

101 English Words You'll Never Learn in School



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INTRODUCTION

One of the problems with school is that they teach you language as if you were learning so that you could write a textbook. They don't recognize that most language is spoken much different than the "proper" way it's written.

Even the spelling of certain words like "going to" and "want to" are often spelt phonetically (gonna and wanna) in informal dialogs like SMS, email, and Facebook.

The most important part of learning a language is to be able to communicate with your fellow human beings. Here we have compiled 101 words and sayings that will help you communicate, understand, and express yourself as if you were a native speaker.

The English language is a beautiful, expressive language that uses many idioms and phrases. While this can make the language beautiful for native speakers, it can very difficult for non-natives to be able to understand.

The Western world emphasizes individuality which tends to bring into existence different slang ways to say the same thing, although they usually have slightly different contexts.

Slang is some of the most interesting parts of learning a new language as it gives color, vibrance, and creativity.

Slang is also some of the most useful words to know and understand if you want to master the language.

Included in this ebook are 101 of the most common words and expressions that you will never learn in school.

We have focused on the phrases and words that are used the most in everyday life, and are therefore in your best interest to know.

Master these words and phrases and you will be on the fast track to being confused with a native speaker.

Each phrase is divided into different sections to help you understand it more deeply.

The different sections are:

When to use it—To help you understand the appropriate context for the word or phrase.

Variations—Different but similar ways to say the same expression.

Add-ons—Other words that are often added before or after the phrase.

Usage notes—Information about the phrase, how formal or informal the phrase is, and other uses of the expression.

Pronunciation tips—Help with pronouncing the word like a native. If learning the English language is important to you, it's very important to hear a native help you will the correct pronunciation. You can only learn so much about how to speak from text.

Examples—Giving you real world examples where the phrase or word is used. The best way to get an idea of how these phrases are used is to see how natives speakers use them in real world, everyday conversations. It doesn't matter if you have a flawless accent if you say the wrong wrong phrase at the wrong time.

SEVEN DIFFERENT WAYS TO SAY "FRIEND"



These ways to say friend can also be used if you forget someone's name. You will probably use the following A LOT (which is why they're put first), so it's important to know when to use them and the differences between them.

Most of these words are only used by guys and for guys. Sometimes girls will say these words, but it's not as common.

1. DUDE

When to use it: Can be used with males you know and even those you don't know.

Usage Notes: Depending on the tone and context, it can also be used to express sadness.

Pronunciation Tips: When used to express sadness, it is drawn out like, "duuuude."

Examples:

- "Yo *dude*, long time no see."
- "I can't go to the Real Life English event because I don't live in Brazil..."
"Duuuude, that sucks..."

2. BRO

When to use it: Usually used when talking to your brother or someone you feel really close to. But lately it's commonly used when talking to any other male.

Variations: Brotha' (short for brother) usually has a stronger context to being a real brother than "bro." In other words, you would not greet someone you just met as "brotha'," but you could greet them as "bro."

Usage Notes: Short for brother. Originally, bro was used when someone is close enough to you that they feel like a brother, but lately bro has also been used to refer to any male. A common phrase for someone who wants to get into a fight is to say to the other person, "Come at me bro," with their hands raised in the air. Obviously in this case, bro is just another way of getting the attention of another male.



Examples:

- "What's up, *my brotha'*?? Long time no see."
- Someone you've never met before says: "Hey *bro*, you dropped your wallet."

3. HOMIE

When to use it: When referring to a really good friend, usually in a greeting.

Variations: Homes, homeslice

Usage Notes: Can also be used to talk about how good a friend is.

Examples:

- "What's up *homes*?"
- "Josh cooked lunch for me, he's such a *homie*."
- "Yo *homeslice*, what's crackin'?" (see page 12)

4. MAN

When to use it: Is commonly used in place of someone's name.

Usage Notes: Can also be used to express dismay, based on context and tone of voice.

Pronunciation Tips: When used to express sadness, it is drawn out to "maaan," (similar to dude).

Examples:

- "Hey *man*, what's up?"
- "Maaan... I can't find my keys..."

5. MATE

When to use it: Used to refer to a good friend.

Usage Notes: Is often used by people from the U.K. and Australia.

Example:

- (On the phone), "Hey, I'm just at the bar with my *mates*."

6. BUDDY

When to use it: Buddy is a playful way to call someone friend. Most often used when first greeting someone or in a playful tone.

Variations: Bud.

Usage Notes: A common nickname to call a dog to the dog.

Examples:

- "Hey, what's up *buddy*?"
- "Hey did you know I can dunk?" (a basketball)
"Yeah, whatever you say *buddy*..."
- To a dog, "Come here *buddy*!"

7. DAWG

When to use it: In place of a good friend's name.

Usage Notes: Dawg has a gangster background, but is common with mainstream society.



Pronunciation Tips: Is usually said with a ebonic accent and/or when people are pretending to be gangster (usually in a playful way). It's sometimes pronounced as if it were spelt “daowg.”

Examples:

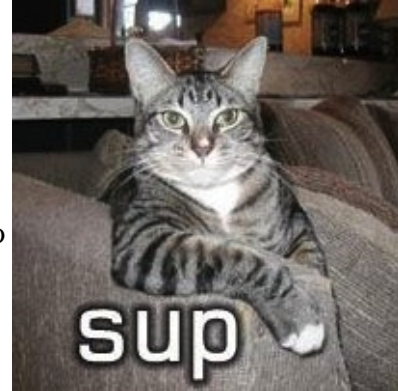
- "What up *daowg*??"
- “Yo *dawg*, you gotta come to this party! It's off the hook (see page 33)!”

ELEVEN GREETINGS

Out of all the English you'll learn, greetings are one of the most important. After all, how many people are you going to communicate with without greeting them first?

When becoming more fluent, it's important to know the various different greetings that English speakers use and to be able to respond to them correctly. For example, "I'm fine," can work with some expressions but not others.

Learn to leave a good first impression with someone by greeting them like a native would.



1. WHAT'S UP?

When to use it: Greeting friends, peers.

Variations: What up? Sup? What are you up to?

Add-ons: What's up dude/man/bro/dawg/etc.

Usage notes: "What's up?" is an informal greeting. The shortened version "Sup?" is very informal.

The most common way to respond to this greeting is to say "Not much. If you want, you can add what it is that you're doing. For example, your friend says to you, "Hey what's up, man?" And you respond, "not much, just doing my English homework."

COMMON MISTAKE: When responding to this greeting, you DO NOT SAY "I'm good," or "I'm fine." When someone uses this greeting they aren't asking you how you feel, they're asking you what's going on in your life.

Pronunciation Tips: It is said as one word: whatsup. The "t" sound in whatup is pronounced as if it were a "d," "whaddup?"

Examples:

- You meet up with your best friend and say, “*Sup bro?*”
He responds with, “*What up dawg?*”
- You're introduced to a friend of a friend and you say to him, “*What's up, man?*”
He responds, “Not much, *what's up with you?*”

2. HOW'S IT GOING?

When to use it: When greeting someone.

Add-ons: How's it going bro/dude/man/dawg/mate

Usage Notes: A little informal. A response is not always expected.

Pronunciation tips: “How's it” is pronounced as if it were one word, “howzit.” The g in going is never pronounced.

Examples:

- You are walking through the city and you see someone you know.
“Hey, *how's it goin'?*”
“It's goin' good, how about you?”
- You're hiking on a trail and you pass someone you've never met and say: “Hey.”
They respond: “*How's it goin'?*” and the conversation ends there.

3. HOW'RE YOU DOING?

When to use it: After saying hello.

Variations: Informal: how you doin'?: how ya doin'?”

Add-ons: How ya doin' man/bro/dude/mate?

Pronunciation Tips: With the shortened versions, ‘how’ and ‘you’ should be pronounced as one word. Howya doin'? Howyou doin'?

Usage Notes: “How're you doing?” (only) can be used in formal situations. Don't say “How ya doin'?” in formal situations.

Example:

- “Mr. Chang, this is Mr. Smith, the head of our international sales department.”
“Hi, *how are you doing?*”
“*I'm doing good*, how are you?”

- You're introduced to a friend of a friend and greet him with:
“Hey, *how ya doin'?*”

4. WHAT'S GOING ON?

When to use it: When saying hi to a friend or group of friends.

Add-ons: What's going on man/dude/bro/guys?

Pronunciation Tips: ‘Going’ is pronounced without the g at the end, like go-in.

Usage Notes: The most common way to respond to this question is to say, “Not much.” You can follow that up by saying what it is that you're doing.

Example:

- You arrive at your friend's house and see four people sitting on the couch and say:
“*What's goin' on, guys?*”
“Not much just watching TV, what's goin' on with you?”
“I just got back from a job interview.”

5. WHAT'S HAPPENING?

When to use it: When greeting a friend or group of friends.

Add-ons: What's happening yo/dude/guys?

Pronunciation Tips: “Happening” is often pronounced without the “g,” as if it were spelt, “happenin'.”

Usage Notes: A common greeting that can be used in many situations. Just like with “what's goin' on?” or “what's up?” the most common response to this question is, “Not much.”

Example:

- You see your friends sitting down and say, “Yo, *what's happenin',* guys?”
“Not much, just about to eat.”

6. WHAT'S NEW?

When to use it: When greeting someone you haven't seen in a while.



Add-ons: What's new with you?

Usage Notes: This can be used in formal situations as well as informal situations. This is also used as a follow up question after using other greetings.

Example:

- You come across an old coworker you haven't seen in weeks and say, "Hey Joe, *what's new?*"

7. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

When to use it: When greeting someone you haven't seen in a while.

Variations: How've you been? How you been?

Add-ons: How you been bro/man/dude?

Usage Notes: How have you been can be used formally. How you been is more informal.

Pronunciation: "How have you" is commonly pronounced as one word "How'veyou"

Example:

- You see an old friend from high school and say, "Hey, long time no see! *How've you* been man?" "I've been good... [blah blah blah]"

8. HOWDY

When to use it: Can be used in passing. Can be used in the place of "hello."

Add-ons: Howdy partner.

Usage Notes: This is a common greeting in the South of the United States.



**HOWDY FROM
TEXAS Y'ALL!**

Example:

- You pass someone on the street and say, “*Howdy.*” They respond back, “*Howdy partner.*”

9. WHAT'S GOOD?

When to use it: When greeting a friend.

Add-ons: What's good in the hood? What's good with...

Usage Notes: This can be a more informal way of saying “What's up?” But unlike what's up, when you ask, “What's good?” you're looking for good news.

Examples:

- You give your friend a hug and say, “*What's good, man?*”
“Not much, *what's good with you?*”
- “Hey, *what's good* with my laptop, have you fixed it yet?”

10. WHAT'S CRACKIN'?

When to use it: When you are greeting someone you often see.

Add-ons: What's crackin' yo?

Usage Notes: Respond the same ways as if he or she said, “What's up?”

Example:

- You meet up with a friend that you see every week and say “*What's crackin' yo?*”

11. YO

When to use it: To call someone's attention or to say hi.

Add-ons: Yo yo. Yo what up?

Pronunciation Tips: Draw out the ‘o’ sound.



Usage Notes: Can be used the same way you would say “hi.” Is commonly added before most of the greetings here. However, you would never say, “Yo, howdy.”

Example:

- You're at a party and a friend shows up. You say to him, “Yo, whats up?”
He responds, “Yo yo, how ya doin'?”

NINE FAREWELLS



For every beginning there is an end. In almost every conversation you'll need to be able to say goodbye. Just as it's important to give a good first impression with your greeting, so it is with giving a good final impression before you leave.

Saying goodbye is one of the most common things that you do. Here you will learn how to use the most common ways for people to say goodbye to each other and when it's appropriate to use each one.

1. SEE YOU

When to use it: To imply you will see someone again soon.

Add-ons: See you later. See you later, alligator (respond with: "after awhile, crocodile.") See you then. See you around.

Usage Notes: Informal.

Pronunciation tips: The "you" is most commonly pronounced "ya." Also, "see ya" is pronounced as if it was one word.

Examples:

- "It was nice meeting you, I'm sure *I'll see you around.*"
- "Sleep well."
"You too, *see ya later.*"
- "Alright so I'll see you on Thursday?"
"*See ya then!*"

2. PEACE

When to use it: When saying goodbye to friends.

Add-ons: Peace out (man/dude/bro/etc.), peace out girl scout (we like to rhyme, used when talking to both males and females).

Usage Notes: Very informal, often used in texts and Facebook chat. When in person, it's common to show the peace sign while saying "peace."



Examples:

- "Alright man, it's been fun. I'll see ya later."
"Okay, *peace out girl scout*."
- "I gotta go, I'll talk to you later."
"Alright, *peace* dude."

3. CATCH YOU LATER

When to use it: When you'll see someone again soon.

Variations: Sometimes just shortened to later, or just late (extremely informal).

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Pronunciation tips: "You" is usually shortened to "ya."

Example:

- Two classmates are talking to each other at the end of class and one says,
"Alright man I gotta' go, *I'll catch you later*."
"OK, later man."

4. TAKE IT EASY

When to use it: A standard goodbye, means to not stress out, relax, and enjoy yourself.

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "I've got to go study for my test, I'll see you around."
"Okay man, *take it easy.*"

5. I'M OUT OF HERE

When to use it: When you want to leave some place, you can say this right before you say goodbye to someone.

Pronunciation tips: "Out of" is pronounced "outta."

Example:

- "I'm tired, man. *I'm out of here.*"
"Okay, have a safe drive home."
"Thanks man, I'll see you on Monday."

6. TAKE CARE

When to use it: Often used as a formal goodbye.

Add-ons: Take care now.

Usage Notes: Formal, but can be used in informal situations.

Example:

- "It was nice to meet you Mr. President. *Take care.*"
- You're about to leave on a road trip, you say "Bye, Dad!"
And he responds, "Have a safe trip, *take care!*"

7. HAVE A GOOD ONE

When to use it: When you want to wish the person a good rest of the day. Commonly used by workers.

Variations: Have a good day/night. Have a good week (if you're going to see them in a week). Have a good time (when you know someone is going somewhere, like a party).

Usage Notes: "Have a good one," is a little informal, while "have a good day/night," "have a good week," and "have a good time" can all be used in formal and informal

settings.

Examples:

- "Thanks for shopping at Trader Joe's, *have a good one.*"
- When leaving a restaurant, the waiter says to you, "Thanks guys, *have a good night.*"

8. IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU

When to use it: At the end of a conversation when you haven't see the person in awhile.

Variations: It was nice seeing you. It was nice talking to you. It was nice catching up (with you).

Add-ons: It was nice to see you again.

Usage Notes: Can be used in formal and informal situations. "It was nice talking to you," can also be used when you've just met the person.

Example:

- "Well, *it was nice to see you again.*"
"Yeah, we should meet up more often."
- You've been talking to someone you've never met before at the rock climbing gym and end the conversation with, "*Alright, it was nice talking to you, but I've gotta go. I'll see you around.*"
"Alright later man."

9. IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU

When to use it: At the end of a conversation with someone you just met.

Variations: It was nice meeting you.

Usage Notes: Used in formal and informal settings.

Examples:

- "*It was nice meeting you, I'm sure we'll see each other around.*"

- “*It was nice to meet you. See you later.*”

EIGHT ADD-ONS TO "THANK YOU"

Just about every business interaction or favor someone does for you involves a thank you. Therefore, it's very important to be able to learn different ways to express yourself in these situations.

While thank you by itself will work in many situations, in many circumstances it does not express enough gratification. Most of these phrases are used to show more gratitude than "thank you" or "thanks a lot."

Included are the most common phrases to add on to "thank you" and when to use each one.



1. I REALLY APPRECIATE IT

When to use it: When you want to make thank you stronger, when thank you by itself doesn't show enough gratefulness.

Usage Notes: Used in both formal and informal settings.

Example:

- "Thanks for the shirt. *I really appreciate it.*"
"Don't mention it." (see page 24)

2. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT

When to use it: When what someone did for you was over the top and exceeded your expectations.

Usage Notes: Used in both formal and informal settings.

Example:

- "Hey man, thanks for cleaning up after me. *You didn't have to do that.*"

3. THAT WAS REALLY NICE OF YOU

When to use it: When you want to show appreciation for a kind gesture someone did for you.

Usage Notes: Can be used in both formal and informal settings, but a little more formal.

Example:

- "Thanks for covering my shift (the time that someone works, i.e. I work the night shift). *That was really nice of you.*"

4. YOU'RE THE BEST



When to use it: When you want to let someone know that you're very fond of them. When you say this phrase to someone, it was probably not the first time that they've done something so nice for you.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

"Thanks for the coffee, *you're the best!*"

5. YOU'RE AWESOME

When to use it: To compliment someone's character while thanking them.

Variations: You're amazing, you're so cool, you're so nice.

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "Thanks for buying me dinner, *you're so awesome.*"

6. YOU THE MAN

When to use it: When you want the person to know you think they're cool.

Variations: You're the man! (Grammatically correct, but not as commonly used.)

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "Thanks for the delicious dinner, *you the man!*"

7. CHEERS

When to use it: Another way to say thanks.

Usage Notes: Often used by people from the U.K. and Australia, but some Americans use it as well. Cheers can also be used to say goodbye, when you're toasting someone, or in place of "you're welcome" (as long as the other person didn't say cheers as well).

Examples:

- "Hey, don't worry. I'll clean up."
"Cheers!"
- "Hey, thanks for the water."
"Cheers."
- (Everyone raising their beers) "Cheers!"

FIVE WAYS TO SAY "YOU'RE WELCOME"



Just like many social and business interactions use thank you, so do they involve saying you're welcome.

Unlike thank you, however, there are many different ways of saying you're welcome.

Here are five different ways to say you're welcome.

1. NO PROBLEM

When to use it: When what you're being thanked for was no trouble for you at all.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

- "Thanks for picking me up."
"No problem, you were on the way to the party."

2. NO WORRIES

When to use it: Similar to "no problem," that what you're being thanked for was no big deal.

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "Thanks for walking my dog."
"No worries, it was fun."

3. DON'T MENTION IT

When to use it: When you want to imply that what you did was such a small favor, that they don't need to thank you for it.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

- "Thanks for the invite to the party."
"Ah, *don't mention it.*"

4. OF COURSE

When to use it: When you want to imply that what you did was completely natural.

Usage Notes: Can be used in formal and informal settings.

Example:

- "Thanks for the home-cooked meal."
"*Of course.*"

5. YUP

When to use it: When you want to acknowledge that someone said thank you. Usually when the favor was very small.

Add-ons: Yup, no problem; yup, no worries.

Variations: Mhmm (phonetic).

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Examples:

- "Thanks for bringing me my tea."
"*Yup.*"
- "Thanks for taking my plate [to the kitchen]"
"*Mhmm.*"

SIX WAYS TO APOLOGIZE

You will often find yourself in situations where you need to apologize. Whether you bump into someone, accidentally call someone a girl instead of a guy, or forget to do your English homework, you will have a greater mastery over the English language if you know the various ways in which to say you're sorry.

If you find yourself apologizing often, it will be good to know different ways to say it do avoid sounding redundant.

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



1. I MESSED UP

When to use it: When you realize you made a mistake.

Variations: I screwed up (informal).

Usage Notes: Can be used in both formal and informal settings. “I screwed up” is generally used in more informal situations.

Pronunciation tips: The word “messed” is pronounced as one syllable, as if it were spelt “messd.”

Examples:

- "Hey mate, you said you were going to come to my house last night."
"Sorry man, *I messed up.*"

- “Hey I thought you were going to feed my dog?!”
“Man, *I screwed up*. I totally forgot.”

2. I FUCKED UP

When to use it: Same as the above phrase, "I messed up," but with more emphasis on how bad the mistake was.

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Pronunciation tips: Similar to “messed,” “fucked” is pronounced as one syllable. It’s pronounced as if it was spelt “fuckt.”

Example:

- "Weren't you going out with that girl? What happened?"
"*I fucked up*. She asked me if a dress made her look fat and I said no, your fat makes you look fat. She didn't like that."

3. I BLEW IT

When to use it: When you made a huge mistake.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

- "Hey man, you forgot the chocolate, now I can't make these cookies."
"Ah I know, *I totally blew it*."

4. MY BAD

When to use it: When you bump into someone or make a small mistake. When you're expressing that something was your fault.

Usage Notes: Informal settings. If you say I'm sorry at a wedding, you are showing empathy for the person's lost. But if you say my bad, you're saying that it was your fault the person died (see picture).

**"I'm sorry" and "my bad"
mean the same thing...**



**Unless you are at
a funeral.**

Example:

- "Dude, I was wide open, you should've passed it to me!"
"My bad, mate. I didn't see you."

5. I DROPPED THE BALL

When to use it: A different way to admit you made a mistake. This is commonly used when you say you're going to do something and don't do it.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Pronunciation Tips: Dropped is pronounced as one syllable as if it were spelt "dropt."

Example:

- "You said you would have the translation done today."
"Yeah, I know, I'm sorry. *I dropped the ball.*"

6. WHOOPS

When to use it: Expressing a mistake, often used when bumping into someone.

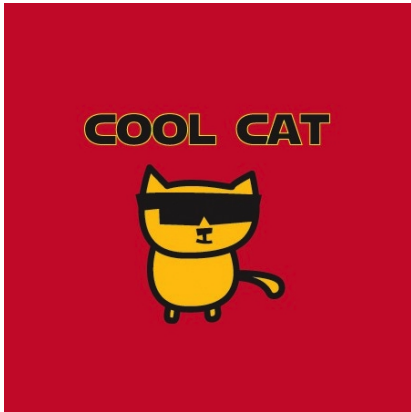
Add-ons: Whoops, my bad.

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "*Whoops, my bad.* I broke a plate."

SIXTEEN WAYS TO SAY "COOL"



Assuming you're not a cynical old bastard, you'll probably find yourself wanting to express happiness or that you think something is cool quite often.

However, saying "cool" all the time gets very repetitive and boring.

To sound more like a native, you'll want to switch up your word choice with a few of the following words.

Most of these words are pretty interchangeable with each other.

1. AWESOME

When to use it: When you're extremely impressed with something.

Usage Notes: Used in formal and informal situations.

Example:

- "I met this beautiful girl the other day."
"Awesome! Do you like her?"

2. SWEET

When to use it: When something is pleasing to you.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

- "I did yoga for the first time yesterday."
"Sweet, good for you!"

3. NICE

When to use it: When something is pleasant.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

- "They're having a great deal on mangos at the market right now."
"Nice! I'll be sure to check it out."

4. KILLER

When to use it: When referring to something excellent.

Usage Notes: Very informal. This may be a hint at Western culture—that the word killer is used in a good way.

Example:

- "Dude, that party last night was *killer!*"

5. DOPE

When to use it: When you like something.

Usage Notes: Very informal. Dope can also mean drugs, but it is very commonly used by young people today to express happiness.

Examples:

- "I found \$20 on the ground today."
"Dope, dude!"
- "I won a surfboard at the raffle."
"Are you serious?! That's *dope!*"

6. CHILL

When to use it: When something is calm and relaxing. Can also mean to meet up with someone.

Add-ons: Chill out, used to tell someone to calm down. Or I'm chill, meaning I don't want what you're offering.

Usage Notes: Very informal. Chill can also mean to cool something down.



Examples:

- "Hey man, you want to *chill* after I get off work?"
"Yeah, I'll bring over some beer."
- "Yeah I got a job at this local yoga studio."
"*Chill*, bro."
- "Why are you talking to my girlfriend?!"
"*Chill* out dude, I don't mean any harm."
- "Hey bro, you want some beer?"
"Nah man, I'm *chill*."

7. TIGHT

When to use it: To express enthusiasm.

Usage Notes: Very informal, used by younger people in America.

Example:

- "I got a kitten today."
"*Tight* man, what kind?"
"A white one."

8. SICK

When to use it: To express enthusiasm.

Variations: Ill.

Usage Notes: Very informal. The literal meanings of both sick and ill (illness) are negative, but the slang versions are positive.

Example:

- "Did you see that guy do a backflip? That was *sick!*"
"Yeah, it was totally *ill!*"

9. BAD ASS

When to use it: When something displays the characteristics of a person with supreme confidence, extreme ability, and a disregard for authority.

Add-ons: Bad ass mother fucker (for emphasis).

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Examples:

- "I didn't even study for the test, but I got 100%!"
"*Bad ass*, dude!"
- "Have you seen James bond? That dude's a *bad ass mother fucker.*"



10. BITCHIN'

When to use it: When something is extremely cool.

Usage Notes: Very informal. Can also be used to mean whining or complaining, as in "stop bitchin'."

Examples:

- "Check out that Ferrari! It's *bitchin'*!"
- "Why didn't you take out the trash?! You never remember to take out the trash! Do you think the trash gets taken out all by itself?!"
"Man he never stops *bitching*..."
"I heard that!"

11. OFF THE HOOK

When to use it: When something exceeds your expectations.

Variations: Off the chain (same meaning).

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "That Real Life English party was *off the hook*!"

12. THE BOMB

When to use it: When something is exploding with coolness or awesomeness.

Usage Notes: Very informal. Usually not used to describe a person.

Pronunciation: "The bomb" is sometimes pronounced (and spelled) "da bomb"

Examples:

- "That acai was *the bomb*, man!"
- "How was the concert last night?"
"It was *da bomb*!"

13. THE SHIT

When to use it: To describe something you really like.

Usage Notes: Very informal. "*The shit*" is a good thing, but just "shit" is a bad thing. It's usually not used to describe a person.

Examples:

- "Dude, that movie was *the shit!*"
"Yeah, it was awesome!"
- "Dude, that movie was *shit!*"
"Yeah, I didn't like it either."

14. WICKED

When to use it: Another word for cool.

Usage Notes: Very informal. Can also be used as an adverb to add emphasis to whatever it's describing.

Examples:

- "I finally got my driver's license."
"*Wicked* cool, now you can drive me around!"
- "I passed my biology class. *Wicked!*"

15. LEGIT

When to use it: When something is agreeable to you or when what you're describing is real, not fake.

Usage Notes: Informal. Short for legitimate. A common phrase on the internet is "seems legit." This is jokingly used when something is obviously fake or a lie.

Examples:

- "Yo, check out my Ray Bans (sun glasses)."
"Nice, man. But it says Made in China. Are you sure they're *legit*...?"
- "Damn I like this. This song's *legit!*"



16. RAD

When to use it: Another word for cool.

Usage Notes: Informal. Short for radical, which is still used but less common.

Example:

- "That shirt is *rad*, man."

ELEVEN WAYS TO SHOW DISSATISFACTION

More often than we'd like, things happen differently than how we wanted them to turn out. Here are eleven ways to show that you are not happy with a certain situation.

Many of the following phrases can be used interchangeably, they all are used to show something happened that you didn't like.



1. THAT BLOWS

Usage Notes: Very informal, a little vulgar.

Example:

- "I lost my job."
"That blows."

2. THIS SUCKS

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "I can't find my car keys, *this sucks!*"

3. THAT'S WEAK

When to use it: When you're unimpressed or sad.

Add-ons: That's weak as fuck (to add emphasis).

Usage Notes: Informal.

Example:

- "My teacher assigned a 20 page essay yesterday."
"That's weak, dude."

4. THAT'S MESSED UP

When to use it: When something is unjust, unfair, or unfortunate.

Usage Notes: Used in formal and informal settings. Comes from the word messy, as in everything is disorganized and not the way it should be. "Messed up" can also be used to describe someone who's very drunk.

Example:

- "Someone stole my wallet last night."
"That's messed up."

5. THAT'S FUCKED UP

When to use it: Means the same as "messed up" but with more emphasis.

Usage Notes: Very informal, a little vulgar.

Pronunciation Tips: You pronounce "fucked" as one syllable as if it were spelt "fuckt."

Example:

- "Bill punched me in the face last night."
"What?! That's fucked up!"

6. THAT'S LAME

When to use it: When something is stupid, un-original, or lifeless.

Add-ons: That's lame as fuck (to add emphasis).

Usage Notes: Informal. *Lame* used to mean gimpy. Like a lame duck that can't walk very well because of an injury. But now it's more commonly used to express dissatisfaction with something or someone.

Examples:

- "I burnt the food."
"Lame, that's all the food we have"
- "My car ran out of gas, *this is so lame!*"

7. THAT'S WHACK

Add-ons: That's whack as fuck (to add emphasis).

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Example:

- "My car broke down."
"That's *whack*."

8. THAT'S SHITTY

Add-ons: That's shitty as fuck (to add emphasis).

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Pronunciation Tips: You pronounce "shitty" as if it were spelt "shiddy."

Example:

- "I got hit by a car yesterday."
"Damn, that's *shitty as fuck*."

9. THAT'S A BUZZ KILL

When to use it: When someone or something kills the mood.

Variations: Buzz Killington, used to refer to someone who's being a buzz kill.

Usage Notes: Very informal. The phrase comes from when you're drinking, you get a little buzz from the alcohol, everyone's having a good time, and something happens to totally kill the mood. While it came from the context of drinking alcohol, it is also used to describe anything that kills a good mood.

Examples:

- "Yeah, I was having so much fun last night until Jake and Natalie got into a fight. It was a total *buzz kill*."
- "Hey, you can't be drinking, you're not old enough."
"Woah, chill out *Buzz Killington*."



10. WHAT A DOWNER

When to use it: When something makes you sad.

Usage Notes: In this phrase, “downer” is used to describe how what just happened is causing your mood to go down. It can be used in the same context as “that's a buzz kill,” but it is less informal.

Pronunciation Tips: “What a” is pronounced as if it were spelt “whadda.”

Example:

- "I got pulled over for speeding last night."
"What a downer."

11. THAT'S A BUST

When to use it: When something does not go according to plan. It can also be used to describe something that's dangerous.

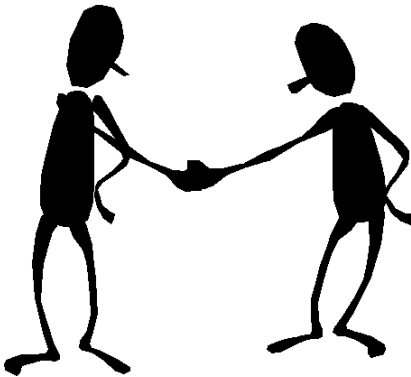
Usage Notes: Very informal.

Pronunciation Tips: “That's a” is pronounced as if it were one word, “that'sa.”

Examples:

- "I got a speeding ticket, *it was such a bust.*"
- “Hey you want to free solo?”
“I don't know man... rock climbing without a harness *is a bust.*”

FOUR WAYS TO AGREE



Another thing that's very common in everyday conversations—assuming you don't just argue with everything people say—is agreeing with someone.

Here are four ways to sound like a native when you want to agree with what someone is saying.

1. FOR SURE

When to use it: Used to indicate that you totally agree, but it can also be used in place of okay.

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Pronunciation Tips: Often pronounced and spelt in informal contexts “f’sho.”

Examples:

- "Hey man, where were you last night?"
"Sorry I couldn't make it, I had to work."
"Oh *f'sho*."
- "You want some soup?"
"*For sure!*"

2. HELL YEAH

When to use it: Used to agree with excitement, or to express joy.

Variations: Fuck yeah (stronger).

Usage Notes: These are both very informal and a little vulgar.

Pronunciation Tips: Emphasis can be placed on hell, yeah, or both words. When you say “hell YEAH,” you’re implying that of course you want to do what the person is suggesting.

Examples:

- "Yo, are you down to surf?"
"HELL yeah!"
- “Do you want a massage?”
“Hell YEAH I want a massage.”

3. TOTALLY

When to use it: When you completely agree with someone.

Usage Notes: Informal.

Pronunciation Tips: The second “t” in “totally” is pronounced like a d, as if it were spelt “todally.”

Example:

- "Woah dude, you just ate \$20 worth of food. Was it worth it?"
"Totally."
- You can check out this short video clip from South Park for another example of *totally* by [clicking here](#).

4. DEFINITELY

When to use it: Interchangeable with "totally," you use it when you agree 100%.

Variations: Most definitely or shortened to “mos def.”

Usage Notes: A little informal. Mos Def is also [a rap artist](#) who got the nickname because of how often he says “mos def.”

Examples:

- "Hey you going to watch the World Cup?"
"Definitely. I wouldn't miss it for anything."

- “You going to Rio de Janiero for Carnaval?”
“*Mos def!* Carnaval in Rio is off the hook!”

SIX WAYS TO ACCEPT INVITATIONS

The more you interact with English speakers, the more you'll get invited to different events. Here are six ways to accept invitations.

All of the phrases below can be used pretty much interchangeably.



1. LET'S DO IT

Usage Notes: A little informal. Used when someone else is going with you. If someone is already at the event you don't say this.

Examples:

- "Hey man, you want to go to my friend's party?"
"Yeah, *let's do it*."
- But if someone says, "Hey man, you want to come to my party?"
"Yeah, *let's do it*," would *not* be an appropriate response, because they are not going with you.
- However, if someone says, "Hey man, you want to go with me to my house? I'm having a party later."
"Yeah, *let's do it*," would be an appropriate response.

2. I'M DOWN

When to use it: When accepting an invitation. You can also ask if someone is interested by asking if they're down.

Add-ons: I'm so down ("so" adds emphasis). I'm down like a clown. I'm down for whatever (used to show you want to do something, but it doesn't matter what. You're okay with doing anything).

Usage Notes: Informal and very commonly used.

Examples:

- "Hey dude, you down to play soccer tonight?"
"I'm so down, I love soccer."
- "What do you want to do tonight?"
"I'm down for whatever."

3. I'M UP FOR IT

Usage Notes: Means exactly the same as the above phrase, but is a little less informal.

Example:

- "Hey bro, you up for a game of chess?"
"Yeah, I'm up for it."

4. I'M GAME

Usage Notes: Informal, often used with yeah in front.

Example:

- "You want to have dinner tomorrow?"
"Yeah, I'm game."

5. SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN

Usage Notes: Used to accept any invitations, but is more often used when the person is not totally sure of their idea.

Example:

- "I'm thinking about going to the game on Friday, would you want to come?"
"Yeah, sounds like a plan."

6. SOUNDS GOOD

Usage Notes: Used when you like the idea of the invitation. The invitation is pleasing to your ears, so it "sounds good." Very common.

Example:

- "I'm making some guacamole, do you want to come over and have some?"
"Yeah, *sounds good*. I'll be over in a sec (second)."

FIVE WAYS TO DISAGREE

You're not always going to agree with what someone is saying, sometimes you'll need to decline an offer.

Here are some different ways to disagree.



1. NAH

When to use it: Used to express some disagreement.

Add-ons: Nah is often followed with man/dude/bro/mate.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Pronunciation Tips: Sometimes the nah is drawn out to naaah.

Example:

- "Hey man, you want to order some pizza?"
"Nah mate, I'm good."
- "I thought you said you wanted a whore...?"
"Naaaaah man, I said I wanted to go to the store."

2. HELL NO

When to use it: When expressing strong disagreement.

Variations: Haiyel nah is the phonetic pronunciation of a another way to say hell no. It is often used jokingly with a drawn out haiiiyel nah (ebonics).

Usage Notes: Very informal.

Examples:

- "Hey dude, do you want to get back with your ex-girlfriend?"
"Hell no!"
- "Yo that guy's hitting on your girlfriend."
"Ah HEIIIIYEL nah!"

3. FUCK THAT

When to use it: When expressing very strong disagreement.

Variations: Fuck no.

Usage Notes: Very informal, only say this around people you know well.

Examples:

- "I'm thinking about going to my friend's house, you want to come?"
"Fuck no, I got way too much work to do."
- "Do you want to eat here? It's \$20 for all you can eat."
"Fuck that. That's way too much money."

4. NO WAY

When to use it: Used to completely disagree or to decline a request.

Add-ons: No way, José.

Usage Notes: Used in both formal and informal settings.

Example:

- "Hey, man you want to come to the store with me?"
"No way dude, I'm way behind on this assignment."

5. NOT A CHANCE

When to use it: Can be used interchangeably with the above phrase; used to express complete disagreement or to decline something.

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

- "Do you think that chick likes me?"
"Not a chance, bro. She's totally into me."

SIX WAYS TO CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



Throughout conversations you'll often find people checking to make sure the listener understands what the speaker is trying to say. It is especially important when speaking a foreign language to be able to understand when people are asking you if you understand!

Here are some common ways English speakers check for understanding.

1. GOT IT?

When to use it: To make sure someone understands you.

Variations: You got it? (Used more to make sure someone understands you.)

Usage Notes: A little informal.

Example:

"And therefore, $E=MC^2$. You *got it?*"
 "*Got it.*"

2. YOU DIG?

When to use it: To see if someone understands and/or agrees with you.

Variations: "You dig it?"

Usage Notes: Very informal. Used only with younger people.

Pronunciation Tips: "You dig it" is often said without any pause between dig and it as if it were one word, i.e. "You diggit?"

Example:

- "101 English Words You'll Never Learn in School is a great resource, *you dig?*"

3. YOU FEEL ME?

When to use it: To make sure someone understands and agrees with what you're saying.

Variations: I feel that/you.

Usage Notes: Very informal, used only with younger people.

Examples:

- "I think it would be best if we bought the audio version, too. You feel me?"
"Yeah, *I feel you.*"
- "Man, a burrito sounds so good right now."
"*I feel that.* Let's go to Roberto's."

4. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

When to use it: To check for understanding.

Variations: If you know what I mean. (When "if" is added, a deeper meaning—often a sexual innuendo—is usually implied.)

Usage Notes: The most common way to check for understanding. Used in both formal and informal settings.

Pronunciation Tips: It's generally said very quickly, with the "you" shortened to "ya" as in "ya-know-what-I-mean?" Sometimes the you is dropped, so it's just "know-what-I-mean?"

Examples:

- "I don't know if calling your mom, "dude" is that great of an idea, *you know what I mean?*"

- "That girl's got big melons, *if you know what I mean.*"

5. YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

When to use it: Used to check for understanding, but often used as a filler words when you can't think of what to say.

Usage Notes: Very informal, sometimes a response is not expected.

Pronunciation Tips: Is often pronounced very quickly as if it were all one word. "You" is often shortened to "ya," "what" is completely taken out, and the "g" in "saying" isn't used, i.e. "ya-know-I'm-sayin'?" Sometimes the "ya" isn't pronounced either and you just get, "know-I'm-sayin'?"

Example:

- "I went to the store to buy some food, because I'm tired of spending all this money on restaurants. *You know what I'm saying?*"

6. YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?

When to use it: To check for understanding, usually when you're not sure the person understands you.

Usage Notes: Used in both formal and informal settings.

Example:

- "If a skeeve snakes your stash, you've got to regulate. *You know what I'm talking about?*" (The super slang word choice used on purpose to confuse you.)

FOUR WAYS TO SAY "I'M HUNGRY"

Assuming you're human and you need to eat to stay alive, there's going to be various times when you'll need to say you're hungry. Below are the four most common ways English speakers say they're hungry.

(We haven't included different ways to say you're thirsty because there's not much else you can say.)



1. I'M STARVING

When to use it: When you're really hungry.

Usage Notes: A little informal. Can be used in all but the most formal settings. Starving literally means you're dying of hunger, but many people say it just when they're really hungry.

Pronunciation Tips: If you want to add emphasis to how hungry you are you prolong the a. For example: "I'm staaaarving."

Example:

- "I haven't eaten all day, *I'm starving.*"

2. I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT A HORSE

When to use it: Similar to the above phrase, this expression is used to emphasize how hungry you are.

Variations: I'm so hungry I could eat a cow/elephant/any animal.

Usage Notes: A little informal for business, but perfectly fine with older folks. You can

use any animal in this phrase, but a horse is the most common. You could use a bigger animal for more emphasis.

Example:

- "How hungry are you?"
"I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!"

3. I COULD EAT

When to use it: When you're just hungry enough to eat.

Usage Notes: Used in both formal and informal settings.

Example:

- "Hey man, are you hungry?"
"Not too much, but *I could eat.*"

4. I GOT THE MUNCHIES

When to use it: It is often used to describe cravings for foods that aren't very healthy, or also when you hungry late at night (especially after drinking or smoking).

Usage Notes: Very informal, don't say it to your boss. The phrase munchies comes from someone who is stoned that could just eat forever. Although it originally came from people that smoke marijuana, it has permeated into society and is often used by young people. So much so that there is actually a type of food called Munchies. It combines Doritos, Cheetos, Pretzels, and Sun Chips.



Example:

- "Damn dude, you ate that whole bag of chips?"
"Yeah man, *I got the munchies.*"

THREE WAYS TO SAY "LET'S LEAVE"



The more you hang out with English speaking friends, the more events you'll attend. And every time you go somewhere that's not your house, you'll need to eventually leave. So here we've included three ways to say that you want to leave.

All of the following phrases are very informal and all mean the same thing. They can be used interchangeably.

1. LET'S ROLL

Add-ons: Let's roll out.

Example:

- "C'mon man, *let's roll*. I'm tired of this place"

2. LET'S BOUNCE

Usage notes: The most common of the three phrases.

Add-ons: Let's make like a ball and bounce.

Example:

- "Hey man, *I'm tired*. Let's bounce."

3. LET'S MAKE TRACKS

When to use it: Very informal. When you want to leave some place.

Usage Notes: Let's make tracks refers to footsteps left in the snow or dirt. So "let's make tracks" means to start walking.

Example:

- "Hey man, I'm bored of this place. *Let's make tracks.*"

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Here are all 101 words and sayings found in this book.

You can use this as a reference to find the words you're looking for or as reference to easily see all the different ways to say the various categories

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TRANSCRIPTS FOR... REAL LIFE CONVERSATIONS

Here are the transcripts for the audio conversations.

Use these conversations as examples of how these phrases are used in every day life.

But reading only helps so much! To get the most out of your time you need to hear the words being spoken.

Just because you can understand the written word, does not mean you'll understand the spoken word.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #1.

Hey, Chad *what's up man?*

—Oh hey *bro, not much, just chillin'. What's up with you?*

I just got back from an interview.

—Oh *sweet*. How'd it go?

I blew it...

—*Ah man, that sucks*. You'll do better next time.

Yeah... so, how was that concert?

—Oh *dude, it was off the hook!* Everyone was getting down [dancing], they played their best songs, and I even got to crowd surf! It was *siiiiick!*

Dope, dude. That's sounds fuckin' awesome.

—Yeah, the only thing was this girl threw up on my friend's shoes.



Crowd surfing

Gross. *What a buzz kill. That's whack.*

—*Totally.* But hey, did you hear? Justin's gonna have this *bitchin'* party on Saturday? *You down to go?*

Hell YEAH, that sounds *wicked.* Justin's last party was *the shit!*

—*Chill.* Hey I know you always drive me everywhere, but would you be able to pick me up?

Yeah, *that's chill.*

—*Fuck yeah.* Thanks man, *I really appreciate it.*

Yeah no worries, it's no big deal. But hey, *I got the munchies* right now, do you wanna go get some food?

—*Yeah I could eat.* Actually... *Nah man,* I got a bunch of stuff to catch up on, *you feel me?*

Yeah *I know what you mean.* Alright, *I'm gonna bounce.* I'll call you before the party on Saturday.

—*Alright for sure, you the man. Peace out.*

Later.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #2.

What up dawg??

—*Yo, what's happenin' man?* I haven't see you in forever.

Yeah *bro,* long time no see.

—*What's new?*

Oh *not much,* I just got a new job.

—*Killer!* How's that going?

It's not. *I fucked up. I totally dropped the ball.*

—*What do you mean? What happened?*

On my fourth day at the job my alarm didn't go off. So I totally overslept and got in to work two hours late. They fired me.

—*That's shitty, dude. What a downer.*

Yeah, but the boss wasn't the nicest person in the world. *You know what I'm saying?*

—Yeah, I wouldn't want to work for an asshole boss.

But anyways, *how've you been?*

—*I've been great.* I got a \$5 an hour raise at work.

Bad ass! Good for you.

—Thanks man.

How's work going?

—It's going good. I don't see myself working there for the rest of my life, but for now it's good. *You dig?*

Totally. Hey *I'm starving*, you wanna grab some food?

—Let's do it. *I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.*

Oh shit, I left my wallet at home. Fuck.

—It's cool *man*, I'll pay for you.

You sure? *You don't have to do that.*

—Yeah *man*, I don't mind.

Tight dude, you're the best.

—Ah, *don't mention it.*

Okay then, *let's make some tracks.*

—*Let's do it.*

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #3.

Sup homie?

—Oh hey *buddy*, *what's good?*

Not much, just getting back from court.

—Oh yeah? Why were you in court?

I got a speeding ticket. I was only going 5 miles per hour over the speed limit.

—Damn, *that's weak as fuck*.

Yeah, *it was a total bust*.

—*That blows*.

Tell me about it.

—So are you going to stop speeding?

Hell no!

—Why not?

Because I don't give a fuck about the police. *Got it?*

—Alright man, just don't come *bitchin'* to me when you get another speeding ticket.

I won't. I'll be more careful next time.

—If you say so.

So I'm gonna play soccer tomorrow at 5pm, *you up for it?*

—Yeah, *I'm game. Let's do it*.

Cool, I'll pick you up at a quarter till (4:45).

—*Sounds good*.

Alright *bro*, *I'll catch you later*.

—Okay man, *take it easy*.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #4.

Hey *dude*, what's crackin'?

—Hey *bro*. *Not much*, I just broke my iPhone...

That's lame... but hey you're in luck! I've got an old iPhone that you can have.

—Are you serious?

Yeah *man*, take it.

—Wow, thanks *dude*. *That's really nice of you*.

No problem man, it's the least I can do.

—So hey, Roger's having a party on Friday, you wanna go?

Fuck that dude. Roger acts like an ass towards me.

—C'mon man. He's not that bad. It'll be fun.

No way dude. I'm not going.

—Why's he mean to you? *That's messed up*.

I don't know why, I've never done anything to him.

—Yeah, oh well.

But hey, have you seen my new sun glasses?

—Woaaahhh *dude*. These are *legit!!!*

Nice, huh?

—Yeah *man*, where'd you get them?

The street fair.

—Oh *f'sho*. I should check that out sometime. They've got some really good deals.

Definitely.

—I might be able to go on Sunday, would you wanna come with?

Yeah man, *sounds like a plan.*

—Wait, what the fuck? Their website says the city has shut down the street fair!

Are you serious?! *That's fucked up!*

—Do you think they'll work this out?

Not a chance, man. Once the city gets on your ass, there's no way out.

—*Weak.*

Yeah.

—But hey, did you remember to bring my hat?

Whoops! My bad man, I totally messed up.

—It's cool. Just try to remember next time.

That hat's *rad* though.

—Yeah, that's why I want it back.

Alright man, I gotta go, I got some shit to do.

—Okay dude, *have a good one.*

You, too. *Take care.*

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #5.

Hey Trevor, *how's it going?*

—Oh hey *dude, what's going on?*

Not much, I just got back from Rocky's Chinese food.

—Nice that place is *the bomb!*

Yeah, I brought you back some food.

—What?! Thanks man, *you're awesome!*

Yeah, of course. But yeah, I've got this class to go to. It's the one where they teach you about safety and shit like that. *You know what I'm talking about?*

—Yeah, you do that instead of paying your traffic ticket right?

Exactly. Alright man, *it was nice to see you.*

—Yeah *nice seeing you, too.* Thanks again for the food.

Cheers!

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #6

Josh?! Is that you?!

—Trevor!!!! Long time no see, my man!

What are the chances I'd run into you?!

—I know, right? Crazy...

So how you been, bro?

—I've been good, I've been good. I'm actually in California just visiting my family, did you know that I moved to Brazil?

What?! Seriously? That's *rad man.*

—Yeah I love it there. But yeah, *what's new with you?*

I quit my job. I'm planning on going to Mexico and then backpacking all the way down to make it to Brazil in time for the World Cup.

—*Sick dude,* that sounds like an *awesome* time.

Yeah, I'm really stoked [excited]. So, *what's goin' on* in Brazil?

—Lots of stuff man. I'm a part of this great community called Real Life English. We're changing the way people think about how they learn languages.

Sounds interesting, so what is Real Life English exactly?

—Real Life English is a blog, a community, but most importantly, it's a way of life. It's about making sure that everything you learn—not just English—you can

apply to real life. Learning's great and all, but we spend a lot of time learning pointless shit. *You know what I'm saying?*

Totally. I remember talking about that with my ex—girlfriend. She was reading stuff about the Illuminati. And I'm like, "Yeah that stuff's cool and all, but how can I apply that to my life?" So yeah, I definitely vibe [agree] with that.

—Yeah and Brazil's *off the hook man*, it's totally your style.

Yeah I know what you mean, I've always wanted to go to Brazil...

—Why don't you just skip going through Mexico and come straight to Brazil?

I dunno man... wait, you know what? Fuck it. *I'm down.*

—*Fuck yeah!* You can stay at my place until you find your own room.

Really? *Thanks dude, you're the best!*

—*Don't mention it.*

Whoops! Look at the time! *I gotta get outta here.* I should've left 10 minutes ago.

—Alright man, *it was nice to see you. Take it easy.*

You too, *bro.* I'm glad I ran into you!

—*Hell yeah!*

I wanna talk to you more about Brazil. I'll call you later.

—Alright *man, sounds good.*

Peace out.

—*Later.*

[This conversation was based on a true story.]

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #7

Hey *dude*, you want a beer?

—Sure, thanks man!

Don't mention it. You look thirsty.

—I'm Sean by the way.

I'm Cameron. Nice to meet you.

—You, too.

So who do you know here?

—I'm good friends with the guy that lives here, Adam.

Tight! I went to college with Adam,

—*Wicked!*

He's one of the nicest guys I know.

—Yeah, he's such a *homie*.

Totally. We played soccer together.

—*Sweet*, I love soccer. What position do you play?

I'm usually goalie.

—*Nice.*

Nah man, it sucks. I hate playing goalie.

—Haha then why do you play?

Because I'm good at it.

—Well, there's no shame in that. We should play sometime.

Yeah *man, sounds good.* I play every Wednesday at the park down the street.

—Oh yeah, I know about that. I'll be there on Wednesday.

Awesome:

—But hey, I see my girlfriend over there. I'm gonna go say *what's up*.

For sure.

—*It was nice meeting you.*

You, too man.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #8

Yo homie, what's good?

—*Hey!!! What up my brotha'?*

Not much, just chillin'.

—*F'sho. Did you record the game last night?*

Ahh fuck, I blew it! I totally dropped the ball!

—*Aww no worries, bro.*

But, if it makes you feel any better, it was a terrible game.

—*Uh, it does make me feel better. But you better remember next time. Ya dig?*

Yeah, I will. But hey, *I'm starving*. You wanna grab some food?

—*Yeah, I'm up for it. Where do you wanna go?*

There's this *killer* Thai place down the street.

—*Hell yeah! Thai food is the bomb!*

I agree. I'll buy you lunch.

—*Awww... you don't have to do that.*

Dude, it's the least I can do for forgetting to record the game. *You know what I mean?*

—*Alright, chill. Thanks buddy!*

Of course. So, you ready?

—*Yeah dawg, let's make tracks.*

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #9

Howdy, partner.

—Hey John, *how's it goin'?*

It's goin' good, how about you?

—Not too bad.

Why's that?

—I just got into a car accident.

Damn, *that blows*.

—Yeah *it's shitty*. You know what the most fucked up part is?

What's that?

—It wasn't my fault, but the guy doesn't have any insurance. So I have to pay for damages.

What a downer. That's messed up.

—Yeah, tell me about it. It's a total *bust*. But anyways, I've got this *dope* shirt but it's too big for me. You can have it if you want.

Wow, this shirt's *legit*. Thank you, *that's really nice of you*.

—*Yup, no worries*.

I'll *cheers* to that.

—Man, *I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!* You hungry?

Yeah *I could eat*.

—Alright you wanna go to McDonald's?

No way man. Fuck that. Are you serious?

—Haha *hell no*, I'm just joking. I would never go to McD's.

Okay good. How about Outback Steakhouse?

—*Sounds like a plan*.

Alright *let's bounce*.

—*Let's do it.*

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #10

Yo homie, what's crackin'?

—*Yo dawg, what's happenin'?*

Just chillin' like a villain.

—*I feel that.*

What've you been up to?

—*I've been working a lot. The boss has me working overtime.*

Ahh man, that blows.

—*Yeah, it's weak as fuck. He's not even paying me overtime.*

Not cool.

—*Yeah, but what can I do?*

You could quit?

—*I'm low on cash right now. I can't afford to quit. You know I'm saying?*

Gotcha [got ya].

—*I messed up, I should've never taken this job.... but anyways, what's new with you?*

Oh not much... I just saw the movie Lucky Number Slevin, have you seen it?

—*Hell yeah! That movie is the shit!*

I know man, you think you understand everything, then WHAM! Total twist.

—*Yeah, that dope plot twist totally changes the whole movie, it makes you wanna watch it again.*

Yeah, it's just as tight the second time you watch it. Have you seen it twice?

—Nope.

Here, take it. I have it right here.

—Oh wow! Thanks! *You the man!*

Yeah, *no worries*. Oh shit! It's already 2 o'clock. *I totally fucked up!*

—What happened?

I'm late for work. Shit. *I gotta bounce. I'll catch you later.*

—Alright *man, take it easy.*

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #11

Hey *bro*, long time no see!

—Hey *mate*, *what's new?*

I just created this *killer* product for learning English.

—*Sweet*. What's it called?

101 English Words You Never Learn in School.

—*Nice!* I like the title. So it's about slang and stuff?

Yeah it's all about helping non-natives talk like REAL people.

—*Bad ass*. So many non-natives don't know many basic words we use all the time. *It's whack. You know what I mean?*

Totally. It's weird how sometimes even advanced students don't know this basic stuff.

—*For sure*.

Hey, did I tell you that we're recording this and it's going to be in the product?

—What? No you didn't tell me that *mate*, *that's messed up*.

My bad, man. I should've said something before.

—It's cool, I don't mind if you use this conversation in the product.

Sick. You're the best.

—I know.

So anyways, *I'm starving*. I'll buy you some food for helping me out. *Sound good?*

—Ahh... *you don't have to do that!*

But I want to. You wanna go?

—Yeah, *I'm up for it. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!*

Alright then, *let's make tracks*. There's this *bomb* asian restaurant down the street.

—The Bodhi Tree?

That's the one!

—*Fuck yeah!* Bodhi Tree is *off the hook!* I love that place, me and my *mates* go there all the time.

Me, too. But yeah, I don't really wanna drive, *you feel me?*

—Yeah *I feel that*. I'd rather walk, too.

Sick. Let's do it, I'll buy you lunch.

—*Cheers*.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #12

Hey *buddy*, *how's it goin'?*

—Oh hey, it's *goin' good*, how about you?

It's goin' alright...

—So what'd you do today?

I got my exam back.

—Oh yeah? How'd you do?

Horrible.

—Ohhh... *that's a downer.*

Yeah, *I blew it.* I should've studied more, *I really dropped the ball...*

—It happens.

But hey, there's a Pretty Lights concert on Friday. I got an extra ticket. *You down?*

—*Fuuuuck yeah!* I fucking love Pretty Lights! He's *legit!*

For sure! I don't care how many times I've seen him. If he's playing I'm going. *You what I'm saying?*

—*Mos def.*

The only thing is that my car is getting fixed right now, so I can't drive to the show.

—Ah *that sucks.*

Yeah *it's a bust.* I hate having my car in the shop.

—But *no worries man,* I can drive.

Rad. Oh yeah, you got that *bitchin'* new car don't you?

—Haha yeah, thanks man. I'll be at your house around 7, okay?

Sounds like a plan.

—*Wicked,* this is gonna be a killer show!

Yeah, I'm stoked! [excited)

—Alright man, I'm outta here. I'll see you Friday at 7.

Sounds good. Peace.

—Later.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #13

Yo, what's up my brotha'?

—*Not much,* just got the new iPhone 6. Check it out.

What??? That hasn't even came out yet! *That's sick!* How'd you get it??

—I got connections, *ya dig?*

Damn *dude*, you must!

—They're hard to get, but if you want I could get one for you.

Really? Thanks *man*, *that's really nice of you.*

—*Of course.*

How much are they?

—\$2,000 (2,000 bucks).

Fuuuuck that! Not a chance I'm paying 2 grand for a phone.

—Are you sure you don't want one?

Hell no.

—Suit yourself. [do whatever you want, I don't care]

That's shitty *dude*. I could buy a *bitchin'* laptop for that price.

—This phone is probably better than your laptop.

Whatever man.

—But hey I got the *munchies*, you wanna grab some food?

Ehh, *I could eat.*

—Alright, *let's roll.*

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #14

Yo yo, what's up dawg?

—Hey *bro*, *what's good?*

Not much, my bed's broken.

—That's not good. What happened?

It's been getting way too much use lately, *if you know what I mean*.

—Hahaha funny man. But hey, here's the money I owe you.

Oh thanks man.

—*Of course*.

You're awesome! I totally forgot about that.

—Yeah, thanks for loaning me the money.

Yup.

—So hey, I'm gonna go rock climb, do you wanna cruise [come with]?

No way man, I'm scared of heights.

—C'mon, it'll be good for you. You can work on your fears.

Nah man... not right now, maybe next time.

—Alright man, I'll let you know next time I go.

Okay, *take care*.

—Thanks. *See ya*.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #15

Hey thanks for shopping at Trader Joe's, *how're you doing?*

—I'm good, *how're you?*

Not too bad. Did you find everything you need?

—Everything except one thing.

What's that?

—You guys used to have this little chocolate that was in the shape of an orange, *do you know what I'm talking about?*

Yeah, Terry's Chocolate Orange.

—That's it!

Unfortunately, we're out of stock right now. We'll have some more next week.

—*That's lame....* Hey! You just charged me twice for that peanut butter!

Whoops, my bad! Sorry about that. Let me fix that for you.

—*No worries.*

And your total is \$35.85

—Here you are.

Thanks for shopping at Trader Joe's, *have a good day.*

—You, too.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #16

Yo man, what's good? I haven't see you in forever!

—Yeah *bro*, it's been way too long!

How've you been?

—I've been great. Well, except for last night when your cousin puked all over my new shoes!

Gross! What a *buzz kill*. Sorry about that.

—Haha yeah it's all good.

Man, I'd love to stay and chat but I'm in a hurry. I'm gonna have a pool party on Sunday, you wanna come?

—Yeah, *I'm game.*

Cool, *it was nice to see you.* Do you have my number?

—I think so.

Okay, I got a new phone. So text me and I'll send you my address.

—*Sounds good.*

Alright, I'll see you on Sunday.

—Alright man, peace out.

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #17

Howdy partner.

—*Howdy*, I'm Josh, what's your name?

Hey Josh, my name's Cleveland.

—Nice to meet you Cleveland, *how're you doin'?*

I'm doin' well, how're you?

—*I'm just chillin'*. So how do you know Stephanie?

We went to school together, she's *awesome!*

—Yeah, *definitely*.

She told me you had an extra backpack you didn't want.

—Yeah that's right, here take it.

Wow *thanks man, I really appreciate it.*

—*Yup, no problem.*

But *I gotta roll*. I need to pick my girlfriend up from yoga.

—Okay, *it was nice to meet you.*

Thanks again for the backpack. *It was nice to meet you, too.*

—Oh, *don't mention it.*

I'll see you around.

—*See ya!*

REAL LIFE CONVERSATION #18

Yo, what's happenin' dawg?

—What up, what up?

Whatchu [what do you] got goin' on today?

—*Not much*, I need to go the market to get some food. I got the *munchies*, but this house is empty! Know I'm sayin'?

Yeah, this house never seems to have any food, huh?

—Yeah *it's whack*.

I'll drive you to the store if you want. I've got nothing better to do.

—Thanks *man*, I really appreciate it. You're awesome.

Let's go to that cool, little organic store up the road. *You know which one I'm talking about?*

—Yeah, it's called Mother's Sprouts, right?

Yeah, that's the one.

—I think they're closed by now.

Ah, what a *buzz kill*.

—Yeah *it's lame* they close so early.

I was totally looking forward to munching on [eating] some of their kale [a type of lettuce] chips.

—Oh *man*, those kale chips are *the shit*.

Yeah, I think they have them at Whole Foods. Let's go there instead.

—*I'm game. Let's roll.*

BONUS REAL LIFE CONVERSATION

(BECAUSE WE LOVE YOU)

Yo, what's crackin' homie?

—Not much, just reading some Ken Wilber.

Oh, that's the philosopher who does a ton of scientific research on human potential and he puts it's all together into one comprehensive view of life, right?

—*You got it.*

Sweet, I wanna learn more about him. What book of his do you recommend? Sex, Ecology, and Spirituality?

—*Not a chance, man.* Not for your first book. Start with A Breif History of Everything.

For sure.

—Yeah I've got a copy, I can lend it to you.

Awesome, you the man.

—Oh wait, *I fucked up.* I forget I let Amanda borrow it.

Ahh, *no worries.*

—Alright, we'll *I'm gonna bounce.* I've got a long drive ahead of me.

Alright *man, take care.*

—Thanks, have a good night. I'll catch ya later.