

**90 Common North American Idioms, Phrasal Verbs, and Slang Expressions: A Study Guide by Susan Mazur**

**1) What's up?**

We say this to mean "What's new?"

→ When someone says "**What's up?**" you should answer: "Not much, and you?" or "Nothing, you?"

→ DO NOT answer "What's up?" by saying "Good"! That's considered a mistake!

**How's it going? How's it hanging?**

This means: "How are you?"

→ You should reply: "Pretty good, you?" or "Not bad, and you?"

**2) To screw something up = To fuck something up.**

Meaning: Both are not very polite, but obviously the word "fuck" is extremely rude. They both mean: To make a mess out of a situation; to do a very bad job; to fail completely.

→ How did the job interview go? I think I **screwed it up**. / I think I **fucked it up**. (This means that I'm pretty sure the interview didn't go well.)

→ In a more polite way, we can use the Phrasal Verb "**mess something up**": I think I **messed up** the job interview. I had said that I could speak French, but then the guy spoke to me in French, and I didn't understand!

→ In slang, we use the (not very polite) Nouns to describe people who do everything wrong: He's such a **screwup!**...OR...He's such a **fuckup!**

**3) Keep in touch!**

Meaning: Stay in contact with me. Send me messages or call me.

→ Say it when you are saying goodbye to someone you like.

→ "**Drop me a line**" is what people say to mean: "Write me an email," but I think nowadays it's probably even more common to just say: "Text me."

- ➔ “**Give me a ring**” is what people say to mean: “Call me on the phone,” but I wonder how often young people talk on the phone nowadays?
- ➔ Nowadays, because of technology, we use a lot of nouns and names of things as Verbs to mean communication; for example, we say: **Text me. Skype me. Facebook me. Facetime me. Whatsapp me**, and so on.

#### 4) **Could you give me a hand? / Can I give you a hand?**

Meaning: Can you help me? / Can I help you?

- ➔ If you see that your teacher is carrying a lot of heavy books, you can ask her, "Can I give you a hand?" or "Can I give you a hand with those books?"

#### 5) **Thanks, but no thanks!**

Meaning: You offered me something, such as food, but I am politely saying no.

- ➔ If your classmate offers you a cookie, but you don't want it, say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

#### 6) **I'm so full!**

Meaning: I have eaten enough, and I don't want to eat any more.

- ➔ Say it when you don't want anything else to eat.
- ➔ “**I'm stuffed**” also means the same in slang.

#### **I'm starving. I could eat a horse!**

Meaning: I am very hungry. (We don't really eat horses, but we always say that to emphasize "I'm very hungry.")

#### 7) **Drop by / Drop in / Come by / Come over / Stop by.**

This may be a bit confusing, but we use all of these Phrasal Verbs to invite our friends to our homes.

Imagine you're having a barbecue or a party, and you want your friend to come.

- ➔ You can say, "**Drop by** anytime after 6!" or "**Stop by** if you can!"