

**125
useful
English
Phrases
for
everyday
use**



125 useful english phrases for everyday use

by SASCHA FUNK for www.sayfun.me Top 25

English Expression 1. as easy as pie means “very easy” (same as “a piece of cake”)

Example: He said it is a difficult problem, but I don't agree. It seems **as easy as pie** to me!

English Expression 2. be sick and tired of means “I hate” (also “can't stand”)

Example: I'm **sick and tired** of doing nothing but work. Let's go out tonight and have fun.

English Expression 3. bend over backwards means “try very hard” (maybe too much!)

Example: He **bent over backwards** to please his new wife, but she never seemed satisfied.

English Expression 4. bite off more than one can chew means “take responsibility for more than one can manage”

Example: John is so far behind in his studies. Besides classes, he plays sports and works at a part-time job. It seems he has **bitten off more than he can chew**.

English Expression 5. broke means “to have no money”

Example: I have to borrow some money from my Dad. Right now, I'm **broke**.

English Expression 6. change one's mind means “decide to do something different from what had been decided earlier”

Example: I was planning to work late tonight, but I **changed my mind**. I'll do extra work on the weekend instead.

English Expression 7. Cut it out! means “stop doing something bad”

Example: That noise is really annoying. **Cut it out!**

English Expression 8. drop someone a line means “send a letter or email to someone”

Example: It was good to meet you and I hope we can see each other again. **Drop me a line** when you have time.

English Expression 9. figure something out means “come to understand a problem”

Example: I don't understand how to do this problem. Take a look at it. Maybe you can **figure it out**.

English Expression 10. fill in for someone means “do their work while they are away”

Example: While I was away from the store, my brother **filled in for me**.

English Expression 11. in ages means “for a very long time”

Example: Have you seen Joe recently? I haven't seen him **in ages**.

Expression 12. give someone a hand means “help”

Example: I want to move this desk to the next room. Can you **give me a hand**?

English Expression 13. hit the hay means “go to bed” (also “hit the sack”)

Example: It's after 12 o'clock. I think it's time to **hit the hay**.

English Expression 14. in the black means “the business is making money, it is profitable” **Example:** Our business is really improving. We’ve been **in the black** all year.

English Expression 15. in the red means “the business is losing money, it is unprofitable” **Example:** Business is really going poorly these days. We’ve been **in the red** for the past three months.

English Expression 16. in the nick of time means “not too late, but very close!” **Example:** I got to the drugstore just **in the nick of time**. It’s a good thing, because I really need this medicine!

English Expression 17. keep one’s chin up means “remain brave and keep on trying” **Example:** I know things have been difficult for you recently, but **keep your chin up**. It will get better soon.

English Expression 18. know something like the back of your hand means “know something very, very well” **Example:** If you get lost, just ask me for directions. I know this part of town **like the back of my hand**

English Expression 19. once in a while means “sometimes, not very often” **Example:** Have you been to the new movie theater? No, only see movies **once in a while**. I usually stay home and watch TV.

English Expression 20. sharp means “exactly at a that time” **Example:** I’ll meet you at 9 o’clock **sharp**. If you’re late, we’ll be in trouble!

English Expression 21. sleep on it means “think about something before making a decision” **Example:** That sounds like a good deal, but I’d like to **sleep on it** before I give you my final decision.

English Expression 22. take it easy means “relax” **Example:** I don’t have any special plans for the summer. I think I’ll just **take it easy**.

English Expression 23. to get the ball rolling means “start something, especially something big” **Example:** We need to get this project started as soon as possible. I’m hoping you will help me **get the ball rolling**.

English Expression 24. up to the minute means “the most recent information” **Example:** I wish I knew more about what is happening in the capital city. We need more **up to the minute** news.

English Expression 25. twenty-four/seven means “every minute of every day, all the time” **Example:** You can access our web site **24/7**. It’s very convenient!

100 more...

about to (do something)

- to be on the point of doing something - I was about to leave when the phone rang.

according to (someone or something)

- as said or told by someone, in agreement with something, in the order of something, in proportion to something

- According to our teacher, there will be no class next week. We did everything according to the terms of our agreement.

account for (something)

- to provide an explanation or answer for something

- The bad weather accounts for the fact that few people came to the meeting.

after all

- considering the fact that something happened, something that is usually assumed "You don't need to phone him. After all, he never phones you."

all of a sudden

- suddenly, without advance warning All of a sudden it became cloudy and began to rain.

as a matter of fact

- actually "As a matter of fact, we have been to the history museum many times." learn

as far as

- to the extent or degree of something As far as I know the movie will start in a few minutes.

as for

- with regard to, concerning "As for me, I think that I will return home now."

as if

- in the same way that something would be, that

The drink tastes as if it were made with orange juice. It seemed as if the whole town came to the concert.

as long as

- provided that, on condition that "As long as you promise to be careful you can borrow my car."

as soon as

- just after something, when I phoned my friend as soon as I finished dinner.

as to

- with regard to, according to

"As to your question, I will answer it tomorrow." The players were put into groups as to their ability.

as well

- in addition, also, too I plan to take a computer course this summer as well.

as well as

- in addition to "Please bring your swimming suit as well as your towel."

back and forth

- backwards and forwards, first one way and then the other way The argument went back and forth before the judge made a decision.

better off

- to be in a better situation than before My friend would be better off if he sold his old car and bought a new one.

break down (something)

- to divide something into parts, to separate something into simpler substances
We tried to break down the problem for further study. The sugar began to break down soon after it was swallowed.

break up

- to separate, to divide into groups or pieces, to put an end to something
Nobody wanted to break up their groups. We usually break up into small groups during our class.

by the way

- incidentally "By the way, could you please bring your laptop computer tomorrow."

carry out (something)

- to put something into action, to accomplish something, to do something The scientist wanted to carry out several experiments before discussing the new medicine.

come on!

- please, hurry, go faster

"Come on, I only have a few minutes before I must go." "Come on, stop doing that."

come up

- to happen unexpectedly I will not be able to go to the party if something else comes up.

come up with (something)

- to produce or find a thought/idea/answer I tried to come up with a name for the new magazine.

deal with (something)

- to be concerned with something, to take action about something We will deal with the boxes tomorrow.

end up (doing something or going somewhere)

- to do something that one had not planned to do, to go somewhere one had not planned to go

We ended up going to a restaurant after the movie last night.

figure out (someone or something)

- to try to understand someone or something, to solve something I finally figured out how to use the new DVD player.

fill in (something)

- to write words in blank spaces "Please fill in this form and give it to the receptionist." **find**

out (something)

- to learn or discover something My mother is angry at me because she found out that I had quit my French class.

first of all

- the very first thing First of all we prepared the garden and then we planted the seeds.

for good

- permanently The city will close the public swimming pool for good next week.

for sure

- without doubt, certainly, surely "I will go to the movie with you for sure next week."

get back to (something)

- to return to something I was happy to get back to my work after my holiday.

get into (something)

- to become interested or involved in something

I do not want to get into an argument with my friend. We will get into the details of the plan tomorrow.

get into (somewhere)

- to enter somewhere

My friend wants to get into a good university. I bumped my head as I was getting into the car.

get out of (somewhere)

- to leave somewhere, to escape from somewhere I want to hurry and get out of my house.

get rid of (something)

- to give or throw something away, to sell or destroy something, to make a cold or fever disappear

I bought a new television set so I want to get rid of the old one.

get through (something)

- to complete something, to finish something

My friend is having trouble getting through her final exams. I have much reading that I must get through before tomorrow.

go ahead

- to begin to do something "Let`s go ahead and start now. We can`t wait any longer."

go on

- to continue The game will probably go on for an hour after we leave.

go over (something)

- to examine or review something

The accountant will go over the books tomorrow. We plan to go over that question tomorrow.

go through (something)

- to discuss something, to look at something, to do something The teacher decided to go through the exercise before the test.

go with (something)

- to choose one thing rather than another We decided to go with the small rental car rather than the large one.

hang out (somewhere/with someone)

- to spend one`s time with no great purpose, to spend leisure time with friends

Recently my friend has been hanging out with a group of people who are not a good influence on him.

have (something) to do with (something)

- to be about something, to be on the subject of something, to be related to something

"The book has something to do with cooking but I am not sure if you will like it." That problem has nothing to do with me.

hold on

- to wait a minute, to stop, to wait and not hang up the phone "Please hold on for a minute while I lock the window."

in a way

- to a certain extent, a little, somewhat In a way I want to go to the new restaurant but in a way I don`t really care.

in case

- if, if something should happen I will take my umbrella in case it rains.

in common

- shared together or equally, in use or ownership by all I had nothing in common with the other members of the class.

in detail

- giving all the details, item by item The saleswoman explained about the new product in detail.

in effect

- for practical purposes, basically The man`s silence was in effect a way of disagreeing with the other people in the meeting.

in fact

- actually, the truth is The man has been to China before. In fact he has been there three times.

in favor of (someone or something)

- to approve or support someone or something

Everybody is in favor of the new police chief. My company is not in favor of changing our holiday schedule.

in general

- in most situations or circumstances In general, most of the people in our apartment are happy with the new manager.

in order to

- for the purpose of They have decided to close down the school for the summer in order to do some major repairs.

in other words

- in a different (usually more direct) way

"In other words, if you do not finish the assignment by Wednesday you will not pass the course."

in place

- in the proper place or location Everything in the room was in place when we arrived for the meeting.

in some ways

- in some unspecified way or manner, by some unspecified means In some ways I know what my friend means but in some ways I do not.

in terms of (something)

- with regard to something

In terms of our agreement with the other company we were not allowed to sell the products online.

in time

- early enough I did not come home in time to meet my cousin.

keep (someone or something) in mind

- to remember and think about someone or something I told my co-workers to keep the new starting time for work in mind.

kind of

- somewhat, more or less, moderately I was kind of tired when I arrived home last night.

look for (something)

- to try to find something, to hunt/search for something My friend has been looking for her credit card all morning but she can't find it.

look up (something)

- to search for something in a dictionary or other book

I will look up my friend's name in the telephone book. I looked up the word in the dictionary.

make a difference

- to cause a change in a situation It does not make a difference whether our boss comes to the meeting or not.

make sense

- to seem reasonable His new proposal really does make sense.

make sure

- to make certain, to establish something without a doubt I want to make sure that my friend is going to meet me tomorrow.

more or less

- somewhat, to some extent I more or less have decided to study business next year.

no matter

- regardless No matter how hard that I try, my piano teacher is never satisfied.

not at all

- certainly not I am not at all happy with my new computer.

of course

- certainly, definitely, naturally "Of course you can use my car if you want to."

on the other hand

- however, in contrast, looking at the opposite side of a matter

He is very intelligent but on the other hand he is very lazy and always gets low marks at school.

on time

- at the scheduled time, exactly at the correct time, punctually Our train arrived exactly on time.

once again

- again, one more time, once more I tried once again to phone my boss at his home .

open to (something)

- to be agreeable to learn or hear about new ideas or suggestions Most members of the class were open to the teacher's ideas.

pick up (something)

- to get or receive something

I will pick up my dry cleaning tomorrow. I picked up a copy of the newspaper at the station.

point out (someone or something)

- to explain or call attention to someone or something My teacher was very kind when she pointed out the mistakes that I had made.

put out (something)

- to produce or make something (a product/brochure/report/CD/movie/paper) The company puts out a newsletter every month for the employees.

regardless of (something)

- without considering or thinking about something, without regard to something
Regardless of the weather we are going to go fishing tomorrow morning.

right away

- immediately "I forgot to bring my book but I will go home and get it right away."

rule out (someone or something)

- to decide against or eliminate someone or something

The police ruled out the man as a possible bank robber. We decided to rule out Monday as the day to have our meeting.

run into (something – a fact/trouble/problems/difficulty)

- to experience something, to encounter something

The mechanic ran into trouble when he was fixing my car. I ran into some interesting facts when I was researching my essay.

set up (something)

- to establish something, to provide the money for something

The newspaper company provided the money to set up the new travel magazine. The company set up a unique situation to test the new product.

show up

- to appear, to arrive, to be present "What time did your friend show up for the party?"

so far

- until now So far no one has entered the speech contest at the television station.

so to speak

- as one might or could say, this is one way to say something

We had a good time at the restaurant, so to speak, although the service was not very good.

sort of (something)

- to be almost something, to be similar to something, to be not quite something

"Did you finish cleaning the kitchen?" "Sort of, but not really."

stick with (something)

- to continue doing something, to not quit something My brother has been able to stick with his trumpet lessons since he was a child.

take advantage of (someone or something)

- to use someone or something for one's own benefit We took advantage of the beautiful weather and went to the beach.

take care of (someone or something)

- to look after or give attention to someone or something You should take care of your health or you will become sick.

take out (something)

- to remove something from somewhere, to extract something

The teacher told us to take out our books. I took out some onions from the refrigerator.

take over (something)

- to take control of something, to take command of something The large company wants to take over some of the small companies in our area.

take place

- to happen, to occur The soccer game took place on the coldest day of the year.

to the extent that

- to the degree that, in so far as

I plan to provide information about the new company policy to the extent that I am familiar with it.

turn in (something)

- to give something to someone, to hand something to someone I arrived at school early so that I could turn in my essay.

turn out

- to be found or known, to prove to be true It turned out that more people came to the party than we expected.

up to

- until, as far as a certain point, approaching a certain point

Up to last week I had never been inside a bowling alley. There were probably up to thirty people at the meeting.

up to (someone) to decide/do (something)

- to be responsible to choose or decide something It is up to the company president to decide when the meeting will start.

used to

- accustomed to My friend is not used to living in such a big city.

with respect to (something)

- referring to something, concerning something I do not know what the company will do with respect to the old computer system.

work out (for the best)

- to end successfully I hope that everything will work out for my friend when she moves to London next week.