

# 101 English Words You'll Never Learn in School



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# INTRODUCTION

The problem with school is that they teach you the language as if you were speaking to other academics. They don't recognize that most language is spoken much different than the "proper" way it's written.

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

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

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

The Western world emphasizes individuality which tends to bring into existence different ways to say the same thing, often known as slang.

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

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

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

We have focused on the phrases and words that are used the most, and are therefore in your best interest to familiarize yourself with.

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

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Each phrase is divided into different sections to help you understand more deeply. The different sections are:

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

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

**Add-ons**—What other words are often added before or after the phrase.

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

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

Because of the importance of the spoken language, we have created a audio program to help you pronounce each and every one of these words. We break down each phrase, saying it both by itself, in a sentence, breaking the word down syllable by syllable, and giving common mispronunciation tips.

If you're interested in decreasing your accent and being more easily understood by natives, don't miss out on the audio companion for this ebook. [Click here](#) for more details.

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

If you want to speak like a native, you need to know in what context these words and phrases are used. For this we have created a video series to help you see when exactly these words and phrases should be used. This video series is a mini-series on when to use the phrases and at what times they are appropriate.

# DIFFERENT WAYS TO SAY "FRIEND"

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

## DUDE

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

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

### Example:

- "Yo dude, long time no see."

## BRO

**When to use it:** When talking to your brother or someone you feel really close to.

**Variations:** Brotha (short for brother) usually has a stronger context to being a brother than bro.

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

### Example:

- "What's up, my brotha??"

## HOMIE

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

**Variations:** Homes, homeslice

**Usage Notes:** Can also be used to talk about how good a friend is, i.e. "Josh cooked lunch for me, he's such a homie."

### Example:

- "What's up homie?"

## MAN

**When to use it:** Used in reference of someone's name.

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

**Pronunciation Tips:** When used to express dismay, it is drawn out to "maaan."

### Example:

- "Hey man, what's crackin'?"

## MATE

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal. Is often used by people from the U.K. and Australia.

### Example:

- "Hey, have you seen my mates?"

## BUDDY

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

**Variations:** Bud

**Usage Notes:** Is also often used with dogs.

### Example:

- "Hey what's up buddy?"

## DAWG

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

**Usage Notes:** Dawg has a gangster background, but has permeated mainstream society.

**Pronunciation Tips:** Is usually said with a ebonic accent and/or when people are pretending to be gangster.

### Example:

- "What up dawg??"

# GREETINGS

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

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

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

## WHAT'S UP?

**When to use it:** Greeting friends, peers

**Variations:** What up? Sup; Wazzup; What are you up to

**Add-ons:** What's up dude/man/bro/son/dawg

**Usage notes:** What's up is an informal greeting. The shortened version "Sup" is very informal. You can respond to "What's up?" with any other greeting on this list, including "What's up."

**Pronunciation Tips:** It is said as one word: whatsup

### Examples:

- You meet your best friend and say "Sup bro?"
- You are introduced to a friend of a friend and you say, "What's up man?"

### How's it going?

**When to use it:** When being introduced to someone, used in passing

**Variations:** How's it?; How's it goin'?

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

**Usage Notes:** "How's it going?" is often used in passing as a greeting and a response is not always expected. The g in going is never pronounced.

**Example:**

- You are walking through the city and you see someone you know.  
"Hey, how's it goin'?"  
"It's goin good, how are you?"

### How are you doing?

**When to use it:** After saying hello.

**Variations:** Informal: how you doin' ?; how ya doin' ?"

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

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

**Usage Notes:** It can be used in formal situations but is also commonly used in informal ones.

**Example:**

- "Mr. Chang, this is Mr. Ferreira, the head of our international sales department."  
"Hi, how are you doing?"

### WHAT'S GOING ON?

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

**Variations:** What's goin' on?

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

**Pronunciation Tips:** 'Goin' is pronounced like go-en

**Example:**

- You arrive at your friend's house and see four people sitting on the couch and say: "What's goin' on guys?"

### WHAT HAPPENING?

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

**Variations:** Whats the haps?

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

**Pronunciation Tips:** Often pronounced like "What's hapenen?"

**Usage Notes:** A common greeting that can be used in many situations.

**Example:**

- You see your friends sitting down and say, "Hey what's happening guys?"

### WHAT'S NEW?

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

**Add-ons:** What's new with you?

**Usage Notes:** This can be used in formal situations as well as informal

**Example:**

- You come across an old coworker you haven't seen in months and say "What's new?"

### HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

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

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

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

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

**Example:**

- You see an old friend from high school and say, "How've you been man?"

### HOWDY

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

**Add-ons:** Howdy partner

**Usage Notes:** This is a common greeting in the Southern United States. If you use it outside the South people will think you are from there.

**Example:**

- You pass someone on the street and say, "Howdy."

### WHAT'S GOOD?

**When to use it:** When greeting a friend.

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

**Usage Notes:** This is a more informal way of saying "What's up?"

**Example:**

- You give your friend a high five and say, "What's good?"

### WHAT'S CRACKING?

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

**Variations:** What's crackin'?

**Add-ons:** What's crackin' yo?

**Example:**

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

### Yo

**When to use it:** When you are too lazy to say something else.

**Add-ons:** Yo yo. Yo what up?

**Pronunciation Tips:** Draw out the 'o' sound.

**Usage Notes:** Can be used the same way you would say "hi." Often used to recognize someone who joins your group.

**Example:**

- You're at a party and a friend shows up. You say to him, "Yo whats up?"

# FAREWELLS

For every beginning there is an end. Almost every conversations you'll need to be able to say goodbye. Just as it's important to give a good first impression with you greeting, so it is to give them a good last impression before you leave.

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

## SEE YOU

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

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

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

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

### Examples:

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

### PEACE

**When to use it:** When saying goodbye to friends.

**Add-ons:** Peace out, peace out homie, peace out girl scout (we like to rhyme, used for both male and female).

**Usage Notes:** Very informal, often used in texts and Facebook chat.

**Example:**

- "Alright man, it's been fun. I'll see ya later."  
"Peace out girl scout."

### CATCH YOU LATER

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

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

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

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

**Example:**

- Two classmates talking to each other at the end of class, "Alright man I got to go, I'll catch you later."

### TAKE IT EASY

**When to use it:** A standard goodbye, means to not stress out/have fun.

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

### Example:

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

## I'M OUT OF HERE

**When to use it:** When you want to say goodbye while leaving a place.

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

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

### Example:

- "I'm tired, man. I'm out of here."

## TAKE CARE

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

**Add-ons:** Take care now.

**Usage Notes:** Formal.

### Example:

- "It was nice to meet you Mr. President. Take care."

### HAVE A GOOD ONE

**When to use it:** When you want to wish the person a good rest of the day. Commonly used at stores by the cashiers or servers at restaurants.

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

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

#### Example:

- "Thanks for eating at Sloppy Joe's, have a good one."

### IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU

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

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

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

**Usage Notes:** Can be used in formal and informal situations.

#### Example:

- "Well it was nice to see you again."  
"Yeah, we should meet up more often."

### IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU

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

**Variations:** It was nice meeting you.

**Usage Notes:** Used in formal and informal settings.

**Example:**

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

# ADD-ONS TO THANK YOU

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

While thank you by itself will work in many situations, in many circumstances it does not express enough gratification. Most of these phrases are use to go beyond just "thank you" or "thanks a lot."

In English, there really isn't anything you can say to take the place of thank you. Instead, there are different ways to surround you're thank you to express how thankful you are.

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

## ! REALLY APPRECIATE IT

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

**Usage Notes:** Used in both formal and informal settings.

**Example:**

- "Thanks for the shirt. I really appreciate it."

### YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT

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

**Usage Notes:** Used in both formal and informal settings.

**Example:**

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

### THAT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU

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

**Variations:** That was really nice of you.

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

**Example:**

- "That was really nice of you to cover my shift last night."

### YOU'RE THE BEST

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

### Example:

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

## YOU'RE AWESOME

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

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

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

### Example:

- "Thanks for always sticking up for me, you're so awesome."

## YOU THE MAN

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

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

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

### Example:

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

## THANKS A LOT

**When to use it:** To add emphasis to thanks.

**Variations:** Thanks a bunch.

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

**Example:**

- "Hey, you can have the rest of my pizza."  
"Wow, thanks a lot!"

## CHEERS

**When to use it:** Another way to say thanks.

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

**Examples:**

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

# WAYS TO SAY "YOU'RE WELCOME"

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

Unlike thank you, however, there are many different informal ways of saying thank you.

Here are five different ways to say thank you.

## NO PROBLEM

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

### Example:

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

## NO WORRIES

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

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

### Example:

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

## DON'T MENTION IT

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

### Example:

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

## OF COURSE

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

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

### Example:

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

## YUP

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

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

**Variations:** Mhmm (phonetic).

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

**Example:**

- "Thanks for bringing me my tea."  
"Yup."

# APOLOGIES

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

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

## I MESSED UP

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

**Variations:** I screwed up (informal).

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

**Example:**

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

## I FUCKED UP

**When to use it:** Same as the above phrase, "I messed up," but with more emphasis

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

### Example:

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

## I BLEW IT

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

### Example:

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

## MY BAD

**When to use it:** When you bump into someone or make a small mistake.

**Usage Notes:** Used in formal and informal settings.

### Example:

- "Dude, I was wide open, you should've passed it to me!"  
"My bad, bro."

## I DROPPED THE BALL

**When to use it:** A different way to admit you made a mistake.

**Usage Notes:** A little formal.

**Example:**

- "You said you would have the translation done today."  
"Yeah, I know, my bad. I dropped the ball."

### WHOOPS

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

**Add-ons:** Whoops, my bad.

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

**Example:**

- "Whoops I broke a plate."

# OTHER WAYS TO SAY "COOL"

Assuming you're not a cynical old bastard, you'll probably find yourself wanting to express happiness or that you think something is cool quite often. However, saying "cool" all the time gets very repetitive and boring.

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

Most of these words are pretty interchangeable with each other.

## AWESOME

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

**Usage Notes:** Used in formal and informal situations.

**Example:**

- "I met this amazing girl the other day."  
"Awesome!"

## SWEET

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

**Variations:** Sweetness.

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

**Example:**

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

### NICE

**When to use it:** When something is pleasant.

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

**Example:**

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

### KILLER

**When to use it:** When referring to something excellent.

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

**Example:**

- "That party last night was killer!"

### DOPE

**When to use it:** When you like something.

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

**Example:**

- "I found \$20 on the ground today."  
"Dope, dude!"

## CHILL

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

**Add-ons:** Chill out, used to tell someone to calm down. Or I'm chill, meaning I don't want it.

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

**Examples:**

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

## TIGHT

**When to use it:** To express enthusiasm.

**Usage Notes:** Very informal, used by younger people.

### Example:

- "I got a kitten today."  
"Tight man, what kind?"

## SICK

**When to use it:** To express enthusiasm.

**Variations:** Ill

**Usage Notes:** Very informal. It is also used with an almost exact opposite meaning—ill.

### Example:

- "Did you see that guy do a backflip? That was sick!"

## BAD ASS

**When to use it:** When something displays the characteristics of being a bad ass (see below).

**Usage Notes:** Very informal. Can also be used to refer to a person with supreme confidence, extreme ability, and a disregard for authority.

### Example:

- "I didn't even study for the test, but I got 100%!"  
"Bad ass, dude!"

## BITCHIN'

**When to use it:** When something is extremely cool.

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

**Example:**

- "Check out that Corvette! It's bitchin'!"

### OFF THE HOOK

**When to use it:** When something exceeds your expectations.

**Variations:** Off the chain.

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

**Example:**

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

### THE BOMB

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

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

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

**Example:**

- "That acai was the bomb!"

### THE SHIT

**When to use it:** When something displays the characteristics of being a bad ass (see below).

**Usage Notes:** Very informal. “*The shit*” is a good thing, but just “shit” is a bad. Usually not used to describe a person.

**Examples:**

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

## WICKED

**When to use it:** Another word for cool.

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

**Example:**

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

## LEGIT

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

**Usage Notes:** Informal. Short for legitimate.

### Examples:

- "Yo, check out my Ray Bans."  
"Nice, man. But it says Made in China. Are you sure they're legit?"
- "Damn, this song is legit!"

## RAD

**When to use it:** Another word for cool.

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

### Example:

- "That shirt is rad, man."

# DISSATISFACTION

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

Many of the following phrases can be used interchangeably.

## THAT BLOWS

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

**Example:**

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

## THIS SUCKS

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

**Example:**

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

## THAT'S WEAK

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

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

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

**Example:**

- "My teacher assigned a 20 page essay yesterday."  
"Weak, dude."

### THAT'S MESSED UP

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

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

**Example:**

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

### THAT'S FUCKED UP

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

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

**Example:**

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

### THAT'S LAME

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

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

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

**Example:**

- "I burnt the food."  
"Lame."

### THAT'S WACK

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

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

**Example:**

- "My car broke down."  
"That's wack."

### THAT'S SHITTY

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

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

**Example:**

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

### THAT'S A BUZZ KILL

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

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

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

#### Examples:

- "Yeah, Jake and Natalie got in a fight last night. It was a total buzz kill."
- "Hey, you can't be drinking, you're not old enough."  
"Woah, chill out Buzz Killington."

### WHAT A DOWNER

**When to use it:** When something brings you down emotionally.

**Variations:** What a downer.

**Usage Notes:** Can be used in the same context as "that's a buzz kill," but is less informal.

#### Example:

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

### THAT'S A BUST

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

**Usage Notes:** Very informal. Can also be used to refer to a person with supreme confidence, extreme ability, and a disregard for authority.

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

**Example:**

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

# AGREEMENT

Another thing that's very common in every day conversations is agreeing with someone.

Here are four ways to show that you agree with what someone is saying.

## FOR SURE

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

**Usage Notes:** Slang, very informal.

**Pronunciation Tips:** Often pronounced f'sho or fo'sho.

### Examples:

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

## HELL YEAH

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

**Variations:** Fuck yeah

**Usage Notes:** Fuck yeah is a stronger way to agree than hell yeah.

**Pronunciation Tips:** Emphasis can be placed on hell, yeah, or both words.

**Example:**

- "Are you down to surf?"  
"HELL yeah!"

### TOTALLY

**When to use it:** When you agree 100% with someone.

**Variations:** Totes, short for totally (super slang).

**Usage Notes:** Informal.

**Example:**

- "Woah dude, you just ate \$20 worth of food. Was it worth it?"  
"Totally."

### DEFINITELY

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

**Variations:** Most definitely or shortened to "mos def."

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

**Example:**

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

# ACCEPTING INVITATIONS

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

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

## LET'S DO IT

**Usage Notes:** Used to accept invitations, a little informal. Used when someone else is going with you.

### Examples:

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

## I'M DOWN

**When to use it:** When you're in agreement with what is being discussed.

**Add-ons:** I'm so down ("so" adds emphasis, down). I'm down like a clown.

**Usage Notes:** Very informal, used to show that you'd like to go.

**Example:**

- "Hey dude, you down to play soccer tonight?"  
"I'm so down, I love soccer."

### I'M UP FOR IT

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

**Example:**

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

### I'M GAME

**Usage Notes:** Informal, usually used with yeah in front.

**Example:**

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

### SOUNDS LIKE PLAN

**Usage Notes:** Used more often when the person is unsure of their idea, usually used with yeah in front.

**Example:**

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

### SOUNDS GOOD

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

**Example:**

- "I'm making some guacamole, do you want to come over and have some?"  
"Yeah, sounds good."

# DISAGREEMENT

You're not always going to agree with what someone is saying, sometimes you'll need to decline in offer. Here are some different ways to disagree.

## NAH

**When to use it:** Used to express some disagreement.

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

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

### Example:

- "Hey man, you want buy order some pizza?"  
"Nah mate, I'm good."

## HELL NO

**When to use it:** When expressing strong disagreement.

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

**Usage Notes:** Very informal.

### Example:

- "Hey dude, do you want to get back with your ex-girlfriend?"  
"Hell no!"

### FUCK NO

**When to use it:** When expressing very strong disagreement.

**Variations:** Fuck that.

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

**Example:**

- "I'm thinking about going to my friend's house, you want to come?"  
"Fuck no, I got way to much work to do."

### NO WAY

**When to use it:** Used to express completely disagreement or to decline a request.

**Add-ons:** No way, José

**Usage Notes:** Used in both formal and informal settings.

**Example:**

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

### NOT A CHANCE

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

**Example:**

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

# CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

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

Here are some common ways English speakers check for understanding.

## YOU GOT IT?

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

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal.

### Example:

"And therefore, E equals MC squared. You got it?"

"Got it."

## YOU DIG IT?

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

**Variations:** "You dig?"

**Usage Notes:** Very informal, slang. Use only with younger people.

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

**Example:**

- "101 English Words They Won't Teach You in School is a great resource, you dig?"

### YOU FEEL ME?

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

**Variations:** I feel that/you

**Usage Notes:** Very informal, use only with younger people.

**Example:**

- "I think it would be best if we bought the audio version, too. You feel me?"  
"Yeah, I feel you."

### YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

**When to use it:** To check for understanding.

**Variations:** If you know what I mean. (When used this way, a deeper meaning—often a sexual innuendo—is usually implied. i.e. "That girl's got big melons, if you know what I mean.")

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

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

### Example:

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

## YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

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

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

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

### Example:

- "I went to the store to buy some food, you know what I'm saying?"

## YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?

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

**Usage Notes:** Used in both formal and informal settings.

### Example:

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

## OTHER WAYS TO SAY "I'M HUNGRY"

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

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

### I'M STARVING

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal. Can be used in all but the most formal settings.

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

**Example:**

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

### I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT A HORSE

**When to use it:** Similar to the too above, this expression is used to emphasis how hungry you are.

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

**Usage Notes:** A little informal for business, but perfectly fine with older folks. You can use any animal in this phrase, but a horse is the most common. You could use a bigger animal for more emphasis.

**Example:**

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

### I COULD EAT

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

**Usage Notes:** Used in both formal and informal settings.

**Example:**

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

### I GOT THE MUNCHIES

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

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

**Example:**

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

# OTHER WAYS TO SAY "LET'S LEAVE"

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

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

## LET'S ROLL

**Add-ons:** Let's roll out.

**Example:**

- "C'mon man, let's roll."

## LET'S BOUNCE

**Usage notes:** The most common of the three phrases.

**Variations:** I'm gonna bounce.

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

**Example:**

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

### LET'S MAKE TRACKS

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

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

**Example:**

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