

Catch Word #149 – Don't rock the boat

*The words and expressions that appear in **bold blue** text throughout this document are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanation section that follows the transcript.*

Transcript

Harp: Hello everyone. This is Harp.

Maura: And I'm Maura.

Harp: And we're here at Culips, bringing you another great episode.

Maura: That's right. And if you've never been to our website, what are you waiting for? It's Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P--S.com. And it's very important to visit our website. Why is that, Harp?

Harp: Because the website is where you can sign up and become a member. When you're a member, you have access to the Learning Materials, which include a complete transcript, detailed explanations, and a quiz for every episode that we have. And we have a lot of episodes.

Maura: We do have a lot. What is it? More than 200? Something like that?

Harp: I think it's closer to 300.

Maura: So, yeah. there's lots of stuff to check out. Especially if you've just recently started listening, there are tons of older episodes. And all of the expressions that we talk about are still common and popular.

Harp: Check out the website.

Maura: And if you're online, you can also say hi to us on Twitter and Facebook. And you can listen on iTunes or on Stitcher.

Harp: Yeah. And leave us a rating on iTunes, if you're listening to us there.

Maura: Yeah. That'd be great. So, before we get started with today's episode, Harp, it's that time of year where people are making resolutions, so I'm curious. Do you have a New Year's resolution?

Harp: I actually do. My New Year's resolution is to exercise more often.

Maura: That's really a classic one.

Harp: It really is. But I started before New Year's. I started in December, trying to exercise more often so... **So far so good.**

- Maura: That's great.
- Harp: What about you? Do you have a New Year's resolution?
- Maura: You know, I'm not that **big on** resolutions, but a few years ago, I made one, and I think I'm going to try it again, which is to spend less time on technology. Because I love the Internet, and there are a lot of great things that happen because the Internet exists; there are lots of fun videos and you keep in contact with people, but I also think that sometimes we can spend too much time on it. And now that I have a smartphone, I think that sometimes I just wanna disconnect a little bit.
- Harp: Yeah. I understand that. It's a good idea. I might maybe try to do that a little bit too.
- Maura: You're welcome to join me.
- Harp: All right. So today we're gonna bring you a Catch Word episode.
- Maura: That's right. And that is where we look at different related expressions and we tell you what they mean. We also give you examples of how they can be used.
- Harp: Yes. So let's get started.
- Maura: So today our expressions have to do with causing a negative change to something that seemed to be fine.
- Harp: Yeah. So they're all about disruptions to something that seemed to be fine before.
- Maura: Right. We use these expressions to mean that someone is causing trouble. Sometimes people cause trouble accidentally, but sometimes people cause trouble on purpose, too.
- Harp: Yeah. So we're gonna look at some expressions related to this.
- Maura: All right. The first expression in this episode is **to rock the boat**.
- Harp: Yes. **To rock the boat**.
- Maura: Mmhmm. **To rock the boat** means to cause trouble.
- Harp: Yeah. **To rock the boat**, it means to disturb something that was stable and calm.

- Maura: Right. If you **rock the boat**, you cause problems. And this could be especially in a place where people don't want to have problems. They don't want anything to change.
- Harp: So when you **rock the boat**, you cause trouble in a situation.
- Maura: Right. And this usually upsets people, which makes sense, because not many people like trouble.
- Harp: Nope. That's definitely true.
- Maura: You know, this expression makes me think about the actual rocking of a boat. Because if you're in a boat, especially a small boat, if it starts to rock, it can cause trouble because water could get in the boat or the boat could flip over, and that would be very dangerous.
- Harp: Yeah. Or people could start to feel **seasick**. It can cause a lot of trouble.
- Maura: Right. So, when a boat starts to rock, it's not a good thing; in the actual sense and also in this expression.
- Harp: Yeah. OK, should we give some examples with this expression?
- Maura: Let's do the first one.

- Harp: So I've been thinking.
- Maura: Yeah?
- Harp: Well, you know we had that staff meeting last week and we decided the direction for the website?
- Maura: Yes. That everyone has been working on for a week already? Yeah.
- Harp: I know everyone's already been working on it, but I had a great idea on what we could do instead.
- Maura: Hmm. I would say don't **rock the boat**. Everyone has already been working hard on it and I think they would be pretty disappointed to have **to start from scratch**.
- Harp: Yeah. That's true. That might cause too much trouble. We'll just leave it. We had a good idea. We'll **stick to** that.

Maura: So in that example, we heard two colleagues talking, and one of them had a new idea. But the other colleague advised her not **to rock the boat**. And this is actually how this expression is used quite often. People use it to give advice to tell you not **to rock the boat**, to just leave things as they are, to not cause trouble, to not disturb people.

Harp: Yeah. To not cause trouble, they tell you to not **rock the boat**. This is definitely how this expression is used often.

Maura: And in this example, one colleague tells the other that it's a good idea to not **rock the boat**, to not cause any trouble or problems for all the other colleagues.

Harp: Yeah, exactly. Let's give one more example with this expression.

Maura: OK, let's do it.

Harp: Hey. How are you?

Maura: I'm good, good. How are you?

Harp: Good. Did you have a nice Christmas?

Maura: Yeah. It was good. My family came over to my place, even my extended family, so that was fun. And, yeah, everyone was getting along. We even sang some Christmas carols.

Harp: Oh, nice.

Maura: Yeah. But you know, after we ate dinner, and we were all sitting around by the fire, my uncle just started to bring up some old family drama.

Harp: Oh. I hate when people **rock the boat** at nice family gatherings.

Maura: Yeah. Luckily, it didn't get too crazy, and everyone just kind of tried to ignore him and still have a good time.

Harp: Oh, that's good. 'Cause it could have caused some big drama.

Harp: So in this example, we had one person talking about her uncle, who tried **to rock the boat** with bringing up some family drama. But thankfully it didn't happen and everyone remained calm and not upset.

Maura: That's right. He wanted to cause some trouble and maybe get people arguing and bring up past situations that no one wanted to talk about.

Harp: Yeah. He tried **to rock the boat**, but everyone remained calm.

- Maura: Nice. OK, let's look at the next expression now.
- Harp: Our next expression is **to stir the pot**.
- Maura: That is right. **To stir the pot**.
- Harp: And this expression, **to stir the pot**, means to cause trouble or to cause dissent when you bring up something.
- Maura: That's right. Now, for this one, I like to imagine, of course, a big pot on the stove, maybe it's some kind of soup that you've been making and there are lots of little pieces. Now, if you just leave it cooking, all these little pieces fall to the bottom, but if you stir the pot, all of these little bits that were on the bottom come up to the top again. OK, now, you may be asking yourself: What does this have to do with causing trouble?
- Harp: I am asking myself that.
- Maura: So if you imagine these little bits are like the trouble or the problem, or the issues, they were at the bottom. No one was thinking about them, no one was talking about them. And then when someone **stirs the pot**, they bring up these problems and all of these little bits or little problems come to the surface again.
- Harp: Yes. That does make sense.
- Maura: Right. So **to stir the pot**, like you said, Harp, means to bring up issues that maybe you thought were in the past and were finished, but when you start talking about them again, it causes problems and trouble for people.
- Harp: Yeah. Exactly. I think we should do an example with this expression.
- Maura: OK.

- Harp: Did you watch the news last night?
- Maura: No, I didn't. What happened?
- Harp: Well, the city councillors were meeting to discuss the new bridge.
- Maura: Yeah?
- Harp: And City Councillor Duncan, in her typical fashion, brought up the corruption scandal from last year.
- Maura: Oh no. I'm sure **tempers flared**.

Harp: Yes. They got into this heated debate about that scandal and they didn't even fix the date for the new bridge.

Maura: She's always **stirring the pot**. And at the most inappropriate times.

Harp: I know. The city council can't even be effective right now because of her.

Maura: Well, I hope she won't be the city councillor for too much longer.

Harp: Well, I will definitely not be voting for her next time.

Maura: Me neither.

Maura: In that last example, we heard about City Councillor Duncan, who seems to be the kind of person who likes **to stir the pot**. She likes to cause trouble. And in this case, she brought up an issue from the past that you would think was settled, or at least not being talked about anymore: a scandal, a corruption scandal.

Harp: Yeah. And so instead of focussing on the new work that they had to do, they all started discussing the problems from before. It just caused a lot of trouble.

Maura: That's right. OK, let's give, now, one more example with **to stir the pot**.

Harp: Hey Sarah. What's wrong?

Maura: Oh, I'm all right. It's just that I had lunch with my sister, and, you know, she doesn't really like my boyfriend that much, and we always somehow end up talking about him, And she tells me the things that she doesn't like about him and how he doesn't treat me right, and just **gets in my head**.

Harp: Oh, that's not very good.

Maura: Yeah. For some reason, she just likes **to stir the pot**, especially in my life.

Harp: Well, she probably just cares, and, hopefully it's coming from a good place. And I hope he's treating you well.

Maura: I think he is, but she always has me questioning everything.

Harp: We'll talk about this more after this meeting we have to go to.

Maura: OK.

Harp: So in this example, we had Sarah, who was upset at her sister because her sister's always bringing up things about her boyfriend and she's always **stirring the pot**, causing trouble.

- Maura: And as always, we have three expressions for you, which means that it's time for the last one.
- Harp: OK. So our last expression is **to make waves**.
- Maura: That is right, Harp. **To make waves**, which means, just like the others, to cause trouble and to cause some kind of difficulty, especially in a situation that people don't want any trouble in.
- Harp: Yeah. Things were calm and someone is causing trouble.
- Maura: Mmhmm. When you **make waves**, you do something so that other people might notice you and that might cause some trouble for them, and maybe even for you, too.
- Harp: Yeah. So if you think about this expression, **to make waves**, and you imagine a still pond of water, everything is calm, and then all of a sudden something is making waves and making noise and making movement. It's causing trouble and disturbance.
- Maura: Yeah. That's right. The pond of water is no longer calm and still. There are waves, which means that something is changing and something is happening. And in this case, when someone **makes waves**, it's usually not a good thing.
- Harp: Yeah. I think we should give an example with this expression.
- Maura: Let's **hop to it**.

- Harp: Teresa! How's the new job?
- Maura: I like the work, but you know, there's just one thing that's really **got my goat**.
- Harp: Oh, what is it?
- Maura: Well, the thing that's really bugging me is that we only have 30 minutes for lunch. And I know that at some places, it's like that but, every other department has 1 hour. But for some reason, the accounting department only has 30 minutes, and it just goes by too fast.
- Harp: That's a bit weird that you only get 30 minutes, but it's OK, no?
- Maura: I don't know. I thought about talking to my boss about it.
- Harp: Oh, I don't think you should do that. You don't want **to make waves**. You just started.

Maura: I guess. But after a few months, if it's still like that, I might have to say something. I really don't wanna have just 30 minutes for lunch.

Harp: Yeah. Just wait and see.

Maura: All right. I'll wait it out a bit.

Harp: So in this example, we had Teresa, who was upset about her lunch hour and that she didn't get an hour like everyone else in the company. But her friend advised her to not **make waves** and to not cause trouble and not bring it up to the boss.

Maura: Right. Because if she started complaining about conditions after just starting a new job, it just might cause problems for her and might not leave a very good impression.

Harp: Yeah. It's not a good thing to complain about right away.

Maura: Although I do think it's important that in a job you make sure that your rights are respected. Wouldn't you say, Harp? You work in HR.

Harp: I would definitely agree with that. But it is common that some places give 30 minutes and some places give an hour. It's weird that they wouldn't have the same rules across the company, but if this was my friend, I would tell her to wait and find out why they have a shorter lunchtime. Maybe the rest of the team asked for a shorter lunchtime.

Maura: That's true. You never know. OK let's give one more example with **to make waves**.

Maura: Oh my gosh. Look at this story about Johnny Smith. It says, "Celebrity **makes waves** on set."

Harp: Oh. What did he do?

Maura: Oh my gosh. It says that he doesn't wanna learn any of his lines for the movie.

Harp: What? What is he gonna do? Just improv?

Maura: Yeah. That's what it says. He just wants to, kind of, feel the character and improvise every day.

Harp: Wow. He is ridiculous.

Maura: I know. It's crazy. I wonder: Are they gonna let him do that? Or how are they gonna be able to film?

Harp: We'll have to wait and see what happens.

Maura: I guess so. You got any interesting stories in your magazine?

Maura: So in that example, we heard about a celebrity named Johnny Smith. And he was **making waves** because he didn't want to learn the lines in his movie. And of course this is something that would cause trouble for everyone who's making the movie. Because, I don't know, how could you work with someone who isn't gonna learn their part?

Harp: Yeah. It would be very difficult to work with.

Maura: That is definitely true. OK, that brings us to the end of this episode.

Harp: Let's do a quick recap.

Maura: OK. We started with **to rock the boat**.

Harp: And then we did **to stir the pot**.

Maura: And the last expression we looked at was **to make waves**. And we should also say that **to make waves** can be used in other ways, more positive ways. And if you're a member, we will discuss that more in our Learning Materials.

Harp: Yes. So go to our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com, sign up, and become a member. And then you'll learn more about **making waves**.

Maura: That's right. And you'll learn even more when you listen to our other episodes, too.

Harp: Yeah. So check it out.

Maura: And we will talk to you soon, and maybe see you online, on Facebook or Twitter.

Harp: Bye everyone.

Maura: Bye.

Detailed Explanation

Informal Contractions in this Episode

Informal contractions are unofficial short forms of other words, and they're usually only used in casual conversation. For example, when a native English speaker talks casually, they might say *gonna* instead of *going to*, or *whaddya* instead of *what do you*. Even though informal contractions are usually only used in spoken English, we include them in the Culips written transcripts to help you get used to how they're used and what they sound like.

These are the informal contractions used in today's episode, along with their meanings:

- **gonna**: going to
- **wanna**: want to
- **'cause**: because

So far so good

So far so good is a common way of saying that everything up to now has been OK. This expression is usually used to talk about the progress of something you are unsure of, when you don't really know whether it will succeed or fail, but up to now it has been fine. It may fail in the future, but from when it started to now, it's been OK so far.

In this episode, Harp uses this expression to tell Maura that her New Year's resolution to exercise more has been going well since she started it in December.

Here's another example with **so far so good**:

Micheline: How are your violin lessons going?

Franck: **So far so good**. At first I thought I wasn't learning anything at all, but now I can play a song without even looking at where my hands are on the violin.

Micheline: Wow. That is good! You're certainly progressing then!

Franck: Yeah, I'm gonna keep at it.

To be big on something

To be big on something means to like it a lot, or to use it a lot. It's kind of a short form of *to be a big fan of something*, although it's difficult to say where the word *on* came from. The word *big* means large, important, or popular. So when someone is **big on something**, they put a large amount of importance or significance on it.

In this episode, Maura tells Harp that she's not that **big on resolutions**. This means that Maura doesn't like New Year's resolutions very much, and that they aren't very important to her.

Here's another example with to **be big on something**:

Dao: Do you want to see the new Godzilla movie with us tonight?

Chizu: I'm not sure. I'm not **big on** the whole 3D trend in movies. It gives me a headache.

Dao: I can understand that. I heard they do a normal, traditional viewing of it too.

Chizu: Really? I'll look into that. Thanks!

To rock the boat

To rock the boat means to cause trouble or to upset a stable and calm situation. It means to intentionally disrupt a peaceful situation. If you think about a boat drifting in calm water, if someone were to rock the boat back and forth, it would disturb the peaceful calm of the boat. Sometimes people say *don't rock the boat* to tell someone not to disturb something that's stable or calm at the moment.

Here's an example with **to rock the boat**:

Celso: Did you hear Mindy's idea for the school play? I think she's going a little overboard. We can't all get custom-made costumes. Some of us will have to reuse old ones.

Tomasz: I know. There's no room in the budget for custom-made costumes. I'm going to talk to her about it, just not right now.

Celso: You're going to wait?

Tomasz: Well, the play's not for another month, and as long as we get our lines memorized, the costumes aren't too important. I'll let her know that we have to reuse old costumes a couple of weeks before the play opens. She's just been way too stressed out lately, and tonight's the first night I've seen her calm and relaxed.

Celso: Yeah, I did notice that she seemed pretty chilled out tonight. I guess it's best not **to rock the boat**. Memorizing our lines is the most important part, anyway.

Seasick

Seasickness is a very common illness that happens to some people when they spend time on boats or ships. The motion of the waves can cause some people to feel nauseated or unwell, and they feel like they might throw up. When you feel this way, you are **seasick**.

In this episode, Harp uses this expression when discussing the expression **to rock the boat**. She points out that if someone literally rocks a boat, the people on the boat might start to feel **seasick**.

Here's another example with the word **seasick**:

Octavio: Are you excited that we're having our annual work picnic on a cruise this year?

Hari: It's a nice change from having it on the beach like we usually do, but I'm a little worried.

Octavio: Worried? About what?

Hari: Well, I have a tendency to get **seasick**.

Octavio: Oh no. You should eat some ginger before we go. I heard that helps.

Hari: Yeah, I heard that too. Thanks!

To start from scratch

To start from scratch means to go back and start from the very beginning, so that you are doing something over again. When someone **starts from scratch**, it means they start from the beginning with nothing. For example, if someone has never built a doghouse and they want to, we could say that they are **starting from scratch**. **To start from scratch** is also often used when someone has to restart something they've already been working on from the beginning again.

Maura uses this expression in one of the dialogue examples in this episode. She says that the people who have been working on a new website would be pretty disappointed to have **to start from scratch**.

One possibility for the origin of this expression is that it comes from the past, when people raced and the starting line they used was a scratch in the ground.

We discussed this expression in more detail in a previous Culips episode, called "Starting from Scratch," so check out that episode for even more examples of this expression.

To stick to something

To stick to something means to stay with it, to continue with it with no interruption. When something literally sticks to something else, it adheres to it or fastens itself to it, like when you glue two pieces of cardboard together. Similarly, when a person **sticks to something**, it means that they hold on to or remain with it, that they don't let it go or give it up.

In this episode, Harps uses the expression **to stick to something** in one of the dialogue examples. At first, she's thinking about suggesting a change to the design of a company's website, but then she agrees that it would be better **to stick to** the idea they've already been working on for a week so far.

Here's another example with **to stick to something**:

Ajisai: This restaurant looks really busy. Should we go somewhere else for dinner?

Emiko: No, we'll be able to get a seat. I made reservations.

Ajisai: I know, I just think it might be too loud or crowded with so many people.

Emiko: Maybe, but we're still waiting for Richelle and Sabine to meet us, so we should probably **stick to** our original plan. Otherwise, they might not be able to find us.

Ajisai: Oh, right. I forgot they're coming a bit later. OK, let's go inside.

To stir the pot

To stir the pot is a lot like *to rock the boat*. It means to take a calm situation and disturb or irritate it. If you think about a pot of stew or soup, it's still and calm until someone stirs it. When someone **stirs the pot**, they usually do it intentionally to get attention or because they want to upset someone.

Here's another example with **to stir the pot**:

Leemim: Do you think I should tell Shari that I saw her boyfriend holding hands with Therese?

Keisuke: I don't know. It's a tough decision. I know her boyfriend and Therese have been friends for a very long time. Maybe he was just comforting her or something.

Leemim: Yeah. Therese was crying earlier. You're probably right. He didn't do anything wrong. Plus, he and Shari have been fighting lately, so I don't want to add any stress to the situation.

Keisuke: Yeah. But they've been getting along really well for the past week. Best not **to stir the pot**.

Tempers flare

Tempers flare is an expression that means that people get angry. Anger is often associated with fire or heat, so when anger starts to take control of someone, it is said that it flares up, like a flame would. A person's temper is their ability to stay calm or peaceful in an angering situation. When we say that someone has a bad or short temper, it means their ability to stay calm is very bad or that they can't stay calm for very long.

In this episode, in a dialogue example, Harp and Maura say that **tempers flared** when a city councillor brought up the topic of an old scandal at a meeting. This means that the people at the meeting got angry and couldn't stay calm.

Here's another example with **tempers flaring**:

Thiago: How was your family reunion?

Hayman: It was quite a dramatic event!

Thiago: Really? How so?

Hayman: Well, my cousins can be quite mean to each other, and they don't see each other very often, so the annual family reunion is the perfect place for them to finally air out all their pent up frustration. And Luigi came to the reunion with Remi's ex-girlfriend on his arm!

Thiago: Oh, no. Remi's the really big one, right?

Hayman: Yeah, he's big. They both are. And when Remi and his brothers saw what Luigi was doing, **tempers flared**.

Thiago: I bet they did! What happened?

Hayman: Well, luckily my grandmother arrived right at the same time and sort of took everyone's attention away, because everyone wanted to see her and talk to her. So everyone's focus went from this huge potential fight to this sweet little old lady with a big smile.

Hayman: Oh, well that's good. What a family reunion that must have been!

To get in someone's head

To get in someone's head means to bother or irritate them. The head is where we do our thinking, so if an idea **gets in our head**, it means that we begin to think about it, even if we don't want to. For example, it's common for people to say that certain songs **get in their heads**, when the songs are catchy and they can't stop singing them or humming them to themselves.

In this episode, in a dialogue example, Maura's character Sarah says that her sister **gets in her head**. In this specific example, Sarah means that her sister irritates her and makes her second guess whether her boyfriend treats her well.

Here's another example with **to get in someone's head**:

Azzidan: How do you like the new guy at work?

Shun: Oh, he's nice. But sometimes he bugs me, and it's distracting.

Azzidan: How does he bug you?

Shun: He starts singing all these songs from commercials. You know, the jingles that they have in advertisements? He knows so many of them and he's really proud of it, so he always sings them.

Azzidan: Oh no. Those jingles can really **get in your head**.

Shun: Exactly. I find myself singing them when I go home at night and make dinner!

Azzidan: Maybe you should say something to him.

Shun: I will if he doesn't stop. Maybe he's just nervous because he's new.

Azzidan: Yeah, maybe give him a few weeks and if he doesn't stop, tell him then.

To make waves

To make waves means to cause a disturbance. But unlike *to rock the boat* and *to stir the pot*, **to make waves** can also sometimes have a positive association with it. For example, if someone **makes waves** when they enter the room, they create an impression, they get everyone's attention, or they make a boring situation more interesting. If someone stirs the pot, they intentionally cause negative trouble, but if they **make waves**, sometimes they are being playful or drawing attention to something that needs to be discussed.

Here's another example with **to make waves** used in this more positive sense:

Fatemah: Have you met the new teacher yet?

Mit: No. How is he?

Fatemah: Well, I like him. But he's really **making waves** with the other teachers and staff.

Mit: What do you mean?

Fatemah: Well, he's only just started, but he's trying to change all these things, like getting new furniture in the teacher's lounge and questioning the dress policy.

Mit: Oh, really? Wow. He's brave!

Fatemah: Yeah. We'll see how far he pushes it before they tell him to settle down and stop making such a fuss about everything. I think it's good that he's trying to improve things though.

To hop to it

To hop to it means to start doing something right away without hesitating. This expression comes from the fact that rabbits are often seen as always being busy or always moving. Since rabbits hop, when you **hop to** something, you move quickly like a rabbit, and get it done quickly.

In this episode, Harp suggests that they give an example, and Maura agrees by replying, "Let's **hop to it**."

Here's another example with **to hop to it**:

Marilena: Have you cleaned your room yet?

Joseph: Not yet, but it's only seven o'clock.

Marilena: Yeah, but the movie starts at 8:00, and Mom said you have to clean it before we go, not after.

Joseph: Oh no. I must've missed that part!

Marilena: Well, you'd better **hop to it**. It'll take you at least half an hour to clean it, and it takes 20 minutes to get to the theatre!

Joseph: OK, I'll be quick.

To get someone's goat

To get someone's goat means to irritate or annoy them. The origin of this expression comes from horse racing. Goats were often used as companions for racing horses when they weren't racing, and were resting in their stables. Having a goat around seemed to keep the horses calm, so that they could get a good sleep before a big race. Sometimes, if an opposing team or racer wanted to sabotage or ruin the other racer's chances of winning, they would steal the goat from the stables, ensuring that the horse got irritated and wouldn't get a good night's rest. So, if something **gets your goat**, it takes away your ability to staying calm, and it irritates you.

In one of the dialogue examples in this episode, Maura's character Teresa says that it really **gets her goat** that her department only gets 30 minutes for lunch instead of an hour.

Here's another example with **to get someone's goat**:

Miles: What's wrong, Elaine? You look upset.

Elaine: It's my brother. He won't stop pressuring me to give him my share of the money for my mom's birthday present, but her birthday isn't for another 2 weeks!

Miles: Oh, well maybe he needs the money to buy the gift?

Elaine: No, he doesn't! He already bought the gift as soon as he saw it. And he just got paid yesterday so I know he can wait. Plus, he always borrows money from me and doesn't pay me back until after I've asked him a few times. He just really **gets my goat** when it comes to money.

Miles: Maybe you should just ask him what all the rush is for.

Elaine: I'll ask him later. I'm too angry to talk to him right now.

Quiz

1. When something has been a success so far, even though you weren't sure how it would go, what's an appropriate response if someone asks you how it's going?

- a) So far so good.
- b) Could be better.
- c) We'll see how it goes.
- d) It's been pretty rough so far.

2. If you're big on something, how do you feel about it?

- a) You can't afford it.
- b) You did it too much and now you're tired of it.
- c) You like it a lot or put a lot of importance on it.
- d) You feel like it's disturbing or distracting you.

3. If your stomach starts to feel bad when you're on a boat, what do you have?

- a) seasickness
- b) water Log
- c) doggy paddle
- d) swim sadness

4. Which of the following expressions means to disturb a calm situation?

Fill in the blank.

- a) to make waves
- b) to go disco
- c) to make popcorn
- d) to turn on the lights

5. Where did the expression *to get someone's goat* come from?

- a) Dog fighting: Goats were sometimes used instead of dogs.
- b) Clay pigeon shooting: People substituted clay goats for clay pigeons to see if anyone would notice.
- c) Horse racing: Goats were used as companions for horses.
- d) Dance competitions: Costumes that got in the dancers' way and ruined their dances were called goats.

6. What does *to hop to it* means?

- a) to be annoying
- b) to act quickly
- c) to make a calm situation frantic or distressed
- d) to go slowly

Answers:

1.a 2.c 3.a 4.a 5.c 6.b