

Pronunciation:

fan	van
fine	vine
fault	vault
few	view
fat	vat
off	of
fast	vast
wife	wives
surf	serve
leaf	leave
safe	save
thief	thieve

USEFUL ENGLISH TIDBITS

When do we use “is” and when do we use “is being”.

EX: John is mean. John is being mean.

John is mean: a statement of his character. John is always mean so we can expect him to do mean things.

John is being mean: acting mean at the present time. John is not always mean but at this moment he is acting mean.

How do you use “about to”?

If you say “I am about to start studying.” It means you are getting ready to do it. If you say, “I was about to start studying.” It means you were getting ready to do something, but now you aren’t.

What are you doing? I was about to start my homework, but now that you are here, I’ll sit down and talk to you.

Feel like and Have a feeling

If you say, “I feel like a cup of coffee, how about you?” you mean you want to do something.

If you say, “I don’t feel like talking about it right now.” You mean, you don’t feel comfortable talking about the problem.

If you “have a feeling”, you suspect something.

1. I feel like going out tonight, do you?
2. I feel like we should be saving more money.
3. I feel like asking some friends over.
4. I don’t feel like we’re going the right direction.
5. I don’t feel like going to bed yet.
6. I don’t feel like your mother should interfere in our lives.
7. I have a feeling the kids are expecting us to babysit for them this weekend.
8. I have a feeling something good is about to happen.
9. I have a feeling Martha is mad at me.

What do you mean when you say, “I can’t help it.”

Can’t help it means you have no control over it.

1. I know I shouldn’t cry, but I can’t help it.
2. I can’t help thinking we should have walked her home.

3. I can't help smiling when I watch the puppies play.
4. I can't help remembering all the wonderful things Grandma did for us.
5. I know Dad is sometimes overprotective, but he can't help it. He loves us and wants to keep us safe.

What does "I'm here to..." mean

You have arrived at a place for a reason.

1. I'm here to apply for the job you advertised.
2. I'm here to welcome you to the neighborhood.
3. I'm here to start my new job.
4. I'm here to take the test.

GRAMMAR QUIZ

Choose the correct answer in the sentences below.

1. She likes tea, but he (don't—doesn't).
2. I haven't seen the movie, but my sister (have—has).
3. I am working, but Jane (isn't—aren't).
4. I don't like hot weather, but Sue (do—does).
5. Sue works hard, but I (doesn't—don't).
6. Do you enjoy your work? Yes, I (do—does).
7. I did, but Chris (don't—didn't).

Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb.

1. Kate wasn't hungry, but we _____.
2. I'm not married, but my brother _____.
3. Bill can't help you, but I _____.
4. Karen won't be here, but Bev _____.
5. You weren't late, but I _____.
6. My sister can play the piano, but I _____.
7. Mark has been to China, but I _____.
8. I'm ready to go but Tom _____.
9. I was working, but my friends _____.
10. Sue likes hot weather, but I _____.
11. My mother wears glasses but my father _____.
12. You had breakfast this morning, but I _____.
13. I didn't go out last night, but my friends _____.
14. I don't have a telescope but I know someone who _____.
15. The mall isn't open yet, but the post office _____.

Conversation Practice

Jan: I really want to buy a house.

John: I feel like we are better off renting a house. Buying a house is expensive. You have to pay taxes on it. Plus you have maintenance to worry about.

Jan: I know, but I want a place of our own. I would like to be able to paint the walls and put in hardwood floors. We can't make any changes to our rent house.

1. Explain Jan and John's feelings about owning versus renting.
2. Who do you agree with in this conversation?
3. What are the advantages of renting?
4. Do you rent or own your home?
5. If I was coming to your country to live for one year, would you advise me to rent or buy my home?

