



IAVANTE English Training Programme

Manolo's Business Trip

Level – Advanced

Episode 6: Manolo Sets Off

Lucky

That was a close shave in more ways than one, I'm not naturally bald, you know. Not many people get struck on the head by lightning and live to tell the tale. I'm being discharged from hospital today after a month in intensive care and then another in the general ward. The nurses, doctors and surgeons were really on the ball, I feel as fit as a fiddle.



Man's Best Friend

I had a real stroke of luck after the accident; a passer-by discovered Barbiturate trying to drag me into a big hole he'd dug. If she hadn't come along Barbiturate would've buried me alive. He says he could've sworn I looked just like a pile of bones left over from a barbeque.

Off Home

Well, I'm off now. I've said goodbye to everybody here so now I'm going home to my family. To be honest I've really enjoyed the last two months what with no screaming kids, no noisy neighbours and none of Maria's awful cooking. Oh well, back to the real world.

Welcome Home Manolo?

What's all that commotion? It sounds like a party and it's coming from my place. How weird! I don't believe it, it's got to be a welcome home party for me. Well, blow me down! Maybe coming home won't be such a drag after all



Dialogue

A Misunderstanding

Hello everybody, I'm home. I can't tell you how wonderful it is to see you all again. How thoughtful of you to put on a party for me. It's terrific to be back home to be with my lovely family and neighbours again.

Rokale

Don't be a jerk Manolo this party isn't for you. Maria has thrown the party for Bert to thank him for all the help he has given her while you were away.



Manolo

You're putting me on! I knew it was too good to be true. And what exactly do you mean by 'help' anyway?

Rokale

He's spent more time in this flat in the last two months than you ever have, playing with the kids, taking Barbiturate for walks, keeping Maria company, etcetera, etcetera... You've got a lot to thank him for.

Manolo

Me thank him? You're winding me up! I'll soon sort him out!

Manolo

Hey Bert, I've got a bone to pick with you.

Barbiturate

Did someone mention bones?

Bert

Hello Manolo. Maria and I weren't expecting you so soon. We were planning on finishing the party before you turned up. Why don't you go through to one of the spare bedrooms and crash out until we've finished up. You must be shattered.



Dialogue

Manolo

What a nerve! You come into my house behind my back, look after my family and dog and then, by the looks of it, you repair the broken door handle, fix the wobbly table, mend the dodgy stereo... You, you... words fail me!

Maria

That's typical of you Manolo. You've only been home for five minutes and you've made a spectacle of yourself already. Now, take Barbiturate out for a walk and don't come back until you've simmered down.

Barbiturate

Hey, don't ask me if I want to go out, will you? I'm having the time of my life here, thanks very much. I'm really hitting it off with the poodle from downstairs and this could be a turning point in our relationship.

Manolo

Well, I can see I'm not wanted here. I know what I'll do. I won't even bother to unpack. I'm going to go to the airport and hop on the first available flight to Scotland.

Everybody

Bye Manolo, have a nice trip.



Good Old Bert

Wow, that couldn't have turned out better even if I'd planned it. I thought I was going to end up having to cancel that trip to Scotland because I'd been away from home for such a long time. Good old Bert!

Taxi to the airport

Taxi! While I'm on the way to the airport in the taxi I can check out the times of the flights on my smart phone and buy a ticket too.



Dialogue

At the Airport

Here we are at the airport. ¿19.95 euros? Here's a 20 euro note, hang on to the change. Scotland here I come!



Exercise 1: Questions and Answers

1. What two events does Manolo refer to when he uses the expression 'that was a close shave'?
2. How does Manolo describe the staff at the hospital?
3. What won't be such a drag for Manolo?
4. Why does Rokale call Manolo a jerk?
5. Why does Manolo feel that Rokale is putting him on?
6. Why does Manolo feel that Rokale is winding him up?
7. What expression does Manolo use to tell Bert that he has something to talk to him about that has annoyed him?
8. Where does Bert tell Manolo to go and crash out?
9. What does Maria tell Manolo to do until he simmers down?
10. What doesn't Manolo bother to do?



Exercise 2: Listening

Instructions

Listen to the recording and try to write down the complete text.



Exercise 3: Language and Grammar

A close shave

That was **a close shave** in more ways than one

This is an idiomatic expression meaning to avoid or survive an unpleasant or dangerous experience.

That was **a close shave**. The boss nearly caught me playing games on the Internet

On the ball

The nurses, doctors and surgeons were really **on the ball**

This is an expression meaning to be very up to date and knowledgeable about something that you do.

That new IT guy is really **on the ball**. He knows how to fix any bugs that come up

As fit as a fiddle

I feel as **fit as a fiddle**

This is an expression meaning to be healthy. The word 'fiddle' is another word for violin.

She's 80 years old but she is **as fit as a fiddle**



Would've/Could've

Barbiturate **would've** buried me alive

He says he **could've** sworn I looked just like a pile of bones

In spoken English, but not formal written English, it is obviously very common to use the contracted forms of the verb 'have' when used in the perfect tenses and 'have got'. It is also common to contract 'have' when it follows a modal verb.

I **must've** left my glasses at home

I **should've** stayed in bed this morning

Put somebody on

You're **putting me on!**

This expression is a synonym of 'you're joking' used when you can't believe what somebody has told you. Other similar expressions are 'you're kidding', 'you're having me on' and 'you're pulling my leg'.

You've won the lottery? **You're pulling my leg**, you've never bought a lottery ticket in your life

Wind somebody up

You're **winding me up!**

This is an expression meaning to get somebody angry, intentionally or otherwise.

Tapping your fingers on the table really **winds me up**

Sort somebody out

I'll soon **sort him out**

This is a term meaning to resolve a dispute with somebody in an aggressive way.

That man was being very abusive but the security guard soon **sorted him out**

A bone to pick with somebody

Hey Bert, I've got a **bone to pick** with you

This expression is used when you are annoyed with somebody about something they have done and you plan to tell them about it.

I've got a **bone to pick** with Mary. She's always parking her car in my space



Turn up

We were planning on finishing the party before you **turned up**

The meaning of this phrasal verb is to arrive. It is often used to give a negative feeling to the sentence.

We arranged to meet at 8.00 but she **turned up** 40 minutes late

Crash out

Why don't you go through to one of the spare bedrooms and **crash out** until we've finished up

The meaning of this phrasal verb is to lie down and sleep. It is very informal.

Can I **crash out** at your place tonight?

Finish up

Why don't you go through to one of the spare bedrooms and crash out until we've **finished up**

The meaning of this phrasal verb is to finish something completely. The preposition 'up' is often used to form a phrasal verb simply to add some emphasis or clarity.

Finish up the bottle of wine and I'll get another

Simmer down

Now, take Barbiturate out for a walk and don't come back until you've **simmered down**

The meaning of this phrasal verb is to calm down. The verb simmer (without 'down') is used in cooking and means to boil gently.

Simmer down, don't take things so seriously

Hop on

I'm going to go to the airport and **hop on** the first available flight to Scotland

The meaning of this phrasal verb is to get on. It is a very informal verb. The verb hop means to jump on one leg.

He **hopped on** the bus to go to the centre



Turn out

Wow, that couldn't have **turned out** better even if I'd planned it

This phrasal verb is used when referring to the end result of something. It is often used when the result was unexpected.

It was cloudy this morning but it **turned out** to be a nice day

Check out

While I'm on the way to the airport in the taxi I can **check out** the times of the flights

The meaning of this phrasal verb is to investigate or research but is more informal.

Check out what time the concert starts, will you?

Hang on

Here's a 20 euro note, **hang on** to the change

The meaning of this phrasal verb in this context is to keep. It is quite an informal verb.

Hang on to that book I lent you. I don't want it anymore



Exercise 5: Quiz

1) What is an expression to describe someone who really knows what they are doing?

- a) She's really on the racket
- b) She's really on the ball
- c) She's really on the bat
- d) She's really on the football

2) 'I had a real stroke of luck'

Which one of the following is not a true meaning of the word 'stroke'?

- a) A verb meaning to run your hand across something?
- b) A noun meaning a blood clot in the brain
- c) The movement of a piston in an engine
- d) The simple past form of the verb to strike

3) The verb 'to swear' has several different meanings. Which one of the following isn't one of those:

- a) To use vulgar language
- b) To pray
- c) To insist something is true
- d) To assure somebody of something

4) Which of the following is the correct form of an expression meaning to be surprised?

- a) Well blow me up!
- b) Well blow me down!
- c) Well blow me apart!
- d) Well blow me over!

5) Which of the following is not correct?

- a) To hold a party
- b) To put on a party
- c) To have a party
- d) To throw a party
- e) To make a party



6) What is the missing word in the following phrase meaning to intentionally get somebody excited or angry?

You're winding me _____!

7) Which one of the following sentences makes no sense?

- a) He turned up one hour late for the party
- b) She turned up the legs on his trousers because they were too long
- c) That's a turn up for the books
- d) I must turn up the cat
- e) Could you turn up the music, please?

8) You must be _____.

What is the missing word in this sentence meaning to be very tired? It also refers to glass breaking into a lot of small pieces.

9) Match up the verb with its preposition?

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| a) Crash | 1) off |
| b) Hit it | 2) out |
| c) Simmer | 3) on |
| d) Hop | 4) down |

10) Like Manolo, Scottish people are said to be very careful with their money? (It isn't true, of course) Which of the following isn't a word to describe this commendable trait?

- a) Mean
- b) Stingy
- c) Tight fisted
- d) Thick



End of Episode 6



Key to exercises

Exercise 1: Questions and Answers

1. Manolo refers to the fact that he has literally had a shave and that he survived a dangerous experience.
2. He describes the staff at the hospital as being on the ball.
3. Going back home won't be such a drag.
4. She calls him a jerk because he mistakenly believes the party is for him.
5. He feels she is putting him on because she says the party is for Bert and not him.
6. He feels she is winding him up because she says that he should thank Bert.
7. Manolo says he has a bone to pick with him.
8. Bert tells Manolo to go and crash out in the spare room
9. She tells him to take the dog out for a walk until he simmers down.
10. Manolo doesn't bother to unpack his suitcase.

Exercise 2: Listening

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Exercise 4: Quiz

- 1) b
- 2) d
- 3) b
- 4) b
- 5) e
- 6) up
- 7) d
- 8) shattered
- 9) a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3
- 10) d