**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**First-Year Oral Expression Module**

**Academic Year: 2024-2025**

**Lesson 10**

**Idioms and Phrasal Verbs**

**Ted Goes Out for The Evening**

**Ted leaves to go visit his girlfriend Amber. Ted's mother Susan says she doesn't really like Amber She wishes him a good time anyway.**

**Ted:** See you later, Mom!

**Susan:** Where are you going, Ted?

**Ted:** I told Amber I'd ***drop by***.

**Susan:** What are you two going to do?

**Ted:** Maybe go to the movies or to a party. Our plans are still ***up in the air***.

**Susan:** Why don't you invite her over here?

**Ted:** I don't want to ***hang around*** here. Dad is really ***down in the dumps***.

**Susan:** Is Amber the girl with the nose ring and the purple hair?

**Ted:** Yeah. I'm ***crazy about*** her!

**Susan:** Don't ***take this the wrong way***, but she's not exactly my ***cup of tea***.

**Ted:** ***Take it easy***, Mom. We're not ***about to*** get married. We just enjoy ***hanging out*** together.

**Susan:** I guess ***there's no accounting for taste***. ***Have a good time***.

**Ted:** Don't worry. We'll ***have a blast***!

**Susan:** (***under her breath***) That's what I'm afraid of!

**IDIOMS**

* **about to**

**→** ready to; on the verge of

*Example 1:* It's a good thing Bob left the furniture store when he did. Peter was so angry, he was **about to** throw a dining room chair at him.

*Example 2:* I'm glad you're finally home. I was just **about to** have dinner without you.

* **(to be) crazy about**

**→** to like very much

EXAMPLE 1: Amy is so **crazy about** golf, she'd like to play every day.

EXAMPLE 2: I'm sure Katie will agree to go out on a date with Sam. She's **crazy about** him!

* **cup of tea**

**→** the type of person or thing that one generally likes

EXAMPLE 1: Hockey isn't Alan's **cup of tea**. He prefers soccer.

EXAMPLE 2: I know Joy is nice, but she's simply not my **cup of tea**.

NOTE: This expression is almost always used in the negative. She's not my cup of tea.

* **(to be) down in the dumps**

**→** to feel sad; to be depressed

EXAMPLE 1: It's not surprising that Lisa is **down in the dumps**. Paws, the cat she had for 20 years, just died.

EXAMPLE 2: It's easy to feel **down in the dumps** when it's raining outside.

* **(to) drop by**

**→** to pay a short, often unannounced visit

EXAMPLE 1: If we have time before the movie, let's **drop by** Bill's house.

EXAMPLE 2: "Hi, I was in the neighborhood so I thought I'd **drop by**!"

* **(to) hang around**

**→** to spend time idly; to linger

EXAMPLE 1: We had to **hang around** the airport for an extra six hours because our flight was delayed.

EXAMPLE 2: Nina's boyfriend Boris is coming over soon. She hopes her parents aren't planning on **hanging around** the house.

* **(to) hang out**

**→** to spend time (often doing nothing)

EXAMPLE 1: Ted spent all of last summer **hanging out** by his friend's pool.

EXAMPLE 2: Kathy and her friends like to **hang out** at the mall.

NOTE: "Hang out with" means to keep company with someone.

* **(to) have a blast**

**→** to enjoy oneself very much

EXAMPLE 1: Last summer, Nicole **had a blast** backpacking through Europe with some friends.

EXAMPLE 2: Heather spent her spring break in Fort Lauderdale with millions of other college students. She **had a blast**!

* **(to) have a good time**

**→** to enjoy oneself

EXAMPLE 1: Marcy and Jose **had a good time** salsa dancing at Babalu, a nightclub in Manhattan.

EXAMPLE 2: Nora and Jake **had a good time** on their honeymoon in Maui.

* **take it easy**

**→** relax; don't worry

EXAMPLE 1: You lost your keys? **Take it easy**, I'm sure you'll find them.

EXAMPLE 2: Stop yelling and **take it easy**. I'm sure there's a good explanation for why Joe borrowed your car without asking first.

* **(to) take something the wrong way**

**→** to take offense

EXAMPLE 1: Don't **take this the wrong way**, but I liked your hair better before you got it cut.

EXAMPLE 2: Jessica is offended. I guess she **took it the wrong way** when I told her she should exercise more.

NOTE: This expression is often used in the negative form: "Don't take this the wrong way, but..."

* **there's no accounting for taste**

**→** it's impossible to explain individual likes and dislikes

EXAMPLE 1: Ted likes to put sugar on his spaghetti. I guess **there's no accounting for taste**.

EXAMPLE 2: Tiffany has a tattoo of a squirrel on her leg. **There's no accounting for taste**.

* **under one's breath**

**→** quietly; in a whisper

EXAMPLE 1: "Amber is strange," muttered Nicole **under her breath**, as Ted was leaving the room.

EXAMPLE 2: Mike agreed to take out the garbage, saying **under his breath**, "I always do the dirty work around here."

* **(to be) up in the air**

**→** not yet determined; uncertain

EXAMPLE 1: It might rain later, so our plans for the picnic are **up in the air.**

EXAMPLE 2: Our trip to Russia is **up in the air**. We aren't sure we'll get our visas in time.

**Practice The Idioms**

**Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

1. Bob was fired. It's not surprising that he's down \_\_\_\_\_ the dumps.
   * a) at
   * b) in
   * c) with
2. Ted thinks Amber is wonderful. He's just crazy \_\_\_\_\_ her.
   * a) about
   * b) around
   * c) into
3. "Don't \_\_\_\_\_ this the wrong way, but I really don't like your girlfriend," said Susan to Ted.
   * a) understand
   * b) put
   * c) take
4. Ted likes to hang \_\_\_\_\_ with Amber. She's fun to be with.
   * a) on
   * b) out
   * c) in
5. Ted decided to go over to Amber's house. He'd promised her he'd drop \_\_\_\_\_.
   * a) by
   * b) around
   * c) near
6. Bob and Susan don't know where they'll go on vacation. Their travel plans are still up \_\_\_\_\_ the air.
   * a) around
   * b) in
   * c) above
7. Judy muttered something nasty \_\_\_\_\_ her breath, but I couldn't quite hear it.
   * a) about
   * b) under
   * c) below
8. Why are you hanging \_\_\_\_\_ the house on such a beautiful day? You should be outside enjoying the weather.
   * a) inside
   * b) from
   * c) around