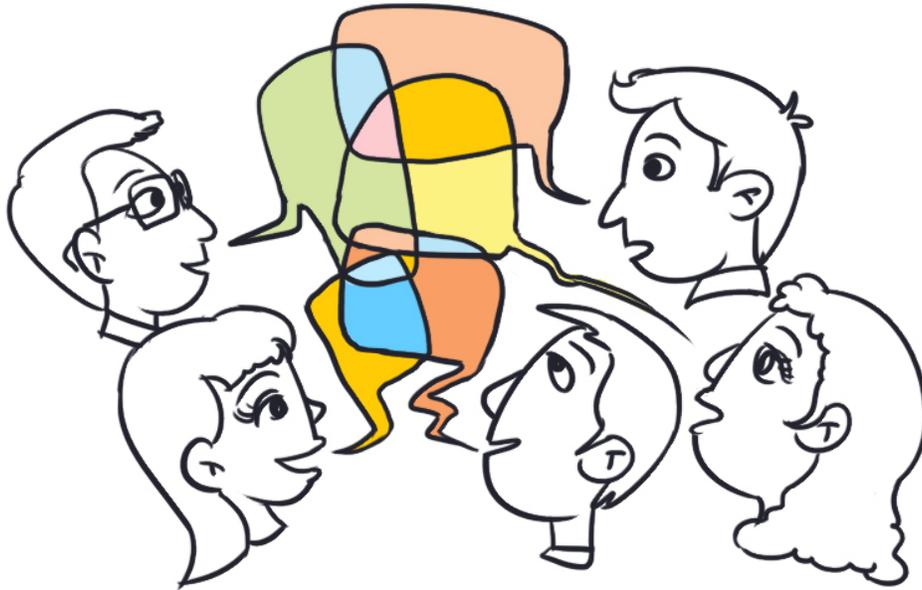


# 50 Conversation Classes



From [ESLGamesBox.com](http://ESLGamesBox.com)

# Conversation topics

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# Introduction

The basis of a good conversation class is giving learners a reason and an opportunity to speak and scaffolding that speaking with lexis and grammatical structure as it is needed. The most fruitful conversations arise spontaneously and there is an art to listening well and asking the right questions to in order to uncover the nuggets of universal interest which provoke stimulating classroom discussion. However, some days we come up empty handed, maybe our learners are tired or reluctant to publicly speak up. Here it is also the teacher's role to give learners a gentle push into areas which hopefully will create intellectual arousal and thus opportunities for the teacher to support this output with appropriate input.

## About the materials

The activities in this book are intended to facilitate and support rich and stimulating conversation and are *not* designed to produce standardised lessons. Each unit contains many possible branching off points which can be either pursued in more depth or accepted at face value.

## How to use the material

Give a copy of the activity page to each learner and have them read the quote and give their reaction to it. Then put them into pairs or small groups to try and unscramble the *mixed up vocabulary* items. After about 10 minutes, go through the answers together.

Next have learners look at the *idioms and collocations* section. Feel free to go off-track as questions arise from the presented language. Maybe they have similar idioms in their own language, maybe they find the construction unusual or funny. Make it clear that it's not mandatory that learners are able to reproduce each of these idioms, but that understanding and inferring meaning is the main goal of the activity. If learners have questions about grammar you can address them in depth or stress that the main focus of this section is understanding and move on.

The *grammar bit* is deliberately located at the bottom of the page so it can be easily omitted from photocopies if you think it's unsuitable for the class. This section is not designed to lead into full grammar instruction but is intended to expose the student to a grammatical structure that might be useful in the conversational part of the lesson. This section also serves to reassure learners that explicit grammar learning is being represented

It is of course possible to segue into a longer, more structured grammar explanation at this (or any other) point if it feels appropriate. One way to work with the *grammar bit* is to have learners copy the grammatical structure but change the context - either through putting an example sentence on the board and having the class suggest transformations, or asking learners to create their own grammatically similar sentences either individually or in pairs.

The last part of the class is the free conversation stage. Give groups of learners a deck of shuffled question cards placed face down on the table in front of them. You may choose to pre-teach any vocabulary you think might be unfamiliar at this point, or alternatively let the groups attempt to uncover meaning for themselves (or ask for your help).

Learners take it in turns to turn over the top card and ask their question to the other group members. The questions should be asked to each member in turn in order to give everyone a chance to speak but spontaneous group discussion should definitely not be discouraged. Be on hand to take notes and help out where needed. Finally, when the conversations are starting to fade out, or after a specified time limit, go over anything interesting you heard during the activity and ask groups what they found out about each other during their conversations.

# 1 Age

*“My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was sixty. She's ninety-seven now, and we don't know where the heck she is.”*

— Ellen DeGeneres

## Mixed up vocabulary

**coddihol** - (n) the time when you were young

**tenrgeae** - (n) someone aged between 13 and 19

**piennerso** - (n) someone who has finished their working life

**mldeid-adge** - (adj) to be neither young nor old

**mutaer** - (adj) behaves like an adult, not childish

**rtreteienm** - (n) the period after you finish your working life

**tlddore** - (n) a very young child

## Idioms and collocations

Ben wants to be an archaeologist when he *grows* \_\_\_\_\_.

He's *getting on a* \_\_\_\_\_ but he's still got a great voice.

you look *good for your* \_\_\_\_\_, what's the secret?

The 1930s were the \_\_\_\_\_ *age* of Jazz.

Disneyland was fantastic, we had the \_\_\_\_\_ *of our lives* there.

<i>up   bit   age   time   golden</i>
---------------------------------------

## Grammar bit

If I could retire tomorrow, I would. I would spend my time travelling around the world and learning about different cultures.

# 1 Age

<b>What's the best age to be?</b>	<b>In your country how old must you be to smoke, drink, drive and get married?</b>
<b>How old were you when you left home?</b>	<b>What advice would you give to someone half your age?</b>
<b>What do you think is the best age to have children?</b>	<b>What do you think is the best age for a political leader?</b>
<b>What's the retirement age in your country?</b>	<b>Have you ever lied about your age?</b>
<b>Would you like to live until you were 1000?</b>	<b>Do you think a large age difference is unimportant in a relationship?</b>

## 2 Annoyances

*“People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.”*

— Isaac Asimov

### Mixed up vocabulary

iierrtta - (v) to make someone annoyed

ptse - (n) someone or something annoying

incnnoeveti - (adj) unhelpful

fresatdrut - (adj) how you feel when you have trouble doing something

fiuorsu - (adj) very angry

bda doom - (n) the feeling you have when you are not happy

clam wond - (v) what you might tell someone who is feeling angry or annoyed

### Idioms and collocations

The new traffic lights are a *pain in the* \_\_\_\_\_.

My supervisor is *driving me* \_\_\_\_\_ today.

This weatherman *gets on my* \_\_\_\_\_, he’s always so jolly.

My boss *hit the* \_\_\_\_\_ when she found out about the missing money.

it really \_\_\_\_\_ *me* when you eat with your mouth open.

<i>crazy   bugs   neck   nerves   roof</i>
--

### Grammar bit

My neighbours can be very annoying. Last night I was very irritated because they were playing techno music so loud that I couldn’t hear the television. It was very irritating, I think the other neighbours were annoyed too but no-one said anything.

## 2 Annoyances

<b>What annoys you about the English language?</b>	<b>Which celebrities annoy you?</b>
<b>What annoys you about the town where you live?</b>	<b>Do any of your friends or coworkers have annoying habits?</b>
<b>Do you think you have any annoying habits?</b>	<b>When you're getting annoyed do you bottle it up or let it out?</b>
<b>What really makes you mad?</b>	<b>Do you ever get annoyed with yourself?</b>
<b>Do you ever get annoyed with inanimate objects?</b>	<b>What annoying things do young/old people do?</b>

# 3 Animals

*“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi

## Mixed up vocabulary

**vte** - (n) a doctor who looks after animals

**cllaor** - (n) dogs often wear one of these around their necks

**hteneibra** - (v) some animals have a long sleep in the winter

**prru** - (v) cats do this when they're happy

**mlmama** - (n) animals that feed milk to their young (e.g. humans, cows, cats)

**reetlip** - (n) animals that have cold blood and lay eggs (e.g. snakes, lizards, turtles)

**bkar** - (v/n) the noise a dog makes

## Idioms and collocations

She crept out *as quiet as a* \_\_\_\_\_ but the baby woke up and started crying.

John is the *black* \_\_\_\_\_ of the family, he's always in some kind of trouble.

This is a tough business. It's a *dog eat* \_\_\_\_\_ world.

I'm so hungry, I could *eat a* \_\_\_\_\_.

Who *let the* \_\_\_\_\_ *out of the bag* and told Ann about her surprise birthday party?

<i>sheep</i> <i>horse</i> <i>mouse</i> <i>dog</i> <i>cat</i>
--

## Grammar bit

Ostriches can run almost as fast as lions and their kick is as powerful as a kangaroo's.

However their brains are only as big as a walnut.

# 3 Animals

<b>Do you like going to zoos?</b>	<b>Do you have any pets?</b>
<b>Have you ever been bitten or stung by an animal?</b>	<b>Are you afraid of any animals?</b>
<b>Have you ever thought about becoming vegetarian?</b>	<b>What animals live in the wild in your country?</b>
<b>Would you like to go hunting?</b>	<b>Are you a cat person or a dog person?</b>
<b>What animals have you seen in the wild?</b>	<b>Do you think it's ok to wear fur?</b>

# 4 Art

*“Football is an art, like dancing is an art - but only when it's well done does it become an art..”*

— Arsene Wenger

## Mixed up vocabulary

**pinta** - (n) colourful liquid which is used to make pictures with

**daniwgr** - (n) a picture made with a pencil

**gayller** - (n) a place you go to see art

**poitrrart** - (n) a painting or drawing of a person (usually only their head and shoulders)

**mapierstece** - (n) a great piece of art, the artist's best work

**csvana** - (n) the material a painting is painted on

**teicnhque** - (n) a special method which an artist may use

## Idioms and collocations

A \_\_\_\_\_ *is worth a thousand words.*

Maybe he's nice, don't *judge a* \_\_\_\_\_ *by its cover.*

I'll give him one more chance but we have to *draw a* \_\_\_\_\_ *somewhere.*

It's my birthday so we're going out to *paint the* \_\_\_\_\_ *red.*

The boss didn't like it so I'm afraid it's *back to the drawing* \_\_\_\_\_.

<i>board</i> <i>picture</i> <i>town</i> <i>book</i> <i>line</i>
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## Grammar bit

The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo da Vinci in the 16th century. It was stolen from the Louvre in 1911 and it was another two years before the painting was recovered by police.

## 4 Art

<p><b>What pictures do you have on your walls?</b></p>	<p><b>Have you seen any famous works of art?</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have any artistic talents?</b></p>	<p><b>Who's your favourite artist?</b></p>
<p><b>What kind of art do you like?</b></p>	<p><b>How often do you visit museums or art galleries?</b></p>
<p><b>Who are the most famous artists from your country?</b></p>	<p><b>What do you think of modern art?</b></p>
<p><b>Describe an interesting photograph you've seen?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you own any original pieces of art?</b></p>

# 5 Birthdays

*"You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old."*

— George Burns

## Mixed up vocabulary

**perstens** - (n) what you hope to receive lots of on your birthday

**ckea** - (n) people often eat a piece of this on their birthday

**cdnlaes** - (n) there's one for every year and you have to blow them out then make a wish

**gfti vuceohr** - (n) it's like money but you can only spend it in one particular shop

**prtay** - (n) your birthday is a good excuse to have one of these

**susrripe** - (n/adj) something unexpected and nice

**bloanol** - (n) there are often some of these around at a child's birthday party

## Idioms and collocations

In the UK you *come of* \_\_\_\_\_ on your 18th birthday.

Martin was the \_\_\_\_\_ *of the party*, he didn't stop dancing all night.

I hope you *have a* \_\_\_\_\_ at your party tonight.

Come on Mick! It's a party, *let your* \_\_\_\_\_ *down* and have a drink and a dance.

The test was really easy, it was a *piece of* \_\_\_\_\_.

<i>hair</i> <i>cake</i> <i>age</i> <i>ball</i> <i>life</i>
--

## Grammar bit

The party was so great, we had such a fun time. Tom was so drunk that he fell asleep on the sofa. I got such a lot of presents and later the police came because the music was so loud.

# 5 Birthdays

<p><b>Have you ever been invited to a surprise birthday party?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you share your birthday with anyone famous?</b></p>
<p><b>How many people's birthdays do you know off by heart?</b></p>	<p><b>What's your star sign? Does your personality match your star sign?</b></p>
<p><b>What did you do for your last birthday?</b></p>	<p><b>How would you spend your perfect birthday?</b></p>
<p><b>Have you ever celebrated your birthday in another country?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you know what time of day you were born?</b></p>
<p><b>How do people celebrate birthdays in your country?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you know anyone who has their birthday on or near a big celebration day?</b></p>

# 6 Books

“We shouldn't teach great books; we should teach a love of reading.”

— B.F. Skinner

## Mixed up vocabulary

**ctntnseo** - (n) usually found at the front of a book, it tells you what is in the book

**ctrphea** - (n) books are often divided up into these

**potl** - (n) what happens in a book, the story

**pakcberpa** - (n/adj) a book with a soft cover, not a hardback

**ixden** - (n) usually at the back of the book, this lists in detail what's in the book

**smki** - (v) to read something quickly in order to find information

**nno-fniotic** - (adj) a book about a real life subject, not a work of fantasy

## Idioms and collocations

I helped her move house at the weekend so I'm *in her good* \_\_\_\_\_.

The team completely *lost the* \_\_\_\_\_ after they let in the second goal.

Moving to New York was the start of *a new* \_\_\_\_\_ in my life.

I couldn't believe it either, but sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ *is stranger than fiction*.

*Reading between the* \_\_\_\_\_, I don't think he's enthusiastic about the idea.

*chapter books plot lines truth*

## Grammar bit

I think this book is very underrated. I was overwhelmed by this story about underprivileged children growing up during the industrial revolution.

# 6 Books

<p><b>What was the last book you read?</b></p>	<p><b>If you don't like a book, do you still try to finish it?</b></p>
<p><b>Who is your favourite author?</b></p>	<p><b>What kind of books do you like to read?</b></p>
<p><b>Have you ever read a book that had a big effect on your life?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you have an eReader?</b></p>
<p><b>Do you sometimes reread your favourite books?</b></p>	<p><b>Can you judge a book by its cover?</b></p>
<p><b>Have you read a book that you thought was overrated?</b></p>	<p><b>How do you decide what books to read?</b></p>

# 7 Business

*“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”*

— Colin Powell

## Mixed up vocabulary

**mernakigt** - (n) making people aware of a company and its products or services

**mareagn** - (n) a person who is in charge of a team, project or department

**airvtdece** - (v) you need to do this if you want people to know about a product

**pfotri** - (n) the money you make after deducting your costs

**Isso** - (n) if you don't make enough money, you probably made a...

**baker - enev** - (v) if you don't make money or lose money

**minegte** - (n) a get-together with colleagues to discuss business matters

## Idioms and collocations

I'm on holiday next week, but please *keep me in the* \_\_\_\_\_ while I'm away.

Joshua was late for the meeting again so he can *take the* \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm going to have to work all weekend in order to *meet the* \_\_\_\_\_.

If we release it this quarter, I'm certain we can *corner the* \_\_\_\_\_ in smart-wallets.

That was Tom on the phone, we've *got the green* \_\_\_\_\_ to start the Omega project.

<i>deadline</i> <i>light</i> <i>market</i> <i>loop</i> <i>minutes</i>
---

## Grammar bit

If we lower the price by \$3, I think we can increase sales two fold.

- Yes, if we sell it for \$9.99, we'll definitely increase sales but we won't make as much profit.

# 7 Business

<p><b>What's the biggest company in your country?</b></p>	<p><b>Have you ever worked for a big company?</b></p>
<p><b>Are there any companies you would like to work for?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you have a business card?</b></p>
<p><b>Are there any state owned businesses in your country?</b></p>	<p><b>Would you like to start your own company?</b></p>
<p><b>What kinds of businesses might have trouble surviving in the future?</b></p>	<p><b>Are there any companies you don't like but which you have to use?</b></p>
<p><b>Are there any companies you wouldn't work for?</b></p>	<p><b>Do many people own stocks and shares in your country?</b></p>

# 8 Cars

*“Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?”*

— George Carlin

## Mixed up vocabulary

**tffairc jma** - (n) a lot of cars on the road, all going nowhere

**berka** - (n/v) use this to slow the car down

**reserve** - (n/v) use this gear to go backwards

**wincsedren** - (n) it's made of glass and the driver looks through it

**srepa trye** - (n) you should keep one of these in the boot in case you get a flat

**raod snig** - (n) these tell you where you're going and how fast you can drive

**egeinn** - (n) the bigger this is, the faster the car

## Idioms and collocations

This new log-in procedure is *driving me round the* \_\_\_\_\_.

Ok, it's time to *change* \_\_\_\_\_ and practise some of this new grammar.

After eight hours of talks, negotiations seemed to have come to a *dead* \_\_\_\_\_.

Sandra, you're *in the driving* \_\_\_\_\_ on this project.

*Fasten your* \_\_\_\_\_, things are about to get interesting.

<i>seatbelt</i> <i>end</i> <i>bend</i> <i>seat</i> <i>gear</i>
--

## Grammar bit

The bigger the engine, the faster the car; the later you are, the more red traffic lights you hit; the faster you drive, the more petrol you will use.

# 8 Cars

<p><b>Do you prefer to drive or to be a passenger?</b></p>	<p><b>Which classic car would you like to own?</b></p>
<p><b>Do you prefer sports cars or luxury cars?</b></p>	<p><b>What's the best car you've ever driven or had a ride in?</b></p>
<p><b>What do other car drivers do that makes you angry?</b></p>	<p><b>What's the most important factor when choosing a car?</b></p>
<p><b>How do you think cars will change in the next 20 years?</b></p>	<p><b>What was your first car?</b></p>
<p><b>Do you think there are too many cars on the road? What's the solution?</b></p>	<p><b>Did you pass your driving test first time?</b></p>

# 9 Clothes

“Expensive clothes are a waste of money.”

— Meryl Streep

## Mixed up vocabulary

suti - (n) smart business clothes, usually worn by men

udnrreawe - (n) clothes which aren't usually visible

wedbrar - (n) a type of cupboard where you hang your clothes

thtgi - (adj) the opposite of loose, maybe you should get a bigger size

bygag - (adj) another word for loose clothing

palin - (adj) not striped, not patterned, not bright, just a single colour

hlese - on the bottom of your shoe, they can make you seem taller

## Idioms and collocations

Oh, not another meeting! The new Head of Sales *bores the* \_\_\_\_\_ *off me*.

Wow, look at you! You're *dressed to* \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.

Basically, he *got the* \_\_\_\_\_ from his last job because he was too lazy.

That was *below the* \_\_\_\_\_, don't talk about my family like that.

Come on, there's still 250 to do, let's *roll up our* \_\_\_\_\_ and get on with it.

<i>kill</i> <i>belt</i> <i>sleeves</i> <i>boot</i> <i>pants</i>
---

## Grammar bit

Well this jacket looks nicer than the last one, but the last one was cheaper and a better fit.

- I think I prefer the first one, it's the trendiest and the most comfortable.

# 9 Clothes

<p><b>Where do you like to shop for clothes?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you have a favourite item of clothing?</b></p>
<p><b>Where did you get the clothes you're wearing now?</b></p>	<p><b>Have you ever bought something quite expensive but only worn it once or twice?</b></p>
<p><b>What kind of clothes suit you?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you like to wear bright and colourful clothes?</b></p>
<p><b>Can you judge someone by the clothes that they wear?</b></p>	<p><b>Is there a dress code at your workplace?</b></p>
<p><b>Do you ever buy clothes online?</b></p>	<p><b>What is something that you would never wear?</b></p>

# 10 Controversial opinions

*"If an individual wants to be a leader and isn't controversial, that means he never stood for anything."*

— Richard Nixon

## Mixed up vocabulary

**anmetrgu** - (n) an emotional discussion

**bn**a - (v/n) to forbid something or make it illegal

**comipsrmoe** - (n/v) to come to an agreement where neither side wins or loses

**iuess** - (n) the subject which is being discussed

**abilosh** - (v) to officially get rid of something such as a tax or a law

**pinot of viwe** - (n) a person's perspective or opinion

**dabtee** - (v/n) a discussion where different opinions are expressed

## Idioms and collocations

you're *on my* \_\_\_\_\_, aren't you? You think the logo should be blue too?

I spoke to Ian, we've *agreed to* \_\_\_\_\_ on the overtime issue.

I had a *heated* \_\_\_\_\_ with my manager, I told him what he could do with his job.

She told me I would get her office *over her dead* \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm *sitting on the* \_\_\_\_\_ on this one, I can see both points of view.

<i>body</i> <i>side</i> <i>fence</i> <i>differ</i> <i>debate</i>
--

## Grammar bit

I think soft drugs should be legalised and as a result many prisoners could be released from jail.

- No, I don't agree. Anti-drug laws must be tightened or there will be chaos in the streets.

# 10 Controversial opinions

<b>Cigarettes should be banned</b>	<b>Cannabis should be legalised</b>
<b>The internet should be regulated to protect children</b>	<b>Nobody should be allowed to earn more than \$1,000,000 a year</b>
<b>English grammar is not important as long as people understand you</b>	<b>National Service should be introduced / abolished</b>
<b>Keeping animals in zoos is cruel</b>	<b>Children should learn about sex at school</b>
<b>Pirating movies and music isn't a big deal</b>	<b>Old or sick people should have the right to take their own lives</b>

# 11 Current affairs

*“People everywhere confuse what they read in newspapers with news.”*

— A. J. Liebling

## Mixed up vocabulary

**maedi** - (n) television, radio, and the press are all examples of this

**diatsesr** - (n) a terrible event

**entcoiel** - (n) when people vote for something e.g. a new political leader

**desotmtnioran** - (n) people marching in the street to show their feelings about an issue

**awdar sowh** - (n) an event where prizes are given, for example the Oscars

**tialrvi** - (adj) the opposite of important

**curto ceas** - (n) a process which decides if a person is innocent or guilty

## Idioms and collocations

Smith *hit the* \_\_\_\_\_ last month when he won the under 18s golf championship.

Miguel *added fuel to the* \_\_\_\_\_ by accusing his former boss of taking bribes.

The recession has hit us hard, we're all *in the same* \_\_\_\_\_ in facing these cutbacks.

Only *once in a blue* \_\_\_\_\_ do these two teams meet in a cup game.

Is Bitcoin *a flash in the* \_\_\_\_\_ or the future of money?

*boat headlines moon pan boat*

## Grammar bit

Clark said that he expected to see the economy improve and hoped to have some good news to announce soon. He promised that he would do all that he could to improve the job situation.

# 11 Current affairs

<p><b>Do you think it's important to stay up to date with current affairs?</b></p>	<p><b>In your opinion, which are the best and worst newspapers?</b></p>
<p><b>How do you get your news?</b></p>	<p><b>What's the biggest story in the news at the moment?</b></p>
<p><b>Do you think there will still be newspapers in five years?</b></p>	<p><b>What annoys you about news reporting in your country?</b></p>
<p><b>Have you ever been in a newspaper?</b></p>	<p><b>What would you like to see more of in the news?</b></p>
<p><b>What would you like to see less of in the news?</b></p>	<p><b>What headline do you wish you could see one day?</b></p>

# 12 Eating out

*“When you go to a restaurant, the less you know about what happens in the kitchen, the more you enjoy your meal.”*

— Jeffrey Wright

## Mixed up vocabulary

**chkec** - (n) in the US you ask for this at the end of a meal, in Britain they say *bill*

**mnia ceruos** - (n) this part of the meal follows the starter

**revoretain** - (n) you need to make one of these before visiting a popular restaurant

**wlel dneo** - (adj) one way of ordering your steak

**vatargeeni** - (n/adj) someone who doesn't eat meat

**cruelty** - (n) collective name for knives, forks, spoons, etc.

**nipnak** - (n) something you wipe your mouth with during or after a meal

## Idioms and collocations

Put your money away. It's your birthday so dinner is *my* \_\_\_\_\_ .

I can't eat all this steak, please can you put it in a \_\_\_\_\_ *bag* for me?

I shouldn't have ordered the large portion, my eyes were *bigger than my* \_\_\_\_\_ .

I can't eat a single thing more, I'm *completely* \_\_\_\_\_ .

I have a *sweet* \_\_\_\_\_ , I can't resist dessert.

<i>treat</i> <i>belly</i> <i>tooth</i> <i>doggie</i> <i>stuffed</i>
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## Grammar bit

If I'd known the portions were so small, I would've had a bigger lunch.

- Yes, and if you'd read the restaurant review you would've known that the portions here aren't very big.

# 12 Eating out

<b>How often do you eat out?</b>	<b>How often do you get takeaway food?</b>
<b>What's your favourite restaurant?</b>	<b>How much do you usually tip?</b>
<b>Have you ever worked in a restaurant?</b>	<b>Do you prefer home cooked food or restaurant food?</b>
<b>What's your favourite dish?</b>	<b>Do you usually have a starter and a dessert when you eat out?</b>
<b>Have you ever eaten in a very expensive restaurant?</b>	<b>When you eat in a restaurant do you try something new or something you know you like?</b>

# 13 The environment

*“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”*

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Mixed up vocabulary

**rain forest** - (n) a dense area of trees, usually in places with a tropical climate

**boycott** - (v/n) to avoid buying a particular product or from a particular company

**cosy** - (n) not towns and cities

**wildlife** - (n) animals and vegetation in their natural environment

**planet** - (n) The Earth is one of these and so are Mars, Saturn and Jupiter

**pollute** - (v) to make the environment unclean and poisonous

**oil slick** - (n) a layer of oil floating on the surface of water

## Idioms and collocations

I've been working on this for too long, I *can't see the* \_\_\_\_\_ *for the trees* anymore.

It wasn't me! It's *not in my* \_\_\_\_\_ to take people's things without asking.

Studies say 5% of under 14s are smokers, some fear that this is the *tip of the* \_\_\_\_\_.

The pool cost him \$100,000 to build but for him that's a \_\_\_\_\_ *in the ocean*.

That's typical of the newspapers, always trying to *make a mountain out of a* \_\_\_\_\_.

<i>trees</i> <i>drop</i> <i>iceberg</i> <i>molehill</i> <i>nature</i>
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## Grammar bit

In my opinion most people aren't doing enough to reduce the amount of energy they use.

They also use too much water and buy too many things that they don't really need.

# 13 The environment

<p><b>What do you recycle?</b></p>	<p><b>How worried are you about global warming?</b></p>
<p><b>How do you try to save energy?</b></p>	<p><b>Have environmental concerns changed the way you travel?</b></p>
<p><b>Are you worried that we might run out of oil sometime soon?</b></p>	<p><b>How do environmental concerns influence what you buy?</b></p>
<p><b>What technologies could help to solve some environmental problems?</b></p>	<p><b>What do you think future generations will think about how we treat the environment today?</b></p>
<p><b>What do you think about nuclear power?</b></p>	<p><b>Have you noticed changes in the climate in your lifetime?</b></p>

# 14 Fame

"In the future everybody will be world famous for fifteen minutes."

— Andy Warhol

## Mixed up vocabulary

clbteriye - (n) someone who is famous

rde crepat - (n) this is rolled out for VIPs to walk on

gospis - (n/v) to talk about the personal life of other people

tabdoli - (n/adj) a newspaper which has a lot of trivial stories about famous people

stra - (n/v) a word which is used to describe some very famous singers and actors

guoraolusm - (adj) to be attractive, often in an expensive way

pimerree - (n/v) the first showing of a new movie

## Idioms and collocations

I like Jack, he seems so *down to* \_\_\_\_\_ for a big movie star.

My *claim to* \_\_\_\_\_ is that I once met Madonna at a party.

I hate speaking in public, I get terrible \_\_\_\_\_ *fright*.

Manchester United's star player was back *in the* \_\_\_\_\_ after scoring three goals.

Amy Texas made *front* \_\_\_\_\_ *news* last year when she won a Grammy for best song.

<i>fame</i> <i>stage</i> <i>spotlight</i> <i>earth</i> <i>page</i>
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## Grammar bit

I've never met anyone really famous. The most famous person I've spoken to is my cousin Joe, he plays guitar in a rock band. They were on TV once. I've never been on TV, have you?

# 14 Fame

<p><b>Who is the most famous person you've met or seen?</b></p>	<p><b>Who is the most famous person in the world?</b></p>
<p><b>Who is the most famous person from your country?</b></p>	<p><b>What would you like to be famous for?</b></p>
<p><b>What are the downsides of being famous?</b></p>	<p><b>What are the benefits of being famous?</b></p>
<p><b>If you could have dinner or a drink with any living person, who would you choose?</b></p>	<p><b>Which famous people living today might still be remembered in 100 years?</b></p>
<p><b>If you were rich and famous, how would you spend your time?</b></p>	<p><b>Which famous person would you be happy never to see again?</b></p>

# 15 Food

*"It's easy for Americans to forget that the food they eat doesn't magically appear on a supermarket shelf."*

— Christopher Dodd

## Mixed up vocabulary

**nosuitrtiu** - (adj) a way to describe healthy food

**duoslicei** - (adj) very tasty

**froavlu** - (n/v) vanilla, chocolate and strawberry are all different \_\_\_\_\_s of ice cream

**bnadl** - (adj) food which tastes boring is this

**rpecie** - (n) a formula for making a particular meal

**truxtee** - (n) - how food feels in your mouth when you eat it

**pnitroo** - (n) the amount of food you get

## Idioms and collocations

Growing up is hard, life isn't always *a bowl of* \_\_\_\_\_ .

He walked in, *as cool as a* \_\_\_\_\_ , and told the boss he wanted a pay rise.

We're going to try using a \_\_\_\_\_ *and stick* approach with the development team.

I'm not a fan of free jazz, it's *not my cup of* \_\_\_\_\_ at all.

To put it *in a* \_\_\_\_\_ , you're fired!

<i>cherries   nutshell   cucumber   carrot   tea</i>
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## Grammar bit

I prefer Indian food to English food. I'd rather have a good spicy curry than boring old meat and potatoes.

# 15 Food

<p><b>Are you a fussy eater?</b></p>	<p><b>Do you care where the food you eat comes from?</b></p>
<p><b>What national dishes from your country would you recommend?</b></p>	<p><b>What do you think of genetically-modified (GM) food?</b></p>
<p><b>How has your taste in food changed over time?</b></p>	<p><b>What are your guilty pleasures?</b></p>
<p><b>What was the last meal you cooked?</b></p>	<p><b>What's your perfect breakfast?</b></p>
<p><b>Is anyone in your family vegetarian?</b></p>	<p><b>How healthy is your diet?</b></p>