

# Talk a Lot

## Spoken English Course

### Intermediate Book 1

#### Unit 2: Problems



by Matt Purland



**.pdf file users:**

Click this icon (left) to  
access the contents!

#### **Practise...**

- *speaking and listening skills*
- *sentence building with 8 intermediate-level verb forms*
- *connected speech*
- *International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)*
- *information exchange*
- *reading comprehension*
- *role playing*
- *discussion questions*

*...including tests and full answers!*

#### **Discover...**

- *20 common English idioms*
- *20 common English phrasal verbs*
- *20 common English slang words and phrases*
- *40 essential vocabulary words and phrases*

**100% Photocopiable – Free Copying Licence Included!**

from **englishbanana.com**

# Talk a Lot

## Spoken English Course

### Intermediate Book 1

#### Unit 2: Problems



*Note: all activities include full answers. For detailed instructions on how to use each activity, please see the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** and **Intermediate Supplement**, which are both available as free downloads from <http://www.englishbanana.com/talkalot>*

#### Contents

##### Sentence Focus Activities

- 2. Sentence Blocks + Sentence Blocks (without Function Words)
- 5. Sentence Block Extensions
- 6. Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds
- 8. Connected Sentence Cards
- 11. Connected Sentence Cards – with Consonant & Vowel Sounds
- 14. Connected Speech Template + Cut-Up IPA Sentence

##### Word Focus Activities

- 19. Discussion Words + IPA Version + Visualisations
- 22. Discussion Words Question Sheet
- 26. Information Exchange
- 29. Multi-Purpose Text:
  - Original Text + Spot the Difference
  - Guess the Function Words
  - What's the Question? + True, False, or Unknown?
  - Glossary of New Words

##### Focus on Non-Literal Speech

- 35. Role Play with Non-Literal English + Features of Non-Literal English – Part 2
- 40. 20 Common English Idioms + Matching Game + Activities
- 43. 20 Common English Phrasal Verbs + Matching Game + Activities
- 46. 20 Common English Slang Words and Phrases + Matching Game + Activities
- 51. Unit Vocabulary Reference: **Children, Teenagers, Adults, and Elderly People**

##### Free Practice Activities

- 57. What Would *You* Do?
- 58. Discussion Questions
- 59. Agree or Disagree?

##### Continuous Assessment Tests

- 60. Vocabulary Test + Lesson Test

*You may freely print, copy, adapt, distribute, sell, and give away these materials, subject to our **Free Copying Licence**. (Please visit <http://www.englishbanana.com> for more details.)*

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Sentence Blocks

1. (*Present Perfect Continuous*) Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.

*How long*

2. (*Past Perfect*) Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.

*Whose*

3. (*Future Perfect*) Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.

*When*

4. (*Second Conditional*) If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.

*Who*

5. (*Third Conditional*) If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.

*Where*

6. (*Reported Speech*) At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.

*What*

7. (*Passive Voice*) Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

*Why*

8. (*Imperative Form*) Lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*<sup>TM</sup> formula!

*How*

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Sentence Blocks (without Function Words)

1. (*Present Perfect Continuous*) Polly' considering getting  
divorce Toby quite some time.  
*How long*

2. (*Past Perfect*) Kev's girlfriend expected get little gift  
cleaning Jackie's kitchen.  
*Whose*

3. (*Future Perfect*) acne ' probably cleared up  
school prom.  
*When*

4. (*Second Conditional*) Becs found out William's bit side,  
' give boot no time.  
*Who*

5. (*Third Conditional*) ' dropped out high school, '  
ended up rock' 'roll.  
*Where*

6. (*Reported Speech*) dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia ' given  
up gambling.  
*What*

7. (*Passive Voice*) Both red bills paid immediately,  
already overdue.  
*Why*

8. (*Imperative Form*) Lose weight fast latest *E-Z-Loss*<sup>TM</sup> formula!  
*How*

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Sentence Blocks

*Note: the last two lines of each sentence block will vary. Below there are examples given for each sentence block, but students should think of their own way to get the negative forms in the last line. See the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** and **Intermediate Supplement** for full instructions (available free from <http://www.englishbanana.com>).*

#### Answers

1. (Present Perfect Continuous) Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time. / How long has Polly been considering getting a divorce from Toby? / For quite some time. / Has Polly been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time? / Yes, she has. / Has Polly been considering getting a divorce from Toby for a few hours? / No, she hasn't. Polly hasn't been considering getting a divorce from Toby for a few hours.
2. (Past Perfect) Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen. / Whose girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen? / Kev's girlfriend had. / Had Kev's girlfriend expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen? / Yes, she had. / Had Robin's girlfriend expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen? / No, she hadn't. Robin's girlfriend hadn't expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. (Future Perfect) Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom. / When will my acne have probably cleared up (by)? / Before the school prom. / Will my acne have probably cleared up before the school prom? / Yes, it will (have). / Will my acne have probably cleared up by tomorrow morning? / No, it won't (have). Your acne probably won't have cleared up by tomorrow morning.
4. (Second Conditional) If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time. / Who would give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side? / Becs would. / Would Becs give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side? / Yes, she would. / Would Sherri give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side? / No, she wouldn't. Sherri wouldn't give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side.
5. (Third Conditional) If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll. / Where might I have ended up, if I'd dropped out of high school? / On the rock'n'roll. / Might I have ended up on the rock'n'roll, if I'd dropped out of high school? / Yes, you might (have). / Might I have ended up in a really good job, if I'd dropped out of high school? / No, you might not (have). You might not have ended up in a really good job, if you'd dropped out of high school.
6. (Reported Speech) At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling. / What did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up, at dinner last Friday? / Gambling. / Did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up gambling, at dinner last Friday? / Yes, he did. / Did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up alcohol, at dinner last Friday? / No, he didn't. Kyle didn't tell Delia that he'd given up alcohol, at dinner last Friday.
7. (Passive Voice) Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue. / Why were both of the red bills paid immediately? / Because they were already overdue. / Were both of the red bills paid immediately, because they were already overdue? / Yes, they were. / Were both of the red bills paid immediately, because you enjoy paying red bills? / No, they weren't. Both of the red bills weren't paid immediately because I enjoy paying red bills.
8. (Imperative Form) Lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*<sup>TM</sup> formula! / How could I lose weight fast? / With the latest *E-Z-Loss*<sup>TM</sup> formula! / Could I lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*<sup>TM</sup> formula? / Yes, you could. / Could I lose weight fast with a rival weight-loss formula? / No, you couldn't. You couldn't lose weight fast with a rival weight-loss formula.

#### Sentence Block Extensions

For all of the sentence block starting sentences there are at least two different *wh-* question words that can be used to make sentence blocks. In one case seven different sentence blocks can be made from the same starting sentence when using different *wh-* question words. There isn't room here to print in full all 33 of the sentence block extensions from this unit. Hopefully, the answers provided above will give you the teacher (or you the student) enough guidance to be able to make the sentence block extensions for this unit with confidence.

For example, let's look at the sixth starting sentence from this unit:

At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Sentence Blocks

On the handout the wh- question word given is "What", but this starting sentence also works equally well with six other wh- question words: "What" (x2), "Where", "When", and "Who" (x2):

**What** did Kyle tell Delia at dinner last Friday? / That he'd given up gambling.

**What** did Kyle do at dinner last Friday? / Tell Delia that he'd given up gambling.

**Where** did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up gambling last Friday? / At dinner.

**When** did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up gambling? / At dinner last Friday.

**Who** told Delia that he'd given up gambling, at dinner last Friday? / Kyle did.

**Who** was told that Kyle had given up gambling, at dinner last Friday? / Delia was.

The idea is easy. Change the wh- question word each time and you can make several completely different sentence blocks from the original starting sentence, simply by finding the relevant information for the answer in the starting sentence. As you can see below, sometimes the same wh- question word can be used more than once to make different sentence blocks.

You could cut out and give the section below to your students:

----- ✂ -----  
Problems

Make new sentence blocks from the starting sentences in this unit using different "wh-" question words:

	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHY</b>	<b>WHICH</b>	<b>HOW</b>	<b>Total:</b>
1.	what (x2)			who (x2)				4
2.	what (x2) what kind			who	why			5
3.	what (x2)			whose				3
4.	what (x3)		when	who (2 <sup>nd</sup> )				5
5.	what			who			how	3
6.	what (x2)	where	when	who (x2)				6
7.	what		when			which	how many	4
8.	what		when			which		3
<b>Total:</b>								<b>33</b>

Talk a Lot Intermediate Book 1 from English Banana.com  
----- ✂ -----

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Sentence Blocks

-----✂-----

#### Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

*Task 1: Circle the content words in the following starting sentences. (For answer, see Task 2 below.)*

#### Problems

1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.
2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.
4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.
5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.
6. At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.
7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.
8. Lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*<sup>TM</sup> formula!

-----✂-----

#### Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

*Task 2: Underline the stressed syllable in each content word, shown in black. (For answer, see Task 3 below.)*

#### Problems

1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.
2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.
4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.
5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.
6. At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.
7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.
8. Lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*<sup>TM</sup> formula!

-----✂-----

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Sentence Blocks

#### Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 3: Write the correct vowel sound above each stressed syllable (underlined). (For answer, see below.)

#### Problems

1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.
2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.
4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.
5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.
6. At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.
7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.
8. Lose weight fast with the latest E-Z-Loss™ formula!

----- ✂ -----  

#### Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. The vowel sounds on stressed syllables are the most important sounds in the sentence. They make the "sound spine" of the sentence. To improve communication, try to get the sound spine right.

#### Problems

1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.  
/ɒ/            /ɪ/            /e/            /ɔ:/            /əʊ/            /aɪ/ /ʌ/ /aɪ/
2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.  
/e/ /ɜ:/            /e/            /e/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/            /i:/            /æ/            /ɪ/
3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.  
/æ/            /ɒ/            /ɪə/            /ʌ/            /u:/ /ɒ/
4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.  
/e/ /aʊ/ /aʊ/            /ɪ/            /ɪ/            /aɪ/            /ɪ/            /u:/ /əʊ/ /aɪ/
5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.  
/ɒ/            /aʊ/            /aɪ/            /u:/            /e/            /ʌ/            /ɒ/            /əʊ/
6. At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.  
/ɪ/            /ɑ:/ /aɪ/ /aɪə/ /əʊ/ /i:/            /ɪ/            /ʌ/            /æ/
7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.  
/əʊ/            /e/ /ɪ/            /eɪ/            /i:/            /e/            /u:/
8. Lose weight fast with the latest E-Z-Loss™ formula!  
/u:/ /eɪ/ /ɑ:/            /eɪ/            /i:/            /ɔ:/

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Connected Sentence Cards (Page 1/3)

<input type="text"/>	Polly's	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	been	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	considering	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	getting	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	a	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	divorce	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	from	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Toby	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	for	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	quite	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	some	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	time.	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Kev's	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	girlfriend	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	had	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	expected	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	to	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	get	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	a	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	little	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	gift	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	for	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	cleaning	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Jackie's	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	kitchen.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Your	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	acne	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	will've	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	probably	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	cleared	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	up	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	before	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	the	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	school	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	prom.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	If	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Beccs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	found	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	out	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	about	<input type="text"/>

next page >

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Connected Sentence Cards (Page 2/3)

William's	bit	on	the
side,	she'd	give	him
the	boot	in	no
time.	If	you'd	dropped
out	of	high	school,
you	might've	ended	up
on	the	rock	'n'
roll.	At	dinner	last
Friday,	Kyle	told	Delia
that	he'd	given	up

next page >

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Connected Sentence Cards (Page 3/3)

gambling.	Both	of	the
red	bills	were	paid
immediately,	because	they	were
already	overdue.	Lose	weight
fast	with	the	latest
<i>E-Z-Loss</i> <sup>TM</sup>	formula!		

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Connected Sentence Cards – with Consonant & Vowel Sounds (Page 1/3)

Polly's	been	considering	getting
a	divorce	from	Toby
for	quite	some	time.
Kev's	girlfriend	had	expected
to	get	a	little
gift	for	cleaning	Jackie's
kitchen.	Your	acne	will've
probably	cleared	up	before
the	school	prom.	If
Becc	found	out	about

next page >

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Connected Sentence Cards – with Consonant & Vowel Sounds (Page 2/3)

William's	bit	on	the
side,	she'd	give	him
the	boot	in	no
time.	If	you'd	dropped
out	of	high	school,
you	might've	ended	up
on	the	rock	'n'
roll.	At	dinner	last
Friday,	Kyle	told	Delia
that	he'd	given	up

next page >

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Connected Sentence Cards – with Consonant & Vowel Sounds (Page 3/3)

gambling.	Both	of	the
red	bills	were	paid
immediately,	because	they	were
already	overdue.	Lose	weight
fast	with	the	latest
<i>E-Z-Loss™</i>	formula!		

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

5 vowel sound:

4 stressed syllable:

1 content word: **Both** **red** **bills** **paid** **immediately,**

2 no. of syllables:

1 function word: **of** **the** **were**

7 connecting sounds:

6 weak forms:  <sup>w</sup>  <sup>w</sup>   <sup>w</sup>

8 features of C.S.:

9 missing/new sound:

10 example(s) with IPA: \_\_\_\_\_

3 suffixes: \_\_\_\_\_

3 compound nouns: \_\_\_\_\_

7 connecting sounds:

8 features of connected speech:

<b>cc</b>	consonant sound to consonant sound
<b>cv</b>	consonant sound to vowel sound
<b>vc</b>	vowel sound to consonant sound
<b>vv</b>	vowel sound to vowel sound

<b>GLACIER:</b>		<b>Contraction</b>	a word is shortened
<b>Glottal stops</b>	an empty space without sound /ʔ/	<b>Intrusion</b>	a new sound appears – /j/, /w/, or /r/
<b>Linking</b>	syllables connect together	<b>Elision</b>	a sound disappears
<b>Assimilation</b>	a sound changes	<b>R-linking</b>	syllables connect with /r/ sound

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

5 vowel sound:

4 stressed syllable:

1 content word: **Both** **red** **bills** **paid** **immediately,**

2 no. of syllables:

1 function word: **of** **the** **were**

7 connecting sounds:

6 weak forms:

8 features of C.S.:

9 missing/new sound:

10 example(s) with IPA: Both of the... /'bəʊ.θəv.ðə'reɪ'brɪw.zwə'peɪ.drɪ'mi:.di.jʌʔ.li.bɪ.kə.zðeɪ.wə.rɔ:'re.di.jəʊ.və'dʒu:z/

3 suffixes: immediate-ly

3 compound nouns: none

7 connecting sounds: **8 features of connected speech:**

<b>cc</b>	consonant sound to consonant sound
<b>cv</b>	consonant sound to vowel sound
<b>vc</b>	vowel sound to consonant sound
<b>vv</b>	vowel sound to vowel sound

<b>GLACIER:</b>		<b>Contraction</b>	a word is shortened
<b>Glottal stops</b>	an empty space without sound /ʔ/	<b>Intrusion</b>	a new sound appears – /j/, /w/, or /r/
<b>Linking</b>	syllables connect together	<b>Elision</b>	a sound disappears
<b>Assimilation</b>	a sound changes	<b>R-linking</b>	syllables connect with /r/ sound

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

5 vowel sound:

 

4 stressed syllable:

 

1 content word:

 

2 no. of syllables:

 

1 function word:

  

7 connecting sounds:

   

6 weak forms:

w  w  w

8 features of C.S.:

   

9 missing/new sound:

   

10 example(s) with IPA:

---

3 suffixes:

---

3 compound nouns:

---

7 connecting sounds:

8 features of connected speech:

<b>cc</b>	consonant sound to consonant sound
<b>cv</b>	consonant sound to vowel sound
<b>vc</b>	vowel sound to consonant sound
<b>vv</b>	vowel sound to vowel sound

<b>GLACIER:</b>		<b>Contraction</b>	a word is shortened
<b>Glottal stops</b>	an empty space without sound /ʔ/	<b>Intrusion</b>	a new sound appears – /j/, /w/, or /r/
<b>Linking</b>	syllables connect together	<b>Elision</b>	a sound disappears
<b>Assimilation</b>	a sound changes	<b>R-linking</b>	syllables connect with /r/ sound

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

5 vowel sound: /e/ /u:/

4 stressed syllable: o o

1 content word: already overdue.

2 no. of syllables: o o o o o o

1 function word: because they were

7 connecting sounds: cc vc vv vv

6 weak forms: w L w L w I, R I

8 features of C.S.:     /r/ /j/

10 example(s) with IPA: Both of the... /'bəʊ.θəv.ðə'reɪ'brɪw.zwə'peɪ.drɪ'mi:.di.jʌʔ.li.bɪ.kə.zðeɪ.wə.rɔ:'re.di.jəʊ.və'dju:/

3 suffixes: alread-y

3 compound nouns: overdue (over + due)

7 connecting sounds: 8 features of connected speech:

<b>cc</b>	consonant sound to consonant sound
<b>cv</b>	consonant sound to vowel sound
<b>vc</b>	vowel sound to consonant sound
<b>vv</b>	vowel sound to vowel sound

<b>GLACIER:</b>		<b>Contraction</b>	a word is shortened
<b>Glottal stops</b>	an empty space without sound /ʔ/	<b>Intrusion</b>	a new sound appears – /j/, /w/, or /r/
<b>Linking</b>	syllables connect together	<b>Elision</b>	a sound disappears
<b>Assimilation</b>	a sound changes	<b>R-linking</b>	syllables connect with /r/ sound

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Cut-Up IPA Sentence

*Instructions: each card shows the sounds of one syllable from this sentence. Order the cards, mark the stressed syllables, and notice the features of connected speech:*

Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

/ˈbəʊ.θəv.ðə're?ˈbiw.zwə'peɪ.di'miː.di.jʌ?.li.bi.kə.zðeɪ.wə.rɔ:'re.di.jəʊ.və'djuː/

	A	B	C	D	E
1	wə	di	peɪ	jəʊ	ðə
2	θəv	re	kə	bəʊ	biw
3	və	jʌ?	rɔː	bɪ	li
4	zðeɪ	zwə	di	re?	miː
5	djuː	dɪ			

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Discussion Words

1. neglect	2. divorce	3. fuel bill	4. sibling rivalry
5. peer pressure	6. disillusionment	7. criminal record	8. obesity
9. loneliness	10. student loan	11. boredom	12. high expectations
13. ambition	14. detention	15. state pension	16. appearance
17. reconciliation	18. Alzheimer's Disease	19. childcare	20. single parent
21. dating	22. benefits trap	23. debt	24. suicide
25. broken home	26. ingratitude	27. contraception	28. addiction
29. funeral expenses	30. STI	31. gambling	32. truancy
33. retirement home	34. fertility treatment	35. euthanasia	36. negative equity
37. alcoholism	38. child poverty	39. acne	40. bullying

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems /'prɒ.bləmz/

Discussion Words (with the IPA)

/nɪ'glekt/	/dɪ'vɔ:s/	✂ /'fjuəl.bɪl/	/sɪb.lɪŋ'raɪ.vəl.rɪ/
/'prɒ.pre.ʃə/	/dɪ.sɪ'lu:zən.mənt/	/krɪ.mɪ.nəw're.kɔ:d/	/əʊ'brɪ.sə.tɪ/
/'ləʊn.lɪ.nəs/	/stju:.dən'tləʊn/	/'bɔ:.dəm/	/haɪ.ek.spe 'kteɪ.fənz/
/æm'brɪ.ʃən/	/dɪ'ten.ʃən/	/steɪ?'pen.ʃən/	/ə'prɒ.rəns/
/re.kən.sɪ.li'jeɪ.ʃən/	/'æɪ.tsaɪ.məz.dɪ.zɪz/	/'tʃaɪəl.keə/	/sɪŋ.gəw'peə.rənt/
/'deɪ.tɪŋ/	/'be.nə.fɪ?'stræp/	/det/	/'su:.wɪ.said/
/brəʊ.kən'həʊm/	/ɪŋ'græ.tɪ.tʃu:d/	/kɒn.trə'se.pʃən/	/ə'dɪ.kʃən/
/'fju:.nə.rəl.ek. spen.səz/	/es.tɪ:'jaɪ/	/'gæm.blɪŋ/	/'tru:.wən.sɪ/
/rɪ'taɪə.mən?.həʊm/	/fɜ:'tɪ.lə.tɪ. tri:?.mənt/	/ju:.θə'neɪ.zɪə/	/ne.gə.tɪ've.kwə.tɪ/
/'æɪ.kə.hɒ.lɪzm/	/tʃaɪl'pɒ.və.tɪ/	/'æk.nɪ/	/'bʊ.li.jɪŋ/

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Discussion Words – Visualisations



Images reproduced by kind permission of: <http://www.wordle.net/>

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### General Questions

1. Are there any words or phrases that you don't know? Find them in a dictionary.
2. Take some cards. Describe the word or phrase on a card without saying it.
3. How many words and phrases have... a) 1 syllable, b) 2 syllables, c) 3 syllables, d) 4 syllables, e) 5 syllables, f) 6 syllables?
4. Put words and phrases with more than one syllable into groups according to where the strong stress falls.
5. Put the words and phrases into... a) alphabetical order, b) reverse alphabetical order.
6. Find and put into groups... a) compound nouns, b) words with suffixes.
7. Find words that... a) begin with a vowel sound, b) end with a vowel sound, c) begin with a consonant sound, d) end with a consonant sound. Put them into sound groups.
8. Find words which contain silent letters (letters which are not pronounced).
9. How many words and phrases can you remember when they are all turned over?
10. Put words and phrases that contain the same sounds into groups, using the IPA.

### Lesson Questions

1. Which word or phrase sounds like... a) prediction, b) attention, c) cool chill, d) elect, e) rambling, f) warden, g) wild bear, h) remorse, i) bet, j) fluency, k) rating?
2. This is a regular payment which the government makes to people when they retire.
3. i) Find a word or phrase which has a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the... a) 1st syllable, b) 2<sup>nd</sup> syllable, c) 3<sup>rd</sup> syllable, etc. ii) Do any *not* have a schwa?
4. This problem results in zits, which can be annoying and make people worry about their appearance.
5. "We finally got mum a place in a \_\_\_\_\_, but she's afraid to meet the residents."
6. Find all of the problems relating to... a) babies, b) cards, c) playground, d) prison, e) coffin, f) exam, g) nightclub, h) chocolate.
7. Define "disillusionment". How is it different from "disappointment"?
8. "Georgina's parents always had such \_\_\_\_\_ for her, so it's a real pity that she didn't do better in her exams."
9. Which word or phrase means... a) a skin condition, b) financial aid while at university, c) permanent separation, d) bunking off school, e) aspiration, f) dependence, g) a nursery or nanny, h) betting, i) your property is worth less than your mortgage?
10. Which word is a problem which causes people not to bother going job-hunting?

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Discussion Words Question Sheet

#### Answers

#### General Questions

1. Answers will vary.

2. Answers will vary.

3. a) 1 word has 1 syllable: debt. b) 8 words and phrases have 2 syllables: neglect, gambling, divorce, fuel bill, boredom, childcare, dating, acne. c) 13 words and phrases have 3 syllables: peer pressure, state pension, loneliness, student loan, ambition, detention, appearance, suicide, broken home, addiction, STI, truancy, bullying. d) 9 words and phrases have 4 syllables: single parent, benefits trap, obesity, ingratitude, contraception, retirement home, euthanasia, alcoholism, child poverty. e) 5 words and phrases have 5 syllables: sibling rivalry, disillusionment, criminal record, high expectations, Alzheimer's Disease. f) 4 words and phrases have 6 syllables: funeral expenses, fertility treatment, negative equity, reconciliation.

4. 2 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **gambling**, **fuel bill**, **boredom**, **childcare**, **dating**, **acne**; these words have the strong stress on the second syllable: **neglect**, **divorce**. 3 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **peer** pressure, **loneliness**, **suicide**, **truancy**, **bullying**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the middle syllable: **addiction**, **ambition**, **detention**, **appearance**, state **pension**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: student **loan**, broken **home**, **STI**. 4 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **alcoholism**, **benefits trap**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the second syllable: **obesity**, **ingratitude**, **retirement home**, child **poverty**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: **contraception**, single **parent**, **euthanasia**. 5 syllables: this word has the strong stress on the first syllable: **Alzheimer's Disease**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: sibling **rivalry**, **disillusionment**; these phrases have the strong stress on the fourth syllable: criminal **record**, high **expectations**. 6 syllables: this phrase has the strong stress on the first syllable: **funeral expenses**; this phrase has the strong stress on the second syllable: **fertility treatment**; this phrase has the strong stress on the fourth syllable: **negative equity**; this word has the strong stress on the fifth syllable: **reconciliation**.

5. a) acne, addiction, alcoholism, Alzheimer's Disease, ambition, appearance, benefits trap, boredom, broken home, bullying, childcare, child poverty, contraception, criminal record, dating, debt, detention, disillusionment, divorce, euthanasia, fertility treatment, fuel bill, funeral expenses, gambling, high expectations, ingratitude, loneliness, negative equity, neglect, obesity, peer pressure, reconciliation, retirement home, sibling rivalry, single parent, state pension, STI, student loan, suicide, truancy. b) As a), but in reverse order.

6. a) This word is a compound noun: childcare (child + care). b) The following words and phrases contain suffixes: **addiction**, **ambition**, **contraception**, **detention**, **high expectations**, **reconciliation**; **bullying**, **dating**, **gambling**, **sibling rivalry**; **disillusionment**, **fertility treatment**, **retirement home**; **negative equity**, **obesity**, **child poverty**; **student loan**, **single parent**; **funeral expenses**, **criminal record**; **acne**; **alcoholism**; **Alzheimer's Disease**; **appearance**; **boredom**; **broken home**; **euthanasia**; **ingratitude**; **loneliness**; **neglect**; **peer pressure**; **state pension**; **suicide**; **truancy**.

7. a) These words and phrases all begin with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /æ/ **ambition**, **Alzheimer's Disease**, **alcoholism**, **acne**; /ə/ **appearance**, **addiction**; /ɪ/ **ingratitude**; /əʊ/ **obesity**.

b) These words and phrases all end with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /i/ **sibling rivalry**, **truancy**, **negative equity**, **child poverty**, **acne**; /ə/ **peer pressure**; /aɪ/ **STI**; /eə/ **childcare**; /ɪə/ **euthanasia**.

c) These words and phrases all begin with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /s/ **sibling rivalry**, **single parent**, **state pension**, **STI**, **student loan**, **suicide**; /d/ **dating**, **debt**, **detention**, **disillusionment**, **divorce**; /b/ **benefits trap**, **boredom**, **broken home**, **bullying**; /f/ **fertility treatment**, **fuel bill**, **funeral expenses**; /r/ **reconciliation**, **retirement home**; /k/ **contraception**, **criminal record**; /tʃ/ **childcare**, **child poverty**; /n/ **negative equity**, **neglect**; /j/ **euthanasia**; /g/ **gambling**; /h/ **high expectations**; /l/ **loneliness**; /p/ **peer pressure**; /t/ **truancy**.

d) These words and phrases all end with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /n/ **addiction**, **ambition**, **contraception**, **detention**, **reconciliation**, **state pension**, **student loan**; /t/ **debt**, **disillusionment**, **fertility treatment**, **neglect**, **single parent**; /m/ **alcoholism**, **boredom**, **broken home**, **retirement home**; /z/ **Alzheimer's Disease**, **funeral expenses**, **high expectations**; /d/ **criminal record**, **ingratitude**, **suicide**; /s/ **divorce**, **loneliness**, **appearance**;

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Discussion Words Question Sheet

/ŋ/ bullying, dating, gambling; /p/ benefits trap; /l/ fuel bill.

8. Many English words contain one or more **silent letters** – letters which are part of the spelling of a word, but which are not pronounced. The aim of this activity is to demonstrate how so often the spelling of a word in English is different from how it sounds when spoken. Below are some good examples of words in this group of discussion words that have silent letters. The silent letters are shown in brackets. No doubt your students will be able to identify some more.

*divo [r] ce, de [b] t, hi [g] h expectations, lon [e] lines [s], disil [l] usionment, suicid [e], bo [re] dom*

9. Answers will vary.

10. There are many possible answers to this question; for example, “gambling”, “acne”, “Alzheimer’s Disease”, and “alcoholism”, (among others) all contain the vowel sound /æ/. Use the phonetic chart on p.18.6 of the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** (available free from <http://www.englishbanana.com/talkalot>) and the phonetic spellings of the vocabulary words on the *Discussion Words (with the IPA)* handout to help your students put the words into sound groups.

#### Lesson Questions

1. a) addiction. b) detention. c) fuel bill. d) neglect. e) gambling. f) boredom. g) childcare. h) divorce. i) debt. j) truancy. k) dating.

2. state pension.

3. i) a) Words which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 1<sup>st</sup> syllable: appearance, addiction. b) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 2<sup>nd</sup> syllable: student loan, boredom, reconciliation, single parent, benefits trap, broken home, contraception, funeral expenses, truancy, euthanasia, negative equity, alcoholism. c) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> syllable: peer pressure, child poverty, criminal record, obesity, loneliness, ambition, detention, state pension, appearance, Alzheimer’s Disease, addiction, funeral expenses, retirement home, fertility treatment. d) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 4<sup>th</sup> syllable: sibling rivalry, single parent, contraception, disillusionment. e) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 5<sup>th</sup> syllable: disillusionment, high expectations, negative equity. f) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 6<sup>th</sup> syllable: reconciliation, funeral expenses, fertility treatment. ii) 12 words and phrases don’t have a weak stress schwa sound: neglect, divorce, fuel bill, childcare, debt, dating, suicide, ingratitude, STI, gambling, acne, bullying.

4. acne.

5. retirement home.

6. Answers will vary. Suggested answers: a) childcare, single parent, broken home, contraception, STI, fertility treatment, child poverty. b) gambling, debt. c) bullying, acne, boredom, loneliness, truancy. d) peer pressure, alcoholism, criminal record, boredom, loneliness, detention, suicide, addiction, bullying, disillusionment. e) suicide, funeral expenses, retirement home, euthanasia, debt, single parent. f) sibling rivalry, boredom, ambition, bullying, truancy. g) sibling rivalry, obesity, peer pressure, loneliness, appearance, dating, STI, bullying, acne. h) obesity, loneliness, appearance, boredom, addiction, bullying, acne.

You could also do this quiz the other way around: read out the groups of words above and ask your students to match each group with one of these categories:

**babies cards playground prison coffin exam nightclub chocolate**

Or, students could think of their own category names for each word list, or devise their own categories and word lists.

7. “disillusionment” is a feeling that something is no longer worthwhile, and therefore doesn’t matter, while “disappointment” is a more trivial feeling that something hasn’t gone how you wanted it to, e.g.

*“I experience **disillusionment** when I imagine the future and find nothing at all to look forward to.”  
“I felt **disappointment** when my football team lost an important match.”*

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Discussion Words Question Sheet

“disappointment” is more of a short-term feeling, and may be experienced fairly often – although hopefully not too often! – while “disillusionment” is more of a long-term problem, which may indicate the beginning of depression.

8. high expectations.

9. a) acne. b) student loan. c) divorce. d) truancy. e) ambition. f) addiction. g) childcare. h) gambling. i) negative equity.

10. benefits trap.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems – Which day will be the toughest?

Student A

Angelica Lemming is a professional counsellor, who assists clients with their life problems. Below there is an extract from her private diary, listing some of her appointments for next week. Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about each client and appointment. Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?

	Monday	Tuesday
9:35	Carrie - eating disorder (mention special offer - buy 4 hours get 1 free!)	
11:45		Free (although Lewis will probably over-run again - leave slot available)
14:25		Alan and Charity - messy divorce + negative equity (ouch!)
15:40	Brian - dead budgie (bereavement counselling?)	
TO DO	Call Roger about plumbing (stench)	
EVENING		Rehearsal - choir (remember to pick up Jeff & Jules!)

	Wednesday	Thursday
10:55		Jimmy - ex-con (can't get a job - criminal record = lack of confidence / self-esteem / relapse)
11:50	Alma - can't find a date; desperate for love (don't mention speed dating again!)	
12:30		
15:10	Cliff - attempted suicide (teasing + bullying)	
TO DO		Remember - call Frank re cruise; last chance (fjords)
EVENING	Piano recital - Town Hall, 8 - Marvin (driving)	Long bath (pedicure?) - 9pm Bach on Radio 3 :o)

-----✂-----  
Student B

Angelica Lemming is a professional counsellor, who assists clients with their life problems. Below there is an extract from her private diary, listing some of her appointments for next week. Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about each client and appointment. Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?

	Monday	Tuesday
9:35		Lewis and parents - talk about general problems from childhood (esp. parental neglect)
11:45	Colin - depressed (unemployed - two years)	
14:25	Marion (sibling rivalry - sister is high-flier)	
15:40		Mandy and partner (Gavin? Kevin?) - benefits trap
TO DO		Johnny will return gerbils (maybe after 4pm)
EVENING	Party at Brenda's (take pie - not blueberry)	

	Wednesday	Thursday
10:55	Rosemary - trouble finding childcare + info about benefits and allowances	
11:50		Serena Robinson + mother - acne getting worse (could be some sobbing - ensure enough tissues to hand)
12:30	Paul - always bunking off school (lock door?)	Mr. Griffiths - pension / debt (remind re payment)
15:10		Martin - gambling addiction (big debts)
TO DO	Mop the floor (borrow mop - Karl)	
EVENING		

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Information Exchange

#### Answers

#### Problems – Which day will be the toughest?

Task: "Angelica Lemming is a professional counsellor, who assists clients with their life problems. Below there is an extract from her private diary, listing some of her appointments for next week. Ask and answer questions to complete the gaps, and find out information about each client and appointment. Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?"

	Monday	Tuesday
9:35	Carrie - eating disorder (mention special offer - buy 4 hours get 1 free!)	Lewis and parents - talk about general problems from childhood (esp. parental neglect)
11:45	Colin - depressed (unemployed - two years)	Free (although Lewis will probably over-run again - leave slot available)
14:25	Marion (sibling rivalry - sister is high-flier)	Alan and Charity - messy divorce + negative equity (ouch!)
15:40	Brian - dead budgie (bereavement counselling?)	Mandy and partner (Gavin? Kevin?) - benefits trap
TO DO	Call Roger about plumbing (stench)	Johnny will return gerbils (maybe after 4pm)
EVENING	Party at Brenda's (take pie - not blueberry)	Rehearsal - choir (remember to pick up Jeff & Jules!)

	Wednesday	Thursday
10:55	Rosemary - trouble finding childcare + info about benefits and allowances	Jimmy - ex-con (can't get a job - criminal record = lack of confidence / self-esteem / relapse)
11:50	Alma - can't find a date; desperate for love (don't mention speed dating again!)	Serena Robinson + mother - acne getting worse (could be some sobbing - ensure enough tissues to hand)
12:30	Paul - always bunking off school (lock door?)	Mr. Griffiths - pension / debt (remind re payment)
15:10	Cliff - attempted suicide (teasing + bullying)	Martin - gambling addiction (big debts)
TO DO	Mop the floor (borrow mop - Karl)	Remember - call Frank re cruise; last chance (f.jords)
EVENING	Piano recital - Town Hall, 8 - Marvin (driving)	Long bath (pedicure?) - 9pm Bach on Radio 3 :o)

"Which day do you think will be the most demanding for her? Why?" When they have completed filling the gaps, students should discuss which day they think will be the toughest, or most demanding, for Angelica, and why. Answers will be subjective and therefore vary from student to student. Students should produce appropriate reasons for their choices – why they would choose one day rather than another. For example: "I think Thursday will be the toughest day for Angelica next week, because she'll have appointments with clients about some serious issues, from lack of confidence to debt and gambling addiction..." Or... "I think Wednesday will be worse than Monday, because on Wednesday she's got the sessions about truancy and suicide, while the worst problem on Monday is Colin's..." [etc.]

#### Sample Questions

What's happening at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Which client will Angelica meet on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Tell me about Angelica's appointment at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Who is coming in on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, and what do they want to talk about?  
 What is planned for \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What's on Angelica's TO DO list for \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What does Angelica have to do on \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What's Angelica planning to do in the evening on \_\_\_\_\_?  
 What has Angelica got planned for \_\_\_\_\_ evening?

#### Sample Answers

\_\_\_\_\_ is coming in to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She's meeting \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She's seeing \_\_\_\_\_, who's got a problem with \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is coming in on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is booked in to discuss \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She has to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 She's planning to \_\_\_\_\_ / She's going to \_\_\_\_\_ / She's hoping to \_\_\_\_\_ [etc.]

#### Examples

What's happening at two twenty-five on Monday?

Marion is coming in to talk about sibling rivalry with her sister, who is a high-flyer.

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Information Exchange

Who is coming in on Tuesday at twenty to four, and what do they want to talk about?

What does Angelica have to do on Wednesday?

What has Angelica got planned for Thursday evening?

[etc.]

Mandy is coming in on Tuesday at twenty to four, with her partner, either Gavin or Kevin, to talk about being caught in the benefits trap.

She has to mop the floor, but first she'll need to borrow a mop from Karl.

She's going to enjoy a long bath, and maybe have a pedicure, while listening to Bach on Radio 3 from 9pm.

#### Extension 1:

You could try to encourage some comparative/superlative questions and answers, for example:

Which client has the most serious problem? Why?  
Which evening will be the most... fun? / boring? Why?  
Which client will be the hardest to handle? Why?

Martin has the most serious problem, because...  
Monday evening will be the most fun, because...  
I think that \_\_\_\_\_ will be the hardest to handle, because...

[etc.]

#### Extension 2:

Talk about Angelica. Use the information in the diary entries to speculate about: a) her appearance, b) her family life, c) her relationships, d) her likes and dislikes, e) any other part of her life. For example: how old is she? Is she married? Is she attractive? Is she clever? Is she rich? Does she like scuba-diving? Why? / Why not? etc. Imagine how her diary might look for the rest of the week, including the weekend. Create a role play in which she discusses her schedule with a friend, colleague, or relative.

#### Extension 3:

You could encourage students to develop short role plays or dialogues using the clients and appointments. For example, each small group of students could choose one day's appointments to portray, with one student playing Angelica and the other students playing the clients. They could try playing the role plays in different genres to see what happens, e.g. comedy, serious drama, melodrama, etc.

#### Extension 4:

Students work in pairs. One student plays Angelica, and the other chooses a client. The client tells their problem, and Angelica has to guess which client it is, then give advice. You could then create a follow-up scene, which takes place one week (or month, or ten years) later where we find out what happened to the client. Did they take Angelica's advice? Was it successful? If the advice didn't work out, perhaps the client now has a score to settle with Angelica! Encourage students to use a variety of different past, present, and future verb forms.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Multi-Purpose Text

#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (Original Text)

Line

1 It's the last Saturday in September, and Maggie and Dennis are both getting ready  
2 for the evening ahead. Since his parents are away, Dennis has invited ten of his  
3 mates to watch the England match, while Maggie is also keen to have the house to  
4 herself, having invited a "friend" round for a "homework session". She's currently in  
5 the kitchen frantically preparing an elaborate (and not at all romantic) meal in his  
6 honour. They've been fighting all week over who would get the house. For Dennis it  
7 was remarkably simple: "It's England Paraguay, innit!" "But I never have the house to  
8 myself!" complained Maggie, sticking her bottom lip out and trying hard to make it  
9 tremble. Neither side has backed down, hence the uneasy stalemate that now exists.  
10 A delicious aroma of broccoli and oregano rises from the kitchen, as Dennis slumps  
11 before the telly, indolently awaiting his mates and the pre-match build-up. "Just go out  
12 to a pub an' watch it!" begs Maggie for the fifteenth time, "Byron is due any minute!"  
13 "Sorry, sis," says Dennis, restlessly channel surfing, "I'm the oldest – y'know?"  
14 Exasperated, Maggie returns to the kitchen to crack some more yolks. Seven o'clock  
15 arrives, but not Byron. Build-up becomes the match proper, and Dennis's mates  
16 tuck into Maggie's cooking manfully, appreciative that snacks have been laid on.  
17 Maggie weeps as she re-reads the text from Byron – "I'm immersed in coding my  
18 iPad app..." – and seals the leftovers in tupperware boxes. Post-match analysis  
19 wraps up and Dennis and pals decamp to the pub... All except for one sensitive soul:  
20 a trainee fireman called Gareth, who has offered to help Maggie tidy up.  
(279 words)



#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (Text with 20 Differences)

It's the **1. past (last)** Saturday in September, and Maggie and Dennis are both getting ready for the **2. meeting (evening)** ahead. Since his parents are away, Dennis has invited ten of his mates to watch the England match, while Maggie is also **3. seen (keen)** to have the house to herself, having invited a "friend" **4. down (round)** for a "homework session". She's **5. sullenly (currently)** in the kitchen frantically preparing an elaborate (and not at all romantic) meal in his honour. They've been **6. biting (fighting)** all week over who would get the house. For Dennis it was remarkably **7. pimple (simple)**: "It's England Paraguay, innit!" "But I **8. ever (never)** have the house to myself!" complained Maggie, sticking her **9. button (bottom)** lip out and trying hard to make it tremble. **10. Either (Neither)** side has backed down, hence the uneasy **11. whale bait (stalemate)** that now exists. A delicious aroma of broccoli and oregano rises from the kitchen, as Dennis slumps **12. afore (before)** the telly, indolently awaiting his mates and the pre-match build-up. "Just go out to a pub an' watch it!" begs Maggie for the **13. fiftieth (fifteenth)** time, "Byron is due any minute!" "Sorry, sis," says **14. Kenneth (Dennis)**, restlessly channel surfing, "I'm the oldest – y'know?" Exasperated, Maggie returns to the kitchen to crack some more **15. jokes (yolks)**. Seven o'clock arrives, but not Byron. Build-up becomes the match proper, and Dennis's mates tuck into **16. Aggie's (Maggie's)** cooking manfully, appreciative that **17. stacks (snacks)** have been laid on. Maggie weeps as she re-reads the text from Byron – "I'm immersed in coding my iPad app..." – and seals the leftovers in tupperware **18. foxes (boxes)**. Post-match **19. paralysis (analysis)** wraps up and Dennis and pals decamp to the pub... All except for one sensitive soul: a trainee **20. barman (fireman)** called Gareth, who has offered to help Maggie tidy up.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Multi-Purpose Text

#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (Guess the Function Words)



I' t last Saturday i September, a Maggie a Dennis a both getting ready f t evening ahead. Since h parents a away, Dennis h invited ten o h mates t watch t England match, w Maggie i a keen t have t house t h , having invited a "friend" round f a "homework session". S ' currently i t kitchen frantically preparing a elaborate (a not a all romantic) meal i h honour. T 'v b fighting all week over who w get t house.



F Dennis i w remarkably simple: "I' England Paraguay, i !" "B I never have t house t m !" complained Maggie, sticking h bottom lip out a trying hard t make i tremble. Neither side h backed down, hence t uneasy stalemate t now exists. A delicious aroma o broccoli a oregano rises f t kitchen, a Dennis slumps b t telly, indolently awaiting h mates a t pre-match build-up.



"Just go out t a pub a ' watch i !" begs Maggie f t fifteenth time, "Byron i due any minute!" "Sorry, sis," says Dennis, restlessly channel surfing, "I' t oldest – y'know?" Exasperated, Maggie returns t t kitchen t crack s more yolks. Seven o'clock arrives, b not Byron. Build-up becomes t match proper, a Dennis's mates tuck into Maggie's cooking manfully, appreciative t snacks h b laid on.



Maggie weeps a s re-reads t text f Byron – "I' immersed i coding m iPad app..." – a seals t leftovers i tupperware boxes. Post-match analysis wraps up a Dennis a pals decamp t t pub... All except f one sensitive soul: a trainee fireman called Gareth, w h offered t help Maggie tidy up.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Multi-Purpose Text

#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (What's the Question?)

1. Dennis.
2. Saturday.
3. Go to the pub and watch the match.
4. Maggie.
5. Ten.
6. That they were going to do their homework together.
7. All week.
8. Gareth.
9. After the post-match analysis.
10. By pretending to cry.
11. Yes, after the match had ended.
12. Paraguay.
13. Trainee fireman.
14. Because he was busy coding his iPad app.
15. Maggie put it into tupperware boxes to keep for another day.
16. Byron.
17. We don't know, but from the ingredients it might have been an Italian or Mediterranean dish.
18. Because they both believed that they had the right to use the house.
19. Because she wanted to impress Byron.
20. He slumped in front of the TV.
21. Ten of his mates.
22. To the pub.
23. England versus Paraguay.
24. She said that she never got the house to herself.
25. The aroma of broccoli and oregano.
26. Because he was older than Maggie.
27. No, not really.
28. Dennis and his friends.
29. At seven o'clock in the evening.
30. She was planning a romantic meal for Byron and herself.

-----✂-----

#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (True, False, or Unknown?)

1. The story took place in October.
2. Maggie was upset that Dennis hadn't backed down.
3. Maggie is the eldest sibling.
4. Maggie had agreed with her parents that she could use the house.
5. The pre-match build-up preceded the match proper.
6. Paraguay played England at football.
7. Maggie was looking forward to doing her homework with Byron.
8. Dennis and his mates went to the pub after the post-match analysis.
9. Paraguay were playing Wales in the match.
10. Gareth helped Maggie to tidy up while his mates went for a drink.
11. Byron popped round to see Maggie for a few minutes after finishing coding his app.
12. Byron preferred to stay at home because he didn't want to get involved with Maggie.
13. Gareth was a trainee farmer.
14. Gareth and Maggie spent ages tidying up, then went into the garden.
15. Maggie had invited her friend for a meal.
16. They watched a World Cup qualifier match.
17. Maggie was not planning a romantic meal for her friend Byron.
18. Byron didn't come because he was busy with his IT work.
19. Gareth joined his mates in the pub after helping Maggie clean up.
20. Dennis had invited twelve friends round to watch the match.
21. Dennis wanted to watch the football match with his friends.
22. Dennis's parents had gone on holiday.
23. Byron was due to arrive at seven thirty.
24. Dennis rested while Maggie worked in the kitchen.
25. Dennis was channel surfing because he was bored.
26. Maggie tried to make Dennis feel sorry for her, so that she would get her own way.
27. Maggie is a great cook.
28. Maggie watched the pre-match build-up.
29. England beat Paraguay 2-0 [two-nil].
30. Most of Dennis's mates were trainee firemen.

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Multi-Purpose Text

#### Glossary of New Words

Here are some words and phrases from the text that may be unfamiliar to students. You could either pre-teach them, or encourage your students to find translations in a bilingual dictionary and write them in the spaces below. Stressed syllables are underlined.

Line:	Unfamiliar English:	Explanation:	Translation:
3	<u>mates</u>	(n) informal word for <i>friends</i>	
4	a " <u>friend</u> "	(iron/euph) the speech marks indicate that the word "friend" is ironic and a euphemism for something else, in this case a person that Maggie sees as more than a friend, i.e. she fancies this person and would like to become his girlfriend	
4	a " <u>homework session</u> "	(iron/euph) again, the speech marks indicate irony. In this context "homework session" is clearly a euphemism for "romantic meal"	
5	<u>frantically</u>	(adv) in a hurried and stressed out manner	
5	<u>elaborate</u>	(adj) complicated; complex	
5	(and <u>not</u> at all <u>romantic</u> )	(iron) The use of brackets indicates irony, i.e. the opposite of what is said is actually true – Maggie <i>is</i> preparing a romantic meal	
5	in his <u>honour</u>	(phr) especially for him; to make him feel special. This phrase is rather an exaggeration, because it would normally be used to talk about preparations for an important dignitary or monarch	
7	<u>England Paraguay</u>	(phr) England are playing a football match against Paraguay	
7	<u>innit</u>	(contr/irreg) isn't it?	
8	... <u>trying hard</u> to <u>make</u> it <u>tremble</u> .	(phr) Maggie wants to make it look as if she's really upset and about to cry, so that she gets her own way	
9	to <u>back down</u>	(phr v) to surrender; to admit defeat; to give up	
9	hence	(conj) "the result of which is..."; "which leads to..."	
9	<u>uneasy</u>	(adj) awkward; difficult; uncomfortable	
9	<u>stalemate</u>	(n) deadlock; impasse; a situation in which neither party in a dispute will compromise	
10	<u>aroma</u>	(n) smell	
10	<u>oregano</u>	(n unc) a herb used in cooking, esp. in Italian, Greek, and Latin American dishes	
10	to <u>slump</u>	(v) to sit in an awkward and careless manner	
11	<u>telly</u>	(n) informal word for <i>television</i>	
11	<u>indolently</u>	(adv) lazily; idly; in a lazy manner; in a way that deliberately wastes time	
11	the <u>pre-match build-up</u>	(phr) the discussion and analysis that takes place on TV before a football match begins	
12	an'	(contr) and	
12	any <u>minute</u>	(adverbial) very soon, i.e. he could arrive now	
13	<u>sis</u>	(abbr) short for <i>sister</i>	
13	to <u>channel surf</u>	(v) to keep changing channels on TV using the remote control, without watching any programme for longer than a few seconds	
13	y' <u>know</u> ?	(contr) you know? (do you know?) In this context <i>y'know</i> is used to show that the preceding comment is indisputable, and therefore to end any debate	
14	<u>Exasperated</u>	(adj) angry and frustrated	
14	to <u>crack</u> some <u>more yolks</u>	(phr) Maggie will, of course, crack eggs to get the yolks, but this phrase is used to emphasise that she will crack the eggs for the yolks	
14	<u>yolks</u>	(n) the yellow part of an egg	
15	the <u>match proper</u>	(id) the actual match. To say "the _____ proper" means that something occurs after a preliminary or preparatory phase, e.g. "After a little discussion about modal verbs, we began the lesson proper."	

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Multi-Purpose Text

Line:	Unfamiliar English:	Explanation:	Translation:
16	to <u>tuck into</u>	(phr v) to eat enthusiastically, with much enjoyment	
16	<u>manfully</u>	(sarc) courageously; bravely; selflessly without fear. This is a rather sarcastic way to describe the situation. Dennis's friends may be eating food that would have otherwise been wasted, but it didn't require any particular courage for them to do it!	
16	to <u>lay on</u>	(phr v) to provide food and/or drink for a special occasion, e.g. a party or a conference	
17	<u>immersed</u>	(adj) absorbed; busy with; wrapped up in	
17	<u>coding</u> my iPad <u>app</u>	(phr) Byron is busy creating an application for the Apple iPad portable electronic device	
18	to <u>seal</u>	(v) to close something firmly, usually so that it is air-tight; to lock	
18	<u>tupperware</u> <u>boxes</u>	(n) air-tight plastic containers that can be used to store food	
18	<u>post-match</u> <u>analysis</u>	(phr) the discussion about a football match that takes place on TV just after the game has finished. The opposite of "the pre-match build-up" (see line 11)	
19	to <u>wrap up</u>	(phr v) to conclude or be concluded by sby; to finish in a satisfactory way, e.g. "The mystery was finally wrapped up" (i.e. solved successfully)	
19	<u>pals</u>	(n) informal word for <i>friends</i>	
19	to <u>decamp</u>	(v/iron) to move to another place as one large group of people, e.g. "The soldiers decamped to Winchester." An ironic parallel is drawn between Dennis and his mates, and soldiers – ironic because soldiers would probably be on a serious mission, while the boys' aim is totally trivial – to have a drink	
19	<u>one sensitive soul</u>	(phr/iron) a thoughtful person; the phrase is used with some irony. We don't usually think of firemen – trainee or otherwise – as being particularly sensitive. Perhaps Gareth has more romantic ambitions in mind than simply helping Maggie to tidy up	
20	to <u>tidy up</u>	(phr v) to clean and organise the house after the party	

(abbr) abbreviation  
(adj) adjective  
(adv) adverb  
(conj) conjunction  
(contr) contraction  
esp. especially

(euph) euphemism  
(id) idiom  
(iron) irony  
(irreg) irregular grammar  
(n) noun  
(n unc) noun (uncountable)

(phr) phrase  
(phr v) phrasal verb  
(sarc) sarcasm  
(sby) somebody  
(v) verb

#### Extension 1:

Encourage students to look at the verb forms used in the story. Ask them what time the story is set in (the past). If it's set in the past, why are present verb forms used to tell the story? For example:

*It's the last Saturday in September...*

*She's currently in the kitchen frantically preparing...*

*...a trainee fireman called Gareth, who has offered to help Maggie tidy up.*

Ask students to retell the story (in pairs or small groups) using past verb forms, e.g.

*It was the last Saturday in September...*

*She was in the kitchen frantically preparing...*

*...a trainee fireman called Gareth, who had offered to help Maggie tidy up.*

Discuss the effect of using present forms to tell a story that is set in the past, e.g. it can bring immediacy to the story; the story becomes more interesting and relevant because the listener needs to imagine it happening *now*, at this present moment, etc. How does the story change when past forms are used instead?

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Multi-Purpose Text

#### Extension 2:

Ask students to count the number of characters in the text (there are 4 named characters, as well as Maggie and Dennis's parents, and Dennis's group of ten friends, not to mention the team of pundits on TV), then to create a role play or dialogue, using a few of the characters. Or, students could work on their own and create a monologue using one character from the text, where they recall what happened from their point of view.

#### Extension 3:

Students continue the story – either as a role play or a monologue – and explore what happened next...

#### Answers:

#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (Guess the Function Words)

See Original Text for answer.

#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (What's the Question?)

Answers will vary. Suggested answers:

1. What is the name of Maggie's brother?
2. What day was it in the story?
3. What did Maggie beg Dennis to do?
4. What is the name of Dennis's sister?
5. How many friends did Dennis invite to watch the match?
6. What was Maggie's alleged reason for inviting Byron round?
7. How long had Maggie and Dennis been fighting about who would get the house?
8. Who stayed behind to help Maggie tidy up?
9. When did the lads go to the pub?
10. How did Maggie try to make Dennis feel sorry for her?
11. Did Maggie get the house to herself?
12. Which team was England playing?
13. What was Gareth's job?
14. Why didn't Byron come round to spend time with Maggie?
15. What happened to the excess food?
16. Who did Maggie invite round for a meal?
17. What was Maggie cooking?
18. Why didn't either side in the dispute back down?
19. Why was Maggie preparing an elaborate meal?
20. What did Dennis do while he was waiting for his friends?
21. Who did Dennis invite to watch the football?
22. Where did Dennis and his mates go after the post-match analysis had finished?
23. Who was playing in the football match?
24. Why did Maggie feel hard done by?
25. What smelled delicious?
26. Why did Dennis feel that he had the right to use the house?
27. Did Byron have a good excuse for letting Maggie down?
28. Who ate Maggie's cooking?
29. What time was Byron due to arrive?
30. Why did Maggie want to have the house to herself?

#### England 1 – Broccoli 0 (True, False, or Unknown?)

(T = True, F = False, U = Unknown)

- |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F  | 11. U | 21. T |
| 2. T  | 12. U | 22. U |
| 3. F  | 13. F | 23. F |
| 4. U  | 14. U | 24. T |
| 5. T  | 15. T | 25. U |
| 6. T  | 16. U | 26. T |
| 7. F  | 17. F | 27. U |
| 8. T  | 18. U | 28. F |
| 9. F  | 19. U | 29. U |
| 10. T | 20. F | 30. U |

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Role Play with Non-Literal English

1. Practise the role play with a partner. Find and underline **nine** examples of non-literal English\* and match each one to a category below:

1. puns	2. phrasal verbs	3. non-standard grammar
4. cultural references	5. idioms	6. politically correct (PC) language
7. hints	8. slang	9. catchphrases

\* For more information about each category, please see pp.37-39.

Three teenage girls are at school watching a boring netball match:

Tracey: Have you seen that new girl? What's her name?  
Mandy: Susan Jacobs.  
Tracey: Do you know who she reminds me of? What's her name? Marjorie Dawes from *Little Britain* – "Fat Fighters".  
Mandy: Oh, I love that show! (*Putting on a funny voice*) I'm a lady!  
Tracey: Look at her running. She's such a whale.  
Lena: Tracey!  
Tracey: What?  
Lena: You can't say that!  
Tracey: Why not?  
Lena: You shouldn't pick on her because of her size. She told me that she's been fighting a losing battle with her weight recently.  
Tracey: So what would you call her then?  
Mandy: Lena would probably say that she's horizontally-challenged.  
Tracey: (*Laughing*) Ha ha! That's a bit better than whale, ain't it?  
Mandy: Personally I think that Susan is fat-tastic!  
Lena: I wouldn't call her anything. Why don't you two just be nice to her?  
Tracey: OK, Lena. Forget it. OK? Listen, next week it's my birthday, and I'm not saying I really want earrings but... Well, I'm not going to say any more. (*She winks*)

2. Replace each example of non-literal English with one of the literal words or phrases below. Practise the role play using only literal English, then using non-literal English. What differences do you notice? Which version sounds more natural? Why? Which do you prefer?

a) putting on weight, despite trying not to	b) I want you to buy me some earrings	c) fat person
d) isn't	e) bully	f) a fictional character from a popular TV comedy series
g) I know a famous line from that TV programme	h) a person that I can ridicule because of her weight	i) overweight

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Role Play with Non-Literal English

Answers:

Feature of Non-Literal English:	Example in this Text:	Literal Translation:
1. puns	fat-tastic	h) a person that I can ridicule because of her weight*
2. phrasal verbs	pick on	e) bully
3. non-standard grammar	ain't	d) isn't
4. cultural references	Marjorie Dawes from <i>Little Britain</i> – “Fat Fighters”	f) a fictional character from a popular TV comedy series
5. idioms	fighting a losing battle with her weight	a) putting on weight, despite trying not to
6. politically correct (PC) language	horizontally-challenged	i) overweight
7. hints	I'm not saying I really want earrings but...	b) I want you to buy me some earrings
8. slang	whale	c) fat person
9. catchphrases	I'm a lady!	g) I know a famous line from that TV programme

\* There is no literal translation for “fat-tastic”. It is simply a combination of two words: “fat” and “fantastic”. The pun works because “fat” sounds very similar to “fan”, sharing two out of three phonemes (individual sounds) – /f/ and /æ/. By making this joke, Mandy is showing her contempt for Susan: “a person that I can ridicule because of her weight”.

Note: in general, using non-literal English will help students’ spoken English to sound more natural, because native speakers of English often favour non-literal forms – such as idioms, phrasal verbs, and slang – over the more literal, “dictionary definition” words and phrases that they replace.

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Features of Non-Literal English – Part 2

#### 1. PUNS

A pun is a kind of joke that is based around a word or phrase which has two meanings: one which is natural in the sentence, and one which is relevant to what you are talking about.

Example:

[Somebody is making bread in the kitchen. You go up to them and ask:]

“Do you *need* any help?”

[You stress the word “need” because it is a pun on the word “knead”, which is an action in the bread-making process. “Knead” and “need” are homophones – words that sound exactly the same but which have different meanings and different spellings.]

When:

For fun! When you want to brighten up your spoken English; to make somebody smile or laugh – or groan, because your joke is so corny [old and too obvious].

#### 2. PHRASAL VERBS

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

#### 3. NON-STANDARD GRAMMAR

Non-standard grammar is a grammatical form that, although incorrect, is often used on purpose in place of the correct form by a person who knows what the correct form *should* be.

Example:

[You phone your friend and leave a voice message:]

“Y’alright mate? You comin’ down town later, or what, innit?”

[Translation: “Y’alright, mate?” = “Hello” or “Are you alright, my friend?”; “You comin’ down town later” = “Are you coming down to the town later?”; “or what, innit?” = speech markers (see *Unit 1: Hotel – Features of Non-Literal English – Part 1*). These phrases are simply a form of verbal punctuation and have no real meaning in the sentence, apart from perhaps reinforcing the question.]

When:

When you want to show that you belong to a particular group, or class of people, who all speak in the same way – as a means of fitting in. When you don’t want to appear too “posh”, or middle-class, or too highly educated.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### 4. CULTURAL REFERENCES

A cultural reference is a word, phrase, or saying that has entered popular culture, e.g. a song, reference to or dialogue from a film or TV programme, an advert, a catchphrase (e.g. by a comedian), or any other memorable phrase that has been featured in the media.

Example:

"Hayley! Are you responsible for breaking that window?"

"Yeah... but, no... but, yeah... but no..." [her evasive and rather cheeky reply copies a well-known catchphrase from the popular BBC comedy series *Little Britain*.]

When:

When you want to show that you are aware of and a part of the general national popular culture that extends beyond your home town.

### 5. IDIOMS

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

### 6. POLITICALLY CORRECT (PC) LANGUAGE

Politically correct language (known as PC language) consists of polite words and phrases that are used to replace potentially derogatory or insulting language, so that we can talk about something negative or controversial *without causing offence*. There are two kinds of politically correct language:

**1. Extreme Politically Correct Language:** phrases that we don't use very often in everyday life, because they seem too extreme or sound silly.

Example:

"My little Billy isn't fat, he's just *big-boned*." The aim is to try to see something positive in something negative. But taken to extremes, political correctness can become a bit of a joke, and can lead people to exclaim in frustration: "It's political correctness gone mad!"

**2. Everyday Politically Correct Language:** phrases that we *do* need to use in everyday life, to avoid offending or stigmatising other people, especially people who belong to minority groups.

Example:

"We're planning a special lunch for senior citizens next week." [Not for *old people*.] More respectful or neutral phrases replace blunter, more potentially insensitive, offensive, or alienating language. Politicians, for example, are keen to use inclusive PC language, which comes across as inclusive to as many people as possible. Another example of required politically correct language is the use of gender-neutral terms, e.g. "police officer" rather than "policeman", to reflect changes in our workforce and culture.

When:

When you don't want to cause offense to anybody who belongs to a minority group. Or when you want to draw attention to something in a humorous or ironic way, e.g. "Tom *hasn't* gone a big nose. No. He's just a bit nasally challenged!"

Note: a related non-literal form is *Euphemism*.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### 7. HINTS

A hint is an indirect reference to an object or situation. The speaker hopes that the person listening will understand what they mean, without them having to mention it directly. However, it is not guaranteed that the listener *will* understand and therefore “get the hint”.

Example:

[A young couple in love are passing a jeweller’s shop window. She says:]

“Oh, what a beautiful ring! Do you like it?”

[She means: “When are you going to ask me to marry you?”]

When:

When you want to say something or ask for something indirectly – in a subtle way. In the example, the woman hopes that her partner will “read her mind” regarding getting married, after which she can pretend that *he* thought of proposing without having to be asked or reminded. She can therefore tell herself that her beloved is more thoughtful and sensitive than he really is – and that she is really lucky to be with him!

### 8. SLANG

Slang is informal language consisting of words and phrases that replace standard dictionary words and phrases. It is used far more often in spoken English than in written English. Slang words are known and used by members of a particular group of people, which might be based on: class, race, gender, age, education, interests, job, etc.

Example:

“Do you like my new t-shirt?”

“Yeah, man!” [“Yes, my friend.”] “It’s totally sick!” [“It’s really nice!”]

When:

When you want to show that you belong to a particular group. By adopting their slang and customs you will feel closer to them, and they will be more likely to accept you as a legitimate member of their group.

### 9. CATCHPHRASES

A catchphrase is a phrase that is repeated often by somebody, particularly somebody famous, usually for comic effect so that it becomes associated with them through repetition. It may not be very funny if said only once, but by being repeated often it can become amusing, or annoying – or both.

Example:

“You wouldn’t let it lie!” [In the early ‘90s, surreal British comedian Vic Reeves introduced this catchphrase via his late night cult TV show, which became very popular among students, and is now always associated with him. To let something lie = to stop talking about a particular thing.]

When:

When you want to build an audience of initiates who feel part of your imaginative world because they are “in on the joke” (your catchphrases), as opposed to other people who don’t know them. Catchphrases can also be in-jokes, that enable your followers to feel that they belong to your “gang”.

See also: *Cultural References*, above.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### 20 Common English Idioms

1. to have nothing to do with sby / sth	to avoid sby / sth completely	2. to play the property market	to invest in property
3. to struggle to make [both] ends meet	to have trouble earning enough to pay daily bills	4. share and share alike	divide sth equally; allow equal access
5. to pay through the nose	to pay too high a price	6. to pile on the pounds	to become fatter quickly
7. neither a borrower nor a lender be	don't take out or make loans	8. to give sby the boot	to end a romantic relationship with sby; to fire sby
9. to get / be up the duff	to become or be pregnant	10. to be up to your eyes in debt	to owe a lot of money
11. to spend money like it's going out of fashion	to spend a lot of money quickly	12. to follow the crowd	to do what everybody else is doing
13. to give sby a second chance	to forgive sby and be friends with them again	14. to be worth your while [to do sth]	to profit more by doing sth than by not doing it
15. to bore sby to tears	to make sby very uninterested in sth	16. to pin your hopes on sby / sth	to hope that sby or sth will be successful for your benefit
17. to have too much time on your hands	to have too much spare time	18. against all [the] odds	despite all obstacles and difficulties
19. on your own	alone; without anybody's help	20. "It's your own time you're wasting, not mine!"	"I get paid to teach, so if you misbehave, only you suffer."

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### English Idioms – Matching Game

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



Our love has survived – _____!
I'm afraid that when it comes to music and fashion I've always _____.
Back in the '80s, when I was a poor student, I _____.
"Can you lend me a tenner?" "I'm sorry. Remember the saying: _____."
I told the careers adviser that I'd only get a job if it _____ to do so.
Since Jon swore at me I _____.
Please take me back, Lionel! Please! Can't you _____?
Since I lost my job things have been really dull. I've got _____.
Brenda _____ recently, hasn't she? She used to be so slim.
Lizzie is a total shopaholic! She _____.
We _____ for about ten years now. Ever since we bought our first house.
You <i>will</i> get the tickets, <i>won't</i> you, Jack? I _____!
"Did you know that Joe ____ Kim ____?" "Wow! She doesn't look it!"
The opera went on for over four hours! It nearly _____!
Tracey ____ Daniel ____, and she's got another guy already!
You can mess about as much as you want, McCaskill. _____!
Come along, Toby; let your little sister play with it too. _____.
My parents _____. It looks like they might have to go bankrupt.
We _____ for that sculpture; but it was worth it.
"Did anybody help you paint that fence?" "No, I did it _____."

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems – 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: **Children**, **Teenagers**, **Adults**, and **Elderly People**.
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 use this when talking to somebody about a car they've just bought, which was, in my opinion, far too expensive.
2. A parent or teacher could use this idiom to rebuke two kids who are fighting over a computer.
3. This rather crude idiom might be used to say that somebody has got his partner pregnant.
4. This is a moralistic saying that warns against the dangers of getting into debt.
5. This is perhaps a problem for people who are unemployed or retired, and lack motivation.
6. I would use this idiom to show that I can do something without anybody else's help.
7. This idiom describes what people do when they are "sheep" and don't think for themselves.
8. This phrase shows a rather cavalier or casual approach towards investing in property.
9. Somebody who has put on weight recently might use this idiom to moan about the fact.
10. You could use this idiom to advise somebody to leave their current partner...
11. Or, if they don't like that advice, use *this* idiom to advise them to *stay* with their partner.
12. This is an expressive way to describe feelings provoked by long, tedious lessons about idioms!

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### 20 Common English Phrasal Verbs

1. break up ---	end a relationship	2. bang up ---	put in prison
3. take out ---	arrange sth, e.g. a loan	4. fit in ---	be accepted as part of a group
5. end up ---	reach a place which you neither planned nor wished to reach	6. bunk off ---	be absent without permission
7. pick up ---	acquire sth, e.g. an illness	8. pass away ---	die
9. get on ---	have a good relationship	10. knock up ---	make a woman pregnant
11. make up ---	become friends again after an argument	12. lash out ---	attack suddenly and violently
13. set aside ---	save; keep sth separate	14. drop out ---	leave a course or programme before the end
15. sign on ---	declare that you're unemployed; receive unemployment benefits	16. stand up to --- ---	defend yourself
17. long for ---	desire sth very much	18. give up ---	finish a habit; stop trying
19. rack up ---	accumulate; collect a lot of sth	20. be on ---	take; be dependent on

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### English Phrasal Verbs – Matching Game

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



Hilda _____ peacefully last night – in her sleep.
It's much better to _____ people, rather than let them walk all over you!
She got really upset and _____ at all her former colleagues.
Tony _____ a lot of debts since taking up poker.
I _____ with Mark yesterday. Things weren't working out.
After I _____, I'm going to ask my adviser to help me with my CV.
Do you fancy _____ school tomorrow? Go on! It'll be fun!
Aren't you going to _____ with Kim? She said she was sorry.
Cassie said she would _____ smoking, if you quit gambling.
Bryan _____ in this dump for nearly twelve years – poor guy.
We _____ this money for our trip to Greece next year.
We drove around in circles for ages, before _____ on the edge of a cliff in the middle of nowhere!
Me and Molly really _____ well. She's one of my best friends.
Up to 15% of students _____ before the end of the first year.
We went to the bank and _____ a loan for fifteen thousand.
How long had he _____ methadone?
"Where did Zoe _____ the cold?" "At her friend's house, I think."
Frank _____ Gemma – while she was still seeing his brother!
"Why have you stopped choir practice?" "I felt like I didn't _____."
I've been _____ a baby my whole life.

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems – 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 prison?” Or, “Find a phrasal verb that’s transitive separable.” Or guess the preposition linking phrasal verb and object, e.g. “To get on **with** somebody...” Or encourage students to make sentences (positive, negative, and question forms) by linking content words together using function words, e.g. “The **students** are going to **bunk off** school **tomorrow**.” etc.

#	subject (person)	p/verb*	tr?	sep?	object e.g.	place / time e.g.
1.	a pronoun, e.g.  I, you, he, she, it, we, they, etc.	<b>break up</b>	✓	✗	with somebody	over dinner
2.		<b>bang up</b>	✓	✓	a criminal / a prisoner	in prison / in jail
3.		<b>take out</b>	✓	✓	a loan / a mortgage	at the bank / online
4.		<b>fit in</b>	✓	✗	with a group / a class	at school / at work
5.		<b>end up</b>	✓	✗	alone / getting fired	if you’re not careful
6.		<b>bunk off</b>	✓	✗	school / a lesson	tomorrow
7.		<b>pick up</b>	✓	✓	an infection / a cold	at nursery / at the pool
8.		<b>pass away</b>	✗	-	-	in bed / peacefully at home
9.		<b>get on</b>	✓	✗	with somebody / friends	at school / at work
10.		<b>knock up</b>	✓	✓	his girlfriend / his partner	at his parents’ house
11.	a person or thing, e.g.  the students, my sister, Max, the children, Sarah’s grandma, our good friends, etc.	<b>make up</b>	✓	✗	with somebody	in the staff canteen
12.		<b>lash out</b>	✓	✗	at sby / because...	at the nightclub
13.		<b>set aside</b>	✓	✓	some money / savings	for a rainy day**
14.		<b>drop out</b>	✓	✗	of school / of the concert	last week / for good
15.		<b>sign on</b>	✓	✗	the dole***	for two years
16.		<b>stand up to</b>	✓	✗	my boss / a bully	in the office / at school
17.		<b>long for</b>	✓	✗	a child / a holiday	all the time / every day
18.		<b>give up</b>	✓	✗	smoking / gambling	yesterday / forever
19.		<b>rack up</b>	✓	✗	some debts / a high score	over a period of time
20.		<b>be on</b>	✓	✗	drugs / medication	for the past few months

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. “pick up”, can have many different 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.

\*\* Idiom meaning “for a time when I won’t have enough money”. \*\*\* Slang for “unemployment register”

### Topic Questions

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

- worrying about starting a new school.
- losing your job and having to claim benefits.
- wishing that you could buy your own house with a garden.
- shouting at somebody, then hitting them after getting drunk.
- deciding to quit college and do something different.
- how a favourite uncle died at the weekend.
- putting somebody in prison.
- getting somebody pregnant.
- how you finally stopped somebody from bullying you.
- not wanting to take tablets prescribed by your doctor.
- leaving class early when nobody was looking.
- getting a bad cold after visiting some friends who were ill.
- trying hard to maintain a working relationship with a colleague.
- saving for a holiday in Portugal.

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### 20 Common English Slang Words and Phrases

1. to be brown bread	(rhyming slang) to be in a lot of trouble; to be dead	2. "Like it or lump it!"	(phr.) it will be easier for you, if you accept this unpleasant thing
3. to get bladdered	(v.) to become very drunk	4. a zit	(n.) a spot [acne]
5. on the rock'n'roll	(rhyming slang) on the dole [claiming unemployment benefit]	6. to be in the red	(v.) to be in debt
7. Billy no-mates	(n.) a person who doesn't have any friends	8. a hoodie	(n.) a teenage hooligan; a hooded top
9. a junkie	(n.) a drug addict	10. a bookie	(n.) a betting shop; a person who works in a betting shop
11. a pushover	(n.) a person who is very easily persuaded / defeated	12. a minger	(n.) an unattractive person
13. hand-me-downs	(n. un.) second- hand items, usually clothes	14. a one-night stand	(n.) a date when two people have sex, but don't meet again
15. a coffin dodger	(n.) an old person who doesn't seem to be able to die	16. to do time	(v.) to serve a prison sentence
17. a bit on the side	(n.) the person with whom a married person has an affair	18. the pill	(n.) contraceptive tablets for women
19. a red bill	(n.) a letter from a utility company demanding payment which is overdue	20. mardy	(a.) grumpy because you can't have what you want

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### 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:

✂
Kenny's cousin is currently _____ for armed robbery.
How can you fancy her? She's an absolute _____!
Oliver never reads _____. He just chucks them in a drawer.
I don't want your old _____! I'm going to buy some new trousers!
If I don't hand in this essay tomorrow, I'll be _____.
Clara had been on _____ for a year, when she found out she was pregnant.
A few of the lads went out on the town last night and _____.
Paul the security guard was keeping his eye on some _____, who were hanging around outside the chippie [chip shop].
Can you believe this _____ is still on TV? I thought he was dead!
You're coming to see Grandma, and that's final! You can _____!
"Do you know Kevin?" "Yes, we had _____, but nothing more."
Sally went overdrawn last month and now she's still _____.
We're going down the _____'s to put a bet on the horse in the 2.45.
Don't be so _____! We can stay with your parents <i>next</i> Christmas!
Please don't squeeze your _____ while I'm eating my tea!
"Is that James's girlfriend?" "No, it's just his _____."
Chantal never goes out any more. She's a right [complete] _____.
Tom became a _____ after first trying drugs at his mate Jim's flat.
Trevor's uncle's been _____ for a year. He says there aren't any jobs.
You know, you should tell him that you can't work on Saturday! Don't be such a _____.

**For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!**

# Talk a Lot

## Problems – English Slang Words and Phrases Activities

### Meaning and Context

1. 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: **Children, Teenagers, Adults, and Elderly People.**
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 is a slang word for a pimple or spot.
2. This is a person who is unpopular and who nobody really likes.
3. This is a person who has to score their next fix.
4. This is what happens to a criminal who is locked up.
5. This is a person who could either help you win or lose money.
6. This is a very informal way to talk about getting drunk – but it isn't swearing.
7. This phrase means that I owe money to somebody, for example, a bank.
8. This is a person who always gives in too easily and doesn't stand up to other people.
9. If I had had an older brother, I would probably have worn these while I was growing up.
10. We can use this rather unkind phrase to describe an old person who doesn't seem to be in any hurry to depart this mortal coil.

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Focus on Non-Literal Speech

#### Answers

##### English Idioms – Matching Game

- Since Jon swore at me I've had nothing to do with him.
- We've been playing the property market for about ten years now. Ever since we bought our first house.
- Back in the '80s, when I was a poor student, I struggled to make [both] ends meet.
- Come along, Toby; let your little sister play with it too. Share and share alike.
- We paid through the nose for that sculpture; but it was worth it.
- Brenda has piled on / has been piling on the pounds recently, hasn't she? She used to be so slim.
- "Can you lend me a tenner?" "I'm sorry. Remember the saying: neither a borrower nor a lender be."
- Tracey gave Daniel the boot, and she's got another guy already!
- "Did you know that Joe's got Kim up the duff?" "Wow! She doesn't look it!"
- My parents are up to their eyes in debt. It looks like they might have to go bankrupt.
- Lizzie is a total shopaholic! She spends money like it's going out of fashion.
- I'm afraid that when it comes to music and fashion I've always followed the crowd.
- Please take me back, Lionel! Please! Can't you give me a second chance?
- I told the careers adviser that I'd only get a job if it was / were worth my while to do so.
- The opera went on for over four hours! It nearly bored me / us to tears!
- You will get the tickets, won't you, Jack? I'm pinning my hopes on you!
- Since I lost my job things have been really dull. I've got too much time on my hands.
- Our love has survived – against all [the] odds!
- "Did anybody help you paint that fence?" "No, I did it on my own."
- You can mess about as much as you want, McCaskill. It's your own time you're wasting, not mine!

##### English Idioms – Topic Questions

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. To pay through the nose.  | 7. To follow the crowd.          |
| 2. Share and share alike.  | 8. To play the property market.  |
| 3. To get / be up the duff.  | 9. To pile on the pounds.        |
| 4. Neither a borrower nor a lender be.   | 10. To give sby the boot.        |
| 5. To have too much time on your hands. /<br>To be worth your while [to do sth]. | 11. To give sby a second chance. |
| 6. On your own.  | 12. To bore sby to tears.        |

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

Phrasal Verb:	What Happens?	IPA Spelling:	Phrasal Verb:	What Happens?	IPA Spelling:
1. break up	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'breɪ'kʌp/	11. make up	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'meɪ'kʌp/
2. bang up	L: (cv) remains (cv) <sup>1</sup>	/'bæŋ'ʌp/	12. lash out	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'læʃ'ɔʊt/
3. take out	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'teɪ'kaʊt/	13. set aside	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'se.tə'saɪd/
4. fit in	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'fɪ'tɪn/	14. drop out	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'drɒ'pʌʊt/
5. end up	L: (cv) changes to (cc) <sup>2</sup>	/'en'dʌp/	15. sign on	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'saɪ'nɒn/
6. bunk off	L: (cv) remains (cv) <sup>3</sup>	/'bʌŋ'kɒf/	16. stand up to	L: (cv) changes to (cc) <sup>4</sup>	/'stænd'ʌp.tu:/
7. pick up	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'pɪ'kʌp/	17. long for	L: (cc) remains (cc) <sup>5</sup>	/'lɒŋ'fɔ:/
8. pass away	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'pɑ:sə'weɪ/	18. give up	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'gɪv'ʌp/
9. get on	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'ge'tɒn/	19. rack up	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'ræk'ʌp/
10. knock up	L: (cv) changes to (vc)	/'nɒk'ʌp/	20. be on	L: (vv) changes to (vc)	/'bi:'jɒn/

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

L = Linking I = Intrusion

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> The sound connection /ŋ/ to /ʌ/ is already easy to say, so it doesn't need to be made easier

<sup>2</sup> It's easier to make the sound connection /n/ to /d/ than /d/ to /ʌ/

<sup>3</sup> It's easier to make the sound connection /ŋ/ to /k/ than /k/ to /ɒ/

<sup>4</sup> It's easier to make the sound connection /n/ to /d/ than /d/ to /ʌ/

<sup>5</sup> The sound connection /ŋ/ to /f/ is already easy to say, so it doesn't need to be made easier

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Focus on Non-Literal Speech

#### English Phrasal Verbs – Matching Game

1. I **broke up** with Mark yesterday. Things weren't working out.
2. Bryan **has been banged up / was banged up** in this dump for nearly twelve years – poor guy.
3. We went to the bank and **took out** a loan for fifteen thousand.
4. "Why have you stopped choir practice?" "I felt like I didn't **fit in**."
5. We drove around in circles for ages, before **we ended up / ending up** on the edge of a cliff in the middle of nowhere!
6. Do you fancy **bunking off** school tomorrow? Go on! It'll be fun!
7. "Where did Zoe **pick up** the cold?" "At her friend's house, I think."
8. Hilda **passed away** peacefully last night – in her sleep.
9. Me and Molly really **get on** well. She's one of my best friends.
10. Frank **knocked up** Gemma – while she was still seeing his brother!
11. Aren't you going to **make up** with Kim? She said she was sorry.
12. She got really upset and **lashed out** at all her former colleagues.
13. We **set aside / have set aside / are setting aside** this money for our trip to Greece next year.
14. Up to 15% of students **drop out / dropped out** before the end of the first year.
15. After I **sign on / 've signed on**, I'm going to ask my adviser to help me with my CV.
16. It's much better to **stand up to** people, rather than let them walk all over you!
17. I've been **longing for** a baby my whole life.
18. Cassie said she would **give up** smoking, if you quit gambling.
19. Tony **has racked up / had racked up** a lot of debts since taking up poker.
20. How long had he **been on** methadone?

#### English Phrasal Verbs – Topic Questions

- |             |              |                |               |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. fit in   | 5. drop out  | 9. stand up to | 13. get on    |
| 2. sign on  | 6. pass away | 10. be on      | 14. set aside |
| 3. long for | 7. bang up   | 11. bunk off   |               |
| 4. lash out | 8. knock up  | 12. pick up    |               |

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

1. If I don't hand in this essay tomorrow, I'll be **brown bread**.
2. You're coming to see Grandma, and that's final! You can **like it or lump it!**
3. A few of the lads went out on the town last night and **got bladdered**.
4. Please don't squeeze your **zits** while I'm eating my tea!
5. Trevor's uncle's been **on the rock'n'roll** for a year. He says there aren't any jobs.
6. Sally went overdrawn last month and now she's still **in the red**.
7. Chantal never goes out any more. She's a right [complete] **Billy no-mates**.
8. Paul the security guard was keeping his eye on some **hoodies**, who were hanging around outside the chippie [chip shop].
9. Tom became a **junkie** after first trying drugs at his mate Jim's flat.
10. We're going down the **bookie's** to put a bet on the horse in the 2.45.
11. You know, you should tell him that you can't work on Saturday! Don't be such a **pushover**.
12. How can you fancy her? She's an absolute **minger!**
13. I don't want your old **hand-me-downs!** I'm going to buy some new trousers!
14. "Do you know Kevin?" "Yes, we had a **one-night stand**, but nothing more."
15. Can you believe this **coffin dodger** is still on TV? I thought he was dead!
16. Kenny's cousin is currently **doing time** for armed robbery.
17. "Is that James's girlfriend?" "No, it's just his **bit on the side**."
18. Clara had been on **the pill** for a year, when she found out she was pregnant.
19. Oliver never reads **red bills**. He just chucks them in a drawer.
20. Don't be so **mardy!** We can stay with your parents *next* Christmas!

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

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. a zit          | 6. to get bladdered |
| 2. Billy no-mates | 7. to be in the red |
| 3. a junkie       | 8. a pushover       |
| 4. to do time     | 9. hand-me-downs    |
| 5. a bookie       | 10. a coffin dodger |

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Instructions: this table is a reference chart for all of the vocabulary in this unit. Students could look for **additional** idioms, phrasal verbs, and slang terms to fill in the gaps in the table, and write definitions, e.g.

*to dress up* = to wear smart clothes

### Unit Vocabulary Reference Chart – Page 1

<u>Sub-Group</u>	<u>Discussion Words</u>	<u>English Idioms</u>	<u>English Phrasal Verbs</u>	<u>English Slang Words and Phrases</u>
<b>Children</b>	benefits trap	to be worth your while [to do sth]	sign on	on the rock'n'roll
	broken home			
	bullying		stand up to	a pushover
	childcare			
	child poverty			hand-me-downs
	detention	"It's your own time you're wasting, not mine!"		
	obesity	to pile on the pounds		
	sibling rivalry	share and share alike	get on	mardy
	single parent	to struggle to make [both] ends meet	knock up	
truancy		bunk off	a hoodie	
<b>Teenagers</b>	acne			a zit
	addiction		be on	a junkie
	appearance		dress up	a minger
	boredom	to bore sby to tears		
	contraception	to get / be up the duff		the pill
	dating			a one-night stand
	high expectations	to pin your hopes on sby / sth	drop out	
	peer pressure	to follow the crowd	fit in	
	STI		pick up	
	student loan	neither a borrower nor a lender be	take out	

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

Instructions: this table is a reference chart for all of the vocabulary in this unit. Students could look for **additional** idioms, phrasal verbs, and slang terms to fill in the gaps in the table, and write definitions, e.g.

*to reach for the stars* = to try to be very successful

### Unit Vocabulary Reference Chart – Page 2

<u>Sub-Group</u>	<u>Discussion Words</u>	<u>English Idioms</u>	<u>English Phrasal Verbs</u>	<u>English Slang Words and Phrases</u>
<b>Adults</b>	alcoholism			to get bladdered
	ambition	to reach for the stars		
	criminal record		bang up	to do time
	debt	to be up to your eyes in debt	rack up	to be in the red
	disillusionment			
	divorce	to give sby the boot	break up	a bit on the side
	fertility treatment	against all [the] odds	long for	
	gambling	to spend money like it's going out of fashion		a bookie
	negative equity	to play the property market		
	suicide		give up	
<b>Elderly People</b>	Alzheimer's Disease			
	euthanasia			
	fuel bill		set aside	a red bill
	funeral expenses	to pay through the nose	pass away	to be brown bread
	ingratitude	to have nothing to do with sby /sth	lash out	
	loneliness	on your own		Billy no-mates
	neglect			
	reconciliation	to give sby a second chance	make up	
	retirement home		end up	"Like it or lump it!"
	state pension	to have too much time on your hands		a coffin dodger

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Unit Vocabulary Reference – Children /'tʃɪl.drən/

#	English Idioms:	Literal Translation:
3.	to struggle to make [both] ends meet	to have trouble earning enough to pay daily bills
4.	share and share alike	divide sth equally; allow equal access
6.	to pile on the pounds	to become fatter quickly
14.	to be worth your while [to do sth]	to profit more by doing sth than by not doing it
20.	"It's your own time you're wasting, not mine!"	"I get paid to teach, so if you misbehave, only you suffer."

#	English Phrasal Verbs:	Literal Translation:
6.	bunk off	be absent without permission
9.	get on	have a good relationship
10.	knock up	make a woman pregnant
15.	sign on	declare that you're unemployed; receive unemployment benefits
16.	stand up to	defend yourself

#	English Slang Words and Phrases:	Literal Translation:
5.	on the rock'n'roll	(rhyming slang) on the dole [claiming unemployment benefit]
8.	a hoodie	(n.) a teenage hooligan; a hooded top
11.	a pushover	(n.) a person who is very easily persuaded / defeated
13.	hand-me-downs	(n. un.) second-hand items, usually clothes
20.	mardy	(a.) grumpy because you can't have what you want

#	Discussion Words:	IPA Translation:
4.	sibling rivalry	/sɪb.lɪŋ'raɪ.vəl.rɪ/
8.	obesity	/əʊ'biː.sə.ti/
14.	detention	/dɪ'ten.ʃən/
19.	childcare	/'tʃaɪl.keə/
20.	single parent	/sɪŋ.gəw'peə.rənt/
22.	benefits trap	/'be.nə.fɪt.stræp/
25.	broken home	/brəʊ.kən'həʊm/
32.	truancy	/'truː.wən.si/
38.	child poverty	/tʃaɪl'pɒ.və.ti/
40.	bullying	/'bʊ.li.jɪŋ/

### What Would You Do? – Problems

4. It'd cost a small fortune to put my daughter in a nursery full-time – almost as much as I earn. And my parents live 200 miles away. I could look after her myself, but I'd go mad spending every day at home with her...

5. It seems that Greg's been bunking off again. He says he can't stand his teachers and that the other pupils think he's a pushover. I don't want him to change schools, and I haven't got time to home-school him...

11. Somebody just phoned to tell me that my little Brian's been picking on other kids at school. The teacher was really angry! But he's such a nice boy at home. I really can't believe this news – my baby wouldn't hurt a fly...!

16. All of Pete's new friends are overweight, and he eats too much fast food when he's at their homes. He's really started piling on the pounds. How can I encourage him to exercise and eat more healthily?

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Unit Vocabulary Reference – Teenagers /'ti:neɪ.dʒəz/

#	English Idioms:	Literal Translation:
7.	neither a borrower nor a lender be	don't take out or make loans
9.	to get / be up the duff	to become or be pregnant
12.	to follow the crowd	to do what everybody else is doing
15.	to bore sby to tears	to make sby very uninterested in sth
16.	to pin your hopes on sby / sth	to hope that sby or sth will be successful for your benefit

#	English Phrasal Verbs:	Literal Translation:
3.	take out	arrange sth, e.g. a loan
4.	fit in	be accepted as part of a group
7.	pick up	acquire sth, e.g. an illness
14.	drop out	leave a course or programme before the end
20.	be on	take; be dependent on

#	English Slang Words and Phrases:	Literal Translation:
4.	a zit	(n.) a spot [acne]
9.	a junkie	(n.) a drug addict
12.	a minger	(n.) an unattractive person
14.	a one-night stand	(n.) a date when two people have sex, but don't meet again
18.	the pill	(n.) contraceptive tablets for women

#	Discussion Words:	IPA Translation:
5.	peer pressure	/'piə.pre.ʃə/
10.	student loan	/st.ju:ˌdɒn'tləʊn/
11.	boredom	/'bɔ:ˌdɒm/
12.	high expectations	/haɪ.ek.spe'kteɪ.ʃənz/
16.	appearance	/ə'piə.rəns/
21.	dating	/'deɪ.tɪŋ/
27.	contraception	/kɒn.trə'se.pʃən/
28.	addiction	/ə'dɪ.kʃən/
30.	STI	/es.ti:'jaɪ/
39.	acne	/'æk.ni/

### What Would You Do? – Problems

2. The school holidays are looming and all of my best buddies are going away on holiday. I can't afford to do anything, but I don't want to get a crummy [not good] job. I can't face lying in front of the TV all summer...

8. We were at the mall yesterday, when my mate took some clothes, put them in her bag, and walked out. Nobody saw and now she's dared *me* to do it. I know it's wrong, but I need a new bikini and I'm absolutely broke...

14. The girl I fancy won't look twice at me, and my mates have started calling me "pizza face"... My mum thinks I should get a special cream from the doctor's, but there could be some unwanted side effects...

15. I'd *love* to go to university, but I don't want to be saddled with a massive debt when I finish. I'm too scared to get a loan, but I won't get a decent job without a degree, will I?

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Unit Vocabulary Reference – Adults /'æ.dəltz/

#	English Idioms:	Literal Translation:
2.	to play the property market	to invest in property
8.	to give sby the boot	to end a romantic relationship with sby; to fire sby
10.	to be up to your eyes in debt	to owe a lot of money
11.	to spend money like it's going out of fashion	to spend a lot of money quickly
18.	against all [the] odds	despite all obstacles and difficulties

#	English Phrasal Verbs:	Literal Translation:
1.	break up	end a relationship
2.	bang up	put in prison
17.	long for	desire sth very much
18.	give up	finish a habit; stop trying
19.	rack up	accumulate; collect a lot of sth

#	English Slang Words and Phrases:	Literal Translation:
3.	to get bladdered	(v.) to become very drunk
6.	to be in the red	(v.) to be in debt
10.	a bookie	(n.) a betting shop; a person who works in a betting shop
16.	to do time	(v.) to serve a prison sentence
17.	a bit on the side	(n.) the person with whom a married person has an affair

#	Discussion Words:	IPA Translation:
2.	divorce	/dɪ'vɔ:s/
6.	disillusionment	/dɪ.sɪ'lu:zən.mənt/
7.	criminal record	/krɪ.mɪ.nəw're.kɔ:d/
13.	ambition	/æm'bɪ.fən/
23.	debt	/det/
24.	suicide	/'su:ɪ.sɑɪd/
31.	gambling	/'gæm.blɪŋ/
34.	fertility treatment	/fɜ:'tɪ.lə.ti.tri:ʔ.mənt/
36.	negative equity	/ne.gə.tɪ've.kwə.ti/
37.	alcoholism	/'æ.l.kə.hɒ.lɪzəm/

### What Would You Do? – Problems

6. My husband started drinking three years ago, when his mum died. He's always kept it under control, but lately it's got worse – especially since he lost his job. Now he drinks every day, but he won't admit he's got a problem...

7. I have a good job, a loving family, a nice car, and plenty of money, but recently life has seemed more and more meaningless. What's the point of working hard and doing well, if this is all there is...

9. My wife left me last autumn, and now she wants to make it official. I was seeing other birds [women], and out partying most nights, but I love the old girl to death, and I know I can be faithful if I put my mind to it...

13. I did time for two years for my part in a company fraud. It wasn't that serious, but now I can't get a job for love nor money because I've been banged up. It's enough to make me want to go off the rails again...

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Unit Vocabulary Reference – Elderly People /eɪ.l.də.li'pi:.pəl/

#	English Idioms:	Literal Translation:
1.	to have nothing to do with sby / sth	to avoid sby / sth completely
5.	to pay through the nose	to pay too high a price
13.	to give sby a second chance	to forgive sby and be friends with them again
17.	to have too much time on your hands	to have too much spare time
19.	on your own	alone; without anybody's help

#	English Phrasal Verbs:	Literal Translation:
5.	end up	reach a place which you neither planned nor wished to reach
8.	pass away	die
11.	make up	become friends again after an argument
12.	lash out	attack suddenly and violently
13.	set aside	save; keep sth separate

#	English Slang Words and Phrases:	Literal Translation:
1.	to be brown bread	(rhyming slang) to be in a lot of trouble; to be dead
2.	“Like it or lump it!”	(phr.) it will be easier for you, if you accept this unpleasant thing
7.	Billy no-mates	(n.) a person who doesn't have any friends
15.	a coffin dodger	(n.) an old person who doesn't seem to be able to die
19.	a red bill	(n.) a letter from a utility company demanding payment which is overdue

#	Discussion Words:	IPA Translation:
1.	neglect	/nɪ'glekt/
3.	fuel bill	/'fjuəl.bɪl/
9.	loneliness	/'lɒn.lɪ.nəs/
15.	state pension	/steɪt'pen.ʃən/
17.	reconciliation	/re.kən.sɪ.li'jeɪ.ʃən/
18.	Alzheimer's Disease	/'æɪ.tsaɪ.məz.dɪ.zi:z/
26.	ingratitude	/ɪŋ'græ.tɪ.tʃu:d/
29.	funeral expenses	/'fju:.nə.rəl.ek.spen.səz/
33.	retirement home	/rɪ'taɪə.mən?.həʊm/
35.	euthanasia	/ju:.θə'neɪ.ziə/

### What Would You Do? – Problems

1. We're thinking about putting your grandma in a home. She's eighty and she can't really look after herself any more. We can't have her here, because she'll clutter the place up. The problem is, she's dead-set against it...

3. There's an old man near us who lives on his own. I don't know if he's got any relatives, but we never see anybody going in or out. He looks in a bad way. I wonder what he lives on. I don't want to be nosey, but maybe I could help...

10. My husband is showing early signs of dementia, and I realise that things are only going to get worse. He won't go into a home, and we can't afford private care, but I know I won't manage on my own...

12. We decided we should both go together, so we sold everything and we're booked in for a slot next week. Paul's illness has been almost too much to bear, but now I'm wondering whether we *both* need to end it all...

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### What Would You Do?

Read the problems below and decide which group each one belongs in: **Children, Teenagers, Adults, or Elderly People.** There are four problems in each group. Then offer some advice to each person. Try to use some of the **discussion words, idioms, phrasal verbs, and slang words and phrases** from this unit in each answer:

1. We're thinking about putting your grandma in a home. She's eighty and she can't really look after herself any more. We can't have her here, because she'll clutter the place up. The problem is, she's dead-set against it...	2. The school holidays are looming and all of my best buddies are going away on holiday. I can't afford to do anything, but I don't want to get a crummy [not good] job. I can't face lying in front of the TV all summer...	3. There's an old man near us who lives on his own. I don't know if he's got any relatives, but we never see anybody going in or out. He looks in a bad way. I wonder what he lives on. I don't want to be nosey, but maybe I could help...	4. It'd cost a small fortune to put my daughter in a nursery full-time - almost as much as I earn. And my parents live 200 miles away. I could look after her myself, but I'd go mad spending every day at home with her...
5. It seems that Greg's been bunking off again. He says he can't stand his teachers and that the other pupils think he's a pushover. I don't want him to change schools, and I haven't got time to home-school him...	6. My husband started drinking three years ago, when his mum died. He's always kept it under control, but lately it's got worse - especially since he lost his job. Now he drinks every day, but he won't admit he's got a problem...	7. I have a good job, a loving family, a nice car, and plenty of money, but recently life has seemed more and more meaningless. What's the point of working hard and doing well, if this is all there is...	8. We were at the mall yesterday, when my mate took some clothes, put them in her bag, and walked out. Nobody saw and now she's dared <i>me</i> to do it. I know it's wrong, but I need a new bikini and I'm absolutely broke...
9. My wife left me last autumn, and now she wants to make it official. I was seeing other birds [women], and out partying most nights, but I love the old girl to death, and I know I can be faithful if I put my mind to it...	10. My husband is showing early signs of dementia, and I realise that things are only going to get worse. He won't go into a home, and we can't afford private care, but I know I won't manage on my own...	11. Somebody just phoned to tell me that my little Brian's been picking on other kids at school. The teacher was really angry! But he's such a nice boy at home. I really can't believe this news - my baby wouldn't hurt a fly...!	12. We decided we should both go together, so we sold everything and we're booked in for a slot next week. Paul's illness has been almost too much to bear, but now I'm wondering whether we <i>both</i> need to end it all...
13. I did time for two years for my part in a company fraud. It wasn't that serious, but now I can't get a job for love nor money, because I've been banged up. It's enough to make me want to go off the rails again...	14. The girl I fancy won't look twice at me, and my mates have started calling me "pizza face"... My mum thinks I should get a special cream from the doctor's, but there could be some unwanted side effects...	15. I'd <i>love</i> to go to university, but I don't want to be saddled with a massive debt when I finish. I'm too scared to get a loan, but I won't get a decent job without a degree, will I?	16. All of Pete's new friends are overweight, and he eats too much fast food when he's at their homes. He's really started piling on the pounds. How can I encourage him to exercise and eat more healthily?

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Discussion Questions

1. What is the biggest problem you have faced so far in your life? How did you deal with it? Who helped you? If you had the same problem again, would you tackle it in the same way? Has it helped you become stronger? How?
  
2. Who do you usually go to for advice when you don't know what to do? Have you ever had counselling or therapy? Is it easier to trust a stranger than somebody close to you? Would you ever write in to a magazine for advice?
  
3. Tell me about a problem that you've got at the moment. What caused it? How serious is it on a scale of 1 (not serious) to 10 (very serious)? How are you planning to handle it? Who will be the best person to lend a hand?
  
4. Given the choice, would you rather have ten niggling problems or one big problem? Why?
  
5. When did you last help somebody with their problems? What was the problem? What did you propose as a solution? What was the outcome? Would you recommend the same course of action if it happened again?
  
6. Talk about troubles that your family and friends are facing at the moment. What are they and how are they coping? Are *you* part of the answer?
  
7. Are you a caring person? Would you consider training to become a counsellor, and helping people for a living? Why? / Why not?
  
8. What social problems do you notice each day? What impact do they have upon your life? Is education the key to reducing problems in society? Why? / Why not? What programmes should be run to teach people how to make more informed choices about their lives? Do most people bring their problems upon themselves? What steps can be taken to prevent problems occurring in the first place? What other ways are there to tackle social ills?

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Agree or Disagree?

Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Find out what your partner thinks, and mark the boxes with ✓ for agree and ✗ for disagree:

	Me:	My Partner:
1. My life is trouble-free.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. My friends consider me a really helpful person.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Problems are all in the mind! Live life to the full and you won't feel any problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. "A problem shared is a problem halved." – English Proverb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I like to give advice, but I don't always take my own advice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Each person's individual problems are more pressing to them than the problems of all their friends and family combined.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I need to talk to somebody about my problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I would make a really good counsellor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. "There is no human problem which could not be solved if people would simply do as I advise." – Gore Vidal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I've been through a lot in my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. "If you can solve your problem, then what is the need of worrying? If you cannot solve it, then what is the use of worrying?" – Shantideva	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I always try to avoid thinking about difficult things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Adults tend to have more problems than children, but teenagers have to handle the most problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. "No problem is so formidable that you can't walk away from it." – Charles M. Schulz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Weak-willed people will always have more problems than strong people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Any problem in life can be solved by money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Talk a Lot

\_\_\_\_\_ / **Problems**

## Vocabulary Test

First Language

English

\_\_\_\_\_

neglect

\_\_\_\_\_

truancy

\_\_\_\_\_

sibling rivalry

\_\_\_\_\_

obesity

\_\_\_\_\_

loneliness

\_\_\_\_\_

criminal record

\_\_\_\_\_

detention

\_\_\_\_\_

peer pressure

\_\_\_\_\_

state pension

\_\_\_\_\_

alcoholism

\_\_\_\_\_

benefits trap

\_\_\_\_\_

ingratitude

\_\_\_\_\_

Alzheimer's Disease

\_\_\_\_\_

broken home

\_\_\_\_\_

acne

\_\_\_\_\_

bullying

\_\_\_\_\_

reconciliation

\_\_\_\_\_

disillusionment

\_\_\_\_\_

addiction

\_\_\_\_\_

gambling

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***

# Talk a Lot

## Lesson Test – Problems

A) Write a short definition for each slang word or phrase:

1. on the rock'n'roll \_\_\_\_\_
2. a hoodie \_\_\_\_\_
3. mardy \_\_\_\_\_
4. a red bill \_\_\_\_\_

B) Put a stress mark above the stressed syllable in each word or phrase:

1. euthanasia    2. benefits trap    3. appearance    4. ingratitude    5. obesity    6. boredom
7. truancy    8. bullying    9. retirement home    10. neglect    11. reconciliation    12. fuel bill

C) Unjumble the words and write each sentence block starting sentence:

1. were overdue. of the paid already because, were bills immediately they Both red  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. will've Your probably school cleared prom. acne the before up  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the sentence blocks:

D) Verb Form: \_\_\_\_\_

- Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.
- How long 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Polly been considering getting a divorce from Toby?
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Has 3. \_\_\_\_\_ been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time?
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_, she has.
- Has Polly 5. \_\_\_\_\_ considering getting a divorce from Toby for a few hours?
- No, she 6. \_\_\_\_\_. Polly hasn't been considering getting a divorce from Toby for a few hours.

E) Verb Form: \_\_\_\_\_

- Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
- What had Kev's girlfriend 7. \_\_\_\_\_ to get for cleaning Jackie's kitchen?
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ Kev's girlfriend expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen?
- Yes, she 10. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Had Kev's girlfriend expected to get 11. \_\_\_\_\_ for cleaning Jackie's kitchen?
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_, she hadn't. Kev's girlfriend hadn't expected to get a cash reward for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.

# Talk a Lot

## Problems

### Lesson Test

#### Answers

A) Answers will vary. Suggested answers:

1. (rhyming slang) on the dole [claiming unemployment benefit]
2. (noun) a teenage hooligan; a hooded top
3. (adjective) grumpy because you can't have what you want
4. (noun) a letter from a utility company demanding payment which is overdue

o o o o o

B) 1. euthanasia 2. benefits trap 3. appearance 4. ingratitude 5. obesity

o o o o o

6. boredom 7. truancy 8. bullying 9. retirement home 10. neglect

o o

11. reconciliation 12. fuel bill

C) 1. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.  
2. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.

D) Verb form: present perfect continuous. 1. has. 2. For quite some time. 3. Polly. 4. Yes.  
5. been. 6. hasn't.

E) Verb form: past perfect. 7. expected. 8. A little gift. 9. Had. 10. had. 11. a cash reward.  
12. No.

***For more fun worksheets, games, and quizzes log onto [www.englishbanana.com](http://www.englishbanana.com) now!***





Do you ever feel a bit \*annoyed\* when you consider that...

- a) You've worked hard to learn lots of English vocabulary – all the main sets
- b) You've studied (a bit) about how people use sentence stress and connected speech when they speak to connect words in a sentence
- c) You've been studying English for a long time

...but you still find it difficult to understand what people are saying, because a lot of it doesn't seem to make sense literally? This course can help you!

Talk a Lot Intermediate is suitable for students at the following levels:

<i>Student's Level:</i>	<i>Common European Framework (CEFR):</i>	<i>Cambridge Assessment:</i>
Intermediate	to B2	FCE
Advanced	to C1	CAE

About the Author:

Matt Purland is a lecturer in English Language. He has a BA Honours degree in Drama from the University of Wales and a Postgraduate Certificate in Further Education from the University of Derby. He has written more than 1,500 photocopiable worksheets for learning English. This is his eleventh book. In 2002 he launched English Banana.com, which has become a hugely popular English language learning resource website.



*So far, Talk a Lot books have been downloaded more than 300,000 times - and counting! Here are some recent comments from readers:*

*"The materials are helpful as a close-knit buddy. They are also as yummy as a banana. English Banana.com is a STAR! Thanks a million." Mohsen*  
*"Thank you very much for this great helpful course." Ramy*

Also available from all good bookshops:

<u>Title:</u>	<u>ISBN for ordering:</u>	<u>Published in:</u>
Talk a Lot Elementary Book 3	ISBN-13: 978-0955701542	2010
The Best of English Banana.com 2003-2009	ISBN-13: 978-0955701559	2010
Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook	ISBN-13: 978-0955701535	2009
Talk a Lot Elementary Book 2	ISBN-13: 978-0955701528	2008
Talk a Lot Elementary Book 1	ISBN-13: 978-0955701511	2008
ELT Resource Bank – Version 3.0 (CD-ROM)	ISBN-13: 978-0954698591	2008
Check It Again! (Book One)	ISBN-13: 978-0954698584	2006
English Banana.com's Big Resource Book	ISBN-13: 978-0954698553	2005
English Banana.com's Big Activity Book	ISBN-13: 978-0954698522	2004
English Banana.com's Big Grammar Book	ISBN-13: 978-0954698508	2003

Talk a Lot Intermediate Book 1 Unit 2: Problems

**English Banana.com**

[info@englishbanana.com](mailto:info@englishbanana.com)

ISBN-13: 978-0955701573

First published in the UK by English Banana.com 2010. © Copyright Matt Purland 2010. **English Banana.com Free Copying Licence:** You may freely print, copy, adapt, distribute, sell, and give away these materials, subject to our Free Copying Licence. Please visit <http://www.englishbanana.com> for more details. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is © Copyright the International Phonetic Association, and is used in this book with kind permission.