

ESLR 0310 – Fall 2002

Movie Vocabulary/Idioms

The Truth About Cats and Dogs

“repeat after me...”	“say what I say, word for word...”. Here, it is used humorously to suggest that the person isn’t smart enough to figure something out, so they have to be trained “by rote.”
“[down on] all fours”	walking on hands and knees; crawling.
“these dogs are in the union now”	unionized; represented in the labor market by labor organizers.
	
“don’t get weird on me... ”	don’t behave strangely; don’t start behaving badly or unusually; weirdly.
“see you in person ”	to see someone, face-to-face.
Bitch	literally, a female dog. Used as an insult against a woman you don’t like. It can also be a friendly slur; it informs a woman in a “forward”, forceful, “edgy” way that she is being difficult to get along with. “Geez! I just asked you a simple question! Why are you being such a bitch?” <u>Use with extreme caution.</u> <i>adj.:</i> bitchy.
Trepidacious	<i>adj.:</i> Filled with trepidation; apprehension. Very worried about an upcoming occurrence, to the point of high emotion.
“societal pressures”	the need to do (or not do) certain things because of what other people (society) might think.

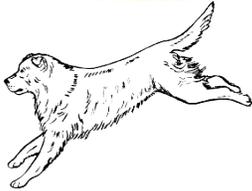
to “screen”
somebody

to make sure a person is “OK” before allowing them to see someone else.

cheese ball

a party snack made of soft cheeses and spices. You can dip chips and crackers into it.

“dada meets
fido”



Dada or **Dadaism** [French, from *dada*, child's word for a horse] Nihilistic movement in the arts that flourished in Europe from about 1916 to about 1920 and that was based on the principles of irrationality, anarchy, and cynicism and the rejection of laws of beauty and social organization.

Source: <http://www.peak.org/~dadaist/English/Graphics/index.html>

“**Fido**” is a “classic” American name for a dog; even though *no one* actually names a dog this.

The expression “A ‘**meets**’ B” is often used to describe the chemistry that happens when two dissimilar things are mixed together. Examples:

East meets West [the global culture clash]

Boy meets Girl [plot element of most Hollywood movies]

“pore minimizer
[maximizer]”

pore: a small hole. In this movie, it refers to facial pores; the microscopic holes in the face that sweat.

minimize: to make as small as possible

maximize: to make as large as possible

audition piece

audition: Stage, screen or voice acting trial, where the director of a theatrical production gets to see your talent. An “audition piece” is a short theatrical presentation you’ve selected to show your skill.

Stymied

adj.: prevented from proceeding with a plan. “We hoped to finish before nightfall, but were stymied by the rain.”

“less **upbeat**”

upbeat: in a good mood, looking at the positive side of things. Taken from a term in music; upbeat music is fast.

“off-balance”

not quite mentally straight, not quite mentally balanced. A “light” insult against a person’s character or behavior.

“...portentous, or
merely
noteworthy?”

portentous: Having “portent”; that means, promising good or interesting things in the future.

noteworthy: interesting to look at and consider, but not as promising as something “portentous.”

“position” vs.
“deeply held
conviction”

position: a firmly-held attitude toward an ideology or thing, normally grounded in reason. If someone can give you a better explanation, you might change your mind.

conviction: like a “position”, but perhaps guided more by emotion than a position. If you’re convicted of something, you are less likely to change your mind.

“it **turns out** Roy
is a loser”

“**turns out**”: in the end, the way things happen, when all the facts about a thing have finally been revealed.

Superman /
Clark Kent



Superman is the famous comic book “superhero” written by Jerry Siegel and drawn by Joe Shuster.

The concept behind the stories is that Superman is a humanoid alien with super powers (he can fly, melt metal with his eyes, etc.). In order to live among humans, he has a human identity: The newspaper reporter **Clark Kent**.

Naturally, every now and again in the adventures, someone would make the observation that you never see Clark and Superman together in the same place(!)

“so?” ...”buttons.”



When an explanation is unsatisfactory, a person can say “So...?” to invite their communication partner to explain further.

The response “...buttons” is a kind of cheap joke. It’s a play on “sew buttons”. Not very funny, but the character in the movie who gives this response is not very smart.

self-conscious

Often used to describe someone who is doing things too deliberately, and not spontaneously.

“pot-bellied pigs”

A fairly recent pet craze.



“**degenerate** into
some
misogynistic
cliché”

degenerate: become weak, lifeless, losing form
misogynistic: *adj.*, from “misogyny”; “hatred of women”
cliché: from the French: A “standard” expression or behavior

“...the Twinkie™
defense?”

Twinkies™ are *the* classic industrially manufactured snack cake in the U.S. They’re cream-filled! Mmmmm *Mm!*



Simone de
Bouvoir and
Jean-Paul Sartre

Famous writers and social philosophers; lived in Paris.
They were lovers.



shitfaced

drunk (alcohol). “Get shitfaced” = “get drunk”

“you know it!”

Amen! You got *that* right! I agree!

“**screwed up** a
friendship”

messed up; wrecked.

“**driving me**
mad”

“making me [mad]”. Almost always used to accuse someone (sometimes playfully) of trying to break you down psychologically. Other uses; “driving me crazy”, “driving me batty”, “driving me to drink,” “driving me to distraction.”

“give someone
the time of day”

Almost always used negatively, e.g., “I wouldn’t give her the time of day,” meaning, I don’t care about her.

chivalrous *adj.*, from **chivalry**. Used to describe a man with a powerful romantic inclination, which is apparent from “gallant” (noble, honorable) behavior toward a woman he has promised to serve.



“tune-up” *n. or verb phrase*: quick inspection and “fixes” to a car to make it run a little better.

“tipped me off” Offered a clue about something that was hidden. (e.g., “I could see the bulge of his gun holster under his jacket; that *tipped me off* that he was an undercover policeman.”)

“wrap it up” Finish it up, do what you have to do to get the job done and move on to something else (or go home).

“in a terrible state” in a very unpleasant emotional condition; extremely sad, angry, frustrated, etc.

darling term of affection; “dear”