

Pronunciation Practice: Circle the word you hear. Then pronounce all the words in each box.

letter latter ladder later	better batter	dad dead deed	pet pat pen pan	hem ham	set sat
pedal paddle	bend band	lend land	kettle cattle	peck pack	vet vat
send sand	cat cart	darn dam	hard card	sharp shark	barn ban
heart hurt	am arm	put part	paddle puddle	cab cub rag rub	rat rate

Practice this conversation with a partner. Then switch roles and practice it again.

Sara: Lauren, what do you think of our room?

Lauren: To be honest with you, I really can't stand that dark color on the walls. It's really depressing. I prefer light colors. Plus, I'd like to change the rug and bedspreads. Do you like them?

Sara: No, I agree with you. They're awful. They look dingy and old. At the dorm meeting, they said we could paint our walls as long as we didn't use really bright colors or black. I think a soft blue might be nice. We could get some light yellow bedspreads, then pick up some pillows that accent blue and yellow.

Lauren: That sounds good. The light paint will brighten the room. I brought some big soft pillows. A couple of them are yellow with blue abstract designs. I think they'll look good on our new bedspreads. We'll make this room so comfortable everyone will want to hang out here.

Summarize this conversation for the group. Explain the underlined words.

1-Did you ever live in a dorm? Were you allowed to decorate it? Were you allowed to paint the walls? Do you think these girls are being too picky?

2-Have you ever lived anywhere with dingy walls or furnishings?

Explain these idioms. The sentence will help you figure out the meaning.

grab a bite—

Jeff and I are going to grab a bite before heading home. Want to come along?

big fan—

Aren't you John Legend? My husband is a big fan of yours.

in the mood —

down in the dumps—

I'm sorry, but I'm not in the mood to go dancing tonight. I'm feeling a little down in the dumps.

a sinking feeling —

I have a sinking feeling I might lose my job this week. The company has been laying off sales staff for the last couple of days.

had my fill__-

make ends meet __-

I've had my fill of jobs that don't pay a living wage. I can never make ends meet on my existing salary.

taken advantage of__-

Sally is so nice. When people ask her for something, she can't say "no". Consequently, she often gets taken advantage of.

counting on__-

I was counting on Susan to bring some dips and chips to the party, so I didn't buy any.

Discuss in the large group:

1. What is your favorite spot to grab a bite?
2. Who or what are you a big fan of?
3. What makes you feel down in the dumps?
4. Are you in the mood to go out a lot, or do you usually like to stay home?
5. Describe your decorating style. Is it the same as the people you live with (i.e. husband, roommate, parents)?
6. What have you "had your fill" of?
7. Describe a time when someone you know was "taken advantage of".
8. Who is one person in your life you can always "count on"?
9. Do you have any friends who you can't count on? Maybe they say they will come to your party, then they don't show up? How do you feel about that? Can you still be friends, even though they are unreliable?