Basic English:Golden Phrases That Are Incredibly Useful 1

Do you want to say more than “Hi” and [“How are you?”](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/how-are-you-esl/)

And would you like [to sound like a native English speaker](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/informal-english/) *now* (instead of waiting until you reach the advanced level)?

You’re in the right place!

Below are 30 basic phrases that people use every day. They are [useful phrases](https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/english-idioms-6/) that’ll also [help your knowledge of English grow](https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/english-phrasal-verbs/).

First, let’s look at a few ideas for [how to learn these new phrases](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/casual-english/).

## How to Learn Basic Phrases in English

As you read each phrase below for the first time, **say it aloud** four times. Yes, four times! (They’re short phrases.)

Then, **print this list** of phrases.

If you have [a conversation partner](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/english-speaking-online/), ask your exchange partner to say the phrases while you **record them** on a smartphone, computer or recording device. That way you can listen to the recording and [practice the pronunciation](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/how-to-improve-english-pronunciation/) by yourself at home.

Then, **choose two phrases** each day to focus on. Here’s what you could do every day to learn each phrase:

* Picture a situation in your mind where you could use the phrase. Imagine the other people in the scene and what they’re saying. See yourself saying the phrase.
* Listen/look for the phrase [while you watch TV](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/how-to-improve-english-listening-comprehension-vocabulary/), [listen to the radio](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/learn-english-radio/), [read blogs](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/blogs-in-english/), etc. You can even search for a word or phrase in [FluentU](http://fluentu.com/english%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) to instantly find authentic English videos that use it.

Plus, every FluentU video comes with **built-in learning tools** like vocabulary lists and interactive subtitles, so you’ll learn even more real-world English

* Then, use the phrase in casual writing. Write a tweet ([on Twitter](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/learn-english-twitter/)), a Facebook post or [an email to a friend](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/email-english/).
* Finally, use the phrase in 2-5 real conversations.

Write on your list and check off each phrase as you learn it.

By practicing two phrases each day, in 15 days you’ll know the whole list! Or if you learn one phrase each day, then in a month you’ll know these phrases really well!

# 30 Basic English Phrases You’ll Use Over and Over

## Phrases for Anywhere

These first eight phrases can be used in many different situations.

### 1. Thanks so much.

This is a simple sentence you can use to thank someone.

To add detail, say:

**Thanks so much + for + [noun] / [-ing verb].**

For example:

***Thanks so much for*** the birthday money.

***Thanks so much for*** driving me home.

### 2. I really appreciate…

You can also use this phrase to thank someone. For example, you might say:

***I really appreciate*** your help.

Or you can combine #1 and #2:

***Thanks so much*** for cooking dinner. ***I really appreciate*** it.

***Thanks so much.*** ***I really appreciate*** you cooking dinner.

### 3. Excuse me.

When you need to get through but there’s someone blocking your way, say “Excuse me.”

You can also say this phrase to politely get someone’s attention. For example:

***Excuse me*** sir, you dropped your wallet.

***Excuse me***, do you know [*what time it is*](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/how-to-tell-time-in-english/)?

### 4. I’m sorry.

Use this phrase to apologize, whether for something big or small. Use “for” to give more detail. For example:

***I’m sorry*** for being so late.

***I’m sorry*** for the mess. I wasn’t expecting anyone today.

You can use “really” to show you’re very sorry for something:

***I’m really sorry*** I didn’t invite you to the party.

### 5. What do you think?

When you want to hear someone’s opinion on a topic, use this question.

I’m not sure if we should paint the room yellow or blue. ***What do you think?***

### 6. How does that sound?

If you suggest an idea or plan, use this phrase to find out what others think.

We could have dinner at 6, and then go to a movie. ***How does that sound?***

Let’s hire a band to play music, and Brent can photograph the event. ***How does that sound?***

### 7. That sounds great.

If you like an idea, you can respond to #6 with this phrase. “Great” can be replaced with any synonym, such as “awesome,” “perfect,” “excellent” or “fantastic.”

A: My mom is baking cookies this afternoon. We could go to my house and eat some. How does that sound?B:***That sounds fantastic!***

### 8. (Oh) never mind.

Let’s say someone doesn’t understand an idea you’re trying to explain. If you’ve explained it over and over and want to stop, just say “oh, never mind.” You can now talk about something else!

You can also use “never mind” to mean “it doesn’t matter” or “just forget it.” In these situations, say it with a smile and positive tone, though. Otherwise, when you say this phrase slowly with a falling low tone, it can mean you’re bothered or upset.

A: Are you going to the grocery store today?B: No, I’m not. But why—do you need something?A: ***Oh, never mind.***It’s okay, I’ll go tomorrow.