



Talking About Romance

Cathy and David are *co-workers*¹ at an advertising agency in Manhattan. During their *lunch hour*², they discuss their *upcoming*³ plans for Valentine's Day. Read the following dialogue with a partner. Discuss the italicized expressions and then try to use them in your own questions and answers.

David: So, Cathy, do you have any romantic plans for Valentine's Day?

Cathy: *Are you kidding*⁴? I don't *even*⁵ have a *date*⁶!

David: Really? I thought you *were seeing someone*⁷.

Cathy: I was, but we *broke up*⁸. He started *going out with*⁹ his *ex-girlfriend*¹⁰ again and *dumped*¹¹ me. But there is another *guy*¹² I *kind of*¹³ like. His name is Joe. He lives in my apartment building and I often *run into*¹⁴ him when I leave for work in the morning. He seems really nice and is *great-looking*¹⁵!

David: *It sounds like*¹⁶ you have a little *crush*¹⁷ on *this*¹⁸ Joe! Maybe you should *ask him out*¹⁹.

Cathy: I'm definitely considering it! Anyway, *enough about me*²⁰—what are you and your girlfriend Jenny doing for Valentine's Day?

David: Well, I've planned a romantic *getaway*²¹ for us. I'm taking her to the Bahamas where I plan to ask her to marry me on the beach at sunset.

Cathy: You're finally going to *pop the question*²²! Congratulations! I love Jenny. She's such a *sweetheart*²³. And it's obvious that she *means the world to you*²⁴. You two *get along*²⁵ so well. You *were really made for each other*²⁶.

David: You know, I never believed in *love at first sight*²⁷ until I met Jenny.

Cathy: Well, I'm *thrilled*²⁸ for both of you. Maybe if Joe and I really *hit it off*²⁹, the two of us can have dinner with you and Jenny sometime! And don't forget to invite us to the wedding.

David: Maybe sometime soon, if everything *works out*³⁰, we'll be *dancing at your and Joe's wedding*³¹, too!

(See over for definitions of italicized words.)



TALKING ABOUT ROMANCE

Definitions of italicized words

1) **Co-workers**: people who work together. 2) **Lunch hour**: most employees in the U.S. are given an hour to eat their lunch. 3) **Upcoming**: about to take place. 4) **Are you kidding?**: Are you joking? 5) **Even**: used for emphasis. For example, "Do I love him? No, I don't even like him." "She's pretty, but her mother is even prettier." 6) **Date**: an appointment to spend time with someone romantically. 7) **To see someone**: to be involved in a romantic relationship with someone. 8) **To break up**: to end a romantic relationship. 9) **To go out with someone**: to see someone (see #7). 10) An **ex-girlfriend**: a former girlfriend. 11) **To dump someone**: to end a romantic relationship with someone, usually in an unkind manner. 12) **Guy**: A casual term for a man. 13) **Kind of**: somewhat or rather, used informally. For example, "I kind of want to go to the party, but I'm not sure; none of my friends will be there." "I kind of like opera, but sometimes it bores me." 14) **To run into**: to encounter accidentally. 15) **Great-looking**: handsome; can also mean beautiful when referring to a woman. 16) **It sounds like**: it seems to me that... 17) **A crush**: a one-sided romantic interest in someone. 18) **This**: used for emphasis, to refer to the subject being discussed. For example, if you said "My friend Sarah is a wonderful woman," I might reply "Really? I would love to meet this Sarah." 19) **To ask someone out**: to ask someone for a date. 20) **Enough about me**: we have talked enough about me (used to change the subject). 21) **Getaway**: an escape for vacation or relaxation. 22) **To pop the question**: to propose marriage. 23) **A sweetheart**: Used here to mean a nice person; also used as a romantic nickname ("Happy Valentine's Day, sweetheart!") 24) **To mean the world to someone**: to be very important to someone. 25) **To get along (well)**: to have a good relationship. 26) **To be made for one another**: to be extremely compatible as a couple. 27) **Love at first sight**: love after the first glimpse of someone. 28) **Thrilled**: very excited. 29) **To hit it off**: to be immediately compatible; to get along. 30) **To work out**: to prove to be successful. 31) **To dance at someone's wedding**: to go to someone's wedding. Here, this implies that perhaps Cathy and Joe will marry eventually.



Conversation Practice

Going Out for Dinner

You would like to go out to dinner with your sweetheart to celebrate Valentine's Day. However, your sweetheart is particular about what he/she eats, and it's hard to agree on where to go. Suggest restaurants and types of food until you can agree on a place to eat. When you have finished, switch roles.

Tongue Twisters

Try these out with your conversation partner.

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear.
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair.
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy,
was he?

A tutor who tooted a flute
tried to tutor two tooters to toot.
Said the two to their tutor,
"Is it harder to toot
or to tutor two tooters to toot?"

Thieves are thankless thugs who deserve our wrath.

Wise women don't walk
in the woods while
wolves wander.

If two witches were
watching two watches,
which witch was watching
which watch?



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Editor:

Karen Ruelle



The English-Speaking Union of the United States

144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016

(tel.) 212-818-1200 (fax) 212- 867 4177 www.esuus.org