

Today we'll look at some slang words or expressions that start with "c & d". Non-native speakers often have trouble using slang because a figurative meaning, stress on a certain word, or even the look on your face is often needed to be understood. However, you should study slang so that you can *understand* what the people around you are saying. If someone says YOU should *make the call*, or calls you *dead wrong*, you might be glad you had this lesson!

**American Slang:** \*\*sth = something; sb = somebody.

1. call the shots = make decisions; be in charge ***I call the shots around here!*** [Source of this saying: ***In some games of pool, a player has to call his shot to win (predict which pocket the ball will go into).***]
- 2a. make/be a good/bad call (n) = make/be a good/bad prediction ***That was a good call on the weather. It rained just like you said that it would.***
- 2b. make/be a good/bad call (n) = make/be a good/bad decision ***Sam made a good call concerning the next step we should take in our research project. You're the supervisor, so you need to make the call on this deal.***
- 2c. it is sb's call (n) = it's sb's decision ***Where do you want to eat? It's your call.***
3. call it a day = stop an activity (usually referring to work) ***We've been working for 10 hours. Let's call it a day.***
4. check out sth/sb or check sth/sb out = look at sth/sb; evaluate sth/sb ***Let's check out that new movie. Check out this cool website. Check out that girl in the blue dress; she's smiling at you!***
5. chill out; chill = relax ***Chill out! Why are you getting so worked up about this?*** (get/be worked up = upset; angry)
6. sth/sb doesn't cut it = is not enough; is unacceptable ***When he insults her, saying "sorry" just doesn't cut it.***
7. dead = lifeless, empty and/or quiet (e.g., bars, restaurants, etc.) ***It's really dead here tonight. Campus is dead during Spring Break.***
8. sb is dead tired; dead wrong; dead serious = extremely tired; totally wrong; extremely serious ***I'm dead tired after working all day. You're dead wrong about my cheating on you. I'm dead serious about saving our marriage!***
9. dis sb = [short for "disrespect"]; talk to sb or about sb disrespectfully ***He's angry because she dissed him.***

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**Questions:** (Do you have questions about the terms above? Each student should pick one and use it in a sentence or short dialog.)

Try to use the underlined phrases when you answer these questions, to make sure you can use it correctly.

1. Share about one time when you, or somebody else in your department, made a good call concerning something for your work. How did that good call help your department?
2. How long do you usually work every day before you're ready to call it a day? Why do you want to call it a day then?
3. When you were growing up, who called the shots in your family? How did you feel about that person calling the shots?
4. When you search the Internet, what kind of websites (**not** work-related) do you usually like to check out? Why?
5. In what kind of situation do you (or somebody you know) sometimes need to chill out? Explain.
6. From a manager's perspective, share 2-3 specific actions and/or attitudes that don't cut it in the workplace. Explain.
7. Share 1-2 situations that can make you feel dead tired (physically, mentally, and/or emotionally). Also, when you're dead tired, what do you do to help yourself feel better?
8. If you strongly oppose somebody's opinion, but later you realize you were dead wrong, what will you do? Explain.
9. How will you respond if a **colleague** disses you? Why? How will you respond if your **boss** disses you? your **friend**?

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**Questions:** (Do you have questions about the terms above? Each student should pick one and use it in a sentence or short dialog.)

Try to use the underlined phrases when you answer these questions, to make sure you can use it correctly.

1. Who called the shots in your family? How did you feel about that person calling the shots?
2. Share about one time when you, or somebody else in your department, made a good call concerning something for your work. How did that good call help your department?
3. After work, what time do you call it a day? Why do you want to call it a day at that time?
4. When you search the Internet, what kind of websites (**not** work-related) do you usually like to check out? Why?
5. Share 1-2 situations that can make you feel dead tired (physically, mentally, and/or emotionally). Also, when you're dead tired, what do you do to help yourself feel better?
6. If you strongly oppose somebody's opinion, but later you realize you were dead wrong, what will you do? Explain.

*If you still have time:*

sth/sb doesn't cut it = is not enough; is unacceptable ***When he insults her, saying "sorry" just doesn't cut it.***  
Discuss: Share 2-3 specific actions and/or attitudes that don't cut it in the workplace or classroom. Explain.

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These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from EFLsuccess.com (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission.

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