



AMERICAN COLLEGE SLANG

Going to college or university in the United States? Just want to learn how American college students speak these days? This lesson is for you!

Meeting a Roommate

Dan: Hi, I'm Dan. It's nice to meet you!

Tim: I'm Tianyuan. That's my Chinese name, but I **go by** Tim.

Dan: It's great to meet you, Tim.

Tim: I like the basketball poster you hung up. Are the Chicago Bulls your favorite team?

Dan: Yes, I'm a huge **fan!** I grew up **outside of** Chicago.

Tim: I'm a basketball fan too. My favorite team is the Los Angeles Lakers.

Dan: Yeah, they're pretty **sick!** Do you play, too?

Tim: **You bet!**

Dan: **Cool,** we **have that in common.** Maybe we can **round up** some **dormmates** and **shoot some hoops** later.

Tim: That would be very **cool!** Should we **shoot for** 4 o'clock?

Dan: Let's **play it by ear.** I've **got some stuff to take care of** right now, but I'll be back at the dorm around 2.

Tim: **Sounds good!**

SLANG and IDIOMS

(to) go by - to prefer to be called.

▶ His real name is Reginald, but he **goes by** his middle name, Alan.

fan - someone enthusiastic about something or someone, often a famous sports team, actor, or band.

▶ Alex is a **fan** of Maroon 5. He's seen them on tour several times.

outside of - near another city or town

▶ Angela grew up in Hoboken, **outside of** New York City.

sick - great; cool (in this case, it has nothing to do with your health!)

▶ That party last night was **sick!**

You bet! - Yes; definitely

▶ "Are you going to Dan's party tonight?" — "**You bet!** I wouldn't want to miss it!"

cool - a way to express delight or approval; great

▶ "After class today I'm going to pick up the new iPhone." — "**Cool.**"

(to) have in common - to share interests

▶ "Do you get along well with your roommate?" — "She's okay, but we don't **have much in common.**"

(to) round up - to gather; to bring a group of people together

▶ Let's **round up** some people and go out dancing tonight.

dormmates - people living in the same dorm

▶ By the end of September, I'd met nearly all my **dormmates.**

(to) shoot some hoops - to play basketball

▶ If you're free after dinner, come by the court. You can **shoot some hoops** with us.

(to) shoot for - to aim to do something at a certain time

▶ "What time do you want to head to the party?" — "Let's **shoot for** 9."

play it by ear - to wait and plan later; to see how things go and then decide

▶ "Are you guys going to the party after the game?" — "We haven't decided. We're **playing it by ear.**"

I've got some stuff to take care of - I need to do some errands (before doing something else; say this when you do not want to be specific about what you need to do)

▶ "Are you coming to the dorm party?" — "Probably not. **I've got some stuff to take care of.**"

Sounds good! - I agree; I like your plan

▶ "Should I pick you up at 7?" — "**Sounds good!**"

