

English Class Topic

Middle English level ~ Online & in-person



American Slang

#7 ~ Slang terms with "g"

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American Slang: **sth = something; sb = somebody.
[see <http://eflsuccess.com/common/> for common abbreviations and punctuation names]

Warm up:

"get it" can mean "I understand"; the opposite is "I don't get it."

Each student should repeat these words, and fill in the blank.

"I often understand English. But when _____, I don't get it." (e.g., ...when sb speaks too softly...)

American Slang: **sth = something; sb = somebody.

1. get = understand *I don't get it. I don't get him. Got it? Got it!*
 2. get a kick out of sth (noun or gerund) = be amused by sth
Why does he get such a kick out of watching his wife lose the game? I got a kick out of that film.
 3. get/have cold feet = decide not to do sth because you are scared to do it
The planned to go skiing, but they got cold feet. They were planning to get married in Las Vegas, but then the man got cold feet.
 4. get your mind off sth or sb = stop thinking about sth or sb
That funny movie really helped me get my mind off my problems for a while.
 5. get (straight) to the point = go directly to the main idea *Stop beating around the bush and get to the point!*
beat around the bush = talk about other things in order to avoid talking about something uncomfortable
 6. Give me a break. = a. This expresses disbelief when you think something isn't true.
You had a date with Taylor Swift? Give me a break!
b. This expresses disbelief when you think something is ridiculous, even though it's actually true.
This apartment costs \$3000 a month? Give me a break!
c. This expresses impatience towards somebody who keeps bothering you.
Give me a break! Stop asking me to lend you my car. It's not gonna happen!
 7. It's a go. = It's definitely going to happen as planned. *Tomorrow's trip to Atlanta is a go.*
 8. be good to go = everything is ready for you to begin *All our luggage is in the car, so we're good to go.*
 9. go with sth = choose; decide on *I'm gonna go with the blue dress for the party.*
 10. go with the flow = accept the situation the way it is; adapt to what other people are doing or thinking
I don't agree with my friend's idea, but I'm just gonna go with the flow and see what happens.
 11. gross (adj.) = disgusting *That's gross!*
gross sb out = disgust sb *That grosses me out!*
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Questions: *(Use the underlined phrase when you answer a question, to make sure you can use it correctly.)*

1. Tell about an academic course, **or** a person, **or** an aspect of American culture that you just couldn't get at first or still can't get. (*When Professor _____ talks about _____, I just can't get it because*) (*I still don't get why Americans*)
2. What are some things you get a kick out of? Why? (*When _____, I get a kick out of it.*) (*I get a kick out of _____.*)
3. Have you ever gotten cold feet? (*One time I planned to _____, but at the last minute I got cold feet because*)
4. What or who helps you get your mind off your work? (*_____ always helps me get my mind off my work because*)
5. When you want to give somebody some constructive criticism, do you usually beat around the bush first, or do you get straight to the point? Share about one time when you had to speak to a friend about a difficult issue.
6. Describe a situation in which you might say "Give me a break," or tell us something that grosses you out.
9. When you buy a new computer, what brand of computer do you usually go with? (*When I buy a computer, I usually go with a _____ because*)
10. If a group of your friends want you to do something with them that you really don't like, will you just go with the flow? Why or why not? Share an example of when this kind of situation happened to you in the past.

If you have more time, when you get your mind off something, what's something to fix your mind onto? Read and discuss what this Bible passage means: "With perfect peace you (God) will protect those whose minds cannot be changed, because they trust you.." ~ Isaiah 26:3 GW)

Note: Using slang is an advanced language skill. Non-native speakers have trouble because a figurative meaning, stress on a certain word, or even the look on your face is often needed to be understood. However, you should study slang so that you can *understand* what the people around you are saying. Try using these expressions with friends, and ask them to let you know if you are using them correctly.

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