

You're getting the red-carpet treatment. (*idiomatic*)

red-carpet = royal

We aim to please.

We aim to treat you right. (*folksy*)

263 Demanding to be given an object

Give it to me.

Give it here. (*informal*)

Give it up. (*informal*)

Gimme it. (*informal*)

Gimme. (*informal*)

Give. (*informal*)

Cough it up. (*informal*)

it = money

Hand it over. (*informal*)

Fork it over. (*slang*)

Let me have it.

Where is it?

Leave it go. (*informal*)

Let it go.

Let go of that.



264 When someone is preparing for an important event— clichés

This is your big night.

This could be your lucky day.

This is it.

This is the moment you've been waiting for.

This is the big moment.

Knock 'em dead. (*informal*)

Break a leg. (*informal*)

(a way of wishing good luck to an actor before a performance)

Make us proud of you.

Make us proud.

I'm sure you will make us proud of you.

265 **When someone is dressed up**

You're dressed to the nines. (*slang*)

You're dressed to kill. (*slang*)

You're all dressed up.

You're all gussied up. (*informal*)

gussied up = dressed up (male or female)

You're all dolled up. (*informal*)

dolled up = dressed up like a doll (male or female)

You look great in a monkey suit. (*informal*)

monkey suit = tuxedo; evening jacket (usually male)

You look like a million bucks.

You look like a million dollars.

You look like a million.

You look a million.



266 **When you feel you are not wanted**

Do you want me to go (away)?

Do you want me to leave?

Would you like me to leave?

If you want me to leave, just ask.

If you want me to leave, why don't you just say so?

I know when I'm not wanted.

I don't like being here any better than you do.

Am I cramping your style? (*informal*)

267 **Regarding something less than what was desired**

I was hoping for more.

I was counting on more.

I was gunning for more.

It's not what I had in mind.

It's not what I pictured.

It's not what I hoped for.

It's not what I had hoped for.

It's not what I expected.
It's not what I anticipated.
I expected something more.
It's a far cry from what I expected.
It leaves a lot to be desired.
They got the best of me.
I've been cheated.
I didn't get what I bargained for.
I was taken advantage of.
I got left holding the bag.

I got = I've been, I was

I got gyped. (*informal*)
gyped = cheated

I got rooked. (*informal*)
rooked = cheated

I got the short end of the stick.
the short end of the stick = the losing part of a bargain

I got robbed. (*informal*)

I got taken. (*informal*)

I got taken to the cleaners. (*informal*)

I got a bum deal. (*informal*)
a bum deal = a bad deal; an unfair deal

I got a raw deal. (*informal*)
a raw deal = a bad deal; an unfair deal

I got screwed. (*mildly vulgar*)



268 Describing a reprimand

I got chewed out. (*informal*)

I got = I've been, I was

I got my ass chewed out. (*mildly vulgar*)

I got raked over the coals. (*idiomatic*)

I got hauled over the coals. (*idiomatic*)

I got an earful.

I was put through the wringer.

I was taken to task.

They let me off the hook this time. (*idiomatic*)

off the hook = free from an obligation or guilt

They let me off easy.

They let me off with just a warning.

They let it slide.

They let it go.

I just got a slap on the wrist.

a slap on the wrist = a mild punishment

269 When something is broken

It broke.

It's broken.

It doesn't work.

It's on the fritz. (*idiomatic*)

on the fritz = out of order

It's on the blink. (*informal*)

on the blink = out of order

This thing is really screwed up! (*informal*)

screwed up = messed up; made to be out of order

270 When something is out of order

It's out of order.

It's out of service.

It's out of kilter. (*informal*)

It's out of whack. (*informal*)

It's dead. (*informal*)

It's kaput. (*slang*)

kaput (German) = dead

It up and died (on me). (*folksy*)

It died on me.



It's in the shop.

in the shop = in the repair shop

It's out of commission.

271

On being pushed to the limit of your patience

That's the straw that broke the camel's back. (*cliché*)

= *That's the minor thing that will finally trigger some activity.*

That's the last straw! (*cliché*)

the last straw = the straw that broke the camel's back

That does it!

That's it.

I've had it.

That tears it. (*idiomatic*)

This is too much.

This is more than I can bear.

This is more than I can take.

This is more than I can stand.

That's just what I needed.

I needed that like a hole in
the head. (*sarcastic*)

That's a fine how-do-you-do.

Here's a fine how-do-you-do.

Well, that takes the cake!

(*idiomatic*)

That's just swell! (*sarcastic*)

That's just great! (*sarcastic*)

Now what?

= *What else could possibly happen at this point?*

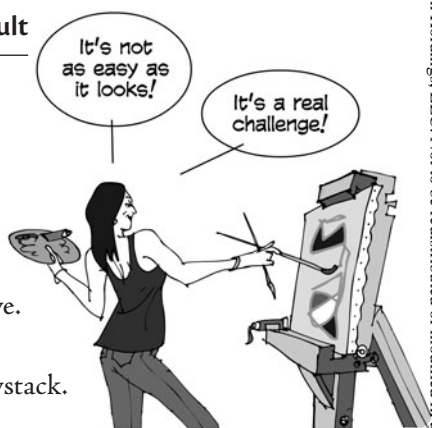


272 Beginning a new project or activity

Where do we begin?
How should we go about doing this?
What's the first step?
What's first on the agenda?
Let's organize a task force.
Who will be in charge?
We're on our way.
We're off and running.
We're off to a good start.
We've hit the ground running.
We're headed in the right direction.
We're off on the right foot.
We've laid a good foundation.
We've only just begun.
We're just getting our feet wet. (*idiomatic*)
getting our feet wet = just getting started
We've made a good dent in it. (*idiomatic*)
It's a start.
You've got to begin somewhere.
I'd like to lay down a few ground rules.

273 Concerning the deceptively difficult

It's not as easy as it seems.
It's not as easy as it looks.
It's harder than it looks.
It's harder than you think.
Easier said than done.
There's more to it than meets the eye.
It's surprisingly difficult.
It's like looking for a needle in a haystack.
It's a real challenge.



274 **Concerning the impossible**

That won't work.
 That'll never hold water.
 = *That will never be operable.*
 Never happen. (*informal*)
 There's no way. (*informal*)
 No can do. (*informal*)



275 **Concerning futility**

You're wasting your time.
 You're wasting your energy.
 You're wasting your effort.
 It doesn't stand a chance.
 It doesn't stand a chance in hell. (*mildly vulgar*)
 There's not a chance in hell. (*mildly vulgar*)
 It doesn't stand a snowball's chance in hell. (*mildly vulgar*)
 When hell freezes over. (*mildly vulgar*)
 = *Never.*
 You're spinning your wheels. (*informal*)
 You're (just) running around in circles.
 You're beating a dead horse. (*informal*)
beating a dead horse = trying to activate or motivate something that is finished
 It isn't worth beating your brains out (for). (*informal*)
 It's like looking for a needle in a haystack. (*cliché*)
 It's fit for the junkyard.
 It's headed for the junk heap. (*informal*)

276 **When something is unimportant**

It doesn't matter.
 It makes no difference.
 It makes no nevermind. (*folksy*)
 = *It doesn't matter to me.*

It don't make (me) no nevermind. (*folksy*)
It's six of one, half a dozen of the other.
= *It doesn't matter which one or which way.*

It's not important.
It's not worthwhile.
It's not worth your while.
It's not worth a hill of beans. (*idiomatic*)
It's not worth mentioning.
It's not worth the trouble.
It's not worth it.

277 **Ending a project**

Get rid of it.
Finish it off.
Nip it in the bud.
Do it in. (*informal*)
86 it. (*slang*)
86 = *nix* = *to negate; to destroy*

Kill it. (*informal*)
Kill it off. (*informal*)
Wipe it out. (*informal*)
Wipe it off the map. (*informal*)
Sound the death knell. (*informal*)

the death knell = the sound of bells that signals an impending or recent death

Put it out of its misery. (*informal*)
Pull the plug on it. (*slang*)
Pull the rug out from under it. (*informal*)
Put the skids on it. (*informal*)
Nuke it. (*slang*)
= *Destroy it with a nuclear bomb.*

Throw it away.
Throw it out.
Pitch it. (*informal*)



Toss it. (*informal*)

Junk it. (*informal*)

Trash it. (*informal*)

Dump it. (*informal*)

Put it in the circular file. (*informal*)

the circular file = a (round) wastebasket

File it in the circular bin. (*informal*)

the circular bin = the circular file; a (round) wastebasket

File it. (*informal*)

278 Starting over again on a project

Back to the drawing board.

It's back to the drawing board.

Well, it's back to square one.

Well, it's back to basics.

Time to start over from scratch.



PERSONAL MATTERS

Feelings

279 Asking if someone is all right

Are you OK?

Are you all right?

Are you feeling OK?

Life got you down? (*informal*)

Are things getting you down?

You look like you lost your best friend. (*cliché*)

You look like the wind has been taken out of your sails. (*idiomatic*)

280 **Asking why someone looks so unhappy**

What's the matter?

Something got you down?

What's got you down?

Why are you so blue?

blue = sad

Why is your face so long?

face so long = face so sad

Who rained on your parade? (*idiomatic*)

rained on your parade = ruined your plans

What rained on your parade? (*idiomatic*)

Did someone rain on your parade? (*idiomatic*)

Who burst your bubble? (*idiomatic*)

= Who ruined your good outlook on life?



281 **Offering someone help and advice**

Would you like to talk about it?

Need someone to talk to?

If you need someone to talk to, I'm always available.

I'm here if you want to talk about it.

282 **Encouraging someone who is unhappy**

Cheer up!

Things are never as bad as they seem.

It will (all) work out.

Don't let it get you down. (*idiomatic*)

Chin up. (*cliché*)

Keep your chin up. (*cliché*)

Things will get better.

Tomorrow is another day. (*cliché*)

It's always darkest before dawn. (*cliché*)

Stop carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders.
There's no point in carrying the weight of the world on your
shoulders.

283 When you are depressed

I'm depressed.

I'm = He's, She's, They're, We're, Tom's, Janet's, etc.

I'm feeling low.

I'm feeling down.

I'm feeling blue. (*idiomatic*)

blue = sad

I'm out of sorts.

I'm in the doldrums.

I'm a little down in the mouth. (*idiomatic*)

I'm down in the dumps.

= I am depressed.

I've been down in the dumps lately.

I can't put my finger on what's wrong.



284 Expressing despair and emptiness

My heart is heavy.

My = Her, His, Our, Janet's, Tom's, etc.

My heart is broken.

I'm downhearted.

I'm = He's, She's, They're, We're, Tom's, Janet's, etc.

I'm broken-hearted.

I'm heartbroken.

285 When someone looks very happy

You look like you just won the jackpot.

You look like you died and went to heaven.

You're looking on top of the world.
What're you smiling about?

286 **When someone is very happy—idioms**

I'm on Cloud Nine.

I'm = He's, She's, They're, We're, Tom's, Jane's, etc.

I'm in seventh heaven.

I'm walking on air.

I'm on top of the world.

I'm sitting on top of the world.

I'm high on life.

I'm feeling good.

I'm feeling fine.

I'm as merry as the day is long.

I'm happy as can be.

I'm happy as a clam.

I'm as happy as a clam.

I'm as pleased as punch.

I'm beside myself with joy.

I couldn't be happier.



287 **Expressing enthusiasm for life**

Things couldn't be better.

Everything's coming up roses.

I don't have a care in the world.

What a great day!

It's great to be alive!

It feels good just to be alive!

Life's been good to me.

288 **When someone is content**

My mind's at ease.

I'm content.

We're satisfied.
I'm just going with the flow.
He's as snug as a bug in a rug.
I'm at peace. (*formal*)

289 **When someone is carefree**

I'm footloose and fancy-free. (*cliché*)
I don't have a care in the world.
Tom is without a care in the world.
I haven't a care.

290 **When someone is resigned to life as it is**

I accept myself for what I am.
I've come to terms with myself.
I've come to terms with reality.
I've come to grips with reality.
I've learned to face the music. (*idiomatic*)
to face the music = to face life; to face reality
Leave well enough alone. (*cliché*)
Let well enough alone.
Let sleeping dogs lie. (*cliché*)
= Do not try to solve a problem that is not causing extreme difficulties at the moment.



291 **Expressing displeasure with something**

That leaves a lot to be desired.
That's not what I had in mind.
That didn't fit the bill.
to fit the bill = to be what is needed
That doesn't quite suit me.
It's not up to snuff.
up to snuff = up to standard

That's not what it's cracked up to be.
cracked up to be = said to be

292 Asking someone to stop being unpleasant

Stop griping.

Stop complaining.

Quit complaining.

Quit whining.

Quit your bitching. (*mildly vulgar*)

Quit your kvetching. (*informal*)

kvetching = complaining

Quit your beefing. (*slang*)

to beef = to complain

Quit your bellyaching. (*slang*)

to bellyache = to complain

Don't be such a grouch.

Don't be such a crab.

a crab = a crabby person = a grouchy person

Don't be so grouchy.

Don't be so grumpy.

grumpy = irritable; out of sorts

Did you get up on the wrong side of the bed? (*idiomatic*)

Somebody didn't get enough sleep.

Stop sulking.

Stop pouting.



293 Dullness and boredom

I'm bored.

I'm bored to tears.

I'm bored to death.

I'm bored to distraction.

I'm bored stiff.

I'm bored silly.

Ho-hum.

Are we having fun yet?

When does the fun start?

That went over like a lead balloon. (*idiomatic*)

That was a flop.

a flop = a failure

That flopped.

What a yawner.

a yawner = something boring that causes yawns

He is as dull as dishwater. (*cliché*)

This is like watching paint dry.

He could go on forever.

He's like a broken record.

She really wears on me.

Wake me up when it's over.

I'm sick and tired of this.

I'm fed up.

I need a change of scenery.

I need a change of pace.



294

Dullness in people

Must you harp on the same string?

Must you keep harping on that?

Must you dwell on the subject?

Must you beat a dead horse?

Don't be such a stick-in-the-mud.

Don't be such a party pooper. (*jocular*)

a party pooper = a dull person who ruins parties

Don't be such a wet blanket. (*informal*)

a wet blanket = someone who ruins all the fun, as a wet blanket smothers a fire

Don't be such a killjoy. (*informal*)

a killjoy = someone who ruins all the fun

She's the life of the party.

He's (such) a card.

He's a kill. (*slang*)

Anxiety

296 **When you feel out of place**

I was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I feel like a fish out of water.

I'm out of my element.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do. (*cliché*)

When in Rome. (*informal*)

297 **Expressing anger**

I'm so furious.

I'm so mad I could scream.

I've never been so mad in my life.

I was chewing nails.

Tom was loaded for bear.

She was shooting daggers at me.

If looks could kill . . .



298 **Expressing fright**

I was scared.

I was frightened.

I was terrified.

I was petrified.

I was scared to death.

I was scared silly.

You scared me.
You frightened me.
You scared the hell out of me. (*mildly vulgar*)
You scared the crap out of me. (*mildly vulgar*)
You scared the dickens out of me.
You scared the devil out of me.
You scared the wits out of me.
You scared me out of my wits.
You scared me to death.
You scared me half to death.
You scared the daylight out of me.
You scared the living daylight out of me.
You scared the pants off me. (*informal*)
I almost jumped out of my skin.
I almost lost it.
It gave me the creeps. (*slang*)
It gave me the willies. (*slang*)
It made my flesh crawl.
It gave me goose bumps.
It gave me goose pimples.
A shiver ran down my spine.
It curled my hair.
My hair stood on end.
My blood ran cold.
My blood curdled.
It set my teeth on edge.



299 When you do not know what to say

I'm at a loss for words.
I'm speechless.
I'm dumbstruck.
No comment.
I have no response.
I have nothing to say.
I have nothing to add.

I don't know what to say.
What can I say?
What do you want me to say?
You got me there.

The Senses

300 Difficulty in hearing

I'm sorry, I'm hard of hearing.
I'm sorry, I'm hearing-impaired.
He suffered a hearing loss.
He's stone deaf.
stone = completely
She's deaf as a post. (*informal*)



301 An ear for music

I don't have an ear for music.
I'm tone-deaf.
He's got an ear for the piano.
She plays piano by ear.

302 Hearing loud and soft sounds

I can't hear them; they're out of earshot.
It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop.
That noise is deafening.
That noise assaults the ear. (*formal*)
That noise is setting my teeth on edge.
What a racket!
racket = noise
Are you trying to wake the dead?
My ears are ringing.

303 Concerning ears or hearing

My plea fell on deaf ears. (*cliché*)
 They turned a deaf ear to our plea. (*idiomatic*)
 There's none so deaf as those who will not hear. (*cliché*)
 In one ear and out the other. (*cliché*)
 To hear tell, the whole situation was awful.
 Boy, did I get an earful.
 an earful = a long explanation; a scolding
 Prick up your ears! (*idiomatic*)
 Keep your ears open.
 Hear no evil. (*cliché*)

304 The taste of foods

Delicious.
 That tastes great.
 Tastes great.
 That's as sweet as honey.
 That's as sweet as sugar.
 That tastes terrible.
 That tastes like chicken.
 That turns my stomach.
 That's unfit for human consumption.



305 Offering someone a small portion of food

Would you like a taste?
 Here. Try some.
 Would you like a sip?

306 Expressing hunger

I'm hungry.
 I'm famished.
 I'm starved.

I'm ravenous.
My mouth is watering.
That stew is mouthwatering.
I'm so hungry I could eat a horse. (*cliché*)
I could eat a horse. (*cliché*)

307 Identifying smells

What's that smell?
What smells?
Do you smell something?
What's that fragrance?
What's that aroma?
What's that scent?
What's that odor?
What's that stench?
What stinks? (*informal*)
Do you smell gas?
Get a whiff of this!
Take a whiff of this.
Sniff this.
That reeks.
That smells.
That smells to high heaven!
That stinks to high heaven! (*informal*)
It stinks on ice. (*slang*)



308 Physical responses

That sends shivers down my spine.
It gave me goose bumps.
It gave me the chills.
It gave me butterflies in my stomach. (*idiomatic*)

309 The sense of touch

It was (as) soft as silk.
 It was (as) hard as a rock.
 It was (as) hard as stone.
 The fish felt slimy.

310 Difficulties with seeing

I'm as blind as a bat. (*cliché*)
 I can't see a thing without my glasses.
 I can't quite make it out.



311 Concerning good vision

I have good eyesight.
 I have excellent vision.
 I have 20/20 vision.
 I've got a good eye for color.
 I've got an eye for composition.

312 Concerning vision and belief

I can't believe my eyes.
 My eyes betray me. (*formal*)
 Do my eyes deceive me?
 There's none so blind as those who will not see. (*cliché*)

Health and Appearance

313 When someone is in good health

His doctor gave him a clean bill of health.
a clean bill of health = a good report on one's health

He's the picture of health.
He's in the pink.
He looks great.
He's looking good.
He's in top form.
He's at the top of his form.
I couldn't be better.
I feel like a million dollars.
I feel like a million bucks.
She looks like a million dollars.
She looks like a million bucks.
He's bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. (*idiomatic*)
I'm sound as a dollar. (*cliché*)
I'm fresh as a daisy. (*cliché*)
She's healthy as a horse. (*cliché*)
She's fit as a fiddle. (*cliché*)



314 Observing that someone looks disorderly

You look tired.
You look like you need some sleep.
You look dreadful.
You look terrible.
You look like hell. (*mildly vulgar*)
You look a sight.
You're a sight.
Look what the cat dragged in. (*informal*)
You look like something the cat dragged in. (*informal*)
You look like you've been to hell and back. (*informal*)
You look like you've been through a war.
You look like you've gone through the wringer.

315 When someone looks very bad

You could stop a truck. (*informal*)
You could stop a clock. (*informal*)

That face could stop a clock. (*informal*)
Are you having a bad hair day? (*informal*)
You're as ugly as sin. (*informal*)

316 **Inquiring about someone's health or well-being**

Are you OK?
Are you feeling OK?
Are you all right?
Do you feel all right?

317 **When someone does not look well**

You don't look well.
You don't look too good. (*informal*)
You don't look so good. (*informal*)
You look like death.
You look like death warmed over.
You look green around the gills.
You look a little peaked.
You look flushed.
You look pale.
You're pale.
You're white as a ghost.



Sickness

318 **Concerning allergies**

I'm allergic to sulfa.
I'm allergic to = I have an allergy to, I can't tolerate
I'm allergic to penicillin.
I'm allergic to cats.

I'm allergic to dogs.
I'm allergic to pollen.
I'm allergic to dust.
I'm allergic to bees.
I'm allergic to bee stings.
I'm allergic to chocolate.
I'm allergic to nuts.
I'm allergic to shrimp.
I'm allergic to strawberries.
I can't have chocolate.
I can't eat strawberries.
I can't drink milk.
I can't have dairy products.
I can't digest milk.
I'm lactose intolerant.
I'm on a gluten-free diet.
I have hay fever.
Dairy products make me break out in a rash.
My ID bracelet lists my allergies.
ID = identification
I have an environmental illness.



319 Allergic problems with the nose and breathing

My allergies are acting up.
My sinuses are acting up.
My sinuses are bothering me.
My sinuses are congested.
My sinuses ache.
My nose is clogged.
My nose is stuffed up.
My nose is congested.
I can't breathe.

320 When someone sneezes

Bless you.
 God bless you.
 Gesundheit. (*German*)

321 Allergic problems with the eyes

My eyes are swollen.
 My eyes are puffy.
 My eyes itch.
 My eyes are itchy.

322 Allergic problems with the skin

My skin is breaking out.
 I'm breaking out.
 I'm breaking out in hives.
 I break out when I eat chocolate.
 My skin itches whenever I eat shrimp.

323 Expressing general feelings of illness

I'm sick.
 I feel sick.
 I'm sick as a dog. (*informal*)
 I feel funny.
 I feel awful.
 I feel downright awful.
 I feel terrible.
 I feel lousy.
 I feel rotten.
 I feel like hell. (*mildly vulgar*)



I don't feel well.
 I don't feel so well.
 I don't feel quite right.
 I feel ill.
 I'm not feeling myself.
 I'm feeling under the weather.
 I'm a little under the weather.
 I'm feeling a little down in the mouth.

325 When you feel like vomiting

I feel sick to my stomach.
 I'm sick to my stomach.
 I feel nauseous.
 I feel like throwing up. (*informal*)
 I think I'm going to throw up. (*informal*)
 I think I'm going to vomit.
 I'm going to barf. (*slang*)
 to barf = to vomit
 I think I'm going to be sick.
 to lose my lunch = to vomit



326 Describing a pain in the head

I have a headache.
 My head hurts.
 My head is killing me.
 I've got a splitting headache.
 My head is throbbing.
 My head is pounding.
 There's a hammering inside my head.
 I have a migraine.
 I have an excruciating headache.

327 **Describing dizziness**

I'm dizzy.
 The room is spinning.
 I'm so dizzy I can't stand up.
 I'm so dizzy I have to sit down.

328 **Describing being exhausted or worn out**

I'm exhausted.
 I need some rest.
 I need a nap.
 I need to take a day off.
 I need a day off.
 I need a vacation.
 My get-up-and-go has got up and left. (*informal*)
get-up-and-go = energy; vitality



329 **Offering care to a sick person**

Can I get you a glass of water?
 Do you want a glass of water?
 Would you like a glass of water?
 Would a glass of water help?
 Would you like to lie down?
 Want to lie down?
 Would you like some aspirin?
aspirin = Tylenol, Advil, ibuprofen, etc.
 Want some aspirin?
 Should I call a doctor?
 Have you seen a doctor?

330 **Concerning catching a disease**

Is it catching?
 Are you contagious?

Don't give it to me.
I don't want to catch it.
You need to relax.
You've been running around too much.
Your resistance is down.
It's been going around.

331 Questions for the hospital patient

Have they figured out what's wrong?

What's the prognosis?

the prognosis = the prediction for the future outcome of an illness

How long will you be here?

When do you get to go home?

When are you going home?

When are you being released?

Is there anything you need?

Do you need anything?

Is there anything I can do?

Can I get you anything?

Should I call for the nurse?

Is the food as bad as they say?

How's the food?

How's your doctor?



332 Explaining that your health is improving

I'm improving.

I'm getting better.

I'm getting over it.

I'm getting back on my feet.

I'm getting back on my legs.

I'm getting back to normal.

I'm bouncing back.

I'm on the road to recovery.

I'm out of the woods.

Things are looking up.
I've hit bottom and things are looking up.
I'm better now.
I'm better than I was.

333 Explaining that you are receiving medical care

I still have to go back to the doctor for a follow-up.
I'm still under a doctor's care.
I'm still seeing a doctor.
I'm in therapy.
I'm still seeing a therapist.

334 Explaining that you are cured of a health problem

I'm well now.
I'm all better.
I'm completely over it.
I'm as good as new.
It's like it never happened.
I feel like a new person.
I've got a new lease on life.



FAMILY MATTERS

Home Life

335 Describing family relationships

You're just like your mother.
You take after your father.
You are your father all over again.

It's like I'm talking to your mother.
She looks just like her mother.
She looks just like her mother did at that age.
She's the picture of her mother.
She favors her mother.
He's the spit and image of his grandfather.
He's the spitting image of his grandfather.
He's got his father's features.
She's got her mother's nose.

= *Her nose is very much like her mother's nose.*

She resembles her Aunt Martha.
He's a chip off the old block.
She's following in her father's footsteps.
Like father, like son.
Like mother, like daughter.
He's a real mama's boy.
She's a real daddy's girl.
She's daddy's little girl.



336 **Family solidarity**

We are (all) family.
Blood runs thicker than water.
How can you do that to your own flesh and blood?
The family that prays together stays together. (*cliché*)

337 **Asking about a meal**

When do we eat?
What's to eat?
What's for supper?
What are we having?

338 **Announcing a meal**

Dinner's almost ready.
 It's almost done.
 It will be on the table in a minute.
 It's almost ready.
 (It's) time to eat.
 Dinner's ready.
 Soup's on! (*informal*)
 = *Dinner's ready!*

339 **Instructions given to children in the kitchen**

Don't sit on the counter.
 Don't eat that; you'll spoil your dinner.
 Don't stand in front of the refrigerator with the door open.
 Watch out; it's hot!
 Don't drink milk out of the carton!
 Don't drink milk out of the jug!
 Would you set the table?
 Go sit down; supper's ready.
 Go tell your father supper's ready.
 Call the family to dinner.
 Call everyone to the table.



340 **Blessing the food**

Sarah, would you say grace?
 Who wants to say grace?
 Fold your hands.

341 **Second servings**

Could you pour me some more milk?
 More milk, please.
 A drop more wine, please.

Could I have seconds, please?
May I have seconds, please?
Would you like some more of this?
Is there any more of this?
What's for dessert?

342 Instructing children on good table manners

Don't put your elbows on the table.
Don't talk with your mouth full.
Don't read at the table.
No TV during dinner.
TV = television
Wipe your mouth.
Put your napkin on your lap.
Put your napkin in your lap.



343 Doing the dishes

Andrew, please clear the table.
Please put your dishes in the sink.
dishes = all crockery and utensils
Please carry your own dishes to the kitchen.
It's your turn to do the dishes.
It's your turn to clear the table.
I'll scrape and you load (the dishwasher).
Whose turn is it to do the dishes?
I'll wash and you dry.

344 Asking to leave the dinner table early

May I please leave the table?
(said by a child)
May I be excused?
(said by a child)

Do you mind if I leave the table?

(said by an adult)

I'll have to excuse myself.

(said by an adult)

Would you excuse me?

345 **Instructing children to finish eating**

Finish your dinner.

You have to eat everything.

You have to eat everything that you serve yourself.

You have to eat some of everything.

You have to clean up your plate.

If you don't eat your vegetables, you won't get any dessert.

If you don't eat your dinner, you won't get any dessert.

There are starving children in Africa.

Africa = Bosnia, Asia, South America, etc.

346 **Concerning a radio or stereo**

Turn the stereo down.

Turn the stereo off.

Turn the radio off.

Let's find a different station.

What station is this?

What do you want to hear?



347 **Concerning furniture or carpeting**



Don't wear your shoes on the good carpet.

Don't sit on the good furniture.

Don't put your feet on the furniture.

Keep your feet off (of) the furniture.

What's on TV?

TV = television

What's on?

What's on tonight?

What's on the tube?

the tube = the television (picture tube)

What's on channel five?

What do you want to watch?

What do you want to see?

What are you watching?

Where is the TV guide?

Where is the TV listing?

Is this any good?

Is there anything on?

There anything good on?



Find a channel and stick with it. (*informal*)

Stick with one channel. (*informal*)

Stick to one channel. (*informal*)

Stop flipping channels. (*informal*)

Change the channel.

Let's change the channel.

Hand me the remote control.

Where is the remote (control)?

Give me the remote.

You're sitting too close to the TV.

Can't you get a better picture?

Turn the TV off if you're not watching it.

Turn it up, please.

Please adjust the rabbit ears.

rabbit ears = a type of indoor television antenna

Please adjust the antenna.

Turn it down.

Could you please turn it down?

Please turn down the TV.

Turn it off.

351 **Concerning computers**

You're always on the computer.

Are you on Facebook?

Facebook = MySpace, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.

I need to check my e-mail.

e-mail = Facebook, Ebay account, etc.

I need to send an e-mail.

Look it up online.

I looked it up on Google.

Google = Yahoo, Wikipedia, etc.

I googled it. (*informal*)

Did you see that funny video online?

It's up on YouTube.

I'll send you the link.



352 **Managing a computer**

What's your log-on?

What's the password?

I've forgotten the password.

Remember to log off.

My files are on my laptop.

laptop = computer, notebook, flash drive, etc.

I put all my photos up online.

online = on Flickr, on Shutterfly, etc.

I've uploaded all my videos.

Back up your files.
Do you have a flash drive?

353 Taking a nap

I'm going to take a nap.
I'm going to take a catnap.
 a catnap = a short nap
I'm going to take a snooze.
 a snooze = a nap
I'm going to get some shut-eye.
 some shut-eye = some sleep
I'm going to catch forty winks.
 forty winks = some sleep
I'm going to catch some Zs.
 Zs = snoring = sleep



354 Going to bed and to sleep

I'm off to bed.
I'm going to bed.
It's bedtime.
It's past my bedtime.
I'm going to sleep.
I'm going to hit the sack. (*idiomatic*)
I'm going to hit the hay. (*idiomatic*)
I'm going to crash. (*slang*)
I think I'll retire for the night. (*formal*)
I think I'll say good night now.

355 Saying good night

Good night.
Sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs bite.
 (*usually said to a child*)

See you in the morning.
Sweet dreams.
Pleasant dreams.
Sleep well.
Night-night.
(usually said to a child)
Nighty-night.
(usually said to a child)

356 **Commands for a dog**

Sit.
Stay.
Roll over.
Shake hands.
Shake.
Play dead.
Fetch!
Heel.
Sic 'em.

sic = attack

Come!
Come here.
Here, boy!
Here, girl!
Good boy!
Good girl!
Bad dog!
Do you want to go outside?



357 **Caring for pets**

Did you walk the dog?
Someone has to walk the dog.
Will you please put the cat out?
The dog wants to get out.

Where is the gerbil?
The guinea pig is loose again.
Please clean the (cat's) litter (box) now!
The cat's litter needs changing.
We're out of dog chow.
dog chow = dried dog food

Education

358 Getting ready to study or do homework

Time to crack the books.

to crack = to open

Time to hit the books.

to hit = to use

Gotta cram. (*slang*)

to cram = to study hard; to cram knowledge into one's brain

I need to cram for a final. (*slang*)

I need to prep for a big test. (*slang*)

I have a lot of studying to do.

I have to study.

I've got to study.

I've got a midterm tomorrow.

I've got a final exam tomorrow.

I've got a big test tomorrow.

I've got a big exam tomorrow.



359 Talking to a child's teacher

I'd like to discuss my daughter's progress.

I'd like to talk about my daughter's grade.

How is my daughter doing in class?

My daughter seems to be having trouble in class.
She's having a hard time with her homework.
What can I do to help her at home?
How can I help her with her homework?

360 **Returning to school after an absence**

Do you have a note from home?
Do you have a note from
your mother?
Do you have a note from
your doctor?



361 **Questioning a college professor**

Can I still get into your course?
What texts are required?
What is the book list for
the course?
Is a paper required for this course?
Is there a final for this course?
Is attendance required in this course?
What are the requirements?
When are your office hours?
Where is your office?

362 **Asking for clarification in a college classroom**

Could you explain that again?
I don't get it. Please explain.
Please go over that part again.
I don't understand.
I still don't understand.
I do not understand your English. Please speak more plainly.
I'm having a problem understanding the TA.
TA = Teaching Assistant

363 **Asking about classroom examinations**

- When is the final (exam)?
- When is the midterm?
- What do you want us to know for the test?
- What will the test cover?
- Will there be a review session?
- Will the test cover the whole book?
- Will the test take the whole period?
- What's on the test?

364 **Asking about a classroom assignment**

- How many pages do we have to read for Monday?
- How many pages?
- Will we have to turn in our homework?
- What's the reading assignment for next time?
- Will there be a quiz?
- What's the assignment for tomorrow?
- When is the assignment due?

365 **Asking about grades**

- Can you tell me what grade I'm getting?
- Would you tell me what grade I'm getting?
- Do you grade on a curve?
- How many As were there?
- What's the grading curve?
- I worked hard, so don't I deserve
a good grade?
- Can I talk to you about my grade?

