

The Straight Story

Part A Learning Vocabulary

I Words and Expressions in the Video

1. What's up?

Model

Nick: Hi. I came as soon as I could. What's up?

Talia: I've been thinking about this all day... Now tell me, again: When and how did you meet this Jackie Baker woman?



Explanations & Further Study

- ◆ If **something is up**, someone is feeling unhappy or concerned because they have problems, or there is something wrong in a situation. For example:
 - The look on his face told me that something was up.
 - What's up? You look so serious!
- ◆ **What's up** is commonly used to inquire about the development of a situation or to catch up on things. For example:
 - So, what's up with the reports?
- ◆ Similar expressions that are used to catch up on things are:
 - What's going on with the finance project?
 - Um, what's the story with this forum thing?
 - Hey, what's happening with this case competition?
- ◆ **What's up**, together with many other expressions, can be used simply in greeting and asking about one's current situation. For example:
 - Amy: Jane, what's up?
Jane: Nothing new.
 - Jack: How are things (going)?

Jessica: Not too bad.

- Jeff: Hey, Kim. How's it going?

Kim: (Everything's going) great.

- Jimmy: Kevin, how are you?

Kevin: Quite good. How about you?

Let's Practice

Directions: Match the expressions in column A with their appropriate responses in column B.

Column A

- 1) What's up?
- 2) So, what's the story with the meeting?
- 3) Hey guys, how're things at school?
- 4) Is something up with Julie?
- 5) Hi, Rachel, how are you?

Column B

- A) Nothing that I know of.
- B) Great!
- C) Nothing much.
- D) Oh, it went very well.
- E) Everything's fine.

2. Take somebody to lunch

Model

Talia: Right. At her office. Except you never went up to her office.

Nick: Right, so she meets me in the lobby, we shake hands, and she takes me to lunch.

Explanations

- ◆ Take somebody to lunch means to invite someone to lunch. **We can also say take somebody out to lunch.** Take somebody out is commonly used in spoken English to mean to go somewhere or do something with someone, usually something you plan and pay for. For example:

- Dad's taking the whole family out to the cinema.
- My brother is taking me out for a celebration tonight.
- Jack is planning to take Amy out on a date this Friday night.
- He decided to take his girlfriend out on a trip.

Further Study

- ◆ Other expressions that express a similar note of inviting someone to something and paying for it are:
 - Come on! Don't think too much about it. I'll treat you to a cappuccino. How's that sound?
 - Let me buy you a drink.
 - The meal is on me.
- ◆ There are a whole bunch of phrases with **take** that can frequently be used in spoken English. For example:
 - I take it that you will take care of the whole thing. (expect someone will do something, know something, etc.)

- He's completely taken up with work at the moment. (be very busy dealing with someone or something)
- Don't be taken in by products claiming to help you lose weight in a week. (be completely deceived by someone who lies to you)
- Take it from me, he'll never make it. (believe me)
- I won't tell her a thing—what do you take me for? (you misunderstand me if you think that)
- I take your point. (used to say that you accept someone's opinion)
- You can't expect him not to take sides on this issue. (support one side more than the other)
- **Jane:** How did he take it when you told him? (react to a piece of news)

Aaron: Not too well.

Let's Practice

Directions: Select the appropriate words or phrases and use the proper form to complete the dialog.

I take it that	on	to	take over	take sides
what do you take me for	take in	I take your point	take up with	take it from me

Tom: 1) _____ you will stay out of it and never 2) _____.

Jerry: Hey, 3) _____? A liar?

Tom: Calm down! Just want to make sure you wouldn't 4) _____ by his lies.

Jerry: 5) _____, I'm not that stupid. Are you planning to 6) _____ when he resigned?

Tom: Not now. I'm too much 7) _____ this advertising campaign.

Jerry: 8) _____, but I still think you should go for it. That's the chance of a lifetime.

Tom: You're probably right. I'll think it over. Hey, let's go to the bar around the corner. I'll treat you 9) _____ a drink.

Jerry: Good idea. The food will be 10) _____ me.

3. Or something like that

Model

Jackie: OK. A young kid comes up to you and says, "Hey! Aren't you Nick Crawford, the soccer star?"

Nick: Uh-huh.

Jackie: And you say, "That's me." Or something like that.

Explanations

- ◆ Or something like that is used to show that what you have just said is only an example or you are not certain about it. Sometimes, we can simply say or something (anything) to express the same meaning. For example:

- Why don't you go to a movie or something?

- She works in sales promotion, something like that.
- Would you like a coffee or anything?

Further Study

- ◆ When you can't remember the rest of a number or name, **you can use something**. For example:
 - We need to pay two hundred something for security deposit.
 - Her name is Julia something.
- ◆ **There are a lot of idiomatic expressions around something** and anything. For example:
 - At least we have a caring family. That's something, isn't it? (There is one thing that you should be glad about)
 - Running your own business at such a young age is quite something. (very special or admirable)
 - I want to buy a little something to give to Jane when I visit her at hospital. (a small amount of food or drink, or a present that is not of great value)
 - I think Jack has got something there. (What he has said or discovered is important or interesting)
 - There's something in his proposal. (There's some value or truth in what someone does or says)
 - I wouldn't have missed your party for anything (in the world). (under any circumstances)
 - **Jeff:** You should keep the apartment clean.
 - **Andy:** Anything you say. (used to express agreement, often sarcastically)

Let's Practice

Directions: Rewrite the following sentences with appropriate phrases with "something" or "anything".

- Although I don't like his idea, I have to admit that there is some value in it.
I have to admit that _____.
- He would never betray his own country.
He wouldn't betray his own country _____.
- The professor is somewhere between 30 and 40. I can't remember exactly what her age is.
The professor is 30 _____.
- What he has done is admirable.
What he has done is _____.
- You can invest the money in some other business, donate to some non-profit organizations, stuff like that.
You can invest the money, donate it, _____.
- I always eat some snack before going to bed.
I always have _____ to eat before going to bed.
- He has made a very important discovery.
He has _____.

4. That's it

Model

Jackie: And then the kid says, “Wow! Cool shoes! What are they?” And you say, “Kicks. What else?”

Nick: That's it?

Jackie: That's it.

Explanations

- ◆ **That's it** means that's all someone wants to say or needs to do. It can be used at the end of a lecture, presentation, etc. to indicate that there is no more to say. For example:
 - Jimmy: ... That's it! Hope you all enjoy your stay here.

Further Study

- ◆ **That's it** (That does it) can also be used to show that someone or something goes beyond the limit of what is acceptable, and you don't want it to continue. For example:
 - That's it! I will not tolerate that sort of behavior in this class.
 - That does it! I'm not taking it any more.
- ◆ Some other common idiomatic expressions with **that** are
 - **Michael:** I was going to give it to you tomorrow.
Nick: Oh, come on! Don't give me that! (don't expect me to believe that, because I know it's untrue)
 - **Jenny:** My husband and I have decided to take a trip to Europe this fall.
Helen: How about that? (used to emphasize that something is surprising or impressive)
 - Let me give you some hints. How's that? (used when asking if something is satisfactory)
 - I won't have anything to do with him and that's that. (I won't change my mind or discuss it any longer)
 - **Lori:** More coffee?
Kristy: No, that'll do. Thanks. (something is enough; I don't want any more of something)

Let's Practice

Directions: Use the appropriate phrases with “that” to complete the monolog.

Gary is really driving me crazy these days. Every day he comes back to the dorm late at night, messes up the kitchen, and never cleans the room. Every time I talk with him about it, he always says “anything you say”. Come on! 1) _____. I know what he is after all this time living with him. 2) _____, I'm not taking it any more. I'm not going to let him get away with these behaviors and I'll tell him that he has to put a stop to it, 3) _____? If he keeps doing that, I'll kick him out and 4) _____.

II Words and Expressions in the Apply Video

- ◆ Go out to eat means to eat in a restaurant. **We can also say** eat out **or** dine out. For example:

- Today's Mother's Day. We decide to go out to eat.
 - When I lived in Spain, I used to eat out all the time.
- ◆ Sneak means going somewhere secretly, or taking someone or something somewhere secretly and quietly in order to avoid being seen or heard. For example:
- I managed to sneak in through the back door while she wasn't looking.
 - I thought I'd sneak up on him and give him a surprise.



Language Learning Strategy

Practice Listening in Real Contexts



Practice listening in real contexts outside of class at least five times a week (watching CCTV International, watching sitcoms or news, going to the movies, listening to the radio or tapes, etc.), and keep a Listening Log to record these experiences. This will provide opportunities for you to apply or practice what you have learned and will also provide you with new cultural information.

Part B More Listening



I Long Conversation

Directions: Listen to the recording in the MP3 disk and select the correct answer to each of the following questions.

- Where did the second speaker first meet Susie?
 - At a dinner party sponsored by Coca-Cola.
 - At a formal meeting of Coca-Cola.
 - At a Coca-Cola sales promotion.
 - At a charity party held by Coca-Cola.
- What were they paid to do for that occasion?
 - They were paid to get endorsement from sport stars.
 - They were paid to do a commercial.
 - They were paid to receive guests.
 - They were paid to entertain.
- What can we infer about the woman and her best friend, Susie?
 - They are movie fans.
 - They like to make fun of each other.

- C. They find fun in occasional argument.
 D. They both engage themselves in teaching for free.
- 4) They never fight because _____.
 A. they do not often see each other
 B. they always agree on everything
 C. they see no point in fighting
 D. they are both good-tempered
- 5) When does Susie teach her exercise class?
 A. On Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 B. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
 C. On Wednesdays and Thursdays.
 D. On Tuesdays and Fridays.



II Spot Dictation

Directions: Listen to the recording again and fill in the missing words or phrases.

A: So, who would you say is like your best friend?

B: My best friend would have to be Susie.

A: I've met Susie. 1) _____?

B: We met. Oh, my gosh. Can I even remember how we met? Oh, we met during a 2) _____.

A: What is a Coca-Cola convention?

B: Well, we were 3) _____ for this convention, and we had to do these really stupid jingles and things for Coca-Cola. But we 4) _____ and I met Susie and we've been friends ever since.

A: What do you guys usually do together? When you ...

B: We always, always go to 5) _____ and out to eat.

A: 6) _____. How often do you do that?

B: We do that about, about 7) _____. ... It's not that often. But it's just the right amount of time. We never fight because we don't see each other enough to fight. And so we just 8) _____ all the time.

A: Do you see each other 9) _____? I mean, do you ever?

B: I, I ... actually, she teaches an exercise class that I go to. On 10) _____.

A: That's fun.

...



III Compound Dictation

Directions: In this section, you will hear a passage three times. When the passage is read for the first

time, you should listen carefully for its general idea. Then listen to the passage again. When the passage is read for the second time, you are required to fill in the blanks numbered from 1) to 8) with the exact words you have just heard. For blanks numbered 9) to 11) you are required to fill in missing information. You can either use the exact words you have just heard or write down the main points in your own words. Finally, when the passage is read for the third time, you should check what you have written.

World Day for Water, or unofficially World Water Day (WWD), occurs each year on March 22, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution. This day was first formally 1) _____ in Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Observance was 2) _____ to begin in 1993 and has grown significantly ever since.

The UN invited its member nations to devote this day to 3) _____ UN recommendations and promoting 4) _____ activities within their countries. Each year, one of various UN agencies involved in water issues takes the 5) _____ in promoting and coordinating international activities for WWD.

Water is 6) _____ for sustainable development, including the preservation of our natural environment and the alleviation of poverty and hunger. Water is 7) _____ for human health and well-being.

The United Nations General Assembly, in December 2003, proclaimed the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”. The “Water for Life” Decade was 8) _____ on 22nd March 2005 by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan with the following video message: Dear friends,

Water is essential for life. Yet many millions of people around the world face water shortages. Many millions of children die every year from water-borne diseases. And drought regularly afflicts some of the world’s poorest countries. The world needs to respond much better. We need to increase water efficiency, especially in agriculture. 9) _____
_____. We must involve them in decision-making on water management. We need to make sanitation a priority. This is where progress is lagging most. And we must show that water resources need not be a source of conflict. Instead, they can be a catalyst for cooperation. Significant gains have been made. But a major effort is still required. That is why this year marks the beginning of the “Water for Life” Decade. Our goal is 10) _____
_____ in the years beyond.

This is an urgent matter of human development, and human dignity. Together, we can provide safe, clean water to all the world’s people. 11) _____
_____. Together, we must manage them better.

Part C Your Turn

I Language in Use

1. Catching Up on Things

Opening

Hi,
So,
Say,
Hey,
Um,

Catching Up on Things

what's happening?
what's going on (with the report)?
what's up?
what's the story?

2. Linking Back

Linking Back

Also,
As I was saying,
By the way,
And another thing,
To get back to the meeting,
Oh, about the meeting,

Additional Information

I thought the meeting went really well.

I thought it went well.

3. Changing the Subject

Changing the Subject

By the way,
Incidentally,
Before I forget,
Oh, I keep meaning to tell you,
In case you didn't know,
Oh, I wanted to tell you,
I don't mean to change the subject, but

New Topic

I'm going to be late tomorrow.

II Oral Activities

1. What Do You Think?

Tell what's happening in the video, and give your opinions about the story.

2. Pair Work: Winter Holiday

First, work alone. Use the cues below and the appropriate verb tenses to write wh-questions. Then add three wh-questions of your own. Now ask your partner the questions. On a piece of paper, take notes on the answers.

Cues	Questions
Why / stay on campus in winter holiday	
Where / have your New Year Eve dinner	
Who / do you meet in winter holiday	
What / do in this winter holiday	
How / spend your winter holiday	
When / come back to campus	

Now choose one question from the interview. Ask your partner two or three follow-up questions to find out more.

Example

A: Why did you stay on campus in winter holiday?

B: Because I found a part-time job.

A: Who did you meet in winter holiday?

B: A lot of old friends at a reunion party.

A: Where did you have your New Year Eve dinner?

B: _____

3. Pair Work: by the Way...

Read the situations. Then role-play it.

Student A

Situation: You and Student B are roommates. It's Friday night, and you haven't seen each other all day. You want to catch up on things with Student B, but you don't have much time to talk.

You want to tell Student B the following information:

- Student B's friend Sandy called. The message is to call back.
- You might go away next weekend.
- The CD player is broken.
- You're going to see the movie *Red Moon* tonight.