

ENGLISH COLLOCATIONS IN DIALOGUE

MASTER HUNDREDS OF COLLOCATIONS IN AMERICAN
ENGLISH QUICKLY AND EASILY



JACKIE BOLEN

Also by Jackie Bolen

39 No-Prep/Low-Prep ESL Speaking Activities: For Teenagers and Adults

39 No-Prep/Low-Prep ESL Speaking Activities: For Kids (7+)

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English Collocations in Dialogue:

Master Hundreds of Collocations in
American English Quickly and Easily

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How to Use this Book

Welcome to this book designed to help you expand your knowledge of collocations in American English. My goal is to help you increase your vocabulary and to be able to speak and write more fluently.

Simply put, collocations are words that occur together more frequently than random chance. For example, we often say “fast good” and “quick shower” but not “quick food” and “fast shower.” Using them during writing and speaking will help your English sound more natural.

Let's face it, collocations can be difficult to master, even for the best students. In this book, you'll find hundreds of English collocations that are used in boardrooms, over a meal, and with friends and family around the world.

The best way to learn new vocabulary is in context. That's why I've introduced each one in a dialogue. Then, you'll find a simple definition in plain English. Finally, there is a practice opportunity so that you can review what you've learned.

To get the most bang for your buck, be sure to do the following:

- Review frequently.
- Make sure to do the practice exercises in this book (cover up the answers while you're doing it!)
- Use each collocation in real life as soon as possible.
- Don't be nervous about making mistakes. That's how you'll get better at English!
- Consider studying with a friend so you can help each other stay motivated.
- Use a notebook and write down new collocations (as well as new words, phrasal verbs, idioms, expressions, etc.) that you run

across. Review frequently so that they stay fresh in your mind.

- Be sure to read frequently. Choose something that is slightly below your level and try to read it for at least 20 minutes a day. Read quickly and if you don't know a word, guess what the meaning is instead of stopping and looking it up in a dictionary. This is one of the best ways to learn collocations naturally.

There are various types of collocations to be aware of. However, classifying them into the various categories isn't that helpful of an exercise. I list them here for general awareness. This book has a mix of all of the various types you can read about below.

- adverb + adjective (fully aware)
- adjective + noun (regular exercise)
- noun + noun (bar of soap)
- noun + verb (plan took off)
- verb + noun (do my homework)
- verb + expression with preposition (burst into tears)
- verb + adverb (vaguely remembered)

Good luck and I wish you well on your journey to becoming more proficient with English.

About the Author: Jackie Bolen

I taught English in South Korea for 10 years to every level and type of student. I've taught every age from kindergarten kids to adults. Most of my time has centered around teaching at two universities: five years at a science and engineering school in Cheonan, and four years at a major university in Busan where I taught upper-level classes for students majoring in English. In my spare time, you can usually find me outside surfing, biking, hiking, or snowshoeing. I now live in Vancouver, Canada.

In case you were wondering what my academic qualifications are, I hold a Master of Arts in Psychology. During my time in Korea, I completed both the Cambridge CELTA and DELTA certification programs. With the combination of almost ten years teaching ESL/EFL learners of all ages and levels, and the more formal teaching qualifications I've obtained, I have a solid foundation on which to offer advice to English learners.

I truly hope that you find this book useful. I would love it if you sent me an email with any questions or feedback that you might have.

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You might also be interested in this book: Advanced English Conversation Dialogues. You can find it wherever you like to buy books. It has hundreds of helpful English phrases and expressions that can be used in a wide variety of situations. Learn to speak more fluently in American English.

House Hunting

Craig: What are you up to **this weekend**?

Ted: I'm going **house hunting**. I'm finally going to get **a place of my own**.

Craig: How exciting! It's almost impossible to save up a **down payment** with how expensive rent is in **this town**.

Ted: **No kidding**. I'll never be able to **pay off my mortgage**.

Craig: Well, let me know if you **throw a housewarming party** and if you need **help moving**.

Vocabulary

This weekend: Saturday and Sunday coming up.

House hunting: Looking for a house to buy or rent, usually buying.

A place of my own: A home that you live in by yourself, usually after buying it.

Down payment: A large amount of money required up-front for purchasing a house.

This town: The city you're currently in.

No kidding: You're not joking.

Pay off my mortgage: Finish paying off a bank loan for a house.

Throw a housewarming party: Hosting a party to celebrate moving into a new house.

Help moving: Help to move from an old home to a new one.

Practice

1. Let me know if you need _____. I have a truck.
2. I'm planning on going to the hockey game _____.
3. It's very difficult to buy a house in _____ as they're very expensive.
4. I can't believe that I can finally have _____. I've had roommates for years.
5. _____. That's amazing news.
6. Let's _____ next weekend maybe.
7. The _____ will need to be at least 10% of the listing price.
8. Oh, you're going _____? What areas are you looking at?
9. I plan to _____ in 10 years.

Answers

1. help moving
2. this weekend
3. this town
4. a place of my own
5. no kidding
6. throw a housewarming party
7. down payment
8. house hunting
9. pay off my mortgage

Weather Forecast

Ted: What's the **weather forecast** looking like this weekend? We should get out for a hike.

Lindsay: **Let me check.** **Clear skies** on Saturday but **scattered showers** on Sunday. **Hot and humid** both days.

Ted: If we're going to go to Mount Hood, we need to be **prepared for anything.** It can go from calm to **gale-force winds on a dime.**

Lindsay: That happened last time I was there. Just **light rain** at first and then the **storm clouds** rolled in and there were **wind gusts** of more than 100 km/h. It was wild.

Vocabulary

Weather forecast: Prediction of future weather.

Let me check: Give me a minute to find the answer to something.

Clear skies: Not cloudy.

Scattered showers: Rain that is on and off.

Hot and humid: Muggy.

Prepared for anything: Ready to face any situation.

Gale-force winds: Very strong wind.

On a dime: Suddenly.

Light rain: Not raining heavily.

Storm clouds: Clouds that may produce rain, snow, hail, thunder, etc.

Wind gusts: Bursts of wind after periods of relative calm.

Practice

1. There will be _____ of more than 150 km/hour today.
2. _____ at night usually means good weather the next day.
3. His personality changes _____.
4. It's so _____. I just want to sit next to a pool.
5. You have to be _____ with this job.
6. I'm not sure if we have that in stock. _____.
7. There are some serious _____ over there. I think we should turn around.
8. The forecast showed some _____. Don't forget your umbrella.
9. What's the _____ for Japan this week? I need to know how to pack for my trip.
10. I know it doesn't seem like it, but _____ are not ideal when sailing.

Answers

1. wind gusts
2. clear skies
3. on a dime
4. hot and humid
5. prepared for anything
6. let me check
7. storm clouds
8. scattered showers/light rain
9. weather forecast
10. gale-force winds

Noise Pollution

Kathleen: Kenny! You lived in Busan, South Korea? I've always wanted to go there. What's it like? I've heard that it's a beautiful **coastal city**.

Kenny: Well, there's a lot of **noise pollution** and **light pollution**. It's the second biggest city in Korea. And **traffic jams** too during **rush hour**.

Kathleen: It sounds terrible.

Kenny: Oh no, it's amazing! I love Nampo-Dong, which has lots of **street food** and **street vendors** plus **trendy cafes**. It's perfect for a date.

Kathleen: What else?

Kenny: Well, there's no real **downtown core** or **main square** but there are six beaches within **city limits**. Most people just **hang out** there, especially in the summertime.

Vocabulary

Coastal city: A city next to the ocean.

Noise pollution: Ambient noise in a city. For example, cars honking.

Light pollution: Light from signs and cars that you can see inside your house at night.

Traffic jams: Lots of cars on the road which makes progress slower than normal.

Rush hour: The busiest times to drive, usually in the morning and after work.

Street food: Food from an outside stall.

Street vendors: People selling things at an outside stall.

Trendy cafes: Coffee shops that are fashionable and hip.

Downtown core: The area in a city with lots of tall buildings; an important place of business.

Main square: The most important public courtyard in a city.

City limits: The entire city, including suburbs. Not just the downtown core.

Hang out: Spend time together.

Practice

1. Do you want to _____ tonight?
2. I love to buy Christmas presents from _____. There are lots of interesting things.
3. Vancouver is the best _____ in Canada.
4. Within the _____, you can find three beaches and countless parks.
5. Go after 9:30 am to avoid _____.
6. Where's the _____? I'd love to spend some time there and people watch.
7. The best _____ in Korea? Honestly, I can't choose. There are many delicious things.
8. The _____ in Edmonton is famous for being boring at night.
9. _____ makes it difficult for me to sleep at night even though I have blackout curtains.
10. My boyfriend loves to spend time at _____ on weekends. I think they're expensive!
11. During _____, it takes twice as long to get home.
12. The _____ is terrible here. I have to wear earplugs to sleep at night.

Answers

1. hang out
2. street vendors
3. coastal city
4. city limits
5. traffic jams
6. main square
7. street food
8. downtown core
9. light pollution
10. trendy cafes
11. rush hour
12. noise pollution

Bitter Divorce

Sierra: Did you **hear the news**? Jeremy and Katie are going through a **bitter divorce**.

Brian: Really? What about the kids? Are they doing **joint custody** or **sole custody**?

Sierra: Joint custody. Jeremy will have them **on weekends** but he has to **pay child support**.

Brian: Poor kids. That was a pretty **dysfunctional family** and they've already had a **troubled childhood**.

Sierra: A **broken home** might be better than all that conflict though. It's too bad that Jeremy and Katie aren't **on good terms**.

Vocabulary

Hear the news: Catch the latest gossip.

Bitter divorce: A divorce that is hostile with both people feeling angry towards the other.

Joint custody: When divorced parents each spend some time taking care of their children.

Sole custody: When a divorced parent is responsible 100% of the time for the children.

On weekends: On Saturday and Sunday.

Pay child support: When one divorced parent has to give money to the other parent to help pay for the care of the children.

Dysfunctional family: A family with many problems.

Troubled childhood: Growing up in a family or situation with a lot of problems.

Broken home: A home where the parents are divorced.

On good terms: Friendly and get along well.

Practice

1. Thankfully my former boss and I are _____. I need him for a reference.
2. I grew up in a _____ but have worked hard to overcome this.
3. Alex and Jen seem to be doing well with their _____ agreement.
4. Did you _____? Jeremy cheated on his wife.
5. _____, I like to spend as much time outside as possible.
6. He's had a _____ so far. I'm surprised that he still does well at school.
7. I want to get _____ of the kids. Tom is a terrible father.
8. I grew up in a _____ and have tried my best to make things better for my kids.
9. I had such a _____ but I'm happy that I don't have to see him anymore.
10. She does _____ but it should be way more than \$500 a month I think.

Answers

1. on good terms
2. broken home
3. joint custody
4. hear the news
5. on weekends
6. troubled childhood
7. sole custody
8. dysfunctional family
9. bitter divorce
10. pay child support

From Dawn Till Dusk

Eric: How's work going **these days**?

Mandy: **Same old, same old.** I have to work **from dawn till dusk.** We have all these **strict deadlines** from clients and are always **running out of time.**

Eric: Can you **cut back on** your hours? That's terrible not having any **free time.**

Mandy: Not if I want to **get ahead** in this industry. I'd love to **take my time** on projects and not be **in a rush** too. But, that's **not going to cut it.**

Vocabulary

These days: Lately.

Same old, same old: Nothing has changed.

From dawn till dusk: Working very long hours (early morning to late at night).

Strict deadlines: A definite time when something needs to be finished.

Running out of time: Lacking time to finish or do something.

Cut back on: Reduce.

Free time: Leisure time when not working or studying.

Get ahead: Make gains, especially compared to other people.

Take my time: Not hurry.

In a rush: The need to do something quickly.

Not going to cut it: Something you do isn't good enough.

Practice

1. Please do it again. That's _____.
2. I hate having to work under _____. It's very stressful.
3. In my _____, I love to hang out with friends.
4. He's always _____ with his math homework and gets so many answers wrong.
5. I have to work _____ during the year-end.
6. I'd love to _____ my drinking but it's difficult around the holidays.
7. Covid-19 has impacted my social life! It's _____ around here.
8. I'd love to _____ and make a good decision about which program to take.
9. It's difficult to _____ in Vancouver when housing is so expensive.
10. _____, I'm trying to get in better shape.
11. We're _____ and will need to stay late tonight.

Answers

1. not going to cut it
2. strict deadlines
3. free time
4. in a rush
5. from dawn till dusk
6. cut back on
7. same old, same old
8. take my time
9. get ahead
10. these days
11. running out of time

Eating Habits

Sun: Do you have a **New Year's resolution** planned for 2021?

Todd: A big one! I want to change my **eating habits** by not eating so much **junk food** and **processed food**. I'm going to focus on **home-cooked meals** and smaller **portion sizes**.

Sun: Mine is very similar. I'm not going to **go on a diet** but I want to eat a **balanced diet** with more **fruits and vegetables**. And I want to avoid the **second helpings**, especially at dinner. That's my **Achilles heel**.

Todd: We should **hold each other accountable**.

Sun: Great idea!

Vocabulary

New Year's resolution: Thing you resolve to do for the upcoming year.

Eating habits: General way of eating (can be healthy or unhealthy).

Junk food: Food that isn't healthy. For example, chips and candy.

Processed food: Food that has been manufactured in some way. Often contains lots of sugar, fat and salt.

Home-cooked meals: Food that you cook at home.

Portion sizes: How much food you eat at one time.

Go on a diet: Eat less or differently to try to lose weight.

Balanced diet: A wide variety of healthy foods.

Fruits and vegetables: Fruits and vegetables!

Second helpings: Taking a second portion of a meal after finishing your first portion.

Achilles heel: A weakness in someone who is generally strong.

Hold each other accountable: Check in with each other to help achieve some goal.

Practice

1. Let's _____ for this. I want to get this done under budget.
2. My son eats way too much _____. He probably eats an entire box of crackers a day!
3. I want to _____ so that I can lose weight for my sister's wedding.
4. His _____ is that he procrastinates.
5. Avoid _____ at dinner if you want to drop a few pounds.
6. I love _____ like potato chips and candy.
7. I want to reduce my _____. For example, only one piece of chicken instead of two.
8. It's best to eat a variety of brightly colored _____.
9. My _____ are terrible. I often skip breakfast and then snack late at night.
10. I love my husband's _____.
11. My _____ is to stop smoking.
12. A _____ consists of healthy foods from a variety of food groups.

Answers

1. hold each other accountable
2. processed food
3. go on a diet
4. Achilles heel
5. second helpings
6. junk food
7. portion sizes
8. fruits and vegetables
9. eating habits
10. home-cooked meals
11. New Year's resolution
12. balanced diet

Played Soccer

Tom: What did you get up to **last weekend**?

Jerry: I **played soccer**. We had a **big match** against the **first-place** team in the league. And it was an **away game** so the **deck was stacked against us**.

Tom: Did you **win the game**?

Jerry: It was a **nail-biter** but we won. The **final score** was 3-2. We were down by two goals but **made a comeback** in the **second half**.

Tom: Congratulations.

Vocabulary

Last weekend: The previous Saturday and Sunday.

Played soccer: Played soccer at some point in the past.

Big match: Important game (tennis, soccer, rugby etc.).

First-place: Top of the league.

Away game: Not at home.

Deck was stacked against us: Some big odds to overcome.

Win the game: Come out on top of someone else or another team.

Nail-biter: A close game.

Final score: The outcome of a game.

Made a comeback: Came from behind to win.

Second half: The last half of a game.

Practice

1. Hopefully, they'll play better in the _____.
2. Get some rest tonight. We have a _____ tomorrow.
3. We tried to _____ with a final push at the end but ended up tied.
4. Wow! The Yankees _____ in the 9th inning to win it.
5. Who got _____ in the American League?
6. The _____ was 4-3.
7. We tried our best but the _____.
8. I _____ almost every day when I was a kid.
9. That game was a serious _____. I had no idea who was going to win.
10. _____, I caught that James Bond movie.
11. Our next _____ is in Toronto next weekend.

Answers

1. second half
2. big match
3. win the game
4. made a comeback
5. first-place
6. final score
7. deck was stacked against us
8. played soccer
9. nail-biter
10. last weekend
11. away game

Surf the Web

Terry: Do you want to **grab dinner after work**?

Tom: **Sorry, I can't.** I have to help my 90-year old grandma **access the Internet**. She **got the Internet hooked up** but can't **surf the web** for some reason.

Terry: That's amazing. My mom barely knows how to **get online** or **check her email** and she's only 60.

Tom: I know, right? Plus she has all sorts of **social media** accounts like *Facebook* and *Pinterest*.

Vocabulary

Grab dinner: Get something to eat for dinner.

After work: When work is done.

Sorry, I can't: What you say when you're unable to do something.

Access the Internet: Use the Internet.

Got the Internet hooked up: Get the Internet turned on at home, work, school, etc.

Surf the web: Go online using a web browser.

Get online: Use the Internet.

Check her email: Have a look at an email account.

Social media: Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, etc.

Practice

1. What's your favourite _____ platform?
2. _____, I like to go for a run and then go home and cook dinner.
3. She wants to _____ from home as well as at work. Is it possible?
4. I can only _____ at school.
5. What's the best way to _____, phone or computer?
6. _____. I have to study tonight.
7. Does anyone say _____ these days? Maybe only seniors!
8. Do you want to _____ this weekend?
9. Now that I've _____, I can start online gaming!

Answers

1. social media
2. after work
3. check her email
4. access the Internet
5. get online
6. Sorry, I can't
7. surf the web
8. grab dinner
9. got the Internet hooked up

Opening Night

Sid: Are you going to watch that new James Bond movie? It **comes out** on the 22nd.

Manny: Oh yeah, I never miss an **opening night** for a Bond movie. I've seen the **movie trailer** at least 10 times now. It's going to be a huge **box office hit**.

Sid: I heard that Tom Cruise has a **supporting role** and that Brad Pitt plays the **main character**. That's pretty impressive.

Manny: For sure. What about you? Will you be there on opening night?

Sid: Not in the **movie theater** but I'll watch it when I can **download it for free!**

Vocabulary

Comes out: Begins.

Opening night: The first night of something (movie, play, etc.)

Movie trailer: A short teaser to entice you to watch the full movie.

Box office hit: A movie that makes lots of money.

Supporting role: Not the lead actor/actress.

Main character: The leading person in a book/movie/TV show, etc.

Movie theater: Place you watch movies.

Download it for free: Getting a movie/TV show/software/music from the Internet and not paying for it.

Practice

1. Why pay for it when you can _____?
2. Do you know when that _____ on Netflix?
3. Do you think our local _____ will survive Covid-19?
4. Have you seen the _____ for that one yet?
5. The _____ in that book was so complex.
6. She was amazing in that _____. She stole the show.
7. I love to go to a play's _____. There's a different kind of buzz.
8. What's going to be the _____ of the year?

Answers

1. download it for free
2. comes out
3. movie theater
4. movie trailer
5. main character
6. supporting role
7. opening night
8. box office hit

Lifestyle Changes

Kim: Did you **go to the doctor**? I know you were **not feeling well**.

Tanya: I did. She didn't **diagnose me** with anything but said that I'd need to make some serious **lifestyle changes**. My **overall health** is quite poor.

Kim: Oh no! What did she recommend?

Tanya: She said that I have to **reduce my stress**, **get plenty of sleep**, and **eat a balanced diet**.

Kim: That doesn't sound so bad. Do you have to **quit smoking**?

Tanya: Oh yeah, that too. It **shook me up**. She said that if I didn't change, my **life expectancy** would decrease.

Vocabulary

Go to the doctor: Have an appointment with a doctor.

Not feeling well: Feeling sick.

Diagnose me: Assign a name to a health problem.

Lifestyle changes: Change in what you eat, how much you exercise and other unhealthy habits like smoking or drinking alcohol.

Overall health: General level of healthiness/unhealthiness.

Reduce my stress: Decrease the amount of stress in your life.

Get plenty of sleep: Sleep eight hours a night.

Eat a balanced diet: Eating mostly healthy food from all the food groups.

Quit smoking: Stop using cigarettes.

Shook me up: Made me feel nervous, worried, or anxious.

Life expectancy: How long you can expect to live.

Practice

1. In Canada, the average _____ for men in 84 years.
2. Please _____. It seems like you've been sick for a while now.
3. You'll have to make some _____ to reduce your chance of a heart attack.
4. It _____ when he told me that he wanted to get divorced.
5. I'm _____. I need to go home early today.
6. I hope that I can _____ by changing jobs.
7. My goal is to _____ this year but I know it won't be easy.
8. Please try to _____ if you want to lower your cholesterol.
9. My doctor didn't _____ with anything but just said that I had to stop drinking so much coffee.
10. His _____ is quite good, considering how old he is.
11. Please try to _____ before your exam. You'll be able to think more clearly.

Answers

1. life expectancy
2. go to the doctor
3. lifestyle changes
4. shook me up
5. not feeling well
6. reduce my stress
7. quit smoking
8. eat a balanced diet
9. diagnose me
10. overall health
11. get plenty of sleep

Apply for University

Ted: Are you in your last year of **high school**?

John: Yes, I'll be finished in a few months from now.

Ted: Congratulations! Did you **apply to university**?

John: Yes, for the University of Toronto. I get **good grades** so I should get in. I even hope to **get a scholarship**.

Ted: That's great! Did you **choose a major**?

John: **Not yet**. Everyone does **general studies** in their **first year**. But next year, I want to choose something so I can have a **good salary** when I graduate.

Ted: **Makes sense** to me.

Vocabulary

High school: Last 3-4 years of school (approximately grades 9-12).

Apply to university: Send in an application to go to university.

Good grades: High marks in classes (mostly A's).

Get a scholarship: Free money for university.

Choose a major: Pick a course of study at university.

Not yet: Not made a decision; haven't done something but plan to in the future.

General studies: Not specific classes.

First year: Year one of something, usually university.

Good salary: Getting paid a lot of money to do a job.

Makes sense: Has good logic.

Practice

1. That _____ to me why he would choose to change jobs.
2. I don't have to _____ until second year.
3. What _____ did you graduate from?
4. He didn't get _____ so has to retake some classes.
5. I'm planning on taking _____ my first year.
6. The most important thing to me is a job with a _____.
7. I think I can _____ for university next year.
8. I'm in my _____. I just started last month.
9. My son is so lazy that I think he might not even _____.
10. Did you take out the trash? _____.

Answers

1. makes sense
2. choose a major
3. high school
4. good grades
5. general studies
6. good salary
7. get a scholarship
8. first year
9. apply to university
10. not yet

Protect the Environment

Jimmy: So what are you doing your **final project** on?

Kent: The need to **protect the environment**. **Climate change** is real, **fossil fuels** are **running out** and **natural disasters** are **on the rise**. It's scary stuff!

Jimmy: You're **preaching to the choir** here. I've been talking about **global warming** and the need to develop more sources of **renewable energy** for years.

Kent: Okay, good to hear! I've learned a lot from this project and want to tell everyone.

Vocabulary

Final project: The last assignment to do for a class at school.

Protect the environment: Do things to reduce harm to the Earth. For example, recycling or buying fewer things.

Climate change: Changes in weather patterns, due to increasing temperatures on the Earth.

Fossil fuels: Non-renewable energy sources like coal, oil, and gas.

Running out: Being depleted.

Natural disasters: Things like earthquakes, tornadoes, forest fires, etc.

On the rise: Increasing.

Preaching to the choir: Telling someone something that they already know.

Global warming: The Earth's average temperature increasing.

Renewable energy: Energy source that doesn't run out. For example, solar or wind.

Practice

1. We need to develop more _____ sources.
2. Our main goal is to _____. We think you'll find it easy to get on board with this.
3. Crime is _____ in my city.
4. _____ is a serious issue, probably the most important one facing our world today.
5. What are you going to do for your _____?
6. I'm hoping that cars won't run on _____ in 10 years from now.
7. There were so many _____ in 2020, probably due to climate change.
8. Honestly, you're _____ here. I already know this!
9. Time is _____ for us to decide what we're going to do.

Answers

1. renewable energy
2. protect the environment
3. on the rise
4. global warming/climate change
5. final project
6. fossil fuels
7. natural disasters
8. preaching to the choir
9. running out

Go to the Doctor

Ted: Hey Anita, what's up?

Anita: I've had a rough **couple of weeks**. I **caught a cold** and it took me a while to recover. I was just **getting ready** for Christmas too. It was **terrible timing**.

Ted: Oh no! Did you **go to the doctor**?

Anita: Yes, she said to take some **over-the-counter medications** because it was a virus.

Ted: Well, that's better than **taking antibiotics** when you don't need to. I think that happens **quite often** but it's certainly not a good thing.

Anita: **Enough about me**. How are you?

Ted: Well, I **had the flu** last month and I'm just **fully recovered** now.

Vocabulary

Couple of weeks: Two weeks.

Caught a cold: Got sick with a cold.

Getting ready: Preparing.

Terrible timing: A bad time for something negative to happen.

Go to the doctor: See the doctor for an appointment.

Over-the-counter medications: Medicine that doesn't require a prescription.

Taking antibiotics: Taking medicine that kills harmful bacteria.

Quite often: Happens frequently.

Enough about me: I've been talking too much about myself!

Had the flu: Was sick with the flu but okay now.

Fully recovered: Not sick anymore.

Practice

1. I was sick for almost a month but I'm now _____.
2. Please _____. You're sick!
3. My son _____ from the other kids at school.
4. I _____ for almost two months. It was terrible.
5. Well, _____. What's happening with you these days?
6. He is _____ late for work.
7. These _____ have been tough. I lost my job plus my dog died too.
8. That's _____ for getting sick. November is your busiest month at work, right?
9. I've been _____ for my ear infection but it's not getting better.
10. I'm well stocked with _____ at home.
11. _____ for work takes me at least an hour.

Answers

1. fully recovered
2. go to the doctor
3. caught a cold
4. had the flu
5. enough about me
6. quite often
7. couple of weeks
8. terrible timing
9. taking antibiotics
10. over-the-counter medications
11. Getting ready

Highly Controversial

Marty: I'm **grateful for** your support this **past year**. I know it was **highly controversial** to fire Jimmy but it was **the right decision**. You **had my back** when it came to that.

June: That guy had to go. He not only had a **mean streak** but he also **held a grudge**.

Marty: For real. This year will be better and hopefully won't be a **roller coaster of emotions**.

June: I know, I **lost my temper** more last year than I had in my **entire life**.

Vocabulary

Grateful for: Thankful

Past year: Past 365 days (approximately).

Highly controversial: An issue where people have lots of differing opinions.

Right decision: The correct thing to do.

Had my back: Supported me.

Mean streak: Describes a person who does things out of anger or to be vindictive.

Held a grudge: Not forgiving or forgetting past wrongdoing.

Roller coaster of emotions: Emotional ups and downs (highs and lows).

Lost my temper: Yelled, snapped, got very angry.

Entire life: From birth to the current time.

Practice

1. I've never felt so angry in my _____.
2. It was difficult but I have no doubt that it was the _____.
3. This _____ has been super difficult with Covid-19.
4. I _____ and yelled at my daughter for not putting her dishes in the dishwasher.
5. My boss has a bit of a _____ so you have to be careful around him.
6. 2020 has been a _____.
7. In the USA, getting the Covid vaccine is a _____ issue.
8. I'm _____ nobody in my family being sick.
9. You've always _____ and I appreciate it.
10. You _____ for that long? Why didn't you just move on with your life?

Answers

1. entire life
2. right decision
3. past year
4. lost my temper
5. mean streak
6. roller coaster of emotions
7. highly controversial
8. grateful for
9. had my back
10. held a grudge

Get a Job

Tony: Some **bad news**. I **was fired** from my job last month.

Athena: Seriously? What happened?

Tony: Well, there was a **heavy workload** and they wanted us to **work overtime** but for just the regular **pay rate**. That's ridiculous for a **minimum wage** job.

Athena: I agree. You shouldn't have to do overtime **without pay**. Are you okay for money?

Tony: Yes, I have an **emergency fund** that can cover my **living expenses** for a **few months**. I also have a **job interview** lined up next week for a **well-paid job**.

Vocabulary

Bad news: Not good news.

Was fired: Lost a job, usually due to poor performance.

Heavy workload: Very busy at work or school, often more than someone can handle.

Work overtime: Work beyond normal work hours.

Pay rate: How much you get paid for a job, usually per hour (for example \$10/hour).

Minimum wage: The minimum amount of money a job can legally pay (set by the government).

Without pay: Working but not getting paid for it.

Emergency fund: Money stored away to use in case of an emergency (illness, job loss, etc.)

Living expenses: How much it costs to live each month for housing, car, food, etc.

Few months: 3-5 months.

Job interview: An interview between an employer and a potential employee.

Well-paid job: A job that pays more than usual.

Practice

1. My son just got a _____. I'm so proud of him!
2. He _____ from his last job. I don't understand why we'd want to hire him then.
3. My _____ is next Thursday at 9:30.
4. The _____ in BC is \$15.25/hour.
5. I have an _____ of \$10,000. It's enough for at least a few months.
6. That program has a _____ but if you finish, you're almost guaranteed to get a good job.
7. These past _____ have been amazing! I got married plus bought my dream house.
8. The _____ is that you're going to have to work this weekend.
9. That's a very high _____ for that kind of job, isn't it?
10. My _____ each month are around \$2000.
11. I try to _____ whenever possible. I need the cash.
12. My boss always wants me to stay late _____. It's time to find a new job for me.

Answers

1. well-paid job
2. was fired
3. job interview
4. minimum wage
5. emergency fund
6. heavy workload
7. few months
8. bad news
9. pay rate
10. living expenses
11. work overtime
12. without pay

Financially Savvy

Tim: What's new?

Meenu: I'm tired of **being broke** so I went to a **financial advisor**. I **make good money** but **money is tight** each month. I have no idea why.

Tim: What did they say?

Meenu: That I **waste money** like nobody's business and that I need to **make a budget** and **stick with it**.

Tim: Well, maybe it's time to **get serious** about **saving for retirement** at our age. I've just started **investing money in the stock market**.

Meenu: You're so **financially savvy**. I wish I knew how you did it!

Vocabulary

Being broke: Not having money.

Financial advisor: Someone who advises about money matters.

Make good money: Gets paid a high salary.

Money is tight: Short of money.

Waste money: Spends money freely on frivolous things.

Make a budget: Write down how much money you will spend each month.

Stick with it: Not alter or change something.

Get serious: Start taking something more seriously.

Saving for retirement: Saving money for after you stop working.

Investing money in the stock market: Buying stocks (shares of companies).

Financially savvy: Describes someone good with money.

Practice

1. They are _____ and have already paid off their mortgage.
2. I'd like to learn more about _____.
3. I hate _____.
4. Let's not _____ on eating out, okay?
5. I need to start _____ now that I'm in my thirties.
6. It's time to _____ about this class or I'm going to fail.
7. _____ at my house which means that we only buy used clothes.
8. I _____ but find it difficult to save. I love going out on weekends.
9. Let's _____ even though it's difficult.
10. A good _____ will help you stay on track with your goals.
11. Let's _____ together. That way, we'll both be invested in it.

Answers

1. financially savvy
2. investing money in the stock market
3. being broke
4. waste money
5. saving for retirement
6. get serious
7. money is tight
8. make good money
9. stick with it
10. financial advisor
11. make a budget

Save me a Seat

Jerry: Hey Sid, can you **save me a seat** in class? I'm going to **come late**.

Sid: **Take your time**. I'll even **take notes** for you but I go **old school** on a **pad of paper**. But, why are you always late?

Jerry: You know the cute girls always **catch my eye** and then I have to stop and talk. But, **keep up the good work** my friend. I love that you always **pay attention** in class.

Sid: We should **have lunch** after class. What do you think?

Jerry: Sounds great. It's **my treat**.

Vocabulary

Save me a seat: Hold a seat for someone at an event, meeting, class, etc.

Come late: Show up not on time.

Take your time: Don't worry about hurrying.

Take notes: Write down briefly what is being heard.

Old school: Old-fashioned.

Pad of paper: Papers that are bound together in a pad.

Catch my eye: Something shiny, sparkling, appealing makes you look.

Keep up the good work: Continue doing the good things you're doing.

Pay attention: Look closely; focus.

Have lunch: Eat lunch.

My treat: I'll pay.

Practice

1. Do you want to _____ next Friday?
2. Please _____! You'll need to know this for your test next week.
3. If you _____ to Dr. Kim's class, you have to sit in the front row.
4. My dad loves to play _____ music on his record player.
5. Jeremy, _____. You did so well on your last report card.
6. Don't worry about it. It's _____.
7. Please _____. I'm going to be a little bit late getting there.
8. I can't go to the mall! So many things _____ and I spend too much money.
9. Please _____ for this meeting, okay?
10. I need to pick up a _____ for the house to take phone messages.
11. Please _____ doing this test. You have two hours to do it.

Answers

1. have lunch
2. pay attention
3. come late
4. old school
5. keep up the good work
6. my treat
7. save me a seat
8. catch my eye
9. take notes
10. pad of paper
11. take your time

Take a Rest

Sienna: How are things going Bob?

Bob: **To tell you the truth**, I need to **take a break** from work. We're just so busy it's impossible to **get away**.

Sienna: **Life is short. Go fishing, visit friends, break the rules.** Make time for the good stuff.

Bob: I know, I'm **running out of time** now that I'm **getting older**. My kids tell me to **have a good time** and enjoy life. They're 100% right.

Sienna: You should take their advice! Aren't you **close to retirement** anyway?

Vocabulary

To tell you the truth: Speaking honestly or plainly.

Take a break: Stop working or studying for a bit.

Get away: Take a vacation or break.

Life is short: We all die eventually, often sooner than we think we will.

Go fishing: Catch some fish.

Visit friends: Talk with friends.

Break the rules: Don't follow what is mandated or the normal course of action.

Running out of time: Lacking time.

Getting older: Aging.

Have a good time: Have fun.

Close to retirement: Nearing the age when you'll stop working.

Practice

1. Isn't he pretty _____? He must be at least 60.
2. It's okay to _____ once in a while! As long as nobody finds out.
3. Let's _____ to Mexico this winter.
4. Let me know when you want to _____. Let's go to *Starbucks*.
5. I want to _____ with you. Please invite me next time you go.
6. Let's _____ with a few beers tonight.
7. I'm worried that we're _____. Can everyone stay late to finish this?
8. _____, I don't think this is the right job for you. We'll have to let you go.
9. _____. Why not enjoy it?
10. I love to _____ but it's been difficult during Covid-19.
11. My health is starting to be much worse now that I'm _____.

Answers

1. close to retirement
2. break the rules
3. get away
4. take a break
5. go fishing
6. have a good time
7. running out of time
8. to tell you the truth
9. life is short
10. visit friends
11. getting older

Fed Up With

Lindsay: I'm honestly so **fed up with** Ted. He's **addicted to** his cell phone and gets no actual work done.

Ethan: I know, he's **famous for** that, right? Everyone is **fully aware of** it. But, Bob seems to like him and he's **the only one who matters**.

Lindsay: It's weird that Bob is so **impressed by** him and that he even **got a promotion**. I would have **fired him years ago**.

Ethan: Did you hear that he **failed a drug test** at his last job?

Lindsay: Wow!

Vocabulary

Fed up with: Tired of; annoyed with.

Addicted to: Can't stop doing something.

Famous for: What someone is well-known for.

Fully aware of: Has full knowledge of.

The only one who matters: When there's only one important person.

Impressed by: Admiring someone's talent or accomplishments.

Got a promotion: Got a higher position with more responsibilities at work.

Fired him: Let go from a job.

Years ago: Many years previously.

Failed a drug test: Did not pass a test for illegal drugs.

Practice

1. He lost his job after he _____.
2. I was _____ how well he led that team.
3. He's _____ always pulling through in the end, even though things seem bad.
4. I used to play hockey _____ but I don't even think I have skates anymore.
5. I'm _____ Animal Farm, that new cellphone game.
6. I don't care what you think. Jen is _____.
7. Good news! I _____ and a pay raise too.
8. I'm _____ with my junior employee. He always leaves early.
9. I'm _____ the problems you're having but I don't think I can do anything to change it.
10. Finally, they _____. He had that coming for a long time.

Answers

1. failed a drug test
2. impressed by
3. famous for
4. years ago
5. addicted to
6. the only one who matters
7. got a promotion
8. fed up with
9. fully aware of
10. fired him

Emotional Wreck

Jeremy: Hey, how was your weekend?

Nathan: It started well. I **went swimming** with the kids and **did yoga**. But, Tim **broke his leg** at his **soccer game**. He has a **vivid imagination** so I didn't believe him at first but we **went to the hospital** and there was a big break. I'm an **emotional wreck** right now.

Jeremy: Oh, that sounds like tough times. I hope he's okay.

Nathan: He'll recover but he has to have a cast on for at least six weeks. What did you get up to?

Jeremy: I **played tennis** and had a **first date** with someone I **met online**. It went well and we're going to see each other next weekend.

Vocabulary

Went swimming: Swam.

Did yoga: Did a yoga workout.

Broke his leg: Broke a bone in his leg.

Soccer game: A soccer match.

Vivid imagination: Active imagination.

Emotional wreck: In a bad state; anxious, worried, depressed, etc.

Played tennis: Had a tennis game or practice.

First date: Spending time together with a romantic interest for the first time.

Met online: Meeting a romantic partner on a dating app like *Tinder* as opposed to in real life.

Practice

1. My husband and I _____.
2. My daughter has a _____.
3. I _____ this morning and now I feel great. I'm so relaxed!
4. I had a _____ with someone last night and I think we're going to meet up again.
5. I _____ with my kids but it was frustrating because they couldn't hit the ball well.
6. I _____ this morning very early. I got there when the pool opened at 6:00.
7. Will you come to watch my _____ this weekend?
8. I was an _____ when my grandmother died.
9. My husband _____ at work last week and will be off for at least three months.

Answers

1. met online
2. vivid imagination
3. did yoga
4. first date
5. played tennis
6. went swimming
7. soccer game
8. emotional wreck
9. broke his leg

Save the Environment

Tanya: I'm wondering if we can **save money** on our bills and **save the environment** at the same time?

Keith: I don't keep track of the **electricity bill**. Has it gone up?

Tanya: The rates have gone up, yes. I think we can **save electricity** in a few different ways.

Keith: Will it **make a difference**? Aren't things like replacing lightbulbs mostly **a waste of time**?

Tanya: We can **save energy** in several ways. I found this **helpful guide** online. We can try a few of the things in it.

Keith: Okay, I'm **onboard**. But **bear in mind** that I'm also very lazy about this kind of thing.

Vocabulary

Save money: Have more money in the bank.

Save the environment: Doing things like recycling, not buying things, reducing food waste.

Electricity bill: How much you pay for electricity each month.

Save electricity/save energy: Doing things like turning off the lights, turning down the heat.

Make a difference: Make an impact with an action you take.

A waste of time: Doing something that is not helpful or doesn't produce results.

Helpful guide: A written document or video that explains in detail how to do something.

Onboard: Willing to follow a plan.

Bear in mind: Please remember.

Practice

1. Please _____ that I don't know anything about using that computer program.
2. Our _____ is \$20 more than normal this month.
3. Let's get Tim _____ with this new plan.
4. Small things can add up and _____ for the environment.
5. I want to _____ but I often feel overwhelmed and don't know where to start.
6. Let's try to find a _____ online for how to clean our dishwasher.
7. Don't you think that trying to help him is _____?
8. I'd like to _____ on food by not eating out so much.
9. Let's turn off the lights every morning before we go to work so we can _____.

Answers

1. bear in mind
2. electricity bill
3. onboard
4. make a difference
5. save the environment
6. helpful guide
7. a waste of time
8. save money
9. save electricity/save energy

Keep a Secret

Jerry: Hey Min, can you **keep a secret**?

Min: Sure, what's up? I can **keep quiet**.

Jerry: I **can't say for sure** but I think that Ted paid someone to **take his place** for the CPA exam. He had to **take the exam** on Friday at 10:00 am but I saw him **posting on Facebook** during that time.

Min: Is he **capable of** that? Do people **make money** taking exams for others?

Jerry: I think it's a thing. Ted should **be ashamed of himself**. He should get fired for sure.

Vocabulary

Keep a secret: Not telling other people what someone told you in confidence.

Keep quiet: Don't say anything.

Can't say for sure: Uncertain about something.

Take his place: Replace somebody.

Take the exam: Write a test.

Posting on Facebook: Writing something on *Facebook*, uploading a video or picture, etc.

Capable of: Having the ability to do something.

Make money: Do a job, task, etc. in order to get paid.

Be ashamed of himself: What other people say in response to someone doing something bad.

Practice

1. He should _____ for acting like that at school.
2. Please _____ about it, okay? I don't want everyone to know.
3. If you _____ now, then you'll be eligible for that promotion next month.
4. I need to _____ quickly to pay the rent at the end of the month.
5. I'll tell you but only if you can _____.
6. I need to find someone to _____ for the game next week. He broke his leg.
7. I don't think he's _____ doing such a terrible thing!
8. I'm addicted to social media and can't stop _____.
9. I _____ but I think Ted and Judy are going to get divorced.

Answers

1. be ashamed of himself
2. keep quiet
3. take the exam
4. make money
5. keep a secret
6. take his place
7. capable of
8. posting on *Facebook*
9. can't say for sure

Business Trip

Cayla: How was your **business trip**?

Jill: It was a nightmare. The **plane was overbooked** so we were packed in like sardines. It was a **bumpy flight** with lots of **crying babies**. There was barely any room for my **carry-on luggage**. We **took off late** and I had to run to catch my **connecting flight**. To top it all off, my **checked luggage** arrived one day late.

Cayla: Wow! That's too much. I'm **amazed by** your **bad luck**.

Jill: I know, right? I shouldn't complain though. At least it's my **dream job** and I only have to travel **once in a while**.

Vocabulary

Business trip: Travel for work.

Plane was overbooked: The airline sold too many tickets for the number of seats on the plane.

Bumpy flight: Turbulence while flying.

Crying babies: Often refers to young children making lots of noise on a plane, bus, etc.

Carry-on-luggage: Bags that you store in the plane under your seat or above you.

Took off late: Describes a plane that departed after the scheduled time.

Connecting flight: An intermediate flight between departing city and destination.

Checked luggage: Bags that you give the ticket agent at the airport which are inaccessible while flying.

Amazed by: Impressed with.

Bad luck: Describes a series of unfortunate circumstances.

Dream job: An ideal job.

Once in a while: Not that often.

Practice

1. Tennis isn't my favourite sport but I'll play with my wife _____.
2. We _____ because someone wouldn't put their seat belt on.
3. The _____ so I offered to take the next flight for \$300.
4. My _____ is to be a doctor.
5. The _____ arrived late which meant I was late getting to my meeting.
6. It seems like you always have such _____.
7. I need to go on a _____ next week to meet with our new clients.
8. I only take _____ when I travel because I hate waiting for my bags after a flight.
9. I'm _____ how well you did on that exam.
10. Thankfully, there were no _____ on my flight.
11. It's usually a _____ from Edmonton to Vancouver because you go over the mountains.
12. You can find your _____ at carousel four.

Answers

1. once in a while
2. took off late
3. plane was overbooked
4. dream job
5. connecting flight
6. bad luck
7. business trip
8. carry-on luggage
9. amazed by
10. crying babies
11. bumpy flight
12. checked luggage

Say No More

Tom: I'm **getting prepared** for the **dinner party**. Are you **allergic to** anything?

Kristine: I'm allergic to gluten.

Tom: Oh wow, that's a big one. I **never knew** that.

Kristine: I only became **aware of** it myself **quite recently** when I took an **allergy test**. Please **keep in mind** that even things like soy sauce have gluten in them. I can **save you the trouble** and bring my own food though.

Tom: **Say no more!** I will do some research and send you the recipes of what I'm going to cook. Then, you can make sure they're safe for you to eat.

Vocabulary

Getting prepared: Getting ready for something.

Dinner party: A gathering where the host cooks dinner for everyone.

Allergic to: Can't touch, eat, etc. without having a bad reaction.

Never knew: Didn't know.

Aware of: Learned about.

Quite recently: In the past months, weeks, etc.

Allergy test: A kind of test that tells you things you can't touch, eat, etc.

Keep in mind: Please remember.

Save you the trouble: Prevent you from experiencing any hassle.

Say no more: Stop talking! I understand or will take care of it.

Practice

1. _____, I will take care of it.
2. Are you sure I can't _____ of coming to the airport to pick me up? I can take a taxi.
3. It's time to start _____ to leave for your soccer game. It starts soon.
4. I _____ that Tom was Jenny's cousin.
5. Please _____ that you only have two hours for this exam.
6. Why not take an _____? It might help you figure out all your stomach aches.
7. I'm _____ pineapple and peppers.
8. I only found out about this job opportunity _____. I'm going to apply tonight.
9. Let's have a _____ and invite your team at work over.
10. I'm _____ the fact that you don't like Tim but you'll have to work with him.

Answers

1. Say no more
2. save you the trouble
3. getting prepared
4. never knew
5. keep in mind
6. allergy test
7. allergic to
8. quite recently
9. dinner party
10. aware of

Eat in Moderation

Tim: I'm **eager for** the **winter holidays** to start. I'm so bored with this project I'm working on. How about you? Any **big plans**?

Sam: Oh yeah, for sure. I'll **get together with** my **extended family** and some **close friends**. But it's **highly probable** that I'll get called into work. I have **difficulty with** saying no to double overtime! What are your plans?

Tim: You've got to **earn a living**, right? For me, no work but lots of family and friends too. And of course, I'm sure I'll achieve my **personal best** in the amount of **Christmas baking** eaten.

Sam: Do your best! That's a big goal. I try to **eat in moderation** but we all know that'll go out the window with my wife's baking.

Vocabulary

Eager for: Excited about.

Winter holidays: Holidays that are taken during winter, usually around Christmas.

Big plans: Plans that are not usual.

Get together with: See; hang out with.

Extended family: Aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. Not immediate family.

Close friends: Good friends.

Highly probable: Very likely.

Difficulty with: Finding something or someone hard to deal with.

Earn a living: Make money at a job so that you can pay the bills.

Personal best: The best you've done at a certain task in your entire life.

Christmas baking: Special cakes, cookies, etc. that are made around Christmas.

Eat in moderation: Eat only a small-medium amount of food each day.

Practice

1. It's almost impossible, but I'm going to try to _____ this Christmas.
2. Let's _____ with your parents this weekend.
3. I'm _____ this exam to be finished.
4. It's _____ that the Edmonton Oilers will make the playoffs this year.
5. There are better ways to _____ than what you're doing now I think.
6. Want to help me with _____?
7. I'd rather have a few _____ than many acquaintances.
8. Do you have any _____ for New Year's Eve?
9. I have _____ sitting still for more than an hour. That's why I don't like movies.
10. For the _____, my family is going to go on a ski trip.
11. I couldn't see my _____ this year because of Covid-19.
12. My _____ for biking is 27km in one hour.

Answers

1. eat in moderation
2. get together with
3. eager for
4. highly probable
5. earn a living
6. Christmas baking
7. close friends
8. big plans
9. difficulty with
10. winter holidays
11. extended family
12. personal best

Pay Someone a Visit

Cindy: What are you up to this weekend?

Ted: I have to **pay my grandfather a visit**. I'm not sure he can **tell the difference** between me and anyone else but I have to **keep a promise** to my mom that I would visit in the **next few days**.

Cindy: Of course, you can't **break a promise** like that. It's nice that you **keep him company**.

Ted: It's **time-consuming** as I have to drive an hour to get there and he's also **going deaf** so often **says nothing**.

Cindy: Ted! You're **a good guy** for doing this. I think the visits mean more to him than you might think.

Vocabulary

Pay my grandfather a visit: See his grandfather in person.

Tell the difference: Distinguish between things.

Keep a promise: Follow through with someone you said you'd do.

Next few days: The following 2-3 days.

Break a promise: Not follow through with something you said you'd do.

Keep him company: Spend time with him.

Time-consuming: Describes something that takes up lots of time.

Going deaf: Starting to not hear well.

Says nothing: Doesn't talk.

A good guy: A man who is generally trustworthy, dependable, helpful, etc.

Practice

1. Ted is _____ and will help you out for sure.
2. Let's go to the hospital and _____. I'm sure he's bored.
3. It's best to _____ in cases like this. Whatever you say can come back to haunt you.
4. I can't _____ between his two daughters.
5. I think it's okay to _____ if someone wants you to do something illegal.
6. Even though it's _____ to make homemade lasagna, it's worth it.
7. Sorry, I can't play tennis. I have to _____.
8. Let's have a meeting to talk about this in the _____.
9. Wow. It's difficult to _____ like that.
10. My father is _____ and turns up the TV so loud.

Answers

1. a good guy
2. keep him company
3. say nothing
4. tell the difference
5. break a promise
6. time-consuming
7. pay my grandfather a visit
8. next few days
9. keep a promise
10. going deaf

Good With Computers

Terry: Hey, you're **good with computers**, right? I'm trying to **write an essay** but my **computer freezes** every **couple of minutes**. And then...

Sienna: **Hold on. First things first.** Did you **shut down your computer** yet?

Terry: No, should I do that?

Sienna: Yes, and then **restart the computer.**

Terry: Okay, it says it's going to do some **scheduled maintenance** and **install updates.**

Sienna: Let that run and once it starts, do a **virus scan.** It should work a lot better now.

Vocabulary

Good with computers: Describes someone who knows how to use computers well.

Write an essay: Write a specific type of school assignment.

Computer freezes: A computer problem where you can't click anything on the screen.

Couple of minutes: Two minutes.

Hold on: Wait.

First things first: Tackle the first thing before jumping ahead to other things.

Shut down your computer: Turn off the computer.

Restart the computer: Turn back on the computer after turning it off.

Scheduled maintenance: Routine maintenance that happens on a schedule of some kind.

Install updates: This usually refers to a computer or other electronic device. Involves updating the software.

Virus scan: A program that looks for harmful viruses on a computer.

Practice

1. Let's run a _____ first to see if we can catch any problems that way.
2. Just _____ a minute. I have to grab my jacket and gloves.
3. Always _____ as soon as possible for your electronic devices to avoid problems.
4. Ted is _____. Let's ask him for some help.
5. _____. Let's get some snacks and drinks before we start!
6. I need a _____ to change my clothes before we go.
7. The network will be down for _____ tonight from 2 am to 4 am.
8. Did you _____ your computer yet? I think that might help.
9. I hate that my _____ at the worst possible times.
10. _____ before going home for the day.
11. I have to _____ this weekend. I haven't even started yet.

Answers

1. virus scan
2. hold on
3. install updates
4. good with computers
5. first things first
6. couple of minutes
7. scheduled maintenance
8. restart the computer
9. computer freezes
10. shut down your computer
11. write an essay

Key Role

Sally: Hey Marty, we need to talk about Tom leaving. It's a **key role** we have to fill thoughtfully. We have a **tendency to** rush through the **hiring process** but it's such a **demanding job** that I don't think we can do that this time.

Marty: Of course, I agree 100% with you. I'm interested in that guy Jim Jones. Do you remember him? He **did a presentation** at that conference we were at.

Sally: I was **impressed with** him too. He won't just **quit his job** though! We'll have to pay him an extremely **competitive salary** to get him to leave.

Marty: I'll **ask around** and see people in that position are getting paid **these days**.

Vocabulary

Key role: An important position.

Tendency to: Usually acts in a certain way.

Hiring process: Putting up a job ad, taking applications, doing interviews, etc. From start to finish.

Demanding job: A job that is difficult and time-consuming.

Did a presentation: Spoke in front of other people about a certain topic.

Impressed with: Felt admiration or respect for.

Quit his job: Gave notice that he would stop working at his job.

Competitive salary: A salary that is similar to what other companies are paying.

Ask around: Enquire.

These days: Recently; now.

Practice

1. _____, I've been working a lot. Nothing too exciting.
2. Let me _____. I'm sure someone knows a good plumber.
3. Let's fast-track the _____. We needed someone yesterday.
4. The CFO is a _____ in all organizations.
5. I _____ at the conference last year but I think I'm going to skip this year.
6. A _____ for a good salesperson is more than \$100,000.
7. He has a _____ to rush through his homework so he can play video games.
8. I think he should _____. What a terrible boss.
9. It's a _____ but it also comes with a very high salary.
10. I'm _____ how well he did on that test.

Answers

1. these days
2. ask around
3. hiring process
4. key role
5. did a presentation
6. competitive salary
7. tendency to
8. quit his job
9. demanding job
10. impressed with

Go to War

Owen: Hey, how are things going? You look kind of upset.

Allan: My wife and I **went to war** this morning before I left for work. She **got upset** at me for not **washing the dishes** and **doing laundry** the night before. We're **happily married** but fight about this stuff **all the time**.

Owen: Are those your jobs?

Allan: Yes, but I **prefer to** do it on weekends while she gets it done every night. I like to **come home** from work and **have a drink** to relax. I'm **jealous of** you and your single life.

Owen: Oh, **it's not all it's cracked up to be** during a pandemic. That's for sure.

Vocabulary

Went to war: A bitter fight.

Got upset: Had an angry feeling.

Washing the dishes: Cleaning plates, pots, etc.

Doing laundry: Washing clothes.

Happily married: A good marriage.

All the time: Always.

Prefer to: Like to.

Come home: Arrive at home after being out.

Have a drink: Drink alcohol.

Jealous of: A feeling where you want what someone else has.

It's not all it's cracked up to be: Something is not as good as it appears to be.

Practice

1. I'm so _____ his new car.
2. They seemed _____. I'm surprised to hear about their divorce.
3. I like _____ before I go to work so I can come home to a clean kitchen.
4. When I _____, the first thing I do is take off my work clothes.
5. My kids _____ over who got to use the new video game console first.
6. I _____ eat at home instead of going out.
7. Working at Google? _____.
8. My daughter _____ when I told her that we couldn't have a party because of Covid.
9. _____ is probably my least favourite chore. There's just so much of it with the kids.
10. Let's _____ and celebrate your new job.
11. I'm trying not to think about him _____ but it's been difficult.

Answers

1. jealous of
2. happily married
3. washing the dishes
4. come home
5. went to war
6. prefer to
7. it's not all it's cracked up to be
8. got upset
9. doing laundry
10. have a drink
11. all the time

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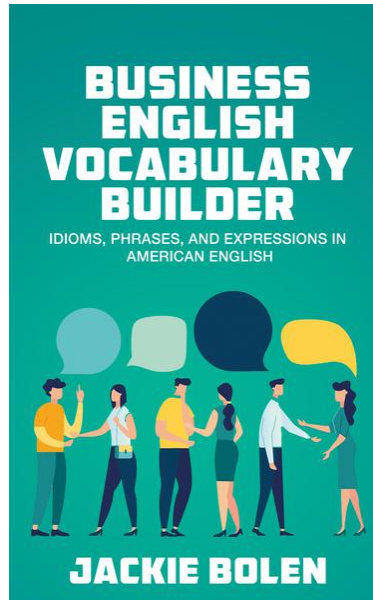
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