


Introduction quiz

1

Check your profanities

How much do you know about English or American slang?

1. **Young men like to sow their wild oats before they get married.**
 - a. They like to have a good time drinking and partying.
 - b. They want to make enough money to support a family.
2. **The girl he's going out with is a real smasher.**
 - a. She's very sexy.
 - b. She breaks everything she touches.
3. **Jennifer is a prick-teaser.**
 - a. She likes to fondle men's dicks.
 - b. You can look but you can't touch.
4. **This jerk likes to show off his family jewels.**
 - a. He's filthy rich.
 - b. He's a flasher.
5. **He's really pissed off because he can't get his hole.**
 - a. He has no one to lay.
 - b. He cannot find a donut shop.
6. **A fairy lady is a woman who likes:**
 - a. men.
 - b. women.
7. **Joe is a fucking pain in the ass.**
 - a. Joe has an enormous penis.
 - b. Joe gets on my wick.
8. **When Nick sees Caro, he can't help getting a bricklayer's hard on.**
 - a. He gets very horny.
 - b. He gets angry with her.

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- 9. 'Balls and all' implies:**
- talking a lot of bullshit.
 - screwing someone vigorously.
- 10. He's addicted to Aunt Mary.**
- He sniffs glue.
 - He smokes marijuana.
- 11. In the US Army a dairy queen is:**
- a slim woman who serves in the mess hall.
 - a fat woman who has many sexual partners.
- 12. I'm buggered if I know where I left my car last night.**
- I was pissed out of my brain.
 - I don't have the foggiest idea.
- 13. The only thing Stephen is interested in is chatting up pussy.**
- He likes to chase skirts.
 - He's a zoophile.
- 14. What a wanker Richard is!**
- He's a lazy good-for-nothing jerk.
 - He's a bloody sex maniac.
- 15. Poor little Dick. He has no friends.**
- He's a poor little bugger.
 - He's a tight-arsed bastard.

The birds and the bees

Les bébés ne naissent pas dans les choux

2

*Birds do it, bees do it
Even educated fleas do it
Let's do it, let's fall in love
(Cole Porter)*

The expression “the facts of life” (a euphemism for sexual education), or “the birds and the bees” (and the butterflies) refers to courtship and sex. It is related to teaching young people about sexual intercourse and pregnancy.

■ Pregnancy

Throughout the ages, there have been expressions to denote pregnancy.

In the 18th century: to be with child (*être grosse*)

Today: To be pregnant / to be expecting are the proper expressions.

to be in the family way	<i>être enceinte, tomber sur un clou rouillé</i>
to join the club / the pudding club	<i>tomber enceinte</i>
to be up the spout /	
to wear one's apron high (US) /	
to be up the creek /	
to be up the duff / up the stork	<i>être en cloque</i>
to have a bun in the oven	<i>avoir un polichinelle dans le tiroir</i>
to get knocked up	<i>se faire engrosser</i>
to make or to get a girl pregnant	<i>engrosser une fille</i>
to get a girl into trouble / to put sb in the family way / to knock a girl up /	

“To cheat the starter’ means to become pregnant out of wedlock (= not being married).

In English, the stork (*cigogne*) is the mythical bird that brings the baby.

“Are you Keith Cheggers?” is cockney rhyming slang for “Are you pregnant?”

■ Contraception

In English, a condom is often referred to as a rubber (US), a **French letter** (FL) (UK) or a **froggie**, a **Frenchie**, a **jimmy** (US). There are many others such as a **French tickler**, a **scumbag**, a **love sock**, a **love glove**, a **goalie**, a **jimmy-hat**, a **willie-hat**, a **willie warmer**, a **dobber**, a **rubber johnny**, a **sheath**, a **cock sock**, a **johnny bag**.

To strap up = to wear a condom.

In Britain, condoms are sold in packets of three. People used to buy them at the barber’s shop. To ride [rode / ridden] bareback = not to use a condom when making love.

A flying saucer = a diaphragm.

Expressions for menstruation:

to have one’s periods / to menstruate	<i>avoir ses règles</i>
to be on the rag	<i>avoir ses argagnasses</i>
to miss one’s period	<i>ne pas avoir ses règles</i>
a Tampax	<i>un tampon</i>

In French we have metaphorical expressions such as *Les Anglais ont débarqué* (when a girl is having her periods). This reference probably goes back to the Hundred Years’ War (1337-1453). When the English arrived in France, the local women claimed they were having their periods, which was preferable to being raped by the soldiery. It might also refer to the color of the English uniform (the red coats).

■ Courtship

to go out with / to date (US) *sortir avec*

A **blind date** is meeting a person you have never seen before. **Speed dating** is a matchmaking process that allows many people to meet at the same time. Its origins are credited to Rabbi Yaacov Deyo of Aish HaTorah, originally as a way to help Jewish singles meet and marry. The first speed dating session took place at Pete’s Café in Beverley Hills in 1998.

To **go Dutch** means that each person, boy and girl, pays his / her share of the meal (*chacun paye sa part*). It is also called Dutch date and a Dutch treat. The expression is related to the Dutch tradition of sharing the cost of a meal.

to go steady (with) *avoir un petit ami / une petite amie*
to woo / to court (*courtiser*) are old-fashioned.

to chat up *baratiner*
to pick up a girl / boy *draguer une fille / un mec*
to make a play for *chercher à séduire*

A baby snatcher = a man / a woman who goes out with a much younger person.
Note also: star-crossed lovers (*les amants maudits*), one way love (*l'amour non réciproque*).

■ Seduction

to seduce = to get one's leg over / to have it away with / to have one's way with a woman

to desire sb = to fancy / to have a fancy for sb / to have a crush on

■ Flirt

The word comes from the French expression *compter fleurette*. Flirting means expressing sexual interest in another person. It includes conversation, body language and physical contact but not necessarily sexual intercourse which may or may not come later.

The little black book denotes a promiscuous bachelor's address book.

a bachelor's pad *une garçonnière*

A woman who likes to excite men without satisfying them is a **cock teaser**, a **prick teaser** or a **cock tormentor**. A man who does the same thing is a **cunt teaser**. The message here is that you can look but you mustn't touch. To **play footsie** is to touch a person's foot, leg, thigh or even further up, usually under the table and discreetly. The *Financial Times* 100 index is called the Footsie too.

Winking, nudging, are also part of flirting. **To make eye contact**, **to make eyes at**, or **to ogle** means to look at someone intently in order to show one's interest for the person. In the past, one tactic was to drop a handkerchief for the gentleman to pick up, as a token of interest.

To **philander** (= to have lots of sexual relations) is to **fan one's ass / pussy**, to **fool around**, to **go for one-night stands**, to **hit and run**, to **play about**. A man or a woman who is difficult to seduce **plays hard to get**. A **one-night stand** comes from the language of pop groups in the 1960s who would stay only one night in a particular place. To **stand** means to **have a hard on**. Note the verbs: **to cock tease**, **to prick tease**. In the Beatles' song *Day Tripper*, the sentence "She's a big teaser" was originally "She's a prick teaser".

*She's a big teaser, she took me half the way there
 She's a big teaser, she took me half the way there now
 Tried to please her, she only played one night stands
 (The Beatles, Day Tripper)*

■ Foreplay

the mating season	<i>la saison des amours</i>
foreplay	<i>les préliminaires</i>
a bit of slap and tickle	<i>le flirt</i>
pecking and necking	<i>flirter</i>
heavy pecking	<i>y compris pénétration avec les doigts</i>
to stinky-finger	<i>pénétrer avec les doigts</i>
first base	<i>premier contact sexuel</i>
a French kiss	<i>un baiser profond (avec la langue)</i>
to fondle	<i>caresser</i>
to grope	<i>peloter</i>
to finger fuck	<i>doigter</i>
to dry fuck	<i>caresser avec le doigt</i>
to feel a girl	<i>peloter les seins, caresser une fille</i>

to deflower (*déflorer*) a virgin: to pop the cherry / to cut the cake / to cherrypop
 “Afterglow” is a feeling of pleasure after sex.

When a woman doesn't want to be touched, she can always say “Not tonight Josephine”, an allusion to Napoleon and Josephine.

■ Infidelity

hanky panky (= illicit sexual relations)	<i>batifolage, grimpettes, bagatelle</i>
to cheat on sb	<i>tromper</i>
to have an affair with sb / to carry on / to step out of line	<i>avoir une liaison</i>
to have a bit on the side (a bit of pussy)	<i>avoir une poule</i>
to break off a relationship	<i>rompre</i>
to split / to break off	<i>se séparer</i>
to dump / to jilt	<i>plaquer</i>
unrequited love	<i>l'amour non réciproque</i>
to be estranged	<i>être séparé</i>
an estranged husband / wife	<i>un époux / une épouse séparé(e)</i>

- to have several partners: **to get more arse than a toilet seat / to have more pricks than a second-hand dartboard / to hump 'em [them] and dump 'em / to be a swinger / to swing**
- to be promiscuous: a promiscuous male: a **cock hound**, a **cocksman**, a **come-freak**, a **saloon bar cowboy**, a **stud**. A promiscuous female: a **broad**, a **bimbo**, a **charity girl**, an **easy lay**, a **floosie**, a **free-for-all**, **anybody's girl**, a **gash**, a **goer**, a **knock**, a **lay**, a **gin-and-fuck-it**, a **piece of ass**, a **pushover**, a **scrubber**, a **shagbag**, a **tart**, a **tramp**, a **groupie**.
- A **battered bun** is a girl who has sex with several men in succession.
- A **splash** is a victim of gang rape. A **gang bang**: *une tournante*

■ Engagement

to be engaged	<i>être fiancé</i>
a fiancé / a fiancée	<i>un / une fiancé(e)</i>
an engagement ring	<i>une bague de fiançailles</i>
a proposal of marriage	<i>une proposition de mariage</i>

To pop the question is to ask a girl to marry you. Syn.: **to propose**, **to ask for a woman's hand**. The traditional way for a man is to get down on his knees and ask the girl to marry him, holding a rose in his right hand and a ring in his left. You can also take the girl to a restaurant, wine her and dine her and ask the waiter to bring the ring in a cake (but make sure she doesn't swallow it). **to break off an engagement**: *rompre les fiançailles*. **Let's call the whole thing off**: *On annule tout*. The old word for engagement was **betrothal**. "To **plight one's troth**" means to promise to marry a girl. Then the shagging could begin.

*My dear Lady Anne
I've done what I can
I must take my leave
For promised I am
This play is run my love
Your time has come my love
I've pledged my troth to Lady Jane
(The Rolling Stones, Lady Jane)*

■ Marriage

to get married: **to get hitched / to tie the knot**
a **shotgun wedding** is one which is forced on a man because of pregnancy.

An unhappy husband is **hen-pecked** or **pussy-whipped**. The correct term is uxurious.

Today, we refer to non married couples living together as **partners**.

Rhyming slang: cash and carried (= married)

to publish the banns	<i>publier les bans</i>
the bride / the bridegroom	<i>la mariée / le marié</i>
to breed like rabbits	<i>se reproduire comme des lapins</i>
to shack up / to live in sin	<i>vivre à la colle</i>

■ Divorce

to get divorced: **to bust up** / **to split up**

■ Sexual behavior

“Nudge, nudge, wink wink, know what I mean? Say no more” is an expression referring to sex. It is taken from a famous Monte Python sketch.

to expose one’s genitals / to flash	<i>faire de l’exhibitionnisme</i>
a flasher	<i>un exhibitionniste</i>

to excite sb: **to work sb up** / **to get one going** / **to put lead in sb’s pencil** (litt. *mettre du plomb dans le crayon de qn*) / **to prime one’s pump** (litt. *amorcer la pompe*)

to turn on	<i>exciter</i>
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to be sexually excited: **to be begging for it** / **to be fruity** / **horny** / **hot** / **randy** / **sexed up** / **to be crying out loud for it**

■ Orgasm

to come	<i>jouir</i>
to reach a climax / to come / to get a thrill	<i>jouir</i>
to shoot one’s load	<i>jouir (man)</i>
to have a slow screw	<i>baiser à la papa</i>
to pop one’s cork / to shoot one’s load	<i>éjaculer</i>
to have a double shot	<i>éjaculer deux fois</i>
to ring sb’s bells / chimes	<i>provoquer l’orgasme</i>

The *coitus interruptus* is to pull out in time / **to get off at Gateshead** / **to leave before the Gospel**

to make the beast with two backs	<i>baiser</i>
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to copulate enthusiastically (*baiser à couilles rabattues*): **to bang like the shithouse door in a gale** / **to go in and out like a fiddler’s elbow** / **to go up her like a rat up a drain** / **to screw the arse off** / **to shag like a rattlesnake**