**Dr. S. Chouchane**

**1st Year Oral Expression Module**

**Groups: A1, A 4, and A7**

**Semester 5**

**Academic Year: 2023/2024**

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to improve their academic listening, speaking and oral communication skills to talk about daily life situations and be engaged in discussions using the target language.

**Course Evaluation**: 50 % Continuous Assessment and 50% Exam

* **Continuous Assessment**: attendance 2pts, participation 3pts, homework 5pts, Quiz 10pts

**Topics**

- Dreams

- Social Media

- Describing Character and Behavior

- Race Discrimination and Equality

- Artificial Intelligence

- Friendship

- Job Interviews

- Advertising

- Shopping and at the Supermarket

- British vs. American English

- Celebrations and Holidays

TD 1: Introduce yourself, family, and friends

TD 2: Describe a picture

TD 3: Describe a picture

TD 4: Idiomatic expressions

[**Bob's Day at Work**](https://www.essentialenglish.review/book/speak-english-like-an-american/lesson-1-bobs-day-at-work/)

**Bob works as a manager in a furniture store. Peter, his boss, is not happy about sales. Bob's new advertising campaign hasn't helped. Peter decides to fire him.**

***Peter:*** Bob, I hate to ***break the news***, but our sales were down again last month.

***Bob:*** Down again, Peter?

***Peter:*** Yeah. These days, everybody's shopping at our competition, Honest Abe's Furniture Store.

***Bob:*** But everything in there ***costs an arm and a leg!***

***Peter:*** That's true. They do charge ***top dollar.***

***Bob:*** And their salespeople are very strange. They really ***give me the creeps!***

***Peter:*** Well, they must be doing something right over there. Meanwhile, we're ***about to*** ***go belly-up.***

***Bob:*** I'm sorry to hear that. I thought my new advertising campaign would ***save the day.***

***Peter:*** ***Let's face it:*** your advertising campaign was a ***real flop.***

***Bob:*** Well then I'll ***go back to the drawing board.***

***Peter:*** It's too late for that. You're fired!

***Bob:*** What? You're ***giving me the ax***?

***Peter:*** Yes. I've already found a new manager. She's as ***sharp as a tack.***

***Bob:*** Can't we even ***talk this over?*** ***After all***, I've been working here for 10 years!

***Peter:*** There's ***no point in*** arguing, Bob. I've already ***made up my mind.***

***Bob:*** Oh well, ***at least*** I won't have to ***put up with*** your nonsense anymore! Good-bye to you and good-bye to this ***dead-end job***.

***Peter:*** Please leave before I ***lose my temper!***

**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.

* **after all *→****Despite everything; when everything has been considered; the fact is*

Example 1: You'd better invite Ed to your party. **After all**, he's a good friend.

Example 2: It doesn't matter what your boss thinks of you. **After all**, you're going to quit your job anyway.

* **at least *→****anyway; the good thing is that...*

Example 1: We've run out of coffee, but **at least** we still have tea.

Example 2: Tracy can't afford to buy a car, but **at least**she has a good bicycle.

**Note:** The second definition of this phrase is "no less than": There were at least 300 people waiting in line to buy concert tickets.

* **(to) break the news *→****to make something known*

Example 1: Samantha and Michael are getting married, but they haven't yet **broken the news** to their parents.

Example 2: You'd better **break the news** to your father carefully. After all, you don't want him to have a heart attack!

* **(to) cost an arm and a leg *→****to be very expensive*

Example 1: A college education in America **costs an arm and a leg**.

Example 2: All of the furniture at Honest Abe's **costs an arm and a leg**!

* **dead-end job *→****a job that won't lead to anything else*

Example 1: Diane realized that working as a cashier was a **dead-end job.**

Example 2: Jim worked many **dead-end jobs** before finally deciding to start his own business.

* **(let's) face it *→****accept a difficult reality*

Example 1: **Let's face it**, if Ted spent more time studying, he wouldn't be failing so many of his classes!

Example 2: **Let's face it**, if you don't have a college degree, it can be difficult to find a high-paying job.

* **(to) give one the creeps *→****to create a feeling of disgust or horror*

Example 1: Ted's friend Matt has seven earrings in each ear and an "I Love Mom" tattoo on his arm. He really **gives Nicole the creeps**.

Example 2: There was a strange man following me around the grocery store. He was **giving me the creeps**!

* **(to) go back to the drawing board *→****to start a task over because the last try failed; to start again from the beginning*

EXAMPLE 1: Frank's new business failed, so he had to **go back to the drawing board**.

EXAMPLE 2: The president didn't agree with our new ideas for the company, so we had to **go back to the drawing board**.

* **(to) go belly-up *→****to go bankrupt*

EXAMPLE 1: Many people lost their jobs when Enron **went belly-up**.

EXAMPLE 2: My company lost $3 million last year. We might **go belly-up**.

* **(to) give someone the ax *→****to fire someone*

EXAMPLE 1: Mary used to talk to her friends on the phone all day at work, until one day her boss finally **gave her the ax**.

EXAMPLE 2: Poor Paul! He was **given the ax** two days before Christmas.

* **(to) lose one's temper *→****to become very angry*

EXAMPLE 1: Bob always **loses his temper** when his kids start talking on the telephone during dinner.

EXAMPLE 2: When Ted handed in his essay two weeks late, his teacher really **lost her temper**.

* **(to) make up one's mind *→****to reach a decision; to decide*

EXAMPLE 1: Stephanie couldn't **make up her mind** whether to attend Harvard or Stanford. Finally, she chose Stanford.

EXAMPLE 2: Do you want an omelette or fried eggs? You'll need to **make up your mind** quickly because the waitress is coming.

* **no point in *→****no reason to; it's not worth (doing something)*

EXAMPLE 1: There's **no point in** worrying about things you can't change.

EXAMPLE 2: There's **no point in** going on a picnic if it's going to rain.

* **(to) put up with *→****to endure without complaint*

EXAMPLE 1: For many years, Barbara **put up with** her husband's annoying behavior. Finally, she decided to leave him.

EXAMPLE 2: I don't know how Len **puts up with** his mean boss every day.

* **real flop or flop *→****a failure*

EXAMPLE 1: The Broadway play closed after just 4 days - it was a **real flop!**

EXAMPLE 2: The company was in trouble after its new product **flopped**.

* **(to) save the day *→****to prevent a disaster or misfortune*

EXAMPLE 1: The Christmas tree was on fire, but Ted threw water on it and **saved the day.**

EXAMPLE 2: We forgot to buy champagne for our New Year's party, but Sonia brought some and really **saved the day!**

* **(as) sharp as a tack *→****very intelligent*

EXAMPLE 1: Jay scored 100% on his science test. He's as **sharp as a tack**.

EXAMPLE 2: Anna got a scholarship to Yale. She's as**sharp as a tack**.

* **(to) talk over *→****to discuss*

EXAMPLE 1: Dave and I spent hours **talking over** the details of the plan.

EXAMPLE 2: Before you make any big decisions, give me a call and we'll **talk things over**.

* **top dollar *→****the highest end of a price range; a lot of money*

EXAMPLE 1: Nicole paid **top dollar** for a shirt at Banana Republic.

EXAMPLE 2: Wait until those jeans go on sale. Why pay **top dollar**?

**Practice the Idioms**

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

1. I can't believe you bought a couch at Honest Abe's. Everything in that store costs an arm and a \_\_\_\_\_. (foot/leg/hand)
2. After Bob found out that his advertising campaign failed, he wanted to go back to the drawing \_\_\_\_\_. (board/table/room)
3. When somebody isn't listening to you, there's no \_\_\_\_\_ in trying to argue with them. (edge/tip/point)
4. Jose is really smart. He's as sharp as a \_\_\_\_\_. (tack/nail/screw)
5. The salespeople at Honest Abe's always look angry and never speak to anybody. No wonder they \_\_\_\_\_ Bob the creeps. (take/give/allow)
6. Bob got fired. He isn't looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_ the news to his family. (breaking/cracking/saying)
7. Bob thought his new advertisements would bring in lots of customers and save the \_\_\_\_\_. (morning/night/day)
8. Fortunately, Bob no longer has to put \_\_\_\_\_ with his stupid boss at the furniture store. (over/in/up)

TD 5: Presentations and debates on social media

TD 6: Describe a dream or a movie

TD 7: Idiomatic expressions

**Bob Returns Home with Bad News**

Bob tells his wife Susan that he lost his job. Susan suggests that he start his own business.

**Susan:** **What’s the matter**, dear?

**Bob:** Susan, I **got canned** today at work.

**Susan:** But Bob, you were Peter’s **right-hand man**!

**Bob:** Yes, and he **stabbed me in the back**.

**Susan: Keep your chin up**. Maybe he’ll **change his mind** and take you back.

**Bob:** **When pigs fly**! Once he **makes up his mind**, he never changes it. Besides, I **told him off**.

**Susan:** **Look on the bright side**: you won’t have to **set eyes** on Peter ever again.

**Bob:** **Thank goodness** for that!

**Susan:** **Hang in there**. I’m sure you won’t be **out of work** for long.

**Bob:** In the meantime, we’ll have to **live from hand to mouth**.

**Susan:** Don’t get too **stressed out**, Bob. We’ll **make ends meet**.

**Bob:** I can always get a job at McDonald’s as a **last resort**.

**Susan:** I don’t think they’re hiring right now.

**Bob:** If **worse comes to worst**, we can sell our home and move into a tent.

**Susan:** Let’s **think big**! Maybe you can start your own business.

**Bob:** **Easier said than done**!

**Idioms**

**(to) change one’s mind**– to change one’s opinion or decision  
EXAMPLE 1: Brandon wasn’t going to take a vacation this year, but then he **changed his mind**and went to Bora Bora for two weeks.  
EXAMPLE 2: Why aren’t you applying to medical school this year? Did you **change your mind**about becoming a doctor?

**easier said than done**– more difficult than you think  
EXAMPLE 1: You want to climb Mount Everest? **Easier said than done!**  
EXAMPLE 2: Moving into a new home is **easier said than done.**

**(to) get canned**[slang] – to lose one’s job; to get fired  
EXAMPLE 1: After Chris **got canned,**it took him a year to find a new job.  
EXAMPLE 2: Lisa is a lousy secretary. She deserves to **get canned!**  
SYNONYMS: to get sacked; to be given the ax

**(to) hang in there**– to persevere; to not give up  
EXAMPLE 1: I know you’re four games behind, but you can still win the tennis match. Just **hang in there!**  
EXAMPLE 2: **Hang in there,**Don! Your invention will soon be a success.  
**if worse comes to worst**– in the worst case; if absolutely necessary  
EXAMPLE 1: Ted’s car isn’t running well. **If worse comes to worst,**he can  
take the bus to school.  
EXAMPLE 2: I know you’re running out of money. **If worse comes to worst,**you can always sell some of your jewelry.  
**(to) keep one’s chin up**– to stay positive  
EXAMPLE 1: Even when he was unemployed and homeless, Bill managed to **keep his chin up.**  
EXAMPLE 2: **Keep your chin up!**You’ll find your lost dog soon.

**last resort**– if there are no other alternatives left; the last solution for getting out of a difficulty  
EXAMPLE 1: David was locked out of his house. He knew that as a **last resort,**he could always break a window.  
EXAMPLE 2: I don’t like taking medicine. I’ll only take it as a **last resort.**

**(to) live from hand to mouth**– to barely have enough money to survive  
EXAMPLE 1: Jenny was earning $5 an hour working at the store. She was really **living from hand to mouth.**  
EXAMPLE 2: George is really poor. He **lives from hand to mouth.**  
**(to) look on the bright side**– to be optimistic; to think about the positive part or aspect of a situation  
EXAMPLE 1: Leo was upset that his soccer game was canceled. His mother said, **“Look on the bright side,**now you can stay home and watch TV.”  
EXAMPLE 2: You lost your job? **Look on the bright side,**now you’ll have more free time!  
**(to) make ends meet**– to manage one’s money so as to have enough to live on; to be okay financially  
EXAMPLE 1: Kimberly wasn’t able to **make ends meet**so she had to ask her parents to pay her rent.  
EXAMPLE 2: If you can’t **make ends meet,**you’ll need to start spending less.

**out of work**– unemployed; not working  
EXAMPLE 1: Gary was **out of work**for a year before finding a new job.  
EXAMPLE 2: Bob is **out of work.**Do you know anybody who might want to hire him?  
**right-hand man**– the most helpful assistant or employee  
EXAMPLE 1: Juan’s **right-hand man**helps him make all of his decisions.  
EXAMPLE 2: When Jack Thompson retired as president of his company, his **right-hand man**took over.  
**(to) set eyes on**– to look at; to see for the first time  
EXAMPLE 1: Ted was in love from the moment he **set eyes on**Amber.  
EXAMPLE 2: Susan knew from the moment she **set eyes on**Ted’s friend Lucas that he would be trouble.  
**(to) stab someone in the back**– to betray someone  
EXAMPLE 1: Jill and Heather were friends, until Heather **stabbed Jill in the back**by stealing her boyfriend.  
EXAMPLE 2: You’re firing me after all I’ve done for this company? You’re really **stabbing me in the back!**  
**(to be) stressed out**– under severe strain; very anxious  
EXAMPLE 1: Al is so **stressed out**about his job that he can’t sleep at night.  
EXAMPLE 2: You’ve been so **stressed out**lately. You really need to take a long vacation!  
**(to) tell off–**to scold; to tell someone in strong words what one really thinks  
EXAMPLE 1: When Ted showed up for chemistry class a half an hour late, his teacher really **told him off.**  
EXAMPLE 2: Patty is going to **tell off**the plumber because the pipes he said he fixed are still leaking.  
**thank goodness**– I’m grateful; I’m relieved  
EXAMPLE 1: When Ted came home at 4 a.m. last Sunday, his mother said, **“Thank goodness**you’re home! I was so worried about you.”  
EXAMPLE 2: **Thank goodness**you didn’t go to California on Monday. It rained there every day this week.  
**(to) think big**– to set high goals  
EXAMPLE 1: Why run for Governor of New York? **Think big:**run for President of the United States!  
EXAMPLE 2: Ken and Sandra hope to sell their house for $3 million dollars. They always **think big.**  
**What’s the matter?**– What’s the problem?  
EXAMPLE **1**: **What’s the matter,**Bob? You don’t look very happy.  
EXAMPLE 2: Oscar looks very pale. **What’s the matter**with him?  
**When pigs fly!**[slang] – never  
EXAMPLE 1: Will Ted teach Nicole how to play the guitar? **When pigs fly!**  
EXAMPLE 2: Sure, I’ll give you my new laptop. **When pigs fly!**

TD 8: Describe a character’s physical appearance and behavior

TD 9: Race Discrimination and Equality

TD 10: Artificial Intelligence

TD 11: Friendship

**TP Sessions**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m97_RL0fDlc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQgafZI0JGI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=henIVlCPVIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bh-O3KpqCqw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcFzfHpQVso>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IeoxjdMsG3s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9mpdCVLF0g>