

Later.
I'll try to catch you later.
I'll catch you later.
Catch you later.
See you.
See ya.
See you around.
Take care.

Business Pleasantries

147 **Announcing your arrival for an appointment**

Mr. Smith to see Dr. Jones.
I'm here to see Mrs. Hodges.
Could you please tell Mr. Smith I'm here?
I have an appointment with Mrs. Jones.

148 **Being assertive—polite**

I'd like my check now, please.
I'd like my payment now, please.
No, I don't think so.
= *I totally reject your assertion.*

Excuse me?
= *Did you really say what I think you said?*

May I have your name, please?
I'd like to speak to the manager.
I'd like to speak to your supervisor.
I intend to stand my ground.
I'm not leaving until I'm satisfied.



Apologizing and Taking Responsibility

149 Sincere apologies

Sorry.
So sorry.
I'm (so) very sorry.
I'm (so) sorry.
I'm really sorry.
I'm terribly sorry.
I'm sincerely sorry.
I apologize.
My apologies. (*formal*)
My sincere apologies. (*formal*)
You have my sincere apology. (*formal*)
Please accept my apology.
Please accept my apologies.
Please accept my heartfelt apology.
I offer my most sincere apology. (*formal*)



150 Offering a very polite apology

You cannot believe how sorry I am.
Words cannot describe how sorry I am.
I am just mortified.
Please send me the bill, and I'll take care of it.

151 Accepting the blame for something

It's my fault.
It's all my fault.
I'm fully responsible.
I take full responsibility.
I take the blame.
I blame no one but myself.

Mea culpa. (*Latin*)

= *I am guilty.*

Maxima culpa. (*Latin*)

= *I am completely guilty.*

152 **Admitting your errors**

My mistake.

I shouldn't have said that.

I shouldn't have done that.

I should have asked you first.

I didn't mean it.

I honestly didn't mean it.

I didn't mean it, honest.

I didn't mean to do it.

I didn't mean to do that.

I didn't mean to say that.

I didn't mean it that way.

I didn't intend it that way.

I don't know how that could have happened.



153 **Promising never to repeat a particular mistake**

It won't happen again.

It will never happen again.

I'll see (to it) that it never happens again.

I won't do it again.

154 **Offering to make amends**

How can I make it up to you?

How can I ever make it up to you?

Is there anything I can do (to make it up to you)?

I promise I'll make it up to you.

- Please forgive me.
- Can you forgive me?
- Can you ever forgive me?
- Can you find it in your heart to forgive me?
- How can you ever forgive me?
- I ask your forgiveness.
- I beg your forgiveness. (*formal*)
- I throw myself upon your mercy. (*formal*)
- I ask for your mercy. (*formal*)

Forgiving

156 **Simple forgiveness**

- I forgive you.
- You're forgiven.
- All is forgiven.
- That's all right.
- It's okay. (*informal*)
- That's okay. (*informal*)
- Don't worry about it.
- Think on it no more. (*formal*)
- Think of it no more. (*formal*)
- Think no more of it. (*formal*)
- Don't give it another thought.
- To err is human, to forgive divine. (*cliché*)



157 **Forgiveness—informal**

- Forget it.
- Forget about it.
- Forgive and forget.

Don't worry about it.
Write it off.
I'll let you off this time.
I'll let it slide this time.
I'll give you another chance.
I'll turn the other cheek.
I won't hold it against you.

158 Encouraging someone to end a dispute

Let's drop the subject.
Let's bury the hatchet. (*idiomatic*)
Let's bring this matter to a close.
It's time to kiss and make up. (*cliché*)

Showing Gratitude

159 Saying "thank you"—formal

Thank you.
Thank you very much.
Thank you so much.
Thank you for your help.
Thank you for all you've done.
Thank you for everything.
You have my thanks.
You have my gratitude.
I'm deeply grateful.
I'm in your debt.
I'm indebted to you.
Thanks ever so much.
Thanks very much.



Thanks.
Thanks much.
Thanks for everything.
Thanks so much.
Thanks a lot.
Thanks a million.
Thanks a bunch.
Thanks a bundle.
Thanks heaps.
I owe you one.
I owe you big.
I owe you big-time.

Returning Thanks

161 **Acknowledging someone’s thanks—formal**

You’re welcome.
You’re most welcome.
You’re entirely welcome.
My pleasure.
It was my pleasure.
The pleasure was mine.
The pleasure was all mine.
The pleasure was entirely mine.



162 **Acknowledging someone’s thanks—informal**

It was nothing.
Don’t mention it.
No problem.
No sweat. (*slang*)

Any time.
No trouble.
No skin off my nose.
No skin off my teeth.
No skin off my back.

Special Occasions

163 Seeing a new baby

Oh, isn't he cute!
Isn't he the sweetest thing!
Oh, isn't she darling!
She's beautiful.
She's so big!
What an adorable baby!
His eyes are just like his father's.
Her nose looks just like her mother's.
She has her father's eyes.
He's got his mother's nose.



164 Asking about a new baby

How much does he weigh?
Was he early?
Was she late?
What's his name?
Who is she named after?
Has he been sleeping well?
Is she sleeping through the night?
Does he sleep through the night yet?
Can I hold her?
May I hold him?

Congratulations!
 Good going!
 Good job!
 Good work!
 Bravo!

166 **Wishing someone well**

Happy Birthday!
 . . . and many (many) more!
 Many happy returns!
 Happy Anniversary!
 Congratulations!
 Good luck!
 Best wishes!
 All our best!
 Bon voyage! (*French*)
(said when someone is leaving on a sea voyage)
 Have a good time!
 Have a good trip!

167 **Expressing sympathy at a funeral or wake**

I'm sorry.
 I'm so sorry.
 I'm so sorry for your loss.
 I'm very sorry.
 You have my sympathy.
 You have my deepest sympathy. (*formal*)
 Please accept my sympathy. (*formal*)
 My heart goes out to you.
 I share your sorrow.
 I share your pain.
 How are you doing?

If you need anything, please let us know.
If there's anything we can do for you, please let us know.
Our thoughts are with you.
You're in our prayers.
We'll keep you in our prayers.

IMPOLITE ENCOUNTERS

Dealing with Unpleasantness

168 When someone is conceited or vain

You're so vain.

You're too big for your britches. (*informal*)

britches = trousers

You're getting a little big for your britches. (*informal*)

Aren't you getting a little big for your britches? (*informal*)

You're so full of yourself. (*idiomatic*)

You think you're pretty smart, don't you? (*informal*)

You think you're so smart. (*informal*)

You think you're so big. (*informal*)

You think you're such a big shot. (*informal*)

a big shot = an important person

You love the sound of your own voice. (*informal*)

You just like to hear yourself talk. (*informal*)

You talk just to hear yourself speak. (*informal*)

You think the world revolves around you.

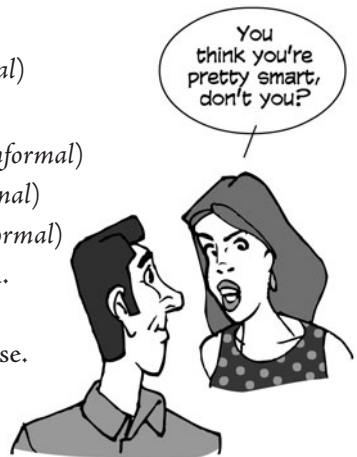
The world doesn't revolve around you.

You think you're the center of the universe.

You're all wrapped up in yourself.

All you think about is yourself.

Did you ever stop to think about anyone else?



When someone is overbearing

Who died and made you king? (*informal*)

Who died and made you Pope? (*informal*)

Who died and made you God? (*informal*)

Smarty. (*informal*)

Smart-ass. (*mildly vulgar*)

Smarty pants. (*slang*)

Know-it-all. (*informal*)

Get off your high horse. (*informal*)

= *Be less arrogant.*

Who do you think you are?

You think you're so smart? (*informal*)

You and who else? (*informal*)

You and what army? (*slang*)

What makes you so special? (*informal*)

Don't break your arm patting yourself on the back. (*idiomatic*)

You think you're so hot. (*informal*)

hot = *important*

You think you're such hot stuff. (*informal*)

hot stuff = *someone or something important*



When someone has been insolent or rude—shocked response

The nerve of you!

nerve = *impudence; brashness*

What nerve you have!

You have a lot of nerve!

You've got a lot of nerve!

The nerve!

You have a lot of gall!

gall = *nerve*

The gall!

The very idea!

How dare you!

Why, I never!
How could you say such a thing?
How could you do such a thing?
I beg your pardon!

171 **When someone has been insolent or rude—firm response**

Don't get smart with me!
Don't get sassy with me. (*folksy*)
 sassy = insolent
Don't sass me. (*folksy*)
Don't talk back to me.
Don't give me any of your lip. (*informal*)
 lip = insolent talk
Don't get uppity on me. (*folksy*)
 uppity = arrogant
Don't get uppity with me. (*folksy*)
Don't get cocky. (*informal*)
 cocky = insolent
Don't get fresh. (*informal*)
 fresh = insolent; impudent
Don't get your nose out of joint. (*informal*)
Don't overstep your bounds.
Watch yourself.
Watch it. (*informal*)
Watch out. (*informal*)



172 **When someone has been insolent or rude—rude response**

Oh, a smart aleck? (*informal*)
 a smart aleck = an insolent person
Oh, a wiseguy? (*slang*)
 a wiseguy = a smart aleck
Oh, a wiseacre? (*slang*)
 a wiseacre = a smart aleck

Oh, a smart-ass? (*mildly vulgar*)

a smart-ass = a smart aleck

Oh, a smart mouth? (*slang*)

a smart mouth = an impudent-talking smart aleck

Wiseguy. (*slang*)

Wisecre. (*slang*)

Smart aleck. (*informal*)

Smart-ass. (*mildly vulgar*)

Wipe that grin off your face. (*informal*)

Wipe that smirk off your face. (*informal*)

173 Encouraging a timid person

Show a little resolve.

Show some courage.

Show some spine.

Don't be so spineless.

Don't be such a chicken-shit. (*taboo*)

a chicken-shit = a coward

Don't be such a lily-liver. (*informal*)

a lily-liver = a coward

174 Insulting a coward

Chicken! (*slang*)

= Coward!

Wimp! (*slang*)

= Coward!

Wuss! (*slang*)

= Coward!

Fraidy-cat! (*juvenile*)

a fraidy-cat = a coward

Scaredy-cat! (*juvenile*)

a scaredy-cat = a coward



You're yellow. (*informal*)

yellow = cowardly

You yellow-bellied sapsucker. (*informal*)

= *You coward.*

You are a gutless wonder. (*slang*)

gutless = cowardly

You're afraid of your own shadow. (*informal*)

Are you a man or a mouse? (*cliché*)

Cat got your tongue? (*cliché*)

= *Are you afraid or unable to speak?*

Got cold feet?

= *Are you too frightened to act?*

You really wimped out. (*slang*)

wimped out = *withdrew in a cowardly fashion*

You really chickened out. (*slang*)

chickened out = *withdrew in a cowardly fashion*

Lose your nerve?

= *Did you lose your resolve?*



175

When someone argues too much

Don't contradict me.

You see everything in black and white.

in black and white = *in simple yes-no terms*

If I said it was black, you'd say it was white.

That's as different as day and night.

It's (the difference between) apples and oranges.

You're just being contrary.

You're just disagreeing to disagree.

You're just disagreeing for the sake of disagreeing.

You're just playing the devil's advocate.

You're just arguing for the sake of arguing.

You just like to hear yourself talk.

Would you stop that?
 Could you please stop doing that?
 You are really trying my patience.
 That's really annoying.
 That's really irritating.
 That's driving me nuts! (*slang*)
 That's making me crazy! (*informal*)
 That's really bothersome.
 That's really bothering me.
 That's really bugging me. (*slang*)
 bugging = *bothering*
 That's getting on my nerves. (*idiomatic*)
 getting on my nerves = *annoying me*
 That's grating on my nerves.
 grating on my nerves = *irritating me*



Scram! (*slang*)
 = *Get out!*; *Go away!*
 Get lost. (*slang*)
 Go blow. (*slang*)
 Go fry an egg. (*slang*)
 Go suck a lemon. (*slang*)
 Go take a long walk off a short pier. (*informal*)
 Go take a long walk on a short pier. (*informal*)
 Make yourself scarce. (*slang*)
 Go away!
 Go climb a tree! (*slang*)
 Go fly a kite! (*slang*)
 Go jump in the lake! (*informal*)
 (Go) jump off a cliff. (*informal*)
 Go play in traffic! (*informal*)

Buzz off! (*slang*)
Bug off! (*slang*)
Scat! (*slang*)
Scram! (*slang*)
Shoo! (*informal*)
Take a hike! (*slang*)
Make like a tree and leave. (*informal*)
Get lost! (*slang*)
Get out of here! (*informal*)
Get out of my face! (*slang*)
Go blow. (*slang*)
Go play in traffic. (*informal*)

178 **When someone is very annoying or hurtful**

Why don't you rub a little salt in the wound?
Why don't you twist the knife in my back?
You're going to be the death of me yet.
You'd try the patience of a saint.
You really get my goat.

to get my goat = to annoy me

You're driving me up a wall.
You're driving me up the wall.
You really know what buttons to push.

what buttons to push = how to make me angry

You're pushing my buttons.



179 **Getting someone to stop doing something**

Must you (do that)?
Must you continue to do that?
Stop bothering me.
Stop pestering me.
Quit pestering me.
Give it a rest. (*slang*)

it = your mouth

Knock it off! (*slang*)
Cut it out! (*slang*)
Enough, already! (*informal*)

180 When someone is making you angry—rude

I'm really upset with you right now.
Get a life! (*slang*)
Get a clue! (*slang*)
You're pissing me off. (*mildly vulgar*)
I'm really getting P.O.'d. (*mildly vulgar*)
P.O.'d = pissed off = angry

181 Asking to be left alone

Let me be.
Let me alone.
Leave me be.
Please go away.
Please leave me alone.
I'm asking you to leave me alone.
I just want to be left alone.

182 Describing a bothersome person

You're a pain in the neck. (*slang*)
You're a pain in the ass. (*mildly vulgar*)
You're a pain in the butt. (*mildly vulgar*)
You're a royal pain. (*slang*)
You're a pain. (*slang*)
He grates on me.
He grates on my nerves.
grates on my nerves = annoys me
He gets on my nerves.
He pushes my buttons.
He rubs me the wrong way.



He gets my dander up. (*informal*)

dander = temper

He raises my hackles.

hackles = long hairs at the back of the neck = temper

183 When someone has done something wrong—polite

How could you do such a silly thing?

How could you do such a thing?

What could you have been thinking?

What on earth were you thinking?

What possessed you to do that?

What got into you?

I hope you're sorry.

When will you ever learn?

Now what did you go and do that for? (*folksy*)



184 When someone has done something wrong—amazed

Are you out of your mind?

Are you crazy?

Have you taken leave of your senses?

If I've told you once, I've told you a hundred times. (*informal*)

If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times. (*informal*)

I can't believe you embarrassed me like that!

If that's what you think, you've got another think coming. (*informal*)

You've got another think coming. (*informal*)

185 When someone has done something wrong—sarcastic

Are you happy (now)?

Are you satisfied?

I hope you're happy.

I hope you're satisfied.

Aren't you proud of yourself?

I hope you're proud of yourself.

When someone makes an unwelcome intervention

Who asked you? (*informal*)
 Who asked your opinion?
 When I want your opinion, I'll ask for it.
 Who invited you?
 You're not invited.
 You're not welcome here.
 We don't want your kind around here.



Telling someone to stay away or keep out

Keep out.
 No trespassing.
 Members only.
 Employees only.
 No admittance.
 No admittance without proper identification. (*formal*)
 These premises are for the use of members and guests only. (*formal*)

Asking someone's intentions

You got a problem? (*informal*)
 What do you mean by that?
 Were you talking to me?
 Are you trying to start something?
 (Just exactly) what are you getting at?
 (Just exactly) what are you trying to say?

Starting a fight

Do you want to step outside (and settle this)?
 Would you like to step outside?
 Want to make something of it?
 something = an issue to fight about
 Care to make something of it?

190 **Asking someone to leave your property alone**

Hands off!
 Excuse me, that's mine.
 Did I say you could touch that?
 Look with your eyes not your hands.
 If you break it, you pay for it.
 If you break it, you've bought it.

191 **Asking someone to stay out of your affairs**

Mind your own business. (*informal*)
 Mind your own beeswax. (*slang*)
 beeswax = business
 M.Y.O.B. (*slang*)
 = *Mind your own business.*
 Butt out! (*slang*)
 = *Mind your own business!*
 That's none of your affair.
 Get your nose out of my business. (*informal*)
 Keep your nose out of my business. (*informal*)



192 **When someone is harassing you—angry and direct**

Get off my back! (*slang*)
 Lay off, will you! (*slang*)
 Get off my tail! (*slang*)
 Get off my ass! (*mildly vulgar*)
 Get off it! (*slang*)
 Come off it! (*slang*)

193 **When someone is harassing you—rude**

Nuts to you. (*mildly vulgar*)
 Screw you. (*mildly vulgar*)
 Up yours. (*vulgar*)

194 **When someone is presumptuous**

Why would you ask such a thing?
How could you say such a thing?
What right do you have to say that?
Who gave you the right?
Where do you come off saying that?
Well, I never!

195 **When someone has underestimated your intelligence**

How dumb do you think I am? (*informal*)
Do you think I was born yesterday? (*informal*)
Who do you think you're kidding? (*informal*)
Who do you think you're talking to? (*informal*)

196 **When someone interrupts with an opinion**

Was I talking to you?
Who asked you?
I wasn't speaking to you.
When I want your opinion, I'll ask it.
When I want your opinion, I'll beat it out of you. (*jocular*)
Thank you for sharing. (*sarcastic*)
I'll thank you to keep your opinions to yourself.
I'll thank you to mind your own business!
Keep your nose out of my business. (*informal*)
Keep your opinions to yourself.
Mind your own business.
Mind your own beeswax. (*slang*)
 beeswax = business
M.Y.O.B. (*slang*)
 = *Mind your own business.*



197 **Apologizing—sarcastic**

- Well, excuse me. (*informal*)
- Excuse me for breathing. (*informal*)
- Excuse me for living. (*informal*)
- Pardon me for living. (*informal*)



198 **When someone overreacts**

- Relax.
- Chill. (*informal*)
- Don't get bent out of shape. (*slang*)
- Don't make a federal case out of it. (*informal*)
- Like it's such a big deal. (*informal*)
- It's no big deal. (*informal*)
- You're making a mountain out of a molehill.
- Don't bite my head off. (*informal*)
- Don't jump down my throat. (*informal*)
- Same to you. (*informal*)
- So's your uncle. (*informal*)
- Sue me. (*informal*)
- So, sue me. (*informal*)

199 **When punishment is in store for someone**

- You'll get yours.
- You'll get your due.
- You'll get what's coming to you.
- What goes around comes around. (*cliché*)
- You'll get your just deserts.

200 **Explaining harsh justice**

- What goes around comes around. (*cliché*)
- It cuts both ways. (*cliché*)

Quid pro quo. (*Latin*)

= *This for that.*

An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth.

The chickens have come home to roost.

Two can play (at) that game. (*informal*)

Serves you right.

201 **Threatening retaliation**

I'll give you a dose of your own medicine. (*cliché*)

I'll fix your wagon. (*cliché*)

I dare you.

Go ahead, make my day. (*cliché*)

202 **Requesting silence**

Quiet!

Be quiet!

Keep quiet!

Keep still!

Be still!

Hush!

Silence! (*formal*)

Shut up! (*informal*)

Shut your mouth! (*informal*)

Shut your trap! (*informal*)

Hold your tongue!

Hush your mouth! (*informal*)

Shush! (*informal*)

Shh! (*informal*)

Not another word!

Button your lip! (*informal*)

Button in! (*informal*)

Clam up! (*slang*)

Dry up! (*slang*)



203 **Requesting someone to stop needless talk**

Can it! (*slang*)

Stow it! (*slang*)

Put a cork in it! (*slang*)

it = your mouth

Put a sock in it! (*slang*)

Cut the gab! (*slang*)

gab = needless chatter

Cut the crap! (*mildly vulgar*)

crap = dung = needless chatter



204 **When someone is not doing enough**

You're not doing your share.

You're not doing your fair share.

You're not carrying your weight.

You're not pulling your weight.

You're not pulling your own weight.

You're not living up to your end of the bargain.

You're not holding up your end of the bargain.

You're not reaching your potential.

You're slacking off.

Get on the stick. (*slang*)

205 **When someone starts trouble**

Stop stirring things up.

You like to make trouble, don't you?

Don't you have anything better to do?

You've got too much time on your hands.

Can't you leave well enough alone?

Get a job! (*slang*)

Get a hobby! (*informal*)

Get a life! (*slang*)

206 **Expressing mock sympathy**

Aw, poor baby.
 You poor thing.
 My heart bleeds for you.
 I'm all choked up.

207 **Expressing mock sympathy—sarcastic**

Here's a quarter. Call someone who cares.
 Obviously you've mistaken me for someone who cares.
 What makes you think I care?
 Do you think I care?
 Like I care. (*informal*)
 As if I care. (*informal*)
 As if. (*informal*)
 Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn. (*mildly vulgar*)
 Good for you.
 I'm happy for you.
 Thanks for sharing.
 I'm so glad you told us that.
 Thank you for sharing.
 Isn't that special?

208 **When you are helpless to help—rude**

What do you want me to do about it?
 What do you expect me to do about it?
 What am I supposed to do about it?
 Like I can do anything about it.



VISITS

Guests and Hosts

209 Asking to visit someone

Are you free later today?

Could I come over later today?

Can I come over?

Do you mind if I stop by later today?

Would you mind if I stopped by later?

Would it be a problem if I dropped by for a few minutes?

Would it be all right if I dropped by for a few minutes?

Are you busy or can I come over?

When would be a good time for me to come over?

When's a good time for you?

I'll be there by seven.

I'll be there after dinner.

210 When you are invited to an informal meal in a home

Do I need to bring anything?

Would you like me to bring anything?

Can I bring something?

Can I bring anything?

Should I bring anything?

What should I bring?

Would you like me to bring wine?

Shall I bring wine?

I'll bring the wine.

Let me bring dessert.



211 **Asking about an invitation you have received**

- What time should I be there?
- What do you have planned?
- How should I dress?
- What should I wear?
- Is it casual or formal?
- I'm planning to drive. How's the parking?
- Can I bring my kids?
- May I bring a friend?
- Can I bring something?
something = food

212 **Apologizing for being late**

- I'm sorry I'm late.
- Sorry I'm late.
- I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.
- Sorry to have kept you waiting.



213 **Explaining why one is late**

- I misjudged the time.
- I didn't realize it was so late.
- I lost track of time.
- I overslept.
- My alarm didn't go off.
- I got a late start.
- I got sidetracked.
sidetracked = detoured; distracted
- My last appointment ran over.
- I had to run an errand.
- I had to drop someone off.
- I had to get money.
- I couldn't get a taxi.
- I couldn't get a cab.

The train was late.
The bus was late.
I missed the bus.
I missed my ride.
My ride didn't show (up).
I had to get gas.
I had to stop for gas.
I had to stop and get gas.
I ran out of gas.
Traffic was slow.
Traffic was hell. (*mildly vulgar*)
I was stuck in traffic.
I got lost.
I don't have GPS.
I missed my exit.
There was construction.
There was an accident.
It took me longer to get here than I thought it would.
It took longer than I expected to get here.
I didn't realize this was so far away.
It was farther than I thought.
I was looking for parking.
I couldn't find a parking spot.
I couldn't find a parking place.
I couldn't find a place to park.



214 **When you finally arrive after being late**

I hope you started without me.
I'm glad you started without me.
Were you waiting long?
You should have started without me.
Next time start without me.

215 **Greetings for visitors**

Look who's here!
Well, look who's here!
Am I surprised to see you!
Am I ever surprised to see you!
Look at what the cat dragged in! (*folksy*)
Fancy meeting you here.

216 **Inviting a visitor to come in**

Come on in.
Come right on in.
Come right in.
Do come in. (*formal*)
Please come in.
Come in and relax for a few minutes.
Come in and take a load off your feet. (*folksy*)
Come in and take a load off. (*folksy*)
Come in and sit down.
Come in and set a spell. (*folksy*)
Come in and stay a while.
Come in and make yourself at home.



217 **After greeting a visitor**

To what do I owe the pleasure of this unexpected visit? (*formal*)
To what do I owe this visit?
What are you doing here?
What brings you here?
What brings you to this neck of the woods? (*folksy*)
neck of the woods = location
Why this delightful surprise?
What a delightful surprise!
What a nice surprise!
It's nice to see you again.

It's a pleasure to see you again. (*formal*)

It's so good to see you again.

It's so good to see you after all this time.

Good seeing you again.

I'm delighted to have you visit.

I'm delighted to have you.

Delighted to have you here.

I'm so happy you looked me up.

I'm so glad you looked me up.

I'm so glad you took the trouble to look me up.

I'm so glad you could come.

I'm so glad you could come by.

I'm so glad you could make it.

I'm so glad you could drop by.

I'm so glad you could stop by.

I'm so glad you could visit.

Glad you could come.

Glad you could drop by.

Glad you could stop by.

We've wanted to have you over before this.

We've wanted to invite you over before this.

We've been meaning to have you over.

We've been meaning to invite you over.

We've been looking forward to seeing you for a long time.

We've been wanting to see you for a long time.



218

Making a visitor feel welcome and comfortable

Make yourself comfortable.

Make yourself comfy.

Make yourself right at home.

Make yourself at home.

Would you like to take off your coat?

Here, let me take your coat.

Can I take your coat and hat?

Can I help you off with your things?

Let me help you off with your things.
Take your coat off and stay awhile.
Why don't you take off your coat and make yourself comfortable?
Put your things anywhere and sit down for a minute.
Just drop your coat here. (*informal*)

219 **Inviting a visitor to stay for dinner**

Can you stay for dinner?

Can you = Would you, Are you able to, Will you

Can you have dinner with us?
Can you stay and have dinner with us?
Would you care to stay for dinner?



220 **Encouraging a guest to feel at home**

Please make yourself at home.
Our house is your house.
My house is your house.
Mi casa es su casa. (*Spanish*)
If there's anything you need, don't hesitate to ask.
If there's anything you want, don't hesitate to ask.
If there's anything I can do for you, just ask.
You're to do exactly as you please.
Please do exactly as you please.
Would you like to freshen up a bit?
Would you like something to drink?
Can I get you something to drink?

221 **Offering a guest a seat**

Please sit down.
Have a seat.
Try this chair. It's more comfortable.
Would you like to sit over here?
Would you prefer a more comfortable chair?

222 **Steering a guest to a particular room**

Please come into the living room.
 Come on in the living room.
 Right this way. Everyone seems to be in the kitchen.
 The other guests are in the library.
 Would you like to join us in the living room?
 Everyone is in the living room. Would you care to join us?

223 **Encouraging a guest to be independent**

Please go around and introduce yourself to everyone.
 Could you just introduce yourself to the other guests?
 Just go in and meet everyone.
 I hope you don't mind introducing yourself around.
 Don't stand on ceremony. Make yourself known.
 Get yourself a drink and something to eat.
 Please feel free to mingle with the other guests.
 I hope you don't mind getting yourself a drink.
 The bar's over there. Please help yourself.

224 **Mingling with other guests**

Mind if I join you?
 Care if I join you?
 May I join you?
 Hello, my name is Lee.
 Hello, I'm Jane.
 So how do you know Juan and Maria?
 I work with Juan.
 I'm friends with Maria.
 I'm a friend of Maria's.
 Have you tried the dip?
 Great party, huh? (*informal*)
 What a great spread!
spread = display of party food



225 **What a guest says to a host or hostess**

Where can I put my coat?
 Do you mind if I smoke?
 Mind if I smoke?
 Where is the bathroom (, please)?
 You have a beautiful home.
 The table looks beautiful.
 I love what you have done with the living room.
 You have a wonderful place.
 You have wonderful taste.

226 **Starting a conversation using the topic of weather**

Nice weather we're having.
 Lousy weather, isn't it?
 Horrible weather we're having.
 Lovely weather for ducks. (*sarcastic*)
 It's raining again.
 Hot enough for you? (*ironic*)
 Cold enough for you? (*ironic*)
 It's not the heat; it's the humidity. (*cliché*)



227 **Asking a question to start a conversation**

What's new?
 What's up?
 What time is it?
 Do you have the time?
 This food is good, isn't it?

228 **Starting a conversation with someone you know well**

How have you been?
 How's work?
 How's your family?

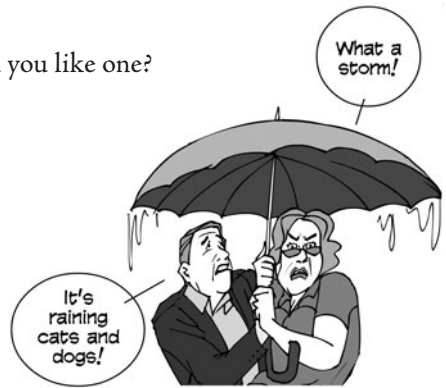
How's the family?
Looks like you just got a haircut.
I like your hair.
I like your outfit.
That dress is lovely.
That dress looks nice on you.
Where did you buy that sweater? I've been wanting to get one.

229 Starting a conversation in a waiting room

Can I take a look at your paper?
What are you listening to?
What book are you reading?
Read any good books lately?
Did you see that show last night?
Seen any good movies recently?
Do you have a breath mint?
I'm going to get a coffee. Would you like one?

230 Talking about the weather

Nice weather we're having.
The sun is shining.
It's bright and sunny.
It's eighty degrees.
Lousy weather, huh?
Horrible weather we're having.
Lovely weather for ducks. (*sarcastic*)
It's not the heat; it's the humidity. (*cliché*)
It's raining again.
It's raining cats and dogs. (*cliché*)
What a storm!
What a downpour!
What a snowstorm!
What a blizzard!
Hot enough for you? (*ironic*)



Cold enough for you? (*ironic*)

It's raining.

It's snowing.

It's cold.

It's hot.

It's humid.

It's foggy.

It's smoggy.

It's muggy.

It's windy.

231 What to say when in a crowded place

It's too crowded in here.

I feel like a sardine.

We're packed in like sardines.

We're crammed in like sardines.

We're crammed solid.

This party is wall-to-wall people.

It's absolutely jam-packed.

I'm getting claustrophobic.

I need some elbowroom.

There's no room to breathe.

There's not enough room to swing a cat. (*folksy*)

Would you like to go somewhere quieter?

Would you like to go somewhere less crowded?

232 Preparing to leave home

Do we have everything?

Have we forgotten anything?

Did we forget anything?

Do you have your keys?

Did you leave a light on?

I can't find my keys.

Wait, I forgot my wallet.



Did you bring the map?
Do you have the directions?
Are the kids ready?
Is the answering machine on?
Did you go to the bathroom?
Did you unplug the iron?
Did you turn off the TV?
Did you turn down the heating?
Did you turn off the stove?

233 Stating when you will return home

I'll be gone just a few minutes.
See you in an hour.
I won't be late.
I'll be back by ten.
I'll be home late.
Don't wait up for me.



234 Preparing to leave a host or hostess

Well, it's getting late.
Is it that late already?
Is it that time already?
Looks like it's that time.
The time has come.
I hate to eat and run.
I don't want to wear out my welcome.
I need my beauty sleep. (*jocular*)
We have to get up early tomorrow.
We have a big day tomorrow.
big = busy
I need to run.
I'm afraid I must run.
I'm afraid I must be going.
I've got to be running.

I'm afraid I have to be going.

I've got to be going.

I'd better be off.

I'd best be off.

I'd best leave now.

I better get moving.

I better hit the road.

I must be off.

I must say good night.

I've got to hit the road. (*idiomatic*)

I better get on my horse. (*idiomatic*)

I'm off. (*informal*)

I'm out of here. (*slang*)

I'm history. (*slang*)

Better be going.

Better be off.

Better get moving.

Better hit the road. (*idiomatic*)

Time to call it a day.

Time to call it a night.

Time to go.

Time to run.

Time to hit the road.

Time to move along.

Time to push along.

Time to push off.

Time to shove off.

Time to split. (*slang*)

Time flies when you're having fun. (*cliché*)

Gotta go.

Got to hit the road.

Got to run.

Got to shove off.

Got to split. (*slang*)

Got to take off.

Got to be shoving off.



Got to fly.
Got to get moving.
Got to go home and get my beauty sleep. (*jocular*)
Have to be moving along.
Have to go now.
Have to move along.
Have to run along.
Have to shove off.

235 **When departing**

Thanks for having me over.
Thank you for a lovely evening. (*formal*)
Thank you for a lovely time. (*formal*)
Thank you for having us.
Thank you for inviting us.

236 **Questions asked of departing guests**

Do you want a cup of coffee before you go?
Are you sober enough to drive?
Can I call you a taxi?
Can you find your way home?
Will you get home all right?
Will you get home okay? (*informal*)
Do you have everything?
everything = *everything that you arrived with*

237 **Saying good-bye to departing guests**

It's been a delightful visit. (*formal*)
It's been delightful.
It's been our pleasure.
So good to see you.
Do you have everything?
Thank you for coming.



Thanks for coming.
Thanks for dropping in.
Thanks for dropping by.
Thanks for stopping over.
I'm so glad you stopped by.
Glad you could come.
Glad you could drop by.
Glad you could stop by.
Come back soon.
Come back anytime.
Come back when you can stay longer.
Do come back soon.
Let's do this again soon.
We have to do this again sometime.
See you soon.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPRESSIONS

Comments and Phrases

238 General exclamations

Wow!
Gosh!
Golly!
Gee!
Gee whiz!
Holy cow!
Holy crap! (*vulgar*)
Holy shit! (*vulgar*)
Holy smoke!
Holy Toledo!



Son of a gun!
Son of a bitch! (*mildly vulgar*)
Son of a sea biscuit!
Well, I'll be!
I'll be darned!
I'll be damned! (*mildly vulgar*)
Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!
What do you know?
Imagine that!
Can you beat that!
Fancy that!
Isn't that something!
Well if that ain't the cats' meow.
By gum! (*folksy*)
By golly! (*folksy*)
By Jove!
By George!
Great Scott!
Oh, my!
My word!
Oh, my goodness!
My goodness!
Goodness!
Heavens!
Good heavens!
For heaven's sake!
For Pete's sake!
For pity's sake!
Good gracious!
Good grief!
Goodness gracious!
My God! (*oath*)
Oh my God! (*oath*)
God forbid! (*mild oath*)
Great!
Excellent!



Hot dog!
Hot diggety! (*folksy*)
Good Lord!
Hot damn! (*mildly vulgar*)
Lordy! (*mild oath*)
Lordy be! (*mild oath*)
Lord have mercy! (*mild oath*)
Saints preserve us! (*mild oath*)
Glory be!
Hush my mouth! (*folksy*)
Shut my mouth! (*folksy*)
As I live and breathe!
My stars!
Zounds!
Gadzooks!
You don't say!
Will wonders never cease!

239 **Religious expressions**

Amen!
= *I agree!*
Hallelujah!
= *Hooray!*
Alleluia!
= *Hooray!*
Hosanna!
= *Hooray!*
Glory (be) to God!
Praise be to God!
Thanks be to God.



Nice try. (*sarcastic*)
 Not quite.
 So near and yet so far.
 So close and yet so far.
 Close, but no cigar. (*cliché*)
 You were within a hair’s breadth.
 Close enough for government work. (*informal*)
 Almost only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades. (*cliché*)
 It’s all or nothing.
 A miss is as good as a mile. (*cliché*)

241 Leaving things as they are

Let it be.
 Leave it be.
 Let it go.
 Let things be.
 Live and let live.
 If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. (*cliché*)
 Let sleeping dogs lie. (*cliché*)
 Don’t make waves. (*idiomatic*)
 Don’t rock the boat. (*idiomatic*)
 Don’t make trouble.
 Don’t go looking for trouble.



242 Expressing differences between people—clichés

Different strokes for different folks.
 We’ll agree to disagree.
 One man’s meat is another man’s poison.
 One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.
 Tastes differ.
 There’s no accounting for taste.
 Variety is the spice of life.

It takes all kinds.
It takes all kinds to make a world.
Vive la difference! (*French*)
= *Hooray for the difference!*

243 Warnings

Be prepared!
Be careful!
Watch out!
Watch it!
Look out!
Look sharp!
Watch your step!
Heads up!
Behind you!
To your right!
On your left!
Coming through!
Gangway!
Make way!
Fore!

(said in golfing when the ball is struck)

Duck!
Hit the pavement!
Hit the deck!
Beware!
Caution!
Proceed with caution.
Man overboard!

(said when someone falls from a boat into the water)

Fire!
Take care.
Safety first.
Look before you leap.
Let's take this one step at a time. (*cliché*)



Leave nothing to chance. (*cliché*)
Slow down.
Take your time.
Play it cool.
Play it safe.
Don't blow your cover.
Stop, look, and listen.
Look both ways before you cross the street.
Let the buyer beware.
Caveat emptor. (*Latin*)
= *Let the buyer beware.*
We're not out of the woods yet. (*idiomatic*)
We're skating on thin ice.

244 **Giving and receiving—clichés**

What goes around, comes around.
You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.
One hand washes the other.
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
Do as you would be done by.
As a man sows, so shall he reap.
Tit for tat.
= *This in return for that.*
Quid pro quo. (*Latin*)
= *Tit for tat.*

245 **Cause and effect—clichés**

April showers bring May flowers.
You made your bed; now lie in it.
As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined.
As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.
One good turn deserves another.
One thing leads to another.



It's not over 'til it's over.
 Boys will be boys.
 East is east, west is west.
 That's that.
 Life is life.
 That's life.
 Enough is enough.

Whatsit.
 Whaddya call it.
 Whatchamacallit.
 Whatchamajig.
 Thingamajig.
 Thingamajigger.
 What's 'er name.
 What's 'is name.
 What's 'is face.
 What's 'er face.
 You know who.
 You know what I mean.
 That certain something.
 Je ne sais quoi. (*French*)
 = *I don't know.*



There is a time and a place for everything. (*cliché*)
 A place for everything and everything in its place. (*cliché*)
 Everything has its season. (*cliché*)
 All in due time. (*cliché*)
 First things first. (*cliché*)
 First come, first served. (*cliché*)

The first shall be last and the last shall be first. (*Biblical*)
Rules are made to be broken. (*cliché*)
Rules are meant to be followed, not broken.
When in Rome, do as the Romans do. (*cliché*)
Don't put the cart before the horse. (*cliché*)
Don't count your chickens before they are hatched. (*cliché*)
Let's cross that bridge when we come to it. (*cliché*)
Do what you are told.
Do as you are told.
I just do what I am told.
I just do as I am told.
I just work here.
I'm just the help.
Follow the rules.
That's how we do it here.
Go by the book.
You must go through proper channels.

249

Describing a messy place

This place is a mess.
This place is a pigsty.
This place is a disgrace.
What a mess.
What a pit. (*slang*)
What a dump. (*slang*)
What a junk heap. (*slang*)
This place looks like a tornado hit it.
This place looks like a national disaster (area).
This place looks like a disaster area.
This place looks like it went through the war.
This place looks like it's been through a war.
This place looks like it's been through World War III.
How can you find anything in here?
How do you expect to find anything in this mess?
Were you raised in a barn?



How about cleaning up a little around here?
If you would put things where they belong, they wouldn't get lost.

250 **Concerning unity— clichés**

United we stand; divided we fall.
A house divided against itself cannot stand.
All for one and one for all.
Birds of a feather flock together.
Many hands make light work.

251 **Concerning nostalgia**

When I was a kid . . .
When I was your age . . .
In my day . . .
In my time . . .
In that day and age . . .
Those were the days.
Those were the good old days.
They don't make them like they used to.



252 **Concerning strength— clichés**

You don't know your own strength.
You're as strong as an ox.
A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

253 **Concerning rigidity of character— idioms and clichés**

He's set in his ways.
A leopard cannot change his spots.
You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
Old habits die hard.
You're as stubborn as a bull.
Why are you so bullheaded?

254 Feeling warm or hot

It's hot in here.
 It's like an oven in here.
 I'm sweltering.
 I'm going to melt.
 Open a window.
 Turn on the air conditioner.
 Hot enough for you? (*ironic*)
 Is it hot enough for you? (*ironic*)
 It's not the heat, it's the humidity. (*cliché*)
 It's as hot as hell. (*mildly vulgar*)

255 Feeling cool or cold

It's cold in here.
 I'm freezing.
 I'm shivering.
 My teeth are chattering.
 My lips are blue.
 I'm going numb.
 I'm chilled to the bone.
 Shut the window.
 Turn on the heat.
 Turn up the heat.
 Turn the heat up.
 Cold enough for you? (*ironic*)
 Is it cold enough for you? (*ironic*)



256 Describing additional unspecified people or things

Et cetera. (*Latin*)
 = *And so forth.*
 And so on.
 And so forth.
 And everything.

And everything else.
And everything like that.
And all like that.
And stuff. (*slang*)
And stuff like that (there). (*slang*)
And what have you.
And like that.
And then some.



257 **Concerning cleanliness**

It's as clean as a whistle.
It's so clean you could eat off the floor.
It's spic and span.
Clean your room.
Pick up your clothes.
I want you to pick up your room.
I want this place spotless.
Pick up after yourself.
Were you raised in a barn?
You live like a pig!
A place for everything, and everything in its place. (*cliché*)
Cleanliness is next to godliness. (*cliché*)

258 **Concerning surprise**

Unbelievable!
I had no idea!
Who would have thought?
It was the last thing I expected.
I never would have guessed.
I was caught unaware.
I was caught unawares. (*informal*)
It was the shock of my life.
It dropped like a bomb.
It dropped from the clouds.

It appeared from the clouds.
It burst onto the scene.
It came out of left field.
It came from nowhere.
It appeared out of nowhere.
It came from out of the blue.
It was a bolt from the blue.
It threw me for a loop.
That knocked me for a loop.
You could have knocked me over with a feather. (*cliché*)

259 **Concerning expectation**

It came as no surprise.
I knew it was coming.
It's just as I expected.
My fingers are crossed.
I'm crossing my fingers.
I'm waiting with bated breath. (*cliché*)
I'll wait for you.
I'll stay up for you.
I'll wait up.
I'll sit up and wait.



260 **Concerning a premonition**

I have a hunch.
I have a feeling.
I have a gut feeling.
I just have this feeling.
I get the feeling something's going to happen.
I feel it in my bones.
I can feel it.
I can sense it.
My sixth sense tells me that . . .
My gut tells me that . . .

It's women's intuition.
A storm is brewing.
The handwriting's on the wall. (*cliché*)
It's an omen.
It's a harbinger of things to come.
It's a sign of things to come.
It's a portent of things to come.
It's a good sign.
It's a bad sign.
It's a good omen.
It's a bad omen.

261 **Concerning being busy—clichés**

You're as busy as a beaver.
You're as busy as a bee.
Many hands make light work.
A little work never hurt anyone.
It's all in a day's work.
A woman's work is never done.
All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
God helps those who help themselves.

262 **Making an extra effort**

I've gone out of my way to please you.
I've bent over backwards for you.
I've gone the extra mile.
I've gone beyond the call of duty.
I've gone above and beyond the call of duty.
You've gotten the royal treatment.
I've treated you like a king.
I've treated you like a queen.
We've rolled out the red carpet. (*idiomatic*)

= *We've prepared for the event as if we were preparing for royalty.*

