



ENGLISH AT BREAK TIME

1.- DIALOGUE: Easier Said Than Done

Tom: **What's the matter?** You look upset.

Marco: I **give up!** I'll never learn the past tense of these verbs.

Tom: That's easy. Just add *ed* to make the past tense.

Marco: I mean the irregular verbs. You have to learn them **by heart**. The past of *go* is *went*. It's crazy!

Tom: Why don't you sleep with the grammar book under your pillow? Maybe that will help.

Marco: Don't **make fun of** me! This is serious. We're going to have a test next week.

Tom: I'm sorry. I'll help you **brush up on** those verbs.

2.- DIALOGUE Like Father, Like Son

George: What a wonderful baby! And he certainly **takes after** me, doesn't he?

Kate: Oh, yes. He doesn't look like me **at all**. He has your eyes, your chin, your. . . .

George: Uh-oh! He's going to cry again!

Kate: **Take it easy**, George. He's only yawning. Besides, you can't **go to pieces** every time the baby cries. Your mother told me you only stopped crying to eat.

George: You're right. I shouldn't be so nervous. We'll have to **take turns** watching him when you go back to work.

Kate: Now he really is crying. George: I guess he has my personality, too.

3.- DIALOGUE: Getting in Shape

Joe: Would you like to play volleyball with us this weekend?

Dave: I'd love to, but **I'm** really **out of shape**. I haven't exercised much all winter.

Joe: That's okay. None of us are professionals.

Dave: How often do you play?

Joe: Every other Saturday. **We'd rather** play more often, but it's difficult to find a time when everyone can **get together**.

Dave: What time do you begin?

Joe: At 9:00. I'll **look forward to** seeing you then.

PRACTICE WITH THESE IDIOMS

1. What poem or song did you learn **by heart** when you were a child? Do you still remember it?
2. What is something you should **give up** doing?
3. What are you going to **brush up on** this weekend?
4. Children are not very nice sometimes. Was there someone the children **made fun of** when you were a child? Why did they **make fun of** that person?
5. Your friend tells you his car is in the garage for repairs. How can you ask him what the problem is?
6. What do you like doing when you **take it easy**?
- 7 Who(m) do you **take after**? In what ways?
8. What are some things you don't do **at all**?
- 9 Describe a situation in which you **take (or took) turns** doing something with someone else.
10. Describe a situation in which you or someone you know **went to pieces**.
11. What do you usually do when you **get together** with your friends?
12. **Would you rather** go to Paris or to Rome on vacation? Why?
13. What are you **looking forward to**?
14. Your friend is overweight and gets tired easily. What's his problem? (Use **be out of shape**.) What should he do?
15. What's something you do **every other** day, week, or month?