

## Language Expressions

elect the answer which is closest in meaning to the expression ***underlined*** in the conversation.

- Allen** Could you understand what the lesson was all about ?
- Darek** No. I couldn't make any sense of it.
- Allen** Neither could I. What shall we do ? There's a test tomorrow.
- Darek** We could either see Mr. Leon and ask him to explain to us again or burn the midnight oil reading through those notes ourselves.
- Allen** I think we'd better see him. We will understand better with his explanation.
- Darek** Then what are we waiting for ? Let's make hay while the sun shines.

1. couldn't make any sense of
  - A couldn't smell it at all
  - B couldn't see clearly as I was sitting at the back
  - C couldn't understand
  - D couldn't remember all the facts
  
2. burn the midnight oil
  - A to work until late at night
  - B to use candles or oil lamps in order to save electricity
  - C to study until midnight
  - D to begin studying at midnight
  
3. Let's make hay while the sun shines
  - A Let's work hard when the sun is still shining
  - B Let's ask Mr. Leon for the answers
  - C Let's offer Mr. Leon some help
  - D Let's get help while we still have the opportunity

**Answers :** 1C 2A 3D

**Sheila** Oh, no ! It's raining cats and dogs. I don't think Shirley will turn up for this meeting.

**Mina** But she's given us her word. And you know we can always count on Shirley to be present.

**Sheila** I hope you are right. We need to put our heads together to plan for the trip.

**Mina** Look, here comes Shirley. What did I tell you ?

1. It's raining cats and dogs.
  - A It is flooded.
  - B It is raining very heavily.
  - C It is hardly raining.
  - D It is raining on and off.
  
2. she's given us her word
  - A she has written us a message
  - B she has told us something
  - C she has promised us
  - D she has called us
  
3. We need to put our heads together
  - A We need to discuss.
  - B We need everyone we can get.
  - C We need to come together.
  - D We need to recruit more people.

**Answers :** 1B 2C 3A

**Lily** Oh, Mariah. I'm so glad to see you. Come in, please, and make yourself at home.

**Mariah** Thanks. you have a lovely place here.

**Lily** I'm glad you like it. Peter and I spent some months doing up this place.

**Mariah** It's beautiful. The renovations must have cost you an arm and a leg.

**Lily** They did but because we did most of the work ourselves, we managed to save quite a bit. Anyway, I think it's worth it.

1. make yourself at home
  - A make yourself comfortable
  - B stay in this home
  - C stay with me for a few days
  - D pour yourself a drink
  
2. doing up
  - A making
  - B decorating
  - C painting
  - D tidying
  
3. cost you an arm and a leg
  - A been very expensive
  - B used up a lot of your energy
  - C hurt you
  - D taken up a lot of your time

**Answers :** 1A 2B 3A

**Mum** Will you keep an eye on your younger sister, Cathy ?

**Cathy** Where are you going to, Mum ?

**Mum** I'm just going over to the mini market. We've run out of flour, and I've promised to bake your aunt a cake today.

**Cathy** Is it for Timmy's birthday.

**Mum** Oh, no. That isn't till next week. Now, do be a good girl for a while and take care of your sister. I'll be back in a jiffy.

1. keep an eye
  - A watch over
  - B look at
  - C look for
  - D look forward



2. We've run out of flour
- A We have a lot of flour
  - B We have no more flour left
  - C We have plenty of flour
  - D We have just enough flour
3. I'll be back in a jiffy
- A I'll be back after an hour
  - B I'll be back in a few minutes
  - C I'll be back after work
  - D I'll come back when I finish shopping

**Answers :** 1A 2B 3B

**Salesgirl** May I help you, madam ?

**Mrs. Smith** Yes, thanks. I'm looking for a pair of shoes for my niece. Are these available in size 6 ?

**Salesgirl** I'm sorry, madam. They are all sold out. This happens to be the most popular design in our store. However, we have other equally beautiful designs in size 6. What about this pair ?

**Mrs. Smith** Thanks, but I don't fancy the color.

1. Are these available in size 6 ?
- A Are these shoes size 6 ?
  - B Are these shoes only in size 6 ?
  - C Are there only size 6 shoes.
  - D Do these come in size 6 ?
2. They are all sold out
- A We don't sell them any more
  - B We are selling them another day
  - C We have no more stock
  - D They are all outside
3. I don't fancy the color
- A I don't like the color

- B I don't like the design
- C I prefer something more fanciful
- D I already have a pair that color

**Answers :** 1D 2C 3A

**Carmen** It's really crowded in here. The place is packed like sardines and I can hardly breathe.

**Gerry** That goes to show how popular this exhibition is. Say, let's go over to the games booth. I hear they have some games to test your reflexes. Perhaps you would like to try your hand at them.

**Carmen** Yes, why not ?

1. packed like sardines
  - A very smelly
  - B very crowded
  - C very hot
  - D very smoky
  
2. That goes to show
  - A That means
  - B That goes
  - C That indicates
  - D That concludes
  
3. try your hand at them
  - A hold them
  - B see them
  - C touch them
  - D play them

**Answers :** 1B 2C 3D

**Raven** Mindy, what are you doing with all these hampers ? Are you trying to outdo Superman ?

**Mindy** Quit horsing around, Raven, and give me a hand with these hampers.

**Raven** Where do you want me to put them ?

**Mindy** In Mrs. Helen's car. She's bringing these hampers to the hotel tonight.

1. Are you trying to outdo Superman ?
  - A Are you training under Superman ?
  - B Are you trying to be Superman ?
  - C Are you trying to be better than Superman ?
  - D Are you sure you can out do Superman ?
  
2. Quit horsing around
  - A Stop working
  - B Stop playing around
  - C Stop being a horse
  - D Stop talking
  
3. give me a hand with these hampers
  - A sell me these hampers
  - B hand me the hampers
  - C take these hampers
  - D help me with these hampers

**Answers :** 1C 2B 3D

**Karen** Hey, girls ! Where are you two headed to ?

**Nancy** There's a sale at The Mall.

**Jean** Yes, and I heard that the things are dirt cheap.

**Karen** Really ? Then I'd better join you. I don't want to miss the boat.

1. Where are you two headed to ?
  - A Where are you two going ?
  - B Why are you two holding your heads ?
  - C What are you two thinking ?
  - D Can both of you share an idea ?
  
2. dirt cheap
  - A dirty but cheap

- B very cheap
- C dirty and cheap
- D dirty, cheap and good

3. miss the boat
- A go on the wrong boat
  - B miss the idea
  - C lose the boat
  - D miss the opportunity

**Answers : 1A 2B 3D**

**Karina**

Hey, isn't this Carey ? I though she did not want to go to Resort Island. She was saying that it cost an arm and a leg to go there.

**Lina**

True, at first she was complaining about the cost at the trip but in the end she changed her mind.

**Karina**

Did she enjoy herself ?

**Lina**

You bet she did. She had a whale of a time there. In fact, she enjoyed herself so much she

**Karina**

wants to  
make  
another trip  
to Resort  
Island soon.  
Really ?  
When is she  
going ? I'd  
like to go  
too.

1. it cost an arm and a leg
  - A she had no transport
  - B she was too busy
  - C it was very expensive
  - D it was inconvenient
  
2. changed her mind
  - A decided to go
  - B made a mistake
  - C thought it was wrong
  - D thought the cost was cheaper
  
3. She had a whale of a time there.
  - A She caught a whale there.
  - B She had an enjoyable time there.
  - C She spent a lot of time there.
  - D She managed to learn a lot there.

**Answers :** 1C 2A 3B

**Fanny** Stop walking up and down, Joey.

**Joey** I can't. I have butterflies in my stomach.

**Fanny** Come on. It won't be that difficult. After all, you are the cream of the crop where English is concerned.

**Joey** I don't know. Somehow I'm always edgy before an exam.

**Fanny** Who isn't. You just need to remain cool it won't help if you get so worked up.



1. I have butterflies in my stomach
  - A I have a stomachache.
  - B I have swallowed butterflies by mistake.
  - C I am nervous.
  - D I can't wait for my turn.
  
2. the cream of the crop
  - A an intelligent student
  - B the teacher's favorite student
  - C a very good student
  - D very interested
  
3. I'm always edgy
  - A I cannot relax
  - B I like to sit on the edge of a chair
  - C I am too eager to enter the exam room
  - D I must learn to like exams

**Answers :** 1C 2C 3A

- Joey** I hope you can help me, sir. How do I brush up my English ?
- Mr. Leong** For a start, you could borrow some interesting books from the library and develop a reading habit.
- Joey** But I usually can't make head or tail of what I read.
- Mr. Leong** You can always use a dictionary to help you with difficult words.
- Joey** But it's such a waste of time and very often I give up reading a book.
- Mr. Leong** You can't master a language without effort.

1. brush up
  - A change
  - B speak
  - C improve
  - D increase

2. make head or tail

- A remember
- B understand
- C like
- D use

3. give up

- A stop
- B learn
- C fall ill
- D become angry

**Answers :** 1C 2B 3A

**Mr. Chen** What excuse do you have this time ?

**Wilkins** Besides my schoolwork I've been helping my father in his sundry shop. I've really been burning the candle at both ends. That's why I can't wake up in the morning.

**Mr. Chen** I sympathize with your situation but you can't go on this way.

**Wilkins** I'll cut down on the time I spend helping my father. I promise I'll never be late again.

1. burning the candle at both ends

- A having problems
- B making everyone happy
- C working day and night
- D sleeping very little

2. go on

- A repeat
- B continue
- C practice
- D try

3. cut down

- A spend usefully
- B forget
- C stop
- D reduce

**Answers :** 1C 2B 3D

**Doreen** Shall we finish this wall ?

**Aunt** I don't know about you but I'm worn out. My back is killing me.

**Doreen** Why don't you take a rest ?

**Aunt** Let's call it a day. I think we've done enough.

**Doreen** All right. I'll wash the brushes.

**Aunt** Then we'll go and grab a bite.

**Doreen** That sounds great.

1. worn out

- A tired
- B sick
- C impatient
- D not interested

2. call it a day

- A get someone to help us
- B stop work for the day
- C finish the job later
- D continue one more day

3. grab a bite

- A cook a meal
- B do something marketing
- C get something to eat
- D sell some food

**Answers :** 1A 2B 3C

**Mrs. Lai**

You told us  
you would  
be home by  
eight but you  
only came  
back at ten.  
If you  
can't abide  
by the rules  
you can't  
stay out late  
any more.

**Fowler**

I didn't mean  
to break my  
word but I  
just forgot  
about the  
time.

**Mrs. Lai**

You could  
have at least  
called.

**Fowler**

It didn't cross  
my mind. I'm  
really sorry.

1. abide by
  - A start
  - B obey
  - C end
  - D control
  
2. break my word
  - A be clumsy
  - B repeat
  - C talk too much
  - D not do as I had promised
  
3. It didn't cross my mind
  - A I couldn't remember the number.
  - B I was too sleepy.

- C I never thought about it.
- D I was having a headache.

**Answers :** 1B 2D 3C

**Gorman** My brother really gets on my nerves. He is always finding fault with me.

**Ginny** Have you told him how you feel ?

**Gorman** It's no use. Every time I bring up the subject he says I'm too sensitive.

**Ginny** You could speak to your parents.

**Gorman** They see eye to eye with him. I wonder if I'm really too sensitive.

1. gets on my nerves
  - A irritates me
  - B makes me nervous
  - C wastes my time
  - D hates me
  
2. bring up
  - A teach
  - B mention
  - C remind
  - D offer
  
3. see eye to eye
  - A support
  - B prefer
  - C agree
  - D approve

**Answers :** 1A 2B

**Bebo** Dad says there is a world map in here somewhere. If you come across the map, give it to me.

**Ken** All right. I wonder whose old letters these are ?

**Bebo** Don't throw them away. They're grandma's. Grandpa used to drop her a line every week when they were courting.

**Ken**            You're pulling my leg. I can't imagine grandpa being so romantic.  
**Bebo**            It's true. Ask grandma if you don't believe me.

1. come across
  - A know
  - B like
  - C find
  - D want
  
2. drop her a line
  - A visit her
  - B send her a note
  - C help her write
  - D read to her
  
3. You're pulling my leg
  - A hurting me
  - B threatening me
  - C keeping a secret from me
  - D joking with me

**Answers : 1C 2B 3D**

مع تحياتي

سامر خالد علي

ولانتسونا بالدعاء وخصوصا لوالدي المرحوم

وقرأت سورة الفاتحة