

## FUMC ESL LEVEL 4 LESSON B

**With a partner, read the conversations and explain the meaning of the underlined slang. Then explain what is happening in the conversation. Lastly, answer the questions at the end.**

A: Bill, it's 6 AM. Time to get up and get rolling!

B: Get off my back, will you. You're getting on my nerves! I'm sick of you always bossing me around.

A: Don't be so touchy! There's no point in being mad at me just because you have to have to go to work early. The boss won't let you off easy if you're late.

B: Just get off my case! I'll make it on time.

A: I'm just trying to keep you out of hot water. You'll get nowhere fast if the boss thinks you are chronically late.

B: Take it easy. Things don't get into high gear at the shop til around 10. If I'm a few minutes late, the boss will just give me a slap on the wrist.

### Questions

- 1-Did your older siblings "boss you around" when you were young? Do they still?
- 2-Are you a "touchy" (easily offended or upset) person?
- 3-When you were living at home, did you ever "get in hot water"? How did you get out of hot water? Which of your parents was more likely to "let you off easy" when you got in trouble at home?
- 4-Are you a person who is "chronically late" or you always on time? Does it upset you if someone is chronically late?

C: Do you think you'll get around to fixing my flat today?

D: If I have a few minutes of spare time I'll look into it. It's high time you bought new tires for that old clunker. I've patched that tire so many times, it's likely to blow out.

C: I'm long overdue for a new car, but I'm head over heels in debt. Once I pay off my college loans, I'll be in the black again.

### Questions

- 1-Name something in your apartment that needs to be "fixed". Is your spouse good at fixing things?
- 2-Do you drive a "clunker" or a new car?
- 3-What advice would you give a friend who admitted they were "head over heels in debt"?

E: I'm in a jam. I have to attend the meeting with the vice president tomorrow and I haven't finished researching all the figures. I'm afraid he'll ask me a question and I will blow it. It gets me down when I think of how much work I still have to do. I'll be burning the midnight oil tonight.

F: The manager just told me that Lynn has agreed to go to the meeting in your place. So you are off the hook.

E: What's up with that? The manager said I should go.

F: Yeah, but she knew you were stressed about the meeting. So she asked Lynn to handle it. Lynn doesn't have a lot going on right now, so she won't mind. I think it's a good call by the manager. You shouldn't feel slighted. Everyone knows you've been snowed under lately.

### Questions

- 1-Do you think E should feel "slighted" after being replaced by Lynn?
- 2-What "gets you down"?
- 3-When do you "burn the midnight oil"? Would you prefer to stay up late or get up early to prepare for an

exam?

4-Do you feel “stressed” about anything?

**Take turns reading the questions below and answering them. Make sure everyone in the group gets a chance to talk.**

1. Who is the better communicator, men or women? How do their communication styles differ?
2. What conversational topics are taboo in your country?
3. If you could have a conversation with any person from the past, who would it be?
4. Would you like a career where you had to talk to strangers frequently?
5. Who does most of the talking at your house, you or your spouse?
6. Do you ever flirt? How is flirting different from one culture to another?