

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 yourself

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-wouldn't be caught dead

translation: would not do that under any circumstances

Examples: I wouldn't be caught dead going to one of those gun shows. My mother wouldn't be caught dead wearing a bikini.

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

15- catch red-handed

translation: catch someone in the act of doing something wrong

Example: Fortunately, the police caught the burglar red-handed. He was carrying a TV out of the apartment when the police arrived.

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 your country or this one?

4-Name something you wouldn't be caught dead doing.

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 double check before you leave home?

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

7- When you were younger, did your parents ever catch you red-handed doing something you weren't supposed to do?

Pronunciation Drill: These word pairs have vowels that sound similar. Listen for the slight difference in the word pairs. Practice pronouncing. Each student should have a turn saying the words correctly.

heat hit

desk disk

fan vent

wet wait

fell fail

get gate

L ale

let late

pen pain

test taste

well whale

west waist

tech take

sell sale

rest raced

