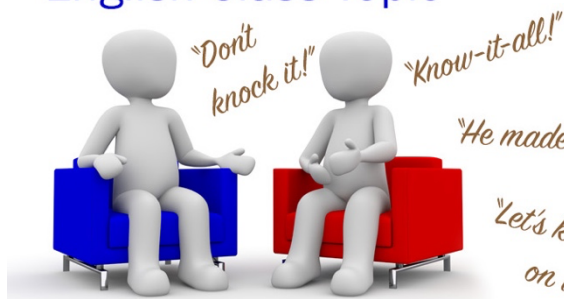


## English Class Topic



# American Slang

"He made a killing."  
"Let's keep an eye on it..." #3 ~ Slang terms that start with K

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**Terms/idiom/Proverbs:** \*\*sth = something; sb = somebody.

[see <http://eflsuccess.com/common/> for common abbreviations and punctuation names]

### American Slang:

1. keep a straight face = don't laugh or smile at sb even though you want to laugh or smile  
**When our professor tripped and fell down during our class, it was hard to keep a straight face.**
2. keep your cool = don't become upset during a stressful situation **I'm surprised he kept his cool during the car accident.**
3. keep an eye on sb or sth = pay attention to sb/sth for protection **Keep an eye on that guy. He looks suspicious! My dad keeps an eye on the stock market because he has many investments.**
4. keep an eye out for sb or sth = pay attention to sb/sth because of a special interest **Keep an eye out for my boyfriend; we're going on a date. I'll keep an eye out for a sale on this device.**
5. killer (adj.) = great; amazing **I just now downloaded a killer new application!**
6. a klutz = a clumsy person **My brother is such a klutz. He's always bumping into things.**
7. knock sth = say sth is impractical or stupid even though you haven't tried it **Don't knock it until you've tried it! People tend to knock what they can't understand.**
8. knock off = (phrasal verb) to stop, or even kill; (noun) a fake or flawed product **What time do you knock off work tonight? Knock that noise off, I'm trying to sleep! They knocked James off before he could tell the police. I know this suit is a knock off, but it looks great!**
9. sb is a know-it-all = an insulting phrase to describe sb who thinks he/she knows everything about everything
10. make a killing = quickly make a lot of money **Samuel made a killing in the stock market last month.**
11. to kid = to say sth untrue to make a joke; **I eat so much spicy food that my roommate kids that I'm starting to look like a pepper. Your haircut is fine, I was just kidding you.**
12. no/you're kidding = used to express surprise; you can't believe sth **I got an "F" on this paper? You've got to be kidding! My favorite singer is coming to campus? No kidding!?**

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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Read this paragraph, and ask questions about anything you don't understand.

Welcome to our class; let me tell you who to keep an eye on. Bill kids people all the time; sometimes it's hard to keep a straight face. Sue makes me so angry it's hard to keep my cool. Jamie is smart, and gives killer explanations to complex issues. Timmy is a klutz. Jane is a know-it-all who always has her hand up. Although we probably wouldn't choose each other as friends, if we keep our minds on the class topic, we normally get along fine!

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**Questions:** (Use the underlined phrase when you answer a question, to make sure you can use it correctly.)

1. Share about one situation in which it was really hard for you to keep a straight face.
2. When you're in a stressful situation, **how** do you keep your cool, and **how easy** is it for you to keep your cool? Also, share about one stressful or frustrating situation in the past when you kept your cool.
3. Who or what do you usually keep an eye on or keep an eye out for? Examples: your child, the stock market, the weather, careless drivers, your weight, your colleague, etc. Why? Also, **how** do you keep an eye on that person or that thing?
4. What is one thing you think is beneficial or fun, but some people knock it because they think it's a waste of time or a waste of money? Also, why do you think it's good? Examples: do yoga, keep up with the latest technology, follow a special diet, get acupuncture, play the lottery, invest in the stock market, look for "the one" on an internet dating site, use social media, write in a daily journal/diary, etc.
5. Who do you think has made a killing due to the COVID pandemic? Explain.
6. When you were a kid, did you kid your friends, or did your classmates kid you? When is it OK "to kid" (to make a joke) and when is "making a joke" unkind?
7. Choose an expression from the vocabulary section, and create a sentence.

If you have more time, read and discuss this Bible passage:

<sup>8</sup> Protect me from harm; keep an eye on me as you would a child who is reflected in the twinkling of your eye. God, hide me within the shelter of your embrace, under your outstretched wings.  
(Psalm 17:8 TPT Bible)

-----lower English level on next page-----

Apr 30 2021~ Using American Slang, #3 (K) (Set 2, Lesson 9cez)

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*When our professor tripped and fell down during our class, it was hard to keep a straight face.*
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8. no/you're kidding = used to express surprise; you can't believe sth *I got an "F" on this paper? You've got to be kidding! My favorite singer is coming to campus? No kidding!?*

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**Questions:** (Use the underlined phrase when you answer a question, to make sure you can use it correctly.)

1. Choose an expression from the vocabulary section, and create a sentence.
2. Share about one situation in which it was really hard for you to keep a straight face.
3. When you're in a stressful situation, **how** do you keep your cool, and **how easy** is it for you to keep your cool?
4. Name some common sources of stress. Share about one stressful or frustrating situation in the past when you "lost" your cool.
5. Who or what do you usually keep an eye on or keep an eye out for? Examples: your child, the stock market, the weather, careless drivers, your weight, your colleague, etc. Why?
6. What is one thing you think is beneficial or fun, but some people knock it because they think it's a waste of time or a waste of money? Also, why do you think it's good? Examples: do yoga, keep up with the latest technology, follow a special diet, get acupuncture, play the lottery, invest in the stock market, look for "the one" on an internet dating site, use social media, write in a daily journal/diary, etc.
7. When you were a kid, did you kid your friends, or did your classmates kid you? When is it OK "to kid" (to make a joke) and when is "making a joke" unkind?

If you have more time, read and discuss this Bible passage:

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**BONUS:** *Read this paragraph, and ask questions about anything you don't understand.*

Welcome to our class; let me tell you who to keep an eye on. Bill kids people all the time; sometimes it's hard to keep a straight face. Sue makes me so angry it's hard to keep my cool. Jamie is smart, Timmy is careless, and Jane thinks she always knows the right answer. Although we probably wouldn't choose each other as friends, if we keep our minds on the class topic, we normally get along fine! No kidding!

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These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; [ifmusa.org](http://ifmusa.org); [info@ifmusa.org](mailto:info@ifmusa.org). IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from [EFLsuccess.com](http://EFLsuccess.com) (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission.

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