

SPOKEN ENGLISH

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How to Speak English Fluently and Confidently?

- Learn new words daily
- Avoid reading lengthy novels
- Develop your own pace of reading
- Learn from everything
- Think in English
- Introduce variety in your vocabulary
- Watch movies with subtitles, understand the usage
- Watch English content on YouTube
- and prefer speaking well without having to learn on profanity

The most important thing is, don't watch a video or read an article on doing something and then give up. We are very used to not making an effort; finding satisfaction by reading how to do it; waiting until the thing becomes an absolute necessity. And then we look for shortcuts: how to speak well in a job interview; how to learn English in 30 days.

Here are some tips that will most definitely help you better yourself in speaking the language known as "English":

Learn 10 new words each day

Any simple 10 words. And make sure you write a paragraph in which you use those words. It doesn't have to be a story, personal notes; just use those words in sentences and take the full creative liberty.

Most of the people simply learn the words but haven't a clue regarding their usage. And it has been seen that practice even in articles in newspapers. No need to start with novels.

Novels are tediously large texts written over a long period of time.

If you aren't decently familiar with the language, you will hate picking up the dictionary over and over again. So start with plays. plays are much smaller & comprise dialogue. If you want to learn to speak, you must focus on the speech rather than detailed descriptions laid down in the novel of the surroundings and whatnot.

Do not read more than three pages of anything

Your interest in the content is secondary. It should never overcome your desire to learn the language. In 3 pages, you will find plenty of information to understand the rules of grammar.

When you look at the three pages, think in your head that you are in a prison, and to learn English, which you have to at any cost, only these three pages are at your disposal. So get the most out of it.

Really read, notice, observe how every sentence is formed, and compare it with your sentence formations. This is not about creativity or originality. Steal as much as you can. Memorize the manner of speaking, explaining, and describing. You want to learn the language, not write a Nobel Prize winning book.

Learn from anything you come across

even if you are studying engineering, medicine, or anything. You have books, and they are in English.

When they are already written in English, then instead of picking up novels or newspapers, why don't you study as well as examine the sentence formation at the same time? Two things at once.

Try to think in English.

To speak English without hesitation, you try to think in English. When you are learning it, you have nobody to converse with in English. The only tool to master fluency is to speak it to yourself.

The advantage of thinking in English is there is no embarrassment. All you have to do is, enforce it on you to the extent that not even a thought crossing your mind is in Hindi.

Once it is established as a habit, you will develop fluency in speech, as you have already been doing it more than often in your mind. So when you speak it, it will come out naturally.

Do not be afraid of using the words you have learned

Bring them into your vocabulary. Understand this fact: Fluency does not equate with abundance or richness of vocabulary. There are two problems people face while speaking the language: they either can not find words or can not form a sentence.

If you are learning words, then at least one problem is taken care of. Just because people around you aren't known for using big words, does not mean you ought to refrain yourself.

Watch movies with subtitles

Movies, again, have dialogues and have conversations taking place in the most commonplace scenarios. Use it. Screw the movie. Take what you can. Observe how they are interacting with one another, note it down, learn it.

The simple idea is, the more you play with something, the more you master it. It is just like gaming, the first time you play it, you die, you lose but as you keep on playing, you get better, your understanding of the game develops, and you discover new things.

Learn the differences and proper usage of "Do, did, does"

In India, that's one thing girls make the most fun of. Must, should or ought to. Ought to and should are almost interchangeable. Can, may, might. Another important one is: lie and lay.

Americans have a complete way of using lay. Continuously and continually. Dissatisfied and unsatisfied. Credible and Credulous. Incomparable and incomparable. Google away and learn as much as you can.

Watch Tutorial on YouTube

Subscribe to the late-night show with Stephen Colbert. Actually, search for John Oliver, Trevor Noah, Samantha Bee, Bill Maher. Subscribe and whenever you decide you waste your time on YouTube, watch only and only their videos.

You will learn something new alongside the language. Another great way of learning English is for comedy. Comedy relies heavily on sentence structuring. So Education Bhaskar suggests, for a while, make English content your priority. Become obsessed. If you are learning something new, immerse yourself in it completely.

Refrain from learning the informal speech- profanities, slags, cuss words

Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Sometimes, what most people learn is how to use cuss words, and then find themselves unable to express in a clean manner. The fascination comes from trying to be cool and sounding American-like, or at least that's what we think.

It does not make you American, it makes you an Indian trying to mimic some dumbass from America.

Lastly, and here is a bonus tip, while typing, stop using short forms, shorthand, abbreviations, and restrict the usage of dots to a period. Dat is that, dere is there, hru is how are you etc. it is not saving you anytime, nor are you fighting a dragon with the other hand.

Subjects and Verbs

A sentence is commonly defined as "a complete unit of thought." Normally, a sentence expresses a relationship, conveys a command, voices a question, or describes someone or something. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.

The basic parts of a sentence are the subject and the verb. The subject is usually a noun—a word (or phrase) that names a person, place, or thing. The verb (or predicate) usually follows the subject and identifies an action or a state of being. See if you can identify the subject and the verb in each of the following short sentences:

The hawk soars.

The boys laugh.

My daughter is a wrestler.

The children are tired.

In each of these sentences, the subject is a noun: hawk, boys, daughter, and children. The verbs in the first two sentences—soars, laugh—show action and answer the question, "What does the subject do?" The verbs in the last two sentences—is, are—are called linking verbs because they link or connect the subject with a word that renames it (wrestler) or describes it (tired).

Pronouns

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns in a sentence. In the second sentence below, the pronoun she stands for Molly:

Molly danced on the roof of the barn during the thunderstorm.

She was waving an American flag.

As the second sentence shows, a pronoun (like a noun) may serve as the subject of a sentence. The common subject pronouns are I, you, he, she, it, we, and they.

Objects

In addition to serving as subjects, nouns may also function as objects in sentences. Instead of performing the action, as subjects usually do, objects receive the action and usually follow the verb. See if you can identify the objects in the short sentences below:

The girls hurled stones.

The professor swigged coffee.

Gus dropped the iPad.

The objects—stones, coffee, iPad—all answer the question: What was hurled? What was swigged? What was dropped?

As the following sentences demonstrate, pronouns may also serve as objects:

Before eating the brownie, Nancy sniffed it.

When I finally found my brother, I hugged him.

The common object pronouns are me, you, him, her, it, us, and them.

The Basic Sentence Unit

You should now be able to identify the main parts of the basic sentence unit: SUBJECT plus VERB, or SUBJECT plus VERB plus OBJECT. Remember that the subject names what the sentence is about, the verb tells what the subject does or is, and the object receives the action of the verb. Although many other structures can be added to this basic unit, the pattern of SUBJECT plus VERB (or SUBJECT plus VERB plus OBJECT) can be found in even the longest and most complicated structures.

Practice in Identifying Subjects, Verbs, and Objects

For each of the following sentences, decide whether the word in bold is a subject, a verb, or an object. When you're finished, check your answers with those at the end of the exercise.

Mr. Buck donated a wishbone to the Museum of Natural History.

After the final song, the drummer hurled his sticks at the crowd.

Gus smashed the electric guitar with a sledgehammer.

Felix stunned the dragon with a ray gun.

Very slowly, Pandora opened the box.

Very slowly, Pandora opened the box.

Very slowly, Pandora opened the box.

Thomas gave his pen to Benji.

After breakfast, Vera drove to the mission with Ted.

Even though it rarely rains here, Professor Legree carries his umbrella wherever he goes.

Answers

verb; 2. subject; 3. object; 4. object; 5. subject; 6. verb; 7. object; 8. verb; 9. subject; 10. verb.

Helping Verb: Definition, Examples of Auxiliary Verbs

Helping verb definition: Helping verbs (also called auxiliary verbs) are English verbs that help the main verb to convey time. Helping verbs modify verb tenses. For a helping verbs list, see below.

What is a Helping Verb / Auxiliary Verb?

What are helping verbs? A helping verb does just that—it “helps” the main verb to create a different verb tense. The helping verb may also help a main verb to show possibility or potential.

A verb only becomes a helping verb when it is paired with a main verb.

The most common English helping verb is “to be.” Conjugated forms of “to be” that create a helping verb include: is, am, was, were, being, been.

Helping Verb Examples

Here is an example of “to be” used as a main verb:

I am

In this example, the conjugated form of “to be” for the subject “I” is “am.” There is no other verb in this sentence. Therefore, “to be” is the main verb.

Here is an example of “to be” used as a helping verb:

I *am going* to the market today.

In this example, “to go” is the main verb. When the helping verb “to be” is added to the sentence, the conjugated verb phrase “am going” creates the present progressive verb tense. The helping verb “to be” (*am* in this sentence) must be used to make this verb tense.

List of Helping Verbs

Here is a list of helping verbs:

to be (can be conjugated)
to have (can be conjugated)
to do (can be conjugated)
can
could
may
might
must
shall
should
will
would

Purpose of Helping/Auxiliary Verbs

The first two helping verbs listed above may be conjugated to help create verb tense.

“To be” with a main verb creates the progressive tenses and passive voice.

I *am going* to the market today. (progressive)

The novel *was written*. (passive)

“To have” with a main verb creates the perfect tenses.

She *has owned* three cars prior to purchasing a truck.

I *have eaten* too much today.

“To do” may also be conjugated and when combined with a main verb creates emphasis.

I *do believe* in magic.

The remaining helping verbs listed above help create conditions.

Dan *can run*.

Dan *could run*.

Dan *may run*.

Dan *might run*.

Dan *must run*.

Dan *shall run*.

Dan *should*

Dan *will run*.

Dan *would run*.

Helping verbs can be identified when they are paired with main verbs.

To locate a helping verb in your sentence, look immediately before your main verb to see if one is before it. For example,

Dan *can run*. (“can” is helping verb).

I *am going* to the market today. (“am” is a helping verb).

To see if a sentence includes a helping verb, remove the helping verb. If the sentence still makes sense (with slight main verb conjugation), then a helping verb exists in the sentence.

Primary Helping Verbs

What are primary helping verbs? Primary helping verbs are verbs that can stand alone in a statement, without a main verb.

These verbs include:

to be

to have

to do

Primary Helping Verb Examples

Examples of primary helping verbs in use:

to be

I *am*

I *was*

to have

I *have* three dogs.

She *has* a sore back.

to do

I *did* my assignment yesterday.

He *does* gymnastics daily.

Modal Helping Verbs

What are modal helping verbs? Modal helping verbs (also called modal auxiliary verbs) are helping verbs that must be used in a verb phrase (helping verb plus main verb) in order to be grammatically correct.

Modal Verb List

The modal helping verbs include:

can
could
may
might
must
shall
should
will
would, etc.

Examples of Modal Verbs

Examples of modal helping verbs in use:

Dan *can* run. (“can” is the helping verb).

I *might* go to the market today. (“might” is the helping verb).

Helping verb: the definition of helping verbs is quite simple: they are a set of verbs used in forming the tenses, moods, and voices of other verbs. For examples of helping verbs, see above.

Regarding helping verbs use, remember:

Helping verbs create different verb tenses or show condition.

Helping verbs are *almost always* paired with a main verb (exception: primary helping verbs).

Helping verbs paired with main verbs create verb phrases.

Three Form of Verbs

This is a list of some irregular verbs in English. Of course, there are many others, but these are the more common irregular verbs. You can test yourself with these fun irregular verbs quizzes.

V1	V2	V3
Base Form	Past Simple	Past Participle
awake	awoke	awoken
be	was, were	been
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent

bet	bet	bet
bid	bid	bid
bite	bit	bitten
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burn	burned <i>or</i> burnt	burned <i>or</i> burnt

buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
dig	dug	dug
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn

dream	dreamed <i>or</i> dreamt	dreamed <i>or</i> dreamt
drive	drove	driven
drink	drank	drunk
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fly	flew	flown

forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got (<i>sometimes</i> gotten)
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grow	grew	grown
hang	hung	hung
have	had	had

hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led

learn	learned <i>or</i> learnt	learned <i>or</i> learnt
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met

pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
read	read	read
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen

sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
show	showed	showed <i>or</i> shown
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
speak	spoke	spoken

spend	spent	spent
stand	stood	stood
stink	stank	stunk
swim	swam	swum
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought

throw	threw	thrown
understand	understood	understood
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won
write	wrote	written

Pronouns

Pronouns are a major subclass of nouns. We call them a subclass of nouns because they can sometimes replace a noun in a sentence:

Noun	Pronoun
<i>John</i> got a new job	~ <i>He</i> got a new job
<i>Children</i> should watchless television	~ <i>They</i> should watchless television

In these examples the pronouns have the same reference as the nouns which they replace. In each case, they refer to people, and so we call them PERSONAL PRONOUNS. However, we also include in this group the pronoun *it*, although this pronoun does not usually refer to a person. There are three personal pronouns, and each has a singular and a plural form:

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>I</i>	<i>we</i>
2nd	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>
3rd	<i>he/she/it</i>	<i>they</i>

These pronouns also have another set of forms, which we show here:

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>me</i>	<i>us</i>
2nd	<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>
3rd	<i>him/her/it</i>	<i>them</i>

The first set of forms (*I, you, he...*) exemplifies the SUBJECTIVE CASE, and the second set (*me, you, him...*) exemplifies the OBJECTIVE CASE. The distinction between the two cases relates

to how they can be used in sentences. For instance, in our first example above, we say that *he* can replace *John*

John got a new job

~*He* got a new job

But *he* cannot replace *John* in *I gave John a new job*. Here, we have to use the objective form *him*: *I gave him a new job*.

Other Types of Pronoun

As well as personal pronouns, there are many other types, which we summarise here.

Pronoun Type	Members of the Subclass	Example
Possessive	<i>mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs</i>	The white car is <i>mine</i>
Reflexive	<i>myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves</i>	He injured <i>himself</i> playing football
Reciprocal	<i>each other, one another</i>	They really hate <i>each other</i>
Relative	<i>that, which, who, whose, whom, where, when</i>	The book <i>that</i> you gave me was really boring

Demonstrative	<i>this, that, these, those</i>	<i>This is a new car</i>
Interrogative	<i>who, what, why, where, when, whatever</i>	<i>What did he say to you?</i>
Indefinite	<i>anything, anybody, anyone, something, somebody, someone, nothing, nobody, none, no one</i>	<i>There's something in my shoe</i>

Case and number distinctions do not apply to all pronoun types. In fact, they apply only to personal pronouns, possessive pronouns, and reflexive pronouns. It is only in these types, too, that gender differences are shown (personal *he/she*, possessive *his/hers*, reflexive *himself/herself*). All other types are unvarying in their form.

Many of the pronouns listed above also belong to another word class - the class of determiners. They are pronouns when they occur independently, that is, without a noun following them, as in *This is a new car*. But when a noun follows them - *This car is new* - they are determiners. We will look at determiners in the next section.

A major difference between pronouns and nouns generally is that pronouns do not take *the* or *a/an* before them. Further, pronouns do not take adjectives before them, except in very restricted constructions involving some indefinite pronouns (*a little something, a certain someone*).

While the class of nouns as a whole is an open class, the subclass of pronouns is closed.

The 4 English Sentence Types

There are four types of English sentence, classified by their purpose:

declarative sentence (statement)

interrogative sentence (question)

imperative sentence (command)

exclamative sentence (exclamation)

Sentence types are sometimes called *clause types*.

	form	function	example sentence (clause)	final punctuation
1	declarative	statement: It tells us something	John likes Mary.	.
2	interrogative	question: It asks us something	Does Mary like John?	?
3	imperative	command: It tells us to do something	Stop! Close the door.	! or .

4	exclamative	exclamation: It expresses surprise	What a funnystory he told us!	!
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(form = structure / function = job)

Declarative Sentence (statement)

Declarative sentences make a **statement**. They tell us something. They give us information, and they normally end with a full-stop/period.

The usual word order for the declarative sentence is:

subject + verb...

Declarative sentences can be positive or negative. Look at these examples:

positive	negative
I like coffee.	I do not like coffee.
We watched TV last night.	We did not watch TV lastnight.

Declarative sentences are the most common type of sentence.

Interrogative Sentence (question)

Interrogative sentences ask a **question**. They ask us something. They want information, and they always end with a question mark.

The usual word order for the interrogative sentence is:

(*wh-word* +) auxiliary + subject + verb...

Interrogative sentences can be positive or negative. Look at these examples:

positive	negative
Do you like coffee?	Don't you like coffee?
Why did you go?	Why didn't you go?

Imperative Sentence (command)

Imperative sentences give a **command**. They tell us to do something, and they end with a full-stop/period (.) or exclamation mark/point (!).

The usual word order for the imperative sentence is:

base verb...

Note that there is usually no subject—because the subject is understood, it is *YOU*.

Imperative sentences can be positive or negative. Look at these examples:

positive	negative
Stop!	Do not stop!
Give her coffee.	Don't give her coffee.

Exclamative Sentence (exclamation)

Exclamative sentences express strong emotion/surprise—an **exclamation**—and they always end with an exclamation mark/point (!). The

usual word order for the exclamative sentence is:

What (+ adjective) + noun + subject + verb

How (+ adjective/adverb) + subject + verb

Look at these examples:

What a liar he is!

What an exciting movie it was!

How he lied!

How exciting the movie was!

What are Filler Words and Why Do We Use Them?

Filler words are commonly known as words used in speech to express hesitation or the need for more time to think.

There are a number of other uses as well. The following are also functions of filler words:

- Speak indirectly to avoid conflict
- Approach sensitive topics, such as politics
- Emphasize opinions and ideas
- Hint at emotions or behaviors
- Express uncertainty

If you are a non-native English speaker, it is especially helpful to learn filler words. By learning filler words, you will be able to identify them by listening. You will also know when and when not to use filler words yourself.

If you use the right filler word at an appropriate time, you will sound more like a native speaker. This especially helps as you are becoming familiar with English. Once you learn more vocabulary and advance in English, you will be able to lessen the amount of filler words you speak.

As you will notice, different English filler words are used for different purposes; they each have their own unique meaning and usage.

Filler Word #1: "Like"

Meaning	When to Use	Example
may or may not be true	when you're not exactly sure or have a hard time describing something	"What was his name again?" "It was, like, Justin or something."
extra emphasis when comparing or describing things	when you want to exaggerate a comparison or description	"COVID-19 is like something I never imagined."
"Like" is an overused filler word in English, used in both formal and informal settings. It is commonly spoken by Generation Y, also known as <i>millennials</i> , and Generation Z.		

Filler Word #2: "I mean..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
to express emphasis to a statement	to strengthen your opinion or statement	"I failed the biology exam today." "I mean, you can always study harder for the next test."
to make a correction (<i>sometimes to lie</i>)	to correct oneself or lie	"Where is he?" "He went to the store. I mean, he went to school."

“I mean” is generally said to emphasize how one feels about something. When it is used to express honesty, it can sometimes be quite brutal. Take this statement for an example.

I mean, I never liked your cooking in the first place.

It is mostly used while making corrections. However, it can sometimes be used to change the truth into a lie or vice versa. Therefore, the listener may not take the speaker seriously.

Filler Word #3: “So basically...”

Meaning	When to Use	Example
to give an accurate account of a situation or statement	to give a more detailed explanation (generally used in the beginning of a sentence)	“So basically... The man was kicked out of the aircraft for refusing to wear a mask.”
to give further instructions	to give instructions that are easier to understand	“I can’t afford to give each of my 30 students a family pack of candy.” “So basically... All you have to do is buy one family size bag of candy and distribute it evenly among the students.”
“So basically” is mostly used when telling stories or giving instructions. Therefore, when you hear someone begin a sentence with “So basically,” expect to get lots of details.		

Filler Word #4: "You know..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
to refer to something already known	asking for confirmation	"This book is a New York Times bestseller, you know?"
to prove something to someone	to help someone understand what you mean	"You know, last night's party was really lame and tiring."

"You know" is said when the speaker assumes that the listener already knows something. It is also used to further explain how you feel or what you mean.

Filler Word #5: "...Umm/Uh/Er..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
expressing hesitation	when you don't want to respond	"Do these pants make me look fat?" "Uh..."
added pause in speech	when you need more time to think about what you're going to say	*giving presentation at meeting* "Today, we are going to review last week's...Umm...sales."

"Umm," "uh," and "er" are used to fill awkward silence. It is spoken when either the listener doesn't want to cause conflict with someone or needs more time to think.

Filler Word #6: "Well..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
to think about your next words	to get more time to think or stall	"Well... Alright, I will extend the deadline by another week."
to mark the end of a conversation	to end a conversation	"Well, it was nice talking to you! Bye!"
"Well" can be used when you want to make a quick decision but need to think about it first. It can also be a polite way to end a conversation.		

Filler Word #7: "...Okay/So..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
marks the start of a conversation or idea	to start a new topic	"So why did the two singers argue at the Oscars?"
to give instructions	when you want to give details or instructions	"Okay, so let's turn to page 78. Who wants to read the first paragraph? Okay, Jonathan?"
to give a summary	when you prepare to summarize an event	"So, yesterday, I went to Starbucks to study Korean, and the barista asked everyone to wear their masks."
When someone is preparing to start a new topic, give instructions, or provide a summary, he or she starts a sentence with "So" or "Okay, so..."		

Filler Word #8: "Now..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
to give instructions or introduce an idea	when you want to start a conversation	"Now... What is the main idea of the story?"
to express confusion	when you're in wonder	"Now how did my laptop end up on the bathroom floor?"
to give honesty on changes needed to something or someone	when you need to be honest about a situation	"Now you have to stop smoking. It is bad for your health."
<p>"Now," as a filler word, is used at the beginning of a sentence. Like most filler words in English, it is used to lighten a statement to not cause offense. It is also a marker to the start of a conversation. Lastly, when something seems bizarre or confusing, the speaker may begin their statement with</p>		
<p>"Now."</p>		

Filler Word #9: "Or something (like that)..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
to give similarities	to provide examples	"If you want to watch a sad romance, you should watch The Notebook or something like that."

to give a guess	when you're not entirely sure whatsomething is	"Her job is IT-related and consists of coding or something like that."
<p>This filler phrase is usually used to keep a conversation active and interesting.</p> <p>"Or something (like that)" leaves the listener with many options of comparisons or guesses to what the speaker is referencing. Once the listener has a clear understanding, given the examples provided by the speaker, he or she is left with many options and choices.</p>		

Filler Word #10: "...I guess..."

Meaning	When to Use	Example
affirmation but without certainty	when you're not entirely sure about something	"I guess he overslept, because he is an hour late for work today."
to express no harm done or will be done	used as reassurance that everything will be fine	"I guess it's okay for you to use my car this weekend."
<p>"I guess" is used to make light of situations, in case it's not true or harmful.</p>		

Phrasal Verbs

What are Phrasal Verbs?

A phrasal verb is a combination of words (a **verb** + a **preposition** or verb + **adverb**) that when used together, usually take on a different meaning to that of the original verb.

Phrasal Verb Examples

break down, check in, tear up

When we use phrasal verbs, we use them like normal verbs in a sentence, regardless if it's a regular or **irregular verb**.

Ella tore up the letter after she read it.

Their car broke down two miles out of town.

Did the manager deal with that customer's complaint.

More phrasal verb examples:

Be sure to put on a life jacket before getting into the boat.

We left out the trash for pickup.

It's time to get on the plane.

What will she think up next?

I'm having some trouble working out the solution to this equation.

We're going to have to put off our vacation until next year.

Stand up when speaking in class, please.

We'll have to wake up early if we want breakfast.

Take off your shoes before you walk on the carpet.

My dog likes to break out of his kennel to chase squirrels.

This That These Those

We use 'this / that / these / those' to show which things or people we mean.

We generally use 'this / that' to talk about one thing or person and 'these / those' to talk about more than one thing or person.

This car. (One car.)

These cars. (More than one car.)

That boy. (One boy.)

Those boys. (More than one boy.)

We can use 'this / that / these / those' before a noun, or by themselves. Here are some examples without nouns.

I'd like this, please.

That is beautiful!

Could I try these on?

She wants those.

When we use 'this / that / these / those' by themselves, they usually only talk about things, not people.

This child is hungry. (NOT: This is hungry.)

We usually use 'this / these' to talk about things or people that are close to us and 'that /those' to talk about things or people that are further away from us.

This book (in my hand) is really good, but that book (on the table) is boring.

'This / these' have a similar idea to 'here' and 'that / those' have a similar idea to 'there'.

As well as things that are near to us and far away from us in space, we can also use 'this / that / these / those' to talk about things that are near to us and far away from us in time. We usually use this / these for things in the present and that / those for things in the past.

I really like this film (that we're watching now).

I hated that film (that we watched last week).

We can also use this and that more generally, to talk about a whole experience or a whole discussion. We often use 'that' when the other person has said something.

That's a really good idea. (The things that you have explained.)

This is so amazing (I mean the whole experience of today).

We can use 'this' and 'that' by ourselves to talk about people when we say who the person is. This happens when we introduce people and on the telephone. When we're on the telephone, in UK English, we use 'this' to say who we are and 'that' to talk about the other person.

This is Julia. (Julia is speaking.)

Who is that?

(If we use a pronoun like 'me' on the telephone, we use 'it' not 'this': It's me. NOT:

this is me.)

We can also use 'this' to introduce people to each other.

Amanda, this is John.

This is my friend Lukas.

Commonly used Idioms

Every language has its own collection of wise sayings. They offer advice about how to live and also transmit some underlying ideas, principles and values of a given culture / society. These sayings are called "idioms" - or proverbs if they are longer. These combinations of words have (rarely complete sentences) a "figurative" meaning - they basically work with "pictures".

This list of commonly used idioms and sayings (in everyday conversational English) can help you to speak English by learning English idiomatic expressions. This is a list, which contains exactly 66 of the most commonly used idioms and their meaning.

Smart Idioms

A hot potato

Speak of an issue (mostly current) which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed

A penny for your thoughts

A way of asking what someone is thinking

Actions speak louder than words

People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say.

Add insult to injury

To further a loss with mockery or indignity; to worsen an unfavorable situation.

At the drop of a hat

Meaning: without any hesitation; instantly.

Back to the drawing board

When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.

Ball is in your court

It is up to you to make the next decision or step

Barking up the wrong tree

Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person

Be glad to see the back of

Be happy when a person leaves.

Beat around the bush

Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.

Best of both worlds

Meaning: All the advantages.

Best thing since sliced bread

A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan.

Bite off more than you can chew

To take on a task that is way to big.

Blessing in disguise

Something good that isn't recognized at first.

Burn the midnight oil

To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting.

Can't judge a book by its cover

Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.

Caught between two stools

When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.

Costs an arm and a leg

This idiom is used when something is very expensive.

Cross that bridge when you come to it

Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before.

Cry over spilt milk

When you complain about a loss from the past.

Curiosity killed the cat

Being Inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant situation.

Cut corners

When something is done badly to save money.

Cut the mustard [possibly derived from "cut the muster"]

To succeed; to come up to expectations; adequate enough to compete or participate

Devil's Advocate

To present a counter argument

Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched

This idiom is used to express "Don't make plans for something that might not happen".

Don't give up the day job

You are not very good at something. You could definitely not do it professionally.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Do not put all your resources in one possibility.

Drastic times call for drastic measures

When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions.

Elvis has left the building

The show has come to an end. It's all over.

Every cloud has a silver lining

Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.

Far cry from

Very different from.

Feel a bit under the weather

Meaning: Feeling slightly ill.

Give the benefit of the doubt

Believe someone's statement, without proof.

Hear it on the grapevine

This idiom means 'to hear rumors' about something or someone.

Hit the nail on the head

Do or say something exactly right

Hit the sack / sheets / hay

To go to bed.

In the heat of the moment

Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.

It takes two to tango

Actions or communications need more than one person

Jump on the bandwagon

Join a popular trend or activity.

Keep something at bay

Keep something away.

Kill two birds with one stone

This idiom means, to accomplish two different things at the same time.

Last straw

The final problem in a series of problems.

Let sleeping dogs lie

Meaning - do not disturb a situation as it is - since it would result in trouble or complications.

Let the cat out of the bag

To share information that was previously concealed

Make a long story short

Come to the point - leave out details

Method to my madness

An assertion that, despite one's approach seeming random, there actually is structure to it.

Miss the boat

This idiom is used to say that someone missed his or her chance

Not a spark of decency

Meaning: No manners

Not playing with a full deck

Someone who lacks intelligence.

Off one's rocker

Crazy, demented, out of one's mind, in a confused or befuddled state of mind, senile.

On the ball

When someone understands the situation well.

Once in a blue moon

Meaning: Happens very rarely.

Picture paints a thousand words

A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

Piece of cake

A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple.

Put wool over other people's eyes

This means to deceive someone into thinking well of them.

See eye to eye

This idiom is used to say that two (or more people) agree on something.

Sit on the fence

This is used when someone does not want to choose or make a decision.

Speak of the devil!

This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.

Steal someone's thunder

To take the credit for something someone else did.

Take with a grain of salt

This means not to take what someone says too seriously.

Taste of your own medicine

Means that something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else

To hear something straight from the horse's mouth

To hear something from the authoritative source.

Whole nine yards

Everything. All of it.

Wouldn't be caught dead

Would never like to do something

Your guess is as good as mine

To have no idea, do not know the answer to a question

English Idioms

An idiom is a **short phrase** with its own specific meaning, and learning English idioms can help you to understand and become more like a native speaker.

A knee-jerk reaction

Meaning: An automatic response to something

Apple of my eye

Meaning: Often daughters or sons are referred to as the "apple" of their parent's eye

Origin: This phrase originates from King David, who wrote in Psalm 17 to ask God to remember and love David as His child: "Keep me as the apple of Your eye, hide me in the shadow of Your wings."

As busy as a bee

Meaning: To be extremely busy

At the drop of a hat

Meaning: immediately

Back to basics

Meaning: Simplifying things

Origin: The UK Prime Minister John Major was quoted as saying, 'It is time to get back to basics.' He was referring to the idea that the UK should try to revert back to a simpler time

Back to square one

Meaning: Go back to the beginning

Origin: In order to make football easily understandable to the listeners, a system of division was created. The field was separated into numbered squares with number one as the centre. Hence, after a goal, the ball went back to square one and they started again

Break a Leg

Meaning: Wishing someone good luck

Origin: In the theatre, if your performance was liked the crowd, they might ask for an 'encore,' which means a curtain call. The stick that is used to raise and lower the curtain was called a leg, so 'break a leg,' means to

get so many curtain calls that the leg breaks in two. It's worth noting that wishing 'good luck' in the theatre is considered bad luck, so an alternative had to be found

Chip on his shoulder

Meaning: Carry a grudge

Origin: It dates back to the 19th century when fighters would put a chip on their shoulder and challenge others to hit it off

Close but no cigar

Meaning: Coming close to achieving success, but reaching a disappointment due to failure

Origin: Many years ago slot machines gave out cigars as prizes. Also, early carnival games also gave out cigars as prizes

Cut to the chase

Meaning: Get to the point

Origin: This comes from Hollywood in the 1920's and meant to move from a dramatic scene to an action scene

Dead Ringer

Meaning: Identical to something or someone

Origin: In England people who were afraid of being buried alive would attach a string to their finger that ran up to a bell. If they were alive they would ring the bell and be later dug up.

Example: 'He's a dead ringer for Hu Jintao'

Dog eat dog

Meaning: situation in which people act ruthlessly in order to be successful

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Meaning: When you are given something you shouldn't be ungrateful

Origin: If you count the teeth of a horse you can tell its age, but this would be rude if that horse were a present because you are finding fault

Double whammy

Meaning: A double setback from being able to do something

Every Tom, Dick, and Harry

Meaning: This refers to everybody and excludes no one. It might come from the fact that the names Tom, Dick and Harry were very common years ago and so would seem to include every person possible.

Example: 'Every Tom, Dick and Harry wants to borrow my bike!'

Excuse My French

Meaning: An apology before or after swearing

Face the Music

Meaning: Having to confront the awkward situation

Origin: This comes from the theatre, where musicians were seated in front of the stage. Hence, facing the music meant turning towards the audience, or whatever problem you had.

Fly on the wall

Meaning: A fly on the wall refers to someone who over sees something without the watched noticing him/her.

From top to bottom

Meaning: Completely, thoroughly, totally

Get cold feet

Meaning: Become frightened or nervous about something that you have to do

Get out of the wrong side of the bed

Meaning: In a bad mood

Origin: It is unlucky to put your left foot on the floor first when getting out of bed, and this can affect your mood for the rest of the day

Get the run-around

Meaning: Receive a series of excuses, delays, etc. This means that you have been treated in a way that causes you to do much more than you really should, by not giving you the answer you seek. This is also called a 'wild goose chase.'

Example: A. 'Hi, I would like to know my bank balance.'

B. 'Sorry that's not our department, try 1234567'

'Hi 1234567, I would like to know my bank balance.'

'Sorry that's not our department, try 4567890'

'Hi 4567890, I would like to know my bank balance.'

'Sorry that's not our department, try 1234567'

'Wow, I am getting the run-around'

Get the short end of the stick

Meaning: Getting the smallest share or worst position

Graveyard Shift

Meaning: Working the night-shift, working at night

Origin: This has a very spooky meaning and comes from the fact that in old England people were sometimes buried alive by mistake (think unconscious). Years later the graves were moved to a new location and signs of attempted escape such as finger scrapes inside the coffin were discovered. In order to make sure this never happened again, an employee was used to stay in the graveyard at night and listen for any sounds, hence the working the night-shift.

Hit the hay

Meaning: Go to bed

Origin: Before mattresses used to be stuffed with hay or straw, so when one was hitting the hay they were on their way to bed, thus that's where the meaning 'hit the hay' or go to bed comes from.

In full swing

Meaning: Currently happening at full speed

In nothing flat

Meaning: Immediately, straight away

In the bag

Meaning: Secured / guaranteed outcome

Origin: This idiom originated in Great Britain when a bag was placed under the Speaker's chair (parliament). If there was a petition that was 'put in the bag' then it must be raised on that day.

In the long run

Meaning: Eventually

In the doghouse

Meaning: Being in trouble with someone

Jinx

Meaning: Bad luck

Origin: This is a 17th century word for a spell. In the early 1900's, sportswriters used the term to mean bad luck

Keep a straight face

Meaning: You should try not to laugh even though you find something really funny. You should use this when you are trying not to laugh at someone directly, usually from fear of being rude.

Example: 'Did you see that lady fall down the hole? I was trying to keep a straight face'

Kick the Bucket

Meaning: To die

Origin: Refers to people who committed suicide by putting a noose around their neck and standing on a bucket. It was the act of kicking it away that would kill them

Late in the day

Meaning: Something that has happened at a very late stage

Level playing field

Meaning: This is a term which refers to an equal and fair competition

Example: 'Now we are on a level playing field'

Like a headless chicken

Meaning: In a frenzied and uncontrollable manner

Make a mountain out of a molehill

Meaning: Make something minor into a major issue

Mum's the word

Meaning: Keep a secret and don't say anything

Origin: This comes from the works of Shakespeare in Henry VI, Part 2. He wrote that a character should 'seal up your lips and give no words but mum,' because mum is the sound of a hum you can only make with your mouth closed

Example: 'Mum's the word, let's keep this secret'

Not playing with a full deck

Meaning: If you're 'not playing with a full deck' then you are either stupid or crazy

Origin: This comes from lacking the required intelligence, as a card game being played with a missing card

Off The Cuff

Meaning: An unprepared/adlib action

Origin: This is to do with public speakers in the 1930's writing notes on their shirt cuffs, in case they forgot their speeches

Open secret

Meaning: Something that is supposedly a secret, but that everyone knows.

Confusing & Similar Words

Sr. No.	Confusing words	
1	Allowed	Permitted
	Aloud	Clearly heard
	Allude	Make indirect reference
2	Elude	Escape from something
	Ate	The past tense of eat
3	Eight	The number
	To	In the direction of something
4	Too	Also
	Coarse	Rough
5	Course	Way or path
	Quiet	Silent
6	Quite	Really, positively
	Loose	Free
7	Lose	Misplace
	Forth	Forward
8	Fourth	The number comes after three
	Principal	Chief person, Head person
9	Principle	Rule, law
	Then	At that time
10	Than	Comparison
	Buy	Purchase
11	By	Preposition
12	Week	Seven days

	Weak	Feeble
	Brake	Stopping device
13	Break	Split, smash
	Here	In this place
14	Hear	Perceive, listening
	Plane	Flat surface
15	Plain	Simple
	Further	Abstract idea
16	Farther	Physical distance
	Stationary	Not moving
17	Stationery	Writing paper etc.
	Capitol	Building
18	Capital	City, wealth
	Whether	If, in case
19	Weather	Atmosphere
	Witch	Sorceress
20	Which	What one
	Piece	Part, portion
21	Peace	Absence of war
	Whom	Object
22	Who	Subject
	Ensure	Guarantee
23	Insure	Financial liability
	Emigrate	Leave your own country
24	Immigrate	Come and live in a country
	House	Is still a house even if no one living inside it
25	Home	Is a place where you live or the location

	Gone to	You've travelled and not returned yet
26	Been to	You've travelled and have already returned
	Good	Adjective
27	Well	Adverb
	Guarantee	Refers to promise
28	Warranty	Used for products
	Insight	In-depth
29	Incite	Provoke to action
	Last	Final
30	Latest	Most recent
	Morale	State of spirit
31	Moral	Lesson
	Peak	Top
32	Pique	Provoke, Arouse
	Poison	If we inhale
33	Venom	Is injected
	Poor	Have no money
34	Pore	Putting
	Pray	Asking God
35	Prey	An animal that is hunted
	Remember	Think of a memory
36	Reminder	Notes, Cell alerts
	Review	To examine
37	Revise	Correction of errors
	Sell	Verb
38	Sale	Noun
	Accident	Bad event
39	Incident	Any event

	Averse	Describes a situation
40	Adverse	Goes against what you want
	Advice	Noun
41	Advise	Verb
	All ready	Everything is ready
42	Already	Happened earlier
	Altar	Place of religious ceremonies
43	Alter	Change
	Appraise	To elevate
44	Apprise	To inform or notify
	Assure	Removing doubts or anxiety
45	Insure	Pay for any damage or loss
	Confidant	Self-trust
46	Confident	Feel about good outcome
	Beside	Next to
47	Besides	In addition to
	Bring up	Parents bring up children
48	Grow up	Children grow up
	Cloth	Material cotton, wool
49	Clothes	Items that we wear
	Compliment	Positive comment
50	Complement	Two things that go together
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	Poison	If we inhale
58	Venom	Is injected
	Poor	Have no money
59	Pore	Putting
	Emigrate	Leave your own country
60	Immigrate	Come and live in a country
	House	Is still a house even if no one living inside it
61	Home	Is a place where you live or the location
	Gone to	You've traveled and not returned yet
62	Been to	You've traveled and have already returned
	Which	What one
63	Piece	Part, portion
	Peace	Absence of war
64	Whom	Object
	Who	Subject
65	Which	What one
66	Guarantee	Refers towards promise

	Warranty	Used for products
	Insight	In depth
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	Last	Final
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	Morale	State of spirit
72	Moral	Lesson
	Beside	Next to
73	Besides	In addition to
	Bring up	Parents bring up children
74	Grow up	Children grow up
	Advice	Noun
75	Advise	Verb
	All ready	Everything is ready
76	Already	Happened earlier
	Buy	Purchase
77	By	Preposition
	Week	Seven days
79	Weak	Feeble
80	Here	In this place

	Hear	Perceive, listening
	Plane	Flat surface
81	Plain	Simple
	Stationary	Not moving
82	Stationery	Writing paper etc.
	Capitol	Building
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	Whether	If, in case
84	Weather	Atmosphere
	Ensure	Guarantee
85	Insure	Financial liability
	Good	Adjective
86	Well	Adverb
	Pray	Asking to God
87	Prey	Animal that is hunted
	Appraise	To elevate
88	Apprise	To inform or notify
	Further	Abstract idea
89	Farther	Physical distance
	Brake	Stopping device
90	Break	Split, smash
	Quiet	Silent
91	Quite	Really, positively
	Loose	Free
92	Lose	Misplace
	Allude	Make indirect reference
93	Elude	Escape from something
94	Ate	The past tense of eat

	Eight	The number
	Principal	Chief person, Head person
95	Principle	Rule, law
	Then	At that time
96	Than	Comparison
	To	In the direction of something
97	Too	Also
	Coarse	Rough
98	Course	Way or path
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99	Fourth	The number comes after three