

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
one or two	a few
so far	until now
be about to do sth	be going to do sth very soon
or so	used to show a number is not exact or accurate: <i>a week/day, etc.</i> or so ; SYN or two

straight away	immediately; now
quite a bit	a fairly large amount or number
for a start <i>inf</i>	words you use when you give your first reason for sth
do sb a favour	do sth to help sb
for a while	for a short period of time

1 Find seven more expressions using words from each box.

for ✓
make up

quite
so

straight
a week

never
for

far
a bit

your mind
or two

away
a start

a while ✓
mind

► for a while

2 Make correct sentences from the words.

- money / I / have / a / start / don't / enough / for
 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 ?

For a start, I don't have enough money.

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 make it	used to tell sb they can do sth or take sth 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. | 6 Well done. |
| 2 Congratulations! | 7 It's up to you. |
| 3 It depends. | 8 I don't feel like it. |
| 4 Leave me alone. | 9 He gave me a tip. |
| 5 What a shame. | |

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 <u>make it</u> . |
| 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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