**Buying A Service Plan**

**Tom is shopping for a new cell phone plan. It's tricky because there are many options. Mike, a salesman at the cell phone store, helps him choose the right plan.**

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| Tom | Hi, I'm **in the market for** a new cell phone plan. |
| Mike | Do you have a plan now? |
| Tom | Yes, with Mobile One. But it's about to expire. |
| Mike | You're not happy with them? |
| Tom | No, I'm not. Their service is terrible. My calls are always **breaking up**. |
| Mike | Cellular Star's service is **first rate**. You'll get great reception. What are you looking for in a plan? |
| Tom | I need 400 minutes a month for daytime calls. I'd like unlimited night and weekend calling. |
| Mike | What about call forwarding, voice mail, and text messaging? |
| Tom | I don't need any of those **bells and whistles.** |
| Mike | The Choice 450 is our **no-frills** plan. That'll **run you** $39.99 a month, plus tax. |
| Tom | That doesn't include long-distance calls, does it? |
| Mike | Yes, it does. |
| Tom | So, it's $39.99 a month, plus tax. |
| Mike | Yes, and there's a **one-time fee** of $35. That's for **setting up** the account. |
| Tom | Any **hidden fees**? |
| Mike | No. Of course, you'll want to read **the fine print** of your account. |
| Tom | Right. I don't want to **get stuck with** a plan that only lets me make long-distance calls between midnight and 3 a.m. |
| Mike | Did I mention that if you sign up for this plan by Friday, we'll **throw in** a free phone? |
| Tom | I **could use** a new phone. |
| Mike | It's a great offer, with **no strings attached**. All set to sign up? |
| Tom | Before I **sign on the dotted line**, I'd better make sure I know what I'm **getting into**. |

**Idioms & Expressions**

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| **All set to** | Ready to do something.  The salesman at the Gap asked, "**All set to** check out?" |
| **Bells and whistles** | Product features which are attractive, but not essential for the product to function.  I just want a reliable car. I'm not looking for a lot of **bells and whistles.** |
| **Break up** | To lose a phone signal; to start losing a phone connection.  I can barely hear you. We're **breaking up**. |
| **Could use** | Need; have use for.  Your ties are all stained. You **could use** some new ones. |
| **Fine print** | The part of a contract with special rules and limitation. These are often "hidden" in small print, which is why you'll often hear: "Be sure to read the fine print."  Julie didn't read **the fine print** of the fitness club contract carefully, and now she's stuck with a lifetime membership. |
| **First rate** | Of the highly quality.  If you're looking for a restaurant, I recommend the Mediterranean Grill. The food there is **first rate**. |
| **Get into** | To get involved with (often used in a negative sense, as when one has gotten involved with something that is now unpleasant or not wanted).  My evening MBA program is more demanding that I thought it would be. What have I **gotten into**? |
| **Get stuck with** | To have something unwanted or undesirable that one cannot get rid of.  I'm in charge of cleaning the bathroom once a week at our dormitory. I don't know how I **got stuck with** this task! |
| **Hidden fees** | Extra charges that are not made clear from the beginning.  When you sign up for a new credit card, make sure there are no **hidden fees**. |
| **In the market for** | Shopping for; interested in buying.  We're **in the market for** a flat-screen television. |
| **No-frills** | A simple and basic service or product.  If you want to fly cheaply, try a **no-frills** airline like Ryanair. |
| **No strings attached** | With no limits or special demands attached to an offer.  Kim got a full scholarship to Stanford, **no strings attached.** |
| **One-time fee** | A charge that you only pay one time.  To join Fit One Gym, I had to pay a **one-time fee** of $199 then a monthly membership fee of $49. |
| **Run you** | To cost you.  It's going to **run you** $600 for a one-year membership to Club Five Fitness. |
| **Set up** | To establish; to arrange; to put something new in place.  I **set up** direct deposit so that my paychecks are automatically deposited into my bank account. |
| **Sign on the dotted line** | To agree to or sign up for something (often by signing a contract or agreement).  I'm interested in joining the gym but before I **sign on the dotted line**, can you please explain the cancellation policy? |
| **Throw in** | To include for no additional fee.  If you sign up for a one-year gym membership today, we'll **throw in** a fee set of towels. |