

C1/C2 Killer Expressions by Topic

Science & Technology

1. State-of-the-art technology
2. Cutting-edge technology
3. User-friendly
4. A handy gadget
5. Recent technological advances
6. A game-changer
7. A quantum leap forward
8. A scientific breakthrough
9. Household appliances
10. The house has all mod-cons
11. Big data
12. Social media giants
13. The system goes down
14. My computer is playing up/on the blink
15. A computer whizzkid
16. Upload/download
17. Post photos on social media
18. Live in a social media bubble
19. Live in an echo chamber

The Future

1. With any luck, I will probably...
2. I have a burning ambition to...
3. I've always dreamed of... so I expect I will...
4. I haven't made up my mind yet but I'm leaning towards studying...
5. I'm torn between studying... and
6. In all likelihood I'll study.../work in...
7. I see myself working in the field of...
8. If everything goes to plan in 5 years, I'll be...
9. I've got it all mapped out; first I'm going to... then...
10. I have absolutely no clue what I'm going to do tomorrow let alone in 5 years.
11. I have always had aspirations to go into the field of...
12. I expect I'll follow in my Mum/Dad's footsteps.

Friends & Relationships

1. My best friend and I have been through thick and thin together.
2. My best friend is such a good laugh.
3. My best friend and I are like brothers/sisters from another mother.
4. I can always turn to my friend for advice or help.
5. My best friend always stands up for me in an argument or fight.
6. I know that my best friend has got my back if there's any trouble.
7. If I tell my friend a secret, I know that their lips are sealed. They would never spill the beans.
8. My best friend is definitely not a fair-weather friend.
9. My best friend and I are lifelong friends.
10. My best friend from primary school and I have drifted apart.
11. My best friend and I are joined at the hip.
12. I often crash at my friend's house at the weekend.
13. Don't judge a book by its cover.
14. I'm always falling out with my best friend but we usually make up.

Family

1. I'm the youngest of 4 siblings.
2. I squabble with my sister sometimes.
3. You know what they say, blood is thicker than water.
4. It's like they always say, you can't choose your family.
5. My sister and I are like chalk and cheese, we couldn't be more different.
6. My brother on the other hand, we're like two peas in a pod.
7. My uncle is the black sheep of the family.
8. People always tell me that I'm the spitting image of my grandma when she was my age.
9. I'm actually named after my great-great grandad.
10. Ginger hair runs in my family.
11. My mum is the main breadwinner in our family. She's the one who brings home the bacon.
12. Personality-wise I definitely take after my mum but my looks are all my dad.

The Environment

1. Factory farming
2. GM crops
3. Cut fossil fuel emissions
4. Emit harmful greenhouse gases
5. Smog
6. The hole in the ozone layer
7. Reduce one's carbon footprint
8. Do our bit to save the planet.
9. Raise awareness of the effects of climate change.
10. Cut down on meat.
11. Have a detrimental effect on the planet
12. Take urgent action to
13. Switch to renewable energy sources
14. Stand up for endangered species
15. Take responsibility for our actions
16. Strive to be more energy-efficient/greener
17. Reduce, reuse, recycle

Free Time & Hobbies

1. I'm keen on/fond of ...ing
2. I'm a big fan of ...ing
3. I'm really into ...ing
4. I'm hooked on (Netflix series)
5. I'm a keen/avid:
 - a. Runner
 - b. Gamer
 - c. Swimmer
 - d. etc.
6. I'm a bit of a/an:
 - a. Film buff
 - b. Art buff
 - c. Geek
 - d. Foodie
 - e. Bookworm
 - f. Gym bunny
 - g. Couch potato
 - h. Adrenaline junkie
7. I'm quite sporty.
8. Take up a new hobby
9. There's nothing I like more than to...
10. I tend to spend my free timeing
11. Be at one with nature

12. Get some fresh air
13. Escape the hustle and bustle of the city
14. Escape the daily grind/rat-race
15. To unwind/let off some steam
16. Get out of the house at the weekend
17. One of my guilty pleasures is to....
18. Go out with my friends and let my hair down

Fame & Celebrities

1. Be in the spotlight/limelight
2. Be in the public eye
3. Be a role model
4. Set a good/bad example
5. Look up to someone
6. Use their platform
7. Have a positive influence on
8. Lead a glamorous lifestyle
9. It's not all a bed of roses
10. A double-edged sword
11. Be under constant scrutiny
12. Claim to fame
13. Get a big break
14. Make a name for yourself
15. Let the fame go to your head
16. Rise to fame
17. Your 15 minutes of fame
18. Fall from grace
19. Keep your feet on the ground
20. Go off the rails

Jobs & Professions

1. Work a 9-5 job.
2. A desk job
3. A dead-end job
4. Have good career prospects
5. Get promoted
6. Get sacked/fired
7. Be laid off/made redundant
8. Make a good first impression
9. Work one's fingers to the bone
10. A well-paid job
11. Climb the career ladder
12. Get a foot in the door
13. Be stuck in a rut
14. An up-and-coming (photographer/actor/etc.) promising
15. Have one's hands full/have a lot on one's plate/be snowed under
16. Talk shop
17. Be unemployed/out of work/on the dole/on benefits/be between jobs
18. Be an intern/do an internship
19. maternity/paternity leave
20. The perks of the job
21. The glass ceiling
22. The gender pay gap
23. In charge of/responsible for
24. Be self-employed/freelance
25. Make/earn a living/make ends meet

Holidays & Travel

1. Mouth-watering food
2. Get the travel bug
3. Get itchy feet
4. Sit and watch the world go by
5. Get up at the crack of dawn
6. Catch some rays/soak up the sun/work on my suntan
7. Chill by the pool
8. Pack a lot in/have a full plate
9. See how the mood takes me/play it by ear
10. Live it up
11. Rough it
12. Travel light
13. Travel on a shoestring
14. Off the beaten track
15. Watch one's back
16. Feel right at home
17. Savour local delicacies
18. Really get a feel for a place

Emotions

- *Confused*: Be/feel perplexed/puzzled/baffled/bewildered | bɪ'wɪldəd |
- *Sad*: Be/feel blue/down/down in the dumps/down in the mouth
- *Tired/ill*: Be/feel under the weather/run down/out of sorts
- *Fit & healthy*: Be/feel in tip-top condition/on top of one's game/in the pink/full of beans
- *Stressed*: Be fed up/at the end of one's tether/stressed out/sick and tired of
- *Happy*: be elated/over the moon/on cloud nine/on top of the world/jumping for joy
- *Angry*: be spitting feathers/enraged/furious/irate/cross/in a huff
- *Nervous*: be on edge/edgy/agitated/apprehensive/tense

Things that annoy you:

1. A pet peeve/bugbear of mine is...
2. It really gets on my nerves when people....
3. It drives me up the wall when people....
4. It drives me round the bend when people....
5. It really gets my goat when people....
6. It really pisses me off when people....
7. I can't stand it when people....
8. It really rubs me up the wrong way when people...
9. It really stresses me out when people...
10. When people.... it's like a red rag to a bull for me.
11. When people.... it makes me tear my hair out.