

Expresiones del /
INGLÉS

a m e r i c a n o

inglés-español/español-inglés

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Edgar Willian Jurado Soto



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Introducción

*E*xpresiones del inglés americano inglés-español/español-inglés ha sido diseñado para estudiantes y profesores de inglés como lengua extranjera –ILE– o como segunda lengua –ISL–, y consiste en una lista no exhaustiva de expresiones del inglés americano.

Al concebir este libro, partimos de la idea de que para mejorar la competencia comunicativa en inglés es necesario conocer un conjunto grande de expresiones, cuyos significados se entienden de mejor manera en el contexto de situaciones particulares de la cultura americana en general.

Este libro brinda a los estudiantes y profesores de inglés una oportunidad excepcional para adentrarse en el mundo de las expresiones de uso común del inglés americano, tanto para el aprendizaje como para la enseñanza de ILE o ISL. Asimismo, ofrece a sus lectores la posibilidad de explorar un conjunto amplio de expresiones del inglés formales e informales de uso diario de hablantes nativos del inglés americano en una variedad de situaciones y contextos.

Los lectores encontrarán en este libro el significado en español para cada expresión, junto con ejemplos de oraciones en inglés como modelos para que estructuren sus propias construcciones a partir de ellas. También se ofrecen ilustraciones que refuerzan la comprensión de algunas de las expresiones presentadas.

Los usuarios pueden utilizar este libro como:

- Una referencia rápida, debido a su organización alfabética inglés-español/español-inglés, para que el usuario encuentre fácilmente las palabras y expresiones de interés.
- Un texto para el aprendizaje y la enseñanza por medio de ejemplos que permiten al usuario entender cómo los hablantes de inglés usan expresiones en este idioma en la comunicación diaria.
- Un texto de referencia para el docente interesado en promover el aprendizaje de la lengua, a través de expresiones de inglés de uso común.

Inglés-español

a **bad omen**: una mala señal, mal agüero.

*Some people may say a black cat is a **bad omen**.*

a **ban on**: prohibición de.

*There's a **ban on** running in the halls for safety reasons.*



a **big mistake**: un grave error.

*I know skipping breakfast is a **big mistake**, but I'm too busy.*

a **big plus**: una ventaja.

*Knowledge of a second language is a **big plus**!*

a **bigger reason**: una razón más importante.

*There's a **bigger reason** for worrying about our health.*

a **bomb went off**: una bomba explotó.

*A **bomb went off** in a church.*



a **book by**: un libro de (autor)

*I'm reading a **book by**
William Faulkner.*

a **car crash**: un accidente de auto.

*A woman died in **a car crash**.*

a **career in**: una carrera de.

*My father wants me to consider **a career in** medicine.*

a **choice to make**: una decisión que tomar.

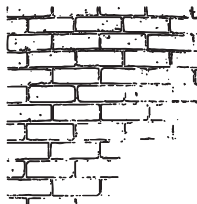
*Each human being has **a choice to make** about which road to take.*

a **close call**: estuvo cerca de que ocurriera algo malo.

*It was **a close call**, but I avoided hitting the woman with my bike.*

a **couple of**: un par de.

*It takes only **a couple of** minutes to strap a baby into a safety seat.*



a **dead end**: callejón sin salida.

*I think we've come to **a dead end**.*

a **flight from**___ **to**___: un vuelo desde___ hasta___.

***A flight from** London to Amsterdam takes just 30 minutes.*

a **gut feeling**: intuición.

—Why didn't you travel?

—*I had **a gut feeling** that I shouldn't go.*

a **handful of**: un puñado de.

*She gave me **a handful of** coins.*

a **little bit**: un poquito, un poco.

*I prefer **a little bit** more sugar in my coffee.*

a little messy: un poco confuso.

*It may be **a little messy** to control everything with a single device.*

a living legend: una leyenda viviente.

*Mick Jagger is **a living legend**.*

a long way: un largo camino.

*The school is **a long way** from my house.*

a lot of: mucho/a, muchos/as.

*I had **a lot of** problems.*

a nice gesture: un bonito gesto.

*It'd be **a nice gesture** if we could give him some books.*

a pain in the neck: un fastidio.

*My coworker can be **a pain in the neck**.*

a panic attack: ataque de pánico.

*Stressful situations may trigger **a panic attack**.*

a pinch of: una pizca de.

*Add **a pinch of** pepper and leave to cook for half an hour.*

a poor excuse: un mal pretexto.

*She gave us **a poor excuse** for her absence.*

a solid background in: una formación sólida en.

*She doesn't have **a solid background in** business, but she has a company.*



a sticky situation: situación complicada.

*What would you do if you were in **a sticky situation**?*

a **Sunday driver**: una persona que conduce muy lentamente.

*She's a **Sunday driver**, so we must wait a bit longer.*

a **tiny mistake**: un pequeño error.

*I've made a **tiny mistake**.*

a **waste of money**: derroche.

*Some types of insurances are often a **waste of money**.*

a **wide variety of**: una gran variedad de.

*Our system allows our customers to solve a **wide variety of problems**.*

above all: sobre todo.

*She's kind and beautiful, and **above all**, she's smart!*

abridged version of: versión abreviada de.

*An **abridged version of my book** is ready.*

according to: de acuerdo con.

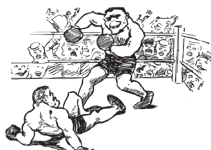
***According to my mother**, eating too much sugar is not healthy.*

act out: actuar, representar, simular.

*The teachers encouraged us to **act out** the stories we were reading.*

add up (to): sumar.

*A few minor changes can **add up to big savings**.*



admit defeat: admitir la derrota.

*You need to **admit defeat**.*

after all: después de todo.

*The problem wasn't difficult to solve **after all**.*

again and again: una y otra vez.

*The new employee has proved his value **again and again**.*

against all expectations: contra toda previsión.

***Against all expectations**, he gave the money back.*

against my principles: en contra de mis principios.

*Don't tell me to act **against my principles**.*

against the law: contra la ley, ilegal.

*Abortion is **against the law** in many countries.*

against the rules: en contra de las reglas.

*Don't try to make a move that is **against the rules**.*

agree to: decir que sí, decidir algo con alguien más.

*Mary **agreed to** marry him.*

agree with: estar de acuerdo con.

*I may not **agree with** what you say.*



all I need is: todo lo que necesito es.

All I need is you!

all I'm saying is: solo estoy diciendo que.

***All I'm saying is** you should have a positive attitude towards life.*

all night: toda la noche.

*I've been thinking **all night** about this idea.*

all of a sudden: repentinamente.

***All of a sudden**, the teacher was interrupted by his students.*

all over: en todo lugar, por toda parte.

*We looked **all over** for those keys.*

all the same: de todos modos.

*It rained **all afternoon**, but we had a good time **all the same**.*

all too much: demasiado.

*Maybe this price is **all too much** for me.*

all year round: todo el año.

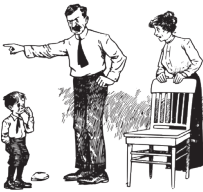
*We work office hours **all year round**.*

an aptitude for: capacidad para.

*You've developed **an aptitude** for self-criticism.*

angry about: enojado/a por.

*She was **angry about** something, but she didn't want to tell us.*



angry with/angry at: enojado/a con.

*My parents are both **angry at** me.
My parents are both **angry with** me.*

answer a question: responder una pregunta.

*If you cannot **answer a question** when taking an exam, just leave a gap.*

answer the door: abrir la puerta.

*Please **answer the door**.*

answer the phone: contestar el teléfono.

*They just need to **answer the phone** to join the conference.*

any last-minute questions?: ¿alguna pregunta de último minuto?
Any last-minute questions before we begin a new topic?



anything else: algo más.
Would you like anything else?

apart from: excepto por, además de.
*I like all fruits **apart from** oranges.*
***Apart from** English, I also speak French.*

apparent that: es evidente que.
*It's **apparent that** we're witnessing the formation of new social interchanges.*

application form: solicitud.
*The **application form** is available in PDF format.*

apply for: solicitar, aplicar.
*You should **apply for** that job.*



are you kidding?: ¿estás bromeando?
—*I'd like to live here.*
—***Are you kidding?***

are you thinking what I'm thinking?: ¿estás pensando lo mismo que yo?
—***Are you thinking what I'm thinking?***
—*No, I'm not.*

argue about: discutir por.

*Why do we need to **argue about** money?*

arguments for and against: discusiones a favor y en contra.

*What are the **arguments for and against** abortion?*

arm in arm: de brazo.

*They walked **arm in arm** when they were friends.*

around the corner: a la vuelta de la esquina.

*There's a bar just **around the corner**.*

arrive at: llegar a un lugar específico.

*When did he **arrive at** the office?*

arrive in: llegar a una ciudad o a un país.

*What time did the bus **arrive in** Buenos Aires?*

as a consequence: como consecuencia.

*People are losing their jobs **as a consequence** of the recession.*

as a matter of fact: de hecho, en realidad.

*This book, **as a matter of fact**, is a great way to improve your English.*



as a result: como resultado.

*He died **as a result of** a wrong decision.*

as far as I am concerned: en mi opinión.

***As far as I am concerned**, they don't work together.*

as if by magic: como por arte de magia.

*The rain stopped **as if by magic**.*

as if: como si.

*We cannot continue **as if** nothing was wrong.*

as long as: mientras, siempre que.

*I'll succeed **as long as** I stick to my goals.*

as soon as possible: tan pronto como sea posible.

*We'll address this matter **as soon as possible**.*

as soon as: tan pronto como.

*We wrote our proposal **as soon as** we got the results of the survey.*

as well as: así como.

*She brought fruits **as well as** milk for everyone.*

ask around: preguntar a varias personas.

*Ask **around** to find out if there're some places to avoid in your city.*

ask questions: hacer preguntas.

*I never hesitate to **ask questions** when I don't understand something.*

ask somebody out: invitar a salir a alguien.

*He **asked her out** on a date.*



associated with: asociado con.

*Your anxiety can be **associated with** depression.*

at a speed of: a una velocidad de.

*That device traveled **at a speed of** about 5.8 kilometers per second.*

at all costs: a toda costa.

*Search for your wellbeing **at all costs**.*

at all: de ninguna manera.

*I didn't enjoy that party **at all**.*

at best: en el mejor de los casos.

***At best**, they'll get back 20% of their money.*



at first sight: a primera vista.

***At first sight**, your cat
seemed friendly.*

at first: al comienzo.

***At first**, she didn't like him.*

at high speed: a alta velocidad.

*The man lost control of the vehicle **at high speed**.*

at its peak: en su punto más alto.

*Poverty is **at its peak** in that country.*

at last: al fin, finalmente.

***At last**, some news about our parents arrived.*

at midnight: a medianoche.

*Our last chance will end **at midnight**.*

at night: por la noche.

*There was music until late **at night**.*

at random: al azar.

*These e-mails were sent **at random**.*



at risk: en riesgo.

*Are giant pandas still **at risk** of extinction?*

at some point: en algún punto.

*At **some point**, she'll realize the magnitude of her mistake.*

at that point: en ese momento.

*At **that point**, we recognized we had a serious problem.*

at that price: en ese precio.

*I'm not buying this old car **at that price**.*

at the age of: a la edad de.

*At **the age of** only 17, she had a beautiful daughter.*

at the back of: en la parte posterior de.

*The transcripts are **at the back of** the textbook.*

at the bar: en la barra.

*She was **at the bar** when I saw her.*

at the bottom of: en el fondo de, al pie de.

*Locate the numbers **at the bottom of** the page.*

at the cost of: a costa de.

*She wanted to escape **at the cost of** her own life.*

at the door: en la puerta.

*There is someone **at the door**.*

at the foot of: al pie de.

*We were **at the foot of** the mountain.*

at the latest: a más tardar.

*We must finish this project tomorrow **at the latest**.*

at the scene of: en la escena de, en el lugar de.

*They didn't know how to communicate **at the scene of the accident**.*

at the time: en esa época, en este tiempo.

*I studied law; I was 23 **at the time**.*

at this stage: en este momento, en esta etapa.

***At this stage**, the outcome of the legal process is uncertain.*

ATM card: tarjeta para usar en cajeros automáticos.

*You can request an **ATM card** that can be used for withdrawals.*

attitude toward: actitud hacia.

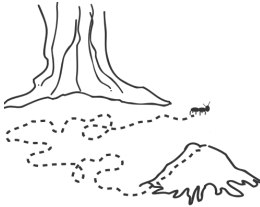
*What's your **attitude toward** education?*



attract attention: atraer la atención.

*The newspaper headlines **attracted my attention**.*

bachelor's degree: licenciatura.
*Martha has a **bachelor's degree**.*



back and forth: de un lado para otro, de acá para allá.
*The ant moved **back and forth** between the anthills.*

back at you: lo mismo.
 —*Take good care of yourself!*
 —*Back at you!*

back out: retractarse, cambiar de opinión.
*She's not coming to the party; she **backed out**.*

back to normal: volver a la normalidad.
*One year after the tragedy, life got **back to normal**.*

back up: retroceder, apoyar a alguien, respaldar.
*Be careful; that car's **backing up**.*
*Thanks for **backing me up**.*
*You need to **back up** your allegations.*

background information: antecedentes.
*They provided useful **background information** on the project.*



bad at: malo para.
*She used to be **bad at** tennis.*

bad for: malo para.
*Drinking alcohol is **bad for** you.*

bad manners: de mala educación.
*It's **bad manners** to take food off someone else's plate.*

bail on someone: cancelar algo en último momento.
*Why do you always **bail on** me?*

balanced diet: dieta balanceada, alimentación equilibrada.
*A **balanced diet** is important for good health.*

bamboo shoots: brotes de bambú.
***Bamboo shoots** are low in calories and rich in fiber.*

bank account: cuenta bancaria.
*The money was paid directly into your **bank account**.*



barbed wire: alambre de púas.
*A single strand of **barbed wire** is hard to see.*

bare feet: pies descalzos.
*Never strength train in **bare feet**.*



bark at: ladrar a.
My dog only barks at strangers.

barred from: quedar excluido de, prohibición de.
*Those scientists were **barred from** all access to scientific information.*

based on: basado en.
*This book is **based on** true events.*

battle against: lucha contra.
*Human rights need to be respected in the **battle against** terrorism.*



be a dump: estar muy sucio a (refiriéndose a un lugar).
*That place is **a dump**, don't go there!*

be a pushover: ser fácil de convencer, fácil de influenciar.
*Be understanding of your children, but don't **be a pushover**.*

be able to: ser capaz de, poder.
*She was not **able to** help her sister.*

be about to: estar a punto de.
*Pedro is **about to** buy a house.*

be above reproach: ser irrepachable.

They think they're above reproach.

be afraid: siento que, me temo que.

I'm afraid I can't study with you today.

be away: estar ausente.

We're away on winter break; please call back after February 1st.



be back: regresar.

I'll be back.

be better off: estar mejor.

You might be better off taking a long walk each day.

be broke: estar en la quiebra, no tener dinero.

She'll have to sell her new car; she's broke.

be burning up: tener fiebre alta.

You're burning up; you should stay home today and get some rest.

be careful: tener cuidado.

Be careful not to get lost in this neighborhood.

be down with an illness: estar enfermo.

Sorry, I couldn't come last night. I was down with the flu.

be engaging: mantener interesado en.

This book is engaging.

be full of oneself: ser demasiado orgulloso/a, egocéntrico/a.

She's too full of herself. I don't like her anymore.