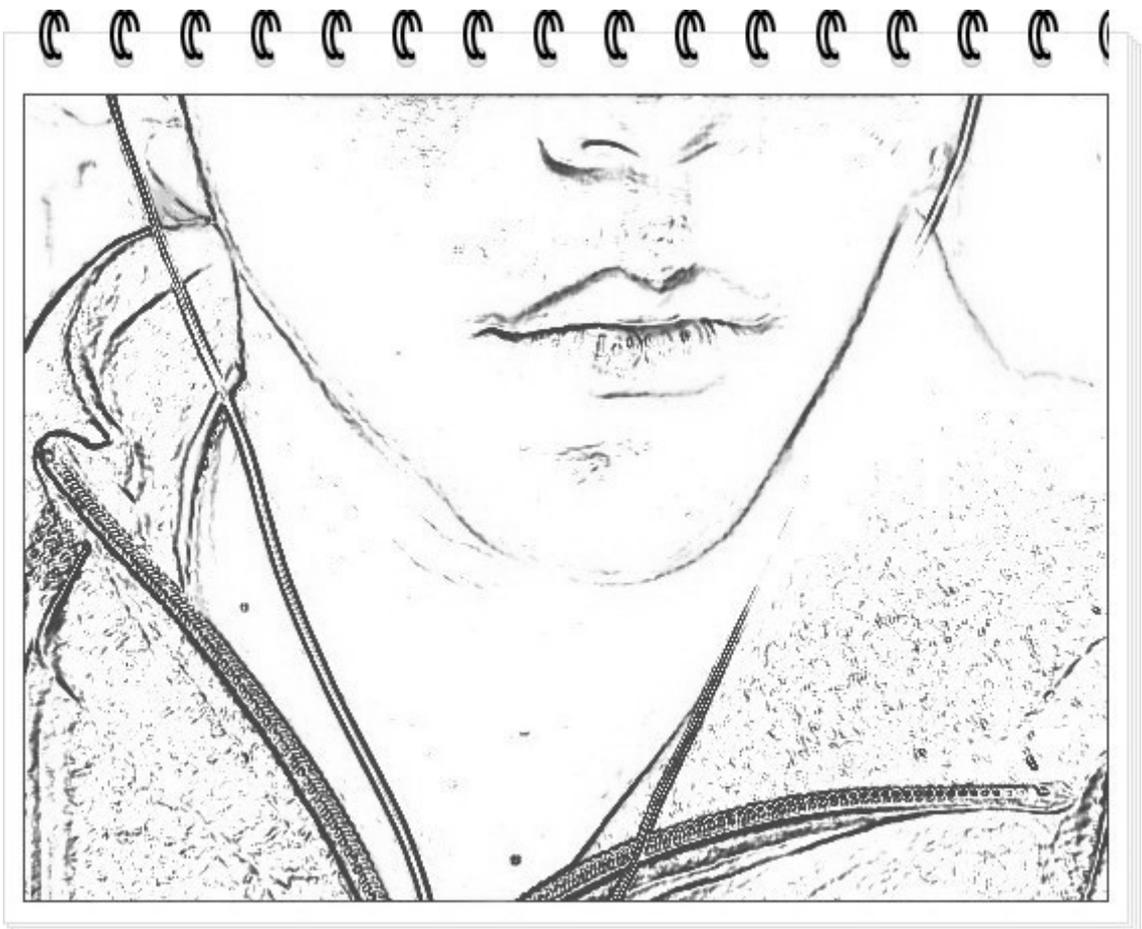


# ***your words***

in English



**a free PDF resource**

suitable for supplementary English language work  
with students in their final years of high school

[www.chrisroland.net](http://www.chrisroland.net)

based on original conversations

provided by high school students in Spain

which have been adapted into everyday British English

## notes for students

### the project

I asked Spanish students in their senior high school years to write down any recent conversations they had had – in English if they could or in Spanish if they could not. Then we translated those conversations into natural English that UK teenagers might really use. So if you are a Spanish student in your final years of high school, there is a chance that some of these could almost be '*your words in English*'.

### colloquial language

Please remember that a lot of the language in the dialogues is colloquial language – informal language that students use when talking to each other. Obviously you would not write *d'you* – you would write *do you*. Similarly, you would not normally call someone in a shop *mate*. When UK teenage students are talking to each other, they *would* use this language though. That is why we have included it. If you are not sure what is colloquial and what is not, ask your teacher.

### swearing

The one thing not included here is swearing. Yes, many UK teenagers will often swear when they speak to each other. However, as a sign of respect, the majority would not swear in front of the teacher – and because this is teaching material designed for classroom use by students and teachers together, we have left out bad language.

### type of English

Informal English tends to be specific to a region or country. There's no global colloquial English. As the teacher/writer of *this* project, and because I come from England originally, I have written these dialogues in a general *English* English. There might be some expressions that British teenagers use at the moment that even I do not know (as you can imagine – I am no longer a teenager myself and I do not live in the UK anymore).

Your present teacher might know some of these expressions. Always listen to your teacher first and your teaching materials (book, handouts etc.) second. If you want to know what American, Irish, Scottish, Australian, Welsh, Canadian, South African, or Kiwi teenagers might sound like and you have a teacher from one of those countries, you could suggest a similar project to this one to them.

If your teacher is a non-native speaker, remember that it is an extremely impressive achievement to learn a language yourself and then teach it – which deserves respect. They can tell you about the type

of English they are most familiar with.

If you know that you are going to be going to the UK soon, or talking with a UK teenager, you could show them the dialogues and ask them how realistic they are and if there are any expressions that they might add or use instead. That way, you would create a super up-to-date resource.

### **the questions**

The questions after each dialogue are not exam questions to grade you. They are not there to trick you either. The idea of the questions is to focus your attention on useful or possible new language. There is also some emphasis on prepositions and phrasal verbs – two areas that high school students often need help with. If you think that the questions are too easy, you can see how many of them you can answer without looking at the conversation again. Playing memory 'games' like this will also help you acquire new language.

### **the mini-book**

You will see that there is a wide margin on the left of this text. The reason for this is so that you can punch holes in the pages and keep them in a folder. There are 27 pages in total. If you store the pages carefully when you get them, by the end you will have a mini-book to refer to later.

# 1 D'you know it?

- Marta      When have you got the history exam?
- Isa          I've got it later, last lesson.
- Marta      How d'you reckon you'll do? D'you know it?
- Isa          Well, you know... it depends on the questions really.
- Marta      What d'you mean?
- Isa          ...because I know topics one to six but not the rest.
- Marta      Why don't you ever study the last few topics?
- Isa          ...because if I try to get them all done, I never have time.
- Marta      Let's just hope he doesn't ask you about the last ones  
then.
- Isa          Yeah... fingers crossed!

## Questions

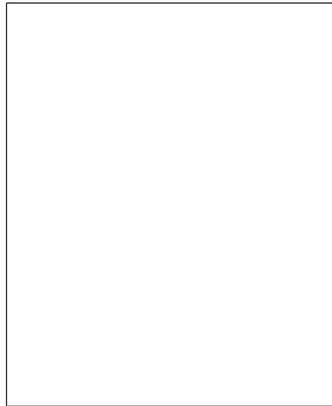
- a)      What words does Isa use to refer to the final class of the day?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b)      How does Marta shorten the words *do you*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c)      What word goes before and what word goes after *depends*?  
\_\_\_\_\_ depends \_\_\_\_\_
- d)      What word do the girls use to refer to themes within a subject?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e)      How does Isa refer to the other themes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f)      How does Marta refer to the other themes?  
\_\_\_\_\_

and

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete these sentences from the text:

- g) Why don't you \_\_\_\_\_ study...?
- h) I \_\_\_\_\_ have time.
- i) Cross your fingers then draw them in the box below.



- j) What does it mean when we say *fingers crossed*?

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Crammin'

Margarita How did your economics exam go?

Claudia Good, yeah, I think it went okay. I think I got at least seventy per cent.

Margarita Great stuff! They've changed the date of my literature exam – the one on that book I showed you.

Claudia When have you got it?

Margarita ...on Friday.

Claudia Well you know what you have to do then: take this chance to read the book.

Margarita Yeah, yeah I know. Hey, do you want me to help you with science today or what?

Claudia Yeah please. Do you want to come over this evening?

Margarita Yeah okay, if it's really going to help you... but if we're just going to end up chatting, no.

Claudia Well last time it helped me loads. I learnt a lot more.

Margarita Okay then.

### Questions

a) What words does Claudia use to mean *the same mark or more*?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) In some schools you would say *a seven*. In the dialogue, Claudia says *seventy*...

\_\_\_\_\_

c) The word *stuff* is the uncountable version of *thing* or *things*. We use it all the time. How does Margarita say *That's good!* ?

\_\_\_\_\_!

What subject is Claudia's exam in and what subject is Margarita's exam in?

d) Claudia's exam \_\_\_\_\_

e) Margarita's exam \_\_\_\_\_

f) How does the friend say *take the opportunity*?

take this \_\_\_\_\_

g) What phrasal verb does Margarita use to mean *the thing that we really will do*?

\_\_\_\_\_

h) How does the friend say *on the previous occasion*?

\_\_\_\_\_

i) What word does the friend say to mean *lots of*?

\_\_\_\_\_

j) How does Margarita say *I agree* at the end of the conversation?

\_\_\_\_\_

# 3 How did you do?

- Rafa            How's it going mate? How did the exam go?
- Mario          I reckon I've got a ten, dead cert. What about you?
- Rafa            Er yeah, well no, a bit iffy on a couple of the questions to  
tell the truth but in general I suppose not too bad.
- Mario          Well, it's over now anyway. What's done is done.
- Rafa            Hey d'you want to meet up later?
- Mario          Yeah sure. We can go over tomorrow's exam.
- Rafa            Yeah, see if this one goes a bit better for me.

## Questions

- a)    How does Rafa say: *How are you?*  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b)    What word does he use instead of *friend*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c)    What does Mario say instead of *I think*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d)    How does he say *it's a complete certainty*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e)    Complete this question:  
What \_\_\_\_\_ you?
- f)    *a bit iffy* probably means:  
1 – quite good  
2 – terrible  
3 – kind of borderline

g) What phrase does Rafa use to mean *two*?

\_\_\_\_\_

h) What is another expression that Rafa uses to mean *okay*?

\_\_\_\_\_

i) What phrasal verb from the conversation means the same as *get together*?

\_\_\_\_\_

j) What phrasal verb does Mario use that means *revise, look at* or *check*?

\_\_\_\_\_

# 4 What did you reckon?

- Javi            What did you reckon to the video they put us on in Philosophy?
- Jose            I thought it was pretty good but I didn't think it was very realistic.
- Javi            Yeah, well that's 'cos even though it's based on a true story, they've got to jazz it up a bit to make it fun to watch.
- Jose            Yeah agreed, but in that case they should at least tell you that it isn't completely true to life.
- Javi            Yeah but come on mate, you should take that for granted from the start.
- Jose            I suppose. I'm just a bit fussy about that sort of thing. It bothers me.
- Javi            So did you like the film in the end or what?
- Jose            Yeah. Yeah it was all right.

## Questions

- a)    What phrasal verb does Javi use to say *played for us*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b)    How does Jose say quite good?  
\_\_\_\_\_ good
- c)    What word is 'cos the informal version of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d)    Complete with a preposition:  
based \_\_\_\_\_ a true story

e) What expression does Javi use to say *make it a little more exciting*?

\_\_\_\_\_

f) Does Javi say:

1 – funny to watch

2 – fun to watch

g) Complete with a preposition:

true \_\_\_\_\_ life

h) What verb phrase means to imagine something is true without questioning it?

\_\_\_\_\_ (that) \_\_\_\_\_

i) Which adjective means to know exactly how you want things and not to be happy if they are not that way?

\_\_\_\_\_

j) Which expression of Jose's means *it worries/irritates me*?

\_\_\_\_\_

# 5 Good night?

Blanca      What did you end up doing on Saturday night then?

Manuel      Not much. We went to McDonalds like always.

Blanca      So I didn't really miss anything then?

Manuel      You missed absolutely nothing at all.

Blanca      I tell you, I was all cosy at home tucked up on my sofa watching a film. I really didn't fancy going out.

Manuel.     No. It was horrible out – really really windy.

## Questions

g)      What phrasal verb does Blanca use to mean *the thing that you really did*?

\_\_\_\_\_

b)      Complete with the correct preposition:

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday night

c)      To say *not a lot*, does Manuel say:

1 – *not many*?

2 – *not much*?

d)      Complete with the correct word:

So I didn't really miss **something/anything/nothing** then?

e)      What words does Blanca use for *very comfortable* (and warm)?

\_\_\_\_\_

f)      Which phrasal verb means *covered* or *wrapped* (in sheets, blankets and so on)?

\_\_\_\_\_

g) Complete the sentence:

I was at home **watch/to watch/watched/watching** a film.

h) Which preposition goes with *my sofa*?

\_\_\_\_\_

i) Can you complete Blanca's sentence:

I really didn't \_\_\_\_\_ going out.

j) Can you think of any synonyms for the word in i)?

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

# 6 I passed!!!

Lourdes Mate! I've passed Maths!

Marta Yeah? Good one! Well done! Does that give you an overall pass for the year then?

Lourdes I'm not really sure. I don't know how the average works out.

Marta Well what did you get?

Lourdes Fifty-two percent but I failed the second mid-term exam.

Marta So how many exams have you done in all?

Lourdes Three, well, four. There was the first term one, then the second, that I failed, then the retake and now the final exam.

Marta Yeah well I wouldn't worry. If you've got a pass in the final you'll get a pass overall.

## Questions

a) How does Marta congratulate Lourdes?

Yeah? G\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_! Well done!

b) What word does Marta use to say *a pass when all the results are added up*?

an \_\_\_\_\_ pass

c) How does Lourdes say I don't know?

I'm n\_\_\_\_\_ r\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_.

d) What's the opposite of *passed an exam*?

\_\_\_\_\_

e) What score did Lourdes get?

\_\_\_\_\_%

f) The girls use a different word to say trimester. What is it?

\_\_\_\_\_

g) What verb in the dialogue means an exam you do again?

\_\_\_\_\_

h) The word in g) is a noun, with the emphasis on the first syllable. Try saying it. The same word can also be a verb. In that case, the emphasis is on the second syllable. Try saying that too.

i) Complete Marta's sentence:

So how many exams have you done in a \_\_\_\_\_?

j) Which exam comes at the end of the year?

t\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_

# 7 How do you translate...?

- Andrea      How d'you translate the title of a film?
- María        What film did you see?
- Andrea      *Todos los días de mi vida*. Is it *All the days of my life*?
- María        Yeah.
- Cristina     No it isn't. It's *The Vow* in English.
- Andrea      Oh.
- María        So did you like it?
- Cristina     I did. I loved it.
- Andrea      What are you on with? I didn't think much to it at all. The only reason I watched it was that the bloke in it's fit.
- Cristina     [That's Channing Tatum and yeah he is super fit.]
- María        What you on about? It's really moving – the plot and everything.

## Questions

a) Is the 'i' in *title* pronounced like the:

- 1 – e in *me*
- 2 – y in *my*
- 3 – i in *milk*

b) What is the real name of the film they saw?

\_\_\_\_\_

c) What is a synonym for the answer to b)?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Who loved the film?

\_\_\_\_\_

e) Who liked the film?

\_\_\_\_\_

f) Who was indifferent to the film?

\_\_\_\_\_

g) What informal word for *man* does Andrea use?

\_\_\_\_\_

h) In normal English, *he's fit* means he's in a good physical condition. In very informal English, it can also mean:

1 – he's not in a good physical condition

2 – he's attractive/sexy

3 – his clothes are the right size for him

i) In this sentence, María has left out a word. In informal English, this is quite usual but what would the missing word be?

What [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] you on about?

j) What did María think was really moving?

\_\_\_\_\_

# 8 It's not fair!

Guillermo Sergio, I'm fed up of 'em messing us around with the exams.

Tutor Who's 'them'?

Guillermo Juan Carlos with the maths exam.

Tutor So what exactly's happened then?

Guillermo Well, he said that the exam was going to be like the exercises we'd been doing. He said it was going to be based on them.

Tutor And it wasn't?

Guillermo No, it wasn't at all!

Tutor And so what? You think you're going to fail it?

Guillermo Yeah, I'm pretty sure I am.

Tutor Well, leave it with me and I'll have a word with him. I can't promise anything though.

Guillermo Cheers. I'd appreciate that.

## Questions

a) What phrase does Guillermo use for *tired of* or *irritated by*?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) What phrasal verb means *changing things* or *not making things easy for us*?

\_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_

c) What does *'em* stand for?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) The phrase *we'd been doing* contains a contraction. What does the 'd stand for?

\_\_\_\_\_

- e) Complete with a preposition:  
based \_\_\_\_\_ them
- f) What word does Guillermo use to say *quite sure*?  
\_\_\_\_\_ sure
- g) What's Guillermo in English?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- h) What are two short forms of this name in English?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- i) How does Sergio say *I'll talk to him*?  
I'll \_\_\_\_\_.
- j) What informal word for *thankyou* does Guillermo use?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 9 Dying to know...

Marina Did you see *The Walking Dead*?

Sole No.

Marina Why not?

Sole I couldn't.

Marina Why not?

Sole I haven't got that channel.

Marina Oh. Hey, can I borrow your iphone a sec 'cos I want to check if our marks are out yet.

Sole Yeah. Here you are. You'll have to be quick though. The battery's running out.

Marina Let's see... portal.. marks...

Sole Are they up yet?

Marina Erm... no, still not there.

Sole I hope they put 'em up soon. I'm dying to know what I got.

## Questions

a) How would you translate *The Walking Dead* **literally** into your language?

---

b) How is it actually translated?

---

c) How many channels have you got on your TV at home'

---

d) What is the full word for *a sec*?

a \_\_\_\_\_

e) What's running out?

---

f) Where does Marina go to look for the marks?

the school \_\_\_\_\_

g) Complete with a preposition:

...if our marks are \_\_\_\_\_ yet

h) Complete this with a preposition too:

Are they \_\_\_\_\_ yet?

i) *Erm* means:

1 - Yes

2 - No

3 - It doesn't mean anything

j) How does Sole say *I **really** want to know what I got?*

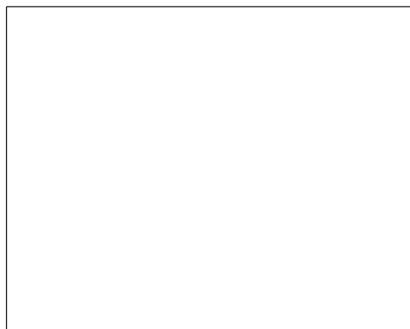
I'm \_\_\_\_\_ to know what I got.

# 10 Urgh! and Ow!

- Mar            What's for lunch mum?
- Mum            Lentils.
- Mar            Oh no come off it! I can't stand lentils.
- Mum            You've always eaten them before.
- Mar            I just don't feel like them today.
- Mum            Well that's what there is.
- Mar            Well I'm not eating them.
- Mum            Well you're not going anywhere till you do. And who's going to take the dog out today?
- Mar            Diego said that he was going to do it.
- Mum            But it's your turn today isn't it?
- Mar            But my foot still hurts and I haven't got time.
- Mum            All right, but you do it all next week, okay?
- Mar            Yeah okay.

## Questions

- a)    What is for lunch?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b)    Can you draw a picture of the dish in a) and complete the sentence for you.



I \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_.

- c) How does Mar say: *You're not serious are you?!*  
 O\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_!
- d) What expression does Mar use that's synonymous with *hate*?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Complete with the correct form of the verb in brackets:  
 You've always \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) them before.
- f) How does Mar say I'm not in the mood for them today?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- g) Can you make the word *till* into a very similar word that means the same?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Complete the phrasal verb in this sentence:  
 And who's going to take the dog \_\_\_\_\_ today?
- i) What two reasons does Mar give for not doing it?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- j) Which is correct?  
 1 – I'll do it next week.  
 2 – I'll do it the next week.

# 11 Set text

- Maite        What did you get up to at the weekend?
- Paola        Not a lot. What about you? Got any gossip?
- Maite        Nah, same as always.
- Paola        D'you read that crappy\* book?
- Maite        No way. I couldn't be bothered.
- Paola        I've got to get round to reading it soon.
- Maite        Is Belí coming on Saturday?
- Paola        Dunno yet, but I'm really looking forward to having a dance.
- Maite        I can't be doing with getting all dressed up for it though.
- Paola        Well I can't wait for Saturday.

## Questions

- a)    What phrasal verb does Maite use to mean *do*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b)    Complete with a preposition:  
\_\_\_\_\_ the weekend
- c)    Got any gossip? is informal. What two words has Paola left out?  
\_\_\_\_\_ got any gossip?
- d)    Is *nah* formal or informal?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e)    Why has *crappy* got an \*asterisk?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f)    What expression does Maite use for *definitely not*?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

g) What expression means *I was too lazy to do it Or// it didn't seem important enough to do?*

I couldn't be b\_\_\_\_\_.

h) Which phrasal verb means *do (or start to do) something you have been intending to do for a long time?*

\_\_\_\_\_

i) If the answer to h) is followed by a verb, is that verb in the infinitive or the -ing form?

\_\_\_\_\_

j) What is a more standard way of writing *I dunno*?

\_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_

k) What expression does Paola use to show she is waiting to dance with positive expectations?

I'm really l\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ to having a dance.

# 12

- Ignacio In the end I'm getting a Galaxy 5 Plus
- Manu Yeah? What's that all about?
- Ignacio I'm changing company you see.
- Manu And what you gonner do with your Blackberry?
- Ignacio Sell it probly.
- Manu How much d'you want for it?
- Ignacio Why? You interested?
- Manu Depends how much you're asking.
- Ignacio Let's say thirty quid.
- Manu Yeah, I can do that. That's a deal mate.
- Ignacio All right. It's yours.
- Manu Cool. Cheers.

## Questions

- a) What expression does Ignacio use to mean *finally*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) How does Manu say: *Can you explain that some more?*  
\_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- c) Fill in the word that Manu has left out:  
And what [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] you gonner do with your Blackberry?
- d) Probly isn't a correctly written word (but that's how you might pronounce the word in fast or informal speech). How would you write the word properly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e) Complete with extra possible words:  
[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] depends [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] how much you're asking [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] .

f) What's the informal word that ignacio uses for a British pound?

\_\_\_\_\_

g) Complete:

That's a d\_\_\_\_\_ mate.

h) What word does Manu use for *good*?

\_\_\_\_\_

i) What word does Manu use for *thanks*?

\_\_\_\_\_