



Е. А. Москвина

**Learning English
Through Listening To
Idioms, Proverbs And Sayings**

Учебно-методическое пособие

Министерство образования и науки РФ
ФГБОУ ВПО «Удмуртский государственный университет»
Факультет профессионального иностранного языка
Кафедра профессионального иностранного языка № 2

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**Ижевск
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УДК 811.111 (075)
ББК 81.432.1я73

Рекомендовано к изданию
Учебно-методическим Советом УдГУ

Рецензент: к.ф.н. Т.Ю.Касаткина

M822

Москвина Е. А.

Learning English through listening to idioms, proverbs and sayings: учебно-методическое пособие по английскому языку. Ижевск: Изд-во «Удмуртский университет», 2013. – 58 с.

Учебно-методическое пособие по аудированию рекомендовано для студентов бакалавриата. Пособие состоит из 12 разделов. В каждом из разделов предлагаются тексты для прослушивания, чтения и обсуждения, а также упражнения для закрепления трудных идиом, пословиц, поговорок.

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Введение

В настоящее время у многих выпускников вуза не удается сформировать способность понимать речь разных носителей языка в незамедленном темпе, которая отмечается индивидуальными особенностями говорения и «неполным» стилем произношения. Не вызывает сомнения тот факт, что регулярное пополнение словарного запаса способствует лучшему пониманию иноязычной речи. Но также нужно самым серьезным образом заботиться об обогащении своей речи устойчивыми словосочетаниями - идиомами изучаемого языка, которые бывают весьма специфичны при переводе.

Учебное пособие по практическому курсу английского языка «Learning English through listening to idioms, proverbs and sayings» рекомендовано для студентов бакалавриата любых направлений подготовки.

Пособие состоит из 12 разделов, структурировано и построено по тематическому принципу. В каждой теме представлены упражнения, позволяющие обучаемым познакомиться с новой лексикой раздела, текст для прослушивания, упражнения на проверку понимания прослушанного, а также закрепление новой лексики, задания монологического, диалогического и полилогического характера, направленные на развитие языковой и коммуникативной компетенции обучающихся. Представленные тексты и упражнения помогут студентам освоить более 100 идиом и поговорок.

Актуальность данного пособия обусловлена тем, что все отобранные тексты и разработанные упражнения специально адаптированы для работы со студентами бакалавриата с учетом уровня их языковой подготовки от уровня А2 (начальный) до В2 (пользователь). Это отражает значимость пособия. Важной характеристикой пособия является и то, что представленный материал перекликается с содержанием курса дисциплины иностранный язык.

Пособие может быть использовано студентами бакалавриата очной и заочной форм обучения как для работы в аудиторных условиях, так и для самостоятельной работы.

Unit 1 Jackpot! Winning the Lottery

Pre-listening activity:

1. Questions:

1. What is lottery?
2. Why do people buy lottery tickets?
3. Have you ever bought a lottery ticket?
4. Was it a windfall or failure?

2. Vocabulary:

Look up the words and idioms in the English-English dictionary, dwell on the meanings. Think of the situations or sentences where you can use these words and idioms:

Fist, amounts of, a windfall, to accept, hand-outs, owe, pinched, a cheapskate, flat broke, scrape together, splurge on, pick up the tab, admit, deadbeat

Idioms:

born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

burning a hole in his pocket

foot the bill

live like a king

strike it rich

hit the jackpot

Listening activity:

3. Listen to the story “Jackpot! Winning the Lottery” paying attention to the idioms in the left column and match them with their meanings:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. hand over fist | a) last amount |
| 2. a windfall | b) not have much money |
| 3. hard up for cash | c) low budget |
| 4. chicken feed | d) very little |

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5. down and out | e) he was wise about small |
| 6. strapped for cash | things, but not |
| 7. flat broke | about |
| 8. bottom dollar | important |
| 9. build up a nest egg | things |
| 10. living on a shoestring | f) gifts from his family and |
| 11. penny-wise and pound | friends |
| foolish | g) had no money at all |
| | h) or gain lots of money |
| | unexpectedly |
| | i) to earn large amounts of |
| | money |
| | j) saved any of the money |
| | k) had no money left |

4. Listen to the same story once again and discuss the questions:

1. Trace the changes in the life of the main character of the story?
2. How does money influence a man?
3. What ways of investing money do you know?
4. What would you do if you were him?

5. Chose some of the issues from ex.4 and write an essay (200-250 words)

Script 1

Jackpot! Winning the Lottery

I think people everywhere dream about having lots of money. I know I do. I would give anything to make money "hand over fist." I would like to earn large amounts of money. You could win a large amount of money in the United States through lotteries. People pay money for tickets with numbers.

If your combination of numbers is chosen, you win a huge amount of money -- often in the millions. Winning the lottery is "a windfall."

Millions of people dream of winning the lottery. A few years ago, my friend Al won the lottery. It changed his life. He did not have a rich family -- he was not "born with a silver spoon in his mouth." Instead, my friend was always "hard up for cash" -he did not have much money. And the money he did earn was chicken feed -very little.

Sometimes Al even had to accept hand-outs - gifts from his family and friends. But do not get me wrong. My friend was not a deadbeat. He was not the kind of person who never paid the money he owed. He simply pinched pennies. He was always very careful with the money he spent. In fact, he was often a cheapskate. He did not like to spend money. The worst times were when he was flat broke and had no money at all.

One day, Al scraped together a few dollars for a lottery ticket. He thought he would never "strike it rich" - or gain lots of money unexpectedly. But his combination of numbers was chosen and he won the lottery. He "hit the jackpot" - he won a great deal of money.

Mark (L) and Cindy (C) Hill are presented a check by a Missouri Lottery official during the announcement of Powerball winners in Dearborn, Missouri, November 30, 2012.Al was so excited. The first thing he did was buy a costly new car - he splurged on the one thing that he normally would not buy. Then he started spending money on unnecessary things. He started to waste it. It was like he had "money to burn." He had more money than he needed and it was "burning a hole in his pocket," so he spent it quickly.

When we got together for a meal at a restaurant, Al paid every time. He would always "foot the bill" - and pick up the tab. He told me the money made him feel like a million dollars. He was very happy.

But, Al spent too much money. Soon my friend was "down and out" again. He had no money left. He was back to being "strapped for cash." He had spent his "bottom dollar" - his very last amount. He did not even "build up a nest egg" - he had not saved any of the money.

I admit I do feel sorry for my friend. He had enough money to "live like a king." Instead, he is back to "living on a shoestring" -- a very low budget. Some might say he is "penny-wise and pound foolish" -- he was wise about small things, but not about important things.

Unit 2 The Big Easy and Sin City

Pre-listening activity:

1. Questions:

What is a nickname?

1. Who and what are nicknames given to?
2. Have you ever heard that cities also have nicknames?
3. Can you name any of them?
4. What do these nicknames describe?

2. Vocabulary:

Look up the words in the English-English dictionary, dwell on the meanings. Think of the situations or sentences where you can use these words:

Nickname, establish, identity, spread, pride, citizen, pace, crescent, neighborhoods, expand, curve, shape, gambling, capital, entertainment, sin, wage.

Listening activity:

3. Listen to the story "The Big Easy and Sin City" and answer the questions:

1. Which city in America has more nicknames than any other American city?
2. Which nickname is the most famous?
3. What does it mean?
4. What are other nicknames? And what do they describe?
5. Why is Las Vegas one of America's most exciting cities?
6. Are there any nicknames given to Las Vegas?

4. Retell the story using the words from ex.2

5. Read the text about New York and fill in the gaps with the following ideas:

- a) But it is not the only nickname for America's largest city.
- b) These can help establish an identity, spread pride among citizens and build unity.
- c) It also was the name of a popular dance and a hit song in the nineteen thirties.
- d) So a campaign was launched to give the city a new image.
- e) There are several explanations for where this name came from.

Nicknames for New York City

A nickname is a shortened form of a person's name. A nickname also can be a descriptive name for a person, place or thing. Many American cities have nicknames. (1)

_____.

A few years ago, some marketing and advertising experts were asked to name the best nickname for an American city. The winner was the nation's largest city, New York. The top nickname was The Big Apple.

You might wonder how New York got this nickname. In the early nineteen seventies, the city had many problems. The number of visitors was falling. (2) _____ . The head of the New York Conventions and Visitors Bureau decided to call the city, The Big Apple.

(3) _____. Language expert Barry Popik studied the question and wrote about it on his Web site. He says John Fitz Gerald, a writer for a New York newspaper, used the name the Big Apple to mean New York in the nineteen twenties. Mister Fitz Gerald wrote about horse races. He heard the name used by men who worked at a racetrack in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mister Fitz Gerald wrote: “The Big Apple. The dream of every lad that ever threw a leg over a thorough bred and the goal of all horsemen. There’s only one Big Apple. That’s New York.”

In horse racing, the expression meant “the big time,” the place where large amounts of money could be won. The Big Apple became the name of a night club in the Harlem area of New York City in nineteen thirty-four. (4) _____ .

(5) _____. Barry Popik’s web site lists almost one hundred nicknames that describe New York. The best known are the Capital of the World. Empire City. Gotham. The City So Nice They Named it Twice. And the City That Never Sleeps.

6. You can hear about the city in the song, “New York, New York” by Frank Sinatra. Choose the right word for each gap and then sing it.

Do the ideas from the song coincide with the ones from the text “Nicknames for New York City”?

Start _____ the news, I'm _____ today. I want to be a part of it, New York, New York.	Spreading/ preading Weaving/ leaving
These vagabond shoes are longing to _____ right through the very _____ of it, New York, New York.	Stay/ stray Hat/ heart
I wanna wake up in a city that doesn't _____ and find I'm king of the hill, top of the _____.	Sleep/ leap Heat/ heap
<i>Chorus:</i> These little town blues are _____ away. I'll make a _____ new start of it in old New York.	Helping/ melting Brand/ grand
If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere. It's up to you, New York, New York. New York New York, New York. I want to _____ up in a city that never sleeps and _____ I'm a number one, top of the list.	Break/ wake Find/ mind
<i>Chorus</i>	

<p>If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere. It's up to you, New York, New York, New York.</p>	
---	--

7. Report about the nicknames of other cities either in your country or abroad. (Power Point Presentation will be helpful).

Script 2

The Big Easy and Sin City

Many cities have interesting nicknames. Nicknames can help establish the identity of a city. They can also spread pride among its citizens.

New Orleans, Louisiana probably has more nicknames than any other American city. One web site lists more than twenty nicknames. The most famous is “The Big Easy.” It describes the gentle, slow and easy-going way of life in New Orleans.

Bourbon Street in New Orleans. So how did the city get this nickname? In the early 1900s there was a dance hall in New Orleans called “The Big Easy.” But the nickname did not become famous until the early 1970s. That was when a Louisiana newspaper writer began calling New Orleans by this name. She compared the easy-going way of life there to the hurried pace of life in New York City.

In 1970, James Conaway wrote a crime novel called “The Big Easy.” The story was set in New Orleans. In 1987, that book was made into a film which made the nickname even more popular.

New Orleans has other nicknames. One of them is “The Crescent City.” During the 19th century, new neighborhoods

expanded out from what is now known as the French Quarter. These areas followed the great curve of the Mississippi River, giving New Orleans the shape of a crescent.

Port of New Orleans. Another nickname is “The Birthplace of Jazz,” because that kind of music started in New Orleans. It is also called “Mardi Gras City” for the wild celebrations and parades that take place there every year. And, there is a nickname that uses the short way to write New Orleans and Louisiana. If you do not want to use the complete name, you can call the city “NOLA.”

One of America’s most exciting cities is Las Vegas, Nevada. There you can play games of chance all night long. The city’s nightclubs are also open all night for eating, drinking and dancing. So it is not surprising that Las Vegas is called “The Gambling Capital of the World” and “The Entertainment Capital of the World.”

Another nickname for Las Vegas is “Sin City,” because you can find many kinds of adult entertainment there. Many people who come to Las Vegas in hopes of winning lots of money do not know when to stop gambling. They may lose a great deal of their hard-earned money. So the city is also called something that sounds like Las Vegas -- “Lost Wages.”

In 1964, Elvis Presley starred in a movie called “Viva Las Vegas.” Here he sings the title song from that movie...

Unit 3

Hot Potatoes, Hotshots and Hotheads

Listening activity:

1. Questions:

1. What are the meanings of the word “hot”?
2. Give examples and say how the meaning changes.
3. Find idioms with the word “hot” and explain their meanings.

4. Use them in your own sentences or situations.

2. Vocabulary:

Look up the words in the English-English dictionary, dwell on their meanings. Think of the situations or sentences where you can use these words:

Expression, an oven, publicly-disputed issues, elected official, to deal with, taxes, defeat, handle, succeed, fail, military forces, anger, neck, collar, direct, link, purpose, prevent, accidental, competitor, immediately

Listening activity:

3. Listen to the story “Hot Potatoes, Hotshots and Hotheads” and match the idioms with their meanings:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. hot potato | a) a person, who fired without aiming carefully |
| 2. not so hot | difficult and painful |
| 3. hot shot | b) an angry person's neck |
| 4. hothead | c) a direct communications link |
| 5. hot under the collar | d) do not really like something |
| 6. hotline | e) a person, who thinks he can do anything |
| | f) feel unwell |
| | g) a person who becomes angry easily |

4. Act out some of the situations from the text where the idioms appear.

5. Think of some other idioms with the word hot.

Fill in the gaps with one of these idioms trying to guess their meanings:

piping hot

hot dog

hot water

1. He has been _____ at work since he took a week off with no excuse.
2. _____! I've finally found something I can do that you can't
3. This dish is served warm, _____.

6. Make your dialogues with one of the idioms.

Script 3

Hot Potatoes, Hotshots and Hotheads

“Hot” is a simple, easily understood word. So are most of the expressions made with the word hot - but not always, as we shall see...

The words hot potato, for example, give you no idea at all to the meaning of the expression “hot potato.”

The potato is a popular vegetable in the United States. Many people like baked potatoes, cooked in an oven or fire. Imagine trying to carry a hot, baked potato in your hand. It would be difficult - even painful - to do so. Now we are getting close to the meaning of “hot potato.”

Some publicly-disputed issues are highly emotional. The issues must be treated carefully, or they will be difficult and painful if an elected official has to deal with them - as difficult and painful as holding a hot potato.

One such hot potato is taxes...

Calling for higher taxes can mean defeat for a politician. And yet, if taxes are not raised, some very popular government programs could be cut. And that also can make a politician very

unpopular. So the questions must be dealt with carefully - the same way you would handle any other hot potato.

Another expression is “not so hot.” If you ask someone how she feels, she may answer “not so hot.” What she means is she does not feel well.

“Not so hot” also is a way of saying that you do not really like something. You may tell a friend that the new play you saw last night is “not so hot.” That means you did not consider it a success.

A “hot shot” is a person - often a young person - who thinks he can do anything. At least he wants to try. He is very sure he can succeed. But often he fails. The expression was born in the military forces. A “hot shot” was a soldier who fired without aiming carefully.

Hot is a word that is often used to talk about anger.

A person who becomes angry easily is called a “hothead.” An angry person's neck often becomes red. We say he is “hot under the collar.” You could say that your friend “is no hothead.” But he got “hot under the collar” when someone took his radio.

In 1963, “hotline” appeared as a new expression.

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and President John F. Kennedy June 3, 1961 The hotline was a direct communications link between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States. The hotline had an important purpose: to prevent accidental war between the two competitors during the period known as the Cold War. The American president and the Soviet leader were able to communicate directly and immediately on the hotline. This helped prevent any conflict during an international crisis.

Unit 4 Apple pie order

1. Pre-listening activity:

Answer the questions:

1. What is “apple pie order” for you?
2. Look up the meaning of the expression in the dictionary.
3. Can you usually keep things in perfect order?
4. Have you ever been at the event which was not well organized?
5. What was wrong with it?
6. Can you suggest any ways of improving the situation when the event is badly organized?

2. Vocabulary:

Be sure you know the meanings of the following words:

Pie, slices, disorder, discord, ancient, troublemaker, threaten, to land, rotten, barrel, cause.

Listening activity:

3. Listen to the text “Apple pie order” and answer the questions.

1. When and where did the expression “apple pie order” begin?
2. What is the expression that describes the opposite condition?
3. Where does it come from?
4. What was the beginning of the long Trojan War?
5. Why was a tomato called “a love apple”?
6. What does the expression “one rotten apple spoils the barrel” mean?

4. The English language is rich in imagery, metaphors, proverbs and sayings. Look about you and many common objects are reflected in every day speech.

Take a bowl of fruit - almost every type of fruit is represented in our speech, quite apart from the literal meaning.

What sayings and proverbs with fruit do you know?

Here are some of them:

- ✓ The apple of my eye - someone very special.
- ✓ The grapes of wrath - the results of anger, this is also the name of a brilliant modern classic book by John Steinbeck.
- ✓ Sour grapes - an expression used to describe a situation where someone is criticizing something they really want but can't have, or saying they don't want it. The precise words you would use are "it's just sour grapes".
- ✓ To cherry pick - the act of pointing at individual cases or data that seem to confirm a particular position, while ignoring a portion of related cases or data that may contradict that position.
- ✓ The cherry on the cake - the most important or appealing part of something.
- ✓ To slip on a banana skin - to make an elementary mistake.
- ✓ To go bananas - To be very angry or go mad, or to be excessive.

Fill in the gaps:

1. I have a good job and ... is that I get six weeks' paid leave.
2. I just told her that she couldn't have any pudding until she finished her main course, and she ...!

3. Some banks ... their investments to provide instant profits.
4. John's first car was He was always polishing it.
5. ... was made into an equally brilliant film, starring Peter Fonda.
6. He ... in the written examination in physics.
7. She said that she and her husband didn't want to join the club anyway, but it was clearly

Script 4

“Apple pie order”

Today we tell about the expression “apple pie order.” It means “in perfect order, very well organized.”

Nobody is sure where and when the expression “apple pie order” began. Some say that Scottish and English writers used the expression a long time ago. Others say it first was used in the northeastern American states known as New England. The housewives of New England cut their apples in seven slices. Then they filled pie pans with them in an organized way, row upon row. As one writer said, the women of New England loved to have everything in its place. This perhaps explains why it generally is believed that the expression “apple pie order” began in New England.

Another old expression describes the opposite condition -- wild disorder. That expression is apple of discord. It comes from ancient mythology. The myth says that all the gods and goddesses were sitting around the table to celebrate the marriage of Thetis and Peleus. One of the goddesses -- Discord -- was a troublemaker. She threw a golden apple on the table to be given as a prize to the most beautiful goddess.

It was not an easy decision to make. How could they choose among Juno, Minerva and Venus. Paris was given the task of deciding. He decided to give the golden apple to Venus.

Juno and Minerva were very angry and threatened him. This, the myth says, began the long Trojan War.

At one time, the tomato was called a love apple. That was a mistake. This is how the mistake happened:

In the sixteenth century, Spain imported the tomato from South America after Spanish explorers had landed there. Spain then exported the tomato to Morocco. Italian traders carried it on to Italy. The Italian name for the tomato was “pomo di Moro” -- apple of the Moors.

When French growers imported it from Italy, they thought “di Moro” meant “d’amour” -- the French word for love. And so “pomo di Moro” became the apple of love.

People believe many things about the apple. One belief is that it has great powers of keeping people healthy. A very common expression is “an apple a day keeps the doctor away.”

Another belief is based on fact. The expression is “one rotten apple spoils the barrel.” When an apple begins to go bad, it ruins all the other apples around it in the container. The expression has come to mean that one bad person in a group can cause everyone to act bad.

Unit 5

How to Be a Good Egg and the Salt of the Earth

Pre-listening activity:

Do you have any ideas about the theme we are going to discuss today? Read the words and phrases from ex.1 and 2 and say if any ideas changed.

Vocabulary:

1. Be sure you know the meanings of the following words:

Cause, spilled milk, a good egg, walk on eggshells, to move forward, nutritious food, poison, painful experience, grain of salt, support, cut the mustard, ride, supervisor, free of charge,

out of touch, fail, pay attention, fix the problem, egg on my face, not my cup of tea.

2. Match the saying with its definition:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. make a mistake and feel foolish | a. you should not get angry when something bad happens and cannot be changed. |
| 2. food for thought | b. help anyone in need |
| 3. meat and potatoes | c. do not have to be careful |
| 4. there is no use crying over spilled milk | d. you have to do what is necessary to move forward |
| 5. take it with a grain of salt | e. a good diet is important for good health |
| 6. a good egg | f. the most important part of something |
| 7. walk on eggshells | g. one person might like something very much while another person might hate the same thing |
| 8. you are what you eat | h. a good and honest person |
| 9. you have to break some eggs to make an omelet | i. make someone feel worse about something that was already a painful experience |
| 10. one man’s meat is another man’s poison | j. not to believe everything you are told |
| 11. the salt of the earth | k. make enough money to support family |
| 12. there is no such thing as a free lunch | l. do what is expected of smb. at work |
| 13. pour salt on a wound | |
| 14. he brings home the bacon | |
| 15. cut the mustard | |
| 16. a tall drink of water | |
| 17. out to lunch | |
| 18. packed like sardines | |
| 19. not my cup of tea | |
| 20. wake up and smell the coffee | |

- m. be taller than others
- n. full of people
- o. out of touch
- p. not to be free of charge
- q. to pay more attention and fix the problem
- r. egg on someone's face
- s. not to like something
- t. something to think about

Listening activity:

3. Listen to the text “How to Be a Good Egg and the Salt of the Earth” and fill in the gaps in the following sentences. Make sure if you know how to translate them.

1. My mother always told us “....” That means you should not get angry when something bad happens and cannot be changed.
2. People said my mother was “....” She would always help anyone in need.
3. We never had to “...” around her - we did not have to be careful about what we said or did because she never got angry at us.
4. She also told us “....” This means you have to do what is necessary to move forward.
5. My mother believed “...” - a good diet is important for good health. She would always give us nutritious food.
6. She liked serving us meat and potatoes for dinner. “...” can also mean the most important part of something. It describes someone who likes simple things.
7. Here is another expression about meat: “....” In other words, one person might like something very

- much while another person might hate the same thing.
8. My father was also a good and honest person. People said he was “....”
 9. He would never “...” - or make someone feel worse about something that was already a painful experience.
 10. However, sometimes he told us a story that seemed bigger than life. So we had to “...” - that is, we could not believe everything he told us.
 11. My husband has a good job. He makes enough money to support our family. So we say “....”
 12. He can “...” - or do what is expected of him at work.
 13. It is easy to find my husband in a crowd. He stands almost two meters tall. He is “....”
 14. I take the train to work. It is not a pleasant ride because the train can be full of people. It is so crowded that we are “...” - just like small fish in a can.
 15. My supervisor at work is sometimes “....” She is out of touch and does not always know what is going on in our office. Yet she is right about one thing: “...” - something may appear to be free of charge, but there may be a hidden cost.
 16. When we fail to see problems at work, my supervisor tells us to “...” - we need to pay more attention and fix the problem.
 17. I once made a big mistake at the office and felt foolish. I had “....”
 18. Over the weekend, my friend invited me to watch a football game on television. But I do not like football. It is “....”

19. We hope this program has given you “...” - that is, something to think about.

4. Play the part of mother, father, a friend or an office worker in every day situation when you can use any of these sayings.

Script 5

How to Be a Good Egg and the Salt of the Earth

We present more expressions about food. They are from Elenir Scardueli, a listener in Brazil.

My mother always told us “there is no use crying over spilled milk.” That means you should not get angry when something bad happens and cannot be changed.

People said my mother was “a good egg.” She would always help anyone in need.

We never had to “walk on eggshells” around her - we did not have to be careful about what we said or did because she never got angry at us.

She also told us “you have to break some eggs to make an omelet.” This means you have to do what is necessary to move forward.

My mother believed “you are what you eat” - a good diet is important for good health. She would always give us nutritious food. She liked serving us meat and potatoes for dinner. “Meat and potatoes” can also mean the most important part of something. It describes someone who likes simple things.

Here is another expression about meat: “one man’s meat is another man’s poison.” In other words, one person might like something very much while another person might hate the same thing.

My father was also a good and honest person. People said he was “the salt of the earth.” He would never “pour salt

on a wound” - or make someone feel worse about something that was already a painful experience.

However, sometimes he told us a story that seemed bigger than life. So we had to “take it with a grain of salt” - that is, we could not believe everything he told us.

My husband has a good job. He makes enough money to support our family. So we say “he brings home the bacon.”

He can “cut the mustard” - or do what is expected of him at work.

It is easy to find my husband in a crowd. He stands almost two meters tall. He is “a tall drink of water.”

I take the train to work. It is not a pleasant ride because the train can be full of people. It is so crowded that we are “packed like sardines” - just like small fish in a can.

My supervisor at work is sometimes “out to lunch.” She is out of touch and does not always know what is going on in our office. Yet she is right about one thing: “there is no such thing as a free lunch” - something may appear to be free of charge, but there may be a hidden cost.

When we fail to see problems at work, my supervisor tells us to “wake up and smell the coffee” - we need to pay more attention and fix the problem.

I once made a big mistake at the office and felt foolish. I had “egg on my face.”

Over the weekend, my friend invited me to watch a football game on television. But I do not like football. It is “not my cup of tea.”

We hope this program has given you “food for thought” - that is, something to think about.

Unit 6
Proverbs Tell How to Succeed in Life

Pre-listening activity:

1. Questions:

1. Why do people use proverbs in their speech?
2. Do you use any of them?
3. What other English proverbs do you know?

Vocabulary:

2. Can you recognize the proverb which is hidden in the meaning? Ex.4 will be helpful.

1. Hard work never hurt anyone.
2. Someone who acts unwisely with money will lose it.
3. A person who gets up early, or acts quickly, has the best chance of success.
4. You should not risk losing something you have by seeking something that is not guaranteed.
5. You should not criticize other people unless you are perfect yourself.
6. You do something so fast, resulting in mistakes.
7. Staying healthy by eating good food.
8. You shouldn't be concerned about something bad that you cannot change.

3. Be sure you know the meanings of the following words before you start listening to the text:

Proverb, express, common, belief, worm, guarantee, hatch, warn, resource, stock shares, value, unwisely, haste, honesty, be concerned, spill, hurt, dull.

Listening activity:

4. Listen to the text "Proverbs Tell How to Succeed in Life". What proverbs appear in the text? Match them with their meanings in ex.2.

After you listen to the text twice, finish the proverb:

An apple a day ...

A fool and his money ...

Never put off until tomorrow ...

Haste makes ...

A bird in the hand ...

The early bird ...

You are ...

Do not count your chickens ...

Do not put all your eggs ...

Honesty is ...

There is no use ...

Children should be ...

All work and no play ...

People who live in glass houses ...

Variants: the best policy, keeps the doctor away, before they are hatched, what you eat, catches the worm, is worth two in the bush, crying over spilled milk, makes Jack a dull boy, should not throw stones, what you can do today, are soon parted, waste, in one basket, seen and not heard

5. Use at least 3 of the proverbs in the conversation with your friend.

**6. Here are some other proverbs that would be useful
Find Russian equivalent to each proverb if it's possible.**

1. Do not judge a book by its cover
2. Two wrongs do not make a right
3. Every cloud has a silver lining
4. Do not bite off more than you can chew
5. All that glitters is not gold
6. Two heads are better than one
7. Many cooks spoil the broth
8. Do not cross that bridge until you come to it
9. You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar
10. Good things come in small packages
11. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

Which proverb would you say in these situations?

- a) My daughter is very short. She would like to be taller. But I tell her that The size of something is not always important. Some valuable things are very small, like diamonds and other jewels.
- b) But I also tell my children that Do not be fooled by appearances. Something may look valuable, but may not really be valuable. Also, I tell them You should not judge something only by its appearance.

- c) Another proverb is This means do not try to do more than you are able to do.
- d) Some times I tell my children to cooperate to solve a problem. After all, Two people working together can get better results. But another proverb says If too many people try to do something, then the job will not be done well.
- e) I also tell my children that You should not do something bad just because someone did the same to you.
- f) Some people are pessimists: they always think about how bad things are or will be. Other people are optimists: they always look on the bright side. They think things will be all right. Optimists might say that They can find something good even in a bad situation. Other people are both pessimists and optimists. They hope for the best and prepare for the worst. Some people often worry about what they will do in a situation that might happen in the future. We could tell them
- g) It is usually much better to prevent a problem from happening than it is to find ways to solve it. So we say
- h) Finally, I always liked this proverb: In other words, you can win people to your side more easily with gentle persuasion than by hostile actions.

Script 6

Proverbs Tell How to Succeed in Life

Today we explain more popular proverbs. A proverb is a short, well known saying that expresses a common truth or belief. Proverbs are popular around the world.

Many listeners have sent us their favorite proverbs. They give advice about how to live.

We begin with two popular proverbs about staying healthy by eating good food: One is an apple a day keeps the doctor away. Another is you are what you eat.

Several proverbs about birds also give advice. You may have heard this one: The early bird catches the worm. This means a person who gets up early, or acts quickly, has the best chance of success.

Another famous proverb is a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. This means you should not risk losing something you have by seeking something that is not guaranteed.

Here is another piece of advice: Do not count your chickens before they are hatched. In other words, you should not think too much about some future event before it really happens.

Another proverb warns do not put all your eggs in one basket. This means you should not put all of your resources together in one place because you could risk losing everything at one time. Many Americans learned this the hard way by investing all their money in stock shares, which then lost value.

Another proverb says a fool and his money are soon parted. This means someone who acts unwisely with money will lose it.

Here is more advice: If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Also, never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

You might learn that haste makes waste if you do something so fast, resulting in mistakes. Most people would agree with this proverb: honesty is the best policy.

Yet another proverb advises us not to be concerned about

something bad that you cannot change. It says there is no use crying over spilled milk.

Do you agree with the proverb that children should be seen and not heard?

Maybe you have told your children that hard work never hurt anyone. But other people say that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. They believe it is not wise to spend all your time working and never having fun.

Finally, here is one of our favorite proverbs: People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. This means you should not criticize other people unless you are perfect yourself.

Unit 7

Take this medicine

Pre-listening activity:

1. Questions:

1. Do you know that there are signs used to represent some new words and expressions?
2. Have you seen any of them?

2. Do you recognize these signs:



3. Report about any sign in history. Power Point presentation would be helpful.

4. Read the parts of the history of US dollar sign and put them in the right order.

Where did the dollar sign come from?

1. Handwritten manuscripts dating to that time show that there was abbreviated PS.
2. One of the most popular theories came from libertarian philosopher and author Ayn Rand, who in her 1957 novel “Atlas Shrugged” included a chapter on the dollar sign, which she claimed was a symbol not only of American currency but of the nation’s economic freedom.
3. The \$ first appeared in print after 1800, and was widely used by the time the first U.S. paper dollar was issued in 1875.
4. According to Rand, the dollar sign (written with two downward slashes instead of one) came from the initials of the United States: A capital U superimposed over a capital S, minus the lower part of the U.
5. No one really knows for sure, and several theories have emerged over the years.
6. It’s believed that as time went on, the abbreviation was often written so that the S was on top of the P, producing an approximation of the \$ symbol.
7. The most widely accepted explanation, according to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, goes back to the Spanish peso, which was accepted as the basic unit of value in colonial America during the late 1700s.

8. No documentary evidence exists to support this theory, however, and it seems clear the dollar sign was already in use by the time the United States was formed.
9. Though the PS theory is now widely accepted, various alternate explanations have been proposed over the years for how this ubiquitous symbol came into existence.

Vocabulary:

5. Be sure you know the meanings of the following words:

a sign, drug stores, appears, medicine, right foot, prescription, pray, wisdom, heal, The ancient, drawing, magic, to protect, disease, suffering, papyrus, rolls, sick, the fall, alchemist, the custom, easily-recognized capital “R”, assistance.

Listening activity:

6. Listen to the text “Take this medicine” and answer the questions:

1. What sign represents the word “prescription”?
2. What does it mean?
3. What sign did the ancient Egyptians use as a magic sign to protect themselves from disease, suffering and evil?
4. How did the sign change long after the fall of the ancient Egyptian Civilization?
5. How are Egyptian Gods: Horus, Seth, Thoth mentioned in the text?

Script 7

Take this medicine

Every week at this time, the Voice of America tells about popular words and expressions used in the United States.

Some of these words and expressions are old. Some are new. Together, they form the living speech of the American people. Our story today is very old. It goes back about 5,000 years. It is about a sign that is used to represent some words.

We see this sign on drug stores and whenever we visit a doctor to get an order for medicine. It also appears on bottles of pills and other medicines.

The sign is formed by a line across the right foot of the letter "R." It represents the word "prescription." It has come to mean "take this medicine."

The sign has its beginnings 5,000 years ago in Egypt. At that time, people prayed to Horus, the god of the Sun. It was said that when Horus was a child, he was attacked by Seth, the demon of evil.

The evil Seth put out the eye of the young Horus. The mother of Horus called for help. Her cry was answered by Thoth, the god of learning and magic. Thoth, with his wisdom and special powers, healed the eye of Horus. And the child was able to see again.

The ancient Egyptians used a drawing of the eye of Horus as a magic sign to protect themselves from disease, suffering and evil. They cut this sign in the stones they used for buildings. And it was painted on the papyrus rolls used for writing about medicine and doctors.

For thousands of years, the eye of Horus remained as a sign of the god's help to the suffering and sick.

Long after the fall of the ancient Egyptian civilization, doctors and alchemists in Europe continued the custom of showing a sign of the gods' help and protection. But over the years, the sign changed from the eye of Horus to the sign for Jupiter, the chief god of the Romans. Jupiter's sign looked much like the printed number "four." That sign changed, also. Today, it is the easily-recognized capital "R" with a line across its foot.

The sign no longer offers heavenly assistance to the sick. It now means "take this medicine."

Unit 8 Fireworks

Pre-listening activity:

1. Questions:

1. Why do people enjoy watching fireworks?
2. What celebrations do fireworks accompany?
3. Do you know anything about the origins of the fireworks?

2. Read some interesting facts about the history of the fireworks and fill in the gaps:

- a) manufacturing
- b) bright lights
- c) celebrating
- d) festivities
- e) widespread
- f) glow
- g) elaborate
- h) amounts

The origin of fireworks

For hundreds of years people have been awed by the (1) and big noise of fireworks.

Legend has it that the Chinese made the first fireworks in the 800s, filling bamboo shoots with gunpowder and exploding them at the New Year with the hope that the sound would scare away evil spirits. The ancient Chinese also used fireworks at (2) and to frighten enemies in battle. According to tradition, Marco Polo brought this technology back to Europe.

It's fair to say, however, that the origins of fireworks are shrouded in smoke; the China story is (3), and possibly true, but fireworks may in fact have developed in India or the Arab world. Fireworks became known in Europe during the 1300s, probably after returning Crusaders brought them from the East.

By the 1400s Florence, Italy, was the center of fireworks (4). At this time fireworks were just one effect in a celebration rather than its focus. At religious festivals Italians made plaster figures that spewed fireworks from their eyes and mouths.

During the 1700s displays became more (5) and were popular with European royalty. Meanwhile, in the American colonies settlers used fireworks to mark happy occasions.

Today fireworks are a key part of (6) Independence Day in the United States, Guy Fawkes' Day in the United Kingdom, Bastille Day in France, and New Year festivities around the world.

Early fireworks were enjoyed more for the sound than the show. In its simplest forms gunpowder explodes quickly, leaving a terrific bang but not much to see other than a rather brief golden (7). Over time people discovered that using chemical compounds with greater (8) of oxygen made the explosives burn brighter and longer.

Vocabulary:

3. Be sure you know the meanings of the following words:

the accused, affect, judge, no more of these fireworks in the courtroom, fall in love, sweetheart, touch, cartoon, represent, throughout the year, Independence Day, nation's freedom, giant crowds, gather, huge, local people, band concerts, explode, midnight, birthplace, weddings, celebrate.

Listening activity:

4. Listen to the text "Fireworks" and answer the questions:

1. What is the best time of the year to see fireworks in the United States?
2. What country is the birthplace of fireworks?
3. Where else are fireworks shows popular?
4. What meanings of the word "fireworks" can you trace in the text?

5. Translate into Russian

1. A New Year's Eve fireworks display.
2. Jeff and David were in the back yard setting off fireworks.
3. There'll be fireworks if I get home late again.
4. The real fireworks are provided by Shakespeare's poetry.
5. They were oohing and aahing as if they were watching the fireworks.
6. When you put these men together you're bound to get fireworks.

Script 8

Fireworks

Today we tell about the word fireworks.

The expression "fireworks" gets its meaning from the fireworks that people shoot into the sky when they are celebrating a great event. Rockets explode to fill the dark, night sky with bright reds and blues, with yellows and greens and whites.

The expression also means a great show of noisy anger, or something exciting. For example, a defense lawyer in a court trial may become very emotional in arguing with the government lawyer about evidence affecting the accused. The judge finally stops the loud argument and calls the two lawyers

forward. He tells them, "I want no more of these fireworks in my courtroom."

Another kind of fireworks can be any event or activity that is especially exciting. One such event is falling in love. If anything can produce fireworks, it is a sweetheart's kiss or the touch of a lover's hand. Often movie or television cartoons show fireworks to represent the excitement of a kiss.

People use the expression fireworks throughout the year. But if you live in the United States and want to see real fireworks, the best time of the year is about now. The Fourth of July is Independence Day in the United States. Americans traditionally celebrate their nation's freedom with giant public parties and fireworks at night.

In Washington, for example, large crowds gather near the Washington Monument to listen to music and watch a huge fireworks show.

In other cities and smaller towns, local people listen to band concerts and watch fireworks explode in a dark sky.

Many other countries around the world also enjoy the tradition of exploding fireworks on special days. In Australia, the city of Sydney begins each new year with a fireworks show at midnight. China is the birthplace of fireworks. Large fireworks shows were held often during earlier times in China. Now, people use small fireworks to help celebrate weddings and birthdays.

France also has a great fireworks tradition. A large fireworks show always takes place on Bastille Day, which celebrates the beginning of the French Revolution. The French city of Cannes holds an international fireworks competition each year in July and August.

In India, people have been using fireworks for more than 500 years. A great Indian fireworks show takes place during the religious celebration of Diwali, every autumn.

Fireworks shows are popular around the world. But, if I do not end this program right now, there will be fireworks from my producer.

Unit 9

Clothes

Don't Get Caught With Your Pants Down

Pre-listening activity:

We have already discussed the proverbs that include words about fruit, let's turn to the English expressions that include words about clothes.

Look up the meanings of the expressions and use them in the sentences. Do you know anyone who is described in the following sentences? Dwell on the character of these people.

- a. Deep pockets
- b. Hand in glove
- c. Keep it under your hat
- d. In someone's pocket
- e. All dressed up and nowhere to go
- f. Grey suits
- g. Cut your coat according to your cloth
- h. Eat my hat
- i. Birthday suit
- j. Dress to kill
- k. All talk and no trousers

1. If you're prepared for something that isn't going to happen, you'll say
2. If you ..., you keep it secret.
3. If a person is ..., they are dependent, especially financially, on them.
4. If people are ..., they have an extremely close relationship.

5. The men ... are people who have a lot of power in business or politics, but aren't well-known or charismatic.
6. People say this when they don't believe that something is going to happen e.g. 'If he passes that exam, I'll ...!'
7. When someone is ..., they are dressed very smartly.
8. If someone has ..., they are wealthy.
9. If you ..., you only buy things that you have sufficient money to pay for.
10. If you are in your ..., you are naked.
11. (UK) Someone who is ..., talks about doing big, important things, but doesn't take any action.

13. fill their shoes
14. stuffed shirt
15. to wear heart on the sleeve
16. to keep a shirt on
17. to lose one's shirt
18. to roll up the sleeves
19. to have a card up the sleeve
- j) to live on less money and spend money carefully
- k) to prepare to work hard
- l) budgeting money
- m) praise smb
- n) get money by inventing or imagining it
- o) replace them with someone equally effective
- p) to show feelings openly
- q) too smart to lose all or most of the money
- r) immediately, without waiting
- s) too firm and severe

Vocabulary:

2. Match the expressions with their meanings:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. off the cuff | a) to tell husband what to do |
| 2. to have "ants in their pants" | b) without any preparation |
| 3. fly by the seat of one's pants | c) to think they are more important than they really are |
| 4. get caught with their pants down | d) to be restless or nervous |
| 5. to wear the pants in the family | e) to do something instead of learned knowledge |
| 6. it burns a hole in your pocket | f) to be like a person who does magic tricks |
| 7. to tighten your belt | g) to be found doing something that should not be done |
| 8. under your belt | |
| 9. take one's hat off to smb | h) money that is likely to be spent quickly |
| 10. at the drop of a hat | i) to stay calm and never get angry or too excited |
| 11. pull money out of a hat | |
| 12. too big for their boots | |

Listening activity:

3. Listen to the text "Clothes" and check your choice in ex.3.

Script 9

Clothes

Don't Get Caught With Your Pants Down

Have you ever considered all the English expressions that include words about clothes? Let's see if I can name a few "off the cuff" -- or without any preparation.

People wear pants to cover the lower part of their bodies. We sometimes say that people who are restless or nervous have "ants in their pants." They might also "fly by the seat of their pants" -- they use their natural sense to do something instead of their learned knowledge. Sometimes, people may "get caught with their pants down" -- they are found doing something they should not be doing. And, in every family, one person takes control. Sometimes a wife tells her

husband what to do. Then we say "she wears the pants in the family."

Pants usually have pockets to hold things. Money that is likely to be spent quickly can "burn a hole in your pocket." Sometimes you need a belt to hold up your pants. If you have less money than usual, you may have to "tighten your belt" -- you may have to live on less money and spend your money carefully. But once you have succeeded in budgeting your money, you will have that skill "under your belt."

I always praise people who can save their money and not spend too much. I really "take my hat off to them." Yet, when it comes to my own money, I spend it "at the drop of a hat" -- immediately, without waiting. And sadly, you cannot "pull money out of a hat" -- you cannot get money by inventing or imagining it.

Boots are a heavy or strong kind of shoes. People who are "too big for their boots" think they are more important than they really are. I dislike such people. I really do. You can bet your boots on that!

Yet, truly important people are hard to replace. Rarely can you "fill their shoes" -- or replace them with someone equally effective.

My father is an important person. He runs a big company. He wears a suit and tie and a shirt with sleeves that cover his arms. Some people who do not know him well think he is too firm and severe. They think he is a real "stuffed shirt." But I know that my father "wears his heart on his sleeve" -- he shows his feelings openly. And, he knows how to "keep his shirt on" -- he stays calm and never gets angry or too excited.

Also, my father has never "lost his shirt" in a business deal -- he is too smart to lose all or most of his money. This is because my father "rolls up his sleeves" -- and prepares to work hard. He often has a special plan or answer to a problem that he

can use if he needs it. He is like a person who does magic tricks. We say "he has a card up his sleeve."

Unit 10 Nice Birthday Suit

Pre-listening activity:

1. Read and express your point of view if appearance matters.

We hate to admit it, because we personally feel that clothes shouldn't matter. In a perfect world, a person would be judged at their workplace based solely on the caliber of their work. Unfortunately, that's not how the world works.

How you choose to dress each morning reflects how you feel about your job -- that you take your position seriously, that you are ready to work and that you pay attention to detail and know what you expect to encounter that day. You wouldn't go to a construction site in your favorite four-inch stilettos, right? Of course not, you'd go in a hard hat, because it's appropriate for the situation. Appearances matter!

We've all been there, though. The days you wake up feeling sick, but still have to make it into the office, so you throw on any old thing that's (kind of) clean.

Regardless of the excuses, there are some things that professionals should just never wear. Ever.

We'll show you what these things are, why they're a terrible wardrobe choice and if you're guilty of having one in your closet -- or (gasp!) in your daily rotation -- we'll give you a much better alternative.

Vocabulary:

2. Find synonyms:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. the shoe will be on the other foot | a. look dressed to kill |
| | b. look great in best clothes |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2. fit like a glove | c. be very careful |
| 3. feel decked out | d. a real expert |
| 4. with kid gloves | e. someone who acts like a |
| 5. dressed to the nines or
dressed to the teeth | good person, but is really
a bad person. |
| 6. a wolf in sheep's
clothing | f. fit perfectly |
| 7. if the shoe fits, wear it | g. have a very small budget |
| 8. an old hat | h. ride someone else's coat
tails |
| 9. live on a shoestring | i. be successful today as a
result of someone else
being successful |
| 10. to walk in another
person's shoes | j. never criticize others for
something you would do
yourself |

Pre-listening activity:

3. Listen to the text "Nice birthday suit". What is the narrator's point of view to clothes.

4. After you listen, be ready with your story or write an essay using the idioms from ex.3 (200-250 words)

Script 10

Nice Birthday Suit!

Last week, I explained some English expressions about clothes. Everything I told you was true. I did not talk through my hat or say something without knowing the facts.

Everyone knows there are many English expressions about clothes. There is no need to keep it a secret, or keep it under your hat. In fact, if I keep talking, soon enough you will start to think I am an old hat about this -- a real expert. Do not be fooled, though. My friends sometimes call me a wolf in

sheep's clothing. This is someone who acts like a good person, but is really a bad person.

I'm not really a bad person. But I do love clothes. It is always fun to get dressed up. I look great in my best clothes. When I put them on, I feel decked out. You might say when I wear my best clothes, I am dressed to the nines or dressed to the teeth. In fact, my husband says I look dressed to kill. Of course, I would never kill anyone. But, there is something special about putting on clothes that are pleasing to the eye. My best clothes are not modern or fashionable. Maybe someday they will come into fashion. But I really do not care. They certainly look better on me than my birthday suit. Did you know that everyone has a birthday suit? You wear it when you are wearing no clothes at all. Babies are born wearing their birthday suits.

I am very careful with my clothes. I handle them with kid gloves. I try not to get them dirty or torn. Most of my clothes fit like a glove. They fit perfectly. But when I eat too much, I feel like my clothes might burst at the seams. My clothes feel too restrictive and tight.

Some of the clothes I like best are hand-me-downs. My older sister gave them to me when she no longer wanted them. Hand-me-downs are great because clothes often cost too much money. I live on a shoestring. I have a very small budget and little money to spend on clothes. However, my sister has a lot of money to spend on clothes. Maybe someday the shoe will be on the other foot. The opposite will be true. I will have a lot of money to buy clothes and my sister will get hand-me-downs from me.

I admit I dream of being rich. I dream that someday I will be able to live like a rich person. I will know what it is like to walk in another person's shoes. Some of my friends got rich by riding someone else's coat tails. They are successful today as a result of someone else being successful. But, I believe you

should never criticize others for something you would do yourself. What is said about someone else can also be said about you. Remember, if the shoe fits, wear it.

Unit 11 Sport

Pre-listening activity:

1. Look at the sports. How many of them do you play with a ball?

football	tennis	aerobics	table tennis	gymnastics
athletics	rowing	badminton	ice hockey	swimming
squash	volleyball	fishing	baseball	skiing
cricket	hockey	basketball	sailing	rugby
golf	boxing			

2. Match the sports with the correct verb: play, go or do.

For example: play football or go swimming.

What's the rule? When do we use play, go and do?

3. Guess the sport

Look at the descriptions of the different sports below. Which sport is being described?

1 There are two teams. There are eleven players in each team on the pitch. The players wear shirts, shorts and boots. The goalkeeper plays in goal. The striker tries to score goals. The team that scores the most goals wins the match.

2 This sport is one of the most popular at the Olympics. You have to be fit, fast and strong. It includes running the 100 metres and the marathon, throwing the javelin, putting the shot, and doing the high jump and long jump.

3 This is a popular sport all over the world. The top players play in international tournaments. It is played on a court with racquets and balls. One player serves the ball over a net and his or her opponent has to hit it back.

4 People do this sport to keep fit. You have to stretch and touch your toes. It's very tiring. People often do this to music.

5 This is a popular sport with people of all ages. You play it on a course with different clubs and small white balls.

Vocabulary:

4. Pick the odd word out?

- a. a ball, a shuttlecock, a puck, a basket
- b. score, miss, goal, pass, shoot
- c. a bat, a ball, a racquet, a club
- d. a court, a pitch, a match, a course
- e. strong, jump, stretch, throw

5. Interview your partner about sport. Ask the questions about his favourite sport, favourite team, favourite sports person, the most popular sport in his country, any sports which are played only in his country

Listening activity:

6. Listen and define what the following phrases mean, fill in the gaps:

- a. way off base
- b. a whole new ballgame
- c. in the ballpark
- d. on the ball
- e. go down swinging
- f. we are not in the same ballpark
- g. bat one thousand
- h. step up to the plate
- i. a ballpark figure

- j. to touch base with
- k. three strikes and you are out
- l. cover one's bases
- m. hit it out of the park
- n. touch all the bases
- o. right off the bat
- p. throw a "curve ball"
- q. hit a home run
- r. strike out
- s. out in left field
- t. a ballpark estimate

1. Someone who is ... is intelligent and able to do a good job.
2. But a person who ... did something unexpected.
3. Someone who ... is ready to do his or her job.
4. A person who ... or ... attempted something but failed.
5. We also might tell the person that But someone who ... or ... did something extremely well.
6. Sometimes I have to give information quickly, without time to think it over. Then I would say something
7. If someone is doing an extremely good job and is very successful, you might say he or she is
8. If I say ... , I will talk to you from time to time about something we plan to do.
9. I might say ... if I did what is necessary to complete a job or activity. And if I ..., I was well prepared. However, someone who is ... did something wrong or maybe even dishonest or immoral.
10. A person with strange ideas might be described as
11. Let us say I want to sell my car but I do not know exactly how much it is worth. If someone asks me the price, I might give ... or
12. If someone offers me an amount that is close to my selling price, I might say the amount is However, if I say ... , I

mean we cannot agree because my ideas are too different from yours.

13. Finally, when a situation changes completely, we say

Script 11 **Sport**

Baseball is America's national sport, so it is not unusual that many popular expressions come from baseball. But first, let me explain a little about the game...

Each baseball team has nine players. The pitcher of one team throws the ball to a batter from the other team. The batter attempts to hit the ball. If he misses, it is called a strike. If a batter gets three strikes, he loses his turn at bat and is called "out." The batter also is out if he hits the ball in the air and an opposing player catches it. But if the batter hits the ball and it is not caught, the batter tries to run to one or more of the four bases on the field. The batter can run to all four bases if he hits the ball over the fence or out of the ballpark. Such a hit is called "a home run."

Nationals Park in Washington, DC, July 4, 2013. Now, here are some common expressions from baseball:

Someone who is "on the ball" is intelligent and able to do a good job.

But a person who threw a "curve ball" did something unexpected.

Someone who "steps up to the plate" is ready to do his or her job.

A pinch-hitter takes the place of someone else at a job or activity.

A person who "strikes out" or "goes down swinging" attempted something but failed.

We also might tell the person that "three strikes and you are out." But someone who "hit a home run" or "hit it out of the park" did something extremely well.

Unit 12
Space exploration

Sometimes I have to give information quickly, without time to think it over. Then I would say something “right off the bat.”

If someone is doing an extremely good job and is very successful, you might say he or she is “batting one thousand.”

If I say “I want to touch base with you,” I will talk to you from time to time about something we plan to do.

I might say “I touched all the bases” if I did what is necessary to complete a job or activity. And if I “covered my bases,” I was well prepared. However, someone who is “way off base” did something wrong or maybe even dishonest or immoral.

A person with strange ideas might be described as “out in left field.”

Let us say I want to sell my car but I do not know exactly how much it is worth. If someone asks me the price, I might give “a ballpark figure” or “a ballpark estimate.” If someone offers me an amount that is close to my selling price, I might say the amount is “in the ballpark.” However, if I say “we are not in the same ballpark,” I mean we cannot agree because my ideas are too different from yours.

Finally, when a situation changes completely, we say “that is a whole new ballgame.”

Pre-listening activity:

1. Questions:

1. Who deals with space, orbit and planets?
2. Do you think there is life on other planets?
3. Who is a rocket scientist?
4. Do you know any phrases with space vocabulary?

Vocabulary:

2. Solve the puzzles.

1. It is a space and everything that exist in it.
2. It is a huge group of stars and planets.
3. It is a place far above the Earth where there is no air.
4. It is a rocket or other vehicle that can travel in space.
5. It is a large, round object that goes round a star.
6. It is the Sun together with the planets going round it.

3. These are the planets that orbit the Sun:

Earth Jupiter Mars Mercury Neptune (Pluto) Saturn Uranus Venus

Can you put the planets in order?

See the key

4. Look at the word cloud. The words are from a text. Circle the biggest words then complete this sentence:

I think the text is about

.....

She's asking for the moon, and she's not going to get it. Don't ask for the moon. Be reasonable!

2. moon about someone or something and moon over someone or something

Stop mooning about your cat. Cats always come back eventually. Jill is still mooning over Robert.

3. once in a blue moon

Jill: Does your husband ever bring you flowers? Ellen: Once in a blue moon. Once in a blue moon, I buy a fashion magazine, just to see what people are wearing.

4. go to bed with the sun

The campers went to bed with the sun. The children had to go to bed with the sun. The grown-ups stayed up a little later.

5. Happy is the bride that the sun shines on.

Our wedding day was a sunny one, and most of my relatives made sure to remind me, "Happy is the bride that the sun shines on."

6. Make hay while the sun shines.

Jane: While my husband's out of town, I'm going to watch all the movies he wouldn't take me to see. Jane: Why not? Make hay while the sun shines.

See the key

9. Before you listen to the text, be sure that you know the following words:

Broadcaster, mystery, space travel, launch, postpone, warn

Listening activity:

10. Listen to the text "Rockets Scientists Enjoy a Good Reputation" and answer the questions.

1. What does "You do not need to be a rocket scientist to do smth" mean?
2. When do people use this phrase?
3. How did the expression begin?
4. Who are the most intelligent people around?

Script 12

Rockets Scientists Enjoy a Good Reputation

"You do not need to be a rocket scientist." Americans hear these words often. People say them in schools, offices and factories. Broadcasters on radio and television use them.

This is how you might hear the words used.

Workers in an office are afraid to try to use their new computer system. Their employer tells them not to be foolish. "You do not need to be a rocket scientist to learn this," he says.

Or, high school students cannot seem to understand something their teacher is explaining. "Come on," she says. "You do not need to be a rocket scientist to understand this."

Or, a company that makes soap is trying to sell its product on television. "You do not need to be a rocket scientist to see that our soap cleans better," the company says.

These words send a strong message. They say that you do not need to be extremely intelligent to understand something.

How did the expression begin?

No one seems to know for sure. But an official of the American space agency, NASA, says the expression just grew. It grew, he says, because rocket scientists probably are the most intelligent people around.

Not everyone would agree.

Some people might be considered more intelligent than rocket scientists. For example, a person who speaks and reads

fifteen languages, or a medical doctor who operates on the brain.

Still, many people would agree that there is something special about scientists who build rockets. Maybe it has to do with the mystery of space travel.

Moving pictures from before World War II showed a man named Buck Rogers landing on the planet Mars. He was a hero who could defeat any enemy from outer space. The rocket scientist is a different kind of hero. He or she makes space travel possible.

Rocket scientists, however, can have problems just like anyone else. A Washington rocket scientist tells about a launch that was postponed many, many times. Finally, everything seemed right. Mechanical failures had been repaired. The weather was good.

The scientists had planned that part of the rocket would fall into the ocean after the launch. All ships and boats within many kilometers of the danger area had been warned. But in the last few seconds a small boat entered the area. Once again, the launch was postponed.

When the work goes well, most rocket scientists enjoy their jobs. One scientist said, "As a child I loved to build rockets. Now I am grown. I still love to build rockets. And now I get paid for it."

Key to ex.2:

1. the universe
2. galaxy
3. space
4. a spaceship
5. planet
6. the Solar System

Key to ex.3:

My Very Excellent Mother Just Sent Us Nine Pizzas.

Key to ex.8:

1. To make outlandish requests or demands for something, such as a lot of money or special privileges.
2. To pine or grieve about someone or something.
3. Very seldom
4. To go to bed early, at sunset.
5. It is supposed to be good luck for the sun to shine on a couple on their wedding day.
6. If you have an opportunity to do something, do it before the opportunity expires.

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Learning English through listening to
idioms, proverbs and sayings

Учебно-методическое пособие

Подписано в печать Формат 60*84 1/16
Печать офсетная. Усл.печ.л.5,29 Уч.-изд.л.0,52
Тираж экз.
Заказ №

Издательство «Удмуртский университет»
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