Basic English phrases 3

**28. (Oh really?) Actually, I thought…**

When you disagree with someone, “Actually, I thought…” will make you sound kinder and more polite than saying “No” or “You’re wrong.” This phrase is useful when you have a different idea than someone else.

*A: So Sam’s coming in tonight at 8, right?  
B:****Actually, I thought****he wasn’t working at all this week.  
A: Oh, ok. I’ll have to look at the schedule again.*

**29. Actually, I [verb]…**

Just like in #28, you can use “actually, I…” with many different verbs: “heard,” “learned,” “am,” “can,” “can’t,” etc. You should use it for the same situation as above: when you have a different idea than someone else.

*A: Did you finish the reports?  
B:****Actually, I am****running a bit behind, but they’ll be done by noon!*

*C: When you type, always put two spaces between sentences.  
D:****Actually, I learned****to put a single space between sentences.*

**30. I’m (just) about to [verb]…**

When you’re going to start something very soon, you’re “just about to” do something.

***I’m just about to send****those faxes.*

***I’m about to go****and pick up some coffee. Do you want anything?*

These 30 phrases are just the beginning. There are many other easy English phrases you can learn as a beginner. When you’re ready, check out these posts for more:

* [Phrases for beginner conversation](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/english-conversation-for-beginners/)
* [Phrases for being positive and encouraging others](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/positive-phrases-in-english/)
* [Phrases for restaurants](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/english-restaurant-vocabulary/)
* [Phrases for traveling](https://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/english-travel-phrases/)

Happy learning!

***Download:****This blog post is available as a convenient and portable PDF that you can take anywhere.*[*Click here to get a copy. (Download)*](https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/basic-english-phrases/)

**And One Last Tip About Learning English Phrases**

What’s the key to learning conversational English?

Using the right content and tools.

After all, a regular textbook isn’t going to teach you the casual English phrases you need to know.

You need to learn from real English like it’s spoken on TV.

Well, there is a site designed to help you with just that: FluentU.

[FluentU takes real-world videos like music videos, commercials, news and inspiring talks and turns them into English learning experiences.](https://www.fluentu.com/english/) You’ll learn **English as it’s spoken in real life**.

FluentU has a lot of fun videos—topics like popular talk shows, music videos and funny commercials, as you can see here: