85 Expressions (1)

A In conversation

A **How's it going** with that flat you're buying?

B Well, there are **one or two** things still to organize, but it's fine **so far**. We're **about to** see the lawyer to go through a few more documents, then we hope to exchange contracts in **a week or so**.

B Great. And are you moving in **straight away**?

A Well, we haven't **made up our minds** about that yet. There's **quite a bit** to do – putting in a new bathroom and decorating, **for a start** – so we may have to ask my brother to **do us a favour** and let us stay in his spare room **for a while**.

SPOTLIGHT *mind*

There are a number of expressions using **mind**:

make up your mind decide
- *Come on! **Make up your mind!***

change your mind change your decision or opinion
- *I was going to Paris, but I've **changed my mind**.*

never mind = it doesn't matter
- *I forgot the letter. ~ Oh, **never mind**.*

GLOSSARY

How's it going?	a spoken phrase used to ask sb about their progress or general situation	**straight away**	immediately; now
one or two	a few	**quite a bit**	a fairly large amount or number
so far	until now	**for a start** *inf*	words you use when you give your first reason for sth
be about to do sth	be going to do sth very soon	**do sb a favour**	do sth to help sb
or so	used to show a number is not exact or accurate: *a week/day, etc.* **or so**; SYN **or two**	**for a while**	for a short period of time

1 Find seven more expressions using words from each box.

for ✓	quite	straight	never
make up	so	a week	for

far	your mind	away	a while ✓
a bit	or two	a start	mind

▶ for a while

2 Make correct sentences from the words.

▶ money / I / have / a / start / don't / enough / for — For a start, I don't have enough money.

1 do / a / could / you / favour / me ?

2 up / I / yet / made / haven't / mind / my

3 new / in / going / your / how's / job / it ?

4 she's / her / to / new / about / course / start

5 month / they'll / a / for / be / or / away / so

6 you / again / mind / your / have / changed ?

3 Agree with the questions using an expression that keeps the same meaning.

▶ Are you going away for a bit? ~ Yes, just for a week or so.

1 Has the job been OK until now? ~ Yeah, _____.

2 Are you staying at Henry's for a few weeks? ~ Yes, _____.

3 Are you going immediately? ~ Yes, _____.

4 Have you got a few ideas? ~ Yes, _____.

5 Is there a lot to do on the new house? ~ Yes, _____.

6 Have you both decided where to go yet? ~ Yeah, we've _____.

7 Did you help her? ~ Yes, I _____.

8 Is the class finishing very soon? ~ Yes, it's _____.

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B Short responses

In conversation, we often use common expressions as short responses.

A I've just passed my driving test.
B Oh, **well done. Congratulations!**

A What do you **feel like** doing?
B **It's up to you.**

A Did you **tip** the waiter?
B **No way!** The service was terrible.

A Can I ask you another question?
B No, **go away!** I'm trying to work.

A Are you **going away** this summer?
B **That depends.**

A Is anyone sitting here?
B No, **help yourself.**

A I'm afraid I **can't make it** tonight.
B Oh, **what a pity.**

GLOSSARY

well done	used when sb has just done sth very well SYN **congratulations** used when sb is getting married, etc.
feel like sth / doing sth	want to do sth
it's up to you	= it's your decision or responsibility
tip	give sb a small amount of extra money to sb who serves you, e.g. in a restaurant **tip** *n*
no way! *inf*	a strong way of saying 'no'
that depends	words you use to show that sth is not certain SYN **it depends**
help yourself	used to tell sb they can do sth or take sth
make it	If you **can't make it**, it means you won't be able to go to sth at a particular time.
what a pity	used to express sadness or disappointment SYN **what a shame** ALSO **that's a pity/shame**

SPOTLIGHT *go away*

Go away can mean:
1 leave the place where you live for at least one night, usually to go on holiday: *We're **going away** for the weekend.*
2 tell somebody to leave a person or place, usually because they are disturbing you SYN **leave sb alone**

4 Positive, negative, or not sure? Write *P, S* or *not sure*.

▶ No way! N
1 That's a pity. .....
2 Congratulations! .....
3 It depends. .....
4 Leave me alone. .....
5 What a shame. .....
6 Well done. .....
7 It's up to you. .....
8 I don't feel like it. .....
9 He gave me a tip. .....

5 Replace the underlined words with words that keep the same meaning.

▶ I'll have to leave the course – I'm too busy. ~ What a pity. shame
1 Can I ride your horse? ~ Certainly not. .....
2 Oh, well done. .....
3 Are you going next week? ~ Possibly. .....
4 Leave me alone! .....
5 What do you want to do? .....
6 Where shall we go? ~ You decide. .....
7 Do you need this chair? ~ No, take it. .....
8 I'm afraid I can't come this evening. .....
9 He gave some extra money for service to the driver. .....

6 Complete the dialogues using a suitable expression.

▶ Are you going on Tuesday? ~ No, I'm afraid I can't make it .....
1 Where shall we go? ~ I don't mind. ..... .
2 Can I borrow your car? ~ No ..... ! Your driving is terrible.
3 I've got a new job. ~ Wow! ..... .
4 Are you coming out with us? ~ No, I'm working! ..... !
5 Could I borrow your dictionary? ~ Of course. ..... .
6 Why don't you want to go to the cinema? ~ I don't know. I just don't ..... .
7 Will you be here next week? ~ No, we're ..... .
8 Sam and Scarlett can't make it tonight. ~ Oh, ...

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