

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	whether	used to express a doubt or choice between two possibilities: whether or not
go off (to do sth)	leave a place, especially in order to do sth	disaster inf	a complete failure: an absolute / a total disaster
(at) any minute (now)	very soon	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
give sb a lift	give sb a free ride in your car	reckon inf	think sth or have an opinion about sth
up to sth	as far as a particular number, level, etc.	be bound to do / be sth	be certain or likely to happen, or do or be sth
stick inf	put sth in a place, especially quickly or carelessly	to go	remaining; still left
I bet (that) ... inf	used to say that you are almost certain sth is true or that sth will happen	mess	a situation that is full of problems, usually because of bad organization or mistakes that sb has made: make a mess of sth
it's (not) like you/him/her, etc.	used to show what is usual or typical for sb	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
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		

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**.*

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. | 5 Martina's not short of money. |
| 2 Dad made it through the operation. | 6 The plane will take up to five, and we're seven. |
| 3 The ceremony was an absolute disaster. | 7 Surprisingly, Daniel turned up on the right day. |
| 4 The accident was bound to happen. | 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 <u>put</u> those books in the study. | |
| 2 I'm <u>sure</u> Caitlin will want to stay with us. | |
| 3 Darren's very clever; I'm sure he'll <u>be successful</u> in business. | |
| 4 We'll never win. There are only two minutes <u>remaining</u> before the final whistle. | |
| 5 Sophy's not feeling at all well, so she's <u>very likely</u> to be at home tonight. | |
| 6 I <u>think</u> the café will be shut by the time we get there. Let's go tomorrow instead. | |
| 7 Reuben just <u>left</u> , heading for the woods to try and find the dog. | |
| 8 The train goes in five minutes. Lena's not going to <u>get here in time</u> | |

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  to help you.

reckon stick bet

