

# Speak English With Vanessa

## Free PDF Worksheet

### Real English Conversation with Brandi

---

*Dear English Learner,*

*Get ready to speak confidently with this sample lesson from my course The Fearless Fluency Club. I recommend reading these sample sentences out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question using what you've learned.*

*Want to continue learning real English? [Click here to join The Fearless Fluency Club today.](#)  
Thanks so much for learning English with me!*

*Your teacher,  
Vanessa*

---

## Vocabulary

**1. To Be On One's Own:** [idiom] *to do something independently, without help*

- Some people try and sell their house on their own.
- I'm on my own now, Josh. I don't live with my parents.
- He had to finish the deck on his own after his dad left town.

**2. (To Pay) Out of Pocket:** [idiom] *to pay for something from one's personal funds, usually used in a business or insurance setting*

- The buyers don't actually have to pay anything to their realtor out of pocket.
- I paid for everyone's drinks out of pocket, even though we were on a work trip.
- Walter has to budget for out-of-pocket expenses for his upcoming business trip.

**3. (To Make/Receive/Get/Take) A Cut:** [idiom] *a portion of the profits/rewards of some activity*

- The expectation is that that person will buy and then you'll make a cut of whatever the price of the house is.
- If you partner with and advertise for our company, you'll receive a cut of each sale we make.
- Yo, Johnny! Where's my cut from our big deal?!
- The company took a cut from my profits.

**4. Lucrative:** *producing wealth, profitable (usually used to mean "more than average")*

- Real estate is a pretty lucrative business, especially if you do it well.
- Hand-knitting socks isn't the most lucrative skill to learn.

**5. To Not Have An Option (Out of Options):** [casual] *to have no choice in something, especially after looking for alternatives*

- I literally don't have an option. I can't do this with a one week old baby.
- Bob was out of options; he had to take the job at McDonald's.

**6. A Page Turning (To Turn The Page) OR To Turn a New Leaf:** [idiom] *a new phase in one's life; to make a big transition*

- Talking with Samantha must've been, just, like a page turning, that this is a new career.
- She's ready to turn the page on her past relationship and start a new one.
- I'm thinking about turning a new leaf in my life. I might move to Japan!

**7. To Go Over One's Head:** [idiom] *to not be understood because of complexity or subtlety, often times a joke*

- I think for a lot of people the idea of not being pushy goes over their head.
- My joke went right over his head, so he just stood there and stared at me.

**8. To Get A Feel(ing) For Something:** [idiom] *to get a good sense of something or get some experience with something to become fully prepared*

- Like, "Let's just get a feeling for what you really want," and I think that, like, helped us to get the ball rolling.
- I got to skate around and get a feel for these roller skates before I buy them.

**9. A Bunch (Of Something):** *a group of things close together; a considerable amount, a lot*

- So, the first thing I do is, like, ask them a bunch of things.
- Go pick up a bunch of bananas.

**10. Post-:** [prefix] *after or behind; a period of time following an event; not clear if the event is finished*

- Post-COVID, a lot of people are moving from places that they disagree with their policies to places where they agree with policies.
- During the post-WWII period in America, there was a "baby boom."

**11. To Duke It Out:** [idiom] *to fight, physically or verbally*

- Do you fight it, duke it out? What happens when there are multiple offers on a house?
- Joe and Bob were duking it out last night over some girl at the bar.

**12. Up Front:** [idiom] (1) *at the beginning, beforehand;* (2) *direct and honest*

- Their rules are that you have to choose what inspections you want up front.
- I decided to be up front about my feelings for her and I asked her on a date that night.

# Grammar

## Phrasal Verbs

*Let's go in-depth with a few phrasal verbs during the grammar lesson.*

### To Think About

*To reflect on the past; to consider something; NEVER split*

- I was thinking about my first experience at the movie theater watching *The Matrix*. I can't believe my parents let me watch that movie when I was 6 years old!
- Companies should think about their customers and employees when making big decisions.
- We are thinking about visiting Canada in the fall.
- There's a concert in the park tonight. Are you going to come? -I'll think about it.
- When we see all the sadness and tragedy happening in the world, it's hard to really think about.

From Brandi's conversation:

*This is a new option for me that I didn't know existed before, or, like, didn't think about as a path.*

### To Follow Up

*To contact someone an additional time to get more information; can be "follow up with/on/about"; CAN be split*

- Sam never finishes his projects on time. Can you follow up to make sure he finishes?  
OR: Can you follow up with him?  
OR: Can you follow up on the project?  
OR: Sam, I'm following up about the project. How is it going?

- When a customer complains, it's important to follow up and make sure they are happy.

OR: It's important to follow up with the customer.

OR: It's important to follow up on their experience.

OR: It's important to follow up about their experience.

- I have a follow-up appointment next week. [adjective]

OR I have a follow-up next week. [noun]

- He doesn't have much follow-up. [noun]

From Brandi's conversation:

*She literally followed up while I was at school.*

## Pronunciation

*Let's shadow a few of the vocabulary sentences that Brandi and I said in the conversation. Listen to the pronunciation tips and speak with the lesson. I recommend taking notes on this page while you're watching the pronunciation lesson.*

### The sentences

#### 1. To Be On One's Own:

Some **people try and sell** on their **own**.

[Some pe'pul try 'n sell on their own.]

#### 2. Out of Pocket:

The **buyers don't actually have to pay anything** out of **pocket**.

[The buyers don' ac-shly hafta pay 'nything oud-of pocket.]

### Shadowing tips:

1. Try to imitate my voice during the video lesson. Speak with me and also speak during the pauses.
2. Record your voice:
  - Listen to Brandi's voice and my voice
  - Compare your pronunciation to ours
3. [Join The Fearless Fluency Club](#) and share your recording in our Facebook group or via email to get some feedback

## Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **What is something that you think about every day?**

Sample answers: *Every day I think about what we're going to cook for dinner. It's my job to come up with food to eat each day, and sometimes it's a big burden. I appreciate when other people help me, and making a weekly meal plan helps, too.*

*I think about my grandmother every day because I use a picture of us together as the background for my phone. She passed away last year, but I know that her memory lives in me.*

**Did you enjoy this English lesson??**

**>>[Click here to join The Fearless Fluency Club today!](#)<<**