

## Dialogue Workout # 78

1.  
A: Have you heard about Veronica's new job?  
B: No, I haven't. Tell me about it.  
A: To make a long story short, her Aunt Carmen got it for her.  
B: I hope she can keep this one. She lost the last one because she was too nervous.  
A: She'll do much better this time around, I'm positive.  
B: Maybe this time she'll be able to keep cool.

2.  
A: I heard Nina has broken off her engagement to Tom.  
B: No kidding? That's a surprise. I thought those two were inseparable.  
A: She found out through the grapevine he kissed another woman at a party.  
B: And when she confronted him, did he admit it?  
A: He beat around the bush for a while, then he lied about it.  
B: He shouldn't have told a lie to Nina.

3.  
A: He really pushed her buttons. She flew off the handle and screamed at him.  
B: I'm glad she gave him a piece of her mind. So is it a done deal? Are they finished with each other?  
A: Not completely. They agreed to remain friends. But their marriage plans are down the drain.  
B: That's not a problem for Nina. She's a real sharp cookie. She'll find another boyfriend.  
A: Guess what? Tom has already found another girlfriend.  
B: He has? Boy, he doesn't waste any time.

4.  
A: Did you pass your final exams?  
B: Yes, just barely. I was sure I'd failed at least two of them.  
A: You stayed up too late studying. You shouldn't burn the candle at both ends.  
B: Unfortunately, I didn't stay up late studying. I was hanging out at a party.  
A: At a party? The night before finals? Not too wise.  
B: Yes, If I had failed, I would have deserved it.

5.  
A: Have you ever seen a house as clean as this one?  
B: No, I haven't. Everything is as neat as a pin.  
A: Sonia doesn't cut any corners when she cleans.  
B: Her husband David is good with his hands. He fixes things around the house.  
A: Sonia is an excellent cook. Her meals are delicious.

## Common Idiomatic Expressions

6.  
A: Sorry, I'm late. I was at the dentist's. Have you two been waiting long?  
B: Not really. Actually, we've been having fun chewing the fat.  
A: I'm getting hungry. As a matter of fact, I'm starved.  
B: There's a pretty good restaurant around the corner. We could grab a bite to eat there.  
A: That's sounds fantastic. I've been running around like a chicken with its head cut off. I need to take it easy.  
B: Yes, you need to relax or pretty soon you'll burn out.

7.  
A: I have to get up early tomorrow. I've got to catch the train to Sacramento.  
B: Are you going there on business or just for pleasure?  
A: Who goes to Sacramento for pleasure? No, I have to drop in on our branch office.  
B: What's up?  
A: The new manager is something of a flake. I might have to straighten him out.  
B: What a drag. I hope everything works out okay.

8.  
A: Have you seen the Wallace's new car? What a peach!  
B: Yes, I have. It must have cost an arm and a leg.  
A: Well, put it this way. It wasn't exactly dirt cheap.  
B: Does Jim Wallace have that kind of money to spend? I didn't think he made so much on his job.  
A: Didn't you know? His wife's father is a millionaire.  
B: Wow. That's lucky. Jim certainly played his cards right.

9.  
A: Why don't you join our poker club? It's really a lot of fun.  
B: Thanks, but I'm not much of a card player. I prefer outdoor sports.  
A: You don't have to join the club or anything, just drop by and check it out.  
B: I'd like to, but unfortunately, I've got a lot on my plate right now. My office is swamped with orders.  
A: You don't do anything but work. You're getting into a rut. If you not careful, you'll get burned out.  
B: Yes, but if I don't keep my nose to the grindstone, I'm afraid I might blow it.

## Dialogue Workout # 79

1.  
A: How was the party last night?  
B: All told, it was a lot of fun. But in the beginning, it was pretty boring.  
A: A lot of parties are like that. They need someone to break the ice.  
B: I'm not good at meeting people. I'm something of a wallflower.  
A: So, who started the ball rolling, Olivia?  
B: You guessed right. She went out of her way to see that everyone enjoyed themselves.

2.  
A: Jeff is quite unhappy with his job these days.  
B: Why? Isn't his new manager cutting it?  
A: No. And not only that, the new manager is less than honest.  
B: That sounds like big trouble. Jeff should go over the manager's head to the top brass and get the guy fired.  
A: It's not as easy as it sounds. The manager's uncle is on the board of directors.  
B: Sounds like Jeff has a lot on his mind these days. Keep me posted. Meanwhile, I'll see if I can pull some strings.

3.  
A: I heard that they're flying in somebody from the East Coast just for an interview.  
B: That's off the wall. There are plenty of people in the Bay Area they could hire.  
A: I don't know why they're going out of their way like this.  
B: Maybe they think this guy from back east is some kind of hotshot.  
A: Hotshot or not. It's bad policy to overlook your local talent pool.

4.  
A: What really gets to me is the arrogance of the management.  
B: Yes, I agree. Well, if you ask me, they aren't going to get away with it.  
A: What are you going to do about it? You're only an assistant manager. You don't have much clout.  
B: Maybe I don't. But I'm determined. I'll stop it nothing until I get that promotion.  
A: Don't let this thing get you down. There's not much point in obsessing about it. You're in danger of biting off more than you can chew.

## Common Idiomatic Expressions

5.  
A: My son is in a bad mood these days.  
B: He's a teenager, isn't he? Teenagers tend to be moody and over the top.  
A: Yes, my son will argue at the drop of a hat. He's becoming a loose cannon.  
B: Perhaps you need to sit down and have a nice, calm one on one chat with him.  
A: If I can ever get him to sit down for a minute. He's always off doing something.  
B: It's not easy to control teenagers. Once they've made up their minds, there's no stopping them.

6.  
A: My factory is closing its doors. I'm moving to Seattle.  
B: I'm sorry to hear that. I'll really miss you.  
A: We'll have to keep in touch by email.  
B: Definitely. Now as soon as you get to Seattle, give me a buzz and let me know your new phone and address.  
A: Right. When we're settled in I'll write and tell you everything that's happening with us.  
B: All right. Now, remember. You're one of my best friends. I don't want to lose touch with you.

7.  
A: I can't believe it. I did all that work for nothing. The management won't give my report the time of day.  
B: You shouldn't be discouraged. After all, no one can say you didn't hold up your end.  
A: I suppose I shouldn't have been so honest, but I wanted to be straight with them.  
B: It could be they didn't like what they were hearing in that report.  
A: I tried to spell out as clearly as I could the advantage of hiring local talent.  
B: Maybe they have their heart set on this hotshot from back east.

8.  
A: We're a little up in the air right now. We don't know where we're going to live.  
B: I have it on good authority that the rents are cheaper in Seattle.  
A: That's what I heard to. I don't think we're going to end up on the street or anything.  
B: Any time you make a move this big you feel in over your head.  
A: You said it. I'll be very glad when we've nailed things down.

## Dialogue Workout # 80

1.  
A: Who let the cat out of the bag? Now Patricia knows about the surprise party.  
B: There's no need to get hot under the collar.  
A: No? But Patricia won't be surprised at all.  
B: I think we can still have a fine party. Knowing the truth about the party is the least of Patricia's worries.  
A: I guess you're right. She's going to have a baby in two months.  
B: It's their first. They're both very excited.

2.  
A: Do you want to go dancing tonight or see a movie?  
B: It's all the same to me. I would be happy doing either.  
A: I know that I'm asking you out on the spur of the moment, and you haven't thought it over.  
B: I don't know. It's six of one and half a dozen of the other. Whatever you decide is okay with me.  
A: Since the movie isn't supposed to be all that hot, maybe we should go dancing.  
B: I'd rather go to the movie and take our chances.

3.  
A: Hi, Eva. This is Yolanda. Isn't it wonderful about Patricia? She's pregnant.  
B: I hope it's good news. I hope they can handle the added responsibility.  
A: Eva, are you all right? You sound nervous.  
B: I'm tearing my hair out, I'm so worried about them.  
A: But Eva, you're going to be a grandmother. You ought to be tickled pink about that.  
B: As a matter of fact, I am. But I'm still losing sleep over this turn of events.  
A: Just because Patricia is on the nest, she isn't going to lose her job.

4.  
A: Her friends are throwing a surprise baby shower for her.  
B: She already knows. Some looney let the cat out of the bag.  
A: Jose really feels left out. His friends should take him for a night on the town.  
B: It just so happens he got a call this afternoon, but he wasn't around to pick up the phone.  
A: They both deserve to celebrate. After the baby arrives, their evenings will be pretty much sewn up.

## Common Idiomatic Expressions

5.  
A: I don't know about that, Yolanda. I think the couple plans to use us as baby sitters every once and a while.  
B: Yes, I wouldn't be surprised if they did.  
A: In fact, I'm kind of looking forward to taking care of a little one.  
B: So am I. It's been a long time since I took care of an infant. I must admit, I'm a little rusty.  
A: But I warn you. Having a baby in your house might take a little getting used to.  
B: I wouldn't mind doing it now and then, as long as it's not a steady diet.

6.  
A: Jose, I think we'd better jump in the car and head to the hospital. It's better to be safe than sorry.  
B: Oh, my God. Not now. I forgot to put gas in the car. It slipped my mind.  
A: Gas or no gas, Jose, we've got to hurry. There's no time to lose.  
B: Patty, we're going to run the risk of being out of gas if we don't stop at the station.  
A: That's easy for you say, you're not the one who is going through this.  
B: I want to get us to the hospital in one piece, okay?

7.  
A: Have you heard latest news? Patricia gave birth to a darling little girl.  
B: Oh, how sweet. How are the mother and father holding up?  
A: They're all at the hospital together. They're doing just fine. Jose is grinning ear to ear.  
B: He should be proud of his wife. She was very brave and strong through it all.  
A: He's very lucky to be married to Patricia. I think they're going to be great parents.  
B: They're both wet behind the ears when it comes to raising a child, but they'll learn the ropes.

8.  
A: This is the conclusion of the dialogue workout.  
B: Eight hundred conversations is a lot of gab.  
A: That's for sure. Since I started talking English, no one can shut me up.  
B: Yes. You used to speak very slowly. Now you're chattering a mile a minute. Can't you let me get a word in edgewise?