

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

99 phrases you need to understand
native speakers in conversation



Copyright © 2024 Daniel Tanner All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without express written permission of the publisher.

Cover design by: Daniel Tanner
Images copyright of Freepik.com, Flaticon.com, unsplash.com and Daniel Tanner

Contents

Introduction	3
Chapter 1	
Mark's in trouble	5
Answer key	8
Chapter 2	
A near-death experience at a water park	9
Answer key	12
Chapter 3	
A nightmare job interview	13
Answer key	16
Chapter 4	
Offensive toast	17
Answer key	20
Chapter 5	
Never sit next to me on a plane	21
Answer key	23
Chapter 6	
You're gonna love this!	25
Answer key	27
Chapter 7	
The intern and the photocopier	28
Answer key	31
Chapter 8	
The best joke in the world	32
Answer key	35
Chapter 9	
Communication breakdown	36
Answer key	40
Chapter 10	
Everyday Einstein	41
Answer key	44

Introduction

Hi there! Thanks for picking up this book. If you don't know me, my name's Daniel Tanner. I'm originally from Manchester in the UK but have been living in Italy since I started my English teaching journey way back in 2015.

Since then, I've helped thousands of learners improve their English skills, and I've found that students of all levels often have the same difficulty.

They find native speakers difficult to understand.

Well, I don't blame them! We often use surprising and unexpected phrases in place of what an English learner might expect to hear.

Let me give you some examples.

Check out the pairs of phrases A and B below. They mean the same thing, but which would you be more likely to say? A or B?

A. Would you like something to drink? - B. How about a drink?

A. I disagree. - B. I beg to differ.

A. It's likely that there's been some confusion. - B. Chances are there's been a mix-up.

A. I was surprised by that. - B. It caught me a little off guard.

A. It was obvious that it wouldn't have worked - B. Needless to say, it didn't work.

While both sets are correct, native English speakers would often use the phrases in column B. For those who aren't familiar with these expressions, it can be quite confusing when they hear them in conversation.

This book will teach you 99 phrases to help you understand native English speakers, and at the same time make your own speech sound more natural and authentic.

Who is this book for?

Any English learner who would like to improve their listening and speaking skills will find this book a useful step on their way to English fluency.

However, some prior English knowledge is necessary to follow the content and instructions for the activities. So, if you know your English skills are around the B1 CEFR level, then that's perfect. If you don't know your English level, but have managed to follow this introduction so far without too much difficulty, then you'll be fine!

How to use this e-book

In each chapter of this book you'll discover a selection of the 99 phrases through stories, conversations, articles, jokes, quizzes and activities, accompanied by videos and audio in both general English and business English contexts to allow you to improve your English easily and naturally in a fun and supportive way.



If you're using an e-reader, you can use the highlight and note tools to complete activities and add your answers where needed, just like you would in a physical book.

So, are you ready to take your English skills to the next level? Let's go..

Mark's in trouble

What did you say? - Chapter 1

A. Oh dear! It looks like Mark's in trouble! His girlfriend Sarah looks really upset about something. What do you think the problem is? Make a note of a few ideas below:



.....
.....
.....
.....

B. Let's read their conversation below. Were your ideas correct?

"You know, Mark, you spend **a great deal of** time playing video games."

"**I beg to differ**, Sarah. It's called practising my strategic skills."

"Strategic skills? **What does that have to do with anything?** I just want you to help me with the housework!"

"Well, you see, my dear, I'm improving my multitasking, so I'll be able to play video games, lead an army, and vacuum all at the same time."

"Oh, really? Impressive, but right now, **there's no point** in having a perfect virtual battlefield when our living room looks like a war zone!"

"Fair point. **How about this?** For every level I complete, I'll clean something in the house. Deal?"

"**Deal.** But don't be surprised if I start giving you advice on virtual warfare tactics!"

"Hey, **as long as** it keeps us laughing, **I'm in.**"

"Alright, you silly gamer. You're terrible at this game anyway, move over and let me show you how it's done! In fact, if I beat you, you can clean the whole house!"

"**You're on!**"



C. Let's take a closer look at some of the phrases Mark and Sarah used. Can you match phrases (1-9) with the meanings (a-i)? ✂

1. a great deal of	a. I disagree
2. I beg to differ	b. A lot of
3. What does that have to do with anything?	c. I fully agree and commit to this plan
4. there's no point	d. I accept your challenge!
5. How about this?	e. What you are saying is irrelevant to this conversation
6. Deal!	f. It's useless
7. as long as	g. I have a proposal for you
8. I'm in	h. I accept your proposal
9. You're on!	i. if / provided that

D. Let's practise these awesome phrases! Can you figure out where the phrases should go in the conversations below?

I'm in! How about this? Deal! What does that have to do with anything? There's no point You're on! I beg to differ as long as a great deal of patience

It takes (1) to teach English 😊

Ben: Why haven't you cleaned the bathroom like I asked?

Josie: A new Spiderman film is coming out next month.

Ben: (2)

Phil: This film's terrible.

Dave: (3) Come on! It's really funny.

Laura: I'm going to hang the washing outside.

Mike: (4), it's going to rain soon.

Dan: I'm bored, what can we do?

Sara: (5) Call Tom and Colin, and let's all play minigolf!

Josh: I'll wash the dishes if you dry them, ok?

Amy: (6)

Jill: I need a suntan! Do you want to come with me to the swimming pool next weekend?

Rosa: Yeah sure, (7) the weather's nice.

Eric: Do you want to come with me to see this cool band on Friday night?

Dom: Sounds great, (8)

Andrea: I'll give you £50 if you can hold your breath for longer than me!

Pete: (9)

E. How about a little chat to practise some of the phrases from this chapter? Answer at least three of the questions below.

1. What's your opinion on people spending a great deal of time on social media?
2. Some people say there's no point trying to change someone's behaviour. What do you think? Can people change?
3. Are you a competitive person? Do you like challenges?
4. When was the last time you made a deal with someone?
5. My ideal holiday destination is somewhere hot. As long as there's a beach, I'm happy! What about you? Are you a fan of hot weather? Have you ever visited a cold country?
6. If your best friend offered you a free trip to Paris, but you had to leave in two hours, would you be in or out?
7. If someone offered you €5,000,000 to leave your home country and never go back, which of the following answers would you choose and why? - "Deal!" / "No way!"



The answers

C.

1. b 2. a 3. e 4. f 5. g 6. h 7. i 8. c 9. D

D.

It takes **(1) a great deal of patience** to teach English 😊

Why haven't you cleaned the bathroom like I asked?

A new Spiderman film is coming out next month.

(2) What does that have to do with anything?

This film's terrible.

(3) I beg to differ. Come on! It's really funny.

I'm going to hang the washing outside.

(4) There's no point, it's going to rain soon.

I'm bored, what can we do?

(5) How about this? Call Tom and Colin, and let's all play minigolf!

I'll wash the dishes if you dry them, ok?

(6) Deal!

I need a suntan! Do you want to come with me to the swimming pool next weekend?

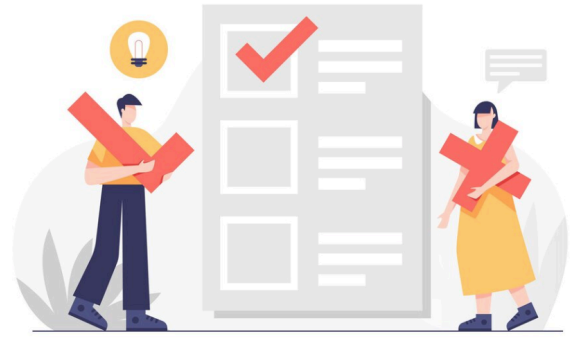
Yeah sure, **(7) as long as** the weather's nice.

Do you want to come with me to see this cool band on Friday night?

Sounds great, **(8) I'm in!**


I'll give you £50 if you can hold your breath for longer than me!

(9) You're on!



A nightmare job interview

What did you say? - Chapter 3

A. You're about to hear about Sarah's nightmare job interview. [Listen to the story and try to understand if the interview had a positive or a negative outcome. Did it go well, or not?](#) 



B. Can you complete the story with the eleven phrases in the box below? Of course you can!

**a. slowly but surely b. a mix-up c. Chances are d. over the moon
e. read up about f. to get to the bottom of g. By all means
h. indeed i. Needless to say j. caught her a little off guard k. turned out**

Sarah was thrilled about her job interview at the Super Software Solutions company. She had (1)..... the company and felt confident in her skills. She was ready to impress.

As Sarah arrived at the office, she noticed a sign that read, "Please take a seat and wait to be called." So, she sat down, and (2)....., her excitement started to build as she thought about making a good first impression. Finally, it was Sarah's turn. She walked into the interview room, where there were three stern-faced interviewers waiting for her.

(3)....., she felt a bit nervous. They began asking technical questions about her experience with specific accounting software and the way they operate.

These first questions (4)....., and, as the interview continued, something felt wrong. The questions were actually all about accounting and finance, not about computer programming at all. She couldn't answer a single question about finance, and didn't know what to do. (5)....., there had been a mix-up with the job listing. In a panic, Sarah decided (6)..... the confusion.

"Can I ask a question?" She asked.

"(7).....", they replied

She attempted to explain that she'd applied for a software development position, not a financial one. The interviewers exchanged confused glances and checked their documents. It (8)..... that there had (9)..... been (10)..... with the job listing.

The interviewers were very apologetic and mentioned that they did actually have a software development position available that they thought she'd be perfect for, and they invited Sarah back next week to interview



[▶ Click here to continue reading ◀](#)



Visit www.danieltannerenglish.com/books or [the Amazon Kindle store](#) from your Kindle device or desktop.