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Absolutely! a strong affirmation. □ MOTHER: *Do you want another piece of cake?* CHILD: *Absolutely!* □ BOB: *Are you ready to go?* MARY: *Absolutely!*

Absolutely not! a strong denial or refusal. (Compare to *Definitely not!*) □ BOB: *Will you please slip this bottle into your pocket?* BILL: *Absolutely not!* □ BOB: *Can I please have the car again tonight?* FATHER: *Absolutely not! You can't have the car every night!*

Act your age! Behave more maturely! (A rebuke for someone who is acting childish. Often said to a child who is acting like an even younger child.) □ *Johnny was squirming around and pinching his sister. His mother finally said, "Johnny, act your age!"* □ CHILD: *Aw, come on! Let me see your book!* MARY: *Be quiet and act your age. Don't be such a baby.*

Adios. Good-bye. (From Spanish. Used in casual or familiar conversation.) □ BOB: *See you later, man.* BILL: *Yeah, man. Adios.* □ BOB: *Adios, my friend.* MARY: *See you, Bob.*

Afraid not. See *(I'm) afraid not.*

Afraid so. See *(I'm) afraid so.*

Afternoon. See *(Good) afternoon.*

After while(, crocodile). Good-bye till later.; See *you later.* (The word *crocodile* is used only for the sake of the rhyme. It is the response to *See you later, alligator.*) □ MARY: *See you later.* BILL: *After while, crocodile.* □ JANE: *After while.* MARY: *Toodle-oo.*

After you. a polite way of encouraging someone to go ahead of oneself; a polite way of indicating that someone else should or can go first. ☐ *Bob stepped back and made a motion with his hand indicating that Mary should go first. "After you," smiled Bob.* ☐ *BOB: It's time to get in the food line. Who's going to go first? BILL: After you. BOB: Thanks.*

Again(, please). Say it one more time, please. ☐ *The play director said, "Again, please. And speak more clearly this time."* ☐ *TOM: I need some money. I'll pay you back. BILL (pretending not to hear): Again, please. TOM: I said I need some money. How many times do I have to say it?*

Age before beauty. a comical and slightly rude way of encouraging someone to go ahead of oneself; a comical, teasing, and slightly grudging way of indicating that someone else should or can go first. ☐ *As they approached the door, Bob laughed and said to Bill, "Age before beauty."* ☐ *"No, no. Please, you take the next available seat," smiled Tom. "Age before beauty, you know."*

all in all AND all things considered; on balance a transition indicating a summary, a generalization, or the announcement of a conclusion. ☐ *BILL: All in all, this was a fine evening. ALICE: I think so too.* ☐ *"Our time at the conference was well spent, all in all," thought Fred.* ☐ *BILL: How did it go? ALICE: On balance, it went quite well.* ☐ *BOB: Did the play turn a profit? FRED: I suppose that we made a nice profit, all things considered.*

Allow me. AND Permit me. a polite way of announcing that one is going to assist someone, unasked. (Typically said by a man assisting a woman by opening a door, lighting a cigarette, or providing support or aid in moving about. In *Allow me*, the stress is usually on *me*. In *Permit me*, the stress is usually on *mit*.) ☐ *Tom and Jane approached the door. "Allow me," said Tom, grabbing the doorknob.* ☐ *"Permit me," said Fred, pulling out a gold-plated lighter and lighting Jane's cigarette.*

All right. 1. an indication of agreement or acquiescence. (Often pronounced *aright* in familiar conversation.) ☐ *FATHER: Do it now, before you forget. BILL: All right.* ☐ *TOM: Please remember to bring me back a pizza. SALLY: All right, but I get some of it.* 2. a shout of agreement or encouragement. (Usually **All right!**) ☐ *ALICE:*

Come on, let's give Sally some encouragement. FRED: *All right, Sally! Keep it up! You can do it!* □ "That's the way to go! All right!" shouted various members of the audience.

All right already! AND **All righty already!** an impatient way of indicating agreement or acquiescence. (The second version is more comical than rude. Dated but still used.) □ ALICE: *All right already! Stop pushing me!* MARY: *I didn't do anything!* □ BILL: *Come on! Get over here!* BOB: *All righty already! Don't rush me!*

All systems are go. an indication that everything is ready or that things are going along as planned. (Borrowed from the jargon used during America's early space exploration.) □ BILL: *Can we leave now? Is the car gassed up and ready?* TOM: *All systems are go. Let's get going.* □ SALLY: *Are you all rested up for the track meet?* MARY: *Yes. All systems are go.*

All the best to someone. See *Give my best to someone.*

all the more reason for doing something AND **all the more reason to do something** with even better reason or cause for doing something. (Can be included in a number of grammatical constructions.) □ BILL: *I don't do well in calculus because I don't like the stuff.* FATHER: *All the more reason for working harder at it.* □ BOB: *I'm tired of painting this fence. It's so old it's rotting!* SALLY: *All the more reason to paint it.*

all things considered See *all in all.*

Aloha. 1. Hello. (Hawaiian. Used in casual or familiar conversation or in Hawaii.) □ "Aloha. Welcome," smiled the hostess. □ ALICE: *Hello. Can I come in?* SUE: *Come in. Aloha and welcome.* 2. Good-bye. (Hawaiian. Used in casual or familiar conversation or in Hawaii.) □ MARY: *It's time we were going. Aloha.* JANE: *Aloha, Mary. Come again.* □ *All the family stood by the little plane, cried and cried, and called "Aloha, aloha," long after my little plane took me away to the big island.*

Am I glad to see you! I am very glad to see you! (Not a question. There is a stress on *I* and another on *you*.) □ BILL: *Well, I finally got here!* JOHN: *Boy howdy! Am I glad to see you!* □ TOM (as Bill

opens the door): *Here I am, Bill. What's wrong?* BILL: *Boy, am I glad to see you! Come on in. The hot water heater exploded.*

Am I right? Isn't that so? Right? (A way of demanding a response and stimulating further conversation.) ☐ JOHN: *Now, this is the kind of thing we should be doing. Am I right?* SUE: *Well, sure. I guess.* ☐ FRED: *You don't want to do this for the rest of your life. Am I right?* BOB: *Yeah.* FRED: *You want to make something of yourself. Am I right?* BOB: *I suppose.*

And how! an enthusiastic indication of agreement. ☐ MARY: *Wasn't that a great game? Didn't you like it?* SALLY: *And how!* ☐ BOB: *Hey, man! Don't you just love this pizza?* TOM: *And how!*

And you? AND Yourself? a way of redirecting a previously asked question to the asker or someone else. ☐ BILL: *Do you want some more cake?* MARY: *Yes, thanks.* Yourself? BILL: *I've had enough.* ☐ JANE: *Are you enjoying yourself?* BILL: *Oh, yes, and you?*

Anybody I know? See *Anyone I know?*

Any friend of someone('s) (is a friend of mine). I am pleased to meet a friend of someone. (A response when meeting or being introduced to a friend of a friend.) ☐ FRED: *Well, nice to meet you Tom. Any friend of my brother is a friend of mine.* TOM: *Thanks, Fred. Nice to meet you too.* ☐ JOHN: *Thank you so much for helping me.* SALLY: *You're welcome. Any friend of Sue's.*

anyhow See *anyway.*

Anyone I know? AND Anybody I know? a coy way of asking *who?* ☐ SALLY: *Where were you last night?* JANE: *I had a date.* SALLY: *Anyone I know?* ☐ BILL: *I've got a date for the formal next month.* HENRY: *Anybody I know?*

Anything else? See *(Will there be) anything else?*

Anything going on? See *(Is) anything going on?*

Anything new down your way? Has any interesting event happened where you live? (Rural and familiar.) ☐ BILL: *Anything*

new down your way? BOB: *Nothing worth talking about.* □ MARY: *Hi, Sally. Anything new down your way?* SALLY: *No, what's new with you?* MARY: *Nothing.*

Anything you say. Yes.; I agree. □ MARY: *Will you please take this over to the cleaners?* BILL: *Sure, anything you say.* □ SALLY: *You're going to finish this before you leave tonight, aren't you?* MARY: *Anything you say.*

Anytime. 1. an indication that one is available to be called upon, visited, or invited at any time in the future. □ MARY: *I'm so glad you invited me for tea.* JANE: *Anytime. Delighted to have you.* □ SALLY: *We really enjoyed our visit. Hope to see you again.* BILL: *Anytime. Please feel free to come back.* 2. a polite but casual way of saying *You're welcome.* □ MARY: *Thanks for driving me home.* BOB: *Anytime.* □ SALLY: *We were grateful for your help after the fire last week.* JANE: *Anytime.* 3. See *Any time you are ready.*

Anytime you are ready. an indication that the speaker is waiting for the person spoken to to make the appropriate move. □ MARY: *I think it's about time to go.* BILL: *Anytime you're ready.* DOCTOR: *Shall we begin the operation?* TOM: *Anytime you're ready.*

anyway AND anyhow "In spite of all this"; regardless. (Words such as this often use intonation to convey the connotation of the sentence that is to follow. The brief intonation pattern accompanying the word may indicate sarcasm, disagreement, caution, consolation, sternness, etc.) □ JOHN: *I just don't know what's going to happen.* MARY: *Things look very bleak.* JOHN: *Anyway, we'll all end up dead in the long run.* □ BOB: *Let's stop this silly argument.* FRED: *I agree. Anyhow, it's time to go home, so none of this argument really matters, does it?* BOB: *Not a bit.*

(Are) things getting you down? Are things bothering you? □ JANE: *Gee, Mary, you look sad. Are things getting you down?* MARY: *Yeah.* JANE: *Cheer up!* MARY: *Sure.* □ TOM: *What's the matter, Bob? Things getting you down?* BOB: *No, I'm just a little tired.*

(Are you) doing okay? AND You doing okay? 1. How are you? □ MARY: *Doing okay?* BILL: *You bet! How are you?* □ BILL: *Hey, man! Are you doing okay?* TOM: *Sure thing! And you?* 2. How are you surviving this situation or ordeal? □ MARY: *You doing okay?* BILL: *Sure.*

(Are you) feeling okay?

What about you? MARY: *I'm cool.* □ TOM: *Wow, that was some gust of wind! Are you doing okay?* MARY: *I'm still a little frightened, but alive.*

(Are you) feeling okay? Do you feel well? (More than a greeting inquiry.) □ TOM: *Are you feeling okay?* BILL: *Oh, fair to middling.* □ MARY: *Are you feeling okay?* SUE: *I'm still a little dizzy, but it will pass.*

(Are you) going my way? If you are traveling in the direction of my destination, could I please go with you or can I have a ride in your car? □ MARY: *Are you going my way?* SALLY: *Sure. Get in.* □ "Going my way?" said Tom as he saw Mary get into her car.

(Are you) leaving so soon? AND **You leaving so soon?** a polite inquiry made to a guest who has announced a departure. (Appropriate only for the first few guests to leave. It would seem sarcastic to say this to the last guest to leave or to one who is leaving very late at night.) □ SUE: *We really must go.* SALLY: *Leaving so soon?* SUE: *Fred has to catch a plane at five in the morning.* □ JOHN (seeing Tom at the door): *You leaving so soon?* TOM: *Yes, thanks for inviting me. I really have to go.* JOHN: *Well, good night, then.*

(Are you) ready for this? a way of presenting a piece of news or information that is expected to excite or surprise the person spoken to. □ TOM: *Boy, do I have something to tell you! Are you ready for this?* MARY: *Sure. Let me have it!* □ TOM: *Now, here's a great joke! Are you ready for this?* It is so funny! ALICE: *I can hardly wait.*

(Are you) ready to order? Would you care to tell me what you want to order to eat? (A standard phrase used in eating establishments to find out what one wants to eat.) □ *The waitress came over and asked, "Are you ready to order?"* □ TOM: *I know what I want. What about you, Sally?* Are you ready to order? SALLY: *Don't rush me!*

(Are you) sorry you asked? Now that you have heard (the unpleasant answer), do you regret having asked the question? (Compare to *You'll be sorry you asked.*) □ FATHER: *How are you doing in school?* BILL: *I'm flunking out. Sorry you asked?* □ MOTHER: *You've been looking a little down lately. Is there anything wrong?* BILL: *I probably have mono. Are you sorry you asked?*

(as) far as I know AND **to the best of my knowledge** a signal of basic, but not well-informed agreement with an indication that the speaker's knowledge may not be adequate. □ TOM: *Is this brand*

of computer any good? CLERK: *This is the very best one there is as far as I know.* □ FRED: *Are the trains on time?* CLERK: *To the best of my knowledge, all the trains are on time today.* □ BILL: *Are we just about there?* TOM: *Far as I know.* BILL: *I thought you'd been there before.* TOM: *Never.*

(as) far as I'm concerned 1. *from my point of view; as concerns my interests.* □ BOB: *Isn't this cake good?* ALICE: *Yes, indeed. This is the best cake I have ever eaten as far as I'm concerned.* □ TOM: *I think I'd better go.* BOB: *As far as I'm concerned, you all can leave now.* 2. *Okay, as it concerns my interests.* □ ALICE: *Can I send this package on to your sister?* JOHN: *As far as I'm concerned.* □ JANE: *Do you mind if I put this coat in the closet?* JOHN: *Far as I'm concerned. It's not mine.*

as I see it AND in my opinion; in my view *the way I think about it.* □ TOM: *This matter is not as bad as some would make it out to be.* ALICE: *Yes. This whole affair has been overblown, as I see it.* □ BOB: *You're as wrong as can be.* JOHN: *In my view, you are wrong.*

as it is *the way things are; the way it is now.* □ "I wish I could get a better job," remarked Tom. "I'm just getting by as it is." □ MARY: *Can we afford a new refrigerator?* FRED: *As it is, it would have to be a very small one.*

as I was saying AND like I was saying *to repeat what I've been saying; to continue with what I was saying. (The first form is appropriate in any conversation. The second form is colloquial, informal, and familiar. In addition, this use of like for as, as in the second form, is objected to by many people.)* □ BILL: *Now, Mary, this is one of the round ones that attaches to the wire here.* BOB (passing through the room): *Hello, you two! Catch you later.* BILL: *Yeah, see you around. Now, as I was saying, this goes here on this wire.* □ TOM: *I hate to interrupt, but someone's car is being broken into down on the street.* FRED: *As I was saying, these illegal practices must stop.*

as such *authentic; in the way just mentioned; as one would expect.* □ ALICE: *Did you have a good vacation?* JOHN: *Well, sort of. It wasn't a vacation, as such. We just went and visited Mary's parents.* ALICE: *That sounds nice.* JOHN: *Doesn't it?* □ ANDREW: *Someone said you bought a beach house.* HENRY: *Well, it's certainly not a beach house, as such. More like a duck blind, in fact.*

as we speak *just now; at this very moment. (This has almost reached cliché status.)* □ "I'm sorry, sir," consoled the agent at the gate, "the plane is taking off as we speak." □ TOM: *Waiter, where is my*

steak? It's taking a long time. WAITER: It is being grilled as we speak, sir—just as you requested.

as you say 1. **AND like you say** a phrase indicating [patronizing] agreement with someone. (The *like* is used colloquially only.) □

JOHN: *Things are not going well for me today. What should I do?* BOB: *Some days are like that. As you say, it's just not going well for you, that's all.* □

JOHN: *This arrangement is not really good. There's not enough room for both of us.* MARY: *I guess you're right. It is crowded, and, like you say, there's not enough room.*

2. (usually **As you say**.) a polite and formal way of indicating agreement or acquiescence. (Literally, I will do as you say.) □

JOHN: *Please take this to the post office.* BUTLER: *As you say, sir.* □

BUTLER: *There is a Mr. Franklin at the door.* MARY: *Thank you, James. Tell him I've gone to Egypt for the winter.* BUTLER: *As you say, madam.*

at the present time now. (Almost a cliché.) □ “*We are very sorry to report that we are unable to fill your order at the present time,*” stated the little note on the order form. □

MARY: *How long will it be until we can be seated?* WAITER: *There are no tables available at the present time, madam.*

MARY: *But, how long?*

aw 1. an interjection indicating dissent. □ BILL: *Put the film in the fridge.* BOB: *Aw, that's stupid! It'll just get cold!* □

TOM: *The new cars are all unsafe.* BILL: *Aw, you don't know what you're talking about!*

2. an interjection indicating pleading. □ TOM: *No!* FRED: *Aw, come on! Please!* □

MARY: *Get away from my door!* JOHN: *Aw, come on! Let me in!* □

FRED: *You hurt my feelings.* BOB: *Aw, I didn't mean it.*

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Bag it! AND **Bag your face!** *Be quiet!; Shut up and go away!* (Rude and youthful slang. From *Bag your face!*) ☐ MARY: *Sally, you look just terrible! What happened?* SALLY: *Bag it!* MARY: *Sorry I asked!* ☐ BILL: *Did I ever tell you about the time I went to Germany?* SUE: *Give it a rest, Bill. Can it! Bag it!* ☐ SUE: *Can I borrow your car again?* MARY: *Bag your face, Sue!* SUE: *Well, I never!*

Bag your face! See the previous entry.

Beat it! *Go away!; Get out!* (Slang.) ☐ BILL: *Sorry I broke your radio.* BOB: *Get out of here! Beat it!* ☐ “*Beat it, you kids! Go play somewhere else!*” yelled the storekeeper.

Beats me. See *(It) beats me.*

Be careful. 1. an instruction to take care in a particular situation. ☐ BILL: *I’m going to the beach tomorrow.* SALLY: *Be careful. Use lots of sunscreen!* ☐ JANE: *Well, we’re off to the Amazon.* MARY: *Heavens! Be careful!* 2. a way of saying *good-bye* while cautioning someone to take care. ☐ JOHN: *See you around, Fred.* FRED: *Be careful.* ☐ ALICE: *Well, I’m off.* JOHN: *Bye, Alice, be careful.*

Been getting by. See *(I’ve) been getting by.*

been keeping busy See *(I’ve) been keeping busy.; (Have you) been keeping busy?*

been keeping cool See *(Have you) been keeping cool?; (I’ve) been keeping cool.*

Been keeping myself busy. See *(I’ve) been keeping myself busy.*

Been keeping out of trouble.

Been keeping out of trouble. See *(I've) been keeping out of trouble.*; *(Have you) been keeping out of trouble?*

been okay See *(Have you) been okay?*; *(I've) been okay.*

Been under the weather. See *(I've) been under the weather.*

Been up to no good. See *(I've) been up to no good.*

Begging your pardon, but See *(I) beg your pardon, but.*

Be good. a departure response meaning *Good-bye and behave yourself.*

□ JANE: *Well, we're off. Be back in a week.* MARY: *Okay, have fun. Be good.* JANE: *Do I have to?* □ TOM: *Bye. Be good.* BILL: *See ya.*

Beg pardon. See *(I) beg your pardon.*

Beg your pardon. See *(I) beg your pardon.*

Beg your pardon, but See *(I) beg your pardon, but.*

Be happy to (do something). See *(I'd be) happy to (do something).*

Behind you! Look behind you!; There is danger behind you! □
"Behind you!" shouted Tom just as a car raced past and nearly knocked Mary over. □ *Alice shouted, "Behind you!" just as the pickpocket made off with Fred's wallet.*

believe it or not an expression asserting the truth of something that the speaker has said, indicating that the statement is true whether or not the hearer believes it. □ TOM: *Well, Fred really saved the day.* SUE: *Believe it or not, I'm the one who saved the day.* □ BILL: *How good is this one?* CLERK: *This is the best one we have, believe it or not.*

Believe you me! You really should believe me!; You'd better take my word for it! □ ALICE: *Is it hot in that room?* FRED: *It really is. Believe you me!* □ SUE: *How do you like my cake?* JOHN: *Believe you me, this is the best cake I've ever eaten!*

Be my guest. *Help yourself.; After you.* (A polite way of indicating that one should go first, help oneself, or take the last one of some-
