

**English Class Topic**

Middle English level ~ In-person and online

**Warm up:**

Think of a common saying (slang) in your country about *trouble* or *honesty*. Do you think most foreigners would understand this slang?

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

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

1. sth/sb is something (else) (show excitement in your voice) = sth/sb is really interesting, surprising, special or amazing     **Our new employee is something else! I'm so glad we hired her.**  
**Wasn't that performance something?! That performance was something else!**
2. space out; be spaced out = to stop paying attention to sth/sb; to zone out  
**Sorry, I spaced out for a second. What were you saying? I'm a little spaced out during long classes.**
3. split = to leave    **I've gotta split now, because I've got a big exam tomorrow morning.**
4. stick to sth = keep doing sth; don't stop doing sth  
**Madonna wants to be an actress, but I think she should stick to singing.**
5. straight = direct; clear; honest    **When I asked him where he went last night, he didn't give me a straight answer.**  
shoot straight (with sb) = be honest    **David's customers trust him because he always shoots straight with them. I can handle bad news, Doc; give it to me straight.**
6. strike up a conversation with sb = start a conversation
7. have a sweet tooth = to love to eat candy and other sweet things; have a craving for sweet food
8. swing sth = do sth that is usually hard to do    **If we shoot straight, I think we can swing a deal with that client.**

**Exercise:** Each student should pick one idiom from today's lesson, and create a sentence with it. After everyone has tried, students can pick a second idiom.

**Questions:** (Try to use a slang expression in your answers, to make sure you can use it correctly.)  
If you still have a question about one of the phrases, please ask!

- Q1. Describe an experience you had or place you visited that was something else; e.g., an activity, scenic spot, performance, gift, etc.
- Q2. In what situations do you sometimes space out? In other words, when are you sometimes spaced out? Why?
- Q3. How do you stick to something when it takes more time and/or more money than you expected it to take? In other words, what keeps you going in that situation?

- Q4. Share 1-2 situations in which you might want to strike up a conversation with a stranger or somebody you don't know very well. Also, what are 1-2 things you might say or ask to strike up a conversation with that person?
- Q5. Do you know anybody who has a sweet tooth? If so, how do they usually satisfy their sweet tooth? Also, if you have a craving for something sweet, how do you usually satisfy that craving?
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If you still have time, discuss this quote from the Bible (this was written in a time of national trouble; many people were now refugees outside their homeland; what do you think God was trying to say to the people?): "They will come crying, and in answer to their prayers, I will lead them. I will make them walk by rivers of waters on a straight path where they will not fall. For I am a father to [my people]." (Jeremiah 31:9 NIV)

**More slang and discussion questions:**

9. stash (n) = a hidden collection of sth (e.g., money, drugs, magazines, candy, expensive wine, etc.) ***Mark's parents found his stash of chocolate bars under his bed.***
10. is stuck up = is conceited; is a snob; looks down on other people ***The people in my class are so stuck up that it's hard to strike up a conversation.***
11. a sucker = sb who is easily fooled or easily impressed by sth/sb ***I'm a sucker for stories about bad luck; I always give the victim a few bucks.***
- Q6. What are 1-2 possible reasons some people are stuck up? If your friend or family member is stuck up, will you try to help them change? If so, why and how will you try to change them?
- Q7. Share an example of when somebody was not being straight with you. Also, how did you know that person was not being straight with you?
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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.

These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from 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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