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**ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ КУРС ОСНОВНОГО
ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА**

**АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК
ПРАКТИКА РЕЧИ**

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ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ КУРС ОСНОВНОГО ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК ПРАКТИКА РЕЧИ

Юниты 1-9. Разговорные темы.

ЮНИТА 9

Рассматривается американский сленг и различные виды
англоязычного жаргона.

Для студентов факультета лингвистики СГУ

Юнита соответствует профессиональной образовательной программе №3

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* Глоссарий расположен в середине учебного пособия и предназначен для самостоятельного заучивания новых понятий.

ТЕМАТИЧЕСКИЙ ПЛАН

В данной юните содержатся тексты и статьи, раскрывающие следующие понятия: сленг, жаргон, диалект и идиомы в английском языке; язык цвета; клише; сравнения, преувеличения, преуменьшения; идиомы и животные; языковые игры; аллитерация; идиомы, относящиеся к повседневной и домашней жизни; сленг в школах и университетах.

Каждый урок сопровождается комплексом упражнений, творческих заданий и аудиокурсом.

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Базовый учебник

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Примечание. Знаком (*) отмечены работы, на основе которых составлен научный обзор.

LESSON 1

PART I

YPOK 1

Introduction to American Slang, Jargon, and Idioms

SLANG

People seem fascinated by slang, and it is widely beloved in all languages, especially in the abstract by people who cringe when it is actually spoken. Slang, in one word, just “is.” Slang is unruly, unrefined, irreverent, and illogical. It can be brutally frank and direct, or deceptively kind and euphemistic. Euphemism is the verbal trick that has been termed the deodorant of language, and slang has given us dozens of terms for drunkenness and insanity that are remarkably gentle. There are many beliefs about slang:

- A. Slang is as old as language itself, and that American slang started on the *Mayflower*. Shakespeare used the slang of his time, and by doing so gave us such words as *hubbub*, *fretful*, *fireworks*, and *dwindle*, which today are no longer considered slang, but literary words in everyday use.
- B. Slang binds and identifies and thrives in groups with a strong sense of novelty and group activity. Farmers produce little slang, but boxers, science fiction fans, surfers, high school students, and actors produce a lot.
- C. Slang is produced by living languages, and the moment it stops being produced, the language in question is dead. It is also true that slang replenishes standard language. English words as diverse as *snide*, *hold up*, *nice* (as in “nice work”), *bogus*, *clumsy*, and *spurious* were regarded as slang not that long ago. Much slang has become so common that when we use it we forget that it is slang: “Pick up the *phone* and find out what time the *movie* starts.”
- D. It is all but impossible to destroy or avoid slang, especially with the argument that it is improper or impolite.
- E. America is particularly hospitable to slang, and it tends to be embraced rather than spurned. American slang has been called one of the “successful stories” of English, and one estimate, made in the *Reader’s Digest Success with Words*, claims that there are some 35,000 expressions which are, or once were, American slang. 35,000 may not be a very accurate estimate when one considers the British, Irish, Scotch, Australian, and Canadian contributions to slang.
- F. Slang is not that hard to create, but it is hard to sustain a “new slang” without a group that continues to speak it. This is exactly what

happened to the short-lived Valley Girl (1982-1983) and the Citizen Band radio slang (1975-1977).

- G. Slang often has as much to do with who says something as what they are saying. A simple word like *hot* has many conventional and slang meanings, depending on whether you are talking to a musician, police officer, electrician, florist, radiologist, cook, or basketball player. If a television talk-show guest talks about the Green Room, he's referring to the room in which guests wait to go on camera, regardless of its actual color. On the other hand, to a surfer on a California beach, the Green Room is the sought-for-realm inside the curl of a wave. By extension, at some West Coast colleges, to be doing exceptionally well is to be in the Green Room.
- H. Slang is often as much defined by context and position (in the sense that cowgirl and girl cow, OK and KO, and breaking ball and ball breaker, all differ) as by the expression itself. The word *say* is not slang unless it is used at the beginning of a sentence, in the sense "tell me." This is as much true of the contemporary teenager who says, "Say, how much did that cost?" as it is in the line, "Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light."

JARGON

What about jargon? A rough distinction between slang and jargon is that jargon is technical, professional talk which acts as a barrier to keep outsiders from understanding what is going on. But not always. For instance, medical doctors have a polysyllabic, latinate jargon as well as a blunt and sometimes cruel slang. It is one thing to say that one has a *bilateral probital hematoma* (jargon), but quite another to say that you have a shiner, black eye, or mouse (slang).

DIALECT

What about dialect? This appears to be a different manner of speaking the same language with a different but consistent grammar and set of distinct expressions. By this definition the black English that was so widely discussed and debated in the 1970s would qualify as a dialect. By the same token, many of the words used in predominantly black rap music are slang. Rap slang is much more likely to be understood by a non-black teenager than by a middle-aged black person. One can, in fact, make the case that rap slang and general teenage slang have so much in common, there are only a handful of words and phrases they do not share.

Television, radio and computers (especially Internet) play a great role in the dispersing of slang. By turning on the television we hear new political terms, sports terminology, crime and drug slang. Catchy new phrases are

created every day by advertising agencies, advertising over the radio, television, newspapers, etc. Television not only affects adults watching news programs, soap operas and movies, but children are also affected and this language falls into use by adults. For example, *Sesame Street* (a popular program for preschool children) invented such words as *yucky*, which means unpleasant, and can be heard by the elderly. And because of *Sesame Street* one part of grammar changed, namely the term *you guys*, as slang for males and females as opposed to males alone.

Communication

Communication of information is usually spoken or written (and of course there are non-verbal tactics of communication, i.e., body language). One of our main factors is grammar, which we will not go into. The next, especially when dealing with languages is *dialect*.

Dialects

Dialect distinguishes among speech communities. We are all aware that English as spoken by a person from England differs from English in the United States. We also know that American English differs from Atlanta to Boston. We may be less aware of other differences in language that are also called dialect. Dialects vary from urban to rural areas, from one social class to another, and from one ethnic group to another. Dialects involve differences in the use of words, sounds, syntax (word order), and style.

If one group uses words in ways others don't, unclear communication between the two will result. But the most important reason is that dialects lead to evaluations. Not only will our dialect influence how people perceive us; the dialect we speak leads us to react to others in certain ways. Evaluations based on dialect affect communication in other ways. People commonly believe one American grammar is "correct." It is described as Standard American English. Many people believe all other dialects or variations of English in America are not "correct" and are therefore "substandard." These people conclude that people who use a nonstandard dialect lack education and, often, that they are stupid.

Those who study languages do not hold this view of dialects. To them, language dialects are different, but none is superior to another. As students of communication, we should feel the same way, but we must remember that many people with whom we communicate do not agree. An example of this may be: *The boy be running*. In Standard American English this is considered non-standard English; however, in many parts of the United States this is acceptable, though the sentence should be, *The boy is running*. The first example is often used by black Americans, and to them it is clear from its context; however, for

the person not from that group we become confused because of the grammar. Without conjugating the verb “to be”, I become confused as to when the action actually took place, i.e., The boy *is* running; The boy *was* running; The boy *will be* running; The boy *had been* running. The person who uttered this phrase may be very intelligent, but I might perceive him differently because of the use of his dialect.

IDIOMS

What are idioms? Idioms are phrases where the whole phrase means something different from the meaning of the separate words. If you are *fed up*, you are bored and unhappy, but the whole phrase has nothing to do with *feed*; if something works out *in the long run*, it means in the end, when the whole process is finished, but it has nothing to do with *running*.

All languages have idioms, but an idiom in one language may have no direct equivalent in another. This means when you learn a new language you have to learn the idioms as complete phrases.

Idioms are very common in spoken English; they are less common in written English, or more formal situations. In English, in particular, idioms are very often used in business contexts to help to create a relaxed atmosphere. Someone whose English is very good, but who uses no idioms, can sound formal and rather impersonal, and, therefore, a little unfriendly. For this reason, idioms are important in building a pleasant atmosphere, and helping to make sure that your business meetings do not seem “cold.”

SUMMARY

In English, as in Russian, we use many slang terms in everyday speech. There is usually a time and a place for certain slang terms, and we must be able to recognize them not in their literal meaning but as a whole understanding. In using slang, we refer to different items that we see every day. For example, think of how many different ways we use colors, parts of the body, household items, animals, food and drink, “cute” words, “nice” words, curse words, as well as “made-up” words to communicate certain emotions, meanings, pictures, etc., that seem to the speaker relevant to his explanation.

Tasks

- I. Describe the differences between the terms “slang,” “jargon,” “dialect” and “idiom.”
- II. Where do many slang terms come from?
- III. What happens if slang is not invented or used in a language?
- IV. Discuss the use of slang and jargon in the Russian language. Does its use differ from the English language? Why or why not?

PART II

PHRASES WITH COLORS COLORFUL ENGLISH

Colors color our language — and that is not just a pigment of my imagination. Think of the words we use to describe how we feel. At various times we are green with envy, gray with exhaustion, red with embarrassment, or white with rage. We can fall into a black mood, a purple passion, or a blue funk; when things start looking up, we feel in the pink.

Even the animal world gets painted by the coloring of human imagination.

Have you ever owned a white elephant? Before you shake your head no, remember that nowadays the expression *white elephant* means an object of some worth that nobody else seems to want, like a huge out-of-style couch or a pedal-driven sewing machine. *White elephant* refers back to the albino elephants once considered sacred in Siam (now Thailand). These creatures were so rare that each one born became automatically the property of the king and was not permitted to work. When a subject incurred the king's displeasure, the angry monarch would bestow one of his white elephants on him as a gift. The enormous appetite and utter uselessness of the animal would soon plunge the "gifted" man into financial ruin.

The tale and the other etymological treatises in this unit are anything but red herrings. The original red herrings were strong-smelling fish that the fox hunters of Old England dragged across the fox's trail to confuse the hounds and give the quarry a sporting chance. Today the meaning of *red herring* has been broadened to signify a misleading statement that diverts our attention from the real issues.

Here's a golden opportunity for you to show your true colors by ranging over the rainbow coalition of hues that color many everyday expressions. In the colorful quiz that follows, complete each phrase with a color. Most of the colors will appear more than once.

Good luck. I'm confident that you'll pass this test with flying colors:

The Spectrum

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • <i>black</i> | • <i>green</i> | • <i>rose</i> |
| • <i>blue</i> | • <i>lime</i> | • <i>silver</i> |
| • <i>brown</i> | • <i>pink</i> | • <i>white</i> |
| • <i>gold</i> | • <i>purple</i> | • <i>yellow</i> |
| • <i>gray</i> | • <i>red</i> | |

Model:

1. _____ *black* _____ mail
2. a bolt from the _____
3. a _____ horn
4. a _____ -bellied coward
5. _____ grass music
6. good as _____
7. true _____
8. a _____ eminence
9. once in a _____ moon
10. the _____ -carpet treatment
11. singing the _____ s
12. caught _____ -handed
13. _____ prose
14. Every cloud has a _____ lining.
15. For dessert I had an ice-cream-covered _____ ie.
16. _____ tape
17. He looks at the world through _____ -colored glasses.
18. The star loves always being in the light _____ .
19. beaten _____ and _____
20. People who hallucinate are said to see _____ elephants.
21. The committee gave her proposal the _____ light.
22. _____ en oldies
23. the _____ sheep of the family
24. a _____ -letter day
25. _____ blood
26. a _____ thumb
27. a _____ neck
28. a _____ guard
29. paint the town _____
30. talking a _____ streak
31. Silence is _____ en.
32. to _____ wash the truth
33. to _____ -bag it
34. Off-color jokes are called _____ jokes.
35. _____ ie points
36. _____ journalism
37. When a business makes a profit, it is in the _____ .
38. When a business loses money, it is in the _____ .
39. Mary is a genius. She obviously has lots of _____ matter.
40. a _____ cent
41. _____ as grass
42. Evil magic is _____ magic.

43. Good magic is _____ magic.
 44. The boss is so angry that she's seeing _____
 45. _____ laws
 46. _____ -chip stocks
 47. a _____ area
 48. I hope you're tickled _____

by how well you've answered these questions.

Now try this: List at least ten words that describe both a color and a thing. *Orange* is the best-known example.

MENTAL STATES

Cutting with a Dull Tool

Slang dotes on mental illness, oddness, and offness. There are scores of slang synonyms for mental aberration and various states thereof. Without leaving the D's, we have *daffy*, *dippy*, *dotty*, *dingy*, and *dingaling*, and the B's include *bananas*, *beany*, *birdy*, *buggy*, *bugs*, *bughouse*, and *bonkers*.

This lexicon is cruel, yet paradoxically kinder than the proper language of psychiatry. To be branded as loopy or wifty seems less dire than being labeled neurotic or psychotic. In fact, the trend seems to be toward metaphoric description as opposed to a single word. There is nothing new about this. People have had bats in their belfries, snakes in their heads, and bees in their bonnets for generations, but what is new is that we seem to be in the midst of a bumper harvest of metaphors for being a bit "off."

These have certainly been influenced by what have been termed "Westernisms" or "ruralisms," folksy bucolic similes and metaphors along the lines of "steeper than a cow's face," "dumber than a barrel of hair," "as useless as tits on a boar hog," and "long as a Texas lie."

Here is a contemporary collection of slang expressions that all mean more or less the same thing. The trick here is to come up with a new metaphoric way of saying that same thing.

_____ B _____

No beans in his or her pod.

Belt doesn't go through all the loops.

Gone around the **bend**.

Bow is unstrung.

Brain is stuck in first gear.

Two **bricks** shy of a load.

A **bubble** off of plumb (or out of level).

Missing a few **buttons**.

_____ C _____

Car isn't hitting on all cylinders.

_____ D _____

Dealing with a **dead battery**.

Missing a few dots on his or her dice.

Temporarily **disconnected**.

All of his or her **dogs** aren't barking.

One **doughnut** shy of a dozen.

Dow-Jones average is off a few points.

Cutting with a **dull tool**.

_____ E _____

Over the **edge**.

Elevator doesn't run to the top floor.

Running on **empty**.

Enchiladas have lost their chili.

_____ F _____

Fishing without bait.

Not playing with a **full deck**.

_____ G _____

Has a **guest** in the attic.

_____ H _____

Hat is on too tight. Has had his/her **hat** blocked with him/her still in it.

Off his/her **hinges**.

Playing **hockey** with a warped puck.

Nice **house**, nobody home.

_____ K _____

Not **knitting** with both needles.

Has a **knot** in his or her kite string.

_____ L _____

A leak in the think tank.

A **low-watt bulb**.

_____ M _____

Missing a few **marbles**.

Too much **motor** for his/her axle.

Puts **mustard** on his/her Fruit Loops.

_____ N _____

Nuttier than a squirrel's breakfast.

Nutty as a fruitcake.

_____ O _____

Has only one **oar** in the water.

Overdrawn at the memory bank.

_____ P _____

Cuts out **paper dolls**.

Half the **pickets** are missing from his/her fence.

Somebody blew out his/her **pilot light**.

Somebody pulled his/her **plug**.

_____ Q _____

Running two **quarts** low.

_____ R _____

Driving in **reverse**.

Rice Krispies don't snap, crackle, and pop.

Off his/her **rocker**.

Not present at **roll call**.

Has a **room** for rent.

_____ S _____

A few **sandwiches** shy of a picnic.

A **screw** loose.

In one too many **scrimmages** without a helmet.

Has all of his/her **shit** in one sock.

Splinters in the windmills of his/her mind.

On the highway of life, he/she is a **stalled vehicle**.

_____ T _____

On his/her **team**, they're one player short.

A few **termites** in the attic.

Is out of his/her **tree**.

Runs a **typewriter** without a ribbon.

_____ U _____

Off in the **upper story**.

W

One **wheel** in the sand.
Not **wrapped** too tightly.

PART III

CLICHÉS TRITE AS A CLICHE

The earliest clichés were printing plates, or stereotypes, made first from wood, then clay, and, finally, cast from metal. The figurative sense of clichés and stereotypes arose later because these plates were often reused and were impervious to change.

One of the ironies of language is that striking figures of speech and vivid comparisons soon become clichés precisely because they initially express an idea so well. These phrases catch on, are picked up by a host of people, and quickly become trite or dead as their originality and cleverness vanish into thin air (itself a cliché).

The English novelist and critic George Orwell used another figure of speech to express the prevailing triteness of modern writing. He contended that “prose consists less and less of words chosen for the sake of their meaning, and more and more of phrases tacked together like the sections of a prefabricated henhouse.”

Take the hackneyed formula “(adjective) as a (noun).” Out of hurry or habit many speakers and writers press into service these stale, formulaic phrases without much regard for their meanings. We call somebody *happy as a clam*, for example, without having any idea of what’s so happy about clams.

Digging into this particular cliché, the whimsical poet Ogden Nash once composed this little ditty:

*The clam, esteemed by gourmets highly,
Is said to live the life of Riley.
When you are lolling on a piazza,
It’s what you are as happy as a.*

But the question lingers: Why should this helpless bivalve—captive in its shell until pried open and steamed, baked, minced, stuffed, or casinoed by humans—be happy?

As it turns out, *happy as a clam* is only half the original saying. The full simile is “happy as a clam at high tide.” A clam at high tide is quite sensibly happy because, at that time, the mud flat in which it buries itself is safe from human invasion.

When we describe someone as *smart as a whip*, we are likely to make him or her feel *pleased as punch*. But what is so smart about a whip, and why should punch be pleased?

Delving into the history of *smart*, we find that the word first meant “experiencing sharp pain.” Gradually the adjective took on additional meanings, including “quick, active, and prompt,” as in “look smart!” and, by extension, “clever, intelligent” *Smart as a whip* unites the older and newer meanings.

The punch that is so pleased in the cliché is not the stuff we drink, but the Punch of the Punch and Judy shows, created in the early seventeenth century. While most people believe *that pleased as Punch* is a food metaphor (and hence neglect to capitalize the P), the phrase in fact alludes to the cheerful singing and self-satisfaction of the extroverted puppet.

May you be pleased as the Punch of Punch and Judy and happy as a clam at high tide when you review the “(adjective) as a (noun)” clichés that follow. *Complete the first set of trite comparisons by inserting the names of animals:*

Model: 1. blind as a bat

2. bald as _____
3. brave as _____
4. busy as _____
5. busy as _____
6. clean as- _____
7. crazy as _____
8. crazy as _____
9. crazy as _____
10. cross as _____
11. cute as _____
12. drunk as _____
13. dumb as _____
14. fat as _____
15. free as _____
16. gentle as _____
17. hairy as _____
18. happy as _____
19. happy as _____
20. healthy as _____
21. hungry as _____
22. loose as _____
23. mad as _____
24. mad as _____
25. naked as _____

26. nervous as _____
27. plump as _____
28. poor as _____
29. proud as _____
30. quiet as _____
31. red as _____
32. scarce as _____
33. sick as _____
34. silly as _____
35. slippery as _____
36. sly as _____
37. snug as _____
38. strong as _____
39. strong as _____
40. stubborn as _____
41. tight as _____
42. wise as _____

Complete the following by using other things found in nature:

43. big as _____
44. clear as _____
45. cold as _____
46. easy as _____

Model: 47. fast as lightning

48. fresh as _____
49. good as _____
50. green as _____
51. hard as _____
52. hot as _____
53. light as _____
54. old as _____
55. pure as _____
56. right as _____
57. solid as _____
58. sturdy as _____

Complete the following by using types of food:

59. American as _____
60. brown as _____
61. cool as _____
62. easy as _____

63. flat as _____
64. nutty as _____
65. red as _____
66. slow as _____
67. soft as _____
68. sweet as _____
69. sweet as _____
70. thick as _____
71. warm as _____
72. wrinkled as _____

Complete the following by using objects found around the house:

73. bald as _____
74. big as _____
75. black as _____
76. black as _____
77. comfortable as _____
78. cute as _____
79. dead as _____
80. deaf as _____
81. dry as _____
82. dull as _____
83. funny as _____
84. high as _____
85. hot as _____
86. limp as _____
87. neat as _____
88. pale as _____
89. pretty as _____
90. rough as _____
91. sharp as _____
92. smooth as _____
93. stiff as _____
94. soft as _____
95. thin as _____
96. tight as _____
97. tight as _____
98. tough as _____
99. tough as _____
100. white as _____

Now, for a change in approach, fill in the first part of each cliché by inserting the appropriately hackneyed adjective:

101. _____ as an arrow
102. _____ as a bell
103. _____ as a bone
104. _____ as Croesus
105. _____ as day
106. _____ as the day is long
107. _____ as the day you were born
108. _____ as Dick's hatband
109. _____ as a dollar
110. _____ as a fiddle
111. _____ as a flash
112. _____ as a hatter
113. _____ as a judge
114. _____ as life
115. _____ as a lord
116. _____ as Methusaleh
117. _____ as a newborn babe
118. _____ as night and day
119. _____ as the nose on your face
120. _____ as a pistol
121. _____ as a rail
122. _____ as shootin'
123. _____ as sin
124. _____ as thieves
125. _____ as a three-dollar bill
126. _____ as a tomb
127. _____ as a whistle
128. _____ as a wink

PART IV

MAKING COMPARISONS WHICH EMPHASIZE OR EXAGGERATE

<i>Adjective</i>	<i>X+Adjective</i>
hungry	starving hungry
wet	soaking wet
sharp	razor sharp

X always means very or completely, ie if you are starving hungry, you are very very hungry and if you are soaking wet, you are very very wet.

X can also be a noun as in razor sharp, ie as sharp as a razor.

1.

1) Which one is **wet** and which one is **soaking wet**?

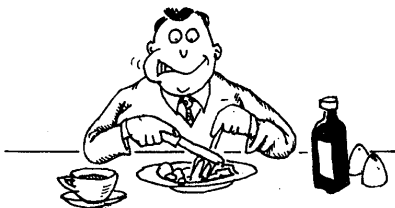


1 _____



2 _____

Which one is **hungry** and which one is **starving hungry**?



3 _____



4 _____

2) Match the adjectives in column B with a noun from column A. We have done one for you.

A

Model:5

- 6 brand
- 7 crystal
- 8 dirt
- 9 ice
- 10 pea or sea
- 11 razor
- 12 rock
- 13 sky
- 14 snow
- 15 stone
- 16 wafer

B

- blue
- clear
- cheap
- cold
- deaf
- hard
- green
- new
- red
- sharp
- thin
- white

2. Choose a phrase to complete the sentences. We have done the first one to help you.

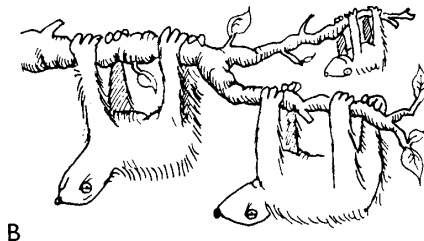
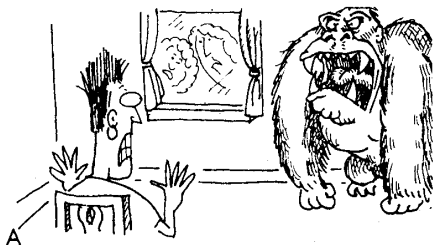
bone idle	bolt upright	dead straight	dog tired
pitch black	soaking wet	stark naked	stark staring mad
pipng hot	stone cold sober		

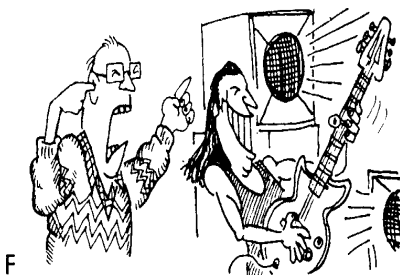
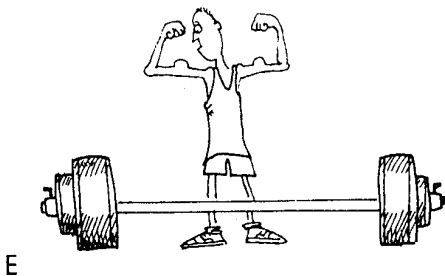
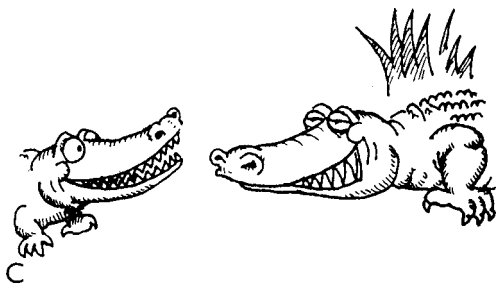
Model: 1. It's *pitch black* in here. I can't see a thing. Please switch the light on.

2. The food was _____ when it first came out of the oven.
3. We had to walk home in the rain, so it was not surprising that we were _____ by the time we got home.
4. John is _____. He is too lazy even to tie his own shoelaces.
5. The crowd waved and cheered as she took off all her clothes and ran _____ on to the football pitch.
6. Later, when she realised what a crazy thing she had done, she said to a reporter: "I must have been _____ to do such a thing!"
7. It can't have been George who was singing and dancing all night - he was _____.
8. It took us sixteen hours of non-stop work to pick the rest of the grapes, so we were all _____ at the end of it.
9. The road across the savannah runs _____ for three hundred kilometres - not a curve or bend anywhere.
10. The incredible news of William's death made everyone sit _____ in their seats.

3. Review

Match the cartoons and the captions.





1. 'And if you're good, I'll buy you a brand new toothbrush for your birthday.' ____
2. 'If I keep at it, I'll have rock hard muscles one day.' ____
3. 'You'll be stone deaf by the time you're twenty.' ____
4. 'Of course, the whole family is bone idle.' ____
5. 'Why is she sitting bolt upright?' ____
6. 'I wish my hair was dead straight like yours.' ____

Making Comparisons About Peoples Appearance

To make a comparison clearer or more colorful, we use the pattern:
X is as ADJECTIVE as Y.

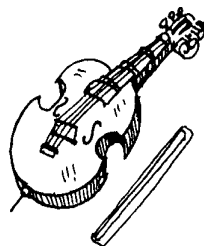
For example, if someone is very clever and cunning, we might say:
He is as cunning as a fox.

The following can all be used to describe people's usual physical appearance or condition:

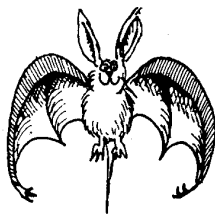
bald
 as bald as a coot



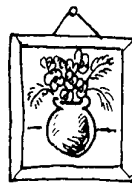
fit
 as fit as a fiddle



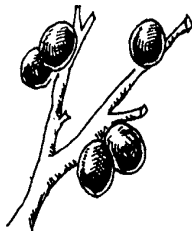
blind
as blind as a bat



pretty
as pretty as a picture



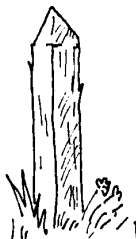
brown
as brown as a berry



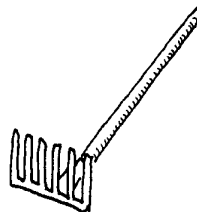
strong
as strong as an ox



deaf
as deaf as a post



thin
as thin as a rake



1. Describe this old man:

1 He cannot see very well.

2 He cannot hear very well.

3 He has no hair.

4 He is very underweight.

2. Describe this young girl:

1 She has a good suntan.

2 She is very attractive.

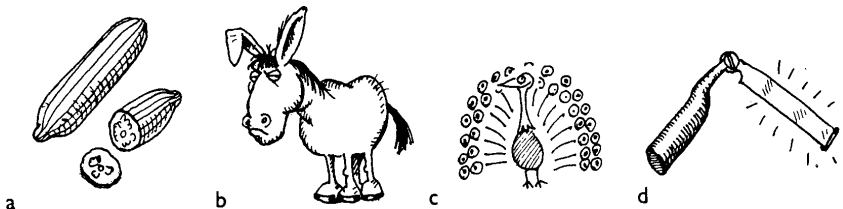
3 She is very healthy.

4 She can lift heavy things easily.

3. You might hear idiomatic expressions to describe how people can be:

1 cool (= calm) **2 proud** **3 sharp** (= clever, quick-witted)
4 stubborn.

Match the adjectives to the pictures.



Now complete the sentences using the adjectives.

1. Sometimes she will do anything you ask her to, but on other occasions she can be as _____ as a mule.
2. You can imagine how he felt when his son won a scholarship to University: he was as _____ as a peacock.
3. When the car went off the road, everybody screamed and panicked, except for the Frenchman, who remained as _____ as a cucumber.
4. Mark is an excellent salesman. When it comes to arguing about prices, he's as _____ as a razor.

4. Use the expressions from Exercise 3 to comment on these situations.

1. Jenny believes that her husband is the most handsome man in the world. How does she feel to be seen in public with him?

2. Most teachers get very angry with pupils who are noisy. How would you describe teachers who never lose their temper?

3. How would you describe the sort of person who is never fooled by what other people say to him/her?

4. When Mrs Brown has decided something, nothing you can say will make her change her mind. How would you describe such a woman?
-

Making Comparisons About Actions

To emphasize an action, we often use the pattern *do X like Y*, ie we do X in the way that Y would do it. For example, if someone eats a lot, you could say: *He eats like a horse*.

Expressions

to drink like a fish
to smoke like a chimney
to spend money like water
to hang on like grim death

Meaning

to drink a lot of alcohol
to smoke heavily
to spend freely
not to let go

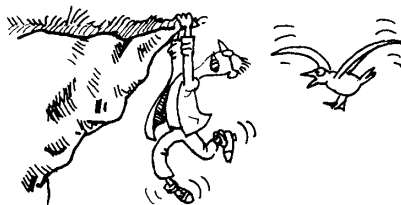
1. Make captions for each picture using the expressions.

Sue's always buying new clothes.



1 Yes, she _____

Did you know Uncle Bernard fell over a cliff?



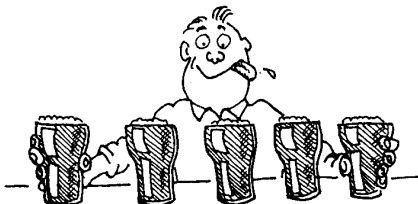
2 Yes, but they say he _____

Marjorie buys 60 cigarettes a day.



3 I know. She _____

Your brother seems to enjoy his beer!



4 Yes, I'm afraid he _____

2. Use expressions from the list above to replace the words underlined in these sentences.

- 1 Most of us would love a chance to go shopping and buy everything we want.

- 2 Ronald will kill himself with all those cigars.

- 3 Vince had much too much beer at the party.

- 4 Someone tried to steal my mother's handbag, but she held onto it and in the end the thief ran away.

3. You might hear idiomatic expressions which emphasise that you cannot, did not or will not do something. Complete the expressions below with a word from the list.

a/another	drop	a wink
	step	bite
	thing	note

- 1 He didn't drink _____
- 2 We didn't eat _____
- 3 I mustn't say _____
- 4 She can't sing _____
- 5 They won't sleep _____
- 6 I can't walk _____

4. Use the expressions in Exercise 3 to react to these situations.

- 1 Would you like some cake?

- 2 Oh, please tell me the secret!

- 3 Don't you want to come down to the river with me?

- 4 Would you like to join our pop group?

- 5 Have another cup of tea, Mr Smith.

Making Comparisons About States

To emphasize a state, we often use the pattern *to be like X*. *ie*, something is or we are in a similar state to X. For example, if someone is very very pleased, we might say *He is like a dog with two tails* (remember that dogs wag their tails when they are pleased).

Expressions

like a bear with a sore head

like a cat on hot bricks

like looking for a needle in a haystack

like a red rag to a bull

Meaning

in a bad mood

excited/impatient

impossible to find

causing anger

1. Replace the underlined words with one of the above expressions based on the word given in brackets.

1 A: Have you found that receipt I asked you for?

B: Look, we have at least twenty-five files to go through. It's going to be very difficult to locate one receipt amongst so many. (*needle*)

2 A: Is this a good time to ask our teacher for the afternoon off?

B: I wouldn't if I were you. He seems to be in a very bad temper at the moment. (*sore*)

3 A: What's the matter with Kate? She seems unable to sit still at the moment. (*hot*)

B: That's because she's waiting for her examination results.

4 A: Don't mention to the boss that you are a member of a trade union. It makes him extremely annoyed. (*rag*)

B: Well, that's *his* problem, isn't it?

2. You might hear the idiomatic expressions which are underlined in these sentences. Study each sentence and then choose the correct meaning from the definitions which follow it.

1 Trying to persuade my uncle to give money to charity is like getting blood out of a stone! My uncle is (a) generous (b) mean (c) difficult to please (d) deaf.

- 2 All the actors said that they had not had enough time to rehearse the play, but in fact everything went like clockwork on the night. Everything (a) went very badly (b) was very mechanical (c) went very well (d) was late.
- 3 He looks like nothing on earth! What's the matter with him? He (a) is clearly very poor (b) is ugly (c) is staring rudely at everybody (d) seems to be ill.
- 4 You cannot tell her anything: it's like water off a duck's back. She (a) is deaf (b) doesn't enjoy conversation (c) is a very rude person (d) ignores criticism.

3. Use the expressions underlined in Exercise 3 to comment on these situations.

- 1 You meet your friend in the street. His eyes are bloodshot, his hair is untidy, his face is very white.

- 2 The teacher gets very angry with one of her pupils, telling him that he is lazy and disobedient, and that he will never pass his examinations unless he works very much harder. The pupil takes no notice at all.

- 3 A committee was set up to organise the music concert. They planned it very carefully. As a result the event went very smoothly.

- 4 Unless we can get at least twenty thousand pounds, our village church will be pulled down. We have written to local companies asking for money, but not one of them has offered anything.

LESSON 2

PART I

YPOK 2

IDIOMS WITH ANIMALS

BEASTLY ENGLISH

We often refer to our fellow organisms who run and fly and swim and creep across the face of our planet as “dumb animals.” It is true that these creatures do not speak in the human sense of that word, but they have made thousands of contributions to the power of human speech. Some of our wildlife words and expressions involve the simple transfer of a marked animal

characteristic to human activity, such as *eagle-eyed* and *pigheaded*. Others are harder to capture.

The verb *to ostracize*, for example, means “to exclude from a group by popular consent,” and hidden in that verb is an oyster. Rather than clamming up and floundering, let’s go fishing for the origin of *ostracize*. Oysters were a staple of the ancient Greek diet, and the verb *to ostracize* descends directly from *ostrakon*, the Greek word for an oyster shell. In ancient Athens a citizen could be banished by popular vote of other citizens, who gathered in the marketplace and wrote down the name of the undesirable on a tile or potsherd. If enough votes were dropped into an urn, the victim was sent from the city for five or ten years. Because the shards of pottery resembled oyster shells, they were called *ostrakon*, whence our verb for general exclusion.

Ostracize is but one beastly example of how the creatures who fill, the land, sea, and air also fill up our language. In *pecuniary* and *muscle* lurk bulls and mice. *Pecu* is the Latin word for cattle. Because wealth in ancient times was measured in heads of livestock, early metal coins were stamped with the head of a bull. From this time-honored association between cattle and money we have gained such words as *pecuniary* and *impecunious*. As for *muscle*, it is easy to see why the term derives from the Latin word *musculus*—for “little mouse.”

Another category of zoological English is the transmutation of animal nouns into common verbs without any basic change in form. Because people like to compare themselves and others to fauna, many animal names have become verbs that describe human behavior. *Choosing from the exhibit below, identify each beastly verb, as in “to take more than one deserves: to hog”*:

THE MENAGERIE

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| • <i>ape</i> | • <i>duck</i> | • <i>parrot</i> |
| • <i>badger</i> | • <i>eagle</i> | • <i>pig</i> |
| • <i>bird</i> | • <i>fawn</i> | • <i>pigeon</i> |
| • <i>bird dog</i> | • <i>ferret</i> | • <i>quail</i> |
| • <i>bitch</i> | • <i>fish</i> | • <i>ram</i> |
| • <i>buck</i> | • <i>flounder</i> | • <i>rat</i> |
| • <i>buffalo</i> | • <i>fox</i> | • <i>rook</i> |
| • <i>bug</i> | • <i>frog</i> | • <i>skunk</i> |
| • <i>bull</i> | • <i>goose</i> | • <i>snake</i> |
| • <i>carp</i> | • <i>grouse</i> | • <i>snipe</i> |
| • <i>chicken</i> | • <i>gull</i> | • <i>sponge</i> |
| • <i>clam</i> | • <i>hawk</i> | • <i>squirrel</i> |
| • <i>cow</i> | • <i>horse</i> | • <i>toad</i> |
| • <i>crab</i> | • <i>hound</i> | • <i>weasel</i> |

- crane
- crow
- dog
- lion
- louse
- monkey
- wolf
- worm

- Model:
1. to brag about an accomplishment: to crow
 2. stretch the neck for a better view: to _____
 3. to imitate another's actions: to _____
 4. to repeat another's words: to _____
 5. to try to attract compliments: to _____
 6. to lower the head quickly: to _____
 7. to confuse somebody: to _____
 8. to betray by spilling the beans: to _____
 9. to intimidate: to _____
 10. to annoy: to _____
 11. to annoy: to _____
 12. to cower: to _____
 13. to strike violently: to _____
 14. to eat a lot: to _____
 15. to eat quickly: to _____
 16. to struggle clumsily: to _____
 17. to complain: to _____
 18. to complain: to _____
 19. to complain: to _____
 20. to complain: to _____
 21. to pursue relentlessly: to _____
 22. to pursue relentlessly: to _____
 23. to seek favor through flattery: to _____
 24. to cheat: to _____
 25. to resist: to _____
 26. to live off others: to _____
 27. to dupe: to _____
 28. to defeat soundly: to _____
 29. to try to win over another's date: to _____
 30. to sell: to _____
 31. to poke with the finger: to _____
 32. to wind one's way: to _____
 33. to outsmart: to out _____
 34. to score two below par on a hole in golf: to _____
 35. to score one below par on a hole in golf: to _____
 36. to save: to _____ away
 37. to flatter obsequiously: to _____ y
 38. to lose nerve: to _____ out
 39. to become silent: to _____ up

40. to fool around: to _____ around
41. to search for: to _____ out
42. to tamper with: to _____ with
43. to make a mistake: to _____ up
44. to force one's way: to _____ through
45. to escape from a situation: to _____ out of
46. to escape from a situation: to _____ out of
47. to aim a snide attack: to _____ at
48. to categorize: to _____ hole
49. to idolize: to _____ ize
50. to jump over: to leap _____ over

HORISING AROUND

In modern life, horses no longer play a crucial role in helping us to hunt, do battle, draw vehicles, round up livestock, or deliver mail and goods. Nevertheless, our equine friends still figure prominently in the figures of speech that canter—neigh, gallop—through our language.

“Horsefeathers!” you respond, bridling at my suggestion and working yourself into a lather. “Now hold your horses and get off your high horse, you horse’s ass. You’re just trying to spur me on to the end of my tether and beat a dead horse.” The meanings of these words and expressions are generally clear, although the equine expletive *horsefeathers* deserves an etymological exegesis. Rows of clapboards are laid on roofs to provide flat surfaces for asphalt shingles, called “feather strips.” Old-timers in New England and New York, noting the featherlike pattern, called the clapboards horsefeathers. Why the *horse* in the word? Because the boards were large, and large things sometimes attract the designation *horse*, as in *horse chestnut*, *horse radish*, *horsefly*, and *horse mackerel*.

But why has *horsefeathers* — like *tommyrot*, *balderdash*, and *poppycock* — become a three-syllable explosion of derision? Because it has evolved into a euphemism for a shorter barnyard epithet. Check your dictionary and you’ll discover a paddock of disguised words that descend from the world of horses, including *cavalier*, *cavalcade*, *chivalry*, *hackneyed*, *henchman*, *hippopotamus*, *marshal*, and any variation on the name *Philip*.

I’m full of horsepower and feeling my oats — champing (not chomping) at the bit and eager to give free rein to talking horse sense with you about the English language. So prick up your ears and listen to how often we compare people with horses — disk jockeys, coltish lasses with ponytails, dark-horse candidates who are groomed to give the front-runners and old war horses a run for their money, and workhorses who, although saddled with problems of galloping inflation, can’t wait to get back in harness

each Monday at the old stamping (not stomping) ground. Now, straight from the horse's mouth, here's a game in which you are asked to identify ten of the less obvious equine words and expressions stabled in our vocabulary. Learning the origins of these horsey phrases will help you to see that English is really a horse of a different color and not a mare's nest:

1. A horse is "rough-shoed" when the nails of its shoes project, ensuring a more surefooted progress but also damaging the ground over which it gallops. Thus, when we ruthlessly advance ourselves at other people's expense, we _____ over them.

2. Attendants groom and clean a horse's coat with a curry comb. When we wish someone to think well of us, we _____.

3. In an oft-used cliché we compare a point in time to a bespurred rider mounted upon our backs and urging us on with sharp prodding. This common expression is _____.

4. At the racetrack, notice boards display statistics for each horse. A fan who places bets that a given horse will win, place, or show has a better chance to gain cash by betting _____.

5. Jockeys urge their horses on by whispering "shoo" and shooing them on. Thus, a horse or a person who is an easy winner is known as a _____.

6. When a horse is so far ahead of the rest of the field that the outcome of the race is no longer in doubt, the jockey does not even have to lift the reins to urge his or her mount forward and wins _____.

7. Icy balls can become packed on the hooves of horses when they are driven over soft winter snow or during spring thaws. As the footing becomes treacherous, the horses may fall, singly or in teams, producing a state of affairs that is _____.

8. When is a holiday not a holiday? Back in the last century, when London omnibuses (whence our word *bus*) were horse-drawn, close relationships grew up between horse teams and their drivers. The regular driver would often spend his day off riding as a passenger alongside the substitute driver in order to check his replacement's handling of the horses. That's why a vacation or day off from work spent doing the same activity as one's usual work is called a _____.

9. When is a choice not a choice? Tobias Hobson (1544-1631), the owner of a Cambridge livery stable, gave his customers the dubious choice of taking a horse in its proper turn or taking none at all. To prevent the wearing down of his mounts, Hobson tolerated no picking and choosing, insisting that each rider take the first horse in line. Thus, when somebody offers you a _____, you are being offered no choice at all.

10. High-strung racehorses are sometimes given goats as stablemates to calm them, and the two animals can become inseparable companions. Certain gamblers have been known to steal the goat attached to a particular horse that

they wanted to run poorly the next day. By _____ , we today often affect someone's performance.

In this game, I've tried to lead a horse to language *and* make you think. I'm trusting that you won't look this gift horse in the mouth.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth is one of the oldest proverbs known to humankind, whinnying back at least 1,500 years. The age and health of a horse can be ascertained by examining the condition and number of its teeth. Although an animal may appear young and frisky, a close inspection may reveal that it is *long in the tooth* and ready for the glue factory. Still, it is considered bad manners to inspect the teeth of a horse that has been given you and, by extension, to inquire too closely into the cost or value of any gift.

If you are buying a horse from a trader, however, you are advised to determine whether it is a young stud or an old nag by examining the teeth *straight from the horse's mouth*, the precise source of this chapter.

DOG MY CATS!

The American love of cats and dogs pervades our language, and expressions involving these household pets abound in our speech and our writing. In this dog-eat-dog world of ours we meet top dogs who are doggone rich, underdogs in the doghouse, hot dogs who put on the dog, and dirty dogs who dog us with shaggy-dog stories, to say nothing of the pussyfooting cat's-paws, kittenish couples in puppy love, and cool cats sitting in the catbird seat. "Dog my cats!" we might say when it starts to rain cats and dogs. Then we may go inside and fight like you-know-whats.

Now that I've let the cat out of the bag, here are some statements about the felines and canines hiding in our language. In some cases the dog or cat in a word or phrase barks or meows clearly. The compound *dog days*, for example, which designates summer periods of hazy, hot, and humid weather, has a time-hallowed history. The Romans, who also experienced summer discomfort, employed the expression *caniculares dies*, or "days of the dog," to describe the six to eight hottest weeks of the year. The ancient theory was that the dog star Sirius, rising with the sun during July and the first half of August, added to the solar heat and made a hot time even hotter. In other cases a dog or cat jumps out from a phrase and catches us by surprise. In a *caterpillar*, for example, hides "a hairy cat," from the Norman French word *catepelose*.

In still other cases a word or phrase bears no relationship to the words *cat* and *dog* beyond a mere coincidence of sound. But each word or word grouping in the game you are about to play does begin with the letters *c-a-t* or *d-o-g*, and these letters are pronounced exactly like the name of the animal, as in "This cat throws rocks at castles: *catapult*."

- Model:* 1. This cat is a disaster. ____catastrophe____
2. This cat is a descriptive booklet. _____
 3. This cat is a huge waterfall. _____
 4. This cat tastes good on a hamburger. _____
 5. This cat is classified. _____
 6. This cat is cryptically buried underground. _____
 7. This cat speeds a chemical reaction. _____
 8. This cat chirps. _____
 9. This cat swims. _____
 10. This cat hopes one day to flutter by. _____
 11. This cat is a narrow walkway. _____
 12. This cat is a set of religious questions and answers. _____
 13. This cat is a disaster. _____
 14. This cat is a whip. _____
 15. This cat is a short sleep. _____
 16. This high-strung cat is in quite a few rackets. _____
 17. This cat is a herd of beef. _____
 18. This cat is a marsh plant. _____
 19. This cat is a game with string. _____
 20. This cat walks on a diagonal line. _____
 21. This cat is a sailboat. _____
 22. This cat is a harsh cry. _____
 23. This cat is a gem. _____
 24. This cat is a dupe, a tool of others. _____
 25. This cat is a type of mental illness. _____
 26. This cat is a type of mental illness. _____
 27. This cat is a place where one is "sitting pretty." _____
 28. This cat is slang for "It's the greatest!" _____
 29. This cat is slang for "It's the greatest!" _____
 30. This cat is slang for "It's the greatest!" _____
 31. This cat is a three-dimensional X ray. _____
 32. This dog is an established set of beliefs. _____
 33. This dog is another word for "darn." _____
 34. This dog is a stretch of land that bends. _____
 35. This dog swims underwater. _____
 36. This dog is an elementary form of swimming. _____
 37. L'il Abner lived in this dog. _____
 38. This dog is clumsy verse. _____
 39. This dog is shabby and worn. _____
 40. This dog is exhausted. _____
 41. This dog is a poisonous plant. _____
 42. This dog is used for identification. _____
 43. This dog is up a tree. _____

44. This dog is also up a tree. _____
45. This dog is a quick, easy gait. _____
46. This dog is a fiercely disputed contest. _____

FOWL LANGUAGE

Not only is English a beastly language. It is for the birds.

To demonstrate that in our language words of a feather flock together, allow me just one exhibit—the crane. Even a birdbrain would have little trouble seeing how we derived the noun *crane* to describe a hoisting machine or the verb *to crane* to describe the act of stretching one's neck to obtain a better view. But it takes an eagle eye to spot the cranes hiding in *pedigree* and *cranberry*. *Pedigree* gets its pedigree from the French phrase *pied de grue*, “foot of a crane.” Why? Because if you trace a pedigree on a genealogical table, you find that the lines of descent resemble a crane's foot. *Cranberries* take their name from the Low German *Kraanbere*, “crane berry,” because cranes often inhabit the bogs where the berries flourish.

Take a gander at the aviary below to come up with appropriate words and expressions to match the definitions that follow. Sometimes the name of a given bird can stand by itself; sometimes you will have to provide a suffix or a phrase that includes a given bird, as in “low pay: *chickenfeed*.” Don't quail or duck this challenge. Feather your nest with all the correct answers you can, and you'll really have something to crow about:

The Aviary

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| • <i>albatross</i> | • <i>dodo</i> | • <i>hen</i> |
| • <i>buzzard</i> | • <i>dove</i> | • <i>lark</i> |
| • <i>canary</i> | • <i>duck</i> | • <i>loon</i> |
| • <i>catbird</i> | • <i>eagle</i> | • <i>owl</i> |
| • <i>chicken</i> | • <i>gander</i> | • <i>parrot</i> |
| • <i>cock</i> | • <i>goose</i> | • <i>pigeon</i> |
| • <i>coot</i> | • <i>grouse</i> | • <i>turkey</i> |
| • <i>crow</i> | • <i>gull</i> | • <i>vulture</i> |
| • <i>cuckoo</i> | • <i>hawk</i> | |

1. supporter of war _____
2. opponent of war _____
3. a coward _____
4. the wrong direction _____
5. a great burden _____
6. a parasitical person _____

7. a stupid person _____
8. a crazy person _____
9. a crazy person _____
10. an old person _____
11. an old person _____
12. dominated by one's wife _____
13. politician nearing end of term _____
14. one who stays up late _____
15. a position of advantage _____
16. aggressively confident _____
17. what humbled people eat _____
18. one who rats on others _____
19. one who rats on others _____
20. an escapade _____
21. look at _____
22. easily duped or cheated _____
23. having sharp sight _____
24. complain _____
25. suddenly, independently _____
26. repeat another's words _____

Choose the Animal

Fill in the missing words from the sentences below. Choose from the following, using plural forms where necessary.

bird	crocodile	goat	lion
bull	dog	goose	pig
cat	donkey	horse	rat
cow	fish	kitten	stag

- Model:* 1 Turning up half an hour late for the interview really cooked his goose.
- 2 We were hoping to keep the wedding a secret, but my mother soon let the _____ out of the bag.
 - 3 You're flogging a dead _____ trying to get Harry to change his mind!
 - 4 I don't think I'd recognise her now; it's _____'s years since I last saw her.
 - 5 Harold has really gone to the _____ since his wife died. Looking at him now, it's hard to believe he was once a successful barrister.

- 6 It's not that I mind giving her a lift home every Tuesday, but what gets my _____ is the fact that she's never once offered to pay for the petrol.
- 7 As I had to go to Swansea on business, I decided to kill two _____ with one stone and visit my old school as well.
- 8 Although he had only known her for two weeks he decided to take the _____ by the horns and ask her to marry him.
- 9 She loved tennis and could watch it until the _____ came home.
- 10 You're upset now, I know. But you'll soon forget her - after all, there are plenty more _____ in the sea.
- 11 That's the last time I invite Steve for a meal. He really made a _____ of himself last night.
- 12 Don't be fooled. She's not a bit sad; they're just _____ tears.
- 13 When their grandfather died, Robert and his sister got the _____ 's share of his money.
- 14 After years of commuting from Brighton to London, he decided to get out of the _____ race and buy a small farm in Wales.
- 15 When I tell my parents that Paul and I have decided to call off the wedding they're going to have _____.
- 16 We're off to a _____ party tonight - David's getting married on Saturday.

PART II

TO KNOW OR NOT TO KNOW

1. NAME THAT THINGAMABOB

When *you* were a kid, you probably played with those small winged thingamabobs that grow on—and contain the seeds of—maple trees. *You* may have glued them to your nose or watched them spin like pinwheels when you tossed them into the wind. Believe it or not, these organic whatchamacallits do have a name—*schizo-carps*. So does the uglifying fleshy growth on a turkey's face—a *snood*—and the heavy flaps on the sides of the mouths of some dogs—*flews*. Namegivers of the past have designated the half-smoked plug of tobacco in a pipe bowl as *dottle*, the decaying matter on a forest floor as *duff*, and the slit made when one starts to saw a piece of wood as the *kerf*.

Ever since Adam assigned names to all the animals, we human beings have managed to come up with labels for almost everything on this planet—and beyond. Many of these names are so obscure that no one except dictionary editors knows them. The rest of us are reduced to referring to

these things with words that mean “that object I don’t know the name for.” According to *Roget’s Thesaurus*, there are at least thirty ways of doing this:

<i>dingus</i>	<i>doodad</i>	<i>hootenanny</i>
<i>do funny</i>	<i>dowhackey</i>	<i>hootmalalie</i>
<i>dohickey</i>	<i>flumadiddle</i>	<i>jigger</i>
<i>dojigger</i>	<i>gigamaree</i>	<i>such-and-such</i>
<i>dojiggy</i>	<i>gimmick</i>	<i>thingum</i>
<i>domajig</i>	<i>gizmo</i>	<i>thingumabob</i>
<i>domajigger</i>	<i>hickey</i>	<i>thingamabob</i>
<i>thingamadoddle</i>	<i>thingammarée</i>	<i>whatchamacallit</i>
<i>thingamajig</i>	<i>thingammy</i>	<i>whatzit</i>
<i>thingamajigger</i>	<i>whatchy</i>	<i>widget</i>

Here are descriptions of thirty dohickies—things that are all around you that you probably never knew had names. The first cluster consists of items of hardware. Match each description with its label:

- Model:* 1. the shaft on the top of an umbrella *ferrule*
- 2. the metal hoop that supports a lamp-shade _____
 - 3. the two buttons a telephone receiver rests on _____
 - 4. the vertical post that runs through a door hinge _____
 - 5. the little plastic tip of a shoelace _____
 - 6. the rim of a barrel _____
 - 7. the wire handle of a bucket _____
 - 8. the decorative metal plate around a keyhole, drawer pull, or doorknob _____
 - 9. the open-sided box in which a book is kept _____
 - 10. the thin end of a knife blade that fits into the handle _____
 - 11. the pointy, curved end of a wooden knife handle _____
 - 12. the loop on the front part of a belt that secures the tip _____
 - 13. the ornamental piece that screws into the top of a lamp to help secure the shade _____
 - 14. the curved end on a suit hanger that forms a small loop _____
 - 15. the holder for a paper cone coffee cup _____
 - 16. the narrowest part of an hourglass _____
 - 17. the bar that holds typewriter paper in place _____
 - 18. the circular wax-catcher that fits over a candle _____
 - 19. the dock post that a boat is tied to _____
 - 20. the frames for holding windowpanes _____

Labels: *aglet bail bobèche bollard chimb escutcheon ferrule finial forel harp keeper muntins paper bail pintel plungers tang turnback waist zarf*

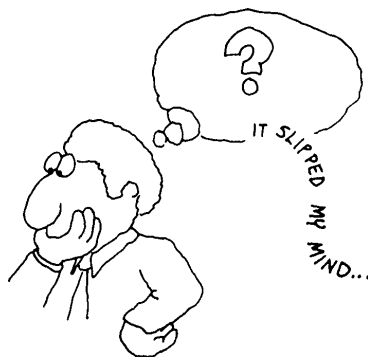
Now match each part of the body with its proper but little-known name:

21. the thin muscle under the tongue
22. the wax that accumulates in the ear
23. the back of the hand, opposite the palm
24. the slender bone separating the nostrils
25. the vertical indentation that runs just below the nose to the middle of the upper lip
26. the thing that hangs down from the back of the mouth
27. the point at either end of each eye where the upper and lower lids meet
28. the fleshy bump of the ear between the side of the face and the ear cavity
29. the fleshy pad just below the thumb
30. the hollow area at the back of the knee

canthus cerumen frenulum opisthenar philtrum popliteal thenar tragus uvula vomer

2. BEING CONFUSED

- a. slipped my mind
- b. I've lost my train of thought
- c. can't make head nor tail of
- d. on the tip of my tongue
- e. caught between two stools
- f. It beats me.
- g. I haven't a clue
- h. racking my brains
- i. are over my head
- j. couldn't get a word in edgewise



Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. (Mary and Alice are talking)
 Mary What we really need is a new approach to work. I was thinking abo...
 Jack Hi Mary. Did you have a nice weekend?

Mary Not bad! And yourself?
Jack Can't complain. Can't complain.
Alice What were you going to say?
Mary I can't remember. With Jack interrupting me, _____

_____.
I forgot the idea I was talking about.

2. Tom, What's the capital of Yugoslavia?
Don't ask me. _____.
You know I'm hopeless at geography.
I have absolutely no idea.

3. Have you worked out how to assemble that bookcase yet?
No, I've looked at these instructions for the last hour but I
_____ them.
And the diagrams don't help — they're even more confusing.
Let me have a look. Two heads are better than one.
I can't understand them.

4. Well, did the boss say yes? Two extra staff?
Are you kidding? The minute I hinted at extra staff he started talking
about budget restrictions, cutbacks, over-spending in other sections — he
went on and on for at least an hour. I tried to interrupt a couple of times but I
_____.
After a while I just gave up and left.
had no chance to say anything

5. Right off we go. Are you ready?
Yes, but we're a bit early aren't we. The show doesn't start till half past
seven.
Yes, but don't forget we promised to pick Claire and Jack up. Their
car's being fixed.
Oh yes, sorry. It completely _____
_____. It's a good job you reminded me!
escaped my memory; I forgot (it)

6. If I book a ticket today I save £80 on the fare, but then I'll have to
spend two extra days in Paris doing nothing.
Unless Pierre can see you on Friday instead of Monday.
Yes, but I won't know that until tomorrow afternoon, and by then it's
too late to book the cheap air ticket.
It sounds as if you're _____
_____.

I'd book now if I were you and take a chance — after all, two free days in Paris wouldn't be too awful!

finding it difficult to choose between two alternatives

7. Quick Terry. What's the name of the chap who gave the first talk this morning?

Oh, let me see. It's an unusual name — Polish I think. Kowalski? No it's not that, but it is something like that. That's annoying. It's _____ but I just can't think of it.

Oh-oh! He's coming over here, and I want to ask him to give a talk at our next training session. It looks bad if I can't even remember his name.

something I can almost remember

8. How come the new photocopier isn't working?

Don't know. _____.

The repairman just left fifteen minutes ago and said it was working fine.

I know how to make it work. How about plugging it in!

I can't understand it

9. How's your computer course going? I'm not really sure, to tell you the truth. What do you mean, you're not sure?

Well, I understand the manuals — at least I think I do — but I don't understand half of what the prof talks about. He uses too many technical words. I'm afraid his lectures _____.

Maybe I should have taken the introductory course.

are too difficult for me



10. What are you scratching your head for?

I've _____

been _____

all morning trying to remember the name of the company that gave that course in Transactional Analysis. I know they're based in Bristol and the name's on the tip of my tongue but I just can't remember it.

Why don't you look it up in the files?

Because I can't remember what I filed it under.

I've been thinking hard

3. KNOWING OR AGREEING

- a. on the same wavelength
- b. know the ropes
- c. put your finger on it
- d. straight from the horse's mouth
- e. put two and two together
- f. rings a bell
- g. see eye to eye
- h. heard it on the grapevine
- i. took the words right out of my mouth
- f. knows it like the back of his hand

Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. (Two close friends.)

How's married life treating you?

Pretty good.

Now that the honeymoon's over are you still getting on all right together?

Fine, we sometimes disagree on small things but we usually _____
_____ on anything important.

agree

2. Hey, Jill. Does the name Alan Garside mean anything to you?

Alan Garside. Let me see ... um ... That name _____
_____ but I still can't place it.

There's a message on my desk asking me to call him but I haven't a clue who he is.

sounds familiar

3. How are you getting along with your new supervisor?

Great, really terrific. He's got some really modern ideas about how to organize the work. He's introduced flexible hours and has promised us a really effective career development programme. He's doing all the things I always said we should be doing.

Sounds like you two are _____.

Right, I think we're really going to enjoy working together.

having the same sort of ideas

4. Did you buy a map? No but don't worry. I used to live round here so

I _____.

know the place extremely well

5. Hey, have you heard the latest? Old Smith is leaving.
That's too good to be true. Who told you?

I _____.

Everyone seems to be talking about it.

You know you shouldn't believe all those rumours.

Come on! There's usually some truth in them. They say he's got a better job.

I'll believe it when I see it.

heard a rumour

6. What's bugging Bill? He hasn't been himself lately.

I'm not sure but I think he's still mad about not getting that promotion last month.

I think you've _____.

Just the other day I heard him complaining that good employees aren't appreciated around here.

given exactly the right answer

7. Have you heard there's going to be a big reorganisation?

There's always rumours about a reorganisation.

This isn't just a rumour. I got it _____.

You mean the Personnel Director himself?

That's right.

Well, I guess he should know.

from the authoritative source

8. So you're getting the boss's job, eh! No I'm not. Who told you that?

Nobody *told me*. But, when I see a guy measuring the boss's office and moving the furniture around the way you've been doing, I can

_____.
Look, please don't say anything. The official announcement won't be made until next week.

Oh, I won't breathe a word. You can count on me.

make a deduction from the evidence

9. Well, Brian, you must excuse me. I'm due at a meeting. But Bob here will show you around some more and introduce you to the rest of the staff.

Thank you very much for spending so much time with me, Mr Hudson.

I'm leaving you in good hands. Bob has been with us for 15 years and, believe me, he _____.

You couldn't have a better guide.

knows all aspects of the job;

has a lot of knowledge or experience of the subject

10. Doug, have you seen item four on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting?

You mean the proposal on a computerized information system?

Right. That's the one.

Yeah. I've read it and I think we need to do a very careful cost analysis before we do anything.

That's just what I was going to say. You _____.

Since we obviously see eye to eye on it, let's hope other people do too.

said exactly what I was going to say

4. FAILURE

- a. was a flop
- b. missed the boat
- c. bite off more than (you) can chew
- d. caught red-handed
- e. got out of hand
- f. on the blink
- g. haven't got a leg to stand on
- h. go to pieces
- i. draw a blank
- j. get (your) act together

Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. When is Jerry expected back at work?

Not for a long time. I went to see him at the weekend and he was in a very poor way.

Still, eh? I knew that when his wife died he just _____

_____.
Yes, since then he's had one nervous breakdown after another.

Poor chap. Let's hope they can do something to help him.

was completely unable to function as an ordinary person

2. Hi, Ron. How did your talk go?

Horrible! I tried to explain our new approach to T-groups but it was over their heads. Most of them left before I finished. The whole thing

It couldn't have been as bad as all that. I just got a request from someone who was there, who wants you to give your talk at another conference.

Forget it!

was a total failure

3. I tell you, Andy, I'm going to take that guy to court.

What on earth for?

For wrecking my car.

Come on, Bill! You were too close. It's the driver behind who is responsible, not the one in front. If you take him to court, you

The law says it was you who was in the wrong.

haven't got a valid claim

4. (A couple returning to an estate agent)

Good morning. Still house-hunting?

Yes, but not very successfully. I guess we really _____

_____ when we didn't take that bungalow last week.

That was certainly a bargain.

You wouldn't have another one like that, eh?

There's one very similar in Mount Avenue but it's £3,000 more.

missed our chance

5. Linda, would you give Rick a hand with the report on our staffing requirements for next year?

I offered to help him but he insisted he could handle it on his own.

Well, the Management Committee wants the report by Monday and Rick says he'll need help to have it ready on time.

So now he admits he _____.

I told him so.

tried to do more than he could manage

6. Did you find that book I asked you to get me?

No. I'm afraid not. I tried the departmental library and town library but

(I) _____.
Then I rang three different bookshops but none of them had ever heard of it.

Maybe I gave you the wrong title. Let me check.

Now you tell me!

didn't get the desired results; didn't have any success

7. Robert and Jill are on holiday next week.

I know. And I've promised that that work for Harpers will be ready by next Thursday, and we'll have to get all the details we need from the agents. And I've promised to spend Tuesday at the Trade Fair.

If we don't _____
we are going to be in trouble next week. It sounds as if we've bitten off more than we can chew.

organise this well

8. (A special news bulletin)

The police were called in last night during a demonstration in Parliament Square. What started as a peaceful march, to protest at the present high level of unemployment, soon _____

_____ when demonstrators started throwing stones and exchanging blows with the police. Ten people, including three policemen, were injured.

became uncontrollable and disorderly

9. Hey, did you hear that Saunders has been fired?

No kidding! What happened?

He was robbing the company.

Is there any chance they made a mistake? He seemed to be such an honest person.

There's no mistake. The night guard caught him in the director's office, with the safe open, stuffing money into his briefcase. He was

What a surprise! It's difficult to believe.

caught in the act

10. Oh, no!

What's the problem?

The photocopier has broken down again.

Better send for the repairman.

Not again! That's the third time this week this machine's been

out of order; broken down

5. SUCCESS OR STRONG INTEREST

a. kill two birds with one stone

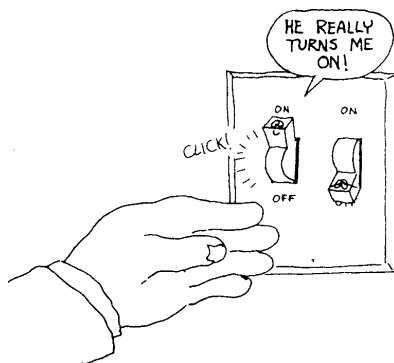
b. made quite a name for him/herself

c. snowballed

d. over the moon

- e. turn (someone) on
- f. keep an eye on thing!
- g. in the bag
- h. on the ball
- i. call the tune
- j. went like a bomb

(Note in American usage *to bomb* is to fail; in British English *to go like a bomb* means success)



Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. I sometimes wonder who's running this country nowadays.
What do you mean?

Well, from what I see in the papers and on TV, it's the unions and big business that are _____ these days.
directing everything; in charge

2. You look pleased.

I am. That big deal with the Germans — they've agreed so I'm _____
_____. It was very important for my career that they agreed.

Congratulations. No wonder you're pleased!
extremely pleased

3. Do you think this new line will sell in Italy?

Well, a lot depends on the agent — look what happened last year in France, but Mirelli are _____, they know what they're doing.

So you're fairly confident about Italy.
understand the situation well

4. How did the meeting go?

It _____. Everyone had something to say. It was very lively.
was very successful

5. Have a good trip to Spain?

You must be joking. It was terrible.
Why? What went wrong?

Well, we all thought the contract for next year was _____, just a few details to settle, but no. Suddenly they announce they are considering new suppliers; our price is too high, they want to change the technical specification. Everything was wrong!

Goodness — did you get it all sorted out?

a certainty

6. (A guest speaker is introduced)

Until a few years ago there was little talk in Canada of the need for gun control. Outbreaks of violence in the recent past, however, raised the question of the need for stricter gun control and, in many parts of the country, small groups of concerned citizens got together to try to solicit support in their campaign to force the government to pass strict legislation against the carrying of firearms. The movement has _____

_____ in recent months and a national committee has now been formed. With us tonight we have the chairperson of that committee, Henrietta Perkins. Good Evening, Ms Perkins . . .

increased a lot quickly

7. Who's the new Assistant Deputy Manager going to be, do you know?

Yes, it was announced this morning. It's Jennie Pinkerton.

That name rings a bell.

It should. She _____ in her last department. She only joined the company as a middle manager 18 months ago and now she's a senior executive.

Wow. That's fast. She really must have what it takes.

got a reputation

8. Where are you going, Fred?

Don't worry. I won't be long. I'm just going down to the Post Office.

Oh, do you think you could _____ and post this registered letter for me please.

Sure.

do two things at the same time

9. That new chap in the accounts Department is very strange, isn't he? Nigel? Oh he's all right. He doesn't say much.

He never spoke all day. Just sat at the keyboard pulling funny faces.

That's Nigel. People leave him cold but computers really _____
_____. Give him a computer and he's happy.

excite, stimulate (someone)

10. Who's looking after the budget while you're away?

Jack's doing the day-to-day work but I've asked Peter — he's the Finance Director — to _____. I don't think there'll be any problems. Jack's very sensible.

take an interest in; supervise

6. KNOWING AND NOT KNOWING

Expressions

knowing

to know all about

to know a thing or two about

to know a place like the back of your hand

not knowing

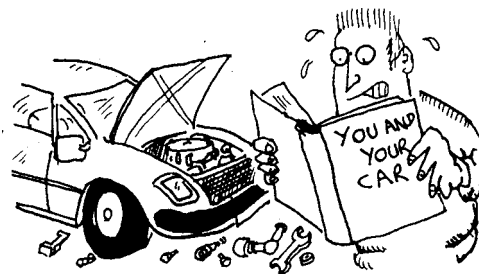
not to know the first thing about

not to be able to tell one end of something from the other

not to have the foggiest idea

1. Make sentences for each pair of pictures using the expressions.

Is your brother an expert on old sports cars?



1. Yes, he _____

2. No, he _____

What about you?

3. Well, yes, I _____

4. Me? I can't _____

Do you know where we are?



5. Yes. I know this place _____



6. No. I haven't _____

2. Replace the underlined words with an expression based on the word(s) given in brackets. Make any changes that are necessary.

1. He may look stupid, but he has a lot of experience of life. (two)

2. I used to be very familiar with Madrid, but it's years since I was last there. (hand)

3. I cannot explain why there is no butter in the refrigerator. (foggiest)

4. It's no good asking me about electronic keyboards. (one end)

5. If you want to know anything about pop music, ask Melanie: she's the expert. (all)

6. They asked me to write a book on astrophysics. The trouble is, it's not a subject that I have ever studied. (first thing)

3. You might hear the idiomatic expressions which are underlined in these sentences. Which ones are about **knowing** (circle A) and which are about **not knowing** (circle B)?

1. "Is that the sun or the moon up there?"

"I haven't a clue! I'm a stranger here too!"

A B

2. The receptionist at this hotel is very helpful: she has all the information at her fingertips.

A B

3. "Who's the present Director of Studies at the College?"

"I don't know, I'm a bit out of touch, I'm afraid."

A B

4. If there's anything you're not sure about, ask old George: he knows the Job inside out.

A B

5. Many companies put a new employee next to an older one, who really knows the ropes.

A B

4. Use the expressions underlined in Exercise 3 to comment on these situations.

1. I've been away, so I really don't know what's going on.

2. We have an excellent teacher, who knows her subject very well indeed.

3. Somebody asks you a question, and you want to make it very clear that you do not know the answer.

4. The boss's secretary has been with the company for seventeen years.

7. DESCRIBING CERTAINTY AND IMPOSSIBILITY

Expressions

likely

to be on the cards

certain

to be a sure thing

unlikely

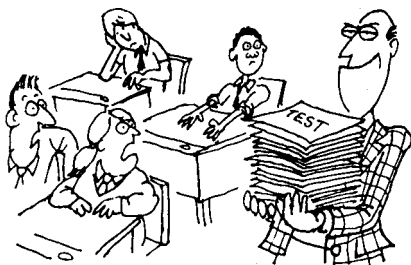
to be a long shot

impossible

to be out of the question

1. Make captions for each picture using the expressions above.

Do you think we'll have a test today?



1. Yes, I think it's _____

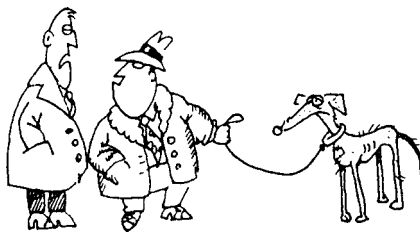
Can I bring my pet into the house?



2. No, I'm afraid _____

Will Simon get that job he wants?

Has your dog any chance of winning the race?



3. Yes, it's _____

4. No, it's _____

2. Replace the underlined words with an expression based on the word(s) given in brackets.

1. I want to buy that new sports car, but on my salary it's quite impossible. (question)

2. My boss has told me my promotion is definite. (thing)

3. Tom's hoping to qualify for the Olympics swimming team, but at his age, I don't think he has much hope. (shot)

4. They say rain is expected for the next few days. (cards)

3. You might hear the idiomatic expressions which are underlined in these sentences. Which ones are about being **likely/certain** (circle A) and which ones are about being **unlikely/impossible** (circle B)?

1. I'm going to marry you and there are no two ways about it.
A B

2. We'd planned to go abroad for six months, but with Jenny's new Job it's all very much in the air.
A B

3. Mary's the finest dancer I've ever seen - there's no question about it.
A B

4. Terry says he is going to make a million pounds by next year, but personally, I wouldn't bet on it.
A B

5. Am I going to win that race? You bet!
A B

6. John tried to put out the fire, but he didn't have a cat in Hell's chance with no water.
A B

4. Use the expressions underlined in Exercise 3 to comment on these situations.

1. Sarah is definitely the prettiest girl I know.
2. I don't really know where I'll live if and when I get this new job.
3. I certainly will not lend you J500.
4. I don't honestly think you'll pass this exam.
5. I know I definitely won't pass this exam.

PART III

ALLITERACY

The English language abounds with alliteration—series of sequential syllables starting with the same sound. To prove my point and put my money where my mouth is, I offer the cream of the crop—a treasure trove of a hundred tried-and-true, bread-and-butter, bigger-and-better, bright-eyed-and-bushy-tailed, back-to-basics, larger-than-life, clear-cut (not haphazard and halfhearted) alliterative expressions (the more the merrier) that are good as gold, worth a pretty penny, and not a dime a dozen—guaranteed to leave you head over heels and jumping for joy to beat the band.

In each case, supply the missing word, as in “fame and *fortune*”:

Model: 1. Adam's apple

2. baby _____
3. beat around the _____
4. a bee in her _____
5. bite the _____
6. black _____
7. black and _____
8. bosom _____
9. bottom of the _____
10. brains and _____
11. calm, cool, and _____
12. candid _____
13. a close _____
14. too close for _____

15. the coast is _____
16. cool _____
17. copy _____
18. a dead _____
19. defend to the _____
20. dog _____
21. down in the _____
22. dribs and _____
23. fact or _____
24. fast _____
25. fast and _____
26. feast or _____
27. few and _____
28. fish nor _____
29. fist _____
30. footloose and _____
31. friend or _____
32. gas _____
33. the gift of _____
34. head _____
35. head for _____
36. head over _____
37. hide nor _____
38. hit the _____
39. hitch _____
40. hold your _____
41. house and _____
42. kangaroo _____
43. kingdom _____
44. kit and _____
45. kith and _____
46. labor of _____
47. the last _____
48. lay of the _____
49. left in the _____
50. live and _____
51. mass _____
52. master _____
53. mince _____
54. mind over _____
55. pay the _____
56. penny wise and _____
57. pen _____

58. pet _____
59. poison _____
60. prim and _____
61. rags to _____
62. rest and _____
63. road _____
64. rock and _____
65. rough and _____
66. round _____
67. run _____
68. better safe than _____
69. ship _____
70. short _____
71. side _____
72. sight _____
73. solar _____
74. stage _____
75. sure as _____
76. sweet _____
77. take your _____
78. takes its _____
79. tall _____
80. tattered and _____
81. time and _____
82. time will _____
83. tit for _____
84. toast of the _____
85. tongue _____
86. tools of the _____
87. trials and _____
88. trick or _____
89. turn the _____
90. twist and _____
91. vim and _____
92. waiting in the _____
93. wax and _____
94. wear out your _____
95. wet your _____
96. white _____
97. whole _____
98. the whys and _____
99. wild and _____
100. worth _____

INKY PINKY

What do you get when you dip your little finger into a bottle of writing fluid? An inky pinky.

Looking for an entertaining way to sharpen both your ear for rhyme and your skill in defining words? Try the Inky Pinky game.

In Inky Pinky, the first player offers a concise, clear definition and the second player must translate that definition into two words that rhyme. The first player must also indicate the number of syllables in each word by saying “Ink Pink” for one-syllable words, “Inky Pinky” for two-syllable words, and so on.

To warm up for the challenge, consider the following examples:

Definition: an uncontrollable youngster. *Ink Pink.*

Answer: a wild child.

Definition: a dumb little boy with a bow and arrow. *Inky Pinky.*

Answer: a stupid cupid.

Definition: a yearly handbook. *Inkity Pinkity*

Answer: an annual manual.

Now that the chalk talk is over, translate the following lists of definitions into rhyming pairs, using the headings as clues to the number of syllables in each word. For more fun, create your own definitions and challenge your friends and colleagues to discover the rhymed answers:

Ink Pink

1. inexpensive land vehicle _____
2. short poetry _____
3. strange facial hair _____
4. meat robber _____
5. large dried fruit _____
6. contemptible sign of happiness _____
7. crack in a safe _____
8. dock for shorties _____
9. pale long-necked bird _____
10. shining armor-wearer _____
11. crazy flatboat _____
12. intelligent pointed missile _____
13. bad smell in a ditch _____
14. bad-tempered monarch _____
15. wet hobo _____
16. porcine toupee _____
17. stupid finger _____
18. wheat-carrying vehicle _____

19. grass strength _____
20. inebriated animal _____

Inky Pinky

21. comical hare _____
22. vegetable for talking bird _____
23. unreliable dill _____
24. even demon _____
25. fishy operating-room doctor _____
26. cross cat _____
27. gruesome tale _____
28. horrible couple _____
29. thin shaft _____
30. elementary skin eruption _____
31. indolent flower _____
32. strange stogie _____
33. drunk fortune-teller _____
34. strong-smelling tramp _____
35. basement resident _____
36. careful pupil _____
37. adroit finger-protector _____
38. small person's nervous habit _____
39. happy boat _____
40. doorway for guards _____
41. mob's chatter _____
42. threat on the court _____
43. light sprite _____
44. web-spinner's drink _____
45. nuptial land vehicle _____
46. superior woolen garment _____
47. simian textile trim _____
48. thrifty horn _____
49. herder of spotted cats _____
50. untippable piece of furniture _____

Inkity Pinkity

51. ominous clergyman _____
52. frozen bike _____
53. tantrum thrown by Cleopatra _____
54. pasta torn into little pieces _____
55. mundane pattern of tiles _____

56. ceatacean's soundness of mind _____
57. conference about a head injury _____
58. pessimistic mountaintop _____
59. display of sweets _____
60. horned animal's melon _____
61. how to save the environment _____
62. dead man's talk _____
63. elastic bushes _____
64. software contesteer _____
65. Hebrew walking stick _____

Now it's time to step up to some prodigiously polysyllabic posers:

Inkitity Pinkitty

66. royal cloth _____
67. crazy leave of absence _____
68. floor-covering oil _____
69. maudlin Asian _____
70. self-reliant overseer _____
71. microscopic plants in Russia _____
72. bubbly teenager _____
73. star war _____
74. deafening ancient chant _____
75. inoperative power plant _____

Inkitity Pinkitty

76. police lexicon _____
77. incapable scholar _____
78. meatless lover of things old _____
79. satisfaction from passing amendments _____
80. opinion article in tropical newspaper _____

PART IV

Find Someone ...

Look at the drawings below. Find someone:

- | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| a | who has been caught red-handed. | [|] |
| b | who has been pipped at the post. | [|] |

c	who has just hit the sack.	[]
d	who has just named the day.	[]
e	who is a blackleg.	[]
f	who is behind the times.	[]
g	who is having a whale of a time.	[]
h	who is in the limelight.	[]
i	who is keeping fit.	[]
j	who is light-fingered.	[]
k	who is on duty.	[]
l	who is out of condition.	[]
m	who is roughing it.	[]
n	who is run off his/her feet.	[]
o	who is showing off.	[]
p	who is taking to his/her heels.	[]





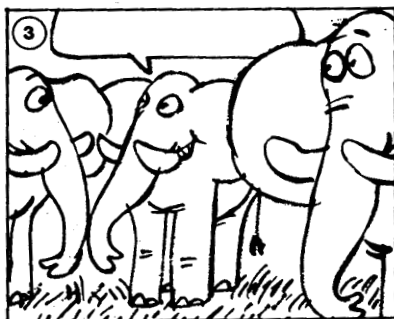
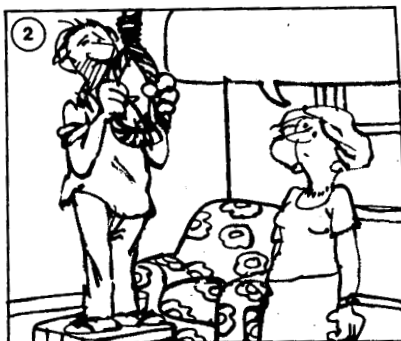


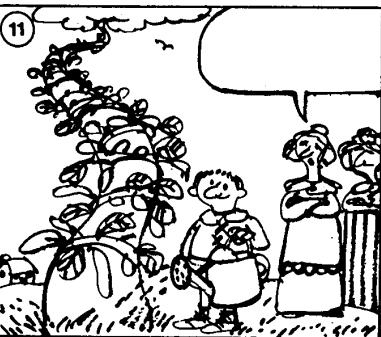
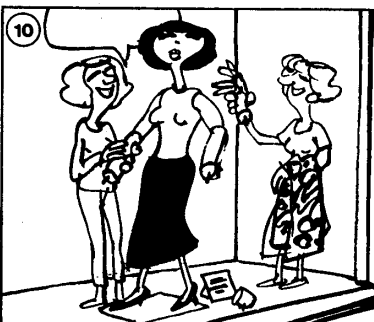
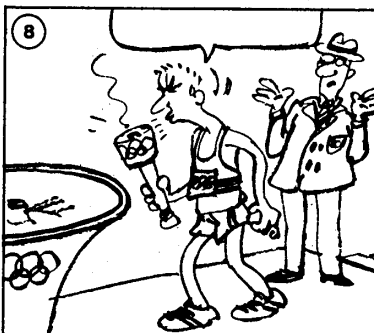
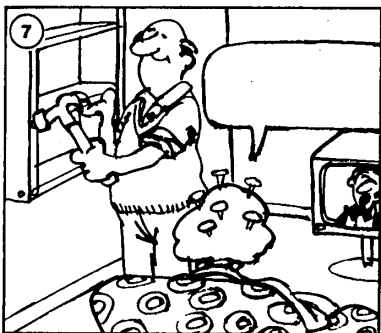
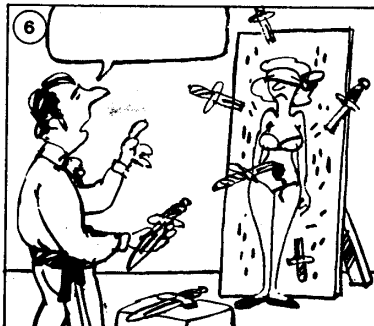


What Are They Saying?

Look at the drawings below and try to work out what the people are saying. Mark the appropriate letter (a-l) in each of the speech bubbles. Choose from the following:

- a "I've got a splitting headache again, Arthur."
- b "Well, it looks as though the rain has set in for the night."
- c "Isn't there any other way for you to make a living?"
- d "I must have caught a cold on the way."
- e "He's a bit absent-minded sometimes."
- f "Not too loud! She's all ears, you know."
- g "Jack's always had green fingers."
- h "Everyone has an off-day now and then!"
- i "Give me a hand, would you?"
- j "You're down in the dumps again, aren't you, Albert? I can tell, you know."
- k "He's full of beans, isn't he?"
- l "You lost your tongue or something? For the last time - where to?"





PART V

NOT SLANG BUT WORDS WE SHOULD KNOW

Fictionary

One of the most amusing and instructive of party games is Fictionary, a verbal competition that illustrates vividly the human passion to name everything in sight. A group of players takes turns passing around a dictionary. (A reputable, up-to-date desk dictionary is best.) The person with the dictionary chooses and announces an unusual word. If any other player knows what the word means, he or she speaks up, and another word is selected. While the dictionary keeper writes a version of the real meaning of the word on a piece of paper, all the other players fabricate phony definitions on their slips of paper. The definitions are then passed to the dictionary announcer, who shuffles them in with the real definition and reads all the entries aloud, trying to keep a straight face.

Each player gets to be the dictionary holder, and the number of rounds equals the number of participants. In each round, players receive one point for guessing the correct definition and one point for each opponent who votes for the definition they fabricated. The dictionary holder receives one point if nobody identifies the authentic definition and one point for reading the answers aloud without laughing.

As a warm-up to your playing this game at home, I offer a dozen real words from various desk dictionaries. Each word is followed by four definitions, three of which are bogus and one of which is genuine. Can you separate the whole-grain definitions from the chaff ?:

1. *alpenglow*
 - a. a cheap and dangerous substitute for kerosene
 - b. the healthful result of eating dogfood
 - c. a reddish aureate seen at sunset on a summit
 - d. a bald-headed citizen of Switzerland
2. *bagette*
 - a. a long, rectangular gem
 - b. a Scottish musical instrument
 - c. a homeless old woman
 - d. a small cover for the back or arms of a chair
3. *claymore*
 - a. a musical instrument of the lute family
 - b. a club used for pounding Silly Putty
 - c. a benign tumor
 - d. a large two-edged sword

4. *defenestrate*
 - a. to evacuate an army from a swamp
 - b. to drive danger away
 - c. to give off glitter or sparkles
 - d. to throw a person or object out the window
5. *foozle*
 - a. a bungling golf stroke
 - b. a nozzle used to spray insecticide from a hose
 - c. an instrument to shear sheep partially, for decorative effect
 - d. a small stick used by teachers to point to specific letters or numbers
6. *guano*
 - a. a large fan used by attendants of a sultan
 - b. bird excrement, often used as fertilizer
 - c. lint that accumulates inside the belly button
 - d. a sash worn by gauchos of the South American pampas
7. *inquiline*
 - a. falsely appearing to look like an eagle
 - b. characteristic of various colorless proteins
 - c. an animal that habitually lives in the abode of another species
 - d. a question asked over the telephone
8. *kludge*
 - a. a badly functioning computer system
 - b. a thick substance that clogs motors
 - c. a unit of mass equaling one liter at standard temperature
 - d. a thick chocolaty confection
9. *mizzle*
 - a. a gathering of feminists
 - b. a flint shaped by nature
 - c. to fry in a skillet
 - d. to rain very fine drops
10. *nabob*
 - a. a small rufflike ornament used on furniture
 - b. a refusal of a request by someone named Robert
 - c. a person of great wealth or prominence
 - d. an unattractive hairstyle
11. *polymath*
 - a. a many-sided geometric shape
 - b. one of encyclopedic learning
 - c. a parrot skilled in reciting numbers
 - d. a catastrophic aftermath
12. *roorback*
 - a. a graceful and swift African and Asian antelope
 - b. a bellowing exchange among lions

- c. a primitive ritual marked by animal sacrifice
- d. a defamatory falsehood published for political effect

Name That Bunch

We all know that a bunch of sheep crowded together is a flock, that a group of antelope loping together is a herd, and that a crowd of bees buzzing together is a swarm. But have you ever heard of a cowardice of curs, a labor of moles, a cete of badgers, a covert of coots, a flush of mallards, a kindle of kittens, or a drove of kine? Most of these collective nouns evolved during the Middle Ages, when the sophisticated art of hunting demanded an equally sophisticated vocabulary to name the objects of the chase. Here's your chance to play groupie. *Match the collections in the left-hand column with the animals they describe in the right-hand column:*

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. a <i>barren</i> of | ants |
| 2. a <i>bed</i> of | bears |
| 3. a <i>colony</i> of | clams |
| 4. a <i>crash</i> of | ducks |
| 5. a <i>gaggle</i> of | fish |
| 6. a <i>leap</i> of | foxes |
| 7. an <i>ostentation</i> of | geese |
| 8. a <i>paddling</i> of | leopards |
| 9. a <i>parliament</i> of | lions |
| 10. a <i>plague</i> of | locusts |
| 11. a <i>pride</i> of | monkeys |
| 12. a <i>school</i> of | mules |
| 13. a <i>skulk</i> of | owls |
| 14. a <i>sloth</i> of | peacocks |
| 15. a <i>troop</i> of | rhinoceroses |

Now that you're feeling confident about your mastery of animal aggregations, see how you do with thirty more group nouns of the elegantly esoteric variety:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 16. a <i>business</i> of | apes |
| 17. a <i>cast</i> of | boars |
| 18. a <i>charm</i> of | cats |
| 19. a <i>clowder</i> of | crows |
| 20. a <i>congregation</i> of | doves |
| 21. a <i>convocation</i> of | eagles |
| 22. a <i>covey</i> of | ferrets |
| 23. a <i>descent</i> of | finches |

24. a <i>dray</i> of	frogs
25. a <i>exaltation</i> of	goats
26. a <i>gam</i> of	hawks
27. a <i>knot</i> of	herons
28. a <i>murder</i> of	larks
29. a <i>murmuration</i> of	magpies
30. a <i>mustering</i> of	martens
31. a <i>nye</i> of	nightingales
32. a <i>piteousness</i> of	pheasants
33. a <i>plump</i> of	plovers
34. a <i>pod</i> of	quails
35. a <i>rafter</i> of	ravens
36. a <i>richness</i> of	seals
37. a <i>route</i> of	squirrels
38. a <i>siege</i> of	starlings
39. a <i>shrewdness</i> of	storks
40. a <i>singular</i> of	swine
41. a <i>souder</i> of	turkeys
42. a <i>tidings</i> of	whales
43. a <i>trip</i> of	wildfowl
44. an <i>unkindness</i> of	wolves
45. a <i>watch</i> of	woodpeckers

For fun, you can make up your own collective nouns for animals or for people—a prickle of porcupines, an aroma of skunks, a rash of dermatologists, a brace of orthodontists.

Moving from one beastly game to another, match each animal in the left-hand column with the appropriate adjective in the right-hand column. You know that something catlike *is feline* and something doglike is *canine*. But how elegant is your semantic sophistication in dealing with the following creatures ?:

46. alligator	<i>apian</i>
47. ape	<i>aquiline</i>
48. ass	<i>asinine</i>
49. bear	<i>avian</i>
50. bee	<i>batrachian</i>
51. bird	<i>bovine</i>
52. bull	<i>caprine</i>
53. cow	<i>cervine</i>
54. deer	<i>diapsidian</i>
55. dinosaur	<i>draconic</i>
56. dragon	<i>elephantine</i>

57. eagle	<i>equine</i>
58. elephant	<i>eusuchian</i>
59. fish	<i>leonine</i>
60. fox	<i>lupine</i>
61. frog	<i>murine</i>
62. goat	<i>musine</i>
63. horse	<i>ovine</i>
64. lion	<i>piscine</i>
65. mouse	<i>porcine</i>
66. pig	<i>ranine</i>
67. rat	<i>simian</i>
68. sheep	<i>taurine</i>
69. toad	<i>ursine</i>
70. wolf	<i>vulpine</i>

Now test your knowledge of family ties between the sexes of the animal world. Cows mate with bulls and hens with roosters, naturally. Can you match the animal he's in the left-hand column with the animal she's to their right?:

71. billy goat	<i>dam</i>
72. boar	<i>duck</i>
73. drake	<i>ewe</i>
74. fox	<i>goose</i>
75. gander	<i>jenny</i>
76. jack	<i>mare</i>
77. peacock	<i>nanny goat</i>
78. ram	<i>peahen</i>
79. sire	<i>sow</i>
80. stallion	<i>vixen</i>

When male and female beasties mate, the product is likely to be little beasties. *You* know that cats make kittens, dogs puppies, cows calves, ducks ducklings, eagles eaglets, rabbits bunnies, lions cubs, and sheep lambs. Now match the zoological parents in the left-hand column with their offspring:

81. beaver	<i>brit</i>
82. bird	<i>cheeper</i>
83. deer	<i>cygnet</i>
84. eel	<i>elver</i>
85. fish	<i>eyas</i>
86. frog	<i>fawn</i>
87. goat	<i>fledgling</i>

88. goose	<i>foal</i>
89. grouse	<i>fry</i>
90. hare	<i>gosling</i>
91. hawk	<i>joey</i>
92. herring	<i>kid</i>
93. horse	<i>kit</i>
94. kangaroo	<i>leveret</i>
95. oyster	<i>poult</i>
96. pig	<i>shoat</i>
97. pigeon	<i>smolt</i>
98. salmon	<i>spat</i>
99. swan	<i>squab</i>
100. turkey	<i>tadpole</i>

LESSON 3

PART I

YPOK 3

HOUSEHOLD WORDS

Metaphors furnished with common household objects are figures of speech that we literally live with every day. Some of these comparisons are new, such as a *couch potato*, a phrase that compares lumpish watchers of television to lumpy potatoes: the longer couch potatoes sit, the deeper they put down their roots. But most of these turns of phrase are quite old, including *dead as a doornail*, which has been wheezed for more than six hundred years. In 1350 an anonymous poet, describing the hunting of a deer, wrote: "And happened that I hitt him behynde the left sholdire./Ded as a dorenail was he fallen." A doornail was a large-headed nail or bolt with which long-ago carpenters studded doors to strengthen and decorate them. The *dead* in the expression *dead as a doornail* means "rigid, immovable," as in *deadline*. When the point of the nail came through the far end, the workmen would bend it over so that it would hold fast. The doornail was then "dead"; that is, it could no longer be removed.

Rather than keeping you on pins and needles any longer, I'll take this game off the back burner. Empty out your kitchen drawer, toolbox, and linen closet to complete fifty expressions out of house and home:

WORDS CLOSE TO HOME

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • armchair | • dish | • razor |
| • barrel | • doormat | • rocker |
| • basket | • drawer | • rug |
| • bed | • hammer | • sandpaper |
| • blanket | • iron | • saucer |
| • board | • kettle | • saw |
| • book | • key | • screwdriver |
| • bucket | • kitchen sink | • sheet |
| • button | • light | • sieve |
| • can | • monkey wrench | • snuff |
| • candle | • mousetrap | • soap |
| • carpet | • nail | • spoon |
| • chair | • pan | • stool |
| • clock | • picture | • table |
| • comb | • pot | • tack |
| • cradle | • purse | • wringer |
| • curtain | • putty | |

1. _____ pigeon
2. _____ opera
3. off your _____
4. a wet _____
5. a flying _____
6. the iron _____ countries
7. a _____ case
8. a _____ belly
9. the _____ 's edge
10. a memory like a _____
11. strange _____ fellows
12. a fine _____ of fish
13. out of the frying _____ and into the fire
14. to have someone over a _____
15. the red- _____ treatment
16. _____ quarterback
17. born with a silver _____ in his mouth
18. from the _____ to the grave
19. not up to _____
20. _____ man of the board
21. to kick the _____
22. to go over with a fine-tooth _____
23. to throw everything in but the _____

24. to throw the _____ at
25. to burn the _____ at both ends
26. to turn the _____ s
27. to _____ out our differences
28. to _____ out an agreement
29. to get down to brass _____ s
30. to be put through the _____
31. to open up a _____ of worms
32. lie like a _____
33. out like a _____
34. cute as a _____
35. pretty as a _____
36. rough as _____
37. stiff as a _____
38. white as a _____
39. hits the _____ on the head
40. I'm just _____ in your hands.
41. It's first class; it's top _____ .
42. You can _____ it out, but you can't take it.
43. Vodka and orange juice served with ice is called a _____ .
44. Build a better _____ ,
and the world will beat a path to your door.
45. She cleaned his _____ .
46. Hard work is the _____ to success.
47. You can't make a silk _____ out of a sow's ear.
48. A time-honored adage is sometimes called an old _____ .
49. The bad weather threw a _____ into our plans for the picnic.
50. The last place team was the _____ of the league.

PART II

PICTURESQUE WORDS

A rebus is a representation of words or phrases through pictures or letters whose names and relationships, when sounded out, yield the intended answer. Because they are a kind of visual pun, rebus puzzles have become very popular in our television age, in which the eyes have it.

I invite you to discover how harmoniously your eyes and brain can work together by translating a collection of picture puzzles into words or phrases. As a warm-up exercise, decide what well-known phrases are represented by the following three rebuses:

MAN BOARD

READING AALLLL

The answers are “man overboard,” “reading between the lines,” and “all in all.” Now that you are becoming an expert in traversing the rebus strip, have fun interpreting some more eye- and brainteasers:

1. *Each of these rebuses relates to food:*

MAY KNEE ME ME ME GEGS
AAA A LOT OF AL AL AL

2. *Each of these rebuses forms a common phrase:*

MIND STEP PAID DEATH/LIFE ONE OTHER
MATTER IT I'M ONE OTHER
WORKED SSA ONE OTHER
SP EE CH poFISHnd SUGAR ONE OTHER
Please ONE OTHER

DOTHEPE TIASTITCHME HE/HIMSELF HOU SE
ALL/world LA BOR POSITIVE COF FEE SHAVE

BUSTED

3. *In each of these picture puzzles that which is lost can be found:*

DANCER BIT WORL SYMPHO MORNING

4. *A single verbal key unlocks each of these rebuses to reveal three related words:*

DICE DICE KEET KEET M.D. M.D.

5. *Come on up to these vertical rebuses:*

T	H	GROUND	E	E	0	I I	C
O	A	FEET	M	L	M.D.	OO	O
W	N	FEET	A	K	Ph.D.		N
N	D	FEET	R	C	D.D.S.		
	S	FEET	F	U			
		FEET		B			
		FEET					

6. For the rebus expert, each of these configurations is one word:



M
E



ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUVWXYZ

7. Finally, a rebus miscellany:



GAINS

LE VEL

222DAY

ECNALG

WEAR
LONG

KNEE
LIGHT



M CE M CE M CE

TORTILLA

HIJKLMNO

PART III

GOTCHA!

Read the following nursery rhyme and then answer the question posed in the last line:

*As I was going to St. Ives,
I met a man with seven wives.
Every wife had seven sacks.
Every sack had seven cats.
Every cat had seven kits.
Kits, cats, sacks, wives —
How many were going to St. Ives?*

The answer to the question is one. While the man and his wives and their sacks, cats, and kits were going *from* St. Ives, only the speaker—the «I» in the rhyme—was going *to* St. Ives.

If you madly multiplied 7 times 7 times 7 times 7 and added one for the man, you were the victim of a language trap. Language traps are brief posers that test your ability to read or listen carefully and to avoid being fooled by misleading information. If you think precisely as you consider the thirty classic language traps in this chapter, you can avoid being caught by the snapping shut of steel jaws.

1. Which is correct: “Nine and seven is fifteen” or “Nine and seven are fifteen”?

2. How many three-cent stamps are there in a dozen?

3. Pronounce out loud the words formed by each of the following letter series: B-O-A-S-T, C-O-A-S-T, R-O-A-S-T. Now, what do you put in a toaster?

4. A doctor is about to operate on a little boy. “This child is my son!” exclaims the doctor. The doctor is correct, yet the doctor is not the boy’s father. What is going on?

5. If a peacock and a half lays an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many eggs will three peacocks lay in three days?

6. Do they have a Fourth of July in England?

7. Two men play five games of checkers, and each wins the same number of games. There are no draws. How can this be?

8. A farmer had seventeen sheep. All but nine died. How many were left alive?

9. If a bus leaves from Boston for New York City an hour before another bus leaves from New York City for Boston, which bus will be closer to Boston when the two are passing each other?

10. A rope ladder is hanging over the side of a ship. The ladder is twelve feet long, and the rungs are one foot apart, with the lowest rung resting on the surface of the water. How long will it take before the first three rungs are underwater.

11. What was the highest mountain on earth before Mount Everest was discovered?

12. What were Alexander Graham Bell’s first words?

13. If two is company and three is a crowd, what are four and five?

14. How many times can you subtract 5 from 25?

15. How much dirt is there in a hole three feet by three feet by three feet?

16. In the United States is it legal for a man to marry his widow’s sister?

17. Pronounce out loud the word formed by each of the following letter series: M-A-C-D-O-N-A-L-D, M-A-C-B-E-T-H, M-A-C-H-I-N-E-R-Y.

18. One child playing on a beach has made four and a half sand piles. Another child has made two and a half sand piles. They decide to put all their sand piles together. How many sand piles do they now have?

19. A dog is tied to a twenty-foot leash yet is able to run to a bone lying fifty feet away. The leash does not stretch or break in any way. How is this possible?

20. I have in my hand two U.S. coins that total thirty cents. One is not a nickel. What are the two coins?

21. How many mistakes can you find in this sentence?: "Their are five mistaiks in this sentence."

22. Read the following sentence slowly and only once, counting the number of F's:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT
OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY

How many *F*'s did you find?

23. If an airplane crashes on the Maine-New Hampshire border, in which state would the survivors be buried?

24. Mary and Jane were born on the same day of the same year of the same father and mother. They look almost exactly alike, yet they are not twins. How can this be?

25. Which is correct: "The capitol of Pennsylvania is Philadelphia" or "The capital of Pennsylvania is Philadelphia"?

26. If you drop a rock, would it fall more rapidly through water at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or 20 degrees Fahrenheit?

27. Attempting to get out of a well that is thirty feet deep, a frog, starting at the bottom, hops up three feet and falls back two with each attempt. How many tries will it take the frog to reach the top of the well?

28. I have five sisters, and each of my sisters has a brother. How many children did my parents have?

29. The number of people in a movie theater doubles every five minutes. After an hour, the theater is full. When was the theater half full?

30. You are the engineer on a train going from Chicago to New York. The train leaves Chicago with a hundred passengers, stops in Detroit to pick up ten and discharge five, stops in Cleveland to pick up five and discharge ten, stops in Buffalo to pick up ten and discharge five, and then proceeds to New York. How old is the engineer?

FIGURING OUT AUNT MATILDA

My aunt Matilda is a very peculiar relative, a woman of strong likes and dislikes. For example, Aunt Matilda likes apples but not oranges and tennis but not golf. She likes supper but not lunch and butter but not margarine. She likes waffles but not pancakes and jazz but not rock.

It took me a long time to realize that Aunt Matilda likes words that contain double consonants. In fact, all of my aunt Matilda's steadfast opinions can be explained by the patterns of letters or sounds in words. You can test your sense of logic by trying to figure out my aunt Matilda's likes and dislikes. Examine each list and state the reason for Aunt Matilda's preferences:

1. Aunt Matilda likes aardvarks but not anteaters.
She likes bees but not wasps.
She likes boots but not shoes.
She likes vacuum cleaners but not mops.
She likes beets but not turnips.
She likes rooms but not closets.
2. Aunt Matilda likes sports but not athletics.
She likes restaurants but not pizzarias.
She likes seniors but not sophmores.
She likes commerce but not bussiness.
She likes usage but not grammer.
She likes floors but not cielings.
3. Aunt Matilda likes birthdays but not anniversaries.
She likes cupcakes but not pastries.
She likes suitcases but not luggage.
She likes highways but not roads.
She likes baseball but not hockey.
She likes airplanes but not trains.
4. Aunt Matilda likes oboes but not clarinets.
She likes picnics but not outings.
She likes downtown but not uptown.
She likes voodoo but not magic.
She likes redheads but not brunettes.
She likes singing but not dancing.
5. Aunt Matilda likes Mom but not Grandmother.
She likes Dad but not Grandfather.
She likes a Toyota but not a Honda.
She likes noon but not night.
She likes radar but not television.
6. Aunt Matilda likes pets but not dogs.
She likes golf but not squash.
She likes pool but not billiards.
She likes rats but not mice.
She likes flow but not ebb.
She likes desserts but not snacks.

7. Aunt Matilda likes seas but not oceans.
She likes pains but not aches.
She likes carrots but not potatoes.
She likes maize but not corn.
She likes lye but not bleach.
She likes beets but not turnips.
8. Aunt Matilda likes detergent but not bleach.
She likes mascara but not makeup.
She likes lipstick but not rouge.
She likes condors but not falcons.
She likes murmurs but not whispers.
She likes Tennessee but not Georgia.
9. Aunt Matilda likes algebra but not geometry.
She likes stones but not rocks.
She likes gabbing but not gossip.
She likes trout but not salmon.
She likes health but not illness.
She likes pomp but not circumstance.
10. Aunt Matilda likes chestnuts but not walnuts.
She likes armies but not navies.
She likes legends but not myths.
She likes hippies but not protestors.
She likes chinchilla but not mink.
She likes ribbon but not trim.
11. Aunt Matilda likes nobody but not somebody.
She likes staples but not tacks.
She likes bugles but not trumpets.
She likes demons but not devils.
She likes signs but not billboards.
She likes posters but not impostors.
12. Aunt Matilda likes pears but not peaches.
She likes talks but not speeches.
She likes campers but not hikers.
She likes tables but not chairs.
She likes mothers but not fathers.
She likes platters but not dishes.

DIG DOWN TO THE ROOTS

Words and people have a lot in common. Like people, words are born, grow up, get married, have children, and even die. And, like people, words come in families—big and beautiful families. A word family is a cluster of

words that are related because they contain the same root; a root is a basic building block of language from which a variety of related words are formed. *You* can expand your vocabulary by digging down to the roots of an unfamiliar word and identifying the meanings of those roots.

For example, knowing that the roots *scribe* and *script* mean “write” will help you to deduce the meanings of a prolific clan of words, including *ascribe*, *conscript*, *describe*, *inscribe*, *manuscript*, *nondescript*, *postscript*, *prescribe*, *proscribe*, *scribble*, *scripture*, and *transcribe*. For another example, once you know that *dic* and *dict* are roots that mean “speak or say,” you possess a key that unlocks the meanings of tens of related words, including *abdicate*; *benediction*, *contradict*, *dedicate*, *dictator*, *dictaphone*, *dictionary*, *dictum*, *edict*, *indicate*, *indict*, *interdict*, *malediction*, *predict*, *syndicate*, *valedictory*, *verdict*, *vindicate*, and *vindictive*.

Suppose that you encounter the word *antipathy* in speech or writing. From words like *antiwar* and *antifreeze* you can infer that the root *anti* means “against,” and from words like *sympathy* and *apathy* that *path* is a root that means “feeling.” From such insights it is but a short leap to deduce that *antipathy* means “feeling against something.” This process of rooting out illustrates the old saying “It’s hard by the yard but a cinch by the inch.”

Now let’s cultivate an acre of roots, fifty word parts descended from either Latin or Greek, each followed by three words containing each root. From the meanings of the clue words, deduce the meaning of each root, as in PHON—microphone, phonics, telephone = *sound*. Good luck. I’m rooting for you!

1. ARCH—archangel, archbishop, monarch = _____
2. ANTHROP—anthropology, misanthrope, philanthropy = _____
3. AUTO—autobiography, autograph, automaton = _____
4. BIO—biodegradable, biology, biosphere = _____
5. CAPET—capital, decapitate, per capita = _____
6. CHRON—chronic, chronology, synchronize = _____
7. CRAT—aristocrat, autocrat, democratic = _____
8. CRED—credit, creed, incredible = _____
9. CULP—culpable, culprit, exculpate = _____
10. EU—eugenics, eulogy, euphemism = _____
11. FID—confide, fidelity, perfidy = _____
12. GEN—genetic, genre, homogeneous = _____
13. GRAPH—autograph, biography, graphology = _____
14. GRAV—aggravate, grave, gravitation = _____
15. GREG—congregation, gregarious, segregate = _____
16. HYDRO—dehydrated, hydrant, hydroelectric = _____
17. LEG—legal, legislate, legitimate = _____
18. LEV —alleviate, elevate, levity = _____
19. LOQU—eloquent, loquacious, soliloquy = _____

20. MAGN—magnanimous, magnify, magnitude = _____
21. MAL—malady, malediction, malevolent = _____
22. MISS—dismiss, missile, transmission = _____
23. NOV—innovation, novelty, renovate = _____
24. OMNI—omnipotent, omniscient, omnivorous = _____
25. ONYM—anonymous, pseudonym, synonym = _____
26. ORTH—orthodontist, orthodox, orthopedic = _____
27. PAN—panacea, pandemonium, panoramic = _____
28. PED—expedition, pedal, pedestrian = _____
29. PEL—compel, propel, repel = _____
30. PHIL—bibliophile, philanthropy, philology = _____
31. POLY—polygamy, polyglot, polygon = _____
32. PORT—export, portable, transportation = _____
33. PRIM—primal, primeval, primitive = _____
34. SENT—consent, resent, sentimental = _____
35. SEQU—consecutive, obsequious, sequential = _____
36. SIMIL—assimilate, similarity, simile = _____
37. SOL—isolate, soliloquy, solitary = _____
38. SOPH—philosopher, sophistication, sophomore = _____
39. SPEC—introspective, spectacle, spectator = _____
40. SUB—sublimate, submarine, subterranean = _____
41. TELE—telegraph, telephone, television = _____
42. TEN—tenacious, tenure, untenable = _____
43. THEOS—atheism, polytheistic, theology = _____
44. TRACT—extract, intractable, tractor = _____
45. TRANS—transcontinental, transfer, translate = _____
46. VAC—evacuate, vacation, vacuum = _____
47. VERT—convert, introvert, vertigo = _____
48. VIV—survivor, vivacious, vivid = _____
49. VOC—invoke, vocal, vociferous = _____
50. VOL—malevolent, volition, voluntary = _____

PART IV

DEFINITIONS

Match up the definitions on the left (1-16) with the correct idiom on the right (a-p).

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 clever, intelligent | a all thumbs |
| 2 inquisitive, curious | b bedridden |
| 3 rich, wealthy | c bigheaded |

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 4 | cruel | d | black and blue all over |
| 5 | stupid, unintelligent | e | brainy |
| 6 | young, inexperienced | f | cheeky |
| 7 | old (of a person) | g | hair-raising |
| 8 | very clumsy, awkward | h | heartless |
| 9 | impudent | i | keyed up |
| 10 | stubborn | j | long in the tooth |
| 11 | too weak to leave one's bed | k | nosy |
| 12 | terrifying | l | off colour |
| 13 | conceited, vain, boastful | m | pigheaded |
| 14 | tense, excited | n | thick |
| 15 | ill, not well | o | well off |
| 16 | covered with bruises | p | wet behind the ears |

Choose the Idiom

Choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence.

- 1 I really must go and lie down for a while; I've got a headache.
 - a** cutting
 - b** splitting
 - c** ringing
 - d** cracking
- 2 Stop about the bush, James! Just tell me exactly what the problem is.
 - a** rushing
 - b** hiding
 - c** beating
 - d** moving
- 3 I usually buy my clothes It's cheaper than going to a dressmaker.
 - a** off the peg
 - b** on the house
 - c** in public
 - d** on the shelf
- 4 David's leaving on Friday. I suggest we all and get him a going-away present. \$1 each should do.
 - a** dish out
 - b** chip in
 - c** pass the buck
 - d** pay on the nail

- 5 The sky got very dark and soon it began to down.
a roar
b bath
c bucket
d pouring
- 6 My father when he found out that I'd damaged the car.
a hit the roof
b saw pink elephants
c made my blood boil
d brought the house down
- 7 If you want a flat in the centre of the city you have to pay through the for it.
a teeth
b back of your head
c nose
d arm
- 8 I caught the last bus by the skin of my
a mouth
b leg
c neck
d teeth
- 9 Because the owner wanted a quick sale, the house went for.....
— only \$30,000.
a loose change
b a song
c a loaf of bread
d a smile
- 10 You didn't think I was being serious, did you, Brian! It was a joke! I was pulling your..... that's all!
a thumb
b hair
c tee
d leg
- 11 The accident was caused by a taxi driver..... the traffic lights.
a rushing
b missing
c jumping
d beating
- 12 Lend me \$20, please, John. I'm at the moment.
a broke
b down the drain
c stuck up
d a bit thick

- 13 She would do anything for her youngest son. He was the of her eye.
a plum
b centre
c star
d apple
- 14 I always get in my stomach before visiting the dentist.
a worms
b butterflies
c crabs
d hedgehogs
- 15 Those second-hand Walkmans are selling like If you want one, you'd better buy one now before they're all gone.
a shooting stars
b fresh bread
c hot cakes
d wild oats

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Fill in the missing words in the following newspaper headlines. Choose from the following, making any changes that may be necessary. (The words in brackets under each headline should help you.)

AT LARGE	IN THE BAG	TOE THE LINE
BROKEN-HEARTED	IN THE BALANCE	TURN OVER A
EAT ONE'S WORDS	LAY OFF	NEW LEAF
FROM SCRATCH	ON THE CARDS	UNDERWAY
HUSH MONEY	POP THE QUESTION	UP TO SCRATCH
IN DEEP WATER	SHELVE	WHITE PAPER
IN ONE'S BIRTHDAY SUIT	SPILL THE BEANS	WHOLE-HEARTED

NEW ①
SUMMIT
MEETING

THIS
SUMMER

(likely, possible)

DRUGS ②
SCANDAL
TENNIS
STAR VOWS
TO _____

(reform)

CRITICS ③
UNANIMOUS
- LATEST
LLOYD-WEBBER
MUSICAL
NOT

(up to the usual standard)

IBM EXECUTIVE ④

OVER
ALLEGED
BRIBES

(in trouble)

LEAD ⑤
SINGER OF
IRISH POP
GROUP
MARGARINE

(makes a proposal of
marriage, asks someone to
marry him)

BRITISH ⑥
RAIL MAY
HAVE TO

1,500
WORKERS

(dismiss temporarily)

FAMOUS TV-
STAR

AFTER
SON'S
DEATH ⑦

(very sad)

**NEW
EDUCATION
BILL GETS**

(8)

**SUPPORT
FROM
OPPOSITION**

(complete, total)

**PRIME
MINISTER
FORCED TO**

(11)

(admit he/she was wrong)

**SITE FOR
WINTER
OLYMPIC
GAMES STILL**

(15)

(undecided, uncertain)

**LOCAL
COUNCIL**

(16)

**PLANS FOR
NEW
SPORTS
CENTRE**

(postpones)

**POP STAR
APPEARS ON
BALCONY**

(9)

(naked)

**RESULT OF
TOMORROW'S
CUP
FINAL**

(12)

(certain)

**COLD-
BLOODED
MURDERER
STILL**

(14)

(free, not caught)

**UNION
LEADER
PERSUADES
MILITANT
MEMBERS
TO**

(17)

(obey orders, do as they are told)

**WORK ON
THE NEW
TUNNEL**

(19)

AT LAST

(progressing)

**EX MI5
AGENT
THREATENS
TO**

(10)

(reveal everything he knows)

LATEST

(13)

**SHOWS
THAT
ALCOHOLISM
AMONG
YOUNG
PEOPLE IS
ON THE
INCREASE**

(government report)

**BANKRUPT
MILLIONAIRE
SAYS
HE IS NOT
AFRAID TO
START**

(18)

(right from the beginning again)

**POLICE
OFFICIALS
ADMIT TO
RECEIVING**

(20)

(bribes)

LESSON 4

PART I

YPOK 4

FOOD AND DRINK

Words and Phrases to Fill a Doggie Bag

English is a liberal language that seems predisposed to welcoming words from other languages. One can make a game of coming up with strings of these immigrants. Think of an intensely masculine, hungry, highly qualified public advocate, and you have your basic *macho ombudsman extraordinaire* who, when hungry, may *nosh on dim sum*.

The point at which we speakers of American English are most open-minded would seem to be when we are most open-mouthed. We devour words like *pasta*, *empanadas*, *souvlakia*, *quiche lorraine*, *havarti*, *caldo verde*, *tabbouleh*, *yakitori*, and *osso bucco*.

The reason for this linguistic liberalism, which has been especially strong. Since World War II, is simple. Some things are better said with a word or phrase that is or approximates the original. A wok is a wok, and to call it “a shallow pan used for quick stir frying” is to define rather than describe it.

Because of this international stew, a large amount of new food terminology is neither English nor American slang. There is not the same need for a native slang as there was in the earlier part of the century, when there were rich food slangs for the soda fountain, diner and lunch counter, mess hall and lumber camp. These slang terms involved were colorful and not very appetizing. As John F. Mariani explains about lunch counter slang in his *Dictionary of American Food and Drink*, “. . . the vitality of lunch-counter speech—*cat’s eye* for tapioca, *baby* for glass of milk, *jerk* for ice cream soda, and *Adam and Eve on a raft* for fried eggs on toast— had a raciness about it that many people sought to put an end to in the 1930s.”

Another factor in all of this has been the rise in processed store food and fast-food restaurants. In a world of bottled salad dressings and nationally franchised drive-in restaurants, we get new terms like *Green Goddess* and *Big Mac*, but these are carefully selected product names and not slang. *Junk food* is a slang term, and people in the fast-food business would just as soon lose the adjective “junk.”

Here is the slang of food and drink—some old, some new—all in use.

A

A.C. American cheese.

all the way. A sandwich served with all the fixin's; lettuce, mayo, onion, etc.

amateur night. (Drink) To heavy drinkers, this is New Year's Eve.

apron. (Drink) A bartender.

B

B&B. (1) Bed and breakfast. (2) Bread and butter.

back. (Drink) On the side. "Scotch, soda back," would be straight scotch with soda water on the side.

banger. (Drink) Straight booze, usually vodka, on ice, which the bar customer bangs ceremoniously on the bar before downing.

barfly. (Drink) One who spends much time at a bar drinking.

barkeep. (Drink) Bartender.

beergoggles. (Drink) Perception influenced by the consumption of alcohol.
"He was handsome, but I was wearing beergoggles."

behind the stick. (Drink) To tend bar.

big three. In the burger realm, McDonald's, Burger King, and Wendy's.

binder. Constipating food.

bite. Small meal or snack.

blind pig. Long-established but still relevant name for a tavern that opens after the legal closing hour in the city in which it is located.

black. Black coffee.

bootie food. Food that goes right to the butt.

booze. (Drink) Liquor, an old slang term that is as commonly used today as it ever was.

booze cruise. (Drink) Short boat trip on which there is plenty of music and drinking.

bouncer. (1) Bad check to a restaurant. (2) Person employed to keep order in a bar or nightclub.

bowl of red. Chili con carne.

branwagon. The drive toward healthier eating, an allusion to both bran (as in oat or wheat) and bandwagon.

brewpub. (Drink) A bar/restaurant where beer is brewed on the premises.

brewsky. (Drink) Beer.

brown bag. (1) Paper bag or wrapping for a meal. (2) To bring one's lunch in a brown paper bag; as in "Let's brown bag it tomorrow and go to the park."

bucket o'blood. (Drink) Tough bar or saloon.

bug juice. Noncarbonated fruit drink.

Bullshot. (Drink) Vodka and beef broth.

burger. Hamburger.

burger joint. Place where the specialty is hamburgers.

buzzmaker. (Drink) A particularly potent mixed drink, often a *shooter*.

_____ C _____

carryout. Place that sells food to be taken from the premises.

C.B. Cheeseburger.

chaser. (Drink) Hard liquor thrown back after a beer or other less potent drink.

chicken-fried. Describing a flour-covered steak or other piece of beef that has been cooked in deep hot fat, in the manner of fried chicken.

chilly. (Drink) A beer.

chocoholic. Person with a passion for anything chocolate.

chow down. To eat.

chugalug. (Drink) To drink without pausing to finish a gulp.

church key. (Drink) Beer-can opener. This term is at least thirty-five years old and should have been eliminated by the pop-top can, but it is still heard.

cooler. (Drink) (1) A wine concoction, usually combining wine, carbonated water, and fruit juice. (2). A bouncer-one who throws unruly patrons out of bars and clubs.

crispy. (Drink) Hungover.

_____ D _____

dagwood. Enormous sandwich from the multilayered constructions of Dagwood Bumstead of comic-strip fame.

damages. The bill in a restaurant.

deli. (1) Delicatessen. (2) In the style of a delicatessen, such as deli-sized sandwiches.

demi-veg. Part-time vegetarian.

doggie bag / doggy bag. A bag provided by restaurants to hold a patron's leftovers. Despite the face-saving name, the contents of a doggie bag are usually destined for human as opposed to canine consumption.

do lunch. Have lunch.

D.Q. Short for Dairy Queen.

_____ E _____

early-bird special. Restaurant meals that are reduced in price for those who are seated early.

easy over. See *once over easy*.

86. To be out of something— "Eighty-six on the lemon pie." This is one of the few survivors of an elaborate restaurant code that obtained before World War II. For instance, "95" stood for a customer leaving without paying, and "400W" stood for maple syrup.

empty calories. Term used to describe foods with little nutritional value.

_____ F _____

fast food. Food that is cheap, standardized, and quickly dispensed. Most fast-food restaurants are chains with plenty of parking.

fat farm. Camp or resort where one goes to diet and exercise.

fatidis. The inability to pass a Dairy Queen without stopping. Pronounced feh-TI-dis.

fat pill. A pastry or other food that is very high in calories and seemingly has the effect of a pill taken to make one fatter.

fern bar. Establishment characterized by light wood, hanging plants, and good illumination.

five B's. Name used in parts of New England for Boston baked beans and brown bread.

flight. (Drink) Three different samplings (2 1/2 ounces) of wine offered for a flat price. Trendy way of getting a sip of three expensive wines.

fluff and fold. In restaurant parlance this is an injunction to take special care of a patron or tableful of patrons.

foodie. The food trendy of the eighties; one who was quick to discover *grazing*, talks about “food as fashion,” and is among the first to try out new restaurants.

free-range. Describing a chicken or other fowl that is raised outside rather than in a closed coop. These birds are preferred by people who have ethical problems with the treatment of fowl in factory-like coops. Free-range eggs are the eggs laid by these fowl.

frickles. Fried pickles, a dish with a following in parts of the South.

frontloading. (Drink) Drinking a lot in a short period of time before going to an event where liquor will not be served, such as the ballet.

full house. Lettuce, tomato, and mayo.

_____ G _____

garbage. Restaurant adjective for that which is left over from one dish and used in the next. It is not as nasty as it sounds: a *USA Today* article on the new California cuisine featured a restaurant specializing in “garbage salads” (based on leftover shrimp, avocados, etc.).

getting stiffed. Waiter/waitress term describing a party that leaves no tip or a very small tip.

G.J. Grapefruit juice.

gorp. A “trail mixture” of peanuts, raisins, candy, and grain. It has been claimed that the term began as an acronym for “good old raisins and peanuts,” but many would side with William Safire, who thinks that the acronym story is bunk. Safire has written, “To me, the word seems formed like

Lewis Carroll's creation of *chortle* by combining *chuckle* with *snort*; *gorp* is a wedded *snort* and *gulp*."

grazing. Ordering a series of small entree portions rather than one large entree. One can graze a meal's worth at a single restaurant or at several.

greasy spoon. Restaurant at the low end of the scale in terms of food, cleanliness, and decor; a dive.

greenhouse look. Restaurant or bar with immense windows and lots of greenery.

grinder. Sandwich served on Italian bread sliced sideways. This is one of a number of names for the same thing, with this one being popular in parts of southern New England. Other names, in other regions, include *hero*, *hoagie*, *Italian*, *torpedo*, *submarine*, and *wedge*.

ground hog. (Drink) Today as always, the preferred nickname for a steam-operated steam still.

_____ H _____

happy camper. In the context of bars and restaurants this term refers to one who is intoxicated.

happy hour. (Drink) Period before dinner during which bars attempt to promote themselves, often with reduced drink prices.

hero. Sandwich served on Italian bread sliced sideways. Known also as a *grinder*, *Italian*, *submarine*, etc.

hoagie. The same thing as a *hero*, *submarine*, *torpedo*, etc.

hold. To withhold in a restaurant order: "Roast beef, hold the gravy."

hooter. (Drink) Same as *shooter*.

hopping. Moving around in search of food, restaurant hopping; drink, bar hopping; or companionship, table hopping.

hush puppy. Deep-fried corn-meal dumpling.

_____ I _____

inhale. To eat quickly, as if one is breathing in air.

in the ozone. Restaurant term describing a table where the patrons have had too much to drink.

in the trees / in the weeds. Describing a kitchen that is running way behind.

Irish sweetener. (Drink) Alcoholic substance added to coffee—often Irish whisky or brandy.

Italian. Long sandwich served on Italian bread. In the upper northeast it is often pronounced "eye-talian." Known also as *hoagie*, *torpedo*, etc.

_____ J _____

jigger. (Drink) Bar glass holding 1 1/2 ounces of liquor and used for measurement.

junque food. So-called adult fast food, a \$7.95 hamburger touted as "our

deluxe, gourmet burger.”

_____ K _____

knock back. (Drink) To drink aggressively.

_____ L _____

lite. Low in calories; lighter than normal.

lo-cal. Low in calories.

long list. (Drink) A restaurant’s full listing of wines in stock.

long neck. (Drink) A beer bottle with a long neck. There is a certain bravado associated with carrying one around a bar, especially a Lone Star long neck in Texas.

_____ M _____

mayo. Mayonnaise.

meat market / meat rack. Singles’ bar where the primary objective seems to be to get laid.

medley. Upscale *menuese* for a mixture or combination, as in a medley of baby vegetables.

megadiner. One of the new breed of diners that can seat as many as 500-in contrast to the classic forty-seaters built in the 1930s through the 1950s.

menuese. Derogatory term for the overblown descriptions of simple food found in some menus. Here is an example from a real menu:
Fresh Fruit Salad-transported in a pineapple boat for the highest vibration and your transmutation with yogurt on the side for accent or dressing sprinkled with coconut. . . \$6.35

mud pie. An ice cream concoction that is intensely chocolate.

munchies. Craving for food, usually junk food.

mystery meat. Food, usually from an institutional cafeteria, that defies identification.

_____ N _____

neat. (Drink) Straight liquor, not on the rocks.

nibbling. (Drink) Sipping slowly.

nightcap. (Drink) Drink taken late at night.

nosh. To munch or snack; a Yiddish-Americanism.

noshery. Delicatessen or snack bar where one goes for appealing food.

_____ O _____

O.D. To overeat; from the drug initialism for “overdose.”

O.J. Orange juice.

once over easy. To turn over and cook lightly on the other side, usually applied to fried eggs. Eggs can also be “medium—over hard” and other

variations.

on the rocks. (Drink) With ice.

on wheels. Said of a restaurant order that is to go. Sometimes stated as “put wheels on that.”

open dating. Products with an easily read date telling when it was packed and when it must be pulled from the shelf.

_____ P _____

pig out. To overeat. Also *pork out*.

pit stop. Place where one goes for food and a rest room on a car trip.

pork out. To overeat, to *pig out*.

pot luck. (1) Meal made of what is on hand. (2) A dinner to which everyone brings a dish.

power breakfast / power lunch. A meeting at which policy makers discuss business or politics over food.

_____ R _____

rabbit food. Raw vegetables.

repeaters. Beans.

rinse. (Drink) See *Chaser*.

roach coach. Small truck selling prepared food; common around industrial areas where there are no cafeterias.

rocks glass. (Drink) Old-fashioned glass.

Rocky Mountain oysters. Testicles of bull or other male animal which have been breaded and fried.

roots and berries. Derogatory characterization of natural foods and/or vegetarianism.

_____ S _____

scarf. To eat quickly. The term is often used in connection with fast food.

shooter. (Drink) (1) Straight *shot* meant for consuming in one gulp. (2) House drink that is usually sweet and easy to consume quickly. These shooters are common to summer beach bars and often feature a fruit liqueur such as DeKuyper Peachtree Schnapps, or Southern Comfort, or tequila. These drinks often have names that are as wild as their formulas. Writer Joe Goulden brought back a copy of the *Beachcomber* free newspaper from the Delaware coast a few years ago which contained a “shooter survey” rating such libations as the Blood Clot, Midnight at the Oasis, 57 Chevy with Hawaiian Plates, Sex on the Beach, the Russian Quaalude, Deep Throat, the Chocolate Virgin, and Daphnie Divine’s Deluxe Dixie Daiquiri.

shopping list menu. Menu that not only tells you what is available, but what went into it, including the garnish (“garnished with a sprig of spring

parsley,” for instance).

short dog. (Drink) (1) Single can of beer. (2) Small, cheap bottle of wine.

shot. (Drink) A small, measured quantity of liquor—usually two ounces, give or take a half ounce.

shot glass. (Drink) Small vessel for measuring liquor, usually 1 1/2 or 2 ounces.

sinker. Heavy, dense version of dish, especially baked goods. (The term is likely to bring back the thought of a particularly bad example. In the author’s case it was a heavier ’n lead stack of blueberry pancakes served to him in Maine, where they are called “sinkas.”)

smothered. Covered.

splash. (Drink) A small amount of water or soda, as in “bourbon with a splash.”

spritzer. (Drink) White wine and soda water.

sproutsy. A vegetarian.

spud. Potato.

stack. A pile of pancakes or toast.

sticks. Food sliced into long sticklike shapes—fried mozzarella sticks or batter-dipped zucchini sticks, for instance.

stinking rose. Garlic, among garlic lovers.

straight up. (Drink) Without ice.

submarine. Sandwich served on Italian bread sliced longitudinally. Known also as a *hero*, *Italian*, *hoagie*, etc.

suds. (Drink) Beer.

sunny side up. Eggs that are fried with their yolks up and fully cooked on one side.

surf-n-turf. Generic name for meat and seafood on the same platter.

swill. (Drink) Beer.

_____ T _____

table from hell. Term used in the restaurant business for a table of people who are drunk and abusive.

T&T. (Drink) Tanqueray and tonic.

tater. Potato.

Tex-Mex. Type of food that is influenced by innovations on either side of the Texas-Mexico border.

three-martini lunch. Codeword for the excesses of expense-account dining. It has recently become emblematic for the kind of common business lunch that began to erode with growing health consciousness; however, such lunches are still not uncommon.

to go. Food that is taken out of the restaurant for consumption elsewhere.

torpedo. Sandwich served on Italian bread sliced sideways. Known also as a *hero*, *hoagie*, *Italian*, etc.

trash fish. Cheap, unpopular whitefish.

tube steak. A hot dog.

twist. (Drink) Twist of sliced lemon or lime peel.

_____ U _____

Umbrella Room, The. A side-walk food cart: “Let’s grab a quick lunch at The Umbrella Room.” This term was acquired in New York City by Joseph C. Goulden, who reports that it is popular there.

_____ V _____

veggies. Vegetables.

vegyy. Vegetarian.

vegucation. Education about vegetarianism.

_____ W _____

watering hole. (Drink) A bar.

wedge. Sandwich served on Italian bread sliced sideways. Known also as a *hero*, *hoagie*, *Italian*, etc.

western. Omelette (or a sandwich containing an omelette) filled with ham, green pepper, and onions.

wet dog. (Drink) Description used for a bad wine with a chemical smell.

wolf down. To eat quickly.

_____ Z _____

zapper. Microwave oven.

zip-code wine. (Drink) A wine-trade term for a French wine from a shipper who has an impressive address but whose grapes do not come from that region.

zombie food. Unacceptable food that has been brought back to acceptability with the aid of irradiation or other sterilization techniques.

EAT YOUR WORDS

In *The Philosophy of Rhetoric*, I. A. Richards notes: “The mind is a connecting organ. It works only by connecting and it can connect any two things in an indefinitely large number of ways.” Making comparisons is a vital part of all language, and the metaphors that dominate the thoughts of a given culture are valuable clues to the way that culture perceives reality. One prominent value in our culture is the lively pursuit of the injunction to “eat, drink, and be merry.”

The ancients knew that salt was essential to a good diet; for centuries before refrigeration it was the only chemical that could preserve meat. Thus, a portion of the wages paid to Roman soldiers was an allowance with which to buy salt (Latin, *sal*), and this stipend came to be called a *salarium*, from

which English acquired the word *salary*. A loyal and effective soldier was quite literally *worth this salt*.

We think of carnivals as traveling entertainments with rides, side shows, games, cotton candy, and balloons, but the first carnivals were pre-Lenten celebrations—a last fling before penitence. The Latin word parts are *carne*, (“meat, flesh,” and *vale*, “farewell.” The earliest carnivals were seasons of feasting and merrymaking, a “farewell to meat,” just before Lent.

Companion and *company* derive from the sacred significance of breaking bread together, from the Latin *com*, “together,” and *panis*, “bread.” A companion, then, is a person with whom you share bread; when you have company at your home, you share your bread and hospitality. That wage earners are called breadwinners reminds us of the importance of bread in medieval life. Not surprisingly, both *lord* and *lady* are well-bread words. *Lord* descends from the Old English *hlaef*, “loaf,” and *weard*, “keeper,” and *lady* from *hlaef*, “loaf,” and *dige*, “kneader.” So here’s a toast to all those subtle culinary metaphors that add spice to our English language. Does that use of *toast* relate etymologically to the familiar slice of heated bread? In a word, yes. In Shakespeare’s day it was common practice to place a piece of spiced or toasted bread in the bottom of one’s wine or ale tankard to soak up impurities. The drink itself became “a toast,” as did the gesture of drinking to another’s good health.

Salt, meat, and bread are but three staples that season our English tongue, even if we are not always aware of their taste. Before you get fed up with this topic, select from the menu below to complete each savory expression that follows, as in “tempest in a teapot”:

The Menu

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| • apple | • apple pie | • bacon |
| • banana | • bean | • beer |
| • beet | • butter | • cake |
| • candy | • cauliflower | • cheese |
| • chestnut | • clam | • cookie |
| • cucumber | • egg | • fig |
| • fish | • fruitcake | • grape |
| • gravy | • ham | • honey |
| • hotcake | • meat | • milk |
| • mincemeat | • molasses | • mustard |
| • noodle | • nut | • oyster |
| • pancake | • pea | • peach |
| • peanut | • pickle | • pie |
| • potato | • pudding | • raspberry |
| • rhubarb | • salad | • salt |

- sardine
- soup
- stuffing
- sugar
- tea

- not my cup of _____
- the _____ of human kindness
- _____ of the earth
- the _____ train
- go _____ s
- the _____ of his eye
- _____ up the teacher
- spill the _____ s
- crying in his _____
- _____ order
- a fine kettle of _____
- in a _____
- bring home the _____
- giving him the _____
- the proof of the _____
- _____ -coat the truth
- _____ y keen
- _____ on her face
- _____ moon
- cool as a _____
- red as a _____
- happy as a _____
- flat as a _____
- slow as _____
- nutty as a _____
- packed like _____ s
- selling like _____ s
- like taking _____ from a baby
- like two _____ s in a pod
- can't cut the _____
- duck _____
- a couch _____
- make _____ out of
- beat the _____ out of
- _____ it up
- doesn't give a _____
- a tough _____ to crack
- working for _____ s
- _____ cloth
- through the _____ vine

41. an argument in baseball: _____
42. It's a piece of _____ .
43. Use your _____ .
44. a smart _____
45. He's dead _____ .
46. _____ in the sky
47. an old _____
48. _____ ear
49. in one's _____ days
50. The world is her _____ .

PART II

TEEN AND HIGH SCHOOL SLANG Along with a Smattering of the Collegiate and Skateboard Jargon

What links the generations is that much teen slang tends to be about the same things. Today there are a host of words for *cool*—including *cool*—and, another batch for *geeks* and *dorks*—including *geeks* and *dorks*—just as there was for the class of '57. Other terms, including *groovy* and *funk*—which now mean “stodgy” or “out of it”—now mean the opposite of what they did to the Woodstock generation.

What was once *barfing* or *losing one's lunch* has emerged into a rich vocabulary of vomit. When *USA Today* wrote about teenage slang in 1988, a fourteen-year old reader wrote to say that she knew 53 different terms for blowing rainbows. Some terms that were once reserved for the young have now slipped into quasi-standard English—for instance, *hassle* (as in “that is too much of a hassle for me”), *put-down*, and *uptight*.

What all of this proves is that the slang of the young is mercurial, unpredictable, and somewhat allergic to print. If a noted linguist is quoted in the papers as saying that *had* no longer means “good,” the term seems to come back with a vengeance. If teachers start using a term, it is likely to either die or have its meaning change radically.

In other words, if you are a teenager and need this list, you're in trouble.

One final point. College slang tends to be an extension and embellishment of basic teen, so this glossary serves as a decoder for higher education as well. Apparently, if your parents were your *rents* in high school, they are likely to be your *rents* in college too.

A

abusak. Elevator music, a blend of “abuse” and “Muzak.”

ace-high. The best.

acid. Steroids.

agro. Mad; pissed off.

aggresso. To act assertively; an act of aggression.

aggro. Great; good.

airhead. (1) One who is empty-headed, dumb. (2) Someone who is out of it. This term dates from a time when many of today’s teenagers were infants, but it still hangs on.

air mail. Garbage thrown out the window.

arbuckle. Dingbat.

ass out. In trouble.

attitude adjustment. High on drugs or booze.

awesome. (Pronounced “aah-some”) Great; good; okay. This term is passй in some circles, current in others. Can be elevated to “totally awesome” or “mega-awesome” for emphasis.

B

B. Frisbee: “Let’s play some B.”

bad. Good. People keep saying that this term is verging on the edge of the archaic, but it just keeps hanging on.

bag. Kill; stop.

bail. (1) To cut a class; bail out. (2) To put something down: “bail that!” is used like “screw that!”

bail out. To leave.

bake. To smoke marijuana.

baked. Really stoned.

bald. Bad; terrible.

bank. Cash; money itself. This is a term that is common in rap music lyrics.

b-boy / b-girl. Rap music devotee. The *b-* in these terms stands for “beat.”

b-boy stance. Defiant pose typically taken by crossing both arms across the chest. This is a term and posture common to rap music.

beat. That’s terrible.

beef. A butt fall in skateboarding.

betty. A hot girl.

biftad. A preppy. A 1988 article in the San Francisco *Chronicle* on local high school slang reports that it is from quintessential preppy names, as in “Say, Biff!” “Yes, Tad?”

biscuit. Easy.

bizotic. Bizarre + exotic = weird.

Black & Decker. A real grind; a power tool (to which it is a punning reference).

blow it out. Forget it; let’s move on.

boarder. Skateboarder.
boarding. Riding a skateboard.
bogue. Smoke a cigarette.
bogus. Phony; bad.
bonzai. Large or massive.
boogerhead. Nickname for a friend—affectionate.
book / book it. To move fast: to run like crazy, as in “He’s really book’n ’round the bases.”
boom. A stereo, especially a car stereo.
boot. To vomit.
bowhead. A Texas teen defines this one as a bouncy cheer-leader type who “ignores her intelligence, is superficial, and wears bows in her hair.”
box. (1) Large portable stereo tape-radio combination. (2) Large woman.
boxie. Bleached blonde. See *loxie*.
brainiac. Intelligent student.
brick. To be scared, as in, “We saw their front line and bricked.” Probably from the expression “to shit a brick” as an indication of fear.
buff. Muscular; tough.
buggin’. (1) Being upset. (2) State of relaxation.
bummer. A bad break; a nasty experience. This term has been in use since the days when it was used to describe a “bad trip.”
bump’n. (Pronounced “bum-pun”) Of the highest quality; such as clothes or music. Sometimes extended to “bump’n like a mug” for emphasis.
bum-rush. To come in; to break down the doors—a common rap term.
bunk. Uncool.
burly. A hard thing to accomplish.
burn. (1) To be put down. (2) A put-down, as in, “What a burn dad.”
burn-out. One who abuses drugs or alcohol.
burnt. Terrible; tough; strict.
bus head. What one looks like after a long school field trip or away game.
bust. (1) v. To be in trouble, such as getting busted by one’s parents over homework. (2) v. A rude insult, commonly stated as “bust you out.” (3) n. A good shot; especially in basketball.
buttons. Remote control device for TV.
buzza. What’s up?
buzz crusher. A killjoy.

_____ C _____

caj/cas. Casual.
cameo. A type of haircut popular among young black males. The hair is trimmed short on the side and flat or angular on top.
cap. To put down; to insult.
cashed. Used up; finished.

catch one. To get drunk on beer.

checking. Pulling down another's outerwear boxer shorts from behind as a surprise.

check you later. Bye.

cheesehead / cheese meister. A jerk.

cheesy. Phony.

cherry. Something good; cool.

chick with a stick. Girl jock, presumably a reference to softball and field hockey.

chief. Form of address applied to virtually anyone.

chill / chillin' (1) v. To clam down; to become cool; to relax. (2) adj. Calm, cool, or laid back. (3). v. To stand up for a date. This is a term common in rap music lyrics.

chill out. To settle down; to quiet down; to get cool.

chill with you later. See you later.

chilly. With it; in tune with the times.

chilly most. Someone who is very cool; a paragon of chill.

chuborian. Fatty.

click. A clique.

clockin'. Bringing in; acquiring.

clueless. Describing someone who doesn't know what is going on, who doesn't have a clue.

Clydesdale. A stud; goodlookin' guy.

cob. Not cool; stupid.

cool. One of a number of words for this. It is a term that has displayed remarkable staying power.

costing. Expensive, as in shoes that look "costing."

cozy. Dull or lacking in interest. This same definition fits for the adjectives precious, special, and quaint.

crankin'. Excellent, especially in music.

creepers. Thick-soled black shoes.

crew. One's circle of friends.

crewby. Crew; that is, rowing, jock.

crib. Home.

critical/crit. Cool.

crush'n. That which looks good, especially clothes.

cujette. Female version of *cujine*.

cujine. Cousin; same as *home-boy*, but in an Italian neighborhood.

cut down on / cut on. Insult.

_____ D _____

d. Bad.

daddylac. An expensive car that has been given to a young driver by his or her parents.

dag. To slow down, especially on a skateboard.

Deadhead. Grateful Dead fan.

death. To be very appealing; to die for.

decent. Excellent.

decorate your shoes. To vomit.

def. Outstanding; terrific. This is a common term in rap music lyrics.

An article in *The New York Times* ("Words to Rap By," August 22, 1988) quotes Robert Farris Thompson, a professor of African and Afro-American art at Yale University: "The rappers are saying "def" derived from "death" meaning terrific . . . when in the forties boppers said: "You kill me, you send me to heaven."

deffest. The best; the coolest.

dexter. Nerd.

digithead. One who studies too much, or more specifically, works too long in front of a computer.

digits. Telephone.

dippin'. To listen in on somebody else's conversations for the purpose of obtaining gossip.

dipstick. Idiot; jerk; loser.

dis/diss. To show disrespect; to harass. This term is common in rap music lyrics. It is commonly believed to have been clipped from "disrespect," although some teenagers insist that it is short for dis-miss.

ditz. Female airhead.

ditzy. Silly or goofy.

dog. (1) To intentionally ignore. (2) To criticize or bother. (3) To work hard, as in "dog it." (4) To crumble under pressure, in skateboard talk. (5) To have sexual intercourse. (6) To beat up.

donnez-moi un break. Give me a break. Explained by a six-teen-year-old from Connecticut: "It's a French-class thing. Anyone with a minimal French background will recognize "give me a," and they assume that "break" means break. "Break" is French for station wagon; however, it makes a cute joke expression."

dooky. Excrement, as in "He smells like dooky."

dope. Great; superb—a common rap term.

do the do. Have sex.

double bagger. Person so ugly he or she needs two bags over his or her head instead of just one.

drain the main vein. For a male to urinate.

drive the porcelain bus. To throw up into a toilet.

drop some iron. To spend some money.

du. Hairstyle, from hairdo.

dual. Good.

duckets. Money.

dude. (1) Originally a guy, but now genderless. This term is a tricky one because a dude can be applied to someone who is especially well-dressed or, cynically, to one who is a mess. (2) A form of address, as in, "Hey, dude."

duker. Massive bowel movement.

dweeb. Loser; nerd; person who one would not want to have to share a locker with.

_____ E _____

eat chain. Drop dead; short for "eat a chain saw."

egg. To smash raw eggs on a car, house, or other large object.

express. In the mood to party.

_____ F _____

faced. Put down; having lost face.

face paint. To fall off a skateboard onto one's face.

fan (it). Forget it; let's not do it; pass. One father, Walt Gianchini, says that his daughters are likely to say "Let's fan on that" after he has suggested something like a Sunday picnic.

fat. Nice; good.

fetus. A real loser.

fierce. Terrific.

file. Dangerous.

fired up. Excited.

fire on (someone). To hit or punch.

flail. To do poorly on or fail a test; to mess up.

flake. To miss an appointment or not show for a date.

flamin'. To become infuriated, mad.

floppy disk. One who studies too much.

flu. Same as *fresh*.

fly-boy/fly-girl. Attractive young man/woman.

for real even? Are you serious?

fresh. Fine; very good. When a writer for the *Detroit News* discussed this term in a 1985 article on teenage slang, he said, "Possibly the most difficult new slang term to define, "fresh" can encompass an individual's attitude, a state of mind, a mode of dress, or an enlivening influence or situation." It is a term of approval; common in rap music lyrics.

front. (1) To confront. (2) To put up a front.

full hank. Nerd.

full of acid. Describing a well-built guy who looks like he is on steroids.

fully-on/fully. Perfect; the best possible.

funk. Someone who thinks he or she is cool, but definitely is not.

_____ G _____

gag. Valley girl, from “Gag me with a spoon.”

gangsta. A person in a gang.

gank. Flirt.

gay. Not cool; totally stupid.

geed. Looking good.

geek. Loser, nerd. A rare perennial in the ephemeral realm of teenage slang. “Geekoid” is used in some circles.

gel. To relax.

generic. Dull; out of it.

get horizontal. To lie down (alone or with someone else).

get naked. Not what it seems, but rather, a way to say “let’s go.”

getting off with your bad self. Obviously feeling good about something that you have done.

get up! Good job!

get yours. Defined in a collection of teenage slang in the June 19, 1988, *Newsday* (Long Island) Sunday magazine as “A friendly greeting used when you see a guy or girl together and you know one of them; then you yell “Get yours,” meaning go for it.”

gimp. A loser.

girly-mon. Effete or weak man, from the *Saturday Night Live* bodybuilders Hans and Franz, who say “girly man” in a German accent.

glitterbag. Flashy female given to shiny clothes, hair piled high with Aqua Net, and gum chewing.

gnarly. Disgusting, gross. But in some circles and in some situations it also means good, cool, hip.

god box. Remote control device for TV.

godly. Cool.

goob/gooker. Nerd, loser. But “to gooker” is to spit through one’s two front teeth.

good answer! Cool, good—from the *Family Feud* television quiz show.

gooeey. Girlfriend.

gorpoblорcho. Imaginary chemical used by chemistry teachers.

G.Q. or Q. Nice clothes, from the fashionable men’s magazine *Gentleman’s Quarterly*.

granola. One who dresses and shares the preferences of the 1960s. This term has gotten a significant boost from the *Bloom County* Bohemian character Lola Granola.

grill. Face, from the grill of a car. “How’d you’d get that scrape on your grill?”

groovy. Stodgy, old-fashioned; 1960ish. But also sometimes used in its original sixties context.

ground. To punish by keeping at home, as in “I’m grounded for the week because of my report card.”

guidette. Female *guido*, who is likely to use much hairspray to keep her hair piled high and poufy. See also *glitterbag*.

guido. Male characterized by slick hair, gold jewelry, a hairy chest (exposed), acid-washed jeans, and a fondness for Bon Jovi music. A six-teen-year old from the Bronx says that although this started out as a stereotype of “cool” Italian-American guys, it now includes any group or nationality—for example, Greek and Jewish guidos.

gumby. An unintelligible person.

guns. Muscles.

gutter wear. Very hip, punky clothing.

_____ H _____

hack. To get rid of undesirable people quickly.

ham. Any alcoholic beverage.

hang. Relax; hang out.

happy camper. Someone having fun, although this is often phrased in the negative, as “not a happy camper.”

hard. Tough; authentic—a common rap term.

hardcores. Tough courses.

hard way to go. Sympathetic response to somebody’s sad story.

harsh. Strict; bad.

headbanger. Heavy metal fan.

heifer. Fat girl.

hein. Person who is ugly and/or possessed of a rotten personality.

hella-. Prefix for “very,” as in “hellacool” for very cool.

hellified. Super.

hellish. Horrible.

hello. I heard that.

high jack. To take something trivial, almost borrowing.

hip-hop. Catchall for rap music, rapping, break dancing, graffiti, and playing records. The language heard in rap lyrics has been called “hip-hop slang.”

hippy witch. Girls who dress in black and wear sixties style clothing.

hittin’ / hit’n. That which tastes good.

hit up. To ask someone where they are from.

ho! Great; good-looking; “Look out world!” A seven-teen-year-old informant says that this term got a boost from the movie *Biloxi Blues*.

ho / hoe. A slut, and an obvious play on the word “whore.”

holler at / hollerat. Talk to.

holmes / homes / homie. Derivations of *homeboy* / *homegirl* which mean the same thing; a common rap term.

homeboy / homegirl. Friendly term of address for someone from the same neighborhood or school; a neighborhood friend.

hook. Catch on.

hook-up. To begin a relationship.

horn. Telephone.

hosebag. Slut.

hot. Extremely appealing or good-looking; very cool.

house. (1) To have a major success; to bring down the house—a common rap term. (2) To steal.

house ape. Small child.

hubba. Stupid.

hype. Great.

hyped. Full of energy.

_____ I _____

I heard that. I agree.

illin'. Stupid; un-chillin'. This term is common in rap music lyrics.

iron pimp. School bus.

it ain't all that. You're overstating; don't exaggerate.

it rules. It is awesome.

lzod. Preppy guy or girl.

_____ J _____

jacked. Happy.

jack shit. Nothing, as in "I'm doing jack shit."

jack up. To kick in the rear end.

jam. In the world of rap, a concert, party, record, good time, etc.

jammin'. Music that sounds good. jank. All-purpose noun.

jingus. Bogus.

joanin'. To insult publicly, as in "They were joanin' me about my car." When this term was reported by the *Washington Post* in 1987, it was suggested that it might be derived from Joan Rivers, but a number of readers wrote to point out that the term was an old one which was common in the black community when Rivers was waiting for her first break.

jockin'. For a girl to hang on a guy.

johnny. Cop.

juco. Junior College.

juicer. Steroid-user.

juke. (1) Elude. (2) To make a direct hit.

jump his/her bones. To have sex with. Almost always phrased conditionally, as in "I'd like to . . ."

junks. Basketball shoes, especially expensive ones.

_____ K _____

keystone. Describing the police.

kick back. To relax.

kickin' it. Doing something, even if it's just hanging out.

kill. Really good.

killer. (1) Good, like killer shoes. (2) A very tough course, especially in college.

_____ L _____

lame. (1) State of boredom. (2) Stupid or nerdy.

lame time. Dull party.

lampin'. Hanging out, as one does when standing around a lamppost.

lardo. Fat person.

later. So long; good-bye.

law, law. I don't believe it.

left hanging. Stood up.

let's cruise. Let's go.

like. To say. This linguistic development was enough to net an article in *The New York Times*

living large. Doing well in rap talk.

load. Car.

loaf. A fat person.

loft. Skateboard hang time.

loose. A senseless, daring act.

lop. A nerd or dork.

lost between the bells. Late for class.

lost in the sauce. Out of it.

loxie. A natural blonde, like Goldilocks, but unlike a *boxie*, who gets it out of *bottle*.

lunchin'. Characteristic of one who is out to lunch.

_____ M _____

magnet. (1) A *dweeb* that won't even move from his/her seat; a "gluebottom."
(2) A school or school program created to attract students so that racial or enrollment imbalances can be corrected voluntarily.

major. Extremely important.

mall crawler. Teenage girl who spends almost all of her spare time at the mall.

mega-. Prefix of emphasis, along with *mundo-*.

melba. Odd or unusual.

mellow up. Calm down.

mental. Describing any strange person.

mess 'em up. Good luck; the equivalent of "break a leg."

mess up. To screw up; to fail.

metal mouth. Teenager with braces.

Mickey D's. McDonald's. The company now uses this name in some of its ads, which are obviously aimed at the young consumer. There are other slang fast-food names, including the "B.C. lounge" for Burger Chef and the perennial "D.Q." for Dairy Queen.

mint. Good; great, same as *killer*.

modeiant. Of or pertaining to the rock group Depeche Mode; something worthy of them.

molded. Embarrassed.

money. Friend.

Muffie and Biff. Charactronyms for preppies by high schoolers.

munchie. A cut or scrape gotten from falling off one's skateboard. Inspired by the feeling that the pavement is "munching" on one's skin.

munch on. To treat unfairly; to come down on.

modo- Prefix of emphasis along with *mega-*. Something that is very strange, for example, is "modo-bizarro."

my bad. My mistake.

_____ N _____

narc. Loser; nerd. Once a term for a narcotics agent or someone giving them information.

neat whistle. Person wearing odd or weird clothing.

nectar. A good-looking girl.

ned. Marijuana.

nice du. Slur aimed at a bad or odd hairstyle.

9.5 fling. As defined by a seven-teen-year old female: "When a snobby girl suddenly flings her hair as an act of drawing attention."

nitro. Very good; better than *dope*—a term associated with rap.

no duh. No kidding.

nog. To come into contact with.

nooks. Pain, especially to a high school jock.

not! Interjection used to show disapproval or label as stupid.

nuke. (1) To destroy; "I was nuked by that chemistry exam." (2) To microwave.

_____ O _____

ollie grab. To kick a skateboard up, catch it, and then jump back on it.

on the strength. Really great, in the rap lexicon.

organ recital. Sex education class.

_____ P _____

petunia. Man or boy who pays a great deal of attention to his appearance.

pick no squares. Don't fight.

pick up your face. Response to somebody who has just done something stupid or embarrassing.

piece. Junk. Probably from “What a piece of shit!”

player. Person who two-times or flirts, as in, “Look out, she’s nothing but a player.”

poser. Someone who tries to act and dress like people in another group but is considered a phony by that group.

posse. A group of good friends.

pseudo. (1) Person you think little of, often paired by hyphen with a pseudo type—pseudo-hippie, pseudo-jock, etc. (2) Anything that is suspect.

psych. To exaggerate wildly; to put somebody on momentarily.

psychotic. Really great; good.

_____ Q _____

quality. Lousy; bad—the opposite of the real meaning of quality.

queef. Fart.

queer. Stupid or odd; it has nothing to do with sexual orientation.

queeve. To run out of energy, in the parlance of skateboarding.

_____ R _____

rack. Sleep.

rack monster. A bed.

rack up. To kick somebody in the rear end.

rad / radical. Cool.

radical to the fifth dimension. Terrific.

raggin’. (1) Well-dressed. (2) Beating up on somebody. (3) Beating someone or winning (“He ragged on him in the race”). (4) For a girl to have her period.

raging. A good time; a lot of fun.

rags. Clothes; but most likely concert T-shirts.

ralph. To vomit. It has been pointed out that the name Ralph mimics the sound of regurgitation.

ranker / rank out. One who backs out; to back out.

rat. One who habituates or does—a “gym rat” hangs out in gymnasiums, while a “rink rat” spends spare hours at a skating rink, and a kid who caddies is a “bag rat.” Anyone who hangs around shopping centers is a “mall rat.” Ancient in terms of this kind of slang, “rats” seem to be a constant.

raw. Great; very good; good-looking.

real slice, a. A bad day.

reeks. To smell.

remo. Same as *Dweeb*.

rents. Parents (from which the word was clipped).

rickety-raw. Good-looking.

ride. A car, as in “My ride is outside.”

ride / ridin’. (1) To make fun of: verbal jockeying. (2) To flatter; such as praising a teacher to get a better grade.

rider. Very negative term for someone who tags along when unwanted; a copy cat. It is probably short for “ball rider.”

ride the slow train. To not want to party.

rip. (1) n. A rip-off; a bad deal. (2) v. To be cheated or robbed.

road dog. Best friend.

rock and roll. To do something rowdy or noisy.

rocker. Anybody who is into heavy metal.

rock your world. To beat you up.

roll. A fat person.

rouge. To steal.

rude. Out of sight; cool—the same as *rad* or *radical*; totally good.

ruff. Neat, cool.

rush. To confront someone in a hostile or violent mood.

_____ S _____

sappnin’. What’s happening?

scam. To lie, as in “I had to scam my way out of it.”

scamming. Flirting.

scarf. To consume quickly; for example, to scarf up a pepperoni pizza.

scoop. To kiss someone.

scope. (1) To hunt for something: “Let’s see if we can scope a party.” (2) To ogle. “Why you scopin’?” translates into “What are you looking at me for?”

scrappin’. Fornicating.

scribe. Writing utensil.

scurb. Suburban skateboarder; one who skates on streets and curbs.

seven digits. Telephone number.

sev’s. 7-Eleven store.

shagging. Picking somebody up by their underpants.

“She reads Seventeen.” Said of a trendy teenage girl.

ship to shore. Cordless telephone.

shot who? What? Pardon me.

shout at one’s shoes. To throw up.

shun it. To go with it.

sick. Good; awesome.

skanky. Rank or gross. Sometimes uses specifically to describe a teenage girl who is so skinny that she is “gross-looking.” One sixteen-year-old definer adds, “Would be pretty if she gained weight.”

skater. Skateboarder.

skate rat. Skateboarder. See *rat*.

sketch. To mess up on a skateboard.

skidder. Backwoods teen in New England; after the name of a piece of logging equipment. “A skidder,” says a western Maine teen, “has a mean dog and a broken snowmobile in his yard.”

skin it. Slap hands; new way of saying “Gimme five!”

slacking. Not keeping up with one’s duties.

slam. To cut down verbally.

slap-down. (1) v. To embarrass. (2) n. An embarrassment.

slaps. Rubber-thonged sandals.

slice up. To criticize or cut down. Sometimes extended to slice up like lunch meat or the like.

slider. An easy course in college—known as a “gut” or a “breeze” to the parents of those who take sliders.

smit. To skip.

smokin’. Looking great.

snap. To break a promise. A “snapper” is one who breaks promises.

sounds. Music.

spacin’. Not paying attention; being off in space. Spacin’ usually occurs in class.

spazz. To become overly excited.

spent. Cash.

splockenin’. Egging a car or house.

spud. A jerk.

squash that / squash that melon. Forget it.

squid. Nerd, someone with tape on their glasses. Sometimes used as a joke with friends. By extension, a computer room or center is a “squid tank.”

step off. Leave.

stick. Skateboard.

sticks. Needles used to inject steroids.

stoked. Excited; psyched.

stole. To punch out; “I stole him” is to hit him with a knockout punch.

stud. Once a sexy male, increasingly a male who thinks he is *cool/hot/fresh* but is not. Loser; person who is strong and athletic but still a loser.

stud-muffin. An immodest good-looking guy.

stuffies. Stuffed animals.

stupid fresh. Outstanding or spectacular—more than plain *fresh*—in rap terminology.

s’up. Greeting, short for “What’s up?”

sure you’re right. Said of someone not telling the truth.

sweat. (1) To trash; to break something. (2) To give someone a bad time.

sweet. Good; cool.

swillmobile. Car full of empty beer bottles or cans.

swivel neck. Nerd.

syke. Same as *psych*.

_____ T _____

take a chill pill. Calm down.

talk out of the side of your neck. To bullshit.

tamale time. Embarrassment.

tard. Someone who is moving or acting slowly.

TBF. A goofy guy. It stands for Top Button Fag because one so described is likely to wear his top shirt button buttoned.

teepee. To cover a house, tree, car, or other large object with toilet paper, from the initials T.P.

that's a plan. Confirmation or agreement of a suggested action.

that's casual. A statement of acceptance.

thrash. (1) To spin a skateboard in midair; to make any good move on a skateboard. (2) To be really good at something.

thrasher. (1) Skateboarder. (2) Skateboarder who doesn't give a damn.

thrashin'. Dancing.

tin grin / tinsel teeth. Braces.

tool. One who studies; a grind.

touron. Annoying tourist; formed, it seems, from blending "tourist" and "moron."

toxic. Astonishing.

trashed. Drunk.

trife. The wrong way. Living trife is living the wrong way; said of a bad person. "This may come from the Yiddish word *treif* [pronounced "trayf"] meaning not kosher," says Robert S. Greenman of Brooklyn, who picked the term up from his students.

trip. An experience on or off of drugs—same as the sixties.

trip-out. One who is out of it; a space cadet.

trippy. Neat; weird; far-out.

'tsup. Catsup, see 'za for a similar case of clipping.

tubaruba. TV.

tube / tube out. To watch TV.

tweaked / tweaked out. Spaced out.

twink. Loser; nerd.

_____ U _____

unruly. Gruesome, a term beloved of skateboarders, who talk of unruly falls.

upper story / upstairs. The mind; the brain.

up the ying-yang. A ridiculous amount; for instance, "I have homework up the ying-yang."

_____ V _____

vamp du. Slur aimed at a bad or odd hairstyle. Also *nice du*.

veg / veg out. To do nothing; to vegetate.

vid. A hassle or a bother.

_____ W _____

wack. Bad; lousy.

waldo. Out of it.

wanna be / wannabe. An emulator; one on the periphery. The term is sometimes applied to a white who seems to be emulating blacks or a black who is emulating whites.

wassup. What's up?

wasted. Drunk or high on drugs.

wastoid. Person throwing it away on drugs or booze.

waver. New wave teen who goes to clubs, wears black, and "evolutionized" from punk.

way. Plenty; accentuated, as in "way dumb" for very dumb.

weak. Not good; poor.

wedge. Food.

wench. Girlfriend.

wicked. Cool.

wig out. State of agitation.

wiggly man. A cop.

wild. Cool.

wilson. A really bad fall from a skateboard.

winner. Loser; a put-down when you have done something stupid.

wit. What you say when a bad joke has been told; delivered as if it were "nit."

woebetide. Bad news.

woof. To brag.

woofie. Wimp.

word. (1) That which one cannot think of; a word for all words. It comes from rap music, where "word" is used when no rhyming word has been thought of, and can be found in lines like, "That girl is fine. Word." (2) I agree; agreement.

wreck. To fight.

wuss. Wimp or coward.

_____ X _____

X-ing. Tripping on the drug Ecstasy or X.

_____ Y _____

yawn in technicolor. Vomit.

yea / yeay. Imprecise unit of measurement, as in "he's yeay tall."

yen. Money of any kind.

_____ Z _____

'za. Pizza. This is a major clipping in which only the last two letters remain.

zappening. What's happening?

zit. Pimple.

zoiks. An expletive employed when there is nothing else to say. It is without meaning.

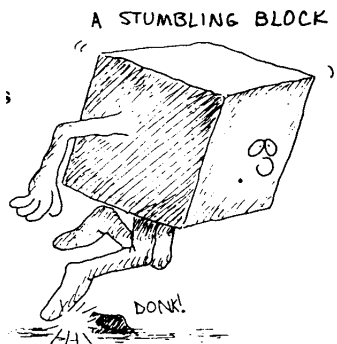
zun. Pimple; possible reaction to the cooping of *zits* by the commercial sellers of skin preparations.

zup. What's up?

PART III

1. THINGS GOING WRONG

- a. **stumbling block**
- b. **to start from scratch**
- c. **throw a spanner in the works**
- d. **can't get the hang of it**
- e. **in a rut**
- f. **going round in circles**
- g. **caught on the wrong foot**
- h. **upside down**
- i. **is in for**
- j. **scraping the bottom of the barrel**



Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. Are you busy at the moment?

Busy? We're snowed under. Overtime every day. We were really _____ by that order from Spain. It arrived the same week that the holiday season started.
unprepared

2. What made you decide to apply for that job in Belgium?

Well you know, I've been working for the same company for ten years now. I like my work but I feel I'm _____. The j'ob just isn't as interesting or challenging as it used to be..
In that case a change will probably do you good.
in a dull routine

3. Am I glad to see you! What's the matter?

It's this new film projector. I've been trying to thread a film for the last twenty minutes but I just _____.
I could put a film on the old projector in no time, but this one's got me beaten.

Let me have a try.

don't know how to make it work

4. How are the negotiations for the new pay deal going?

They've broken down completely. The union side walked out yesterday.

That's a surprise. The last I heard everything was going well.

The Union (1) _____.

They suddenly demanded a four-day week. We can't agree to that. That's (2) _____.

(1) caused a difficulty (2) the problem point

5. What's in the crate? I don't know. I can't get it open.

I'm not surprised. It's _____.

You're trying to open the bottom. Turn it over. It's easier to open from the top.

the wrong way up

6. When's Phil due back from his holiday? Not for another couple of weeks. Why do you ask?

I'm afraid he _____.

an unpleasant surprise. They've reorganized his section out of existence.

is unable to avoid; will certainly get

7. Any ideas on what to do about sales in France? They are not going well this year.

More newspaper ads? Bigger discount to the dealers?

Oh come on, that's _____.

We need some new ideas, something really different.

using ideas which are only just of acceptable quality

8. Look, it's been a long day and we're all tired. I don't think we're going to solve all these problems today.

Wait a minute. I think we came up with some pretty good ideas.

That was a couple of hours ago. Since then we've been repeating the same things. We're _____.

Let's leave it till tomorrow. Our minds will be clearer in the morning.

talking without any progress

9. I've tried to rearrange the desks to find space for two more people, but they won't all fit.

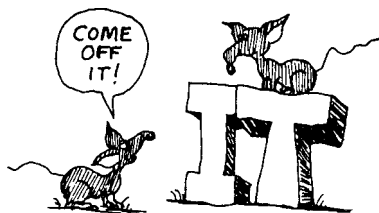
Why have you left Peter's office as it is now? Well we can't change everything!

With this sort of problem it's best _____.
It usually saves time in the end.

to begin from nothing

2. CONTRADICTING OR DISAGREEING

- a. **beside the point**
- b. **barking up the wrong tree**
- c. **I've got a bone to pick with you.**
- d. **So what?**
- e. **doesn't hold water**
- f. **take exception to**
- g. **Come off it!**
- h. **is at odds with**
- i. **putting the cart before the horse**
- j. **that's all very well and good but**



Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. Hold on a minute. There's no point discussing how we're going to give the course before we establish the course objectives.

You're right. We're _____.
Let's set the objectives first and then we can discuss how to achieve them.
getting things in the wrong order

2. Hello Roger. How are things?

Sally Langton — my favourite personnel officer. Just the person I wanted to see. I _____.

Oh-oh! What have I done now?

You promised to find me a temporary typist two days ago and I'm still waiting.

have something to reproach you about

3. ... so, in the light of the two points I've just made, I'm sure you'll agree that the decision needs to be looked at again.

(I) _____,
Max! You're getting carried away with your own rhetoric. I'm not convinced, whether Dick agrees or not is (2) _____.
It's totally irrelevant. And as for your second point, the theory you're basing it

on is full of holes — that argument simply (3) _____.

Wait a minute, Anne, I (4) _____
that remark — the theory is fully set out in *Psychology Tomorrow*. Perhaps
you should read it!

*(1) don't talk nonsense; stop being silly (2) is not on the subject (3)
is faulty (4) disagree with, and am annoyed by*

4. If you guys think that presenting your petition to the board will get
action you're _____

What makes you say that? Because it's the union that make all the
decisions in this area.

choosing the wrong course of action

5. Tell me, Mrs. Stevens, what made you decide to withdraw your child
from his previous school and bring him here?

Well, basically because I find that their whole approach ____

my own views on how children should be brought up.

is in conflict with

6. Doug, the chairman wants the financial reports for the first quarter.

Well, he can't have them until we find out which set of figures is
correct. We're working on it night and day and I'd say that we'll have the
problem sorted out within a couple of weeks.

it won't satisfy the chairman. He wants those figures today.

Then he can have both sets.

that's fine but

7. Hey, did you hear the news? They've announced a cabinet re-
shuffle. Our department has a new Minister.

Why should I care? At our level it doesn't make any difference who the
Minister is.

What an attitude!

*Impolite reply showing that the speaker is not impressed by what has
been said.*

3. THE BUREAUCRACY

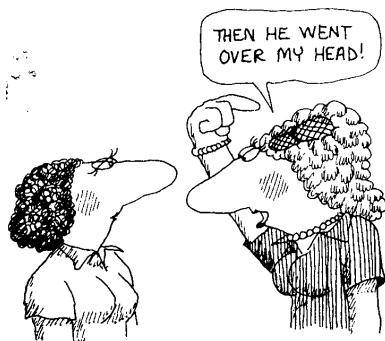
a. Don't rock the boat.

b. up in the air

c. cut through the red tape

- d. pass the buck
- e. pulled a few strings
- f. blew the whistle on
- g. snowed under
- h. get the chop
- i. go over someone's head
- j. keep (your) ear to the ground

Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.



1. I'm going to ask for a transfer to another section. What's the problem?

It's the supervisor, Bert White. I'm fed up with the way he always tries to _____ when the boss finds something wrong with the section's work.

place the blame or responsibility on someone else

2. Surely you can do without overtime? Not really. We've got a pile of other rush jobs to do so we're absolutely _____ with work. Come off it! You people in Accounts don't know what the word means. Now if you were in Personnel . . .

overloaded

3. It's high time somebody _____ the crew in the mail room.

They're always nipping out for something or other. There's never a full staff there. Well, I'm not going to be the one who reports them. It's not my job.

reported their behaviour to someone in authority

4. Hello, Debbie. How come you're still here? I thought you were going off to head a new section.

I was supposed to be, but the new organization hasn't been approved yet. It was submitted to the Management Committee but some of the directors have apparently raised some objections. So the whole re-organization is _____ again.

uncertain; undecided

5. I've had enough with those people in the Accounts Department. Why don't you deal with the Financial Advisor, Susan Taylor? I find her very helpful.

Well, I don't. She's the one I have the most trouble with. So help me, if I have any more hassle from her I'm going to (1) _____ and take my questions to the Director of Finance.

I wouldn't do that if I were you. You know you just cause more trouble if you don't go through the proper channels.

There you go again! (2) _____.

I'm sick of people telling me not to upset the system. When the system is this bad it should be upset.

(f) go to a higher authority than the person in question (2) don't cause trouble

6. Believe it or not, I have something good to say about the bureaucracy for once.

Wonders will never cease. What happened?

Remember I told you I needed to get a new passport? Well, I forgot to apply for it until the day before my flight.

Oh no! What did you do?

Well, I took my papers and went to the passport office and explained it all to the lady at the counter. She was very sympathetic and took me to one of the higher-ups and, to cut a long story short, he managed to _____ and get me a new passport in a matter of hours instead of the usual two weeks.

shorten official procedures

7. How come Barry's still around. Wasn't he fired? I thought you told me he'd (1) _____.

He did but one of the directors (2) _____ and got him reinstated.

Hmmm. So Barry's got friends in high places, eh? I'd better be careful what I say to him from now on.

(1) been fired (2) used influence

8. Have you any idea when Joe returns? No, nobody has said a word yet.

Well, will you _____ and if you hear anything, let me know as early as possible.

No doubt I'll hear on the grapevine as soon as he is back.

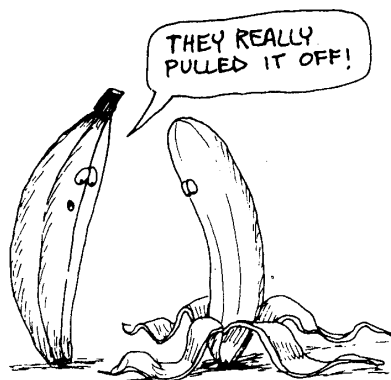
pay careful attention to office talk, rumours etc.

4. WINNING OR LOSING

a. is in the running

b. get the better of (someone)

- c. get off on the wrong foot
- d. in the bag
- e. take a back seat
- f. to pull it off
- g. doesn't stand a chance
- h. out on a limb
- i. win hands down
- j. it's a toss-up



Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. Did you watch the debate on TV last night?

Yes, it was quite a show. Who do you think was the winner?

No question about it. The Conservatives _____

I agree they probably had the better of it, but not by that much.

I thought it was pretty close.

won easily

2.

Ted Who do you think will get the Assistant Director General's position?

Roger They say Roberts, Tremblay, Anderson and McKay (1) _____

Alice Well, I'd say you can cross Roberts off the list. He (2) _____

Ted What makes you say that?

Alice Because from the day he joined he hasn't got on with the Director General. Poor guy. He just (3) _____

_____ and you know how important first impressions are to the D.G.

Roger Mm, I know what you mean.

Ted And I've heard through the grapevine that McKay's out of the running.

Alice So it looks like Anderson or Tremblay.

Ted Yes, they're pretty evenly matched. Either one of them would make a good A.D.G. I'd say (4) _____

_____ between Anderson and Tremblay.

Alice I'd put my money on Anderson. She's really got what it takes. I think it's (5) _____ for her.

Roger Don't underestimate Tremblay. He is really sharp and very competent. He'd be my choice.

(1) are being considered as candidates (2) has no chance of winning (3) began badly (4) their chances are equal (5) certain

3. Hey, did you hear? Maureen Marchand's been appointed head of marketing.

Well, well! Sam isn't going to like that.

You can say that again. He's been acting head for so long that he isn't going to like having to _____ to somebody else.

No, he's never enjoyed playing second fiddle — and especially not to a woman.

be subordinate to

4. I'm afraid we've probably lost the Melson contract. They're not happy with the last series of commercials we did for them.

So I hear. But it's not lost yet. I've sent Andrew to try and talk them into giving us another chance.

Well, if anybody can persuade them, it's him.

Well, I think he might be able _____.
to succeed in the face of difficulties

5. You won't (1) _____ Jack. He knows what he's talking about when it comes to marketing.

Usually, yes. But this time he really is (2) _____.
_____.

He wants to drop all the television advertising.

That's crazy. Nobody agrees with him.

If Jack says it's a good idea, he's probably right.

(1) win an argument against (2) in an isolated position, with no one else agreeing

5. COMPLAINING OR COMMISERATING

a. pull the wool over other people's eyes

b. a stab in the back

c. pay lip service to

d. fed up to the teeth with

e. get away with murder

f. That's below the belt.

g. talk behind (his) back

h. take (someone) for granted

i. fob (someone) off

j. isn't pulling (his) weight

Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. I know what I'd do to those kids next door if they were mine.

I agree. They're completely out of hand.

It's high time their parents did something. They let them

Young parents are all the same these days. Anything goes as far as they're concerned.

do bad things without being punished

2. I'm (1) _____ Linda Brown; the boss thinks she's a great worker because, whenever he's around, she really tries to impress him. But when he's not there she doesn't do any work at all.

I hate people like that who try to (2) _____, but I suppose one of these days he's going to find out the truth.

(1) *annoyed by someone's behaviour over a long period of time* (2) *deceive someone into thinking well of them*

3. You seem to have upset Roger. He says you promised to pick him up at the station and then you forgot all about it.

I'm afraid so — I was busy, it just slipped my mind.

He's pretty annoyed. He says it's not the first time you've forgotten.

Oh come on! _____.

There was a misunderstanding about three years ago. I don't think he should mention that again after such a long time.

that goes against one's sense of justice and sportsmanship

4. How are things going on the selection board, Sue?

Don't talk to me about that board. I've had enough of them.

Why?

Well, they talk about equal opportunities a lot, but when it comes to making a decision on a candidate, it's a different story. They bring in all kinds of things that have nothing to do with your ability to do the job.

I agree with you. It's not enough to _____ a principle. You've got to do something about it.

show support by words but not by actions

5. It's about time somebody told Jack that every member of a team has to do his share of the work.

Mmm, I've noticed he (1) _____.

Of course, it's our own fault. We should tell him to his face that he isn't doing his fair share.

You're right. Instead of telling him to his face, all we've done is (2)

(1) doesn't do his fair share of the work (2) discuss him when he isn't there

6. I've just spent half an hour trying to get an answer to a very simple question from the Town Hall.

I bet the first person told you to call another number, and then they told you somebody was out, then they gave you some vague answer that didn't mean anything.

Exactly, they must think the public are stupid. They couldn't

I insisted on being given the proper facts, but it was hard work and took a long time.

satisfy me with unsatisfactory information

7. Gosh, I really miss Rachel. This new secretary doesn't seem to know what's going on half the time.

Mm, I've noticed.

I'm really sorry now I didn't tell Rachel what a good job she was doing.

Well, we all _____.

Maybe she wouldn't have left if we'd told her how much we appreciated her.

took the benefit of her good work without commenting on it

8. How's Colin feeling about what happened last night?

Pretty bad, I'm afraid, and I don't blame him. At least thirty people promised to vote for him but didn't in the end. And they were people he trusted completely.

Yeah. When they voted for Peter it was _____ for Colin.

That's politics, I guess.

an act that hurt a friend or a trusting person

6. MEETING PEOPLE

- a. feeling a bit under the weather
- b. have a night out on the town
- c. talking shop
- d. Thanks all the same.
- e. I don't feel up to
- f. put (my) foot in it
- g. to put (someone) out
- h. It's a small world, isn't it.

i. to bump into (someone)

j. Talk of the devil!

Fill in the blanks with the best idiom from the list above. Use the equivalents below each situation to help you.

1. Good night, Dick. It was a great party. Thanks for the invitation.
I hope you aren't leaving already. It's still early.
I think I'd better get home to bed. I'm _____. I
had a touch of the flu last week, and I've had a very busy week. I hope you
don't mind.

Oh no, of course not. I hope you're soon all right again.

Don't worry. I'm sure an early night will cure me.

slightly ill

2.

Mike (to Ann) ... and as for Andy, he spends a lot of time hanging
about the typing pool talking to the girls . . .

Ann Girls! You've said the magic word, Mike.

(Andy arrives)

Mike Oh, hi Andy. _____.

I was just telling Ann, here, about you.

Andy Nice things, I hope.

Mike Of course, what else?

*Expression used when the person you have just been talking about
arrives.*

3. (A few minutes later)

What are you looking so guilty about?

You know me and my big mouth. I just _____
again.

Who did you insult this time?

Well, I was talking to that tall girl over there, Ann, and telling her about
the people at the office and ... uh ... well nobody told me she was Andy's
fiancée . . .

Aw Mike! I can't take you *anywhere!*

made a social mistake

4. Get out your dress. We're going to _____.

What are we celebrating?

I've just been offered that job in Bristol.

Great! Now that's worth celebrating. Give me ten minutes and I'll be
ready to go.

go out to celebrate

5. Where are you going to, John?

The Central Station.

Jump in. We'll give you a ride. It's on our way home.

That's OK. My wife's picking me up in a couple of minutes.

Polite expression used when you completely refuse an invitation or offer.

6. Come on, come on. This is a party, not the office. You've been sitting here talking about work for the last hour. Come on and join the party.

OK. We're coming.

But you have to promise you'll stop _____.
speaking about your work

7. Excuse me. The restaurant seems to be full. Do you mind if we share this table?

No. Have a seat... For heaven's sake! Pete Fraser! Fancy meeting you so far from home.

Frank Harris! I thought you'd be slaving away back at the hospital.

Me to! I didn't know you were planning a holiday. Imagine us

(1) _____ each other in Rome of all places.

(2) _____.

(1) meeting by accident (2) Expression used when you meet someone you know whom you did not expect to see there.

8. Do you fancy going to the concert at the City Hall tonight?

Oh, John (I) _____ getting the car out again. I've had a really rough day at the office. I'm very tired.

Well, shall I come round and pick you up? It's on my way, anyway.

Are you sure? I don't want (2) _____.

No, that's fine. I'm sure you'll enjoy the concert when you get there. It'll help you to relax.

(1) I don't have the strength to (2) inconvenience you

PART IV

CONVERSATIONAL PHRASES I

In conversations, we try to persuade each other, make suggestions, agree, disagree, confirm, deny, and so on. To make our points more strongly, we use expressions. For example, instead of just replying No to a question beginning with *Do you mind . . . ?*, we might say *Not at all!* or *Not in the least. : Do you mind if I ask you something? Not at all.*

Here are some examples to show how they fit into a sentence.

Expressions

Let's face it,
What about...?
or something.
It's all very well, but
the fact of the matter is
at that
put it this way
after all,
for a start
if you ask me
nothing of the sort!
it's just that

Examples

Let's face it, nobody's perfect. (we both know this)
What about having a party this weekend?
Have a cake or a bun or a biscuit or something.
It's all very well staying up late every night, but I
have to get up early in the morning.
The fact of the matter is I still love him, although he
doesn't love me.
She was an intelligent girl, and a pretty one at that.
He wasn't very rational... put it this way, he was
mad.
After all, I've always admitted that I'm lazy.
Well, you had three sandwiches, two bananas and a
hamburger for a start, and that was before dinner.
If you ask me, old Mrs Blott never knew the people
in the flat upstairs were escaped convicts.
"You took that girl's handbag, didn't you?" "I did
nothing of the sort!"
I wanted to come to your party, it's just that my
mother was ill and I had to stay and look after her.

Study these two conversations. First, the basic conversation, without any conversational expressions. Then, the same conversation, but with conversational expressions added.

[Bob is a draughtsman. He has been out of work for the last eighteen months. His girlfriend, Val, is trying to persuade him to train for a different job].

Basic conversation

Val: Bob, you'll never get any work as a draughtsman in this town. Go on one of these government retraining schemes. Learn to be an electrician.
Bob: Training schemes are all right, but I'm a good draughtsman. Why should I train to be an electrician?
Val: Why shouldn't you? Lots of people train for other jobs nowadays.
Bob: I'll tell you why not. I'm too old.
Val: Rubbish! People in their fifties go on training schemes. You're just looking for excuses. You just don't like change.
Bob: That's not true! But I don't see why I should have to change my trade.

Conversation with expressions

- Val: Let's face it, Bob, you'll never get any work as a draughtsman in this town. So, what about going on one of these government retraining schemes? Learn to be an electrician or something.
- Bob: Training schemes are all very well, but the fact of the matter is, I'm a draughtsman, and a good one at that. Why should I train to be an electrician?
- Val: Put it this way: why shouldn't you? After all, lots of people train for other jobs nowadays.
- Bob: I'll tell you why not. For a start, I'm too old.
- Val: Rubbish! People in their fifties go on training schemes. If you ask me, you're just looking for excuses. Let's face it, you just don't like change.
- Bob: Nothing of the sort! It's just that I don't see why I should have to change my trade.

2. Here is a similar conversation. Add conversational expressions based on the word given in brackets.

- Bob: I wish I could get a job!
- Val: (*face*) _____ Bob, there aren't any jobs for draughtsmen around here. (*ask*) _____, you ought to go on a government retraining scheme? (*about*) _____ learning to be an electrician (*something*) _____?
- Bob: Well, (*start*) _____ I'm not interested in electrical work.
- Val: That's (*well*) _____, but (*matter*) _____ that you've been out of work for a year and a half and you've got to do something about it. (*way*) _____: it's better to do a job you don't like than to have no job at all.
- Bob: (*face*) _____, Val, I'm never going to get work in this town. Anyway, I'm too old to start retraining.
- Val: You're (*nothing*) _____. What's the real reason you don't want to go on a training course? Are you afraid?
- Bob: No. (*just*) _____ I don't see why I should have to change my trade. (*all*) _____, I'm a qualified draughtsman, and a good one (*that*) _____.

CONVERSATIONAL PHRASES 2

Here are some more examples of everyday phrases used in conversation.

Expressions	Examples
There's no way	There's no way I'd trust my sister's opinion about clothes.
in other words	I respect him, I admire him ... in other words I think a lot of him.
in a nutshell	I think she's aggressive, bad mannered ... rude, in a nutshell.
Talk about	Talk about rich! He paid for our dinner which cost more than a week's wages for me!
anyway...	He's completely mad but I love him anyway.
once and for all	I'm telling you once and for all NOT to take my records without asking.
..., and that's that. I like that!	I don't believe your story and that's that. "The boss told me you didn't have much work." "Well I like that! I'm doing three people's jobs at the moment!"
That'll be the day!	"They say we're getting a 10% bonus this year." "Huh! That'll be the day! We've never had a bonus yet."
Come on ... better still...	Come on, tell me where you've put my calculator! You could stay with me for the weekend - better still, you could come for the whole week.
No way!	No way would I give him a penny!

1. Study these two conversations. First, the basic conversation, without any conversational expressions. Then, the same conversation, but with conversational expressions added. Try to guess what they mean.

[Val is trying to persuade Bob to take a training course. Bob says that he doesn't see why he should change from being an actor, even if he is out of work]

Basic conversation

Bob: I won't change my profession.
Val: So you'd rather be an out-of-work actor than a well-paid electrician. That's it, isn't it?
Bob: Val, when you decide something, you never listen to anyone, do you? You are stubborn! I am NOT going on any training scheme.
Val: ME stubborn? YOU are the one that's really pig-headed. And this is all the thanks I get for trying to be helpful. Well, if that's the way you feel, I won't say another word.

Bob: I don't believe you! Let's change the subject. Come here and sit next to me.
Val: No! I only sit next to well-paid electricians!

Conversation with expressions

Bob: There's no way I'm going to change my profession.
Val: In other words, you'd rather be an out-of-work actor than a well-paid electrician. That's it in a nutshell, isn't it?
Bob: I know you, Val. When you decide something, you never listen to anyone, do you? Talk about stubborn! Anyway, once and for all, I am NOT going on any training scheme, and that's that.
Val: ME stubborn? I like that! YOU are the one that's really pig-headed. And this is all the thanks I get for trying to be helpful. Well, if that's the way you feel, I won't say another word.
Bob: That'll be the day! Come on, let's change the subject. Better still, come here and sit next to me.
Val: No way! I only sit next to well-paid electricians!

2. Here is a similar conversation. Add conversational expressions based on the word(s) given in brackets.

Bob: (once) _____, Val, I don't want to go on a training scheme. And (any) _____ I'm too old to learn new skills.
Val: Really, Bob, you can be difficult when you want to.
Bob: Me? Difficult? (like) _____! You're the one who keeps going on about training, not me. Why don't you shut up about training? Or, (better) _____, why don't YOU go on a training scheme?
Val: (way) _____! I'm not the one who's out of work!
Bob: (words) _____, you wouldn't want to change your job, either. That's it, (nutshell) _____, isn't it?
Val: (talk) _____ argumentative! (on) _____, Bob, you can't just sit there for the rest of your life. Give them a ring.
Bob: Look, (no) _____ I'm going to go on a training scheme, (that) _____. I'll soon get a great acting job.
Val: (day) _____!

CONVERSATIONAL PHRASES 3

Look at this further set of phrases used in conversation with some example sentences.

Expressions

and so on

as well

change the subject

as well as

to say nothing of

not to mention

It's a good job

Not a chance!

let alone

By the way...

or so

some ... or other

(not)... at all

It stands to reason

When it comes to X,...

a wet blanket

Examples

You'll need onions, tomatoes, peppers, mushrooms and so on.

I don't only like rock music, I like classical as well.

Whenever I want to talk to you about your homework, you always change the subject.

I like classical music as well as rock.

That cat ate all the fish, to say nothing of the turkey!

That cat ate all the fish, not to mention the turkey.

It's a good job your father wasn't alone when he fell ill.

"Do you want me to drive you to the airport."

"Not a chance! You haven't passed your test!"

I haven't had time for a cup of tea yet, let alone a sit down.

By the way, did you know that Franny got married?

For a week you'll need jeans, smart trousers and about six shirts or so.

We'll get a room in some hotel or other.

I don't like him at all.

It stands to reason you're tired - you've been working for sixteen hours.

When it comes to glamour, Ada Baggs certainly hasn't got it.

It's no use taking John to parties - he's a real wet blanket and always wants to go home at ten o'clock.

Study this conversation looking at the conversational expressions underlined.

[Brian is thinking of going to Africa on safari. His friend Ralph is discussing the idea with him.]

Ralph: You'll need tropical clothing. You know, cotton shirts, lightweight trousers, and so on. You'll need to take some medications with you as well.

Brian: Just think of the game parks! All those wonderful wild animals!

Ralph: Don't change the subject! Be practical. Have you thought about the health problems? There's typhoid and cholera to consider, as well as malaria, to say nothing of dysentery and hepatitis.

Brian: Not to mention Aids and leprosy! Don't be such a pessimist, Ralph! Just think of all the good things: driving across the bush in a Land Rover, camping out under the stars . . .

Ralph: It's a good job I don't take you seriously, Brian!

Brian: But I AM serious! Look, why don't you come with me? You'd love it, I'm sure. We could even hire a canoe and go down the Zambesi.

Ralph: Not a chance, Brian! I would get seasick crossing the river here on the ferryboat, let alone in a canoe down the Zambesi. By the way, how long do you intend to go for?

Brian: Oh, about two years or so.

Ralph: Two years? Would your employers give you such a long leave of absence?

Brian: Oh, I'll make up some excuse or other. Anyway, why should I bother to tell them anything at all?

Ralph: Well, it stands to reason that you can't go off on safari for two years without somebody noticing that you are not at your desk.

Brian: Ralph, when it comes to being adventurous, you're a real wet blanket!

2. Here is a similar conversation. Add conversational expressions based on the word(s) given in brackets.

Ralph: You'll need to take a lot of medicines with you: anti-malaria tablets (on) _____. You'll need suntan lotion (*well*) _____.

Brian: (*say nothing*) _____ aspirins and foot powder! Don't be such (*wet*) _____, Ralph!

Ralph: You can laugh, but Africa is a dangerous place, what with tropical diseases and insects, (*mention*) _____ snakes and other wild animals. 6 (*way*) _____, how do you intend to travel?

Brian: By camel. Seriously, Ralph, (*job*) _____ I don't listen to you or I would never go anywhere (*all*) _____. Tell me, how's your wife? Still working at the bank?

Ralph: (*subject*) _____. We're talking about your crazy idea to go on safari. Why don't you give it up? You know it's crazy, (*well*) _____ being dangerous.

Brian: (*chance*) _____! I've been planning the trip for the last year (so) _____, and I don't intend to give it up now just because I might get bitten by some insect (*other*) _____. You know me, Ralph. (comes) _____ adventure holidays, nothing will stop me. A hungry lion wouldn't put me off, (*alone*) _____ some miserable little insect.

Ralph: All the same, (*reason*) _____ that you cannot go to Africa without at least thinking about the dangers.

Brian: The only danger is that you might talk me out of it! Let's (*subject*) _____. How's your wife? Still working at the bank?

PART V

YUPPIES, DINKS, AND OTHER MODERNS

A Field Guide to the Last Quarter of the Twentieth Century

There is nothing new about slang nicknames for groups of people who are classified by age or lifestyle. We have had our flappers and beatniks, hippies and junkies, lounge lizards and drugstore cowboys.

During the 1980s, however, there was a whole new wave of these terms. Some of these were the creations of demographers looking for a handle to put on a group, while others were simply clever neologisms that took off. In any event, they collectively serve to show us a new form of slang that has established itself. For lack of a better description, it is the slang of groups and demographics. It is also unusual in that the British seemed as obsessed with these terms as Americans, in fact some are imports from the U.K.

Here, then, is a generous sampling of the crop that came on the scene in recent years, many of which were acronyms or derived from them. The fad of creating new ones seems to have lasted a relatively short time, but most of the terms (save for the most convoluted) seem to have stuck.

_____ A _____

afterboomers. Those born after the post World War II baby boom was over—from about 1965-74. Contrast with *baby busters* and *post-boomers*.

_____ B _____

baby boomers. Those 78 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964. In 1986, when the first baby boomer turned forty, they started to be referred to as “aging baby boomers.” They have been cited for many social changes, including this one suggested in a 1985 Knight-Ridder News Service headline: Baby Boomers Urge Washington State to Make “Louie Louie” Official Anthem.

baby busters. Consumers born from 1965 to 1974, after the baby boom subsided. This was an era of ecological concern and advocacy of zero population growth, and for the first time in history the population declined for reasons other than war or disaster. Sometimes shortened to “busters.”

biddies. (Acronym-derived) Baby boomers in debt.

bimbos. Vacuous, sometimes sexy, females. An old bit of slang given new life in the eighties, with the help of such luminaries as Jessica Hahn (who publicly denied her bimbitude) and Tammy Baker.

boomer babies. Children born between 1965 and 1979, as *baby boomers* had babies of their own.

boomers. (1) Short for *baby boomers*. (2) Those who want to exploit an area's oil, gas, and mineral deposits; who would touch off an economic boom.

buppies. (1) (Acronym-derived) British urban professionals. (2) (Acronym-derived) Black, upwardly mobile professionals.

_____ C _____

chuppie. (Acronym-derived) Chicano urban professionals.

couch potatoes. Those content to spend great amounts of their free time at home watching television. At first a term of derision, it was quickly embraced by those who took pride in their passive ways.

_____ D _____

dewks. (Acronym) Dual-Employed With Kids.

diks. (Acronym) Double (or Dual) Income, Kids. Contrast *dinks* and *siks*.

dimps. (Acronym) Couples with Double (or Dual) Income, Money Problems.

dincs. (Acronym) Couples with Double (or Dual) Income, No Children. "Dincs" came first but was superseded by "dinks" about 1987.

dinkies. (Acronym-derived) Variation on *dinks*.

dinks. (Acronym) Couples with Double (or Dual) Income, No Kids. The point of this category is that they have more disposable income than the average family. In her "Word-watch" column in *The Atlan-tic*, June 1987, Anne H. Soukhanov pointed to the distinguishing characteristics of the dink: "The women usually retain their maiden names, the couples are very career-oriented, the husband is likely to cook the meals, and they usually own property in an upscale location." The term seems to have first popped up in late 1986.

dissident yuppie or D.Y. Young urban professional who does not, fit the mold; nonconforming yuppie, or as one was quoted as saying, "Yeah, I want a BMW, but I don't necessarily like them."

droppies. (Acronym) Disillusioned Relatively Ordinary Professionals Preferring Independent Employment Situations.

dumpies. (Acronym-derived) Downwardly mobile, middle-aged professionals.

_____ E _____

echo boomers. Those born after the 1965-74 baby bust who echoed the post-World War II baby boom.

empty nesters. People whose children have left home, whose homes contain empty bedrooms.

_____ F _____

flyers. (Acronym) Fun-Loving Youth En Route to Success. Identified in 1987 by *USA Today* as a hip group aged thirteen to twenty-five years of age.

folkies. Folk music musicians and their fans.

foodie. Gastronomic faddist.

frumpies. (Acronym-derived) Formerly radical upwardly mobile persons.

fundies. Fundamental Christians. Term is likely to be seen as derogatory by those it is applied to.

_____ G _____

glams. (Acronym-derived) The graying, leisured, affluent, middle-aged. golden agers. Old people; senior citizens. The U.S. National Park Service issues passes for discounts in national parks which are called «Golden Ager» cards.

grumpies. (Acronym-derived) Grown-up mature people.

guppies. (1) (Acronym-derived) Gay, upwardly-mobile professionals. (2) *Yuppies* with ecological concerns; a blend of “green” and “yuppie.”

_____ H _____

hackers. Computer zealots who, among other things, have learned to gain entry to other people’s computer networks.

hippies. The flower children of the late 1960s and early 1970s who advocated peace, free love, and the use of whatever substance “turned you on.” The term is still used in referring to selected groups, such as some of the followers of the Grateful Dead.

hookies. Derived from “Who cares?” Hookies are college students who espouse apathy and noninvolvement. The University of Utah, an apparent hotbed of political apathy, attracted press attention in 1988 because of its large hookie population.

huppie. A blend of “hippie” and “yuppie,” for a person who is upwardly mobile but spends his spare time living unconventionally in the manner of a hippie.

_____ J _____

juppies. (Acronym-derived) Japanese urban professionals.

_____ L _____

latchkeys / latchkey kids. Children who are left at home alone for at least part of the day—an estimated five to seven million in 1988—while their parents work.

lips. (Acronym) Couples with Low Income, Parents Supporting. Coined in the wake of *dincs/dinks*.

_____ M _____

maffies. (Acronym-derived) Middle-aged affluent folks.

mallies. Young people who hang around shopping malls.

mensans. Members of Mensa, an organization for people who score in the top two percent of standardized IQ tests. The term is from the Latin word for table and connotes a meeting of minds.

moonies. Followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

moss. (Acronym-derived) Middle-aged, overstressed, semi-affluent suburbanite.

muppies. (Acronym-derived) Mennonite urban professionals. Presented as evidence of how far people have taken the *yuppie* premise. It was spotted by teacher and writer Robert S. Greenman, who spotted it in Amish country in 1987.

_____ N _____

new-collar. Term created for the middle class of the *baby boomers* in the context of the workplace. Also called “new-collar workers.”

_____ O _____

oilies. American petroleum workers, but usually used in a foreign context, such as “one of the thousands of American oilies in Indo-nesia.”

_____ P _____

phonies. People hooked on talking on the telephone.

pink collar. Term for lower-level clerical workers, who are almost always women. The term connotes a level of employment that falls just short of white collar.

pink neck. Sophisticated first cousin of the Red Neck.

post-boomers. People born in 1965 and afterward: after the baby boom.

post-yup. Describing the world of the affluent after the 1987 stock market tumble. It has been described as a less ostentatious world in which making a living has replaced making a killing.

posy-sniffers. Derogatory term for environmentalists, commonly shortened to *sniffers*.

preboomers. Those born during or just prior to World War II, from about 1935 through 1945.

preppies. People who go to, or went to, private preparatory (or prep) schools.

puppies. (Acronym-derived) Poor urban professionals.

_____ R _____

rubbies. (Acronym-derived) Rich urban bikers.

Rumpie. (Acronym-derived) Rural, upwardly mobile professional. The Longman *Guardian New Words* defines a rumpie as a “relatively af-fluent and basically conservative young person living in a rural area and engaged in a professional career.”

_____ S _____

sandwich generation. Those couples who find themselves responsible for elderly parents and young children at the same time.

siks. (Acronym) Single Income, Kids.

skippies. (Acronym-derived) School kids with income and purchasing power. Coined in the summer of 1987 by marketing people targeting this group.

skoteys. (Acronym-derived) Spoiled kids of the eighties.

sniffers. Derogatory label for environmentalists who are often at odds with boomers; it is short for *posy-sniffer*.

snow birds. Northerners who head south in the winter to escape the ice, cold, and snow.

sofa spuds. Synonym for *couch potatoes*.

spec taters. Synonym for *couch potatoes*.

_____ T _____

taffy. (Acronym-derived) Technologically advanced family. At a minimum, a taffy owns a computer.

techies / tekky. Technicians, especially those associated with electronics and computers.

ticks. (Acronym) Two Income Couple with Kids in School (and parents in retirement). Columnist Ellen Goodman termed them the “most-wooded voters of the 1988 election.”

toolies. Technical folks (architects, engineers, surveyors, programmers, etc.) who are absorbed with numbers, science, and mechanical pencils (which they pull out in restaurants to make calculations). Given a boost in Stephen dark’s 1987 *Toolies: The Official Handbook of Engineers and Applied Scientists*.

truppie. A truck driver whose family travels in living space behind the cab of the truck. The quarters are configured like house trailers and ideally suited to husband-and-wife driving teams.

_____ U _____

un-yuppies. Term created for those who do not share *yuppie* values, who, for example, are young and professional but don’t care much about high status European cars.

Uppie Yuppie. Young urban professional living in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Anyone from the U.P. is an *Uppie*.

_____ W _____

wimps. The weak, meek, and the cowardly. Old slang that was propelled into the new in 1987 when it was applied to George Bush. *Newsweek* ran a cover story entitled “George Bush: Fighting the “Wimp Factor.” This so-called W-word picked up a quick set of derivatives, including these cited

by the Los Angeles *Daily News*: wimpy, wimpish, wimpdom, wimpism, wimplike, wimp out, and wimpismo.

woofies. (Acronym-derived) Those who are well off, over fifty.

woofs. (Acronym) Well-Off Older Folks.

woopies. (Acronym-derived) Well-off older people.

Y

yaps. (Acronym) Young Aspiring Professionals.

yavis. (Acronym) Those who are Young, Attractive, Verbal, Intelligent, and Successful.

yeepies. (Acronym-derived) Youthful, energetic elderly people involved in everything.

yippies. (1) (Acronym-derived) Young indictable professional person, a name born of the insider stock-trading scandals. Not to be confused with: (2) (Acronym-derived) Members of the Youth Inter-national Party, which became known in the late 1960s for their civil disobedience and antiwar protests. (3) Younger impoverished people.

yorkie. A New York *yuppie*.

Y-people. Same as *Yuppies*.

yucas. (Acronym-derived) Young, upwardly mobile Cuban-Americans.

yuffie. (Acronym-derived) Young urban failure, generally a *baby boomer* making less than \$10,000 a year. In her book *Too Smart to Be Rich: On Being a Yuffie*, Patty Friedman says, “The yuffie was born with the trappings of success and infinite potential—his daddy’s rich and his mamma’s good-looking and his IQ’s over 135. He’d be a yuppie if he weren’t so smart. But he ran it all into the ground with the aplomb and finesse of a true genius.”

yukkies. Young, upwardly mobile communist—term created in the pages of the *National Review* for Gorbachev’s supporters.

yummies. (Acronym-derived) Young upwardly mobile mommies.

yumpies. Young upwardly mobile professionals—*yuppies* who earn less than \$40,000 a year (or did in 1984, when the term came on the scene).

yuppies. (Acronym-derived) Young urban professionals with a taste for BMW’s, Rolex watches, jogging suits, imported bottled water, and fashionable restaurants.

The term was first put in print and popularized by writer Bob Greene in an article in *Esquire* (March 1983) on “networking parties” sponsored by former radical leader Jerry Rubin. Writing in the newspaper *Newsday* (April 7, 1985) Erica Jong pointed out that it was a corruption of “Yippie,” which was Rubin’s own Youth International Party.

The publication of *The Yuppie Handbook* in January 1984 gave the term a monumental boost. The concept and the term were said to have lost their

relevance with the stock market crash of October 19, 1987.

Derivates spawned by the term include yuppification, yuppiesque, yupguilt, yuppieback (book aimed at the yuppie reader), yupsters (yuppie gangsters), yuppie tax (such as one put on health-club membership) yuptopia, yuppyish, yuppie-gate (for any scandal involving yuppie greed), yuplet (Herb Caen's term for a child yuppie).

LESSON 5

PART I

YPOK 5

About the F-Word

Throughout the centuries, different topics have been considered incendiary at different times. Several hundred years ago, for example, religious profanity was the most unforgivable type of expression. In more recent times, words for body parts and explicitly sexual vocabulary have been the most shocking: in nineteenth-century America even the word *leg* was considered indecent; the proper substitute was *limb*. Now, racial or ethnic epithets are the scourge; one prominent professor told *U.S. News & World Report* in 1994 that if she used *fuck* in class, no one would bat an eye, but she would never dare to use any racial epithet in any context.

The increasing acceptance of *fuck* in American society is not a sign that its use should be encouraged. Any sort of language has a time and a place appropriate to its use. It would be as misguided to say that *fuck* should be used everywhere as it would be narrow-minded to insist upon its suppression.

Our Contemporary State of Mind

Today, it seems that the taboos against the F-word are weaker than ever. While a few publications (*The New York Times*, for one) still refuse to print *fuck* regardless of the circumstances, the word can be found quite easily in most places. Even commercial television, still subject to FCC regulations, is becoming somewhat more open in its use. Modern talk shows, with their confrontational attitude encourage behavior that lends itself readily to this sort of language. For example, *The Jerry Springer Show* had a segment recently where a guest used the word *mother fucker*, and rather than bleeping over the whole word, or even the last element, only the *-u-* was apparently bleeped: there was no question at all as to what the word was. In 1994, Phil Donahue on his talk show uttered the word *cunt* (in relating and condemning an employer's insult to a female employee) without any sort of

bleep, and without any noticeable reaction from the audience. And it is becoming more and more acceptable to use *fuck* in social contexts that would have been unthinkable even a generation ago.

Given the current state of the F-word, it may be difficult to believe that the word may not have been *openly* printed in any form in the United States until 1926, when it appeared once, and without generating any controversy (the word is still included in the book's tenth printing), in Howard Vincent O'Brien's anonymously published *Wine, Women and War*, his diary of the years 1917-19. It is worth noting that he used it in a figurative sense, and was explicitly quoting an Australian soldier. Fuck is found in James Joyce's *Ulysses* (first published in book form in 1922), which was finally admitted into the United States by a court decision in 1933, though clandestine copies had been circulating for some time before. (It took until 1959 for D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* to pass the court test.) But it was not until the 1950s and '60s that *fuck* was frequently printed in full in mainstream fiction and nonfiction, usually in non-literal senses. Norman Mailer was persuaded to substitute the invented variant "fug" in his first novel *The Naked and the Dead*, published in 1948; James Jones was able to use the correctly spelled *fuck* in 1931 in *From Here to Eternity*. Both of these novels about World War II were shocking to many Americans, despite the fact that they accurately reported the way soldiers actually spoke.

In the 1960s and 70s, with its liberating attitudes toward personal freedom, the use of *fuck* grew still more. Though mainstream proprieties still largely frowned upon the use of the word, the behavior of many of the younger generation forced people to pay attention. Some notable examples of the time include the rise to popularity of the comedian Lenny Bruce; the inclusion of *fuck* in a general dictionary apparently for the first time since 1793; Country Joe leading the throngs at Woodstock in the "fuck cheer" ("Gimme an F!..."); a Federal Court finding that a "Fuck the Draft" sign on a man's jacket represented protected political speech; and the inclusion of *fuck*, spelled out in full, in large-circulation general periodicals such as *Harper's*, *Atlantic*, and *Playboy*.

PART II

HEARTFELT WORDS

In the English language, the heart is often used to denote the seat of passion, compassion, courage, and intelligence. Of all the parts of the body, the heart is the one that throbs most pervasively through our daily conversation. If, for example, we are deeply saddened, we might say that we

are *heartsick*, *heartbroken*, *downhearted*, *heavy-hearted*, or *discouraged*. At the heart of *discouraged* beats the Latin *cor*, “heart,” giving the word the literal meaning of “disheartened.” Or if we wish to emphasize our sincerity, we might say *heartfelt*, *with all my heart*, *from the bottom of my heart*, or *in my heart of hearts*.

If something pleases us greatly, we might drag out *heart’s delight* or *it warms the cockles of my heart*. The latter is a somewhat redundant statement; a cockle is a bivalve mollusk of the genus *cardium* (Latin “heart”) that takes its name from its shape, which resembles that of a human heart.

It was once the custom for a young man to attach to his sleeve a gift for his sweetheart or to wear her name embroidered on his sleeve, thus displaying his feelings for the world to see. Seizing on this practice, Shakespeare gave the world the expression *to wear one’s heart on one’s sleeve*, meaning “to show one’s emotions.” In *Othello*, Iago says: “For when my outward action doth demonstrate/The native act and figure of my heart/In compliment extern, ’tis not long after/But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve.”

BODY LANGUAGE

Engaging in mental games is as beneficial to the mind as physical exercise is to the body. Various studies show that playing chess, solving crossword puzzles, and grappling with logic problems energize the brain and can even elevate the I.Q.

As you have opened this unit and are reading this page, you are clearly a nimble-witted person who craves exercise for your verbal muscles, sensing that such activity will hone your intelligence. It seems appropriate, then, that before you read the next paragraph, you take a few minutes to write down all the adjectives you can think of to describe someone who is very intelligent.

Chances are that among your answers are words like:

<i>bright</i>	<i>acute</i>
<i>brilliant</i>	<i>clever</i>
<i>dazzling</i>	<i>incisive</i>
<i>lucid</i>	<i>keen</i>
<i>scintillating</i>	<i>sharp</i>

If you carefully examine these two lists of adjectives, you will notice that each clusters around a single basic concept. All the words on the left compare intelligence to light, including *scintillating*, which descends from the Latin *scintilla*, meaning “spark,” and all the words on the right compare intelligence to the edge of a knife, including *clever*, which can be traced directly back to the Old English *cleave* and *cleaver*.

Such comparisons are called metaphors. A metaphor (the word

originally meant “carry beyond”) is a figure of speech that merges two objects or ideas that are, for the most part, different from each other but turn out to be alike in some significant way. We usually think of metaphors as figurative devices that only poets create, but, in fact, all of us make metaphors during almost every moment of our waking lives. As T. E. Hulme has proclaimed, “Prose is a museum where all the old weapons of poetry are kept.”

Now think of the tag phrases we use to identify loopy, wiggly, or wifty people who are short on intelligence, judgment, or sanity. Here again English speakers press into service a battalion of figurative comparisons:

light metaphors: he’s rather dim; the light’s on, but nobody’s home;

food metaphors: she’s a few cookies short of a dozen, his pail is empty, her kernel never popped, he’s a couple of cans short of a six-pack, the butter slipped off her noodle, he’s two sandwiches short of a picnic, she’s not cooking on all burners, there aren’t any beans in his pod, she’s one doughnut shy of a dozen, he puts mustard on his Froot Loops, somebody blew out her pilot light;

nautical metaphors: he doesn’t have both oars in the water; her line’s in the water, but the bait’s missing; she hasn’t packed a full seabag;

car metaphors: his brain is stuck in first gear, her tank is low, his motor isn’t hitting on all cylinders, her battery is dead, he’s running on empty, she’s driving in reverse, she’s got one wheel in the sand;

building-trade metaphors: it’s a nice house, but nobody’s home; his elevator doesn’t go all the way to the top; she’s one brick short of a full load; he has a few screws loose; her vacancy sign is always on; the top rung of his ladder is missing; she’s a tad off of plumb; he has a room for rent; she’s off her hinges; he has a leak in the think tank; her fence doesn’t have all its pickets; there are termites in his attic.

Metaphors are a way of explaining the abstract in terms of the concrete. Small wonder that we take our most common metaphors from things that surround us in our daily lives and that we find a rich vein of descriptive phrases in the most familiar of all the things in our lives— our own bodies.

Whether you’re a high- or a lowbrow, here’s some knee-slapping good fun that you can really sink your teeth into. Try your hand at getting a leg up on some head-to-toe body language. Complete each of the following phrases by using an anatomical part listed below, as in “*rule of thumb*” and “*tongue in cheek*.” For the record, we get *rule of thumb*, “a rough measure or guideline,” from the days when rulers (of the measuring kind) were uncommon and people used the length of the thumb from the knuckle to the tip as an approximate measure of one inch. If you speak literally tongue in

cheek, people will have a hard time understanding you. The phrase descends from the old custom of puffing the cheek out with the tongue to indicate that something facetious or insincere has been said:

Anatomical Parts

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| • <i>arm</i> | • <i>finger</i> | • <i>mouth</i> |
| • <i>artery</i> | • <i>flesh</i> | • <i>nail</i> |
| • <i>back</i> | • <i>foot</i> | • <i>neck</i> |
| • <i>belly</i> | • <i>gut</i> | • <i>nose</i> |
| • <i>body</i> | • <i>hand</i> | • <i>rib</i> |
| • <i>bone</i> | • <i>hair</i> | • <i>scalp</i> |
| • <i>brain</i> | • <i>head</i> | • <i>shoulder</i> |
| • <i>breast</i> | • <i>heart</i> | • <i>skeleton</i> |
| • <i>brow</i> | • <i>heel</i> | • <i>spine</i> |
| • <i>cheek</i> | • <i>intestine</i> | • <i>spleen</i> |
| • <i>chest</i> | • <i>knee</i> | • <i>stomach</i> |
| • <i>chin</i> | • <i>knuckle</i> | • <i>throat</i> |
| • <i>craw</i> | • <i>leg</i> | • <i>thumb</i> |
| • <i>ear</i> | • <i>limb</i> | • <i>toe</i> |
| • <i>elbow</i> | • <i>lip</i> | • <i>tongue</i> |
| • <i>eye</i> | • <i>liver</i> | • <i>tooth</i> |
| • <i>face</i> | • <i>lung</i> | • <i>whisker</i> |

1. _____ of a needle
2. _____ of contention
3. _____ of the matter
4. _____ of lettuce
5. _____ of a river
6. _____ of a journey
7. _____ of a shoe
8. _____ of an essay
9. that _____ of the woods
10. a _____ nail sketch
11. vent one's _____
12. _____ -tickling
13. wet behind the _____
14. get it off your _____
15. give the cold _____
16. take it on the _____
17. _____ reaction
18. _____ -jerk reaction
19. _____ grease

20. _____ service
21. _____ the bill
22. _____ the line
23. _____ under
24. _____ in the closet
25. make a clean _____ of things
26. a cut _____
27. a main _____ of traffic
28. to turn up your _____ at
29. get off my _____
30. fighting _____ and _____
31. yell at the top of your _____ s
32. to split _____ s
33. _____ al fortitude
34. to _____ beat
35. a back _____ ed compliment
36. sticks in your _____
37. tear _____ from _____
38. turn the other _____
39. have no _____ for
40. _____ pots
41. safe by a _____
42. _____ storm
43. save _____
44. kick up your _____ s
45. up in _____ s
46. put the _____ on
47. lily- _____ ed
48. _____ less coward
49. a _____ laugh
50. a ticket _____ er

Sex, the Body, and Bodily Functions

R-Rated Terms You Probably Won't Find in Your Collegiate Dictionary

First came sexual euphemism. There was a time when Dr. Thomas Bowdler brought us a cleaned-up edition of Shakespeare's works in which a "gipsy's lust" became a "gipsy's will." And there were the writers of the last century who could not bring themselves to write words like *trousers* and

breeches and settled for terms like *inexpressibles* and *unmentionables*.

Slang of the most forthright kind came forward to replace all of this. It was there all the time, but this was center-stage stuff. Linguistically, we let it all hang out, and modern speakers and writers held nothing back — “today an asterisk in a book is as rare as a virgin in life,” said one startled critic not that long ago. When the smoke cleared, all the old dirty words and their hyphenated variations were in standard dictionaries, and Hollywood started vetting scripts by making sure these words were included, not excluded. (Is it my imagination or is there a law that requires all movies made after 1965 to have the word *asshole* in the dialogue?) Small town theaters offered X-rated movies with titles like the redundant *Sluts in Heat*, and couples went shopping for sexual toys as if they were out to buy a Cuisinart.

Of late, however, it has become apparent that the words that the Federal Communications Commission used to call the “big six” (those that could not be used on the radio: piss, fart, shit, fuck, cock, and cunt) will always be with us and for all intents and purposes are no longer slang, but part of standard dictionary English. Many of them have little or nothing to do with sex or elimination anymore but are what kids used to call “curse words.”

Modern sexual slang, on the other hand, does not make the dictionary and tends to be more of a throwback to euphemism than four-letter-word directness. We hung on to some of the Victorian urge to euphemize. In 1990 it is still common to ask a woman visitor if she “would like to powder her nose,” and there are those who call a graveyard a “garden of remembrance.” Euphemism has made the universe a little less perilous and harsh. Without a little euphemism, strikes would be harder to avert, fights would be harder to avoid, and parents would be dumbstruck when it came to explaining “the birds and the bees.”

Here are a number of the terms—old and new—that are part of today’s sexual slang. By its nature it is a sampling. One could make a list of more than a hundred of the coded terms used only in personal classified ads, and several hundred nicknames for the penis.

_____ A _____

adult. Dirty; sexually explicit.

ass bandit. Homosexual, male.

_____ B _____

bag. Condom.

bazongas. Breasts.

B.C. Birth control.

bearded clam. Female genitalia.

beauty spot. Female genitalia.

bed hop. To sleep around.

belly ride. Copulation.
bi/bicycle. Bisexual.
big brown eyes. Nipples and areolas.
big daddy. Penis.
blow your top. Achieve sexual climax.
blue steeler. A particularly virile erection.
boner. Erection.
boobs. Breasts.
bouncy-bouncy. Sexual act.
box tonsils. (Collegiate) To kiss passionately.
breeder. Homosexual term for a heterosexual.
buckets. Breasts.

_____ C _____

cakes. Buttocks.
catcher's mitt. Diaphragm.
Coney Island whitefish. Condom.
cork. Tampon.
crack of heaven. Female genitalia.
cum. Semen.
cut. circumcised.

_____ D _____

daisy chain. Three or more people linked sexually at the same time.
diddle. (1) To copulate. (2) To play with sexually.
D.O.M. Dirty old man.
dry run. To bring to climax without undressing.
dyke. Homosexual, female.

_____ E _____

ear sex. Phone sex.
eleventh finger. The penis.
enema bandit. Homosexual.
exhaust pipe. The anus.

_____ F _____

family jewels. Male genitalia.
fern. Female genitalia.
fish skin. Condom.
flesh session. Copulation.
French letter. Condom.
French tickler. Condom.
fun bags. Breasts.

_____ G _____

Garden of Eden. The female genitalia.

getting your plumbing snaked. One of a number of terms for sexual intercourse in the “getting your” genre: getting your drain cleaned, getting your rocks off, getting your ashes hauled, etc.

glove. Condom.

go over the mountain. Achieve sexual climax.

group grope. Orgy.

G spot. An erotic zone or point of passion. Originally a specific spot on the upper vaginal wall and named for its discoverer, German gynecologist Ernst Grafenberg, it is now used generically.

_____ H _____

hide the salami. Copulate.

hobble. To have sex.

hobblor. Slut.

hooters. Breasts.

horizontal bop. (*Collegiate*) Copulation.

horse. Condom, specifically a Trojan (from Trojan horse).

Hudson River whitefish. Condom.

hump. To copulate.

hung. Describing a well-en-dowed male; big. Often stated in simile form as “hung like a bull,” “hung like a rabbit,” etc.

_____ J _____

jo-bag / jolly bag. Condom.

Johnnie. Penis.

joy hole. Female genitalia.

_____ K _____

knob. Penis.

kosher. Circumcised.

_____ L _____

labonza. Buttocks.

lay your cane in a dusty corner. To copulate. This metaphor implies the participants may be old.

lech. Lecher.

les. Lesbian.

love juice. Semen.

lubie. Lubricated condom.

_____ M _____

Magnum. Oversized condom or penis.

Manhattan eel. Condom.

maracas. Breasts.

marital aid. Sexual toy such as a vibrator or dildo.

Maypole. Large penis.

McQ. Quickie, from the Mc of McDonald's of fast-food fame.

Mount Joy. Female genitalia.

Mr. Happy. Penis.

mustache ride. Oral sex. In this regard sideburns are "thigh ticklers."

_____ N _____

nookie. Sexual intercourse.

nooner. Sex at noon. (Incidentally, the sentence "Sex at noon taxes" is a palindrome, a word or sentence that reads the same forward and backward.)

_____ O _____

O. Orgasm.

one-eyed wonder. Penis.

one-night stand. One-time sexual encounter.

OTR. "On the rag"; menstruating.

over the shoulder boulder holder. Bra.

_____ P _____

parallel parking. (Collegiate) Copulate.

parsley patch. Pubic hair. By extension, "to take a trip around the parsley patch" is to have sex.

Peter, Paul, and Mary. Мйnage a trois.

plug. Tampon.

pluke. To have sexual intercourse.

pood. (Rhymes with "wood") Penis.

pop one's cookies. Ejaculate.

porking. Copulation.

Port Said garter. Condom.

propho. Condom.

prunes. Testicles.

pud. Penis.

punchboard. Promiscuous female.

_____ Q _____

quickie. Fast sexual interlude.

_____ R _____

racks. Breasts.

raincoat. Condom.

Roman. A person with a proclivity for orgies, used in personal classified ads.

roto rooter. Penis.

rough rider. Ribbed condom.

_____ S _____

safe. Condom. This is an old term meaning “to have sex with birth control” but given a new meaning in the context of “safe sex.”

shoot your wad. To achieve sexual climax.

shower cap. Condom.

shtup. To copulate.

skin. Condom.

slam. (1) Sexual intercourse. (2) Female genitalia.

snatch. Female genitalia.

stern-wheeler. Homosexual, mate.

strange. Sex with a stranger or out-of-towner, as in “Got me some strange.”

switch hitter. Bisexual person.

_____ T _____

T&A. Tits and ass.

tatas. Breasts.

threesome. Sex involving three people.

titty shake. Topless bar.

tongue wrestle. Deep kissing.

tonsil hockey. (Collegiate) Deep kissing.

toys. Sexual aids and pleasure enhancers.

trouser trout. Penis. By extension, “fishing for trouser trout” is masturbation, while “fishing for brown trout” is anal intercourse.

tube steak. Penis.

T.V. Transvestite.

twig. Vibrator with a slender business end.

_____ U _____

udders. Breasts.

_____ V _____

Venus mound. Female genitalia.

_____ W _____

wall job. Stand-up sex.

W/E. Well-endowed, in the code of the personal classifieds.

wide on. Female version of *hard on*: aroused.

_____ X _____

XXX. Particularly graphic and explicit depiction of sex.

_____ Y _____

Y, the. Crotch, female. By extension, “eating at the Y” is cunnilingus, oral sex.

Choose the Part of the Body

Fill in the missing words from the sentences below. Choose from the following, using plural forms where necessary.

arm	bone	cheek	foot	heart	nerve
back	brain	chest	hair	leg	stomach
blood	breast	finger	hand	mouth	tooth

1. Being retired, he suddenly found himself with lots of time on his but with little to do to occupy it.
2. You need to have a strong to work in a slaughterhouse.
3. He got up very late this morning and then had the to complain about his breakfast being cold!
4. She had a sweet and couldn't resist buying chocolates and cream cakes.
5. None of the students liked Mr Baker. In fact, everyone was glad to see the of him when he left to teach in Italy.
6. I think I'll go and stretch my I've been sitting down all morning and I'm feeling a bit stiff.
7. I've got an essay to write on the history of computing. Unfortunately, I don't know anything about it, so do you mind if I pick your ?
8. He used to love mountain-climbing, but when a friend of his was killed in the Himalayas he lost his and never went climbing again.
9. The viewers were up in when the television station announced it was going to change the time of the evening news broadcast from 9 o'clock to 9.30.
10. There's something wrong somewhere. I can't put my on what it is exactly, but something just doesn't feel right.
11. The cruel way some owners treat their pets makes my boil.
12. "Hurry up, Dorothy! The taxi's waiting!" "All right, keep your on! I'm coming."

13. Getting a problem off your..... is the first stage to being able to solve it.
14. She decided to make a clean..... of everything and confess that she was the one who had stolen the money.
15. You'd better be careful what you say to Samantha. You know how sensitive she is to criticism—she takes everything to.....
16. I think there's going to be trouble at the meeting tonight; I can feel it in my
17. David and the new boss seem to have got off on the wrong Poor David! There go his chances for promotion.
18. Stop putting words into my! I never said opera was boring, I just said I preferred musicals, that's all.

PART III

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Fill in the missing words in the following newspaper headlines. Choose from the following. (The words in brackets under each headline should help you.)

A FLASH IN THE PAN	FROSTY	MAKE A COMEBACK
ALL THE RAGE	GET THE CHOP	MAKE A FLYING VISIT
BLACKOUT	GETS COLD FEET	NECK AND NECK
CAUGHT IN THE ACT	GETS OUT OF HAND ON THE DOLE	
COME INTO FORCE	HIGH AND LOW	WORK TO RULE
FOR THE HIGH JUMP		

**POLICE
SEARCH**

①

**FOR
MISSING
SCHOOL-
CHILDREN**

(everywhere)

**1,000 CIVIL
SERVANTS**

②

(to lose their jobs)

**MORE THAN
2 MILLION
WORKERS**

③

(out of work)

**FOREIGN
SECRETARY
TO**

⑤

(be dismissed)

EXCITING

⑥

**FINISH IN
GRAND
NATIONAL**

(side by side)

GOVERNMENT

④

**ON NEW
NUCLEAR
POWER
STATION
PROJECT**

(becomes afraid)

**TRANSPORT
WORKERS
THREATEN
TO**

⑦

(work the minimum number
of hours – no overtime)

2-HOUR ⁽⁸⁾

**CAUSES
LUNCHTIME
CHAOS**
(electricity failure)

**NEW VIDEO
PHONES
JUST** ⁽⁹⁾

(a passing novelty)

**AMERICAN
PRESIDENT
TO** ⁽¹⁰⁾

**TO THE
MIDDLE
EAST**
(make a quick trip)

**WELCOME
FOR PRIME
MINISTER** ⁽¹¹⁾

(unfriendly)

**PEACEFUL
DEMONSTRA-
TION** ⁽¹²⁾

(gets out of control)

**LEATHER
EARRINGS** ⁽¹³⁾

(very fashionable)

**WELCOME
FOR PRIME
MINISTER** ⁽¹¹⁾

(unfriendly)

**PEACEFUL
DEMONSTRA-
TION** ⁽¹²⁾

(gets out of control)

**LEATHER
EARRINGS** ⁽¹³⁾

(very fashionable)

**RUSSIAN
SPY** ⁽¹⁴⁾

(found spying)

**FAMOUS
POP STAR
OF THE 70s
TO** ⁽¹⁵⁾

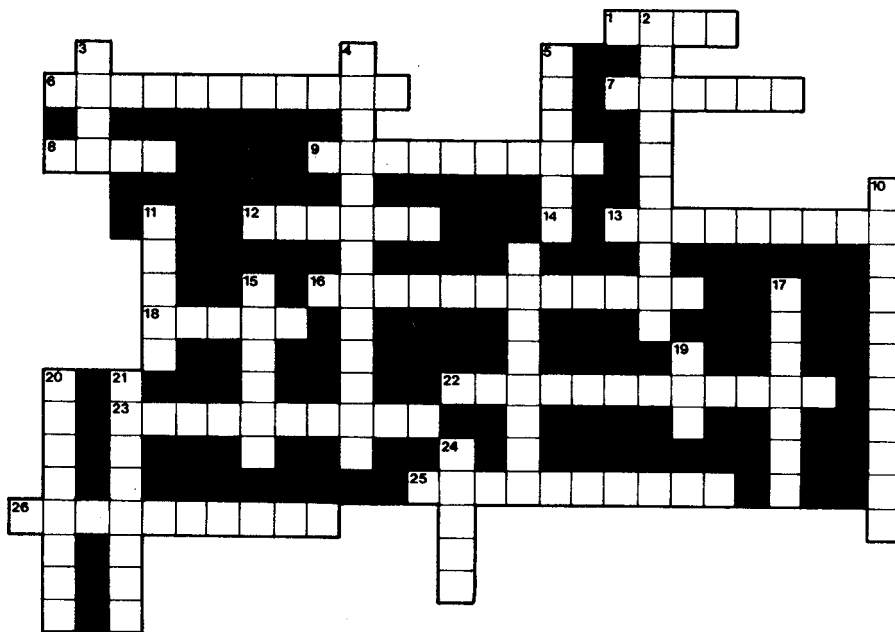
(try to be popular again)

**NEW
IMMIGRATION
LAWS** ⁽¹⁶⁾

ON JULY 1ST
(become law)

COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD

Complete the following crossword by finding one word for each of the idioms in *italics*.



ACROSS


1. You'd better ask your father if you can borrow the car this time; you know what a *song and dance* he made last time.
6. I can't stand the new boss; he's always *finding fault with* my work.
7. They all looked so nice that I couldn't *make up my mind* which one to buy.
8. Don't expect Tom to buy you a drink, he's far too *tight-fisted*.
9. Don't ask me to do anything else tonight - I'm *all in*.
12. Make yourself at home, Jill, I'll be with you in a *tick*.
13. There's always a *racket* at that market on Saturday morning.
16. She was really *down in the dumps* when she didn't get that job - she'd set her heart on it.
18. "You look tired, Joanna."
"Yes, I am. All I want to do tonight *is put my feet up*."
22. It wasn't an accident at all - she did it *on purpose*. I saw her!
23. My visits to my old school are very *few and far between* nowadays.
25. His speech was interesting but a lot of what he said was *off the point*. He should have kept more to the main subject.

26. That dog of theirs really *put the wind up* me. I honestly didn't think we'd get out of there in one piece.

DOWN

2. Her husband has been *out of work* since 1986.
3. No, put your money away. The drinks are *on the house* tonight.
4. We can't really let the new boy do it - he's far too green.
5. Everything seems to be *above board*, but there's something that doesn't feel quite right. I just wish I knew what it was.
10. Seeing as they're both teachers, it's not surprising really that their children are *brainy*.
11. Would you two *get a move on*; we haven't got all night!
14. The holiday was an *out and out* disaster. Everything went wrong from start to finish.
15. Well, that's another \$10 *down the drain*. That's the last time I put a bet on a horse.
17. That car I bought from your brother is a *dead loss*. It's been in and out of the garage at least twenty times since I bought it.
19. They left the restaurant leaving me to *foot the bill*.
20. Although they have been working on the problem for weeks, they still haven't made very much *headway*.
21. "I think it's a lot harder for a woman to combine a career and a family than it is for a man." "I *beg to differ*! There's absolutely no difference whatsoever."
24. She must be *off her head* to turn down the chance of a month's free holiday to the West Indies.

PART IV. Listening

 Listen to the tape (ECP-II) and write down the texts of the songs: Vanilla Ice "Ice Ice Baby"; P. M. "Set down adrift on memory bliss"; Heavy D "Now that we've found love"; Tone Loc "Funky Gold Medina".

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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК
ПРАКТИКА РЕЧИ
ЮНИТА 9**

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