

FUMC ESL 12-7-09

What are they saying?

These conversations are full of slang and idioms. Read the conversation one line at a time and tell in your own words what is meant.

Joe: Hold up, I want to get my wallet

Steve: Step on it, we're already late.

Joe: Should we give Liz a call to tell her we're coming?

Steve: Yeah, she'll be glad to get out. She's been holed up with her books all weekend.

Joe: I was up into the wee hours of the morning myself.

Steve: Did your roommate complain about you burning the midnight oil?

Joe: No, he's a night owl. He never hits the sack before 2 or 3 AM.

Steve: So, do you think you'll ace the test?

Joe: I'll give it a shot, but Dr. Hardy's tests are usually killers. I'm a fish out of water in that class anyway.

Steve: Oh, you're in over your head?

Joe: Something like that. Everyone else is really smart. I'm a bit behind. It bugs me that I can't do any better in that class.

Liz: Come in. Make yourself at home. I'm almost ready to go. I'm so glad you guys gave me a ring. I've been cooped up in here all weekend.

Steve: We thought you would have been hitting the books pretty hard. I told Joe you would be working your fingers to the bone trying to get an A in old Dr. Hardy's class.

Liz: Yes, there's no rest for the weary. On top of studying for Dr. Hardy's class, I volunteered to serve as secretary for the Student Advisory committee. I have to type up the minutes from all the meetings. I guess I'm just a glutton for punishment.

Joe: You should skip typing the minutes. No one ever reads them anyway.

Liz: That's probably true. But I agreed to do it and I don't want to go back on my word.

Questions:

If you were holed up in your apartment due to bad weather, what would you probably be doing?

Do you ever stay up until the wee hours of the morning? What do you do in the wee hours?

When you were in college, did you burn the midnight oil? Were you the kind of person who planned ahead and started projects early, or did you wait til the last minute to begin?

Are you or anyone you know a night owl?

What time do you usually hit the sack?

What kinds of tests would you find it easy to ace?

Describe a time when you felt like a fish out of water.

Tell about something that bugs you.

Are you a person who gets involved in lots of projects or do you prefer to do only one thing at a time? Would people describe you as a glutton for punishment, someone who takes on too many jobs?

Match the statements on the left with the answer on the right to make a short conversation.

1. I don't know why I let you convince me to come here. I hate parties.	a) Don't tempt me. I have to cram for my exam. I take it on Friday.
2. Sally sure likes to talk on the phone.	b) Come on! This is going to be a blast! You'll love it.
3. Any plans for the weekend? Maybe we can check a movie or play tennis?	c) Not really. I don't watch much TV, and when I do, I usually watch PBS or the Discovery Channel.
4. Susan told me you made fun of the dress I wore yesterday.	d) You're kidding me? You swore you couldn't stand to be around her.
5. Do you like "Star Trek?"	e) Sure. When would you like me to be there?
6. I went on a date with Sheila.	f) I don't know what she told you, but I never talked behind your back.
7. Could you help me on Saturday when I move out of the dorm to my new apartment?	g) If only she liked her classes as well.
8. What is an appropriate gift to take to a girl friend for her birthday? I was thinking maybe some flowers?	h) That sounds good. Or maybe a scented candle.
9. Does your mother criticize you a lot?	i) Yes, she always gets on my case, she hates the way I dress.
10. I don't know how I happened to get a D in algebra. Things just don't come easy for me.	j) I am not sure but we'd better not let Jack watch it.
11. Is this movie rated PG (parental guidance)?	k) Perhaps a little less time spent on television and a little more on books might prevent this kind of a thing in the future.