

## USEFUL ENGLISH PHRASES FOR EVERYDAY USE

Always keep this page with you.

English Expression 1. as easy as pie means "very easy" (same as "a piece of cake")

**Example:** He said it is a difficult problem, but I don't agree. It seems as easy as pie to me!

English Expression 2. be sick and tired of means "I hate" (also "can't stand")

**Example:** I'm sick and tired of doing nothing but work. Let's go out tonight and have fun.

English Expression 3. bend over backwards means "try very hard" (maybe too much!)

**Example:** He bent over backwards to please his new wife, but she never seemed satisfied.

English Expression 4. bite off more than one can chew means "take responsibility for more than one can manage"

**Example:** John is so far behind in his studies. Besides classes, he plays sports and works at a part-time job. It seems he has bitten off more than he can chew.

English Expression 5. broke means "to have no money"

**Example:** I have to borrow some money from my Dad. Right now, I'm broke.

English Expression 6. change one's mind means "decide to do something different from what had been decided earlier"

**Example:** I was planning to work late tonight, but I changed my mind. I'll do extra work on the weekend instead.

English Expression 7. Cut it out! means "stop doing something bad"

**Example:** That noise is really annoying. Cut it out!

English Expression 10. fill in for someone means "do their work while they are away"

**Example:** While I was away from the store, my brother filled in for me.

English Expression 11. in ages means "for a very long time"

**Example:** Have you seen Joe recently? I haven't seen him in ages.

Expression 12. give someone a hand means "help"

**Example:** I want to move this desk to the next room. Can you give me a hand?

English Expression 13. hit the hay means "go to bed" (also "hit the sack")

**Example:** It's after 12 o'clock. I think it's time to hit the hay.

English Expression 14. in the black means "the business is making money, it is profitable"

**Example:** Our business is really improving. We've been in the black all year.

English Expression 8. drop someone a line means "send a letter or email to someone"

**Example:** It was good to meet you and I hope we can see each other again. Drop me a line when you have time.

English Expression 9. figure something out means "come to understand a problem"

**Example:** I don't understand how to do this problem. Take a look at it. Maybe you can figure it out.

English Expression 15. in the red means "the business is losing money, it is unprofitable"

**Example:** Business is really going poorly these days. We've been in the red for the past three months.

English Expression 16. in the nick of time means "not too late, but very close!"

**Example:** I got to the drugstore just in the nick of time. It's a good thing, because I really need this medicine!

English Expression 17. keep one's chin up means "remain brave and keep on trying"

**Example:** I know things have been difficult for you recently, but keep your chin up. It will get better soon.

English Expression 18. know something like the back of your hand means "know something very, very well"

**Example:** If you get lost, just ask me for directions. I know this part of town like the back of my hand.

English Expression 19. once in a while means "sometimes, not very often"

**Example:** Have you been to the new movie theater? No, only see movies once in a while. I usually stay home and watch TV.

English Expression 20. sharp means "exactly at a that time"

**Example:** I'll meet you at 9 o'clock sharp. If you're late, we'll be in trouble!

English Expression 21. sleep on it means "think about something before making a decision"

**Example:** That sounds like a good deal, but I'd like to sleep on it before I give you my final decision.

English Expression 22. take it easy means "relax"

**Example:** I don't have any special plans for the summer. I think I'll just take it easy.

English Expression 23. to get the ball rolling means "start something, especially something big"

**Example:** We need to get this project started as soon as possible. I'm hoping you will help me get the ball rolling.

English Expression 24. up to the minute means "the most recent information"

**Example:** I wish I knew more about what is happening in the capital city. We need more up to the minute news.

English Expression 25. twenty-four/seven means "every minute of every day, all the time"

**Example:** You can access our web site 24/7. It's very convenient!



You know that you're doing something big when your company name becomes a verb. Ask Xerox. In 1959 they created the first plain paper copy machine. It was one of the most successful products ever. The company name Xerox grew into a verb that means "to copy," as in "Bob, can you Xerox this for me?" Around 50 years later, the same thing happened to Google. Their company name grew into a verb that means "to do an internet search." Now everyone and their grandma knows what it means to Google it.

Unlike Xerox, Google wasn't the first company to invent their product, not by a long shot. Lycos released their search engine in 1993. Yahoo! came out in 1994. AltaVista began serving results in 1995. Google did not come out until years later, in 1998. Though a few years

difference may not seem like much, this is a major head start in the fast moving world of tech. So how did Google do it? How did they overtake their competitors who had such huge leads in time and money? Maybe one good idea made all the difference.

There are millions and millions of sites on the internet. How does a search engine know which ones are relevant to your search? This is a question that great minds have been working on for decades. To understand how Google changed the game, you need to know how search engines worked in 1998. Back then most websites looked at the words in your query. They counted how many times those words appeared on each page. Then they might return pages where the words in your query appeared the most. This system did not work well and people often had to click through pages and pages of results to find what they wanted.

- Which event happened last?
  - Lycos released their search engine.
  - Yahoo! released their search engine.
  - Google released their search engine.
  - Xerox released their copy machine
- Which statement would the author of this text most likely disagree with?
  - Part of Google's success is due to the design of their homepage.
  - Google succeeded by following examples of others in their field.
  - Google wasn't the first search engine, but it was the best.
  - Google's success may not have been possible without Larry Page.
- Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?
  - There are lots and lots of websites connected to the internet.
  - Google created a better way to organize search results.
  - Many smart people have worked on search engines over the years.
  - Older search engines used unreliable methods to order results.

- What is the author's main purpose in writing this article?
  - To explain how Google overtook its rivals
  - To compare and contrast Google and Xerox
  - To persuade readers to use Google for internet searches
  - To discuss how companies can influence language over time
- Which statement would the author most likely agree with?
  - Google became successful because its founders were well-connected.
  - Google was the world's first and best search engine.
  - Google changed the world by solving an old problem in a new way.
  - Google's other products are now more important to its success than search
- Which best expresses the main idea of the fourth paragraph?
  - Links allow people to surf from one website to the next.
  - Larry Page's ideas about links helped Google get to the top.
  - Larry Page contributed to the internet by inventing the link.
  - Google is a website that serves important links to users.

Google was the first search engine that began considering links. Links are those blue underlined words that take you to other pages when you click on them. Larry Page, cofounder of Google, believed that meaningful data could be drawn from how those links connect. Page figured that websites with many links pointing at them were more important than those that had few. He was right. Google's search results were much better than their rivals. They would soon become the world's most used search engine.

It wasn't just the great search results that led to Google becoming so well liked. It also had to do with the way that they presented their product. Most of the other search engines were cluttered. Their home pages were filled with everything from news stories to stock quotes. But Google's homepage was, and still is, clean. There's nothing on it but the logo, the search box, and a few links. It almost appears empty. In fact, when they were first testing it, users would wait at the home page and not do anything. When asked why, they said that they were, "waiting for the rest of the page to load." People couldn't imagine such a clean and open page as being complete. But the fresh design grew on people once they got used to it.

These days Google has its hands in everything from self-driving cars to helping humans live longer. Though they have many other popular products, they will always be best known for their search engine. The Google search engine has changed our lives and our language. Not only is it a fantastic product, it is a standing example that one good idea (and a lot of hard work) can change the world.

- Which best explains why the author discusses Xerox in this text?
  - He is discussing big companies that came before Google.
  - He is explaining how companies must change with the times.
  - He is showing how companies can affect our language.
  - He is comparing and contrasting Google and Xerox.
- How did Google improve search quality in 1998?
  - They counted how many times queries appeared on each page.
  - They looked more closely at the words in search queries.
  - They linked to more pages.
  - They studied the relationships of links
- Which was cited as a reason why Google became so popular?
  - Google's homepage was clean.
  - Google provided catchy news stories on their homepage.
  - Google homepage loaded quickly.
  - Google provided useful stock quotes on their homepage.
- Which title best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?
  - Xerox Vs. Google: Battle of the Titans
  - Search Engines: How They Work and Why They're Important
  - A Better Way: How Google Rose to the Top
  - Search Engines: A Short History of Important Tools

### ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED MARCH 28, 2016)

- KEY : Preposition - 1**
- He went to
  - He lives in
  - I met him in
  - He took something from
  - He put the books on
  - He fell from
  - Let us hope for
  - There is someone at
  - There is a mistake in
  - I was born in
  - Soumya is the best girl in
  - Indians celebrate Independence Day on
  - This table is made of wood
  - I live near
  - There is something behind
  - I was part of
- KEY : Direct and indirect speech worksheet**
- The boy said that he was very busy then.
  - The mother asked the girl where she was going.
  - The teacher asked the student if they had done their homework.
  - She said that she had finished her job.
  - He said that his father was working in the garage.
  - I said that I had passed the examination.
  - The man said that the horse had died in the night.
  - He told me that he didn't believe me.
  - I told him that I didn't believe him.
  - He says that he is glad to be here in this evening.
  - The teacher says that the earth moves round the sun.
  - The report says that global temperatures are rising.
- KEY : Subject-predicate**
- A rolling stone (subject) / gathers no moss (predicate).
  - Borrowed garments (subject) / never fit well (predicate).
  - She (subject) / has been to all the continents (predicate).
  - A barking dog (subject) / seldom bites (predicate).
  - On the top of the hill lives (predicate) / a hermit (subject).
  - You (subject) / never cease to amaze me (predicate).
  - We (subject) / should profit from our experience (predicate).
  - Suddenly one of the wheels came off. (one of the wheels - subject) / (suddenly came off - predicate)
  - A dark figure (subject) / appeared in the hallway (predicate).
  - Someone (subject) / rose to speak (predicate).
  - When did she die? (she - subject) / (when did die - predicate)
  - Who (subject) / told you this (predicate)?
  - No man (subject) / can serve two masters (predicate).
- KEY : Despite, in spite of, however, although**
- in spite of the rain.
  - although it was raining.
  - in spite of the fact that it was a holiday.
  - Although she didn't like the cutlet, I enjoyed it very much.
  - however, he didn't come.
  - though dangerous.
  - however everybody else was on time.
  - Although I was late, everybody else was on time.
  - although I was not there.
  - although I had not been invited.
- KEY : Relative pronoun**
- The sun whose
  - The moment which
  - that
  - They sent for the doctor who
  - This is the boy that
  - I know the house that
  - He who
  - that
  - He was the most prolific writer that
  - I have lost the envelope that
  - which
  - Even the wisest men that
- KEY : Noun phrase**
- Noun phrases are underlined in the following sentences.
- He wished to talk to his manager.
  - The wicked man loves getting poor people into trouble.
  - The poor man wanted to pay back every penny he owed.
  - He hates having to punish his servants.
  - Horses prefer living in dark stables.
  - I will never do such a thing.
  - Have you ever tried to climb a tree?
  - He refused to answer my question.
  - He promised to get me something.
  - Why do you want to meet him?
  - He denied taking the money.
  - Your doing such a thing surprises me.
- Answers : Such and such a**
- such nonsense.
  - such a long time to finish the job.
  - such difficulty finding accommodation in Beijing.
  - such a fool.
  - such a difficult test that I couldn't answer most of the questions.
  - We are having such terrible weather at the moment.
  - such plan.
  - such a plan.
  - such a terrible experience yesterday.
  - such a lovely girl.
- KEY : Simile**
- As light as a feather
  - As sweet as honey
  - As bald as an egg
  - As cunning as a fox
  - As blind as a bat
  - As busy as a bee
  - As hungry as a wolf
  - As cool as a cucumber
  - As steady as a rock
  - As quick as lightning
  - As busy as a bee
  - As swift as a hare
  - As obstinate as a mule
  - As heavy as lead
  - As like as two peas
  - As timid as a deer
  - As proud as a peacock
  - As gentle as a lamb
  - As hot as a furnace
  - As green as grass
- KEY : Preposition - 2**
- Mr. Cross was always angry with his friends and family.
  - He shouted at his wife and children.
  - So, they stayed away from him as far as possible.
  - One day, Mr. Cross was busy writing a letter. Just then a fly buzzed in through the open window.
  - He rushed after the fly.
  - The fly flew into the kitchen and settled on a pot of honey.
  - Mr. Cross was trembling with anger.
  - He picked up a rod and hit the fly heavily. But the fly was too quick for Mr. Cross.
  - Wherever the fly went, Mr. Cross followed with his ruler.
  - Everything went crashing to the floor.

