

Dialogue In Slang

At School...

Anne joins Peggy, who seems totally out of it.

Anne: You seem really **ticked off**. **What's up?**

Peggy: Just **get out of my face**, would you?!

Anne: **Chill out!** **What's eating you**, anyway?

Peggy: Sorry. It's just that I think I **blew** the **final** and now my parents are going to get all **bent out of shape**. I **like** totally **drew a blank** on everything!

Anne: Well, now you're really going to **freak out** when I tell you who **aced** it... **what's-her-face**... the one who always **kisses up** to the teacher.

Peggy: Jennifer Davies? **Give me a break!** I can't **stand** her. She's such a **dweeb**! How could she possibly **ace** it when she keeps **cutting** class all the time?

Anne: She's the **teacher's pet**, that's why. Besides, he's so **laid back** he lets her **get away with it**. She just really **rubs me the wrong way**. And you know what? I think she's got the **hots** for him, too.

Peggy: **Get out of here!**

Anne: I'm **dead serious**. Yesterday, before class starts, she walks up to Mr. Edward's desk and **goes**, 'Good morning, Jim.'

Peggy: Oh, **gag me!** She's totally **gross!**

Translation of dialogue in standard English

At School...

Anne joins Peggy, who seems to be in a daze.

Anne: You seem really **angry**. **What's the matter?**

Peggy: Just **leave me alone**, alright?!

Anne: **Relax!** **What's the matter with you**, anyway?

Peggy: Sorry. It's just that I think I **failed** the **final examination** and now my parents are going to get all **upset**. I, **uh**, **couldn't think of any of the answers!**

Anne: Well, now you're really going to be **mad** when I tell you who got **100% on** it... **I forgot her name...** the one who always **flatters** the teacher.

Peggy: Jennifer Davies? **You're kidding!** I don't **like** her! She's such a **moron!** How could she possibly get **100% on** it when she's **absent from class** all the time?

Anne: She's the **teacher's favorite student**, that's why. Besides, he's so **casual** he **permits her to do it**. There's just **something about her I don't like**. And you know what? I think she **really likes him**, too.

Peggy: **You've got to be joking!**

Anne: I'm **very serious**. Yesterday, before class starts, she walks up to Mr. Edward's desk and **says**, 'Good morning, Jim.'

Peggy: Oh, **that makes me sick!** She's totally **disgusting!**

Dialogue in slang as it would be heard

At School...

Anne joins Peggy, who seems todally oud of it.

Anne: You seem really **tict off**. What's up?

Peggy: Jus' **ged oudda my face**, would ja?!

Anne: **Chill out!** What's **eatin' you**, anyway?

Peggy: Sorry. It's jus' thad I think I **blew the final**'n now my parents'r gonna ged all **ben' oudda shape**. I like todally **drew a blank** on ev'rything!

Anne: Well, now yer really gonna **freak out** when I tell ya who **aced** it... **what's-'er face**... the one who always **kisses up** ta the teacher.

Peggy: Jennifer Davies? **Gimme a break!** I can't **stand** 'er. She's such a **dweeb!** How could she possibly ace it when she keeps **cudding** class all the time?

Anne: She's the **teacher's pet**, that's why. Besides, he's so **laid back** 'e lets 'er **ged away with it**. She jus' really **rubbs me the wrong way**. And ya know what? I think she's got the **hots** fer 'im, too.

Peggy: **Ged oudda here!**

Anne: I'm **dead serious**. Yesterday, before class starts, she walks up ta Mr. Edwards desk'n **goes**, 'Good morning, Jim.'

Peggy: Oh, **gag me!** She's todally **gross!**

Vocabulary

ace a test (to) *exp.* to do extremely well on a test.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to pass a test with flying colors** *exp.* • *She passed the test with flying colors;* She did extremely well on the test.

♦ **ANTONYM:** **to blow a test** *exp.* • *He blew the test;* He failed the test.

blow something (to) *exp.* **1.** to fail at something • *I blew the interview;* I failed the interview • **2.** to make a big mistake • *I totally forgot my doctor's appointment. I really blew it;* I totally forgot my doctor's appointment. I really made a mistake.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to goof up something** *exp.* **1.** to make a big mistake • *I forgot to pick her up at the airport! I really goofed up;* I forgot to pick her up at the airport! I really made a mistake • **2.** to hurt oneself • *I goofed up my leg skiing;* I hurt my leg skiing.

chill out (to) *exp.* to calm down.

♦ **NOTE:** This expression is commonly shortened to "*Chill!*" On the East Coast, a common variation of this expression is "*to take a chill pill.*"

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to mellow out** *exp.* • *Don't be so upset about it! Mellow out!;* Don't be so upset about it! Calm down!

♦ **ANTONYM:** See - **freak out (to).**

cut class (to) *exp.* to be absent from class without permission.

♦ **SYNONYM (1):** **to ditch (a) class** *exp.* • *I'm going to ditch (my) class today;* I'm not going to attend (my) class today.

♦ **SYNONYM (2):** **to play hooky** *exp.* • *That's the second time this week he's played hooky;* That's the second time this week he hasn't attended class.

– **NOTE:** This expression is rarely, if ever, used by younger people. It is much more common among older generations.

dead serious (to be) *exp.* to be extremely serious.

♦ **NOTE:** The adjective "*dead*" is commonly used to mean "extremely," "absolutely," or "directly" in the following expressions only:

dead ahead; directly ahead.

dead right; absolutely correct.

dead drunk; extremely drunk.

dead set; completely decided.

dead last; absolutely last.

dead tired; extremely tired.

dead on; absolutely correct.

dead wrong; absolutely wrong.

This usage of *dead* would be incorrect in other expressions. For example: *dead happy, dead hungry, dead angry, etc.* are all incorrect expressions.

draw a blank (to) *exp.* to forget suddenly.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to blank [out]** *v.* • *I can't believe how I blanked [out] on her name!;* I can't believe how I suddenly forgot her name!

♦ **ANTONYM:** **to get it** *exp.* **1.** to remember suddenly • *I don't remember the answer. Let me think... I got it!;* I don't remember the answer. Let me think... I suddenly remember! • **2.** to get a sudden idea • *I wonder what we should do today. I got it!;* I wonder what we should do today. I've got an idea! • **3.** to understand • *Now I get it;* Now I understand.

dweeb *n.* moron, simpleton.

♦ **NOTE:** This is an extremely common noun used mainly by young people.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **geek** *adj.* • *What a geek!;* What an idiot!

eat (to) *v.* to upset, to anger • *What's eating you today?;* What's upsetting you today?

♦ **VARIATION:** **to eat up** *exp.* **1.** to upset • *Seeing how unfairly she's being treated just eats me up;* Seeing how unfairly she is being treated really upsets me. • **2.** to enjoy • *He's eating up all the praise he's getting;* He's enjoying the praise he's getting.

final *n.* This is a very popular abbreviation for "*final examination*" which can also be contracted to "*final exam.*"

freak out (to) *exp.* **1.** to lose control of one's emotional state, to become very upset and irrational • **2.** to lose grasp of reality temporarily due to drugs.

♦ **NOTE:** This is an extremely popular expression used by younger people. This expression is also commonly heard in its abbreviated form "*to freak.*" • *If he doesn't arrive in five minutes, I'm going to freak;* If he doesn't arrive in five minutes, I'm going to be very upset.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to flip out** *exp.* • *If he doesn't arrive in five minutes, I'm going to flip out;* If he doesn't arrive in five minutes, I'm going to be very upset.

≈ **NOTE:** This may also be used in reference to drugs.

♦ **ANTONYM (1):** **to keep one's cool** *exp.* to stay calm, composed • *My mom kept her cool when I told her I destroyed the car;* My mom stayed calm when I told her I destroyed the car.

♦ **ANTONYM (2):** See - **chill out (to).**

"Gag me!" *exp.* "That makes me sick!"

♦ **NOTE:** This is a common expression used mainly by younger people, especially teenagers, to signify great displeasure. This expression is considered "valley talk" as it was called in a popular song in the late 1980's called "Valley Girls." The same song also introduced the now out-dated expression, "*Gag me with a spoon!*"; That makes me sick! The expression "*Gag me with a spoon!*" is still occasionally heard, but only in jest.

♦ SYNONYM: **"Gross me out!"** *exp.* • *Susan and Bob are going together?! Gross me out!; Susan and Bob are dating?! That makes me sick!*

get [all] bent out of shape (to) *exp.* to become very angry • *My mom got all bent out of shape when I came home late; My mom got very angry when I came home late.*

♦ SYNONYM: **to fly off the handle** *exp.* • *My dad flew off the handle when I wrecked the car; My dad got really angry when I wrecked the car.*

get away with something (to) *exp.* to succeed at doing something dishonest • *He got away with cheating on the test; He succeeded at cheating on the test.*

♦ NOTE: **to get away with murder** *exp.* (very popular) to succeed at being dishonest • *He got away with cheating on the test?! He gets away with murder! He succeeded at cheating on the test?! He never gets caught!*

♦ SYNONYM: **to pull something off** *exp.* to succeed at doing something very difficult but not necessarily dishonest • *"He actually aced the test?" "Yes! He really pulled it off!"; "He actually passed the test?" "Yes! He really succeeded!" • He pulled off a bank job; He succeeded at robbing a bank.*

♦ ANTONYM: **to get busted** *exp.* to get caught doing something dishonest • *The teacher finally saw him cheating on the test. I knew he'd get busted sooner or later; The teacher finally saw him cheating on the test. I knew he'd get caught sooner or later.*

"Get out of here!" *exp.* **1.** "You're kidding!" • **2.** "Absolutely not!" • *"Is that your girlfriend?" "Get outta here!"; "Is that your girlfriend?" "Absolutely not!"*

♦ NOTE (1): This expression, commonly seen as *"Get outta here"* [pronounced: *Ged oudda here*], may be used upon hearing bad news as well as good news • *"I just heard that John's dog got killed." "Get outta here!"; "I just heard that John's dog got killed." "You're kidding! (That's awful!)" • "I just aced the test!" "Get outta here!"; "I just passed the test!" "You're kidding! (That's terrific!)"*

♦ NOTE (2): A common variation of this expression is simply, *"Get out!"* which is also used upon hearing bad news as well as good news. On occasion, you may even hear the expression playfully lengthened to *"Get outta town!"*

♦ SYNONYM: **"No way!"** *exp.* **1.** (in surprise and excitement) *"I won a trip to Europe!" "No way!"; "I won a trip to Europe!" "You're kidding!" • 2.* (in disbelief) *"I won a trip to Europe!" "No way!"; "I won a trip to Europe!" "I don't believe you!" • 3.* (to emphasize "no") *"Do you like her?" "No way!"; "Do you like her?" "Absolutely not!"*

⇒ NOTE (1): The difference between **1.** and **2.** depends on the delivery of the speaker)

⇒ NOTE (2): Although the opposite would certainly be logical, the expression, “*Yes way!*” is not really correct, although on occasion you may actually hear it as a witty response to “*No way!*”

⇒ NOTE (3): The most common response to “*No way!*” used by teenagers has recently become “*Way!*”

get out of someone's face (to) *exp.* to leave someone alone • *Get outta my face! I'm busy!*; Leave me alone! I'm busy!

♦ SYNONYM: **to get lost** *exp.* • *Get lost!*; Leave me alone!

♦ ANTONYM: **to hang [out] with someone** *exp.* to spend time with someone (and do nothing in particular) • *I'm going to hang [out] with Debbie today*; I'm going to spend time with Debbie today.

⇒ NOTE (1): A common shortened version of this expression is “*to hang with someone.*”

⇒ NOTE (2): The expression “*to hang (out)*” is commonly used to mean, “to do nothing in particular” • *Why don't you go without me? I'm just going to stay here and hang (out) today*; Why don't you go without me? I'm just going to stay here and do nothing in particular.

give someone a break (to) *exp.* 1. This popular expression is commonly used to indicate annoyance and disbelief. It could best be translated as, “You're kidding!” The expression, “*Give me a break,*” commonly pronounced, “*Gimme a break,*” is very similar to the expression “*Get outta here!*” The significant difference is that “*Get outta here!*” may be used to indicate excitement as well as disbelief, as previously demonstrated. However, “*Gimme a break!*” is *only* used to indicate disbelief. Therefore, if someone were to give you a piece of good news and you were to respond by saying, “*Gimme a break,*” this would indicate that you did not believe a word he/she was saying. 2. to do someone a favor • *Please, gimme a break and let me take the test again*; Please, do me a favor and let me take the test again • 3. to give someone an opportunity for success • *I gave him his first big break at becoming an actor*; I gave him his first big opportunity at becoming an actor • 4. to be merciful with someone • *Since this is your first offense, I'm going to give you a break*; Since this is your first offense, I'm going to be merciful with you.

go (to) *v.* to say • *So, I told the policeman that my speedometer was broken and he goes, 'Gimme a break!'*; So, I told the policeman that my speedometer was broken and he says, ‘I don't believe a word you're saying!’

♦ NOTE (1): This usage of the verb “*to go*” is extremely common among younger people. You'll probably encounter it within your first few hours in America!

♦ NOTE (2): Although not as popular, you may occasionally hear this term

used in the past tense • *So, I told the policeman that my speedometer was broken and he **went**, 'Gimme a break!';* So, I told the policeman that my speedometer was broken and he said, 'I don't believe a word you're saying!'

♦ NOTE (3): In colloquial American English, it is very common to use the present tense to indicate an event that took place in the past as demonstrated in the dialogue: *Yesterday, before class **starts**, she **walks** up to Mr. Edward's desk and **goes**, 'Good Morning, Jim;'* Yesterday, before class started, she walked up to Mr. Edward's desk and said, 'Good Morning, Jim.'

♦ SYNONYM (1): **to be all** *exp.* • *So, I go up to her and tell her how great she looks since she's lost all that weight and she's all, 'Stop teasing me!';* So, I go up to her and tell her how great she looks since she's lost all that weight and she says, 'Stop teasing me!'

⇒ NOTE: This is extremely popular among the younger generations only.

♦ SYNONYM (2): **to be like** *exp.* • *I said hello to her yesterday and she's like, 'Leave me alone!';* I said hello to her yesterday and she said, 'Leave me alone!'

⇒ NOTE (1): This is extremely popular among the younger generations only.

⇒ NOTE (2): These two expressions "*to be all*" and "*to be like*," are commonly combined: *I walked up to her and she's all like, 'Get outta here!'*

• *I walked up to her and she's like all, 'Get outta here!'*

gross (to be) *adj.* to be disgusting • *I'm not eating that! It looks gross!; I'm not eating that! It looks disgusting!*

♦ NOTE: This was created from the adjective "grotesque."

hots for someone (to have the) *exp.* to be interested sexually in someone.

♦ SYNONYM: **to be turned on by someone** *exp.*

⇒ NOTE: It is rare to hear this expression used as "*I'm turned on by her.*" It is much more common to hear "*She turns me on.*"

⇒ ALSO (1): *Math really turns me on;* I really like math. • *Math is a real turn on/off!;* Math is really exciting/unappealing!

⇒ ALSO (2): *She's a real turn on/off!;* She's very sexy/unappealing!

♦ ALSO: **to be hot** *exp.* to be good looking and sexy • *He's hot!;* He's sexy!

kiss up to someone (to) *exp.* to flatter someone in order to obtain something.

♦ SYNONYM: **to butter someone up** *exp.* • *Stop trying to butter him up!;* Stop trying to flatter him!

♦ ANTONYM: **to put someone down** *exp.* to criticize someone • *Why do you always put me down?;* Why do you always criticize me?

laid back *exp.* calm.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **easygoing** *adj.* • *She's very easygoing*; She's very calm about everything.

♦ **ALSO:** **to take it easy** *exp.* **1.** to relax • *I'm going to take it easy all day at the beach*; I'm going to relax all day at the beach • **2.** to calm down • *Don't get so upset! Take it easy!*; Don't get so upset! Calm down! • **3.** to be gentle or careful • *Take it easy driving around those curves!*; Be careful driving around those curves!

♦ **ANTONYM:** **uptight** *adj.* tense • *She's always so uptight*; She's always so tense.

like *exp.* This is an extremely popular expression used by younger people. It could best be translated as, "how should I put this..." or "uh..." • *He's like really weird*; He's, uh... really weird.

out of it (to be) *exp.* to be in a daze.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to be spaced out** *exp.* • *You look really spaced out*; You look really dazed.

♦ **ANTONYM:** **to have it together** *exp.* to have control of one's emotions • *I think I've got it together now*; I think I'm in control of my emotions now.

♦ **ALSO:** **to pull it together** *exp.* **1.** to regain control of one's emotions • *After her scare, she needs some time to pull together before she can go back on stage*; After her scare, she needs some time to regain control of her emotions before she can go back on stage. • **2.** to get ready • *I was just asked to make a presentation at work tomorrow, but I don't don't think I'll have time to pull it together*; I was just asked to make a presentation at work tomorrow, but I don't think I'll have time to get ready.

rub the wrong way (to) *exp.* to irritate.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to get on someone's nerves** *exp.* • *She gets on my nerves*; She irritates me.

♦ **ANTONYM:** **to sweep off one's feet** *exp.* to charm someone • *He swept us all off our feet*; He charmed us all.

♦ **NOTE:** This expression comes from rubbing an animal in the opposite direction of his coat causing him to bristle.

teacher's pet *exp.* the teacher's favorite student • *She never gets in trouble for not doing her homework because she's the teacher's pet*; She never gets in trouble for not doing her homework because she's the teacher's favorite.

ticked [off] (to be) *exp.* (extremely popular) to be angry.

♦ **SYNONYM:** **to be pissed [off]** *exp.* (extremely popular).

⇒ **NOTE:** Although having absolutely nothing to do with urinating, some people consider this expression to be vulgar since it comes from the slang

verb “*to piss*” meaning “to urinate,” a most definitely vulgar expression. The expression “*to be pissed off*” is commonly heard in an abbreviated form: “*to be P.O.’d*” • *She looks really P.O.’d about something!*; She looks really angry about something!

♦ SEE: A Closer Look (2): *Commonly Used Initials*, p. 24.

unable to stand someone or something (to be) *exp.* to be unable to tolerate someone or something • *I just can’t stand it anymore!*; I just can’t tolerate it anymore!

♦ SYNONYM: **to be unable to handle someone or something** *exp.* • *I can’t handle doing homework anymore*; I can’t tolerate doing homework anymore.

♦ ANTONYM: **to take someone or something** *exp.* *I can usually only take her for an hour*; I can usually only tolerate her for an hour.

what’s-her-face *exp.* [pronounced: *what’s-’er-face*] This expression is commonly used as a replacement for a woman’s name when the speaker can not remember it.

♦ SYNONYM: **what’s-her-name** *exp.* [pronounced: *what’s-’er-name*]

♦ NOTE: The common replacement for a man’s name is “*what’s-his-face*” [pronounced: *what’s-’is-face*] or “*what’s-his-name*” [pronounced: *what’s-’is-name*] whereas for an object, it would be “*what-cha-macallit*” (“what you may call it”) i.e. *Give me that what-cha-macallit*; Give me that thing.

“What’s eating you?” *exp.* “What’s the matter with you?”

♦ SYNONYM: **“What’s with you?”** *exp.*

“What’s up?” *exp.* “What’s happening?”

♦ SYNONYM: **“What’s new?”** *exp.*

♦ NOTE: The expression “*What’s up?*” is very casual and is therefore only used with good friends. It would not be considered good form to use this expression when speaking with someone with whom you have strictly a business relationship. Of course, if he/she has become a friend through your dealings, it would certainly be acceptable. Although the expression “*What’s new?*” is also very casual, it does not have the same degree of familiarity as does, “*What’s up?*” and may be used when addressing just about anyone except perhaps dignitaries, royalty, etc. In this case, it is usually a good idea to avoid using slang entirely, being an informal style of communication. Once again, *you* must be the judge in determining whether or not using slang is appropriate in a given situation.