81 Everyday language

The words and phrases below are all commonly found in everyday spoken language, and some of them are informal.

~ Where's Karl?
~ We're **short of** milk, so he **went off to** get some. He'll be back **any minute**.

~ Can you **give us** all **a lift**?
~ Sure. I can take **up to** four people, and you can **stick** your stuff in the boot.

~ I **bet** Elsa will be exhausted after yesterday. It's not **like her** to walk six miles.
~ Well, **no doubt** she'll tell us what **made** her decide to do it. **I mean**, she didn't have to, did she?

~ What are you and Beata doing for her birthday?
~ Well, **it's up to** her really, isn't it? I don't know **whether or not** she has any plans.

~ Dominic said he'd be here at 9. He's not going to **make it**, is he? And the concert was an **absolute disaster** last time without him.
~ Don't worry. He'll **turn up** – he needs the money.

~ Do you **reckon** we'll still get tickets for the Mozart concert?
~ Oh yeah, we're **bound to** – there's still three weeks **to go**.

~ I bet Kian **makes a mess of** organizing this festival. I don't know why I put him in charge.
~ True, but **you never know**, he may surprise us.

GLOSSARY

short (of sth) not having enough of sth
go off (to do sth) leave a place, especially in order to do sth
(at) any minute (now) very soon
give sb a lift give sb a free ride in your car
up to sth as far as a particular number, level, etc.
stick *inf* put sth in a place, especially quickly or carelessly
I bet (that) ... *inf* used to say that you are almost certain sth is true or that sth will happen
it's (not) like you/him/her, etc. used to show what is usual or typical for sb
no doubt used when you are saying that sth is probable
make sb/sth do sth cause sb/sth to do or be sth
I mean *inf* used to explain or correct what you have just said
be up to sb be sb's responsibility; be for sb to decide
whether used to express a doubt or choice between two possibilities: ***whether or not***
disaster *inf* a complete failure: ***an absolute / a total disaster***
turn up **1** (of a person) arrive, especially in a way that is unexpected (as above) **2** be found, especially by chance, after being lost
reckon *inf* think sth or have an opinion about sth
be bound to do/be sth be certain or likely to happen, or do or be sth
to go remaining; still left
mess a situation that is full of problems, usually because of bad organization or mistakes that sb has made: ***make a mess of sth***
you never know *inf* used to say that you can never be certain about what will happen in the future, especially when you are suggesting that sth good might happen

SPOTLIGHT *make it*

Make it can mean:
1 succeed in reaching a place, especially when it is difficult (as above)
2 be present at a place: *I'm afraid I can't **make it** this evening.*
3 be successful in a career: *Liam will never **make it** as a pop star.*
4 survive after a serious accident or illness; deal successfully with a difficult experience: *The doctors think he'll **make it**.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Form eight phrases by using a word or phrase from each box.

no	whether	give me	make	disaster	it tonight	to you	or not
a total	at any	short	it's up	of money	a lift	doubt	minute

_____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____

2 Good news or bad news? Write *G* or *B*.

1 She made a mess of the exam. ____
2 Dad made it through the operation. ____
3 The ceremony was an absolute disaster. ____
4 The accident was bound to happen. ____
5 Martina's not short of money. ____
6 The plane will take up to five, and we're seven. ____
7 Surprisingly, Daniel turned up on the right day. ____
8 Failing the test made her work harder. ____

3 Replace the underlined word(s) with a word or phrase that keeps the same meaning.

1 You can just put those books in the study. _____
2 I'm sure Caitlin will want to stay with us. _____
3 Darren's very clever; I'm sure he'll be successful in business. _____
4 We'll never win. There are only two minutes remaining before the final whistle. _____
5 Sophy's not feeling at all well, so she's very likely to be at home tonight. _____
6 I think the café will be shut by the time we get there. Let's go tomorrow instead. _____
7 Reuben just left, heading for the woods to try and find the dog. _____
8 The train goes in five minutes. Lena's not going to get here in time. _____

4 Rewrite the sentences on the left, starting with the words given. Keep the same meaning.

1 Could I go in your car? Could you give _____ ?
2 Felix will be here very soon. Felix will be here any _____ .
3 That's not typical of Vicky. That's _____ .
4 It's your decision. It's _____ .
5 He's not expected to come. I don't think he _____ .
6 He created a lot of problems with the task. He made _____ .
7 The traffic might be heavy; you can't be certain. The traffic might be heavy – you _____ .
8 Has anyone found the documents yet? Have the documents _____ ?
9 I haven't got much money left. I'm a bit _____ .
10 Why did she change her mind about the car? What _____ ?

5 Complete the dialogues in a suitable way.

1 **A** What are the chances that Alana will _____ it as a film actor?
B I _____ that'll be a struggle. I _____, with so little experience and just a couple of parts in some TV adverts, the competition is _____ to be tough. Still, you never _____ – we might just see her in a Hollywood movie one day. Unless she becomes famous, though, no _____ she'll have many periods waiting for work.

2 **A** Robbie seems rather depressed at the moment, and that's not _____ him.
B I know. I think he's finding his course really difficult. To be honest, I don't know what _____ him think medicine was right for him. He's not very hardworking and he isn't very interested in people.
A Well, he's got another three years to _____ on the course. It's entirely up _____ him whether or _____ he finishes it or changes to something else.

3 **A** Where's Taki? He asked me to give him a _____ to the stadium, and it's 6.30 already.
B Well, he was here ten minutes ago, but he _____ off to try and get a sandwich. He'll be here _____ minute now – don't worry.

4 A Caro has lost the ring Ali bought her. It'll be a total _____ if she can't find it.
B I _____ she's _____ it somewhere safe and forgotten about it. It'll _____ up, I'm sure.

6 These verbs have different meanings, apart from those given in the glossary. What are they? Use the APP to help you.

reckon _____ stick _____ bet _____

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS