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A M Y G I L L E T T

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Introduction

Welcome to *Speak English Around Town*. This new book and CD will help you speak better English in your daily life — whether you’re traveling around the United States, working with American colleagues, or socializing with Americans.

Speak English Around Town presents 325 American English idioms and expressions. You’ll find these terms very useful for daily life.

All idioms in this book are shown in **bold**. Definitions of the idioms are included in each lesson and are listed in the Index. You’ll notice that some words in the dialogues are in *italics*. These are words you may not understand. Check the Glossary on page 169 for definitions.

Each lesson has a “Language Lens” section, exploring a grammar point or structure. These points have been selected because they are tricky for non-native speakers.

Quizzes in each lesson let you test your new knowledge of both the idioms and of the Language Lens content. You’ll find the answers in the Answer Key, starting on page 170.

You have a CD in your hands with all the dialogues. The CD will help you master the flow and rhythm of American English — how it’s really spoken. The CD will also help you remember the idioms. Listen in your car. Play it on your commute. Download it to your iPhone or other mobile device and listen anywhere.

You’re on the path to more fluent American English. And the great thing is, neither you nor I have any idea as to where this might lead. But we know that with your new language skills, new doors will open for you. Good luck speaking English around town, and enjoy your journey!



That style does run small.

Lesson 1

GOING SHOPPING

Amy is at a clothing store shopping for a new pair of pants. Lisa, a saleswoman, asks her if she needs any help.

Lisa: May I help you?

Amy: I'm **just browsing**.

Lisa: Let me know if I can help. My name is Lisa.*

Amy: Do these pants **come in** black?

Lisa: Yes, but we're **sold out**. They're so popular, we can't keep them **in stock**.

Amy: Do you have any black pants **on sale**?

Lisa: Yes, these are **marked down** from \$69.95 to \$24.95.

Amy: That's a **good buy**, but I'm **not crazy about** the fabric.

Lisa: What about these pants? These are **on sale** for \$49.

Amy: That's a little **pricey**, but I'll **try them on**.

(Amy enters the fitting room with the pants. A few minutes later, Lisa comes to check on her).

Lisa: How are the pants?

Amy: A little **snug**.**

Lisa: That style does **run small**. Let me bring you the next size up.

(Lisa hands Amy the pants and Amy puts them on).

Amy: These pants are a little big, aren't they?***

Lisa: No, they fit nicely!

Amy: They're *baggy* in the back, don't you think?

Lisa: No, they're perfect. **Take my word for it.**

Amy: I'm just not sure. I think I'd better **hold off** for now.

* Sales clerks often introduce themselves by giving their first name. They usually work on commission, so they get a percentage of the sale. When you check out, the cashier may ask, "Was anybody helping you today?" You tell the cashier the name of the sales clerk and he or she gets credit for the sale.

** Words in italics are defined in the Glossary on page 169.

*** Underlined material is the focus of the "Language Lens" section.

IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS

(to) come in – to be available in; to be sold in a certain color, style, size, or material

- Does this jacket **come in** leather?

(a) good buy – a good price; a bargain

- You bought that Tommy Hilfiger shirt for just \$15? That's a **good buy!**

(to) hold off – to wait to do something; to delay

- We'd like to buy a new car, but we're going to **hold off** until the new models are released.

in stock – available for sale

- If you're interested in that toaster, you should buy it now. We've only got a few left **in stock.**

just browsing – shopping, without necessarily buying anything; only looking

- “May I help you find something?” — “No, thanks. I’m **just browsing**.”

marked down – lowered in price; on sale

- This shirt was **marked down** from \$49.95 to \$24.95.

(to) not be crazy about – to not like very much; to not be enthusiastic about

- I’m **not crazy about** your plan to spend all day at the mall.

on sale – at a reduced price

- I like this leather jacket, but \$299 is expensive. I’ll wait until it goes **on sale**.

pricey – expensive

- Lucia’s Trattoria is a great restaurant, but it’s **pricey**. Dinner for two costs about \$150.

(to) run small / to run big – to fit small / to fit large (a cut or style of clothing that is smaller or bigger than expected)

- These shoes **run small**, so if you’re usually a size 7, try an 8.

sold out – completely sold

- Gary went to the Apple store to buy the new iPad, but it was **sold out**.

take my word for it – trust me; believe me

- **Take my word for it**. You won’t find this camera cheaper at any other store.

(to) try something on – to put something on to see if it fits

- You’d better **try on** your wedding dress again before the wedding to make sure it still fits!

Practice the Expressions

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) You look great in black. Take my word ____ it!
a) in b) for c) with
- 2) This jacket is a good deal. It's marked ____ from \$249 to \$99.
a) down b) up c) over
- 3) When the salesman asked if he could help me, I said I was just ____.
a) searching b) shopping c) browsing
- 4) Sorry, the book you're looking for is not ____ stock. It's very popular.
a) at b) for c) in
- 5) This shirt costs just \$14.95. That's a good ____.
a) buy b) sell c) purchase
- 6) We don't have any more striped scarves. We're sold ____.
a) out b) off c) up
- 7) Does this sweater come ____ any other colors?
a) with b) from c) in
- 8) Would you like to try that suit ____?
a) up b) on c) in
- 9) Those shoes ____ big. Try the next size down.
a) walk b) run c) skip
- 10) I'm not sure I need another pair of jeans. I'm going to hold ____ for now.
a) off b) in c) up



Language Lens: Tag Questions

Tag questions are short fragments at the end of a sentence. They turn a statement into a question. They are common in spoken English.

Note these uses and examples. The tag is underlined:

⇒ **To check if something is true:** You're going to the party tonight, aren't you?

⇒ **To ask for agreement:** We should bring a bottle of wine to the party, shouldn't we?

⇒ **To emphasize something:** Sara's certainly self-confident, isn't she?

⇒ **To make a request more friendly:** Open the door, could you?

If the verb in the main part of the sentence is positive (+), the verb in the tag is negative (-).

Main verb (+)	Tag verb (-)	Example
are ('re)	aren't	You're in good shape, <u>aren't</u> you?
should	shouldn't	We should go, <u>shouldn't</u> we?
can	can't	She can swim, <u>can't</u> she?
do	don't	You do love me, <u>don't</u> you?
'll be (will be)	won't	They'll be here later, <u>won't</u> they?

If the verb in the main part of the sentence is negative (-), the verb in the main part of the tag is positive (+).

Main verb (-)	Tag verb (+)	Example
're not (are not)	are	You're not coming, <u>are</u> you?
shouldn't	should	We shouldn't give up, <u>should</u> we?
can't (cannot)	can	We can't leave now, <u>can</u> we?
don't (do not)	do	We don't play with our food, <u>do</u> we?
won't	will	You won't cry when I go, <u>will</u> you?

Quick Quiz

Fill in the blank with the correct tag:

Example:

You've got class tomorrow, ____?

Answer: You've got class tomorrow, don't you?

- 1) It's hot out today, ____?
- 2) Your father is a doctor, ____?
- 3) You're coming to my party, ____?
- 4) Your parents live in Florida, ____?
- 5) You were born in India, ____?
- 6) It's not raining out, ____?
- 7) You can't stay another day, ____?
- 8) You should call your mother, ____?
- 9) You can ski, ____?
- 10) We shouldn't bring our kids, ____?



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Speak English Around Town brings you more than 300 everyday American English idioms and expressions. Through lively and realistic dialogues, you'll learn the expressions you need for everyday life. You'll use these expressions when shopping, dining out, socializing with American friends, traveling around the USA, and during dozens of other daily activities.

Speak English Around Town will do more than just improve your vocabulary. It'll also help you stop making common mistakes when you speak. Through a special Language Lens section in each lesson, you'll master the grammar and structures known to cause trouble for English language learners.

With the accompanying audio CD, you'll hear the way English is really spoken. What a great way to improve your pronunciation!

This system brings you:

- Realistic conversations on everyday topics
- Over 300 of today's most commonly used expressions and idioms
- 50 practice exercises to help you master the material
- An audio CD featuring native speakers of English

Meet your instructor:

Who better to help you communicate in everyday English than Amy Gillett? She's the author of the bestselling books *Speak English Like an American*, *More Speak English Like an American*, *Speak Business English Like an American*, and *Speak Better Business English and Make More Money*. She's taught English as a Second Language (ESL) and Business English in the United States and Europe. With this book and CD, you can take her classroom with you. Amy has degrees in foreign languages and literature from Stanford University and an MBA from Cornell University.

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