

English Class Topic



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

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

1. in a row = one after another; straight
They won 5 games in a row. They won 5 straight games. They won one game after another.
2. in no time = very soon; quickly ***Don't worry. We'll be there in no time.***
at no time = never ***At no time should an employee play games on a phone while at work!***
3. sb is in a bind = sb is in a difficult situation; sb is in a predicament ***COVID really put my company in a bind. We can't get the supplies we need, and now we can't find enough employees.***
4. sb is in a jam = sb is in a predicament; also "in a bind" ***I'm in a jam here. I'm supposed to be in two places at once; can you help me by taking one of these appointments?***
5. is jam packed = is crowded; is full of sth/sb ***The beach was jam packed today. My schedule is jam packed. A 'traffic jam' is when the road is jam packed with cars.***
6. sth is (not) in the cards = sth probably will (not) happen; sth is (not) destined to happen
"I caught COVID three days before my interview; I guess that job just wasn't in the cards."
(He probably wasn't meant to get this job.)
7. he is in the doghouse = sb is angry at him because of sth he did wrong ***He's in the doghouse with his wife because he forgot her birthday.*** (Use this slang when talking about a boyfriend or husband, not a girlfriend or wife; it's offensive to compare a woman to a dog)
8. sth is in the works = sth is currently being worked on ***Our new website is in the works.***
9. sth/sb is just plain + adj. = sth/sb is obviously; sth/sb is totally
His plan is just plain stupid. Her performance was just plain amazing!
10. jack up the price = suddenly raise the price of sth a lot higher ***Airline companies jack up their prices around holidays.***
11. jerk sb around (guys say this) = treat sb dishonestly or unfairly ***Don't listen to him. He's just jerking you around.***
12. a junkie = an addict (to drugs, unless specified) ***COVID made her into a Social-Media junkie! He was a junkie for 3 years before he got clean.***

Questions: (Try to use a slang term when you answer, to make sure you can use it correctly.)

1. Share about one time when you were in a jam (in a bind). What was the problem? How did you get out of that jam?

2. Describe one time when you were in a shopping mall, in a store, at a sports event, in a restaurant, or in another place where it was jam packed. Why was that place so crowded that day? Why were **you** there? How did you feel there?
 3. If you know somebody who was in the doghouse in the past, please share why he was in the doghouse, and also how he eventually got out of the doghouse.
 4. Choose **one** of the following phrases and **tell a very short story** using that phrase: sb's idea/opinion was just plain ridiculous; sb was just plain wrong about sth; what sb said to sb was just plain cruel; what sb said was just plain rude.
 5. In what situations (or for what reasons) do stores sometimes jack up the prices of their products? In your opinion, do you think COVID-19 jacked up any prices? Explain.
 6. In your country, when you know that the price of something you really want to buy has been jacked up, what do you usually do? Name some things that are jacked up, other than prices.
 7. If somebody starts jerking you around or starts jerking around somebody you love, what will you say or do? Why?
 8. How does someone become a junkie? How does someone break an addiction?
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If you have more time, read and discuss this quote. Which of today's slang expressions could you use to restate this proverb?

"A true friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.." ~Prov 17:17 (TLV)

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

May 14 2021~ **Using American Slang, #2** (Set 2, Lesson 5cez)
Slang terms with “in” or a “j”

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Simple questions:

- a. What is the opposite of these terms? straight, row, quick, difficult, bind, crowded street, jack up; dishonest
- b. Describe the difference between formerly/currently/hopefully, and obviously/secretly/may be.
- c. Ask a classmate to say the opposite of another word in today's lesson.

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3. Choose **one** of the following phrases and **tell a very short story** using that phrase: sb was just plain wrong about sth; what sb said was just plain rude.
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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; 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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