

Shaw Academy

LESSON 6 NOTES

[English for Beginners]



English for Travel

How did you get here?

- *I drove from Jordan.*
- *I came here by car.*
- *I got the train/bus from Vienna.*
- *I came by train/bus.*
- *I took the train/bus from Bangkok.*
- *I flew from Munich.*
- *I got a flight from Chicago.*
- *I got the boat/ferry from Stockholm*

How long did it take?

- *It took 3 and a half hours.*
- *I had a 2-hour layover in Berlin.*
- *The train was an hour late.*
- *It only took 50 minutes.*
- *It took almost 18 hours!*
- *I have been travelling for 2 days.*
- *We were in the air for close to 4 hours.*

Are you here on vacation?

- *Yes, just for the weekend.*
- *Yes, I'm visiting my family here.*
- *Unfortunately no, I'm here for work.*
- *I'm here on business.*
- *I'm only passing through.*
- *We're on our way to Istanbul.*
- *Yes. I absolutely love it here.*
- *Yes, I've been here for a week now.*

Who are you here with?

- *I'm here with my family.*
- *I'm travelling alone.*
- *I'm here with work.*
- *I'm here with some friends.*
- *I'm meeting my friend here tomorrow.*
- *I'm here with my wife/husband.*
- *I'm here with my partner.*

Present Perfect

Form

[has/have + past participle]

Examples:

- You **have seen** that movie many times.
- **Have you seen** that movie many times?
- You **have not seen** that movie many times.

Unspecified Time Before Now

We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. You CANNOT use the Present Perfect with specific time expressions such as: yesterday, one year ago, last week, when I was a child, when I lived in Japan, at that moment, that day, one day, etc. We CAN use the Present Perfect with unspecific expressions such as: ever, never, once, many times, several times, before, so far, already, yet, etc.

Examples:

- I **have seen** that movie twenty times.
- I think I **have met** him once before.
- There **have been** many earthquakes in California.
- People **have travelled** to the Moon.
- People **have not travelled** to Mars.
- **Have you read** the book yet?

Change Over Time

We often use the Present Perfect to talk about change that has happened over a period of time.

Examples:

- You **have grown** since the last time I saw you.
- The government **has become** more interested in arts education.
- Japanese **has become** one of the most popular courses at the university since the Asian studies program was established.
- My English **has** really **improved** since I moved to Australia.

Experience

Examples:

- I **have been** to France.
This sentence means that you have had the experience of being in France. Maybe you have been there once, or several times.
- I **have been** to France three times.
You can add the number of times at the end of the sentence.
- I **have never been** to France.
This sentence means that you have not had the experience of going to France.
- I think I **have seen** that movie before.
- He **has never travelled** by train.

Accomplishments

We often use the Present Perfect to list the accomplishments of individuals and humanity. You cannot mention a specific time.

Examples:

- Man **has walked** on the Moon.
- Our son **has learned** how to read.
- Doctors **have cured** many deadly diseases.
- Scientists **have split** the atom.

Phrases from Around The World

Ireland

(phrases)

what's the craic? = how are you? / what's happening?

Mark - "Hi." Will - "What's the craic, how was your day?"

sure look = anyway

"That's terrible. Sure look, I'll talk to you about it when I see you later."

donkey's years = a long time

"I haven't spoken French in donkey's years."

(nouns)

craic = fun

"Was the party much craic?"

the jacks = the toilet

"Hold on two minutes, I just need to use the jacks."

a press = a cupboard

"I think we are out of coffee. There's none in the press."

the guards = the police

"There's been a robbery! Someone call the guards."

an eejit = an idiot

"Stop acting like an eejit and pay attention."

lad = man / boy

"Did you meet the new lad in work?"

(adjectives)

grand = ok / fine

Will - "Can you finish the report by 5?" Mark - "Yeah, that's grand."

knackered = tired

"I ran 20km and I was absolutely knackered."

deadly = brilliant

"The new James Bond film is deadly. I loved it."

(adverbs)

quare = very

"That box is quare heavy."

United Kingdom

(phrases)

all right? = hello / how are you?

Will - "All right Mark." Mark - "All right mate, how are you?"

Bob's your uncle! = There you go! / you've got it!

"I just opened my offer email and Bob's your uncle, I upgraded my account from there."

cheerio = bye!

"I have to go, but I'll see you tomorrow. Cheerio!"

(nouns)

grub = food

"Do you have any grub in the house? I'm starving."

a kip = a short sleep / a nap

"I can't wait to get home and kip."

mate = friend

"I'm playing football with my mates after work."

porkies = lies

"I don't want my kids telling porkies."

(adjectives)

dodgy = not to be trusted

"That chicken looks a bit dodgy. Check the expiry date."

gobsmacked = amazed

"Arsenal came from 0-2 down to win 4-2. I was gobsmacked!"

smashing = brilliant

"The game was absolutely smashing."

minted = rich

"Will can pay for lunch, he's minted."

tickety-boo = fantastic

Will - "Did everything go ok in the hospital?" Mark - "Yeah it's all tickety-boo."

America

(phrases)

what's up? = how are you?

"Hey dude, what's up?"

'sup? = what's up?

Will - "Sup man." Mark - "Sup."

(verbs)

to bail = leave quickly

"This movie is terrible, let's bail."

to screw up = make a mistake

"I really screwed up when I gave the other team a penalty."

(nouns)

dude = friend

"What are you doing tonight dude?"

garbage / trash = rubbish / waste

garbage can / trash can = bin

Will - "Can you take out the trash?" Mark - "The garbage can outside is full."

(adjectives)

easy as pie = very easy

"Mark's weekly assignments are easy as pie."

sweet = great

"That movie last night was sweet."

awesome = brilliant

"How can we beat Ireland? They have an awesome soccer team."

beat = tired

"I need to go home dude, I'm beat."

(interjections)

shut the front door! = really?

Will - "Some people don't like your course." Mark - "Shut the front door!"

Australia

(phrases)

G'day mate! = **hello**

Will - "G'day mate!" Mark - "G'day!"

you little ripper! = **that's great news!**

Jenny - "I'm pregnant." Mark - "You little ripper!"

(verbs)

to yabber = **to talk**

"Mark likes to yabber on in his lessons."

(nouns)

a sheila = **a girl**

"You can't go in there, that toilet's for sheilas."

barbie = **BBQ or barbeque**

"Put another shrimp on the Barbie."

roo = **kangaroo**

"If you're on a long drive, be careful of roos on the road."

Aussie = **person from Australia**

"Most of my friends are Aussies, but I've some Irish friends too."

bush / outback = **any area that is not a town or city**

"He hit a roo when he was driving out in the bush."

togs = **swim suit**

"Make sure to bring your togs for the beach."

(adjectives)

fair dinkum = **true / real**

"I found \$100 in my garden yesterday, fair dinkum."

bonzer = **good**

"That was a bonzer party last night."

(interjections)

crikey! = **expresses surprise**

"Crikey! That dingo took my baby!"

Using Idioms

11 Essential Idioms for English Learners

Hit the books

Literally, **hit the books** means to physically hit, punch or slap your reading books. However, this is a common English idiom among students, especially American college students who have a lot of studying to do. It simply means “to study,” and is a way of telling your friends that you’re going to study. It could be for a final exam, a mid-term test or even an English exam.

*“Sorry but I can’t watch the game with you tonight, I have to **hit the books**. I have a huge exam next week!”*

Hit the sack

Just like the first idiom, the literal meaning of this would be physically hitting or beating a sack (a large bag usually used for carrying things in bulk such as flour, rice or even soil). But actually **to hit the sack** means to go to bed, and you’d use this to tell your friends or family that you’re really tired, so you’re going to sleep. Instead of saying *hit the sack* you can also say *hit the hay*.

*“It’s time for me to **hit the sack**, I’m so tired.”*

Twist someone’s arm

To twist someone’s arm literally means to take a person’s arm and turn it around, which could be really painful if you take it exactly word for word. If your *arm has been twisted* it means that someone has done a great job of convincing you to do something you might not have wanted to do.

And if you manage to *twist someone else’s arm* it means that you’re great at convincing them, and they’ve finally agreed to do something after you’ve been begging them.

Tom: *Jake you should really come to the party tonight!*

Jake: *You know I can’t, I have to hit the books (study).*

Tom: *C’mon, you have to come! It’s going to be so much fun and there are going to be lots of girls there. Please come?*

Jake: *Pretty girls? Oh all right, you’ve twisted my arm, I’ll come!*

Up in the air

When we literally think about something **up in the air**, we have the idea that something's floating or flying in the sky, perhaps an airplane or a balloon. But really if someone tells you that things **are up in the air** it means that these things are uncertain or unsure; definite plans have not been made yet.

"Jen have you set a date for the wedding yet?"

*"Not exactly, things are still **up in the air** and we're not sure if our families can make it on the day we wanted. Hopefully we'll know soon and we'll let you know as soon as possible."*

Stab someone in the back

If we take this idiom literally we could find ourselves in a whole lot of trouble with the police, as it would mean taking a knife or another sharp object and putting into a person's back.

However, as an idiom **to stab someone in the back** means to hurt someone who was close to us and trusted us by betraying them secretly and breaking their trust. We call the person who does this a **back stabber**.

*"Did you hear that Sarah **stabbed Kate in the back** last week?"*

"No! I thought they were best friends, what did she do?"

"She told their boss that Kate wasn't interested in a promotion at work and Sarah got it instead."

"Wow, that's the ultimate betrayal! No wonder they're not friends anymore."

On the ball

If you look at this English idiom literally, it means to be either standing or sitting on a ball—but who would do that?

If **you're on the ball** it means that you're very quick to understand certain things, very prepared for something or react quickly (and correctly) to a situation.

For example, if you're planning your wedding that is still one year away from now and you've almost finished with *all* the planning already, you're definitely **on the ball** because not many people are that prepared!

*"Wow, you've already finished your assignments? They are not due until next week, you're really **on the ball**. I wish I could be more organized."*

Ring a bell

If we look at the literal meaning of **ring a bell**, it's just that: You could be ringing the school bell to tell students it's time to go to class or ringing someone's doorbell.

But the idiom means that somebody has mentioned something that sounds familiar to you, perhaps you've heard it before. In other words, when someone says something that you believe you've heard in the past, alarm bells start ringing and you try to remember how or why that name or place sounds familiar.

"You've met my friend Amy Adams, right?"

*"Hmmm, I'm not sure, but that name **rings a bell**. Was she the one who went to Paris last year?"*

Under the weather

Can you be under the weather literally? Probably yes, if you think about standing under the clouds, rain and sun, but it makes no sense. If you're feeling **under the weather**, you're not your usual self and could be feeling a little sick. The sick feeling is nothing serious; perhaps it's just extreme tiredness from studying too much, or having a bad headache because you're starting to get the flu.

"What's wrong with Katy, mom?"

*"She's feeling a little **under the weather** so be quiet and let her rest."*

Look like a million dollars

Wouldn't it be great if we really could **look like a million dollars**? We'd be rich, but that's not the case. If someone tells you that you **look like a million bucks**, you should take it as a huge compliment because it means you look absolutely fabulous and really attractive.

While sometimes we use this English idiom for guys, it's more commonly used to compliment females. And while some of your female friends may look beautiful every day, you should save this English idiom for when they've really made an effort and it's a special occasion, like prom or a wedding.

*"Wow, Mary, you **look like a million dollars/bucks** this evening. I love your dress!"*

Cut to the chase

When somebody tells you to **cut to the chase** it means that you've been talking too long and haven't gotten to the point. When a person uses this idiom, they are telling you to hurry up and get the important part, without all the details. Be careful how you use this idiom, because if used while talking to someone like a college professor or your boss, it's rude and disrespectful.

If you're speaking to a group of people, like your employees, and say **I'm going to cut to the chase**, it means that there are a few things that need to be said but there's very little time, so you'll skip to the important parts so everyone understands.

*"Hi guys, as we don't have much time here, so I'm going to **cut to the chase**. We've been having some major problems in the office lately."*

Keep your chin up

Did you just have a massive fight with your friend? Did you fail your English finals? Did your team lose the final match? Did you lose your job? If you answered "yes" to any of the questions, then you're probably feeling sad and a little depressed, right?

In this situation, a supportive friend might tell you to **keep your chin up**. When they tell you this, they're showing their support for you, and it's a way of saying "stay strong," you'll get through this. Don't let these things affect you too badly.

"Hey, Keiren, have you had any luck finding work yet?"

"No, nothing, it's really depressing, there's nothing out there!"

*"Don't worry, you'll find something soon, **keep your chin up** buddy and don't stress."*

THANK YOU

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