



## Episode 30: Idioms with Parts of the Body

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper-level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations.

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss a variety of common idioms, phrasal verbs and expressions that include a part of the body.

Here is each body part with explanations of the related idioms and expressions:

shoulder	<b>Give someone the cold shoulder</b> – to intentionally ignore or show no interest in someone that you know. It is the opposite of a warm welcome, and is associated with indifference. Turning your shoulder to someone is also the opposite body language of a hug.  <b>Example:</b> <i>He got the cold shoulder from his former boss when he saw him at a restaurant.</i>
	<b>a shoulder to cry on</b> – a person who gives sympathy and support  <b>Example:</b> <i>After her tough day, Sarah just needed a shoulder to cry on.</i>
foot	<b>Put [one's] foot in [one's] mouth</b> – Say something foolish, embarrassing, or tactless.  Variations: put [one's] foot in it / open mouth; insert foot  <b>Example:</b> <i>He really put his foot in his mouth when he referred to the two women as mother and daughter – they were actually sisters.</i>
	<b>Put [one's] foot down</b> – take a firm position, or use authority to stop something  <b>Example:</b> <i>My son kept asking if he could go to the concert even though I had already said no, so I finally had to put my foot down.</i>
nose	<b>Nosy</b> – too interested in other people's lives or activities, when it does not concern you  <b>Example:</b> <i>Our nosy neighbors are always watching the people who come and go in our house.</i>  <b>Related to:</b> put your nose in someone's business; stick your nose where it doesn't belong; keep your nose out of it, etc.
	<b>Turn your nose up at something</b> – to refuse to take or accept something because it is not good enough  <b>Example:</b> <i>I bought some really expensive food for my cat, but she just turned her nose up at it.</i>

<b>Eye</b>	<p><b>Keep an eye <u>out for something</u></b> – watch carefully for someone or something to appear</p> <p><b>Example:</b> <i>Keep an eye out for any good sales coming up on Cyber Monday.</i></p>
	<p><b>Keep an eye <u>on something</u></b> – to pay continued close attention to (something) for a particular purpose</p> <p><b>Example:</b> <i>Can you keep an eye on the biscuits so they don't burn?</i></p>
	<p><b>Have an eye <u>for something</u></b> – to be good at noticing a particular type of thing, especially something attractive, valuable, of good quality, etc.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> <i>I need to hire someone to create my website because I don't have an eye for design.</i></p>
<b>Ear</b>	<p><b>Have an ear <u>for something</u></b> – Similar to have an eye for something, except as it relates to sounds, music, languages, etc.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> <i>She really has an ear for music. She can hear a song once, and she can figure out how to play it on her guitar.</i></p>
	<p><b>In one ear and out the other</b> – someone pays no attention to what was said, or forgets about it immediately</p> <p><b>Example:</b> <i>I tell my son to clean his room every day, and it goes in one ear and out the other.</i></p>
	<p><b>Give someone an earful</b> - to angrily tell someone what you think, especially for a long time</p> <p><b>Example:</b> <i>The frustrated teacher gave the class an earful when none of the students had completed their assignments on time.</i></p>

You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

<b>in full swing</b>	In full effect or fully underway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall is <u>in full swing</u>. The party was <u>in full swing</u> when I arrived. Preparations for next year's conference are already <u>in full swing</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>I swear ...</b>	A transitional phrase to begin a sentence to show emphasis or exaggeration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>I swear</u> that is why I was sick all the time when I lived in Illinois.</li> </ul>
<b>knock on wood</b>	Used to express a wish that something will or will not occur. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Knock on wood</u>, I hardly ever get sinus infections anymore.</li> </ul>
<b>roll the dice</b>	often used to mean to take a chance on something, or that something could have either a good result or bad result. In this case, I'm talking about a number of possible <u>ailments</u> , and that which one you get is like rolling the dice.
<b>ailment</b>	an illness, especially one that is not very serious
<b>segue</b>	move easily and without interruption from one piece of music, part of a story, subject, or situation to another [In this case it was sarcastic, because it was not a smooth transition]
<b>take a(nother) crack at [something]</b>	Informal: attempt or try to do something, often something difficult <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can't figure out what's wrong with my computer, maybe you can <u>take a crack at it</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>doom</b>	fate or destiny, esp. adverse fate; unavoidable bad fortune. The reference to a Wheel of Doom was a joke because, in situations where a spinning wheel is used to make a choice, it's often humorously referred to as a "wheel of doom." This is because the wheel sometimes includes undesirable or negative options.
<b>torso</b>	The human body apart from the head, neck, arms, and legs
<b>chatty</b>	describing someone who talks a lot in a friendly, informal way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My co-worker used to be very <u>chatty</u> with me, but ever since our disagreement about changing shifts, he's been giving me the cold shoulder.</li> </ul>
<b>spouses</b>	husbands and wives
<b>Pavlov's Dog</b>	Refers to a famous experiment that showed a dog associating the sound of a bell with food. In this case, the joke is that we are accidentally training our husbands to do something we don't want.
<b>hear [someone] out</b>	Listen to someone until they have finished what they want to say. *Usage note: We most commonly use this when we start to say something that we think the listener will probably disagree with, but we want them to hear the whole story or explanation before they make a decision. Example: I know you said you were against the idea of getting a dog, but hear me out.
<b>tales of woe</b>	Idiom: a sad story or a report of bad things that have happened <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She listened patiently as I went on and on with my <u>tales of woe</u>.</li> </ul>

## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation - Continued

<b>tactful diplomatic</b>	<p>careful not to say or do something to offend or upset people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He does not know how to be <u>tactful</u> / <u>diplomatic</u>; he's always putting his foot in his mouth.</li> </ul>
<b>disparaging</b>	<p>expressing the opinion that something is of little worth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She is always making <u>disparaging</u> remarks to her employees.</li> </ul>
<b>implication</b>	<p>meaning that can be understood without being directly stated (from verb: imply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes people will say something like, "Oh, he really put his foot in it." And the <u>implication</u> being that "it" is the mouth.</li> </ul>
<b>stomp</b>	<p>put foot down on the ground with force and quickly, often to indicate anger</p>
<b>snob</b>	<p>Can be someone who feels that they are better than other people, but in this context, it refers to a person who has extremely high standards who is not satisfied by the things that ordinary people like.</p>
<b>cranky</b>	<p>irritable, easily annoyed, not in a good mood, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During a long road trip, everyone's hungry and <u>cranky</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>a split second</b>	<p>for a very brief moment of time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I had only turned away from the stove for <u>a split second</u>, and the milk had boiled over.</li> </ul>
<b>going off the rails</b>	<p>Idiom: begin behaving in a strange, abnormal, or wildly uncontrolled way</p>
<b>vaguely</b>	<p>in a way that is uncertain, <u>indefinite</u> or unclear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were <u>vaguely</u> aware that they were saying something, but what? Who knows?</li> </ul>
<b>one of these days</b>	<p>some day in the future</p>
<b>I will hold you to that.</b>	<p>I am expecting you to keep your promise, or do what you say you will.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K: One of these days, I will visit you in Alabama. D: Ok, <u>I will hold you to that</u>.</li> </ul>

## Reduced Forms in Casual Speech

In casual conversation, you'll often hear words and sounds dropped and squeezed together to make a shorter, faster phrase that almost sounds like a single word. For example, in this episode, you may have noticed a couple of times we said "what you got?" (which sounded something like "whatchu got?")

What is happening there is that it is a shortened form of "What have you got?" The function word "have" is dropped and the rest of the sounds are squeezed together. Function words are those that are used for grammatical purposes and are unstressed, such as helping verbs.

This happens a lot, particularly with questions. Of course, this only happens in casual speech, and should not be done in more formal situations or when writing. See the list below of similar phrases where the auxiliary word is dropped and the phrase runs together like a single word.

Full Form	Reduced Form	Sounds like
Where are you going?	Where you going?	Whereya goin'?
What are you doing?	What you doing?	Whatcha/whatchu doin'?
What are you going to do?	What you gonna do?	Whatcha/whatchu gonna do?
Don't you want to go?	Don't you wanna go?	Doncha/donchu wanna go?

### Join the Conversation

- Discuss situations that might cause someone who is usually friendly with a person to *give them the cold shoulder*.
- Can you think of a time when you needed *a shoulder to cry on*? Who do you normally turn to for comfort when you are upset?
- What are some specific things you might *keep an eye out for* during a road trip?
- What are some foods that you would *turn your nose up at*?
- Have you ever had an issue with a *nosy* neighbor, co-worker, or other acquaintance? What did they do or say? How did you respond?
- What are some situations that someone might *give another person an earful*?
- What are some professions where you might find people who *have an eye for design*?
- What are some specific things you might tell your children, spouse, or other relative that go *in one ear and out the other*?

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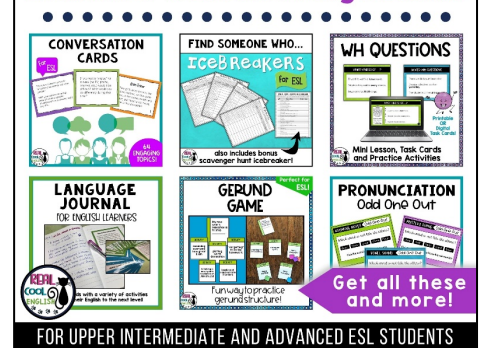
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