're talking, the beach sounds relaxing."

"Now you're talking, I would love to go out to the club tonight."

A. "I say instead of staying home for vacation we go to Mexico."



B. "Now you're talking!"

Other Common Sentences

"I agree."

"I like what you're saying."

## Over My Dead Body

**Meaning/Usage:** Disallow absolutely

**Explanation:** This is usually used when a teenager asks a parent something that is absolutely not allowed. Instead of just saying no, this phrase is used to tell the teenager that they can do it when I am dead. This became popular when knights would protect something and wouldn't give up unless they were killed. The other person would literally have to kill the knight and walk over the body to get what they want.

"There is no way I will let you do that, not **over my dead body**."

"You want a tattoo? **Over my dead body**."

"You're moving in together? **Over my dead body**."

A. "So I hear your son wants to go on spring break with that girl Sally."

B. "I told him **over my dead body**."

Other Common Sentences

"I won't let that happen."

"I will not allow it."

## Coming Right Up

**Meaning/Usage:** Used frequently by restaurant servers to tell customers the food



is almost ready

**Explanation:** This can be used in a sentence, but is commonly used by itself.

"Your order is **coming right up**."

"It's **coming right up**!"

"Your food is **coming right up**."

A. "Did you order the cheeseburger with french fries?"

B. "I sure did."

A. "It's **coming right up**."

Other Common Sentences

"Your food will be right out."

"Your order is coming out quickly."

## Good Thinking

**Meaning/Usage:** To tell someone they did a good job to avoid a problem

**Explanation:** This is fairly straightforward.

"I am glad you brought an umbrella. That was **good thinking**."

"**Good thinking** to call ahead and reserve tickets."

"It was **good thinking** to send out invitations sooner than later."

A. "I hear the restaurant we are going to is really popular."

B. "It's pretty good... and I already reserved a table for us."

A. "**Good thinking**!"

Other Common Sentences

"You did well remembering that."

"I'm glad you thought of that."



## Shoot

**Meaning/Usage:** A type of exclamation

**Explanation:** Substitute for the profanity word "shit"

"**Shoot**, I forgot my grocery list at home."

"Oh **shoot** that was awkward."

"**Shoot**, he asked Jenny to the prom instead of me."

A. "Didn't you say we need to go to the grocery?"

B. "Yes I did, do you want to come with me?"

A. "Sure, but did you make a grocery list to take with us?"

B. "**Shoot** I forgot. Hold on a few minutes while I make one for us."

Other Common Sentences

"Oh no."

## Nothing Matters

**Meaning/Usage:** To express nothing else is important

**Explanation:** Usually used before expressing what is actually important. The below example sentences will illustrate this.

"**Nothing matters** more than being happy."

"Don't worry about what she said. **Nothing matters** but what you think."

"**Nothing matters** if we can't start getting along better."

A. "My husband told me I need to make a decision about getting a job."

B. "**Nothing matters** but you being happy with what you are doing."

A. "You are right. I will need to find something I love to do."





B. "Good luck."

Other Common Sentences

"Nothing else is important at this time."

## Come On

**Meaning/Usage:** Urging someone; also used to try and speed things up

**Explanation:** There are many definitions of "come on." This is only one common way of using it.

"Come on, you can tell me."

"Oh come on, you have to be kidding me."

"Come on man, be serious for once."

A. "I heard the movie is sold out for tonight."

B. "Oh come on! I've been waiting weeks to see it."

Other Common Sentences

There are not many other sentences that are similar to this. The meaning is basically to allure or attract.

## Never mind

**Meaning/Usage:** To forget about it; to express you don't need an answer any longer

**Explanation:** Although the sentences below are used in full sentences, this phrase is most commonly used by itself. For example, A: "Can you grab that pen for me?" B: "What did you say?"



A: "Never mind."

"Never mind what you were going to do, we need to leave now!"

"Never mind what I said before, I was wrong."

"Never mind cooking dinner for me, I will be home too late."

A. "So what would you like me to fix for dinner tonight?"

B. "Never mind cooking anything for me, I will not be home until late."

A. "OK I will just cook for myself and the kids then."

Other Common Sentences

"You don't have to think about it."

## If You Insist

**Meaning/Usage:** To agree after the other person demands it

**Explanation:** "Insist" means to demand something and that they will not accept refusal. It became common to say this phrase by itself when the other person insisted on something.

"We will stay longer if you insist."

"We can go another night if you insist."

"I will call her if you insist."

A. "Thanks for meeting us out for dinner."

B. "It was nice of you to ask."

A. "Tonight is our treat. I insist."

B. "If you insist."

Other Common Sentences



"If that's what you really want."

"If you are firm with your decision."

## Stop It!

**Meaning/Usage:** To ask someone to stop what they are doing.

**Explanation:** This is a common way of telling a person to stop something that is bothering you. It is more aggressive way of say, "please dont do that."

"Please **stop it!** You're giving me a headache."

"**Stop** it before you get hurt!"

"You had better **stop it** or you will get in trouble!"

A. "Tommy! **Stop it** right now!"

B. "Why? I saw other kids doing it."

A. "That's not how we behave in a restaurant."

B. "OK, I'm sorry."

Other Common Sentences

"Quit what you are doing."

"Don't do that!"

## It's Nothing

**Meaning/Usage:** To tell someone that the task you did was not a big deal.

**Explanation:** It is commonly used when you are being thanked for something that wasn't difficult.

"**It's nothing.** It didn't take long for me to do this."

"No need to thank me. **It's nothing.**"



"Oh, **it's nothing** to call and let you know what I find out."

- A. "I had no idea you guys were getting together tonight."
- B. "Really? I sent an email inviting everyone."
- A. "I didn't receive it."
- B. "You're more than welcome to come. I will add you to my email list for next time."
- A. "Thanks. I hope it's not too much to ask."
- B. "No, **it's nothing** to add you on."

Other Common Sentences

"No problem."

## What gives?

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to ask what is the matter or what went wrong

**Explanation:** The only explanation I found was that this could have come from German borrowing. Germans used the phrase "was gibt es?" as "What is the matter?" or "What's up?" But to be honest, I am not sure about this. However, I do know that in English, it is commonly used to ask "What is the matter?"

"It's not like you to get so upset, **what gives?**"

"I had no idea you were leaving? **What gives?**"

"Your mom said you stopped taking piano lessons. **What gives?**"

- A. "I heard that you did not pass your test?"
- B. "Yeah, it was harder than I thought."
- A. "You studied really hard for it though, **what gives?**"
- B. "I guess I will just have to try harder next time."

Other Common Sentences

"What's the problem?"



"What happened?"

## Fair Enough

**Meaning/Usage:** Used after two people agree on something

**Explanation:** "Fair" means to be legitimate or to be in accordance with the rules. When something is fair, no cheating is happening and nobody has a better advantage. Therefore, this term became popular in spoken English to agree to something.

"It's a **fair enough** question for me to answer."

"You want a rematch because you were sick when you lost? **Fair enough.**"

"**Fair enough**, I will try it once to see if I like it."

A. "If you do not finish your homework you will not be able to go outside to play."

B. "**Fair enough.**"

Other Common Sentences

"I agree with what you said."

## Cat Got Your Tongue

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when someone has nothing to say

**Explanation:** One explanation is that a long time ago, a witches cat would steal the tongue of a person to prevent them from telling others. However, this is only a tale and there are many guesses where this idiomatic phrase came from. Regardless, it is frequently used by someone who has the upper hand in a conversation. If a person cannot counter, or has nothing to say, then the other person can ask "don't you have anything to say?" or "Cat got your tongue?"



"What's the matter? **Cat got your tongue?**"

"You're being awfully quiet, **cat got your tongue?**"

"She usually always has an opinion, **cat must have gotten her tongue.**"

A. "What's the matter? You're usually full of advice. **Cat got your tongue?**"

B. "No I'm just keeping my opinions to myself."

Other Common Sentences

"You have nothing to say?"

"Why are you so quiet?"

## My Pleasure

**Meaning/Usage:** Happy to do something for someone

**Explanation:** "Pleasure" is to feel happy. When you use this term, you are telling the other person that you are happy to do it.

"It is **my pleasure** to introduce you to our guests."

"It was **my pleasure** to work with you."

"It is **my pleasure** to be involved in something so important."

A. "I really appreciate all you did helping me finish my project."

B. "No problem at all, it was **my pleasure.**"

Other Common Sentences

"Don't mention it."

"No problem."

## It Totally Slipped My Mind



**Meaning/Usage:** To forget something that you had to do

**Explanation:** When you "slip," you fall. When it falls from the mind, it is no longer there. So when you forget about something, it is common to say, it "slipped my mind."

"I was meaning to call you but it totally slipped my mind."

"There was something I needed to do today but it totally slipped my mind."

"Sorry I forgot about your birthday. It totally slipped my mind."

A. "Did you call your mom and dad and wish them Happy Anniversary?"

B. "Oh no! It totally slipped my mind."

Other Common Sentences

"I completely forgot."

## Give It to Me Straight

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when you want to hear the truth

**Explanation:** "Straight" is referring to straightforward. When people had to tell someone bad news, they would try to find ways to make it sound less bad. To do so, it would require a lot more words and a lot of creativity. However, when people want to hear bad news, they don't want to hear something without additions made by the speaker. Therefore, it was common for the listener to be firm and tell the speaker to speak be straightforward and to speak the truth without adding things.

"Just give it to me straight, I can take the news."

"This is hard for me to say so I'm just going to give it to you straight."

"Just give it to me straight. How bad can it be?"

A. "I have your test results back."

B. "How bad is it? Just give it to me straight."





#### Other Common Sentences

"I will tell you honestly."

"I will tell you directly."

## It's written all over your face

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone that their face expression is giving a message

**Explanation:** Face expressions show sadness, happiness, fear, and many other emotions. It also shows when someone is lying or not telling the truth. This phrase is commonly used when the other person is not saying anything, but their face expression is speaking for them.

"I know you did it, **it's written all over your face.**"

"I know that you're sad, **it's written all over your face.**"

"I can tell you are upset. **It's written all over your face.**"

A. "I am not the one who made the mess in the kitchen."

B. "**Come on, it's written all over your face.**"

#### Other Common Sentences

"Your facial expression is showing your true thoughts."

"I can tell you're lying by your face expression."

"The look on your face is making things obvious."

## Go For It

**Meaning/Usage:** To encourage someone to do something that they have planned



**Explanation:** The literal meaning is to "decide on" or "choose." However, it is commonly used informally to encourage them to take action on something they are thinking about doing.

"I know you want that job. **Go for it!**"

"If you want to ask her out you're going to have to just **go for it.**"

"Don't let anyone stand in the way of your dreams. **Go for it!**"

A. "I really like her. Should I ask her for her phone number?"

B. "**Go for it man!**" You have nothing to lose."

#### Other Common Sentences

"Just do it."

"Take action on it."

"Be proactive."

## It's a Deal

**Meaning/Usage:** Agreeing on a proposal

**Explanation:** Commonly used by itself when agreeing to a proposal made by someone.

"So if I take the kids to swim lessons, you will clean the house? **It's a deal!**"

"**It's a deal.** I will clean the garage if you stop bothering me about it."

"If I stop eating donuts, I don't have to run every day? **It's a deal!**"



- A. "If you do my yard work, I will buy you candy."
- B. "No thanks. I shouldn't eat too much candy."
- A. "If you mow my grass, I will pay you ten dollars."
- B. "Sounds good. **It's a deal.**"

Other Common Sentences

"I agree to your proposal."

"Let's agree to that."

## Don't Be a Stranger

**Meaning/Usage:** Commonly used to tell someone to stay in touch

**Explanation:** This is commonly used when you are talking to someone you don't meet or see often.

"It was really nice seeing you again. **Don't be a stranger.**"

"We need to keep in touch. **Don't be a stranger.**"

"Now that we live so close to one another **don't be a stranger.**"

A. "Hey John, I don't see you around here these days."

B. "I moved down south several months ago."

A. "Keep in touch man. **Don't be a stranger.**"

B. "Definitely. I'll buzz you every time I come up."

Other Common Sentences

"Keep in touch."

"Ping me once in awhile."



## Let's Go Fifty- Fifty

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when you are planning to pay half of something.

**Explanation:** To pay 50% of the bill with another person who will pay the other 50% of the bill.

"Thanks for having dinner with us. Let's split the bill **fifty-fifty**."

"Let's split our winnings **fifty-fifty**."

"Let's split the tab for drinks **fifty-fifty**."

A. "That was a fun night. How much is our bill?"

B. "I'm not sure. Did we order the same number of drinks?"

A. "The difference is not going to be big. Let's just split it **fifty-fifty**."

B. "OK sounds good."

Other Common Sentences

"Let's divide it equally."

"Let's do it evenly."

"Let's split it in half."

## Good for Nothing

**Meaning/Usage:** Negative statement to indicate someone has no value; useless

**Explanation:** Another way to look at this statement is to say "There is nothing good about that person."

"That guy is **good for nothing**."

"That girl is a **good for nothing** troublemaker."

"I would not let anything he says bother you, he is **good for nothing**."

A. "How come you don't like Tim hanging out with Mike?"



B. "Mike is **good for nothing**. He is always in some sort of trouble."

Other Common Sentences

"He is no good."

"He is worthless."

## You're Telling Me

**Meaning/Usage:** Agreeing with someone

**Explanation:** In a statement form, this is agreeing with someone. In a question form, it can be a sarcastic remark related to hypocrisy. For example, a person who is fat tells a less fat person, A: "You need to go on a diet." B: "You're telling me?"

"**You're telling me**, that book was one of the best I've ever read."

"**You're telling me**, I already knew that was going to happen if he did not listen."

"**You're telling me**, if she keeps it up she will lose 20 pounds."

A. "She sure is a good teacher."

B. "**You're telling me!** She taught me everything I know."

A. "That girl sure is beautiful."

B. "**You're telling me**. She is the hottest girl in our school!"

Other Common Sentences

Semi sarcastic way of saying, "I agree with you."

## Get a Life

**Meaning/Usage:** A negative way of telling someone to stop bothering you; to tell



someone to stop being a loser

**Explanation:** This is a rude statement, so please be careful how you use this. It can be similar to saying "f\*\*k off" to someone.

"I wish Terry would **get a life**."

"Would you stop bothering me and **get a life**!"

"Come on! **Get a life** and start taking care of yourself."

A. "I noticed that man was bothering you. What did you say to him?"

B. "I told him to **get a life** and quit bothering people he does not know!"

Other Common Sentences

"Go **bother someone else**."

"Start paying attention to other matters that are more important."

## Don't Joke With Me

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when asking someone to be serious

**Explanation:** "Joke" is defined as something that is said to cause amusement. In this phrase, the person does not find it funny because that person is involved in some way. So they can ask the person to be serious using this phrase.

"He told me she likes me but I said **don't joke with me**."

"My sister told me I was in trouble and I told her **don't joke with me**."

"He said I had won a million dollars and I said **don't joke with me**!"

A. "I heard that Dave asked the new girl at work out on a date."

B. "**Don't joke with me**! You know I really like her."

Other Common Sentences

"Stop messing around."



"Please be serious."

## I Can't Thank You Enough

**Meaning/Usage:** To be very thankful

**Explanation:** This is commonly used when you feel that simply saying thank you is not enough. If someone did something very special for you, then you are expressing that no words can repay what they did. So this phrase is used to convey this message.

"I can't thank you enough for all that you have done for me."

"Thanks for everything. I can't thank you enough."

"You were a big help today watching the kids. I can't thank you enough."

A. "So how is your car running since I worked on it?"

B. "It is running great! I can't thank you enough. You were such a big help!"

Other Common Sentences

"I really appreciate all that you have done."

"Thank you very much!"

## My Two Cents

**Meaning/Usage:** To give or share your opinion

**Explanation:** This came from the original expression, "my two pennies worth." It has been shortened recently to just "my two cents." This is a way of offering your opinion and saying that is only worth two pennies. It can be seen as a humble way of giving your opinion because you are valuing it at only two cents, but that is not the case these days.





"I don't agree with what's happening. That's just **my two cents**."

"You didn't ask for **my two cents** but I'll tell you anyway."

"Just to add **my two cents**, but I believe changing the design will be a better idea."

A. "So you don't think I should spend that much money on a car?"

B. "You can spend whatever you want but that's **my two cents**."

Other Common Sentences

"That's my opinion."

"That's what I think about it."

## Just Name It

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to express that you are offering to do or give anything the other person asks

**Explanation:** A shortened way of saying, "tell me anything you want or need."

"I will help you with whatever you need, **just name it**."

"We can do whatever you want, **just name it**."

"**Just name it** and we can do it."

A. "There is so much to get done today."

B. "I will help you with whatever you need. **Just name it!**"

Other Common Sentences

"Anything you need."

"Tell me what you need and I'll do it."

## No Worries



**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell the person not to worry about it; also used to say you're welcome

**Explanation:** This is very commonly in both regular daily life and in the work place. It can be used after an apology or after someone says thank you. In both cases, it is telling the person that the event was no big deal and it does not require an apology or a thank you.

"**No worries**, we can get it done tomorrow."

"**No worries**, I didn't need it after all."

"**No worries**, I need to go to bed early anyways."

A. "I'm sorry for picking you up later than we planned."

B. "**No worries**. We still have time to get there."

A. "Thanks for giving me a ride to work today."

B. "**No worries**. I was heading this direction anyways."

Other Common Sentences

"Don't worry about it."

"It's OK."

"No problem."

## Why so Blue?

**Meaning/Usage:** Asking someone why they are so sad.

**Explanation:** The "blue" in this phrase is the same "blue" of being sad.

"**Why so blue**, is everything ok?"

"You look so depressed. **Why so blue**?"

"**Why so blue**? Did he hurt your feelings?"

A. "You seem a bit sad, **why so blue**?"



B. "My girlfriend and I got into an argument and I'm sad."

Other Common Sentences

"Why are you so sad?"

"Why do you look depressed?"

## Nature Calls

**Meaning/Usage:** This is used when you have to go to the bathroom. Usually referred to pee (#1) and not poop (#2).

**Explanation:** Having to go pee is natural. So it became popular to say "nature calls" instead of saying, "I need to go pee."

"Can you pull the car over at a rest stop as soon as you can? **Nature calls!**"

"I have to go to the restroom. **Nature calls.**"

"That little boy is crossing his legs, **nature must be calling.**"

A. "I should not have drunk all that water before we got into the car."

B. "Why? What's wrong?"

A. "We just left and **nature is already calling.**"

Other Common Sentences

"I need to go to the restroom."

"I need to pee."

## What's Eating You?

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to ask someone what's bothering them

**Explanation:** When something is eating at you, it is consuming your thoughts,



time, and energy. It makes you depressed and you suffer from it. This phrase is asking someone who looks depressed why they are not happy.

"You're in a bad mood today. **What's eating you?**"

"It seems like something is wrong. **What's eating you?**"

"**What's eating you?** You don't seem like yourself."

A. "You seem really upset. **What's eating you?**"

B. "My mom told me I cannot go out with you guys because we already have plans."

A. "That's ok. There's always next time."

Other Common Sentences

"What's bothering you?"

"What is troubling you?"

## Shame on You

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone that they did something wrong

**Explanation:** Having "shame" is very negative. This is frequently used to tell children that they did something wrong.

"You know better than to do that, **shame on you.**"

"I thought I asked you not to make a mess? **Shame on you?**"

"**Shame on you,** you know not to eat so much candy before dinner."

A. "Did you tell a lie to your sister?"

B. "Yes daddy. I did."

A. "Well **shame on you.** You know better than to do something like that."

Other Common Sentences

"You should be ashamed of yourself."



"What you did was wrong."

## Hang In There

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone to not give up; to be persistent; to not lose hope

**Explanation:** Another term that is often used is "hanging by a thread." In both phrases, the word "hang" is referring to holding to something. If you are holding on to a branch, then letting go indicates that you fall down and fail. Hanging by a thread is barely holding on. So when you tell someone to "hang in there," you are telling them to not let go and keep on fighting even though it is hard.

"Hang in there. I am sure things will work out in the end."

"I know things are tough right now, just hang in there."

"Hang in there. Things will get a lot better."

A. "Work is not going well right now. They are talking about laying people off soon."

B. "Just try and hang in there and hopefully things get better."

Other Common Sentences

"Be patient."

"Don't lose hope."

"Keep going, don't give up."

## I Owe You

**Meaning/Usage:** Similar to giving someone a debt coupon

**Explanation:** The literal meaning is exactly as it appears. However, this expression is merging all the words together to create a noun phrase. The



closest meaning is a debt coupon. The coupon would be a piece of paper that would be a promise to pay back what was borrowed.

"I don't have any money so can I get an **I owe you**."

"I'll need an **I owe you** because I don't have any money."

"I used up an **I owe you** already so he won't let me borrow again!"

A. "Do you want to grab a steak tonight?"

B. "I'd love to, but I won't have any money until payday?"

A. "I'll give you an **I owe you** until you get your paycheck!"

B. "Thanks man. I appreciate that."

Other Common Sentences

"Can I borrow it from you?"

"Can I pay you back later?"

## Take a Hike

**Meaning/Usage:** To tell someone to go away in a negative way

**Explanation:** This is a negative way of telling someone to go away, but not as bad as "f\*\*k off." This can be used when you hear something that upsets you and you want to make sure the other person knows you are upset.

"He asked for my phone number and I told him to **take a hike**."

"He said he would only give me \$200 for my car so I told him to **take a hike**."

"**Take a hike**, I am not interested."

A. "So I hear you tried to sell your car?"

B. "Yes, I had a few people look at it."

A. "Did anyone make you an offer?"

B. "Yes, one guy offered me \$200 and I told him to **take a hike**."

Other Common Sentences



"Get out of here."

"Go away."

## It's a Piece of Cake

**Meaning/Usage:** Describes something that is easy to do.

**Explanation:** In the 1870's, cakes were given as prizes for winning competition. To the winner, it was an easy task. Therefore, "cake" started representing something easy. Another phrase that is similar is "cake walk," which also represents something that is easy.

"That test we took was **a piece of cake**."

"I put the whole thing together myself. **It was a piece of cake**."

"I told them I had never done this before and they said **it would be a piece of cake**."

A. "So I heard you got an A on your math test."

B. "Yeah, **it was a piece of cake** for me."

Other Common Sentences

"It's very easy."

"You should have no problem."

## I'm On My Way

**Meaning/Usage:** Common way of telling someone that you are going to the person.

**Explanation:** This is very straightforward. It is very commonly used.

"Don't worry **I'm on my way**."





"Just be patient, I'm on my way."

"I got your message saying you needed my help. I'm on my way."

A. "I thought you were going to come over right after work?"

B. "Sorry, I had to stay late. But don't worry I'm on my way home now."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm coming now."

"I'm currently going there."

## I'm Hosed

**Meaning/Usage:** To be screwed; to be out of luck

**Explanation:** Early findings of this word came from a saying "to drink water from a fire hose." Basically, if you don't drink water, you are out of luck, and if you drink water from a fire hose, you are out of luck. It is bad in both cases. Therefore, you are out of luck.

"I didn't finish my report on time. I'm hosed."

"I am hosed. My mom found out I skipped school last week."

"I'm hosed. My boss has given me tons of extra work to finish."

A. "So I hear you got in trouble for getting bad grades."

B. "Yeah, I'm hosed. I cannot drive my car until I get my grades up."

A. "That's too bad man."

B. "Looks like I'll just have to start studying more."

Other Common Sentences

"I'm in a difficult situation."

"I'm not in a good situation."



## It's a Long Story

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when you don't want to talk about something, if it is difficult to talk about; or if it is hard to explain

**Explanation:** This expression is straightforward, but can be used to say you don't want to talk about it, even if the story is not very long.

"I know you want to know what happened but **it's a long story.**"

"**It's a long story** about what happened between us."

"We used to be friends but **it's a long story.**"

A. "Hey there's Tim. Didn't you guys used to be good friends?"

B. "Yes, we were friends a few years ago but not anymore."

A. "Why, what happened?"

B. "**It's a long story.**"

Other Common Sentences

"It's hard to explain."

"It will take a while to explain."

## Since When

**Meaning/Usage:** Asking from when

**Explanation:** This one is a little difficult to explain. It is usually used when you are surprised by someone's action or words. When you know a person does not usually do something, you can start with "since when." This would indicate to the person that you know that they usually don't do this, but want to know when they started doing it.

"**Since when** have you been interested in my opinion?"

"**Since when** have you been coming to this gym?"

"**Since when** did you become so good at tennis?"



- A. "I will have to go home soon, I have chess club tonight."  
B. "Since when did you become so interested in chess?"  
A. "I tried it with my uncle and loved it."  
B. "Well, we'll have to play soon, I like playing too!"

Other Common Sentences

"From then until now."

## Got It

**Meaning/Usage:** Asking someone if they understand; telling someone you understand

**Explanation:** To "get" something is to understand something. So it became common to simply ask or say "got it."

"You will need to follow the directions if you want to do it right, **got it?**"

"If you're not home before 8 o'clock you will be in trouble, **got it?**"

"This is how you put the puzzle together, **got it?**"

- A. "You're going to have to studying more if you plan on passing your test."  
B. "Ok. I **got it.**"  
A. "I hope so. I don't want you to fail the class."

Other Common Sentences

"I understand what you are saying."

"Do you understand what I'm saying?"

## You Wish

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone that they will not get what they want.

**Explanation:** Many wishes do not come true. This expression is telling the person that what they want will be only a wish and not reality.



"You want straight A's like her? **You wish!**"  
"You think she'll go on a date with you? **You wish!**"  
"You think you're going to beat my high score? Don't **you wish.**"

- A. "I really need to win the lottery so I can retire."
- B. "Ha! **You wish!**"

Other Common Sentences

"In your dreams."  
"It's not going to happen."

## You're Dressed to Kill

**Meaning/Usage:** Being dressed in a way to make people notice you; dressed very nicely; dressed to attract sexual attention

**Explanation:** This can be a compliment to some people, but it might not be to others. The reason is because it contains some level of sexuality in the meaning.

"I really like your outfit! **You're dressed to kill.**"  
"She must be trying to impress him. She is **dressed to kill.**"  
"That girl is **dressed to kill** tonight."

- A. "Wow! Did you see Jennifer's dress?"
- B. "I did. **She is dressed to kill.**"
- A. "Yeah. She sure looks sexy."

Other Common Sentences

"She is dressed really nice."  
"She is dressed attractively."

## Behave Yourself



**Meaning/Usage:** To tell someone to stay out of trouble

**Explanation:** Normally this is used to tell children to behave appropriately. However, friends use it with one another like they use "stay out of trouble."

"If you're going to have dinner at their house you'd better **behave yourself**."

"Oh **behave yourself**, your being naughty."

"**Behave yourself** when you're at school."

A. "I'm going to go out with the guys this Friday night."

B. "You'd better **behave yourself**. I know how you guys like to party."

A. "Don't worry, I will be on my best behavior."

Other Common Sentences

"Stay out of trouble."

"Have good manners."

## That Figures

**Meaning/Usage:** Another way of say, "that makes sense" or "I'm not surprised to hear that."

**Explanation:** "Figures" are related to numbers. When numbers add up, it is logical. When something is logical it makes sense and you are not surprised. This expression is commonly used when a person hears something they have not heard before, but is not surprised by it even though it was alarming, because other pieces of information made it logical.

"He said he did not like your ideas? **That figures**."

"She only asked her closest friends to the party? **That figures**."

"He won't talk to you after that incident? **That figures**."

A. "Did I tell you what happened to John and Amy?"

B. "No you didn't, please tell me."

A. "They decided to get divorced!"

B. "**That figures**. They never seemed happy with each other anyways."



### Other Common Sentences

"That's no surprise."

## Do Tell

**Meaning/Usage:** A slang way of telling someone to tell you what they know.

**Explanation:** This was seen in movies and is primarily used in informal speaking.

"You heard about that rumor already? **Do tell.**"

"Martha and Jake are breaking up? **Do tell.**"

"**Do tell.** I'm dying to know what he said about me."

A. "I heard a rumor the other day about what really happened at work."

B. "Oh **do tell!** I really want to know what happened."

### Other Common Sentences

"I want to know."

"Please tell me what you know."

## No Sweat

**Meaning/Usage:** Telling someone it is "no problem"

**Explanation:** "Sweat" refers to the water that comes from your pores after hard work or exercise. This phrase became popular to tell someone that the task is not a problem and that it will not cause any sweat.

"I can finish it for you, **no sweat.**"

"**No sweat.** We can always get together another time."

"**No sweat.** It's not that big of a deal."

A. "Can you have my computer fixed by tomorrow? I really need it for work."

B. "**No sweat.** I should be able to have it to you by then."



#### Other Common Sentences

"No problem."

"It's not a big deal."

## I Blew It

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone that you made a big mistake

**Explanation:** When something blows up, it is destroyed. Therefore, blow up implies in this context means to make a big mistake to damage any opportunities. Because making mistakes are very common, a simple way of saying this was needed so people started saying, "I blew it."

"I really thought I was going to get the promotion, but I blew it."

"I thought he really liked me but I blew it."

"I was trying to surprise her for her birthday, but I blew it."

A. "How did your interview go?"

B. "Not so good, I was very nervous."

A. "Why were you nervous?"

B. "I think I might have messed up on a few questions so I think I blew it."

#### Other Common Sentences

"I messed up."

"I missed my opportunity."

## Maddening

**Meaning/Usage:** Extremely annoying; to make you very mad

**Explanation:** This is a straightforward.

"Trying to make you happy sometimes is maddening."





"Trying to figure out the answers to this test is **maddening**."

"There was a **maddening** delay at the train station."

A. "So what caused them to cancel flights at the airport?"

B. "I'm not sure but it was **maddening**! People were angry trying to figure out what to do."

A. "I'm glad your flight finally made it."

B. "Me too, I could not stand to be in the airport any longer."

Other Common Sentences

"It was frustrating."

"It was irritating."

## I Messed Up

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone that you made a mistake

**Explanation:** This is a very common phrase. It is not as bad as "I blew it" but it also means to make a mistake. However, "I blew it" refers to making a big mistake to lose out on an opportunity, while "I messed up" can be used more freely to indicate any sort of mistake.

"**I messed up**. I got a ticket for speeding on the highway."

"**I messed up**, I lost my wallet at the airport."

"He is really upset with me. **I messed up**."

A. "Why did it take you so long to get here?"

B. "**I messed up** and got lost."

A. "Really, how did that happen?"

B. "I was not paying attention and took the wrong exit to get here."

Other Common Sentences

"I made a mistake."

"I did the wrong thing."



## I Beg to Differ

**Meaning/Usage:** A polite way of disagreeing

**Explanation:** Sounds very British for an American. And British English is seen as more polite.

"I beg to differ. I don't think that is the right way to handle the situation."

"I beg to differ. You did a really nice job and deserved the promotion."

"I beg to differ. What he did was inexcusable."

A. "I still think we should get a new car."

B. "I beg to differ. The car we have works fine."

A. "I guess you're right. We can wait."

Other Common Sentences

"I disagree with you."

"I politely disagree."

## Rise and Shine

**Meaning/Usage:** Phrase used to wake someone up nicely

**Explanation:** "Rise" means to get up and "shine" in this context means to "act lively and do well."

"It's time to **rise and shine** sweetheart."

"You'd better **rise and shine** or you'll be late for work."

"**Rise and shine** sleepy head, it's time for breakfast."

A. "**Rise and shine!** It's time to get up!"

B. "Can't I just stay in bed a bit longer?"

A. "If you do you will be late for work."

Other Common Sentences

"It's time to wake up."



"Get out of bed."

## You Bet

**Meaning/Usage:** Telling someone yes in a definite way

**Explanation:** When you "bet" on something, you are placing a wager that you are right. In this context, "bet" is being absolutely sure. "You bet" is usually used when someone asks for something. Instead of saying "yes," saying "you bet" is more positive and makes the listener feel better.

"**You bet** I'll be at your game. I would not miss it."

"I can help you with your project, **you bet**."

"**You bet** I'm going to talk to her, she is beautiful."

A. "I'm moving in a few weeks and was wondering if you could help?"

B. "**You bet**. Just let me know when, and I'll be there."

A. "Thanks! That would be great."

Other Common Sentences

"Of course."

"Definitely."

## Pie in the Sky

**Meaning/Usage:** Pleasant to imagine but impossible to attain

**Explanation:** Comes from a song written by Joe Hill. It indicated that you will get heavenly rewards after death. However, people who did not believe in heaven turned this phrase into an idiom to express something pleasant that is unattainable.

"Her desire to be an actress ended up just being a **pie in the sky**."

"His dreams of becoming a famous singer are just a **pie in the sky**."

"Their ideas about living in space are just a **pie in the sky**."



- A. "I thought she moved to California to become a model?"
- B. "She did, but it didn't work out for her."
- A. "Seems like her dreams were just a **pie in the sky** after all."
- B. "That's how it seems."

Other Common Sentences

"That's an impractical wish."

"That's an unrealistic dream."

## No Strings Attached

**Meaning/Usage:** Without any conditions

**Explanation:** Imagine that you see a money on the ground. When you go pick it up, it disappears. It was too good to be true. What happened is that someone had a piece of string on the bill and when you went to pick it up, the person pulled on the string so you could get it. So when a string is attached to something, it must be a trick of some sort that requires you to do additional things to get what you want. Because tricking people was popular, the phrase "no strings attached" became common by salesmen to indicate that they are not tricking you to buy something.

"We are giving away free t-shirts, **no strings attached**."

"He said he would finish the work for free, **no strings attached**."

"The grocery store is giving away free candy, **no strings attached**."

- A. "Have you been to the new electronics store down the street?"
- B. "No, I haven't been there yet, why?"
- A. "If their prices are not the lowest they will give it to you for free! **No strings attached**."
- B. "Wow, that's a great deal. I will have to check them out."

Other Common Sentences

"There are no hidden clauses."

"There is nothing you have to do."



## Sleep Tight

**Meaning/Usage:** Get a good nights sleep

**Explanation:** Comes from the saying, "Good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite."

"**Sleep tight**, you have a lot to get done tomorrow."

"I hope you **sleep tight** after an exhausting day."

"Not sure if she will **sleep tight** after watching that scary movie."

A. "Our daughter woke up 2 times during the night."

B. "Is she ok?"

A. "Yes, she just had a tummy ache and could not sleep well."

B. "Tell her I said **sleep tight** and I hope that she feels better soon."

Other Common Sentences

"Get a good night sleep."

"Hope you sleep well."

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## It Can't Hurt

**Meaning/Usage:** Hoping nothing will go wrong to try or do something

**Explanation:** Whenever there is action, there is reaction. Sometimes the reaction or the result can be negative on you. Because of this, people became cautious about changing to things that they are not familiar with. However, after thinking for a long time and not being able to find anything negative, people would use this common phrase.

"I'm trying a new diet, **it can't hurt**, right?"



"**It can't hurt** to get another opinion."

"I say **it can't hurt** to let him know how you feel."

A. "I'm thinking of trying out a new gym."

B. "Really? Why?"

A. "The one I go to now is too expensive. I found another one that is cheaper."

B. "Go ahead and do it, **it can't hurt** to try it."

Other Common Sentences

"You might as well."

"There is no harm trying."

## I Couldn't Agree With You More

**Meaning/Usage:** To completely agree with someone

**Explanation:** This is the highest level of agreeing with someone because they can't agree more than they do. It is straightforward and very common.

"**I couldn't agree with you more**, this place is beautiful."

"**I couldn't agree with you more**, spending more time with each other would be nice."

"You didn't like that movie either? **I couldn't agree with you more.**"

A. "I really don't like shopping around the holidays."

B. "**I couldn't agree with you more.** It's always so busy."

Other Common Sentences

"I totally agree with you."

## Thank Goodness

**Meaning/Usage:** Expression to indicate relief

**Explanation:** Another popular way people indicate relief is to say "Thank God"



"**Thank goodness** this dress still fits, I have nothing else to wear."

"**Thank goodness** we got our tickets early, the concert is now sold out."

"**Thank goodness** he doesn't suspect anything. I really want it to be a surprise."

A. "**Thank goodness** we found out about this sale."

B. "I know! They have such good deals."

A. "Thanks for letting me know about it."

B. "You're welcome."

Other Common Sentences

"I am so glad."

"What a relief."

## You Made It

**Meaning/Usage:** To succeed at something; to arrive

**Explanation:** The literal meaning to say a person arrived. But another common meaning is to say they succeeded at something.

"I can't believe **you made it**. It was a difficult task."

"**You made it!** I didn't think you were going to show up."

"I heard **you made it** a whole week without smoking?"

A. "**You made it!** I thought you were out of town?"

B. "I was, but I got home last night and thought I'd surprise you."

A. "What a great surprise! I'm so happy you are here."

B. "Me too! Thanks for having me."

Other Common Sentences

"You did it."

"You arrived."





## Whatever

**Meaning/Usage:** An expression used to indicate you don't believe the other person

**Explanation:** This is also commonly used as an expression by itself. For example, when someone says something outrageous, you can simply respond with "Whatever!"

"**Whatever**, I know you like him."

"You're saying I can't go out tonight with my friends? **Whatever!**"

"**Whatever!** You know I don't believe you."

A. "He told me the window was already broken when he got home."

B. "**Whatever**, I saw him throw a ball with my own eyes."

A. "Ok. I will talk to him about it."

B. "You should because he is lying."

Other Common Sentences

"I don't agree with you."

"I don't believe you."

## I'm Sick of It

**Meaning/Usage:** To express that you are tired of something; to express you don't like something anymore

**Explanation:** This is commonly used when something happens so often that you are tired of it.

"I'm not sure about you, but **I'm sick of it!**"

"I don't know why she's acting that way, but **I'm sick of it.**"

"**I'm sick of it.** We need to stop arguing so much."

A. "Why has he been acting so mean to everyone?"

B. "I don't know, but **I'm sick of it.**"

A. "Me too, I'm going to say something to him."

B. "Let me know what he says."



#### Other Common Sentences

"I'm tired of it."

"I don't like it anymore."

## Get Out of Here

**Meaning/Usage:** Common way to express disbelief

**Explanation:** You are not telling someone to literally get out. This is a common idiomatic phrase to express disbelief. Often times it is used in a positive way as in the first example sentence below.

"Get out of here! We actually finished in first place?"

"Get out of here. She would never say such a thing about me."

"Get out of here. That's hard to believe."

A. "Jen told me that Ryan got an A on his test."

B. "Get out of here! He didn't even study!"

A. "I'm telling you the truth, he got an A."

B. "What a surprise."

#### Other Common Sentences

"Are you joking with me?"

"Are you serious?"

## You Made It Big

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when someone succeeded financially

**Explanation:** Very similar to the idiom "you made it" but includes the word "big". The word "big" is talking about money so it is expressing to someone that they have succeeded financially.

"I can't believe you have your own business! You made it big!"

"I can't believe how nice your house is. You made it big."



"**You made it big!** Your parents will be proud of you."

- A. "So how have you been?"
- B. "I've been good. I live in Beverly Hills with my wife."
- A. "Wow you live in Beverly Hills? **You made it big!**"

Other Common Sentences

"You've done well."

"You really succeeded!"

## In Your Dreams

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone that they will not get what they want.

**Explanation:** Although the sentences below are used in full sentences, this phrase is commonly used by itself.

"Sure you will be a millionaire one day, **in your dreams.**"

"You will be as good as me **in your dreams.**"

"You think you will beat me? **In your dreams.**"

- A. "I've been practicing shooting basketball with my dad."
- B. "Are you getting any better?"
- A. "I can beat you now."
- B. "**In your dreams**, buddy!"

Other Common Sentences

"You wish"

## Hold On a Sec

**Meaning/Usage:** To tell someone to wait; to slow down; an expression used before providing a different point of view or opinion



**Explanation:** This is fairly straightforward. "Sec" in this context is one "second." You're basically telling someone to wait because you are about to say something else.

"Hold on a sec, I thought you were staying home tonight?"

"Hold on a sec, are you serious?"

"Hold on a sec. This is different from what you told me yesterday."

A. "Chip is going to draft a quarterback in the first round?"

B. "Hold on a sec. I swore he was going to draft a running back first."

A. "It's a surprise for me too, but I'm pretty sure about it."

Other Common Sentences

"Not so fast."

"On the contrary."

## That's easier said than done

**Meaning/Usage:** This is used when something is easy to say but very hard to do.

**Explanation:** This phrase is very literal. Often times people tell you to do something that sounds easy, but it is actually hard. So in response, you can say this phrase.

"I want to quit smoking but **that's easier said than done.**"

"She wants me to be more romantic but **that's easier said than done.**"

"I wish I could just retire a wealthy man but **that's easier said than done.**"

A. "I really want to learn how to take good photographs."

B. "Maybe you should take a class?"

A. "My sister learned how to do it all by herself."

B. "I don't doubt it **but that's easier said than done.**"

Other Common Sentences

"That's more difficult than it sounds."

"It's easy to say something, but difficult to do."



## You Never Know

**Meaning/Usage:** Expressing that the unlikely could happen

**Explanation:** This is short for "You never can be certain of anything."

"I don't think I'll get the job but **you never know**."

"**You never know**. Some people don't mind the rain."

"**You never know**. He still could change his mind."

A. "I don't think my husband wants to go with us."

B. "**You never know**. Have you asked him?"

A. "Not yet, but I will tonight."

B. "I think that might be a good idea."

Other Common Sentences

"It could happen."

"Things still can change."

## Back to the grind

**Meaning/Usage:** Going back to work after a break

**Explanation:** "Back" is going back to something. Grinding something is hard work, so going back to the "grind" is going back to hard work.

"Ok everyone break time is over, get **back to the grind**."

"**Back to the grind for me**. I'll catch you later."

"Time to get **back to the grind**. I need to finish so I can leave on time."

A. "I really need to finish this project before my deadline."

B. "If that's the case, you'd better stop talking and get **back to the grind**."

A. "I agree, I need to finish it before I leave."

B. "Good luck."

Other Common Sentences



"I better get back to work."

"You'd better get back to what you were working on."

## It Serves You Right

**Meaning/Usage:** Expressing that justice happened because the person got what they deserved

**Explanation:** This is usually said when something bad happens to someone who continually did something bad.

"It serves you right. You were not nice to him."

"It serves him right. He can't expect to win when he cheats during the game."

"It serves you right. You got what you deserved."

A. "Can you believe Kim got fired from work?"

B. "Serves her right. She was always late or calling in sick."

A. "I guess you're right, but I hope she finds a new job."

B. "Me too."

Other Common Sentences

"You got what you deserved."

## I Can't Wait

**Meaning/Usage:** Being excited about something

**Explanation:** This is very literal. This phrase is usually used by itself and does not need to be in a full sentence.

"We only have 7 more days until vacation! I can't wait!"

"I can't wait. They are going to announce the contest winners today."

"I can't wait for summer to get here, I don't like the cold weather."

A. "I can't wait to see my parents this weekend!"



- B. "Are they coming in town to visit?"
- A. "Yes, I haven't seen them for a year."
- B. "Have a fun time visiting with them."

Other Common Sentences

"I am eager for it to happen."  
"I'm waiting with excitement."

## Lighten Up

**Meaning/Usage:** Telling someone to not be depressed

**Explanation:** This is very similar to "cheer up." It can also be used to tell someone not to be negative.

- "**Lighten up.** Things could be worse."
- "**Lighten up.** We can go to the movies another day."
- "**Lighten up.** There will be another chance to play."

- A. "I'm so upset that we didn't get to go to the game yesterday."
- B. "**Lighten up.** We can go some other time."
- A. "I know, I just feel bad I had to work."
- B. "Like I said, it's ok. We can try again next week."

Other Common Sentences

"Cheer up."  
"Don't be so depressed."

## Good Point

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone that they had a good comment, thought, or suggestion

**Explanation:** "Point" can be seen as an idea, a statement, or a thought.





"**Good point**, I should have followed the instructions while building it."

"**Good point**, I will call her to explain what happened."

"That is a very **good point**."

A. "I really think you should have called him first before stopping by his house."

B. "**Good point**. I will remember that next time."

Other Common Sentences

"Good thought."

"Good suggestion."

## Just My Luck

**Meaning/Usage:** Expression used when something bad happens to you

**Explanation:** This is commonly used to tell someone that you are unlucky.

"That's **just my luck**, I never win at anything."

"**Just my luck**, my boss asked me to work late tonight."

"**Just my luck**, I got a speeding ticket on the way home."

A. "I hear you had to change your plans for this weekend?"

B. "Yeah, I have to work so we can't go to the beach with you."

A. "That's too bad."

B. "Yeah, it's **just my luck**."

Other Common Sentences

"I am so unlucky."

"Something went wrong for me."

"I have back luck."

## It's Up To You



**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell a person that they are the one to make a decision

**Explanation:** "Up to" is commonly used to indicate a decision. It is common to say, "up to her," or "up to them," or "up to me."

"It's up to you, but I don't think we should bother him."

"I don't care what we do tonight, it's up to you."

"It's up to you whether we invite them to the party."

A. "What time do you think we should leave to go to the airport?"

B. "It's up to you. Our flight is at 7 o'clock."

A. "I think we should leave by 5 then."

A. "Ok. Sounds good to me."

Other Common Sentences

"You can decide."

"You can make the decision."

## Hop In

**Meaning/Usage:** Used to tell someone to get in the car

**Explanation:** "Hop" is like a small jump. So this phrase is pretty straightforward.

"Hop in. You can ride with me to the grocery store."

"Hop in. We need to leave right away."

"If you need a ride home, hop on in."

A. "I can't believe my car broke down again."

B. "Hop in, and I'll give you a ride home."

A. "Thanks man."

B. "You're welcome."

Other Common Sentences

"Get in the car."

"Jump in the car"



## I Told You So

**Meaning/Usage:** This is used when you already told someone something and it came true

**Explanation:** This is commonly used when you give someone advice and they don't listen to you. Afterwards, the person you gave advice to did not get what they wanted, and if they had listened to you, they would have succeeded. In this case, you can use this expression.

"I knew that was a bad idea, I told you so."

"I told you so. You should have listened to me."

"You shouldn't be surprised, because I told you so."

A. "I should have listened to your advice."

B. "Why do you say that?"

A. "I tried that new restaurant and it was terrible."

B. "What did I tell you? I told you so."

Other Common Sentences

"I warned you."

## You Know Better Than That

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when someone makes a mistake that they shouldn't have made

**Explanation:** This is used more commonly with children, but can also be used to adults. However, this can make the person feel a little bad because you are speaking to them like a child.

"Mary said you were rude to her, you know better than that."

"You know better than that. Now pick up the mess you made before going outside."

"Come on, you know better than that."

A. "Did you yell at your sister for playing with your toys?"

B. "Yes, she didn't ask me."



- A. "Well **you know better than that**. Next time use your manners and ask her nicely."
- B. "Ok mom, I'm sorry."

Other Common Sentences

"You know the right thing to do."  
"You know what you were supposed to do."

## Has Been Burned

**Meaning/Usage:** To get screwed; to get a bad deal; to be tricked

**Explanation:** When you are burned, it hurts. When you are screwed, get a bad deal, or get cheated, that hurts too. So it became common to use "burned" in this manner.

"I don't know why he keeps calling her. **He's been burned** by her numerous times."  
"I **have been burned** by making bad decisions before."  
"I **got burned** on that used car we bought."

- A. "So did you end up going on a date with her?"
- B. "Man, I **got burned**! She ended up going out with someone else instead."
- A. "That's too bad. Don't let it bother you."
- B. "I won't, I didn't like her anyways."

Other Common Sentences

"I've been swindled."  
"I got a bad deal."

## Keep Me in the Loop

**Meaning/Usage:** To be informed about everything regarding that subject

**Explanation:** "Loop" is a cycle or a continual circular motion. When you are not in the circle, then you don't know what is going on. So being in the loop is indicating that you are aware of the situation. Being kept in the loop is asking someone to keep you



informed about what is happening.

"I really want to know what happens so **keep me in the loop**."

"**Keep me in the loop** so I'm included."

"Thanks for the update. **Keep me in the loop**."

A. "I am meeting with my boss tomorrow about the presentation."

B. "**Keep me in the loop** and let me know what he says."

A. "Ok, I will let you know."

Other Common Sentences

"**Keep me informed**."

"**Make sure I am included**."

## I'll Be Down

**Meaning/Usage:** To agree to participate in the plan

**Explanation:** "Down" comes from "down to earth." When you are down to earth, you are realistic and not imagining things. Therefore, when you are "down," you are basically legitimate or a real. This is an informal way of saying you are in for the plan.

"If you don't want to go to the pool, **I'll be down** for whatever."

"**I'll be down** with whatever you guys want to do tonight."

"Going to the movies sounds good, **I'm down**."

A. "Just wanted to let you know we all might go skating tonight."

B. "**I'm down**. Sounds like fun to me."

A. "Ok then, we will pick you up around 7 o'clock"

B. "Sounds good."

Other Common Sentences

"**I'm in**."

"I agree with that."



## Get to the Point

**Meaning/Usage:** Used when someone is not providing the piece of information that is the most important.

**Explanation:** When someone is telling you something and they are going around in circles without coming to any conclusion or without providing the main point, you can use this by itself to tell someone to stop going around in circles and to tell you what they mean.

"Can you please **get to the point**? You're taking forever."

"**Get to the point**, you're making no sense."

"If you can just **get to the point** maybe I can help you."

A. "I am having a hard time trying to tell you what happened"

B. "Just **get to the point** and maybe I will understand better."

Other Common Sentences

"Tell me what you mean."

## Down to Earth

**Meaning/Usage:** Realistic; reasonable; sensible

**Explanation:** When you are down to earth, you are realistic, reasonable, and does not imagine unnecessary things.

"I really like them. They are so **down to earth**."

"They are really **down to earth** and easy to get along with."

"They live their life very **down to earth**."

A. "I really like how you handle different situations."

B. "I just try and deal with them the best I can."

A. "But you're so **down to earth** and deal with them very realistically."

B. "Thank you for your compliments."

Other Common Sentences



"You are very sensible."

"You are very reasonable and realistic."

## Sure Thing

**Meaning/Usage:** To express that you will do something

**Explanation:** If someone asks you for help, you can respond with "sure thing" to indicate certainty.

"You want me to call you tomorrow? **Sure thing.**"

"**Sure thing.** I'll be there!"

"I can help you move. **Sure thing.**"

A. "Sorry to hear your mom is in the hospital."

B. "Thanks, they are still doing some tests to find out what is wrong with her."

A. "Well let me know once you find out anything."

B. "**Sure thing**, I will call you once they let me know."

Other Common Sentences

"Of course I will."

"Certainly"