

# Talk a Lot

## Media

### Features of Non-Literal English – Part 3

#### 1. PLAY-FIGHTING *or* VERBAL SPARRING

An informal part of a conversation when the participants pretend to have an argument and say unkind things to each other, but don't mean what they say. It is just for fun.

Example:

[Peter's girlfriend comes in and shuts the front door. They appear to be very much in love. Peter says:]

"Hi piggy [nickname]. Did you pick up my dry cleaning?"

"No, I forgot." (They kiss)

"You dozy muppet!" [dozy muppet = offensive slang for "silly idiot"]

(She laughs and hits him in the face with a cushion)

He says: "Come here, I'm going to have to sort you out." [euphemism for "I'm going to kiss and cuddle you". In a different context, e.g. a nightclub brawl, "sort you out" could also mean "beat you"]

"Oh, please don't!" (her face and body language indicate that she is enjoying the interchange) "You're such a naughty boy! I'm going to call the police...!"

"Po-lice do!" ["po-lice" is a pun on the word "please" – both have similar sounds]

[etc.]

When:

When you want to tease somebody that you are close to and interact with them in a way that is spontaneous, fun, and perhaps a little challenging, because there may be a grain of truth there beneath the pretend insults and joking. For example, although they are joking and clearly in love, the fact that he calls her "You dozy muppet!" may betray the fact that deep down he doesn't really respect her. The context of the play-fighting gives him licence to say what he *really* feels, either consciously or subconsciously.

#### 2. IDIOMS

See Unit 1: *Hotel – Features of Non-Literal English – Part 1*

#### 3. JARGON

Jargon (an uncountable noun) is technical language that is specific to a particular job or field of interest. It is characterised by long words and/or unfamiliar words and expressions (often including acronyms, e.g. FCE) that cannot be understood by a person outside of the related job or field of interest, i.e. a layman – one who has not been initiated in this area, and therefore lacks specialist knowledge. Fields that typically have a lot of jargon are: technology, computing, the military, and, of course, education – including EFL and ESL. (The acronyms prove the point!)

Example:

[Phil is in a computer shop with his mum, who wants to buy a new PC:]

Mum: "I just need to be able to use email, and perhaps buy something online."

Phil: "What about this new HP laptop? It's equipped with the AMD Athlon II Dual-Core Processor P320, which is brilliant, and features a widescreen 1366x768 resolution LED-backlit display, plus an ATI Mobility Radeon HD 4250 Graphics card – which means it's good."

Mum: "What was that, love? You lost me after 'laptop'..."

[Phil believes the laptop to be good, because he understands the jargon. His mum, on the other hand, will have to take his word for it, or take time to learn the meaning of the jargon.]

When:

When you want to communicate technical information quickly to people who are able to decode what you mean. Or when you want to deliberately exclude people who are not part of the group.

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### 4. PHRASAL VERBS

See Unit 1: Hotel – Features of Non-Literal English – Part 1

### 5. IRONY

Irony is a way of speaking where we say something that is obviously not true, and the listener realises that we mean something else, even the opposite of what we have just said. This is an effective way of drawing attention to what we really mean, which is the thing that we don't say.

Example:

[It's raining. You say to your friends:] "What a lovely day!" [Everybody smiles]

When:

When you want to draw attention to something that you think is important by highlighting how much it differs from the way in which it wants to present itself, e.g. if a male politician wanted to present an image of himself as a family man, it would be ironic to point out that he has had many affairs in the past. The use of irony often results in humour. It is similar to the comic technique of reversing the expectations of the listener – we say what the listener is not expecting to hear, which provokes a laugh. Because we have been surprised – or even shocked – by the reversal, we laugh as a form of relieving the tension, and hiding our surprise, so as not to lose face in the eyes of the speaker.

### 6. SLANG

See Unit 2: Problems – Features of Non-Literal English – Part 2

### 7. CLICHÉ

An unoriginal and corny phrase which has lost its power to be relevant in a situation, because it has been used too many times before.

Example:

Mandy: "I really miss my boyfriend. I wish we could have stayed together."

Mandy's grandma: "Don't worry, my dear. *Time heals all wounds.*" ["*In the future you will feel less pain*"]

When:

When you can't think of anything more original to say. People tend not to like clichés – such as over-used sayings and idioms, rhymes in greetings cards, or lyrics to cheesy pop songs – because using them shows a lack of originality of thought on the part of the speaker. It's as if they can't be bothered to even *paraphrase* the cliché. Using clichés can betray a certain amount of insincerity, and indicate that the speaker is not really listening to you – and definitely not empathising with you [putting themselves in your place]. Clichés can also be used in an ironic way. For example, when both speaker and listener know that the *opposite* of what is being said is – or will be – true.

### 8. HYPERBOLE

A statement that something is bigger, better, or more positive than it really is.

Example:

[Your new girlfriend invites you to her home and cooks dinner for you for the first time:]

"This is the best meal I've ever had!" [What he means: "I'm glad that you invited me here and I want to impress you with my good behaviour and attitude. The meal is actually quite average, as meals go."]

When:

When you want to please somebody (see above), or show off about something (e.g. "I've got the best trainers in my whole town!"). It can often be seen in advertising, e.g. "Our prices are out of this world!"

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### 9. COLLOQUIALISMS [DIALECT WORDS OR PHRASES]

A colloquialism is an informal word or phrase that originates from – and is mainly used in – a particular place. Instead of the standard dictionary word for something, local people use their own local word or phrase.

Example:

Mum: “Do you want a cheese and tomato cob for lunch?” [cob = bread roll in parts of the Midlands and northern England]

Tom: “Yes please, mum.”

When:

When you want to show that you come from a particular part of the country; to show allegiance to your home town and area; or because it’s the word for something that you’ve grown up using – that you’ve always used.

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### 20 Common English Idioms

1. to get in touch with sby	to contact sby	2. to have sth on in the background	to listen to sth, e.g. the radio, while doing sth else
3. to be glued to sth	to watch sth attentively	4. you can't win 'em all	you can't be successful in every activity
5. to wash your dirty linen in public	to use the media to fight a dispute that should be private	6. to take advantage of sby	to gain benefit from sby without giving anything in return
7. to be economical with the truth	to say just enough to be truthful, without giving full details	8. to get square eyes	to strain your eyes by looking at a screen for too long
9. to be all the rage	to be in fashion	10. from the sublime to the ridiculous	from sth very good to sth very silly, e.g. music on the radio
11. to put the cat among the pigeons	to cause trouble, often deliberately	12. to be in sby's pocket	to be paid by sby to be biased towards them
13. to break new ground	to do sth totally original	14. to drive sby up the wall	to annoy sby very much
15. the best thing since sliced bread	the best thing to happen / appear for a long time	16. to get to the heart of the matter	to examine / discuss the most important part of sth
17. to take ages	to be a very long process	18. "I'd love to be a fly on the wall..."	"I'd love to be able to overhear sth without being seen"
19. to scrape [the bottom of] the barrel	to use an idea that is very unoriginal	20. to be [about] as much use as a chocolate teapot	to be useless

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### English Idioms – Matching Game

Match each sentence below with one of the idioms from this unit. Change forms where necessary:



If you don't switch off that telly, you'll _____!
I like reading this paper, because the articles often really _____.
When Tim came last in the contest, the DJ told him: "Never mind. _____."
The role of a presenter on a late-night radio phone-in show is to _____.
"Janet's in there breaking up with Paul!" "Really? Wow! _____, right now!"
Have you got Jack's number? I need to _____ with him about the party.
Due to the dearth of new programme ideas, Channel 4 was accused by some parts of the media of _____.
The use of touchscreen technology in mobile phones has _____.
To follow Bohemian Rhapsody with Barbie Girl by Aqua is like going _____.
I like to _____ while I'm doing the accounts. It helps to pass the time.
We bought a new HDTV because high definition is _____ at the moment.
I don't think you can say that the politician lied, although he was _____.
Paul was getting cross because it was _____ to download the film to his PC.
My new smartphone loses its signal when I pick it up. It's _____!
Mark told me he thinks his new tablet computer is _____.
I hate it when these Z-list celebs _____. It's so degrading.
The newspaper editor was suspected of _____ of the media mogul.
Did you catch the final episode of 24 last night? I _____ to it!
Can you turn over to another channel, please? These adverts are _____!
Illegal file-sharers are _____ of publishers and content providers, by depriving them of remuneration for their hard work.

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## Media – English Idioms Activities

### Meaning and Context

1. Check for new vocabulary. Are there any idioms that you know already? Explain each meaning and give an example sentence or situation in which you could use it. Find the meaning of the rest by using a dictionary, then match the definition cards with the idiom cards.
2. Do any of the idioms exist in your first language? Translate each idiom.
3. Divide the idioms into four categories: **Radio**, **Television**, **Journalism**, and **New Media**.
4. Take some cards. Describe the idiom on a card without saying it.
5. How many idioms can you remember when they are all turned over?

### Practice Activities

*Choose a random idiom (or one that particularly interests you) and...*

1. think of a time or situation in your life when you... a) could have said this idiom (past), and b) might say this idiom (future).
2. say the name of a person you know who would be the *most likely* to say this. In what kind of situation?
3. others guess while you act it out without speaking, although you can make sounds!
4. others guess while you draw a picture to represent both forms – idiomatic and literal.
5. analyse the words. Is it at all possible to guess the meaning from the words – or completely impossible? Research the origin and background of this idiom.
6. replace the idiom in a sentence with the literal (boring) meaning. Compare the two sentences. Which sounds better? Why?
7. think of another idiom or saying that has the same or a similar meaning.
8. tell a story or devise a dialogue/role play by linking one idiom to the next.

### Topic Questions

*1. Choose the correct idiom. 2. Make a sentence about... a) yourself, b) a friend.*

1. I might do this while I'm doing something else – because I don't like silence.
2. This is what you do when you make somebody very frustrated or angry.
3. You could say this when you are desperate to find out what other people are doing.
4. This is what people do when they don't want you to know *everything*, e.g. politicians.
5. If you are completely absorbed in the TV show that you're watching, you are this idiom.
6. A corrupt public figure who has *too close* a relationship with the media could be this.
7. This is what the producers of innovative new media content do...
8. ...and this is what other producers do when they have run out of ideas.
9. This idiom describes the experience of listening to a really bad song straight after a great one.
10. You could use this idiom to describe a new purchase that you're really pleased with...
11. ...and this idiom to describe something that doesn't work or is a complete waste of time.
12. You do this when you *use* somebody, e.g. taking without any intention of paying them back.

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### 20 Common English Phrasal Verbs

1. switch on ---	start	2. log in ---	enter
3. throw away ---	dispose of	4. tune into ---	deliberately watch or listen to
5. zoom in ---	enlarge	6. give away ---	offer freely
7. shut down ---	close	8. go after ---	pursue
9. trade up ---	upgrade	10. call in ---	phone a radio / TV show
11. get into ---	become a fan of	12. cut down ---	reduce intake
13. join in ---	participate	14. find out ---	discover
15. turn down ---	reduce the volume	16. listen to ---	hear in an active way
17. sell out ---	become unavailable due to high sales	18. catch up on ---	do sth that should have been done earlier
19. scroll down ---	move a page down, e.g. on a computer screen	20. turn over ---	change sides

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### English Phrasal Verbs – Matching Game

Match each sentence below with one of the phrasal verbs from this unit. Change forms where necessary:



When this phone finally gives up the ghost [breaks irretrievably], I'll probably _____ to a better model.
The latest MP3 player from Sony had _____ within eight hours of going on sale.
More than four million people regularly _____ the Jon Lee Breakfast Show.
I don't know why certain photographers have to _____ these celebs.
Sam's been _____ Radio 2 for donkey's years now [for a long time].
Can you _____ it _____ a bit, please? I can't hear myself think! [The noise is distracting me]
He _____ the computer and waited for it to start up.
If you are the fifty-fifth lucky listener to _____, you will win an all-expenses-paid free trip to Florida!
Could you _____ a little, please? I want to see the rest of the picture.
After the riots, the government _____ a few of the opposition newspapers.
Follow us on Twitter to _____ more about the government's new education policies!
Clare _____ on the photo to get a closer look at her mother's earrings.
I've listened to this album a few times, but I just can't seem to _____ it.
I often buy box sets so that I can _____ good TV shows that I've missed.
Please _____ to access your email account.
_____ the page to read our exclusive interview with Charlize Theron.
The TV show was _____ tickets to an upcoming Justin Bieber concert.
Lisa was trying to _____ on the amount of telly she watched, because so much of it was just a load of old rubbish [low quality].
When I've finished reading my paper, I usually _____ it _____.
The girls _____ with the telethon by donating money online.



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## Media – English Phrasal Verbs Activities

This is a handy table showing **collocations** – words that go well with these phrasal verbs. You could use it to make a quick quiz for students after they have learned the meanings, e.g. “Which phrasal verb is to do with photographs?” Or “Find a phrasal verb that’s transitive separable.” Or guess the preposition linking phrasal verb and object, e.g. “To join in **with** a competition...” Or encourage students to build sentences (positive, negative, and question forms) by linking content words together using function words, e.g. “My **sister called in** to the **radio station earlier**.” etc.

#	subject (person)	p/verb*	tr?	sep?	collocation e.g.	place / time e.g.
1.	a pronoun, e.g. I, you, he, she, etc.	<b>switch on</b>	✓	✓	the telly / a computer	in the living room / office
2.		<b>log in</b>	✗	-	to an account, e.g. email	at work / at home
3.		<b>throw away</b>	✓	✓	some rubbish	outside / in the kitchen
4.		<b>tune into</b>	✓	✓	a radio station	in the car / every morning
5.		<b>zoom in</b>	✗	-	on a photo	on the screen
6.		<b>give away</b>	✓	✓	a flyer / a free sample	in the street / at the mall
7.		<b>shut down</b>	✓	✓	a newspaper	in 1986 / last month
8.		<b>go after</b>	✓	✗	a famous actor	outside a nightclub
9.		<b>trade up</b>	✗	-	to a better model	every year / regularly
10.		<b>call in</b>	✗	-	to a talk show on the radio	during the programme
11.	a person or thing, e.g. the presenter, my sister, Peter, the television, my Auntie Ruth, the boys, etc.	<b>get into</b>	✓	✗	a group / album / novel	at the moment / recently
12.		<b>cut down</b>	✗	-	on TV / on chocolate	at the moment / lately
13.		<b>join in</b>	✗	-	with sth / with the debate	on the show / in the media
14.		<b>find out</b>	✗	-	some information / gossip	online / at work
15.		<b>turn down</b>	✓	✓	the volume / the heating	on the radio / at home
16.		<b>listen to</b>	✓	✗	music / a radio play	often / sometimes / rarely
17.		<b>sell out</b>	✗	-	quickly / completely	due to high demand
18.		<b>catch up on</b>	✓	✗	the latest episode / news	for the past hour or two
19.		<b>scroll down</b>	✗	-	the page	on the screen / monitor
20.		<b>turn over</b>	✗	-	the page / the paper	while reading / in the library

Notes: **tr = transitive** – the phrasal verb can have an object. **sep = separable** – some transitive phrasal verbs are separable, which means that the object, e.g. an object pronoun like “him” or “it”, or somebody’s name, can go before the particle or after it. Some transitive phrasal verbs are **inseparable** – the object has to go after the particle. **Intransitive** phrasal verbs do not have an object, therefore cannot be separable or inseparable. Remember, some phrasal verbs, e.g. “get into”, have a range of meanings. The information here relates to the definitions given on the “20 Common English Phrasal Verbs” handout.

\* Choose any verb form, e.g. Present Perfect Continuous, Third Conditional, Future Perfect, etc.

### Topic Questions

Choose the correct phrasal verb, and make a sentence about... a) yourself, b) a friend:

- having a chat with a relative after a long time apart from them.
- contacting a DJ who is live on the air, to state your opinion or ask for a request.
- handing out leaflets or free newspapers to passersby in the street.
- trying to like a new TV series or book that everybody else is raving about [loves].
- attempting to buy the latest gadget when it first goes on sale – but without success.
- spending less time listening to the radio, watching TV, or using the internet.
- chasing a famous person in the street in order to get their autograph.
- what you do with a computer... a) first thing in the morning, b) last thing at night.
- wanting to buy a newer and better mobile or gadget, to replace your current model.
- regularly listening to the same programme on the radio.
- getting rid of something that no longer works or doesn’t have any value.
- reading a long text message, or information online that doesn’t fit on the screen.
- doing something that other people are also doing.
- getting some information from an online dictionary or encyclopaedia.

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### 20 Common English Slang Words and Phrases

1. a Z-list celeb	(n.) a celebrity who isn't very famous	2. to catch [a show]	(v.) to watch, listen to, or attend a show
3. rolling news	(n. un.) continuous 24-hour TV news	4. lol	(acr.) acronym used in text messages: "laughing out loud"
5. a glossy	(n.) a quality magazine, usually for women	6. the Top 40	(n.) the forty best-selling music tracks or albums
7. the [goggle] box	(n.) the television	8. a couch potato	(n.) a lazy person who watches TV / plays video games a lot
9. a freebie	(n.) sth given away free with a product, e.g. a free DVD	10. a geek	(n.) a person thought to be obsessed with technology
11. cloud computing	(n. un.) storing your files online rather than on a local hard drive	12. "Put a sock in it!"	(phr.) "Be quiet!"
13. a scoop	(n.) an exclusive interview or report, e.g. in a newspaper	14. a kiss-and-tell story	(n.) an article where sby discusses their private relationship
15. the telly	(n.) the television	16. a fanboy	(n.) a fan of a tech company who promotes their work
17. a non-starter	(n.) a project that fails before it begins	18. an earworm	(n.) a tune that you can't stop singing in your head
19. the Long Tail	(n.) a way for publishers to distribute more content for longer	20. the gutter press	(n.) low-quality tabloid newspapers

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### English Slang Words and Phrases – Matching Game

Match each sentence below with one of the slang words and phrases from this unit.  
Change forms where necessary:



"OK, now it's my turn to speak." "No! Shut up!" "But, can I...?" "_____!"
The winner of last year's <i>Big Brother</i> is now considered to be a _____.
Kids today seem to spend their whole lives glued to _____.
The idea about the underwater cookery programme was a bit of a _____.
"I've had _____ all day! I can't get rid of it!" "What is it?" "Kylie's latest."
Tracey and Trisha never miss _____ on Sunday afternoons, because they can't wait to find out who'll be number one.
I rarely have time to watch _____, because I'm far too busy online.
Ken's sister calls him a _____, because he spends all day sitting on the sofa playing computer games.
"It's _____ that prints all of this rubbish. It's disgusting!"
"Did you _____ <i>Top Gear</i> last night?" "No, sadly not. I missed it."
Because of _____, all of Jeff's books are now available to order again.
The parti wuz wikid _____!! C U l8erz m8 xx oo xx ;))
Graham was really pleased to get his _____ about the bank fraud all over the front page of <i>The Chronicle</i> .
I would rather keep my data and files on my laptop, than trust _____.
I used to work for a _____, but now I write more freelance articles.
"Did you buy this DVD?" "No, it was _____. It came with a magazine."
Brian is an Apple _____. He's fixated with their stuff. He buys it all.
The problem for _____ channels is that there aren't enough big stories.
The _____ about Ryan's affair was splashed across pages 2, 3, 4, and 6.
Lauren is such _____. She's up on [knows about] <i>all</i> the latest tech news.

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## Media – English Slang Words and Phrases Activities

### Meaning and Context

1. Check for new vocabulary. Are there any words/phrases that you know already? Explain each meaning and give an example sentence or situation in which you could use it. Find the meaning of the rest by using a dictionary, then match the definition cards with the slang cards.
2. Who would you be speaking to when you used these words and phrases? Are there any words or phrases that you wouldn't use with certain people? If yes, why not?
3. Do any of the slang words and phrases exist in your first language? Translate them.
4. Divide the slang into four categories: **Radio**, **Television**, **Journalism**, and **New Media**.
5. Take some cards. Describe the slang word or phrase on a card without saying it.
6. How many slang words/phrases can you remember when they are all turned over?

### Practice Activities

*Choose a random slang word or phrase (or one that particularly interests you) and...*

1. think of a time or situation in your life when you... a) could have used this slang (past), and b) might use this slang (future).
2. say the name of a person you know who would be... a) the *most likely* to say this, and b) the *least likely* to say it. In what kind of situation?
3. others guess while you act it out without speaking, although you can make sounds!
4. others guess while you draw a picture to represent both forms – slang and dictionary (literal).
5. analyse the word(s). Is it at all possible to guess the meaning from the words – or completely impossible? Research the origin and background of this slang word or phrase.
6. replace the slang word or phrase in a sentence with the literal (boring) meaning. Compare the two sentences. Which sounds better? Why?
7. think of another slang word or phrase that has the same or a similar meaning.
8. tell a story or devise a dialogue/role play by linking one slang word/phrase to the next.

### Topic Questions

1. Choose the correct slang word or phrase. 2. Make a sentence about... a) yourself, b) a friend.

1. This example of "text-speak" indicates that I found something funny.
2. I might say this to a close friend or family member if I wanted them to be quiet.
3. This is a catchy tune that I can't stop thinking about.
4. This is a derogatory term for lowbrow newspapers that print scandalous stories.
5. Find two different slang phrases that mean the same thing – and say what it is.
6. This is a project that doesn't get off the ground – an idea that is badly conceived.
7. An idle telly addict, or gamer, who seems to be attached to the sofa might be described as this.
8. People who make use of this service can use any computer that is connected to the internet, and still access all of their files.
9. If you listen to this, you will get a comprehensive view of which music is popular these days.
10. You can find them at every showbiz party in town. In fact they never turn down an invitation!

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### Focus on Non-Literal Speech

#### Answers

##### English Idioms – Matching Game

1. Have you got Jack's number? I need to **get in touch** with him about the party.
2. I like to **have something on in the background** while I'm doing the accounts. It helps to pass the time.
3. Did you catch the final episode of 24 last night? I **was glued** to it!
4. When Tim came last in the contest, the DJ told him: "Never mind. **You can't win 'em all.**"
5. I hate it when these Z-list celebs **wash their dirty linen in public**. It's so degrading.
6. Illegal file-sharers are **taking advantage** of publishers and content providers, by depriving them of remuneration for their hard work.
7. I don't think you can say that the politician lied, although he was **being economical with the truth**.
8. If you don't switch off that telly, you'll **get square eyes!**
9. We bought a new HDTV because high definition is **all the rage** at the moment.
10. To follow Bohemian Rhapsody with Barbie Girl by Aqua is like going **from the sublime to the ridiculous**.
11. The role of a presenter on a late-night radio phone-in show is to **put the cat among the pigeons**.
12. The newspaper editor was suspected of **being in the pocket** of the media mogul.
13. The use of touchscreen technology in mobile phones has **broken new ground**.
14. Can you turn over to another channel, please? These adverts are **driving me up the wall!**
15. Mark told me he thinks his new tablet computer is **the best thing since sliced bread**.
16. I like reading this paper, because the articles often really **get to the heart of the matter**.
17. Paul was getting cross because it was **taking ages** to download the film to his PC.
18. "Janet's in there breaking up with Paul!" "Really? Wow! **I'd love to be a fly on the wall**, right now!"
19. Due to the dearth of new programme ideas, Channel 4 was accused by some parts of the media of **scraping [the bottom of] the barrel**.
20. My new smartphone loses its signal when I pick it up. It's **[about] as much use as a chocolate teapot!**

##### English Idioms – Topic Questions

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. To have sth on in the background      | 8. To scrape [the bottom of] the barrel             |
| 2. To drive sby up the wall              | 9. From the sublime to the ridiculous               |
| 3. "I'd love to be a fly on the wall..." | 10. The best thing since sliced bread               |
| 4. To be economical with the truth       | 11. To be [about] as much use as a chocolate teapot |
| 5. To be glued to sth                    | 12. To take advantage of sby                        |
| 6. To be in sby's pocket                 |   |
| 7. To break new ground                   |   |

##### English Phrasal Verbs – Pronunciation and Linking

Phrasal Verb:	What Happens?	IPA Spelling:	Phrasal Verb:	What Happens?	IPA Spelling:
1. switch on	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'swɪtʃɒn/	11. get into	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'geɪtɪn.tu:/
2. log in	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'lɒɡɪn/	12. cut down	E: (cc) changes to (vc)	/'kʌt'daʊn/
3. throw away	I: (vv) changes to (vc)	/'θrəʊ.wə'weɪ/	13. join in	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'dʒɔɪ'nɪn/
4. tune into	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'tjuːnɪn.tu:/	14. find out	E: (cv) changes to (cc) <sup>1</sup>	/'faɪn'daʊt/
5. zoom in	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'zuːmɪn/	15. turn down	L: (cc) remains (cc) <sup>2</sup>	/'tɜːn'daʊn/
6. give away	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'ɡɪ.və'weɪ/	16. listen to	L: (cc) remains (cc) <sup>3</sup>	/'lɪ.sən'tuː/
7. shut down	E&G: (cc) changes to (vc)	/'ʃʌt'daʊn/	17. sell out	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'sel'laʊt/
8. go after	I: (vv) changes to (vc)	/'gəʊ'wɑː.ftə/	18. catch up on	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'kætʃ'ʌ.pɒn/
9. trade up	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'treɪ'dʌp/	19. scroll down	E: (cc) remains (cc) <sup>4</sup>	/'skrəʊw'daʊn/
10. call in	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'kɔːlɪn/	20. turn over	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'tɜːnəʊ.və/

The following connected speech techniques are used to make the words easier to say together quickly:

**L** = Linking **I** = Intrusion **E** = Elision **G** = Glottal Stops /ʔ/

Connecting sounds: **(cc)** = consonant sound to consonant sound **(cv)** = consonant sound to vowel sound  
**(vc)** = vowel sound to consonant sound **(vv)** = vowel sound to vowel sound

<sup>1</sup> Despite being (cc), it's easier to make the sound connection /n/ to /d/ than /d/ to /aʊ/, because after /n/ the mouth and tongue are in the right position to pronounce the next sound

<sup>2</sup> Despite being (cc), the sound connection /n/ to /d/ is already easy to say because... (see footnote <sup>1</sup>, above)

<sup>3</sup> Despite being (cc), the sound connection /n/ to /t/ is already easy to say because... (see footnote <sup>1</sup>, above)

<sup>4</sup> Despite being (cc), it's easier to make the sound connection /w/ to /d/ than /l/ to /d/, because after /w/ the mouth and tongue are in the right position to pronounce /d/

# Talk a Lot

## Media

### Focus on Non-Literal Speech

#### English Phrasal Verbs – Matching Game

1. He **switched on** the computer and waited for it to start up.
2. Please **log in** to access your email account.
3. When I've finished reading my paper, I usually **throw it away**.
4. More than four million people regularly **tune into** the Jon Lee Breakfast Show.
5. Clare **zoomed in** on the photo to get a closer look at her mother's earrings.
6. The TV show was **giving away** tickets to an upcoming Justin Bieber concert.
7. After the riots, the government **shut down** a few of the opposition newspapers.
8. I don't know why certain photographers have to **go after** these celebs.
9. When this phone finally gives up the ghost [breaks irretrievably], I'll probably **trade up** to a better model.
10. If you are the fifty-fifth lucky listener to **call in**, you will win an all-expenses-paid free trip to Florida!
11. I've listened to this album a few times, but I just can't seem to **get into** it.
12. Lisa was trying to **cut down** on the amount of telly she watched, because so much of it was just a load of old rubbish [low quality].
13. The girls **joined in** with the telethon by donating money online.
14. Follow us on Twitter to **find out** more about the government's new education policies!
15. Can you **turn it down** a bit, please? I can't hear myself think! [The noise is distracting me]
16. Sam's been **listening to** Radio 2 for donkey's years now [for a long time].
17. The latest MP3 player from Sony had **sold out** within eight hours of going on sale.
18. I often buy box sets so that I can **catch up on** good TV shows that I've missed.
19. Could you **scroll down** a little, please? I want to see the rest of the picture.
20. **Turn over** the page to read our exclusive interview with Charlize Theron.

#### English Phrasal Verbs – Topic Questions

- |                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. catch up on | 6. cut down     | 10. tune into   |
| 2. call in     | 7. go after     | 11. throw away  |
| 3. give away   | 8. a) switch on | 12. scroll down |
| 4. get into    | b) shut down    | 13. join in     |
| 5. sell out    | 9. trade up     | 14. find out    |

#### English Slang Words and Phrases – Matching Game

1. The winner of last year's *Big Brother* is now considered to be a **Z-list celeb**.
2. "Did you **catch Top Gear** last night?" "No, sadly not. I missed it."
3. The problem for **rolling news** channels is that there aren't enough big stories.
4. The parti wuz wikid **lol!!** C U l8erz m8 xx oo xx ;))
5. I used to work for a **glossy**, but now I write more freelance articles.
6. Tracey and Trisha never miss **the Top 40** on Sunday afternoons, because they can't wait to find out who'll be number one.
7. Kids today seem to spend their whole lives glued to **the [goggle] box or the telly**.
8. Ken's sister calls him a **couch potato**, because he spends all day sitting on the sofa playing computer games.
9. "Did you buy this DVD?" "No, it was a **freebie**. It came with a magazine."
10. Lauren is such a **geek**. She's up on [knows about] *all* the latest tech news.
11. I would rather keep my data and files on my laptop, than trust **cloud computing**.
12. "OK, now it's my turn to speak." "No! Shut up!" "But, can I...?" "**Put a sock in it!**"
13. Graham was really pleased to get his **scoop** about the bank fraud all over the front page of *The Chronicle*.
14. The **kiss-and-tell story** about Ryan's affair was splashed across pages 2, 3, 4, and 6.
15. I rarely have time to watch **telly / the telly or the [goggle] box**, because I'm far too busy online.
16. Brian is an Apple **fanboy**. He's fixated with their stuff. He buys it all.
17. The idea about the underwater cookery programme was a bit of a **non-starter**.
18. "I've had an **earworm** all day! I can't get rid of it!" "What is it?" "Kylie's latest."
19. Because of **the Long Tail**, all of Jeff's books are now available to order again.
20. "It's **the gutter press** that prints all of this rubbish. It's disgusting!"

#### English Slang Words and Phrases – Topic Questions

- |                        |                                |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. lol                 | 5. the [goggle] box <i>and</i> | 7. a couch potato  |
| 2. "Put a sock in it!" | the telly – both mean          | 8. cloud computing |
| 3. an earworm          | "the television"               | 9. the Top 40      |
| 4. the gutter press    | 6. a non-starter               | 10. a Z-list celeb |