



bits
of

REAL ENGLISH

Brittany Ríos, Karly Zagorac & José Antonio Alcalde

WHAT?

- ⌚ In this document we try to present some **expressions** that are highly frequent in **real communicative situations among native speakers** (especially **teenage** people). As teachers of English we notice that our students are getting basically what we call “**School English**”, that is, an either **artificially simple** or **quite elaborated code** different from “**real English**”.
- ⌚ We have used the [standard variety of English](#) but if any expression is typically **American (AmE)** or **British (BrE)**, it has been stated conveniently.
- ⌚ In here we do not include **extremely rude language** because it is beyond our scope of interest.
- ⌚ Feel free to **add** as many more expressions as possible in order to make your students get in touch with “real English”.

WHY?

- ⌚ The very formal English our students are learning sounds awkward and **bookish** when talking to natives. This is so because more real expressions are rarely found in textbooks (our main source of input for lessons) although they are pretty frequent in films, TV series, music, etc.
- ⌚ Besides, this kind of language is also included in the **minimum contents** for the **Foreign Language curriculum for Compulsary Secondary Education** in Spain (see [Real Decreto 1631/2006 de 29 de diciembre de 2007](#)). It is said in section BLOQUE 3 (**Knowledge of the Language**) the importance of knowing and using common set expressions according to the context.
- ⌚ Finally, students love repeating these expressions and using them all the time for fun's sake. **They think it is cool!**

HOW?

- ⌚ We have tried to organize the expressions into **headings** in order to help with its classification so as not to present them randomly.
- ⌚ As it happens with our mother tongue, these expressions should be **learnt by heart** and there is no need to analyse or interpret them (something we teachers love to do but our students hate!). This is because of the **economy of the language**, that is, we just utter them when we get the right prompt without further thinking or elaboration on our part.
- ⌚ Furthermore, if possible, **language assistants** can help working and practising them again and again with the students until the expressions have been automatized and introduced in their daily routines.

WHEN?

- ⌚ The **sooner** we present these chunks of language to our students, the **better**. There is no need to wait for a specific level, competence, age, etc., to do so.
- ⌚ Teachers must decide when to **deal** with them: perhaps devoting a whole lesson to it or a specific heading in every lesson, etc.

We hope you find the document interesting and useful!!

EXPRESSIONS

GREETING

<i>Hi!</i>	<i>Long time no see!</i>
<i>Hi five!</i>	<i>What's going on!?! (AmE)</i>
<i>Dude! (AmE) = Mate! (BrE)</i>	<i>How've you been? (AmE)</i>
<i>How you doing? = How's it going?</i>	<i>Howdy! (AmE Southern Region)</i>
<i>What's up? = What's new?</i>	

GETTING ATTENTION

<i>Excuse me!</i>	<i>Can I help you?</i>
<i>Sorry to interrupt!</i>	<i>Can I add something there?</i>
<i>Guess what? = You'll never guess what!</i>	<i>Do you mind if I jump in there?</i>
<i>Yo! (AmE) = Dude! (AmE)</i>	<i>Mind if I add something?</i>
<i>Listen up! (AmE)</i>	<i>Can I throw my two cents in?</i>
<i>Pardon me</i>	<i>Just a minute please? = Just one sec / second</i>

AGREEING

<i>Yeah! = Okey dokey!</i>	<i>I agree! = Exactly! = So true!</i>
<i>Me too! ≠ Neither me!</i>	<i>So do !! = I think you're right! = I totally agree!</i>
<i>Sure thing! (AmE) = For sure! (AmE)</i>	<i>I couldn't agree more! = I feel exactly the same way!</i>
<i>Go ahead!</i>	<i>I could see that!</i>
<i>Totally = Definitely = Cool</i>	<i>Tell me about it!</i>
<i>I'm up for that = I'm in!</i>	<i>You're absolutely right! = No doubt about it!</i>
<i>You bet! (AmE) = Yep! (AmE)</i>	<i>I guess so! (weak affirmation)</i>
<i>You got it! = You gotta point!</i>	<i>Be my guest!</i>

DISAGREEING

<i>No way!</i>	<i>I don't think so!</i>
<i>In your dreams! = You're dreaming!</i>	<i>Not in a million years! = Never in a million years</i>
<i>Over my dead body!</i>	<i>Never in your lifetime!</i>
<i>Yeah, right! (Ironic)</i>	<i>Fat Chance!</i>
<i>Never gonna happen! = It'll never happen!</i>	<i>I totally disagree!</i>
<i>Of course not!</i>	<i>I beg to differ!</i>
<i>No, period! = End of story</i>	<i>I'm out!</i>

WHEN EATING

<i>Yum! = Yummy! = Delicious!</i>	<i>I'm starving! = I'm famished!</i>
<i>Yuk! = Yukkie! = Eww! = Disgusting!</i>	<i>I got the munchies (AmE) = I'm peckish (BrE) (hungry for a snack)</i>
<i>Nasting! = Gross! = Minging!</i>	<i>My stomach is growling! = I'm ravenous (BrE)</i>
<i>I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!</i>	

USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The computer just froze
This picture is too grainy
This file is bulky
I'm into social networking
We love texting
I usually skype with my friends abroad
Do you have twitter or facebook?

What's your email?
Can you forward that to me?
Text it to me!
Did you see my post?
I just got the new Mac!
You a Mac or PC person?

WHEN PLAYING

I'm in! ≠ I'm out!
Lucky you!
That's not fair!
Fair play ≠ Foul play
It's my go! = My turn!
It ain't walk in the park = It was difficult
It was pretty hard ≠ (It's) piece of cake!
Don't jump the gun! = Take it easy! = Cool down
Chill out = Take it easy!
Deal or no deal? (AmE)
You just go with the flow
Get the ball rolling
Don't chicken out!

Cheater!
Get ready, get set GO!!!
Off you go!
LOSER!
We beat you!
I / We win!!
You just got beat!
Don't be a sore loser!
Team player or not a team player?
There's not I in team
Better luck next time!
Take a chill pill = Relax = Chill out
He is in time out

EXPRESSING SOMETHING IS WRONG

Oops!
Oh, no! = Oh, dear! = Oh man!
Dear heavens = Oh crap! (BrE)
OMG = Oh my God! = Oh my Gosh!
What happened?! = What's wrong?
What's the trouble now?

What's going on?
Are you okay?
Tell me everything!
Houston, we have a problem!

EXPRESSING AMAZEMENT

Awesome! (AmE) = Neat!
Cool! = Sweet!
Totally!
Wow! = Whoa!

Super! = Amazing!
Dude!! (AmE)
WHAT!?!
OMG!! (oh my God) = Oh my Gosh!

ENJOYING

We had a great time!
This is real fun!
We are having a blast! (BrE)
Totally amazing!

We gotta do that/it again!
That was awesome!
Best time ever!!
We are having a ball! (BrE)

EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING

Got it! ≠ I don't get it!
Beg your pardon?
You're kidding me! / You're joking!
I don't buy it! (AmE) = I don't believe you!
How come?
Really?
You are making no sense = That is nonsense
No way! = Never!
I'll sleep on it! = I need some time for thinking

Whoa...Back up! = What? = Hang on, rewind!
Don't trick me! = You are having a laugh!
You have got to be joking/kidding!?
Are you for real? = You can't be serious!
That is Greek to me!
Speak English!
Do you read me?

EXPRESSING SUCCESS

We did it!
Good job!
Nice try!
Outstanding!
Well done!

You are the best!
You rock!
Go us!
We rocked it/that!
We rule!

EXPRESSING QUANTITY / AMOUNT

A great deal of...
Gigantic! = Huge! = Enormous! = Insane!
24/7 (all the time)
Pretty much
So much
So-so
Just a bit of... = A tiny bit

This is peanuts (not much money)
A sliver (small slice)
Just about (almost)
A tad (AmE) = A smidge (BrE) (small amount)
This is nothing!
It's no big deal

TEASING

Monkey see, monkey do!
Who cares?
I'm going to die of boredom
Someone is sensitive today!
Don't be such a baby!
Don't cry about it! = Oh come on!
Oh relax! I'm joking! = I'm teasing!
I'm just mucking around! (BrE)

It was a joke!
I was just playing around! = I'm just messing with you!
Hands to yourself!
Stop nagging me!
Leave me alone = Mind your own business = Get lost!
This is no brain surgery!

THANKING

I appreciate it!
You saved my day!
Cheers!
You're the best!
Thank you so much!
I'm so grateful!
No problem! = No worries!

I owe you one!
You really came threw! = You really came handy!
I couldn't have done it without you!
You are a lifesaver! = You're a savior!
What would I do without you!?
You are my shining star!

GOOD-BYEING

So long!

See you! = See ya! = See you soon!

See you later! = Later! = See ya later alligator, in a while crocodile!

Have a nice day! (AmE)

Got to go! (AmE)

Got to dash! = Must dash! (BrE)

Cheerio! (BrE)

Ta-ta (BrE)

Bye for now! = Bye!

Hasta la vista baby!

See you on the flip side!

Talk to you later!

We'll be in touch!

Take care!

OTHER