

PRACTICAL ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONALS

LESSON 30 ANSWERS

COLLOQUIAL EXPRESSIONS

1. *(A) penny for your thoughts: ¿En qué piensas?*

Said when you want to know what another person is thinking, usually because they have been quiet for a while.

2. *To add insult to injury: Para colmo de males.*

To make a bad situation worse; to hurt the feelings of a person who has already been hurt.

3. *Once in a blue moon: Muy rara vez / de Pascuas a Ramos.*

Rarely; very seldom; once in a very long time.

4. *To hear something on/through the grapevine: Oír rumores.*

To hear news from someone who heard the news from someone else.

5. *To be on the ball: Estar al loro, alerta.*

Paying attention; alert.

6. *To cut corners: Tomar atajos / Reducir gastos.*

To reduce costs, time or effort in carrying something out by leaving out certain steps.

7. *To cost an arm and a leg: Costar un ojo de la cara / un riñón / un huevo.*

To be very expensive

8. *The final/last straw: La gota que colma el vaso.*

The last in a series of unpleasant events which finally makes you feel that you cannot continue to accept a bad situation.

9. *To take something with a pinch/grain of salt: Tomar algo con cautela / con pinzas.*

To view something with scepticism, or not to take it literally.

10. *To be/feel under the weather: No sentirse bien; estar pocho, fastidiado, resfriado.*

To feel ill.