

English Class Topic



American Slang

#8 ~ Slang terms with "l"

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American Slang:

****sth** = something; **sb** = somebody.

1. be laid-back = be relaxed; be easy-going *I like Sam because he's so laid-back.*
2. be lame = be inadequate; be bad *"It will hurt" is a lame excuse for not getting vaccinated.*
3. last-ditch effort = final attempt; desperate attempt (used with "effort" or "attempt") *As the race ended, he made a last-ditch effort to catch up to the front-runner.*
4. later = your friends may say "Later" as they leave you, as a short way of saying "See you later."
5. laugh your head off (some say "laugh your butt off") = laugh very hard *I laughed my head off during the whole movie.*
6. leave sb hanging ; be left hanging by sb = leave sb waiting for a decision or answer *I was left hanging for 3 weeks before the company called to offer me the job.*
7. legit = short for "legitimate"; legal; reasonable *If that wonderful job offer is legit I'd take it!*
8. be a letdown ; let sb down = be an unexpected disappointment; have an unexpected disappointment *After being in class again for a while, it was such a letdown to have to go back online due to COVID! A close friend will not let you down!*
9. let sb have it = verbally attack sb ("Let him/her/them have it" is usually shortened to "Let 'im/'er /'em have it.") *After the boys who were playing baseball broke Mr. Smith's window, he came out and really let 'em have it.*
10. lighten up = stop taking things too seriously *You gotta learn to lighten up a little!*

Questions: (Try to use a vocabulary term/idiom or the underlined phrase in your answer.)

1. In what kind of situation is it good to be laid-back? Why? Also, in what kind of situation should people **not** be laid-back? Why? (*I think it's a good idea for people to be laid-back when*)
2. Share about one time when one of your colleagues or friends had a lame idea or a lame excuse for something. Why did you think it was lame? (*Last week, my colleague/friend had a lame excuse for*)
3. Share about the last time you remember that you laughed your head off about something.
4. Share about one time when somebody left you hanging. Also, what was the final result in that situation?
5. Share about one time when something was a big letdown for you **or** when somebody let you down.
6. In what situations is it okay to let somebody have it? Why? (*I think it's okay to let somebody have it if he*)
7. Talk about situations where a friend, family member, or colleague can take something too seriously. When that happens, what can you do or say to help him/her lighten up a little?

TASK: Two students can “role play” one of these situations: (A) A friend is too afraid of catching COVID; you think he/she needs to lighten up. (B) One of you has a roommate (or spouse) who you think is too laid-back (you should give examples); your partner thinks his roommate/spouse should be more laid-back.

If you have time, read and discuss this quote about laughter (being cheerful) from the Bible:
“A cheerful disposition is good for your health (or ‘it’s good medicine’); gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.”
(Prov 17:22 MSG)

(find “easier lesson” on the next page)

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7. lighten up = stop taking things too seriously **You gotta learn to lighten up a little!**

Questions: (Try to use a vocabulary term/idiom or the underlined phrase in your answer.)

1. Finish this sentence: **I think it's a good idea for people to be laid-back when** (If you wish, explain why.)
- 2a. List the excuses people give for not doing something (examples: doing their homework; going to a party).
- 2b. Which of the excuses (given in 2a) were "legit" and which were "lame"?
3. What makes you laugh a lot? Have you ever laughed your head off about something? Explain
4. Finish this sentence: **I think it's okay to let somebody have it if he** (If you wish, explain why.)
5. What are some things that other people can take too seriously? When that happens, what can you do or say to help him/her lighten up a little?

TASK: Two students can "role play" one of these situations: (A) A friend is too afraid of catching COVID; you think he/she needs to lighten up. (B) One of you has a roommate (or spouse) who you think is too laid-back (you should give examples); your partner thinks his roommate/spouse should be more laid-back.

Bonus term: be a letdown ; let sb down = be (or have) an unexpected disappointment **After being in class again for a while, it was such a letdown to have to go back online due to COVID! A close friend will not let you down!** (Talk about a time when you felt let down.)

If you still have time, read and discuss this quote about laughter (being cheerful) from the Bible:
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