

Dialog Week 3 – Some explanations

Brian James has no people skills. Just the way he talks, he really gets on my nerves

People skills – knowing how to talk to people without making them feel bad.

Gets on my nerves – annoys me, makes me angry

Linda Oh never mind him. He's under a lot of pressure at the moment.

Brian Yeah but you don't talk down to your employees like that!

Talk down to people – talk to people like they are children or stupid

Who does he think he's talking to? We're not slaves!

Linda Ah Brian, just don't let it get under your skin, just grin and bear it.

Get under your skin – annoy you

Grin – smile

Bear it – carry it, go through it, survive it

Brian I wish he were like you, you're a people person,

A people person – a person with people skills, a person who likes people

with you, it's like give and take, with him, it's like a one-way street.

A one way street – (He just takes and doesn't give)

Linda Just don't let it get to you. Keep your head down, do your work and go home.

Get to you – upset you, make you feel bad

Keep your head down – don't argue or complain – if you do, he will attack you (The source of the metaphor: A soldier should keep his head down in battle or he'll get shot)

Brian I don't know how you can put up with it though!

Put up with it – Bear it, Live with it

Linda I've been around for a while – I have a thick skin.

I have a thick skin – It's difficult to hurt my feelings

Brian I would have quit by now, but I really need the money.

I would have quit now – An imaginary past – If I didn't need the money, I would have quit.

Linda I know, we're all working our fingers to the bone just to make ends meet

Working our fingers to the bone – working very hard

To make ends meet – to make enough money to pay for our rent, bills, shopping, etc.

Brian Did you hear how Joe was kissing up to James in the meeting?

He's such a bootlicker!

I like Simon, he shoots from the hip. He always says the first thing that pops into his head!

Shoots from the hip – speaks without thinking about what to say – we usually think someone who shoots from the hip is more honest than a careful speaker. The metaphor comes from gun fighting

Says the first thing that pops into his head – says the first thing that he thinks – doesn't think carefully before he speaks.

Linda Yeah, I like Simon too.



a soldier keeping his head down



Kissing up, boot licking – Always praising everything the boss says and does. Trying to make the boss feel like a big

shooting from the hip



shooting carefully

The part of the body where you wear a belt (and keep a gun) is the "hip"