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Use your Common English

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Предисловие

Цель учебно-методического пособия “Use your Common English” – расширение словарного запаса студентов за счет изучения часто используемых в английской речи аутентичных выражений и конструкций. Пособие включает 6 разделов: пять уроков, каждый из которых содержит новые слова и выражения, их дефиниции и примеры использования в предложениях и диалогах, раздел “Bonus expressions”, в котором собраны яркие устойчивые выражения, не вошедшие в уроки. В ряде случаев в тексте урока приводятся примеры слов и выражений, синонимичных изучаемым в ходе занятия, рассматриваются особенности их использования в различных коммуникативных ситуациях и грамматических конструкциях, выявляются различия в оттенках значения. Рубрика “Spotlight on” предлагает студентам интересные факты о происхождении и истории рассматриваемого слова или выражения. В конце каждого урока даются различные по структуре и типу заданий упражнения на закрепление изученного материала. В разделе “Revision” студентам предлагаются упражнения, направленные на повторение и закрепление изученных слов и выражений.

В основу пособия легли переработанные автором с целью адаптации к потребностям обучаемых материалы книги Стивена Коллинса “Practical Everyday English” и двух словарей – “Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English” и “Online Etymology Dictionary”.

Учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для использования на занятиях со студентами, которые обладают высоким уровнем владения английским языком (выше среднего, продвинутый) и желают пополнить свой словарный запас частотными в речи носителей языка выражениями.

Lesson 1

Read the words and their definitions below. Find out how they are used in different contexts. Make sure you understand the meaning of all the sentences, paying attention to the synonyms of the given words.

Ages (a very long time)

Examples:

• *It seems **ages** since I was last home.*

• *I met your brother last week but I haven't seen your sister in/for* **ages**.*

***In** would only be used after a negative or superlative construction, e.g.: *It's the **best** picture I've seen **in** ages.*

But not in the future, i.e. English people would **not** say: *We won't forget it **in** ages.*

Also one can use the expression **Quite a while** which means "for quite a long time". It's more common in spoken English, e.g.

1) *I've been studying English for **quite a while** now.*

2) A: *How long are you intending to stay here?*

B: *I'm not sure but probably **quite a while**.*

Do not confuse this expression with **Quite a few** / **Quite a number of** / **Quite a lot**

Examples:

• *We've got **quite a few** Americans working here.*

• *I'd like to order another one hundred boxes of red wine; we sold **quite a number of them** last summer.*

It should be noted that **Quite a few** is used for countable nouns only, whilst for uncountable nouns one could use **Quite a bit of**, e.g. 1) *They had **quite a bit of** money in their Clients' Account.* 2) *Don't worry, there's **quite a bit of** time left yet.*

Quite a bit (and **Quite a lot**) can also mean "quite often", e.g. *I've been to Italy **quite a bit** this year.*

Reluctant (unwilling, unhappy about doing something)

Examples:

• *After the way he behaved, I'm **reluctant** to see him in our house.*

• *I'll try to call you tomorrow but the boss is **reluctant** to let us use the phone.*

Spotlight on: Reluctant From Latin *reluctantem*, present participle of *reluctare, reluctari* ("to struggle against").

To hear from (to receive news, communication from someone)

Examples:

• *I haven't **heard from** her in ages.*

• *A: When was the last time you **heard from** your father?*

B: Oh, quite a while ago.

Spotlight on: To hear Old English *heran* (Anglian), *(ge)hieran, hyran* (West Saxon) "to hear, listen (to), obey, follow; accede to, grant; judge," from Proto-Germanic **hausjan*, perhaps from Proto-Indo-European language **kous-* "to hear".

Spelling distinction between *hear* and *here* developed in 1200-1550. Old English also had the excellent adjective *hiersum* "ready to hear, obedient," literally "hear-some" with suffix from *handsome*, etc. *Hear, hear!* was originally imperative, used as an exclamation to call attention to a speaker's words; now a general cheer of approval. Originally it was *hear him!*

To take after (to be similar to an elder member of the same family – usually in character rather than in appearance)

Examples:

- *My daughter likes to spend her holiday alone; she **takes after** me in that respect.*
- *You **take after** your grandfather; he also used to read such articles.*

Somebody had better (used to give advice about what someone should do or to threaten someone)

Examples:

- *She'd **better** see a doctor if it gets any worse.*
- *You'd **better** keep your mouth shut about this.*

Day off (a day's holiday)

Examples:

- Can we speak tomorrow? The office manager has got a **day off** today.
- I have two extra **days off** next month. I have a chance to visit my cousin.

Do not confuse **Day off** with **Off-day** which means a bad day or a day in which one does not perform as well as one usually does, e.g. 1) *She could have passed her exams but she failed. She must have had an **off-day**.*

2) *The forward is having an **off-day**; he might as well not have played!*

One should also note that **Off-day** can only be used with the auxiliary verb **To have**, i.e. one cannot say *It's an off-day*.

Finally, one should note that although people often use a **week off**, a **month off** or a **year off**, etc. **Off-week** and **Off-month** are not so common.

May/Might as well

1) One should do something only because there is nothing better to do

Examples:

• We **may as well** go to Pizza Hut again, unless you can think of something more interesting to do.

• A: Shall we go out for a meal tonight?

B: I suppose we **might as well**.

Might as well and **May as well** are interchangeable, but it is very important to understand the difference between **May/Might as well** and **May/Might**. The difference between *We may/might go to the pub* and *We may/might as well go to the pub* is that the first sentence expresses a **possibility** – *Maybe we won't go*, whilst the second sentence expresses a **suggestion** to go to the pub, but only because there is nothing better to do. This meaning of **May as well**, therefore, has a negative feel about it.

2) There is no harm in/it's worthwhile doing something

Examples:

• A: Do you think I should take dollars to Greece?

B: Well you probably won't need them but you **might as well** take them just in case.

• Even though I've got several dictionaries at home, I **might as well** buy this one as it's so cheap.

i.e. *You will lose nothing so therefore it's worth doing.*

3) It would be the same/it wouldn't make any difference, so therefore one should do the easier or cheaper thing

Examples:

• *As the weather is so hot and sunny this year, I've made my mind to go abroad; I **may as well** stay in England.*

• The ceremony was so long and boring, I **might as well** have remained* at home.

This form of **Might as well** is generally used where one has a choice of two or more things which are of similar quality and, because of this, one should choose the most convenient one.

* Note that the past of I **might/may as well** is I **may/might as well have** [+ **past participle**].

To cope with (to be able to tolerate, manage, bear a situation or person)

Examples:

• *This morning I thought about looking for another job. I can't **cope with** this one any longer.*

- *I really want my parents to go away. I can hardly **cope with** them at the moment.*

Note that the verb **To cope with** does not always require an object, the preposition **with** is dropped, e.g.

- 1) *How is he **coping**?*
- 2) *I can't **cope**.*

Spotlight on: To cope late 14c., "come to blows with," from Old French *couper*, earlier *colper* "hit, punch," from *colp* "a blow". Meaning evolved in 17c. into "manage", perhaps influenced by obsolete *cope* "to traffic" (15c.-17c.), a word in North Sea trade, from the Flemish version of the Germanic source of English *cheap*.

What's the point? (what's the use/purpose, what for?)

Examples:

- ***What's the point in/of** coming to England, if you don't want to meet English people? You may stay **in** your own country.*

- *A: Shall we employ another clerk?*

- *B: **What's the point?** We've already got four.*

One can also use **Point** in a negative form with **There is** i.e. "*It's useless, a waste of time*", e.g. ***There's no point (in)** speaking to him; he takes after his father, in that he never listens to anything anyone says.*

Also be careful not to confuse this expression with **What's the point you are trying to make?** which means, "What are you trying to say?"

Spotlight on: Point 12c., "minute amount, single item in a whole; sharp end of a sword, etc.," a merger of two words, both ultimately from Latin *pungere* "prick, pierce, puncture". The Latin neuter past participle *punctum* was used as a noun, meaning "small hole made by pricking," subsequently extended to anything that looked like one, hence, "dot, particle," etc. This yielded Old French *point* "dot; smallest amount," which was borrowed in Middle English by 13c.

Meanwhile the Latin fem. past participle of *pungere* was *puncta*, which was used in Medieval Latin to mean "sharp tip," and became Old French *pointe* "point of a weapon, vanguard of an army," which also passed into English, early 14c.

The senses have merged in English, but remain distinct in French.

The point "the matter being discussed" is attested from late 14c.; meaning "sense, purpose, advantage" (usually in the negative, e.g. *what's the point?*) is first recorded 1903.

Read the following text paying attention to the usage of the words in bold.

Telephone conversation between two friends:

Trish: *Hello Kristine, it's Trish.*

Kristine: *Hi, it's been **ages** since I last **heard from** you. How are you?*

Trish: *Not too well, actually. I've had a sore throat for about two weeks. I **take after** my mum; she's always ill.*

Kristine: ***Hadn't** you **better** call the doctor?*

Trish: *I'm rather **reluctant** to do that, and anyway **there's no point**. He won't help me.*

Kristine: *Why not? You **may as well** have an appointment with him. You could go on your **day off**.*

Trish: *I suppose so. I don't think I could **cope with** another week like the last one.*

Exercise 1

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below. There are two sentences for each word.

- 1) Jenny really _____ her mother.
- 2) An ideal _____ would be to wake up really late in the morning, maybe around 10 or 11am...
- 3) You _____ watch the way you talk to me!
- 4) Yesterday I told her: "We're best friends and have been together _____. Shall we go out somewhere?"
- 5) Have you _____ Sarah lately?
- 6) He seems _____ to help her solve the problem.
- 7) I _____ do the washing tonight. There's nothing on television.
- 8) One of the best ways _____ stress is staying positive under difficult circumstances.
- 9) And now we are going _____ the victim of the violent crime.
- 10) I work as a manager for financial monitoring department five days a week, so I have two _____ – Saturday and Sunday.
- 11) There's _____ telling a lie, I'll find out anyway.
- 12) John _____ his brother in that he always has problems with eyes.
- 13) You have spent years to bring freedom to people who were _____ to receive it.
- 14) If you want to get jeans, you _____ do it in no time, the prices are extremely low.
- 15) It's no wonder you've forgotten this street. You've been away _____.
- 16) You _____ take your jacket with you. It's seems terribly cold today.
- 17) These countries do not have any resources _____ the financial crisis.
- 18) I could try to help but _____? He never listens to anyone.

Exercise 2

Match correctly the words on the right to their meanings on the left.

a) A long time	Day off
b) There is nothing better to do	What's the point?
c) Receive news from someone	Cope with
d) One does not have to work	Ages
e) Do not want to take some action	Had better
f) Behave like an older relative	Reluctant
g) Overcome difficulties	Take after
h) Giving some advice	Hear from
i) Something isn't worth doing	May/might as well

Exercise 3

Make up your own sentences, one for each of the words you have just been taught.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____

Lesson 2

Read the words and their definitions below. Find out how they are used in different contexts. Make sure you understand the meaning of all the sentences, paying attention to the synonyms of the given words.

Well off (rich)

Examples:

- *My uncle is so **well off**, he doesn't know what to spend his money on.*
- *If I were as **well off** as my sister is, I'd retire.*

Well off does not necessarily have to refer to money; it can also be used in respect of opportunities, facilities etc., e.g. *Young people nowadays don't understand how **well off** they are. i.e. children nowadays do not appreciate the opportunities which are open to them and which were not available to their parents.*

Better off is the comparative form of **Well off**, i.e. *richer*, e.g. *He is far **better off** than I am.*

However, it can also be used to mean "It would be/it is better for you, him, it, etc.", e.g. 1) *You'd be **better off** going by plane than taking a bus, if you want to arrive in London by 6 o'clock.* 2) *She's **better off** without her husband; he used to make a lot of problems.*

Word choice:

rich, well off, wealthy

Rich is a very direct way of saying that someone has a lot of money and possessions: one of the richest women in America

Well off means fairly rich, so you can buy most things. People are more likely to describe themselves as “well off” than “rich”: My parents were pretty well off.

Wealthy is a slightly more formal word meaning rich, especially over a long period of time: He came from a wealthy family.

Note that this meaning of **Better off** is still used in the comparative sense. This construction should not be confused with **Had better** which is a slightly stronger form of **should**, e.g. *I'd better go now; I've got quite a few things to do.*

The opposite of **Better off** is **Worse Off**, i.e. *poorer*. e.g. *Even though my classmates have been working for quite a number of years, they are worse off than me.*

To come round (to wake up* after an operation or fainting, to regain consciousness)

* To **come round** does **not** mean to recover. This is something that one would hope to do in the week following the operation – *after one has come round.*

Note that **To come round** has the same meaning as **To come to** in this sense only.

Examples:

- *We might as well stay at home instead of going to the hospital. He won't come round (from the operation) until tomorrow.*
- *I can't stand the heat. Last Monday I fainted but I soon came round again.*

To come/go round can be used interchangeably with **To come/go over** to mean to come or to go to someone's house.

To come round to (to agree with something eventually – often after a lot of persuasion, to accept the idea of something when it can be seen that there is no alternative)

Examples:

- *The other members of the group don't agree with our plan at the moment but when they see the numerous benefits, I'm sure they'll **come round to** it.*
- *She can't cope with the thought of leaving the house so soon after her brother's death, but in a couple of months she'll **come round to** the idea.*

To go on

1) To continue, go ahead, last

Examples:

- *I'm just going to slice the cheese; please **go on** (with what you were saying).*
 - *This programme is very useful. It tells you exactly how long the show **goes on** for.*
 - *We can't **go on** like this! I can **barely*** cope with the increasing rate.*
- * Barely means the same as hardly, scarcely and is therefore negative.

2) To happen

Examples:

- *Unfortunately, they were reluctant to tell us how it was **going on/had gone on**.*
 - *I was shocked because I didn't know there was so much **going on*** in this little town.*
- * i.e. there were so many things to do, a lot of entertainment.

Note that this meaning of **To go on** is not generally used in the future. For example, one would **not** say *What do you think will go on?*

3) To keep talking about something, complaining, or asking someone to do something

Examples:

- *I wish you'd stop **going on** about it; I've already explained twenty times the reasons of being late!*
- *I'm sorry to **go on** at you, but could you please speak quietly?*
- *I'm going to **go on** at the Director until he comes round to my way of thinking.*

4) To rely on as proof, to judge a situation after having seen or heard something relating to it

Examples:

- *I'm only **going on** what I've seen but I have a strong feeling that she is going to break the relationships with him .*
- *We really need more exact data to **go on** before we can go on* with our experiment.*

* Note that it is not considered to be good style to repeat a word in a sentence. It is done here merely to show the different meanings of **To go on**.

5) To move to another place, to proceed to the next level or stage

Examples:

- *A: What are you doing on Saturday?*

B: *Well, I'm going round to my mother's first and then I'll probably **go on** to Sue's in the evening.*

• Wife to husband:

W: *Come on, dear! What did you really do after work?*

H: *I have already told you; we **went on** to an Italian restaurant.*

• *It was a surprise to us that he passed his final exams. We didn't think he was ready to **go on** to this level.*

Fussy (difficult to please, not easily satisfied, demanding)

Examples:

• *Tell me what you want for dinner. I know you're a **fussy** eater/how **fussy** you are.*

• *She's not very **fussy** about whom she goes out with, providing he's well off.*

Note also the words **Choosy**, **Particular** and **Picky** which have the same meaning as **Fussy**.

Spotlight on: Fussy from *fuss* (n.) + *-y*. *Fuss* is perhaps an alteration of *force*, or imitative of bubbling or sputtering sounds, or from Danish *fjas* "foolery, nonsense." First attested in Anglo-Irish writers, but no obvious connections to Irish.

To show off (to show that one is very proud of one's abilities, achievements or possessions, to boast)

Examples:

• *I don't want to **show off** but I came first in all my exams at university.*

- One tennis player to another:

*The fact you've bought an expensive tennis racket doesn't mean you have to **show off** in front of everyone watching.*

Show-off can also be used as a noun, i.e. a person who shows off, e.g. *I am tired of that **show-off**.*

One can also say that someone is a **big-head** (noun) or that he or she is **big-headed** (adjective).

To bet (to be almost certain something will or will not happen) **Colloquial**

Examples:

- *I **bet** you won't be able to finish (off) the cleaning by yourself.*

- *A: He says that he'll be better off than all of us in a few years.*

*B: I wouldn't **bet on** it!*

The literal meaning of the verb **To bet** is to put money on something happening: e.g. the winner of a race, competition or a match, e.g. *I **bet** 10 pounds **on** Manchester winning the match this Sunday.*

Also note the informal expression **Do you want a bet?** which means that the speaker is challenging something someone else has just said, e.g.:

A: I'll get a new car in a day.

*B: **Do you want a bet?***

Posh (upper class, sophisticated) **Colloquial**

Examples:

- *There's no point (in) speaking with a **posh** accent; they know who you are.*

• *You can take off your jacket. This restaurant isn't that* **posh**.*

* If **that** is stressed, it means the restaurant is **posh**, but not as much as the person thinks. If, on the other hand, **that** is not stressed, it means the restaurant is not **posh** at all.

Spotlight on: Posh (before 1903 as *push*), of uncertain origin; no evidence for the common derivation from an acronym of *port outward, starboard home*, supposedly the shipboard accommodations of wealthy British travelling to India on the P & O Lines (to keep their cabins out of the sun). More likely from slang *posh* "a dandy" (1890), from thieves' slang meaning "money" (1830), originally "coin of small value, halfpenny," possibly from Romany *posh* "half".

The cavalryman Charles Vivian makes a point of wearing "posh" clothing on every possible occasion – "posh" being a term used to designate superior clothing, or articles of attire other than those issued by and strictly conforming to the regulations.

To afford (to have enough money to buy something/time to do something)

Examples:

• *On my salary, I don't think I will be able to **afford** such a posh flat for a long time.*

• *There's no point (in) (his) having piano lessons; He can't **afford*** the time.*

* If one means money, it is not necessary to mention the word **money** but if one means **time**, he/she must state it, e.g. *She can't **afford** to go to the theatre = money; She can't **afford the time** to go to the theatre = time.*

One can also use **To afford** to mean it wouldn't be advisable/sensible/it would be stupid to do something, otherwise you may suffer, e.g. 1) *You can't **afford** to lose such a chance to visit New York .* 2) *I'm not very keen on notebooks but in my business, I can't **afford** not to have one.*

Spotlight on: To afford Old English *geforðian* "to put forth, contribute; further, advance; carry out, accomplish," from *ge-* completive prefix (see *a-* (1)) + *forðian* "to further," from *forð* "forward, onward" (see *forth*). Change of *-th-* to *-d-* took place late 16c. (and also transformed *burthen* and *murther* into their modern forms). Prefix shift to *af-* took place 16c. under mistaken belief that it was a Latin word in *ad-*. Notion of "accomplish" (late Old English) gradually became "manage to buy or maintain; have enough money (to do something)" (1833). Older sense is preserved in *afford (one) an opportunity*. Related: *Afforded; affording*.

To do up

1) To tie up, button up, fasten, *e.g.* zip

Examples:

• *I'm not going to insist, but you'd better **do** your dress **up** before going out.*

• A: *Do you want my father to give you a hand in **doing up** your room?*

B: *Yes, he may as well.*

The opposite of **To do up** is **To undo**, *e.g.* 1) *Would you mind if I **undid** my coat?*

2) *Your shoelaces are **undone**!*

2) To decorate, renovate

Examples:

• *If we don't go away next month, we might as well **do** the house **up**.*

• *It's been ages since we last had our kitchen **done up**.*

Read the following text paying attention to the usage of the words in bold.

A meeting in the pizzeria

Sophie: What's a pleasant surprise. Is it you, Jessica? Where have you been for quite a while?

Jessica: Oh, nothing special. You will get bored until I finish. I am... Anyway, what's been **going on** in your life?

Sophie: I've just bought a new flat. Actually, it's in a very **posh** street.

Jessica: **Show off!** I **bet** it's lovely. You are always lucky to find such places.

Sophie: Well, you know that I'm very **choosy**. Apart from that, I'm much **better off** than I was a few years ago so I can **afford** to live in such an area. You'll have to **come round** when I've got the place **done up**.

Jessica: I'd love to. See you soon.

Exercise 1

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below. There are two sentences for each word.

- 1) I have already said this but I would like to repeat that the Web won't become the property of a _____ minority!
- 2) Bill drove around all afternoon _____ his new car _____.
- 3) Let's _____ all the gifts in matching paper.
- 4) You can't _____ drinking so much – you're not doing yourself any good.
- 5) Sean _____ that I wouldn't get to the city on time.
- 6) There's no need to _____, Fred; we all know you're a good dancer.
- 7) Have you seen his beautiful Chinese tea set, it's really _____.
- 8) I _____ you'll never guess who I saw this morning.
- 9) He is as _____ as a hen with one chick.
- 10) I moved to a new house last week. You are welcome to _____ some time.
- 11) Helena doesn't feel she can _____ any more time away from work.

- 12) She looks really _____ with that new pearl necklace.
- 13) The councilor _____ to explain where the new supermarket would be.
- 14) Jane _____ her hair for the dance.
- 15) If you are healthy enough, you are _____.
- 16) Leonora was _____ about the way she looks.
- 17) I'm sure Bradley will _____ our way of thinking.
- 18) Only the bigger clubs can _____ the enormous fees that these players demand.

Exercise 2

Match correctly the words on the right to their synonyms on the left.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Well Off | pedantic, picky, fastidious |
| b) Come round | be able to, have enough for, manage |
| c) Go on | wrap, mantle, repair |
| d) Fussy | exclusive, wealthy, high-class |
| e) Show off | display, demonstrate, to impress |
| f) Bet | visit, meet, enter |
| g) Posh | sure, confident, doubtless |
| h) Afford | deluxe, opulent, luxury |
| i) Do up | move, proceed, continue |

Exercise 3

Make up your own sentences, one for each of the words you have just been taught.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

- 6) _____
7) _____
8) _____
9) _____

Lesson 3

Read the words and their definitions below. Find out how they are used in different contexts. Make sure you understand the meaning of all the sentences, paying attention to the synonyms of the given words.

Stale (unfresh – e.g. bread, biscuits or air)

Examples:

- In a restaurant:

*Waiter, sorry, this bread is **stale**. Will you bring us another.*

- *Can you remind me of how this coffee machine works? I am sorry, my mind is a little **stale** on this matter.*

i.e. I have forgotten how it works.

- *I think I'd better switch on the conditioner in the conference room; it's a bit **stale*** in there.*

* The word **Stuffy** is probably more common as far as air is concerned.

Note the word **Stalemate** which describes the situation where neither side in a dispute or negotiations can progress or win, e.g. *It's clear that we've reached a **stalemate**; we'd be better off stop right now.*

Spotlight on: Stale "freed from dregs or lees" (of ale, wine, etc.), i.e. "having stood long enough to clear," cognate with Middle Dutch *stel* "stale" (of beer), and probably ultimately from Proto-Germanic base **sta-* "stand," the source of Old English *standan* "to stand," Perhaps via Old French *estaler* "halt," from Frankish **stal-* "position". The meaning "not fresh" is first recorded late 15c.

To go off

1) To go bad – food/milk

Examples:

- *This cheese smells like it has **gone off**/It's **off**.*
- *Don't be so fussy! I'm sure this milk isn't **off**.*

2) To ring – alarm clock/bell

Examples:

- *My alarm clock **went off** two hours later than it was supposed to this morning.*
- *You'd be better off without your new car alarm; it's always **going off** at the wrong time.*

Note that **To go off** can only be used for an alarm and not, for example, for the telephone or a doorbell. One could, however, say *I wasn't asleep when the phone **went** at seven o'clock this morning.*

3) To explode, to fire, i.e. a bomb or a gun

Examples:

- *Have you heard about that bomb which **went off** in the supermarket last week?*
- *He claims that the gun **went off** accidentally, but I bet that's not true.*

4) To stop liking something or someone **Colloquial**

Examples:

- *I've **gone off** the way she cooks. I think we'd all be better off if she ordered something from a take away shop.*
- *She **went off** her last boyfriend after hearing about his salary.*
- *I'm **going off** the idea* of doing business with her, she's far too fussy!*
* i.e. *I'm changing my mind about...*

5) To be sent – a letter or a fax – often used in the office

Example:

- *Quite a number of parcels **went off** this morning but they won't arrive for ages because of the strike.*

6) To leave for a particular place, to travel around

Examples:

- *On the telephone:*

*I'm sorry, you've missed her; she **went (off)** to hairdresser's quite a while ago.*

- *I heard about your journey; you **went (off)** to France, didn't you?*

7) To be switched off/to stop working – usually something powered by electricity or gas

Example:

- *This room smells stale because the air conditioning **went off** during the night**
- * Compare with ...*the air conditioning is off*, which means that it was not switched on in the first place.

To look forward to (to wait with pleasure)

Examples:

- *We were really **looking forward to** seeing* Emily; we hadn't heard from her in ages.*

• *A: We're going to start doing up our new flat this month.*

*B: Are you **looking forward to** it?**

*I'm not **looking forward to**** receiving my bill; it will be at least 500 pounds.*

* This expression is extremely common in written and spoken English. In the final paragraph of a letter, either formal or informal, one often writes, *I look forward to hearing from you soon*. It is important to note the irregular construction, i.e. "**Look forward to + gerund**" (not infinitive) or one can simply use a noun or **it**, e.g. *I am looking forward to **Christmas***.

One should also be careful not to make the common mistake of confusing **To look forward to** with **To look for** which means to search for, e.g. *I'm **looking for** my earrings. I hope no one has stepped on them.*

** Note that when **Look Forward To** is used in the negative, it still means the event **is** going to happen (i.e. the bank statement is definitely going to arrive) but

the speaker is **not** happy about it. e.g. *I'm not **looking forward to** going out tonight*. This means the person **is** going out, but would rather not.

Spotlight on: Forward Middle English, from *forward* + adverbial genitive *-s*. British English until mid. 20c., preserved the distinction between *forward* and *forwards*, the latter expressing "a definite direction viewed in contrast with other directions." In American English, however, *forward* prevails in all senses since Webster (1832) damned *forwards* as "a corruption."

To ask/have round/over

1) To invite to one's house **Colloquial**

Examples:

• *I used to like her brother but now I've gone off the idea of **asking/having him round**.*

• *The room is in a mess because we **asked/had** some friends **over** last evening.*

To have is generally not used in the imperative, i.e. it would be more common to say *Ask him round tonight!*

Also note the possible difference between *I asked them round/over last night* and *I had them over/round last night*.

The first sentence does not tell us whether or not the people actually came, only that they were invited. The second sentence, however assures us that not only were the people invited but they did actually come. In the second example above, we know the people came because the place was in a mess.

2) To ask for information, to enquire about something from various people

Examples:

• *I doubt that what you're saying will come over very well to our managers but I'll **ask round** (the office) just in case anyone is interested in attending the meeting.*

• *Can you **ask round** (your circle of friends) to see if there's any accommodation available? It doesn't have to be anything too posh.*

Note that only **To ask round** can be used for this meaning and *not* **To ask over** or **To have round/over**.

To make a fuss (to complain, to be difficult, i.e. a person, not a thing)

Examples:

• *If I'm in a supermarket and the service is slow, I can't help **making a fuss**.*

• *I do wish you'd stop **making a fuss** and continue with cooking the dinner.*

Do not confuse this expression with **To make a fuss of / To fuss over** which means to show affection towards a person or animal, to give someone a lot of care and attention. e.g. 1) *My cat loves to **be made a fuss of/fussed over**.* 2) *We've been in quite a few restaurants recently where the staff **made** too much **fuss of** us.*

Spotlight on: Fuss perhaps an alteration of *force*, or imitative of bubbling or sputtering sounds, or from Danish *fjas* "foolery, nonsense." First attested in Anglo-Irish writers, but no obvious connections to Irish. *To make a fuss* was earlier to *keep a fuss* (1726).

To come/go over

1) To come/go to someone's house **Colloquial**

Examples:

• *Would you like to **come over*** next Monday, as you've got the day off?*

- *I'm **going over** to William's * tomorrow to help him do up his bathroom.*

* Note that it is not necessary to mention the word **house**.

2) To visit from abroad the country where the speaker is situated – **To come over**, to visit another country for a specific purpose – **To go over***

Examples:

- *My wife's sister is **coming over** from Spain for a year. I don't think I'll be able to cope!*

- *I'm really looking forward to you **coming over** and seeing me.*

- *We heard about your flight. Didn't you **go over** to see the Himalayas?*

* Note that **To go over** (not **To come over**) also means to revise, check, explain/discuss, e.g. 1) *I'm not looking forward to **going over** this business again with them. We always end up arguing.* 2) *I'll probably arrive at 5 o'clock tomorrow and we can **go over** it together.*

3) To happen to someone, to make someone do or say something strange or out of character – generally used with *I don't know what* or *I wonder what**

Examples:

- *A: Just because you've lost your job, there's no need to behave like that.*

*B: Yes you're right – I don't know what **came over** me.*

- *It's most unusual for my daughter to call me twice on the same day; I wonder what has **come over** her.*

4) To give a certain impression – generally the first one – i.e. a person or what a person says*

Examples:

- *He **comes over** as a real show-off but actually he's quite shy.*
- *I know you didn't mean to sound ungrateful, but that's how it **came over** to us.*

5) To be successfully communicated, understood – e.g. a message, idea, speech or way of expressing oneself*

Examples:

- *I could understand what he was trying to say, but I don't know if it **came over** to the others.*
- *I've been going off him recently, his style of humour doesn't really **come over** very well on our TV channel.*

* Note that only **To come over** and *not* **To go over** can be used for these three meanings. However, **To come across** has the same meanings as 4) and 5) above.

To turn up

1) To increase the volume, power

Examples:

- *What's the point of **turning up** the washing machine? There is only one shirt to do up.*

- Can you **turn up** the heating please? I take after my cousin, in that I'm always cold.

2) To arrive/come

Examples:

- I'm sorry I didn't **turn up** 4 hours ago but I had to go over to my mother's.
- Thanks a lot for asking me round. When do you want me to **turn up**?

3) To appear – often something/someone which has been lost or is difficult to find

Examples:

- A: Have your glasses **turned up** yet?
B: No, I think I left them on the bus. I don't know what came over me.
- I know you've been looking for accommodation for quite a while now, but I'm sure something will **turn up**.

Remember, it is the lost object that does the **turning up** and not the person looking for it. Therefore, one cannot say *I turned up my pen yesterday*, but *My pen turned up yesterday*.

Also note the word **Upturn** which means a positive change, an improvement, usually in business or the economy of a country, e.g. *The Director was reluctant to say that an **upturn** in sales was not likely in the near future.*

Spotlight on: To turn late Old English *turnian* "to rotate, revolve," in part also from Old French *torner* "to turn," both from Latin *tornare* "turn on a lathe," from *tornus* "lathe," from Greek *tornos* "lathe, tool for drawing circles," from Proto-Indo-European language root **tere-* "to rub, rub by turning, turn, twist" (see

throw). Expression *to turn (something) into (something else)* probably retains the classical sense of "to shape on a lathe" (attested in English from 1300).

To turn down

1) To decrease the volume, power

Examples:

- *Can you please **turn** the sound **down**? You are not listening anyway.*
- *There's no point in **turning** the air conditioning **down**; you might as well turn it off.*

Note **To keep down** would be used for voices and noise, e.g. **Keep your voices down**. *You are in the classroom.*

2) To refuse, reject an offer, invitation, application, request

Examples:

*Reluctantly, the college had to **turn down** his application.*

- *We've asked them round quite a few times during last year, but they've always **turned us down**.*
- *A: If I have the house done up, will you marry me?*
*B: Look, I'm not **turning** you **down**, but give me some time to come round to the idea.*

Note that **Downturn** is the opposite of **Upturn**, i.e. a negative change in the economy, trade etc, e.g. *His speech about the economy taking a **downturn** came over quite clearly to the bankers at the conference.*

A turn-up for the books (a great surprise)

Examples:

• *I couldn't believe it when I heard about his marriage. What a **turn-up for the books!***

• *After making a fuss for so long, it was a real **turn-up for the books** for my son to agree with me.*

Spotlight on: A turn-up for the books The phrase was originally "a turn up for the book". At 18th and 19th century English race meetings when bets were placed the punter's name and wager were written down in a notebook. Not unreasonably, this process was called "making a book". If a race was won by a horse that the 'bookmaker' had no record of in his book, he had a 'turn up' and kept all the wagered money.

Read the following text paying attention to the usage of the words in bold.

Chatting online

Grace: Incidentally, has your dog **turned up**? I **asked round** at work but no-one had seen it.

Emily: Oh yes. He soon came back. He missed being **made a fuss of** and was fed up having to survive on **stale** food.

Grace: What a **turn up for the books!** I thought he was gone forever... I'm just going **to turn down** the television. Hold on a second!

Emily: OK.

Grace: Did you know, Manuel's parents are **coming over** from Spain next month? I'm quite **looking forward to** it. I'd like to **ask you over**; they'd love to meet you. It will be great having his mum here. She's a wonderful cook.

Emily: Great! Unfortunately if it's next month, I'll have to **turn you down**. I'm **going off** to France for a few weeks. Peter has a flat in the South and I thought I **might as well** go to France again, even though I've been there **quite a bit** this year.

Grace: You lucky thing!... I've just remembered; would you like to **come over** tomorrow night, or are you busy?

Emily: I've got a plenty of time this week.

Grace: Well, if you've got nothing better to do, you **may as well come over** to my place for dinner at about seven.

Emily: Lovely. See you tomorrow at seven.

Exercise 1

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below. There are two sentences for each word.

- 1) I couldn't find my watch for ages, but then one day it _____ in a coat pocket.
- 2) I'm sure he'll be here soon; please don't _____.
- 3) The bank _____ my application for a loan.
- 4) I think I'll _____ John and Betty _____ for supper on Friday.
- 5) Well, that's a _____ – I never thought he'd get the job.
- 6) This milk seems to have _____.
- 7) Every year the children _____ to the holidays coming.
- 8) Somebody left the cookie jar open and all the cookies are _____.
- 9) _____ the air conditioning; it's too hot in here.
- 10) I want to show you my garden, so please _____ soon.
- 11) How could you _____ such a fantastic job? I don't believe it.
- 12) Whenever they visit Grandma she _____ over the children.
- 13) I don't know the answer to that, but maybe someone else does – I'll _____.
- 14) They _____ without saying goodbye.

- 15) Seeing Justin Bieber in the shopping centre was a _____.
- 16) I'm _____ to some warmer weather after this bitter winter.
- 17) Look at the date to make sure that you aren't looking at _____ product.
- 18) Why are you leaving? What's _____ you?

Exercise 2

From the list of 9 new words and expressions that follows, choose the one that corresponds to each definition below.

make a fuss	come/go over	turn down
turn up	ask/have round/over	go off
look forward to	turn-up for the books	stale

- a) no longer new or fresh, usually as a result of being kept for too long.....
- b) feel pleased and excited about something that is going to happen.....
- c) ask a lot of different people in order to get information or help.....
- d) show of anger, worry, or excitement that is unnecessary or greater than the situation deserves.....
- e) seem to be a particular type of person.....
- f) refuse an offer or request.....
- g) surprising or unexpected event.....
- h) appear; occur; happen.....
- i) move or proceed, especially to or from something.....

Exercise 3

Make up your own sentences, one for each of the words you have just been taught.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____

Lesson 4

Read the words and their definitions below. Find out how they are used in different contexts. Make sure you understand the meaning of all the sentences, paying attention to the synonyms of the given words.

Hint/to hint

- 1) A piece of advice on how to do something, a tip

Examples:

- *I've no idea what I'm doing; I could do with a few helpful **hints**.*
- *I might as well ask Maria for some **hints** on Spanish cooking.*

- 2) An indirect suggestion, to indicate something to someone in an indirect way, often because it would be considered rude or embarrassing to tell them more directly

Examples:

- *He's a bit slow to catch on so we'd better drop* him a few, more obvious **hints**.**

• *I can take** a **hint!** What you are really saying is that you don't want me to come round any more.*

• *The boss's secretary keeps **hinting** that she wants a new word processor, but he thinks she should use the old one.*

• *I don't know what he's going on about, but Anna seems to think that he's **hinting** at the possibility of new premises (i.e. a new office).*

* Note that it is very common to use the verbs **To drop** and **To take** with **Hint**.

****To drop someone a hint** simply means to *give* someone a hint, whilst **To take a hint** means to realise that someone is trying to tell you something negative in an indirect way, i.e. *We've already made some indirect suggestions but they weren't obvious enough. Therefore, we'd better make our hints a little more direct.*

Spotlight on: Hint apparently from obsolete *hent*, from Middle English *hinten* "to tell, inform" (14c.), from Old English *hentan* "to seize," from Proto-Germanic **hantijanan* (cf. Gothic *hinþan* "to seize"), related to *hunt* (v.). Modern sense and spelling first attested in Shakespeare.

Thick (unintelligent, not clever) **Colloquial**

Example:

• *I'm sorry, I am a bit slow to catch on at times but I'm not that* **thick!***

Thick does not describe a particular action, but someone's general intelligence and ability to understand. So one would *not* say to someone who had just done something stupid, *That was a really thick thing to do.*

* See the note for **Posh** (Lesson 2).

Spotlight on: Thick Old English *þicce* "not thin, dense," from Proto-Germanic **theku-*, **thekwia-* (cf. Old Saxon *thikki*, Old High German *dicchi*, German *dick*, Old Norse *þykkir*, Old Frisian *thikke*), from Proto-Indo-European language **tegu-* "thick" (cf. Gaelic *tiugh*). Secondary Old English sense of "close together" is preserved in *thickset* and proverbial phrase *thick as thieves* (1833). Meaning "stupid" is first recorded in 1590s.

Nasty (unpleasant, horrible)

Examples:

- *Obviously, there has been a very **nasty** accident near the centre of town.*
 - *Why are you so **nasty** to your sister? She can't help being thick!**
- * i.e. *It is not her fault that she is unintelligent; that's the way she is!*

Note that someone who has a **nasty streak** in them is a person who has a very unpleasant side to his or her character which may not often be seen, e.g. *Don't get me wrong; I like the man but he's definitely got a **nasty streak** in him.*

Spotlight on: Nasty "foul, filthy, dirty, unclean," of unknown origin; perhaps from Old French *nastre* "miserly, envious, malicious, spiteful," shortened form of *villenastre* "infamous, bad," from *vilein* "villain" + *-astre*, pejorative suffix, from Latin *-aster*.

Alternative etymology is from Dutch *nestig* "dirty," literally "like a bird's nest." Likely reinforced in either case by a Scandinavian source (cf. Swedish dialectal *naskug* "dirty, nasty"), which also might be the source of the Middle English word. Of weather, from 1630s; of things generally, "unpleasant, offensive," from 1705. Of people, "ill-tempered," from 1825. Noun meaning "something nasty" is from 1935. Related: *Nastily*; *nastiness*.

To take on

1) To give someone a job, to employ someone

Examples:

- *Even though we are in the middle of a recession, we have to **take on** more staff to keep up with demand.*
- *We should drop him some hints that if he doesn't like the job, we can easily **take** someone else **on**.*

2) To challenge – usually something/someone stronger or bigger – often in sport or politics

Examples:

- *The new leader of the Opposition seems reliable to the general public, and experts now believe they are ready to **take on** the Government at the next election.*
- *When this nasty weather is over, I'll **take** you **on** at tennis.*

3) To accept responsibility, work

Examples:

- *I've **taken on** far too much work this week; I just can't cope with it all.*
- *We've asked her to **take on** the task of handling all our foreign clients.*

Up to

1) To have the choice, responsibility to decide

Examples:

• *Yes, you're quite right; it may not work out. It's entirely **up to** you whether we go on with the project.*

• *I don't think we have very much to go on but we shouldn't be so concerned, as it's not really **up to** us to make decisions on these matters.*

2) To do **Colloquial**

Examples:

• *I haven't seen you for ages. What have you been **up to**?**

• *Last weekend we did up the kitchen. What did you get **up to**?***

• *I can't understand exactly what's going on but I'm sure he's **up to** something.****

* **What have you been up to?** is a very common way of greeting a friend (either face to face or on the telephone) whom you have not seen for at least a few weeks. It simply means, *Tell me what's been happening in your life since I saw you last.*

Note that up to would *not* be used in the answer, e.g.:

A: *What have you been **up to**?*

B: *Nothing much, same as usual.*

** **To get up to** is used when the time has definitely finished, e.g. *last weekend.*

*** This use of **Up to** with **something** has a negative meaning, in that the person is probably doing or planning to do something he or she should not do.

3) To feel well enough, capable of doing something – i.e. *to be/feel up to* doing something

Examples:

• *I'd really love to come over tonight but, to be honest, I'm not/I don't feel up to it**.

• *I'll do the Proficiency Exam in the summer, providing I am/feel up to taking it.*

* Compare with **To feel like doing something** which is much more general and simply expresses a desire to do/not to do something, e.g. *I don't **feel like** going round to David's this evening.*

To be/feel up to doing something, on the other hand, suggests that the speaker has not been well recently and is still recovering.

4) Until, not more than, a maximum of – usually followed by a number

Examples:

• Landlord to tenant:

*I don't wish to go on at you about it, but, as I have already said, you've only paid **up to** 18th April.*

• *We had to turn down their offer; they were only prepared to go **up to** 50,000 pounds.*

• *I've heard quite a bit about that car. Is it true that it can comfortably fit **up to** seven people?*

Awkward

1) Difficult, fussy

Examples:

• *The final decision is up to you but it is a very **awkward** one to have to make.*

- *Please don't be **awkward**. Just eat what you are given and stop making a fuss!*

2) Embarrassed, embarrassing – an uncomfortable situation

Examples:

- *I felt* slightly **awkward** when I realised that I was the only one who hadn't properly understood what was being said.*

- *It's so **awkward**** when you have to tell someone out of the blue*** that they are going to lose their job.*

* Note that one *cannot* say I **am awkward** to mean *I'm embarrassed* because it means *I'm a difficult person*. One would therefore have to say I **feel awkward** (i.e. *I'm embarrassed*).

** **Awkward** in this example could also mean difficult (See 1) above).

*** **Out of the blue means** "suddenly, unexpectedly" (See Bonus expressions)

Spotlight on: Awkward mid. 14c., "in the wrong direction," from *awk* "back-handed" + adverbial suffix *-ward* (see **-ward**). Meaning "clumsy" first recorded 1520s. Related: *Awkwardly*. Other formations from *awk*, none of them surviving, were *awky*, *awkly*, *awkness*.

To catch up

1) To reach the same level, position, place as another person/other people

Examples:

- *We'll **catch** you **up/catch up** with you later in the pub; at the moment, we're trying to find out what has been going on in the office.*

- On the motorway:

*I'll never be able to **catch** them **up/catch up** with them; my car will only do up to 100 kmph.*

- *Even if you take just one day off, you'll still find it difficult to **catch** the rest of the class **up/catch up** with the rest of the class.*

2) To do/find out something – generally work or news – which one has not been able to do because of one's recent absence or lack of time

Examples:

- *I could have done without that meeting yesterday. It went on all day, and now I'm finding it difficult to **catch up** on/with all my work.*

- *What have you been up to? I'm dying to **catch up** on/with the news I've missed whilst I've been away.*

Spotlight on: To catch 12c. "to take, capture," from Anglo-French or Old North French *cachier* "catch, capture" (animals) (Old French *chacier* "hunt, pursue, drive (animals)," Modern French *chasser* "to hunt;" making it a doublet of **chase** (v.)), from Vulgar Latin **captiare* "try to seize, chase" (also source of Spanish *cazar*, Italian *cacciare*), from Latin *captare* "to take, hold," frequentative of Latin *capere* "to take, hold" (see **capable**).

Senses in early Middle English also included "chase, hunt," which later went with *chase* (v.). Of infections from 1540s; of fire from 1734; of sleep, etc., from early 14c. Related: *Catched* (obsolete); **catching**; **caught**.

To bump into (to meet someone you know by chance – i.e. without a previous appointment)

Examples:

• *I **bumped into** your cousin this morning and he told me that he hadn't sleep half the night trying to finish some work.*

• *I'd rather not go into that pub in case I **bump into** my ex-partner; it could be awkward.*

Note **To bump into someone/something** literally means to strike or hit. English people often use it for a minor car accident, e.g. *I'm afraid I **bumped into** your car as I was coming out of the drive.*

To fall/land on one's feet (to experience success, find luck, contentment and security after a period of uncertainty)

Examples:

• *Things are usually difficult when you first arrive in a foreign country, but don't worry, I'm sure you'll soon **fall on your feet**.*

• *Just when he thought he had **landed on his feet**, he was fired for breach* of contract.*

* i.e. for breaking the terms of a contract

Read the following text paying attention to the usage of the words in bold.

A short letter from Ruby to Lily

Dear Lily,

I've been meaning to write to you for ages. **What have you been up to?** I

bumped into Alice the other day and she told me that you've just been **taken on** by one of the biggest banks in the City. You really have **landed on your feet!** I also understand that you've been **dropping** Thomas some **hints** that you don't want

to go out with him any more, but he's been too **thick** to take them. I don't want to be rude, but is it due to his **nastiness**, making you feel **awkward** in front of his friends?

Anyway, I'd love to see you soon so that we can **catch up** on each other's news and gossip.

I wish you weren't living so far away!

All my love,

Ruby

Exercise 1

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below. There are two sentences for each word.

- 1) We can teach dancers _____ intermediate level here.
- 2) I'm worried about Doug, he's _____ too much work. He looks awful.
- 3) He's _____ several _____ to the boss that he'll quit if he doesn't get a promotion.
- 4) We _____ Alison when we were in London last week.
- 5) She has a _____ habit of staring at people in meetings.
- 6) Some of the questions were rather _____.
- 7) You can't _____, can you? Just go away and leave me alone!
- 8) If you miss a lot of lessons, it's very difficult to _____.
- 9) Don't think I can't see what's going on. I'm not that _____.
- 10) It was an _____ ascent, but we reached the top eventually.
- 11) I have some work to _____ on.
- 12) Don't worry about John, he always _____.
- 13) He's a nice guy, but he's a bit _____.
- 14) We're _____ 50 new staff this year.
- 15) He wants to compete at international level, but frankly I don't think he's _____ it.

- 16) Don't be so _____ to your brother – he's four years younger than you!
- 17) It's easy to _____ furniture in the dark.
- 18) The company went bankrupt, but the following year it was restructured and _____.

Exercise 2

From the list of 9 new words and expressions that follows, choose the one that corresponds to each definition below.

awkward	fall/land on one's feet	nasty
up to	bump into	thick
hint	take on	catch up

- a) bad or very unpleasant.....
- b) good enough for a particular activity.....
- c) difficult to use, do, or deal with.....
- d) try to reach the same standard, stage, or level as others.....
- e) to meet someone you know when you have not planned to meet them.....
- f) stupid, not clever.....
- g) something that you say or do that shows, but not directly, what you think or want.....
- h) agree to do some work or be responsible for something.....
- i) get into a good situation because you are lucky after being in a difficult situation.....

Exercise 3

Make up your own sentences, one for each of the words you have just been taught.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____

Lesson 5

Revision

A. Underline one of the words in parentheses that best fits the sense of the sentence.

- 1) Hello Trevor, I haven't seen you for (*long time / few / ages / year*).
- 2) I don't think there is any (*reason / point / ideas / excuse*) in buying this house.
- 3) I (*arrived / ran / turned / left*) up to work last Tuesday after a week off.
- 4) It must be quite a (*number / often / few / while*) since I last met you.
- 5) He applied for a job last year, but was (*turned / had / brought / put*) down.
- 6) I must (*own / take / speak / break*) up, I'm quite shocked to hear it.
- 7) Were you expecting the promotion or was it a (*put / turn / keep / do*) up for the (*road / day / books / time*)?
- 8) Her sister had be (*well / worse / good / better*) off getting a job elsewhere.
- 9) I thought he was going to make a (*complain / fussy / noise / fuss*) about my mistake in the calculation.
- 10) She was a bit (*unpleasant / pleased / happy / reluctant*) to go to the office on her day off.

11) You must be a lot (*richer / better / poorer / well*) off financially due to your marriage.

12) I've treated myself to a (*posh / old / slow / renovated*) car.

13) We're in the middle of (*making / doing / do / done*) up our house at the moment.

14) They thought they (*could / might / can / should*) go out for supper as well.

15) I (*bet / believe / wish / think*) you're having fun while reading this article. That's baloney.

B. From the list of words below choose the word that means:

posh	come round to	ages	make a fuss	go off
turn down	come over	cope with	fussy	do up
stalemate	take after	day off	look forward to	afford
well off	stale	turn up	hint	thick
take on	go on	nasty	might as well	reluctant
stuffy	show off	ask round	bet	hear from

1. agree with something eventually

2. difficult to please, not easily satisfied

3. unrefresh

4. wait with pleasure

5. it's worthwhile doing something

6. upper class, sophisticated

7. decorate, renovate

8. enquire about something from various people

9. rich

10. go bad

11. be able to tolerate, manage

12. be almost certain something will or will not happen

13. be successfully understood
14. receive news, communication from someone
15. keep talking about something

C. Match the words on the left with their antonyms on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| a) go off | hurt, injure, ruin |
| b) thick | pleasant, sweet, lovely |
| c) take on | be modest, cower, shy away |
| d) stale | anxious, enthusiastic, willing |
| e) turn down | arrive, come, enter |
| f) nasty | fresh, new |
| g) show off | accept, take |
| h) well off | convenient, easy, straightforward |
| i) do up | refuse, reject |
| j) awkward | intelligent, smart |
| k) reluctant | destitute, failing, poor, unsuccessful |

Bonus expressions

Out of the blue (suddenly, unexpectedly, for no obvious reason)

Examples:

• We were just speaking about Mrs. Smith when, **out of the blue**, she turned up at the front door.

• A: Did her husband know what she was up to?

B: No, it came totally **out of the blue**.

For the time being (for the moment)

Examples:

- *We'll probably catch up with the rest of the family in New York next year but, **for the time being**, we might as well stay in London.*

- *A: Where do you want me to put this dreadful painting of yours?*

*B: Oh, leave it where it is **for the time being**, thank you.*

Note that this expression is used for a temporary situation; i.e. one which is likely to change soon.

To own up (to confess, admit guilt/ignorance, responsibility or incapability)

Examples:

- *The Government will never **own up** to being responsible for the downturn in the economy.*

- *When the young boy comes round after his operation, the police are going to try to persuade him to **own up** to the robbery.*

- *There's no point (in) trying to hide it; you might as well **own up** to the fact that you've no idea what you're doing.*

To get one's own back on someone/To get someone back (to get one's revenge)

Examples:

- *It's no use making a fuss of him. He still wants to **get his own back on you/to get you back** for what you did to him last week.*

- *I've heard that the bomb which went off near the police station was planted by a terrorist organisation, trying to get **their own back** for recent arrests.*

Compare with **To get/come back to someone on/with something** which means "to come back to someone **on** a particular matter or **with** the information they require". It is usually used on the telephone, e.g. 1) *I'm sorry I don't have the details **on** me now. Would you mind if I **got/came back to you** later (on that matter)?* 2) *Can you **get/come back to me with** their phone number this afternoon; I want to make a fuss about the stale food they sent us.*

Answers

Lesson 1

Exercise 1

1) takes after; 2) day off; 3) had better; 4) for ages; 5) heard from; 6) reluctant; 7) may as well; 8) to cope with; 9) to hear from; 10) days off; 11) no point in; 12) took after; 13) reluctant; 14) may as well; 15) for quite a while; 16) had better; 17) to cope with; 18) what's the point.

Exercise 2

a) Ages; b) May/might as well; c) Hear from; d) Day off; e) Reluctant; f) Take after; g) Cope with; h) Had better; i) What's the point.

Lesson 2

Exercise 1

1) well off; 2) showing off; 3) do up; 4) go on; 5) bet; 6) show off; 7) posh; 8) bet; 9) fussy; 10) come round; 11) afford; 12) posh; 13) went on; 14) did up; 15) well off; 16) fussy; 17) come round to; 18) afford.

Exercise 2

a) exclusive, wealthy, high-class; b) visit, meet, enter; c) move, proceed, continue;
d) pedantic, picky, fastidious; e) display, demonstrate, to impress; f) sure, confident, doubtless; g) deluxe, opulent, luxury; h) be able to, have enough for, manage;
i) wrap, mantle, repair.

Lesson 3

Exercise 1

1) turned up; 2) make a fuss; 3) turned down; 4) ask round; 5) turn-up for the books; 6) gone off; 7) look forward; 8) stale; 9) turn up; 10) come over; 11) turn down; 12) makes a fuss; 13) ask round; 14) went off; 15) turn-up for the books; 16) looking forward; 17) stale; 18) come over.

Exercise 2

a) stale; b) look forward to; c) ask/have round/over; d) make a fuss; e) come/go over; f) turn down; g) turn-up for the books; h) turn up; i) go off.

Lesson 4

Exercise 1

1) up to; 2) taking on; 3) dropped hints; 4) bumped into; 5) nasty; 6) awkward; 7) take a hint; 8) catch up; 9) thick; 10) awkward; 11) catch up; 12) falls on his feet; 13) thick; 14) taking on; 15) up to; 16) nasty; 17) bump into; 18) landed on its feet.

Exercise 2

a) nasty; b) up to; c) awkward; d) catch up; e) bump into; f) thick; g) hint; h) take on; i) fall/land on one's feet.

Lesson 5

Revision

A.

1) ages; 2) point; 3) turned; 4) while; 5) turned; 6) own; 7) turn, books; 8) better; 9) fuss; 10) reluctant; 11) better; 12) posh; 13) doing; 14) might; 15) bet.

B.

1) come round to; 2) fussy; 3) stale; 4) look forward to; 5) might as well; 6) posh; 7) do up; 8) ask round; 9) well off; 10) go off; 11) cope with; 12) bet; 13) come over; 14) hear from; 15) go on.

C.

a) arrive, come, enter; b) intelligent, smart; c) refuse, reject; d) fresh, new; e) accept, take; f) pleasant, sweet, lovely; g) be modest, cower, shy away; h) destitute, failing, poor, unsuccessful; i) hurt, injure, ruin; j) convenient, easy, straightforward; k) anxious, enthusiastic, willing.

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