

Lesson 25**REACTING TO BAD NEWS**

Jenny runs into her friend Carol in the supermarket. Jenny asks Carol how she's been and Carol tells her all her bad news. Jenny responds with sympathy and offers her support.

Jenny: Hi, Carol. **How's life been treating you?**

Carol: I've been better. I'm going through a rough patch.

Jenny: **Sorry to hear that.** What's going on?

Carol: My husband and I are **splitting up**. I **found out** he's been **cheating on** me for years with his receptionist.

Jenny: I'm **speechless!**

Carol: Fortunately, I wasn't **speechless** when I found out. I **gave him a piece of my mind!**

Jenny: Good! And how's your son John doing? Did he manage to find a job since we last spoke?

Carol: **No such luck.** Poor John fell off the roof a couple weeks ago while doing some repairs and broke both his legs!

Jenny: You must've been **beside yourself!**

Carol: I was a **basket case** for several days. Now he's **on the road to recovery**, but it's going to take a while.

Jenny: If you ever want to talk, just give me a call.

Carol: I would enjoy getting together.

Jenny: Okay. I'll **stop by** later this week.

IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS

basket case – an emotional and/or physical mess

- After her house burned down, Donna was a **basket case**.

beside oneself – very upset

- When Tracy’s boss told her she wasn’t doing a good job, she was **beside herself**.

(to) cheat on someone – to have romantic relations on the side, with somebody other than one’s partner

- After Nancy read the text messages on her husband’s cell phone, she realized he was **cheating on** her.

(to) find out – to discover facts about someone or something

- I just **found out** that Tanya is pregnant.

(to) get together – to meet with someone (usually socially)

- I’d love to **get together** on Saturday if you have time.

(to) give someone a piece of one’s mind – see Lesson 16

(to) go through a rough patch – to have a lot of problems during a time period; to experience a period of bad luck

- Joe lost his job last week and this week his girlfriend broke up with him. He’s **going through a rough patch**.

How’s life been treating you? – How are you?; How’ve you been?

- “**How’s life been treating you?**” — “**Can’t complain.**”

I’ve been better – things are not going well for me

- “How are you doing?” — “**I’ve been better.**”

no such luck – we haven’t had good fortune in that area; we haven’t been so lucky

- “Did your boss let you out early for the holiday weekend?” — “**No such luck.**”

on the road to recovery – starting to get better

- Stephanie was sick with the flu for a week, but now she's **on the road to recovery**.

(I'm) sorry to hear that – that's too bad; I feel bad for you

- "I got fired yesterday." — "**Sorry to hear that.**"

speechless – unable to speak due to surprise; shocked

- After being fined \$300 for a speeding ticket, Wendy was **speechless**.

(to) split up – to break up; to end a marriage or other intimate relationship

- After years of fighting, Irene and her husband finally **split up**.

(to) stop by – come over (often for a short visit)

- If you're in my neighborhood on Saturday, please **stop by**.

Practice the Expressions

Choose the most appropriate response to the following:

- 1) Did you know that Sara and her husband are splitting up?
 - a) No, what are they splitting?
 - b) No, do you know what happened?
 - c) No, why didn't anybody tell me this good news?
- 2) If you get a chance, stop by over the weekend.
 - a) Okay, I'll come over.
 - b) Sure, I'll stop it.
 - c) Okay, I'll spend all weekend with you.
- 3) Nick was sick for months, but now he's on the road to recovery.
 - a) I'm sorry to hear he's not improving.
 - b) I'm glad to hear he's able to travel again.
 - c) I'm glad to hear he's getting better.

- 4) Your son has dropped out of Harvard and joined the military?
I'm speechless!
- We were very surprised too.
 - We weren't surprised either.
 - We agree that it's very exciting.
- 5) Ron just lost his job after 25 years at the same company. He's beside himself.
- I can understand why he's upset.
 - Right. He was ready to leave that job.
 - I'm glad to hear he isn't too upset.
- 6) Brenda just found out that her husband has been cheating on her for years with his secretary.
- Do you think she'll leave him?
 - Do you think Brenda likes the secretary?
 - Do you think she's happy about this?
- 7) Grace has been a basket case since losing her job.
- I'm glad she's doing well.
 - I hope she'll start feeling better soon.
 - She didn't really like that job anyway.
- 8) I was hoping I'd win the big lottery jackpot, but no such luck.
- You won? Congratulations!
 - You didn't win? That's surprising.
 - Oh well. There's always next time!
- 9) You've been sick all week? Sorry to hear that.
- Thanks.
 - Sorry I told you.
 - You could be more sympathetic.
- 10) I've been going through a rough patch lately.
- Things have been fine with me too.
 - I'm glad to hear it.
 - Sorry to hear that. What's going on?



Language Lens: When Two Verbs Are Together

When there are two verbs in a row (one after the other), the second verb is sometimes in the infinitive form (“to” form) and sometimes in the gerund form (ending in -ing). The first verb determines (Verb 1) the form of the second verb (Verb 2). Study these two tables with common verbs.

Verb 1 + Verb 2 in the Infinitive (“to” form)	
<u>Verb 1</u>	<u>Verb 2 is in the infinitive</u>
agree	I agreed to pick Sue up from the airport.
cause	What caused Nick to break out in a rash?
deserve	We deserve to know why the company is closing.
expect	When does your son expect to graduate ?
hope	We hope to visit some castles on our trip to Ireland.
learn	Lisa learned to ski on her vacation.
offer	Please offer to help bake cookies for the bake sale.
manage	Did you manage to get to the airport on time?
promise	I promise to call you as soon as we arrive in Paris.
want	What do you want to do this weekend?

Verb 1 + Verb 2 in the Gerund (-ing form)	
<u>Verb 1</u>	<u>Verb 2 is a gerund</u>
appreciate	We appreciated having a great tour guide in China.
avoid	Let’s avoid getting food poisoning on our trip.
consider	We considered renting instead of buying a house.
enjoy	John enjoys surfing in Big Sur.
feel like	What do you feel like doing today?
finish	When you finish watching the movie, let me know.
mind	Do you mind going to the store?
recommend	I recommend exploring Chicago by foot.
suggest	I suggest building a new website.
think	You think getting a medical degree is easy?

Quick Quiz

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) I suggest ____ Bratislava while you're on your tour of Europe.
a) to visit b) visiting
- 2) If you're on a diet, I recommend ____ canola oil instead of butter when baking.
a) to use b) using
- 3) Did you manage ____ a plumber to fix your sink on Saturday?
a) finding b) to find
- 4) On the weekends, Ed enjoys ____ novels and watching videos.
a) reading b) to read
- 5) I promised Erica I'd get a drink with her after work, and now I don't feel like ____.
a) to go b) going
- 6) Do you promise ____ me when I'm working abroad in London?
a) visiting b) to visit
- 7) When do you expect ____ the repair work on my car?
a) to finish b) finishing
- 8) We want ____ to New York next year.
a) moving b) to move
- 9) Do you mind ____ Jesse from the airport on Saturday?
a) to pick up b) picking up
- 10) I think ____ a night in Santa Barbara on our way to Los Angeles is a good idea.
a) spending b) to spend

Glossary

irLanguage.com

baggy – not fitting closely; too loose

compact – a small car (smaller than a mid-size car)

confirm – to let one know for sure; to make firm

convention – a large meeting, bringing together people who share a common personal or professional interest

discolored – changed from its natural color (often darker)

expire – come to an end (subscriptions, membership plans)

filling – material which covers the cavity of a tooth

frustrating – annoying; discouraging

molar – the big teeth in the back of the mouth

reception – the strength of a signal (regarding cell phones, TV, etc)

reimburse – to pay someone back for an expense

replacement – something or someone that takes the place of another

sensitive – easily irritated

server – waiter; waitress

snug – close-fitting; tight

unloaded – taken out from storage (such as from a trunk or airplane)