

1-to wolf something down

translation: to eat something quickly

Example: "I wolfed down my eggs and ran for the school bus."

2-to go (expression used where food is sold)

translation: to carry out/to take out with you

Example: a waiter or salesperson may ask "Would you like (your food) to go?"

3-handy

translation: very useful, very industrious, or able to fix things themselves

Example: "Her husband is very handy around the house."

4-sketchy

translation: unsafe, unclear, not a good idea

Examples: "I'm not sure what my boss wants me to do. His directions were a bit sketchy." OR "Should you go there? Isn't that neighborhood a bit sketchy?"

5- to double-check

translation: to re-check or verify

Example: "You should double-check our bank account balance before we plan our vacation trip."

6-a shot in the arm

translation: a stimulus

Examples: The good review by the critics was a shot in the arm for Gary's theatre career.

7-baby boomer

translation: a person born in the peak birth rate years after WWII

Example: Baby boomers are reaching the age of retirement now and putting a strain on Social Security.

8-bad hair day

translation: can mean a day when your hair looks awful, but can also mean a day where everything goes wrong

Examples: I am sorry to be so depressed. I'm having a real bad hair day.

9-five o'clock shadow

translation: beard growth that darkens a man's face late in the day

Example: It is now fashionable for men to sport a five o'clock shadow all day long.

10-double whammy

translation: a double blow or setback

Example: John experienced a double whammy today. First he got fired from his job, then he found out his house was being repossessed.

11-feeding frenzy

translation: when a group of sharks gather to urgently devour a school of fish, can also mean an attack by a group of people on someone

Example: The office discussion turned into a feeding frenzy as everyone began blaming Ted for all the things that went wrong on the project.

12-fly off the handle

translation: lose your self control

Example: Be careful around Mother. She is prone to fly off the handle over small problems.

13-gung ho

translation: zealous and eager

Example: Special forces soldiers tend to be more gung ho than regular troops. Jeff is so gung ho about this new project, I think it will be successful.

14-foot in the door

translation: an introduction or way into something

Example: Jane got a foot in the door with the company when she worked as a *temp this summer.

*temp=temporary employee

Group Talk: Teachers try to leave the discussion to the group only getting involved to clarify where needed. Choose a student moderator to guide the discussion.

1-In your country, how important is it to "have a foot in the door" in order to get a good job?

2-What part of your job are you most gung ho about? What part do you dislike the most?

3-A media feeding frenzy is a situation which gets intense media attention. For example, the trial of O.J. Simpson was definitely a media feeding frenzy. Do you have this phenomenon in your country? What are some examples of things that have turned into media feeding frenzies in our country or this one?

4-How much time do you spend caring for your hair each day? How often do you visit a hair salon? Have you ever colored your hair unusual colors (like pink, purple or orange)?

5-Are you a person who likes to check and double check the luggage before you start on a trip? What is something you ALWAYS take with you when you travel?

6-How often do you get food to go? What type of food do you usually get "to go"?

7-What makes someone beautiful? Do men and women have different ideas of what a beautiful woman looks like?

8-A friend has challenged herself to climb all the 14,000 foot peaks in Colorado. Have you ever set a challenge like that for yourself? For example, visiting over 100 countries, learning to speak an additional language (not including English and your native language), learning to play a musical instrument?

9-Austin is known for having a very active musical scene. What is your home city known for?

10-Do you think the day will come when we will all work from our homes?

11-Have you ever read a book that changed your life?

12-Has living in a foreign country changed you? How?