

Alternatives to Overused Words

Below are some better Alternatives to Overused Words and Phrases along with infographics and PDF. Learn and use all of these better alternatives, to improve your English speaking. Every ESL student wants to speak more cool and informal and that is why I have created a big list of alternatives to some overused words and phrases.

Alternative Ways to say "In Other Words"

Put it differently...

In other quarters...

What I'm trying to say is...

What I mean is...

Put differently...

Said differently...

That is to say...

Simply put,...

Simply put...

Namely...

To put it simply,...

Otherwise speaking...

To clarify,...

That is to say...

Put the matter another way...

Basically,...

Put another way...

Alternative Ways to say "Good Luck"

Best of luck!

Be careful.

Use your head.

Let me know how it went.

I hope things turn out fine.

Blow them a way!

Break a leg!

Blow them away.

Finger crossed!

I hope it all goes well!

You'll do great!

You'll do great.

Knock 'em dead.

Alternative Ways to say "Happy Birthday!"

I wish you a wonderful birthday!

I wish you a wonderful birthday.

May your birthday be filled with laughter!

Many more happy returns!

Many happy returns!

Have a fabulous birthday!

I wish you all the best on your special day.

Have a great one!

All the best!

Alternative Ways to say "Good Night"

Sleep tight!

Nighty night!

Sleep well

Sweet dreams!

Night, night!

Don't let the bed bugs bite!

Alternative Ways to say "I Like It"

I'm crazy about it

I'm attached to

I'm fond of it.

I'm keen on it.

I can't get enough of

It appeals to me.

I'm really into it!

i've grown to like it

I've got a soft spot for

I'm addicted to

I'm partial to it.

Alternative Ways to say "I don't Like It"

I pass.

That's not for me.

I'm not fond of it.

i've had enough.

I'm not into it.

I dislike it.

I'm not a big fan of it.

I don't appreciate that.

Alternative Ways to say "Hurry Up"

Move it

Get a move on

Chop-chop

Shake a leg

Get cracking

Come on

Let's pick up the pace

Alternative Ways to say "I'm Tired"

I'm dead-tired

I'm beat

I'm bushed

I'm worn out

I'm spent

I'm whacked

I'm exhausted

I'm dog tired

Alternative Phrases For I Agree

I could not have said it any better

That just what I was thinking

You're on the right

So do I

I feel that way too

Alternative Ways to say Angry

Infuriated

Pissed off

Outraged

Irritated

Upset

Alternative Phrases For I Understand

That's clear

I take your point

Ok, I get it now

Got it

That makes sense

Alternative Ways to say Excellent

Fantastic

Amazing

Wonderful

Splendid

Tremendous

Alternative Phrases For Hello

Long time, no see

How are things?

Look who it is!

Nice to see you again

Hey there?

Alternative Ways to say Happy

Over the moon

Satisfied

Jovial

Cheerful

On cloud nine

Alternative Phrases For A Good Job

That's incredible

Wow!

That's it exactly.

Now you have got it

What a brainwave.

Alternative Ways to say Hurry Up

Let's pick up the pace

Shake a leg

Chop-chop

Get cracking

Get a move on!

Alternative Ways to say I Am Tired

I'm beat

I'm whacked

I'm dog tired

I'm dead tired

I'm spent

Alternative Ways to say I Like It

Great Work

I am really into it!

I'm crazy about it

I'm keen on it

I'm fond of it

It appeals to me

Alternative Ways to say I Don't Like It

I pass

That's not for me

I'm not into it

i've had enough

I dislike it

Alternative Ways to say Important

Significant

Meaningful

Eventful

Substantial

Momentous

Alternative Ways to say Peaceful

Restful

Chill

Tranquil

Quiet

Calm

Alternative Ways to say Powerful

Dominant

Strong

Influential

Mighty

Helpful

Alternative Ways to say Helpful

Advantageous

Useful

Beneficial

Cooperative

Charitable

Alternative Ways to say Dangerous

Unsafe

Perilous

Hazardous

Risky

Precarious

Alternative Ways to say Said

Called

Responded

Demanded

Asked

Exclaimed

Alternative Ways to say Walked

Lumbered

Shuffled

Ambled

Traveled

Staggered

Alternative Ways to say Sad

Downcast

Depressed

Woeful

Crestfallen

Gloomy

Alternative Ways to say Little

Slight

Petite

Minute

Wee

Miniature

Alternative Ways to say Big

Massive

Immense

Towering

Colossal

Giant

Alternative Ways to say Laughed

Howled
Bellowed
Giggled
Cackled
Chortled

Alternative Ways to say Saw

Spotted
Glimpsed
Stared at
Gazed at
Noticed

Alternative Ways to say Pretty

Glamorous
Beautiful
Lovely
Elegant
Attractive

Alternative Ways to say Nice

Cordial
Congenial
Decent
Agreeable
Gracious

Alternative Ways to say Ran

Hurried
Trotted
Dashed

Galloped

Raced

Alternative Ways to say For Example

For Instance
Like
VIZ
Specifically
Inter Alia

Alternative Ways to say I Love You

I care about you.
I've fallen for you
I've got feelings for you.
I'm in love with you.
I'm crazy about you.

10 Alternative Ways to say Hello & Goodbye

Bye
Have a good one
(informal) Hey
(informal) See ya later
Hi
Hi there
Take care
Hello
Bye-bye
(informal) Howdy

9 Ways to Ask How Someone Is

How are you?
What's new?
How are things?
What's up?
How's it going?
How have you been?
How's life?
How ya doin' ?
How's your family?

10 Alternative Ways to Answer How You Are

Couldn't be better!
Could be better
Pretty good
Not so great
Not bad
Great!
Same as always
I'm fine, thanks. How about you?
I've been busy
Can't complain

9 Alternative Ways to say Thank You

Thanks
I can't thank you enough
Thank you so much
That's so kind of you
I owe you one
I really appreciate it
I'm really grateful
Thanks a million!

Thanks a lot

10 Ways to Respond to "Thank You"

You're welcome
Anytime
Don't mention it
It was the least I could do
Sure!
Thank you
No problem
Glad to help
My pleasure
No worries

5 Phrases for Apologizing

I'm sorry that...
Oops, sorry
I should have...
It's my fault
(formal) I apologize for...

5 Ways to Respond to an Apology

Don't worry about it
I forgive you

That's OK
No problem
It happens

9 Phrases for Introductions

I'd like to introduce you to...
This is...
Nice to meet you
Have you met... ?

I'd like you to meet...

And you

Likewise

I just wanted to introduce myself

It's a pleasure to meet you

6 Ways to Show Interest

Really?

That's interesting

Gotcha

Right

Uh-huh

Sure

5 Ways to End a Conversation Politely

I'm sorry to cut you off, but I actually gotta run

Well, it's getting late

Anyway, I should get going

It was nice chatting with you

Sorry, but I'm afraid I need to...

9 Phrases for Telephone Calls

Could you ask him to call me back?

Thanks for calling

May I speak with John Smith?

Hi, this is Jane

I'm returning your call

Hang on a sec

Is John there?

I'm calling about...

One moment, please

10 Phrases for Asking for Information

I don't suppose you (would) know

Do you know

Do you have any idea

Could you tell me

Can you tell me

I was wondering...

I'd like to know

Would you happen to know

I'm calling to find out...

Could anyone tell me

5 Alternative Ways to say "I don't know"

I'm not really sure

I've been wondering that, too

I have no idea/clue

Beats me

I can't help you there

5 Phrases for Not Having an Opinion

I've never given it much thought

I have no opinion on the matter

Whatever

I don't have strong feelings either way

It doesn't make any difference to me

9 Phrases for Agreeing

I couldn't agree with you more

That's for sure

I suppose so

Exactly

That's so true

Absolutely

I'll say!

Tell me about it! / You're telling me!

I agree 100%

10 Phrases for Disagreeing

I totally disagree

I don't think so

I'm not so sure about that

I beg to differ

On the contrary

Not necessarily

Yes, but...

I'm afraid I don't agree

That's not how I see it

No way!

5 Phrases for Responding to Good News

How wonderful!

That's great!

Awesome!

I'm so happy for you!

Congratulations!

5 Phrases for Responding to Bad News

Poor you

I'm so sorry to hear that

I'm sorry for your loss

That's terrible

Oh no...

9 Phrases for Invitations

Would you like to...

I'd love to!

Do you wanna...

Are you doing anything...

I don't think I can

Let me check my calendar

Maybe another time

Are you free...

Sounds great!

5 Ways to Make & Respond to an Offer

That'd be great, thanks

Would you like a drink?

No, thanks

Can I get you something to eat?

Do you want some water?

6 Phrases for Talking About Future Plans

I'd like to...

I'm planning to...

I'm going to...

I hope to...

I might... / I may...

I'm thinking about...

10 Ways to Talk about Likes & Dislikes

I love... [cricket]

I don't really care for...

[Cricket] is my thing

[Modern art] isn't my cup of tea

I can't stand...

I'm crazy about... [soccer]

I'm really into... [cricket]

I live for... [cricket]

I'm not into...

I'm not a huge fan of...

5 Ways to Make a Suggestion

Why don't you...

I'd recommend...

Maybe we should...

How about...

Have you thought about...

8 Phrases for Asking/Talking about Jobs

I'm a stay-at-home mom/dad

I'm looking for work

I run my own business

I'm a/an...

I'm retired

I work at...

Where do you work?

I'm a freelance...

10 Phrases for Describing Relationships

I'm married

I'm divorced

We're engaged

I'm not looking for anything serious

I'm single

I'm not quite over my ex

I'm widowed

I've been married for...

We're getting married in June

I have a boyfriend/girlfriend

5 Ways to Ask for Clarification

Would you mind repeating that?

What do you mean?

Could you explain... ?

I'm not sure I follow you

Pardon?

5 Ways to Check if the Other Person Understands You

Is that clear?

Do you understand what I'm saying?

Are you with me so far?

Does that make sense?

Do you know what I mean?

5 Ways to Ask for Help

I need a little help

Could you give me a hand?

Could you do me a favor?

Could you spare a couple minutes?

Could you help me out?

5 Ways to Ask Someone Else to Do Something

Could you please...

Would you mind...

Can you...

Please...

I'd appreciate it if you could...

5 Ways to Interrupt Someone

Sorry to interrupt, but...

Could I jump in here?

May I have a word?

Excuse me – do you have a minute?

Sorry – I just want to say that...

10 Ways to Encourage Someone

You're on the right track

That was a nice try

That's a real improvement

Give it your best shot

You've almost got it

Don't give up! / Hang in there!

Nice job! / You did great!

Keep up the good work!

You can do it!

You're doing great

5 Phrases for Complaining

I'm not very satisfied with

I can't stand it when...

This sucks

I'm not happy about this

I'm sorry, but this is unacceptable

7 Phrases for Remembering, Reminding, & Forgetting

It's on the tip of my tongue

It doesn't ring a bell

I'd like to remind you about...

It completely slipped my mind!

I'll always remember... / I'll never forget...

My mind went blank

I have a vague recollection of...

10 Phrases for Saying Something is Easy & Difficult

There's nothing to it

It's a bit tricky

It's very demanding

Anyone can do it

It's a piece of cake

It's not a walk in the park

It's hard

It's really tough

It's a breeze

It's a cinch

10 Phrases for Talking about Food

Could we get the check, please?

This soup is delicious!

I'm full

I'm stuffed

I'm starving!

Could I have another helping of...?

Let's grab a bite to eat

I'll have...

I brought some snacks

How about eating out tonight?

10 Phrases for Talking About TV

It's the season finale!

Stop channel-surfing

There are too many commercials

Check the TV guide

I've already seen this episode

Is there anything good on?

This is a rerun

I love this show!

Where's the remote?

Can I change the channel?

10 Ways to Talk About Price

That's quite reasonable

I can't afford it

That's a good deal

It cost a fortune

It was a real bargain

That's a rip-off

It's 20% off

That's a bit pricey

It was dirt cheap

It cost an arm and a leg

5 Phrases for Hot Weather

It's hot and humid

We're having a real heatwave

The sun's really strong today

It's nice and warm today

It's absolutely boiling!

5 Phrases for Cold Weather

It's a little chilly

Make sure to bundle up

We're expecting some winter weather

The temperature's dropping

It's freezing

5 Phrases for Talking about Rain

It's raining cats and dogs

It's pouring

I think the rain's letting up

I got caught in a downpour

It's drizzling

9 Alternative Ways to say You're Tired

I'm beat

I can hardly keep my eyes open

I'm off to bed

I'm gonna hit the sack

I'm dead tired

I'm pooped

I'm exhausted

It's bedtime for me

I'm spent

5 Phrases for Promises & Resolutions

Come hell or high water, I'll...

I swear I'll / I won't...

I promise that I'll...

No matter what happens, I'm going to...

I really should...

10 Excuses for Being Late

The traffic was terrible

My alarm didn't go off

I just lost track of time

Sorry I'm late

I was tied up in a meeting

I couldn't find a parking spot

The bus was late

I got lost coming here

I overslept

I had to wait ages for a bus

5 Alternative Ways to say Someone is Correct

That's right

That's spot on

I'm afraid you're right

I suppose so

You've hit the nail on the head/ You've nailed it

5 Alternative Ways to say Someone is Wrong

I'm afraid you're mistaken

No, that's all wrong

I'm afraid that's not quite right

No, you've got it wrong

Baloney/ Bullshit

5 Alternative Ways to say Someone is Smart

She's brilliant

He's a smart cookie

He's very bright

She's a genius

He's really sharp

5 Alternative Ways to say Someone is Stupid

She's a few cards short of a deck

He's a bit slow

He's really dumb

He's not the sharpest tool in the shed

She's a complete idiot

10 Ways to Avoid Answering a Question

I'm sorry, that's personal

I'm sorry, that's confidential

Why do you want to know?

Mind your own business

I'd rather not talk about it

Wait and see

No comment

I'm not at liberty to say

It's none of your business

Let me get back to you

15 Phrases for Being Rich & Poor

He's broke

He makes minimum wage

She inherited a fortune

She's raking in the cash

She's making a killing

He's short on cash

She's very wealthy

He's pinching pennies

She's loaded

His bank account is overdrawn

He's scrimping and saving

She's filthy rich

She's rolling in dough

He's just scraping by

She's quite well-off

10 Phrases for Estimating & Guessing

If I had to take a guess, I'd say...

There's a good chance...

It's about...

Off the top of my head, I'd say...

I wouldn't be surprised if...

It's around...

I have a feeling/hunch...

I bet...

Your guess is as good as mine

It's difficult to say, but I think...

9 Phrases for Decisions

I'm debating between...

It's up to you

I'm having second thoughts

He convinced/persuaded me to...

I'm on the fence

On the other hand...

I can't make up my mind

I changed my mind

I'll take that into consideration

10 Phrases for Good Luck & Bad Luck

No such luck

What rotten luck!

Lucky you!

As luck would have it...

Some people have all the luck

Better luck next time

That was a stroke of luck

Just my luck!

He's down on his luck

Good luck!

8 Phrases for Worries & Relief

Whew!

What a relief!

It's been keeping me up at night

You have no idea what a relief it is

I'm scared that...

I can't help thinking that...

Thank goodness!

What if...?

10 Phrases for Compliments

You have a beautiful home

You're a fantastic cook

I like your...

What a beautiful...

You look nice / You look amazing!

What a nice apartment!

He's/She's so cute!

My compliments to the chef!

Your kids are a lot of fun

The lasagna is delicious

10 Phrases for Cheering Someone Up

It's not so bad

Is there anything I can do to help?

You look a bit down

Everything will be OK

Cheer up! / Chin up!

What's the matter?

What's wrong?

Are you all right?

Look on the bright side

It's not the end of the world

He's a bastard

7 Phrases for Disappointment

Bummer

What a pity!

How disappointing

That's too bad

What a shame

It didn't live up to my expectations

It was a real letdown

9 Alternative Ways to say You Don't Believe Someone

He's stretching the truth

You're pulling my leg

His story is fishy

You're kidding

He's not telling the whole truth

That's a pack of lies

That's a bit of an exaggeration

That's an outright lie

Yeah, right

10 Expressions for Bad People

He's a scumbag

He's a pervert

He's a sicko

He's a jerk

She's a psycho

She's a slut

He's an asshole

He's a creep

She's a bitch

10 Words for Describing Speaking

I whispered

My kids whined

She screamed

He mumbled

She stammered

I snapped at my husband

He rambled/ He went on and on

We chatted

He yelled

He muttered

6 Phrases for Facial Expressions

The kids were smiling from ear to ear

Why the long face?

He looked puzzled

She grinned

She blushed

She was beaming