

Level Up English Club

People and relationships

4th meetup

Level Up English Club - vk.com/levelupenglishclub

Unofficial English

Damn (damm, dam, dammit)

Damn is a common, somewhat naughty exclamation. In one sense it means to condemn or send someone to hell, as in "God damn it!" Other times it means "a little amount," as in "I don't give a damn about baseball." People can give a damn, damn others to hell, and complain about the damn weather. You should be careful when peppering your speech with damn, as it might offend some ears. But sometimes damn can be used positively, as in "They make the best damn pizza in town!"

Darn (shoot, snap, dang)

You can say darn to show that you are very annoyed about something. It has the exact same damn meaning as damn.

OK, I admit it, it was me. But darn it, I was right!

Darn, this slide was even more useless!

Darn it! I was sure I'd left my keys here.

Darn it! There goes my bus!

Hell

Even if you don't subscribe to a religion that includes a concept of eternal hell for evil or blasphemous people, you might use the word to describe a terrible place or situation. Someone who's suffered an agonizing ordeal might say, "I've been through hell." The phrase "when hell freezes over" basically means "never," since hell is famous for its reputation as burning with infinite fire.

That man over there looks suspicious. Hell, he might even be a criminal!

Heck

An expression of usually slight anger or surprise, or a way of adding force to a statement, question, etc.

What the heck? Let's get the juicy words already!

The doctor said I shouldn't drink, but what the heck.

Oh heck! It's later than I thought.

Where the heck have you been?

Ass (arse)

Literally, your ass is your buttocks. In slang, an ass is a jerk or an idiot. Neither is highly regarded.

When people are being slangy or folksy, you hear this word a lot: "Get off your ass!" "Watch your ass!" "Why are you such an ass?" "Get your ass in here." Though this isn't one of the very worst swear words, it is considered harsher than butt and lots of people consider ass to be an inappropriate word. You would be a lot better off using softer words like bottom or tush in most situations.

Bum

Your bum is your bottom, your rear-end, your behind. It can also be a vagrant or hobo, as well as a verb for lazing (bumming) around.

Bum is a name given to a beggar or homeless person: someone who tries to bum change from you. You don't have to be a bum to bum a cigarette from someone. Also, bum is a general insult, as in "The Yankees are bums!"

A false accusation is a bum rap. If you remember that your bum is your butt – where you sit when you're being lazy – then the different meanings should fit together well.

Bummer

A bummer is a huge disappointment. It's a bummer when you try out for a big role in a play and don't end up getting it.

The word bummer is a very casual way to describe or make note of a frustrating experience. You can say, "It was such a bummer when we missed the train," or respond to bad news by saying, "Bummer!" The current meaning is from 1960s slang, but in the 1880s a bummer was a "loafer" or "idle person," probably from the German slang word bummeler, "loafer."

Shit

Shit is one of the most commonly used slang words that mean "poop" or "crap." Or it's used as an emphatic exclamation roughly meaning "oh no!" Despite its commonness, shit is still considered inappropriate.

When you stub your toe or cut yourself, it's pretty hard not to say "Shit!" Still, you'd better try to avoid it in most settings, because shit is an obscenity that many people do not want to hear. It's probably a bad word because poop is generally considered pretty disgusting.

Crap

Crap is a versatile word, usually meaning feces, stuff, or garbage. It's definitely slang but not really obscene.

This is a word that's on the borderline between acceptable slang and potty language. You can be 100% sure that saying the s-word (which means almost exactly the same thing as crap) will get you in trouble if you said it in class, but crap isn't so clear cut. It's sort of naughty but getting less naughty all the time.

Awow crap, you got my hopes up.

The video was removed from the slide in order to reduce the size of the file.

Vocabulary

Charismatic

Used to describe a person who has charisma:

Few were able to resist this charismatic and persuasive leader.

Boring

Not interesting or exciting:

That quiet girl is such a boring person. Ugh, like everything is so one-sided!

Reliable

A reliable person is someone that you can trust to work hard and do what they say they will do:

Employers want reliable workers.

Humorous

Funny, or making you laugh:

He was a true mentor, teaching us to be subtle, firm and humorous all at the same time.

Energetic

Very active physically and mentally:

The president was an energetic campaigner.

Vocabulary

Lazy

Not willing or not wanting to work or use effort to do something:

Get out of bed, you lazy thing!

Extrovert

An energetic happy person who enjoys being with other people:

Most sales people are extroverts.

Introvert

Someone who is shy, quiet, and prefers to spend time alone rather than often being with other people.

Indecisive

Not good at making decisions:

He is widely thought to be an indecisive leader.

Easy-going

Relaxed and not easily upset or worried:

He was easy-going and good-natured.

Vocabulary

Naive

Too ready to believe someone or something, or to trust that someone's intentions are good, esp. because of a lack of experience.

Artistic

*An artistic person has skill or ability in painting, dancing, singing, etc.:
the artistic director of the theatre.*

Enthusiastic

*Having or showing intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval:
He could be wildly enthusiastic about a project.*

Friendly

Having an attitude or acting in a way that shows that you like people and want them to like and trust you.

Scatterbrain

*A person who tends to be disorganized and lacking in concentration:
She struck me as a bit of a scatterbrain.*

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Personality and character traits

1

What, exactly, makes you... you?

2

Are you an introvert or an extrovert?

3

What movie or book influenced you the most in your life?

4

If you could possess one talent, which talent would you choose and why?

5

What does “nice guys finish last” mean? Do you agree?



Rules

Each student picks out a picture of a celebrity. Student A asks Student B about the celebrity's personality trait. You cannot ask about the celebrity's appearance. If Student B says "yes", Student A asks again. If says "no", it's Student's B turn. If a student successfully guesses their opponent's celebrity, they win.

Guess Who? Describing personality



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Vocabulary

Down-to-earth

Practical and direct in dealing with people:

The players like the coach because he's down-to-earth and honest with them.

Social butterfly

A gregarious person who likes to attend parties and other social gatherings;

a people person:

Not everyone is a social butterfly, Mr. Reese.

Tough cookie

If you say that someone is a tough cookie, you mean that they have a strong and determined character.

Wet blanket

Someone who ruins other people's fun:

Don't invite Nicole to the party. She's such a wet blanket.

Go-getter

Someone who is very energetic, determined to be successful, and able to deal with new or difficult situations easily.

People

1

Is humanity headed in the right or wrong direction?

2

Do we change when we have power?

3

Do we love ourselves more in the virtual world and less in the real world?

4

Why do we create art?
What benefits does art provide society?

5

Do the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few?

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Vocabulary

Attractive

A person who is good looking:

Shakira is a very attractive woman.

Bald

A person who has no hair:

The male actor Bruce Willis is bald. He has a shaved head.

Beautiful

A person who is extremely good looking (mainly used to describe women):

The American singer Beyoncé is very beautiful.

Blonde

A person who has yellow hair:

The American celebrity Paris Hilton has blonde hair.

Chubby

A polite way of describing someone who is a bit overweight:

Russell Crowe is looking a bit chubby lately.

Vocabulary

Curvy

A woman with a large bust, broad hips and a small waist:

Katie Price is very curvy.

Fat

A very negative way to describe someone who is overweight (very rude and a bit insulting):

Kirstie Alley starred in a sitcom "Fat Actress".

Fit

Someone who gets a lot of exercise and is very healthy; a very attractive person:

David Beckham is physically fit.

Flabby

Used to describe someone who does not get much exercise, with poor muscle tone:

I was looking a bit flabby, so I've joined a gym.

Gorgeous

Very attractive (used to describe men and women):

I think Johnny Depp is gorgeous!

Vocabulary

Handsome

A man who is extremely good looking:

Brad Pitt is very handsome.

Large

Someone who is overweight (neutral):

Fashionable clothes for large women can be hard to find.

Muscular

Someone who is very toned and has well defined muscles:

Madonna is quite muscular for a woman.

Obese

Used to describe someone who is very fat (impolite):

Being obese is bad for your health.

Ordinary

Somebody who is very plain, or average looking; not especially beautiful:

Lady Gaga looks very ordinary without make up.

Vocabulary

Plain

Somebody who is very ordinary-looking:

Some models look very plain when they take off their make-up.

Plump

A tactful way of describing someone who is overweight:

The plump actress Dawn French is a brunette.

Presentable

Another way of saying someone looks smart:

If you want to get ahead in your job, you need to look presentable.

Redhead

A person with orange hair:

Nicole Kidman is a redhead.

Scruffy

Used to describe someone whose appearance is very untidy:

Pete Docherby is very scruffy.

Vocabulary

Shapely

A curvy woman with a small waist:

Kylie Minogue is very shapely.

Short

Used to describe someone who isn't very tall:

American actor Tom Cruise is fairly short.

Skinny

Used to describe someone who is very thin:

If you want to get ahead in your job, you need to look presentable.

Slender

Used to describe a thin person who looks healthy:

Actress Julia Roberts is very slender.

Smart

Used to describe someone who takes a lot of care over their appearance:

Guy looks very smart in his new suit.

Vocabulary

Stocky

Someone who is broad and not very tall:

Simon Cowell is quite short, with dark hair and a stocky build.

Tall

Used to describe someone who is above average height.

Sports personality Michael Jordan is very tall.

Thin

Used to describe someone who weighs less than the average person

(impolite):

Victoria Beckham is very thin.

Unkempt

Used to describe someone who looks scruffy and does not take care of their appearance:

He needed a shave and his hair was unkempt.

Well-built

Someone whose body shape or size is bigger than the average person:

Arnold Schwarzenegger is well-built.



Rules

Each student chooses his classmate. Student A asks Student B about the classmate's appearance. If Student B says "yes", Student A asks again. If says "no", it's Student's B turn. If a student successfully guesses their opponent's classmate, they win.

Guess Who? Describing appearance

Relationships

1

What is true friendship?

2

Can men and women be friends?

3

Will racism cease to exist?

4

Is it more important to help yourself, help your family or help the world?

5

What are the five things that you are most thankful for right now?



Mini-debates

Men should always pay for the first date.



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Useful expressions

- *My grandmother used to make the most delicious food.*
- *I used to go surfing every week when I lived in Spain.*
- *I used to be a very naughty little boy.*
- *I used to love playing basketball.*
- *I'd play with my friend Dax every Wednesday.*
- *We'd play in the local sports center.*

Childhood

1

What do you miss about being a kid?

2

What was your worst punishment as a child?

3

As a child, what were your biggest fears?

4

What were some embarrassing situations when you were a child?

5

How teens today are different from past generations?

Thank you for attending the meetup!

I hope you will attend the next one.

Arthur Pleber, Leonid Olekh

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