Lesson 06. Incommunicado

▶ All about miscommunication with some great native-speaker expressions!

▶ Multiple choice quiz

1 Language points

1) to get in touch with- to get in contact with- to touch base with- to drop a line

2) to check one's mail / messages

3) to return a call- to call back- to get back to

4) to get your point across- to get to the point- to make a point

5) to lay low- to give the run around- to dodge

6) to give the silent treatment- to give the cold shoulder

7) to get something off your chest- to vent- to tell it like it is

① to get in touch / contact with - to touch base with - to drop a line

● all mean the same thing basically, but drop a line sounds more like an email or letter

▶ Okay, well here's my business card. If you have any questions, just drop me a line.

▶ Get in touch with me when you get back from your long vacation! We'll go for lunch.

▶ I haven't touched base with my parents in a while. I should probably at least send an email.

② to check one's mail / email / messages

● remember to use 'check' and not 'see'

▶ I need to check my email. I might have received an email from the new client.

▶ I really need to check my messages on Kakaotalk. I have 70 unread messages!

③ to return a call- to call back- to get back to

● 'to get back to' doesn't have to necessarily have to be with a phone

▶ I'm really worried about Steve! He hasn't returned any of my calls! He almost always calls me back within an hour!

▶ It's okay if you're busy this weekend. Just get back to me when you can.

④ to get your point across- to get to the point- to make a point

- to arrive at the main message or idea of a conversation, story, or account

▶ He always goes off on tangents, so if he's making an argument, he can never get his point across.

▶ Hyun-jun, class is almost over! Get to the point that you're trying to make!

⑤ to lay low- to give the run around- to dodge

- when something has gone bad in a relationship!
- basically means to avoid

▶ Jina is trying to lay low because she doesn't want to talk to her ex-boyfriend.

▶ I had a great date on Friday night, but now when I text her, she keeps giving me the run around!

▶ Young-jun keeps dodging his boss because he doesn't want any extra work before the weekend.

⑥ to give the silent treatment- to give the cold shoulder

- when a relationship has gone REALLY bad
- a strong rejection of communication

▶ Min-ho forgot his wife's 40th birthday and now she's giving him the silent treatment.

▶ Ever since we had that little argument in the office, George keeps giving me the cold shoulder every time I try to say hello.

⑦ to get something off your chest- to vent- to tell it like it is

- to be completely honest
- you may feel relief afterwards!

▶ It seems like something is bothering you. Do you need to get something off your chest? Just tell me!

▶ Our manager Go-Eun doesn't beat around the bush, she really tells it like it is, even if she hurts feelings.

▶ Thanks so much for meeting me and listening to all my problems. I really needed to vent.

2 Apply to the book

▶ Pages 33-34, Reading and Comprehension

What kind of role does the internet play in your life? Do you find yourself using the internet more and more?

▶ **Sample answers**

I notice that nowadays, instead of using the phone, I communicate with clients and business contacts via email almost exclusively. This makes it really easy *to dodge* people I don't like. I don't have to *return calls* and I can take my time *getting back to* people.

Also, I feel sometimes like some people are *giving* me *the run around*. Plus, it's a little bit scary that I feel so confident *venting* about my problems with my boss via email. I would never say some of those things to someone in person.

▶ **Page 35, Activity A- Effective Communication**

Which are the best skills for communication?

▶ **Sample answers**

I personally believe that your choice of words and length of communication are most important for *getting* your *point across*. You can bore people and lose their attention if you go off on tangents for a long time. Everyone is so busy these days. You have *to get to the point*!

▶ **Page 35, Activity B- Cell Phone Addiction**

Do you remember what life was like before cell phones were invented?

▶ **Sample answers**

Of course! Back then, I didn't *check* my *messages* every five minutes.

Nowadays, if I'm busy, I don't have to *return calls*, I can just send a text.

Now when my girlfriend is mad at me, she can just *give* me *the silent treatment* all day by not responding to my Kakaotalk messages.

▶ **Page 37, Discussion**

Aside from direct conversation, which is your favorite way to communicate these days?

▶ **Sample answers**

I personally love having Facebook and Skype because it's so easy for me *to touch base with* my family on special days instead of spending loads on expensive long-distance calling.

If I really want *to get something off* my *chest* carefully, it feels a lot safer to write it out in an email instead of saying it face-to-face and putting my foot in my mouth.

3 Review quiz

#1.

Stop _____! You _____, I understand, and I'm sorry. Please _____ I sent you and _____ soon.

A. get to the point B. check the messages C. giving me the cold shoulder
D. return my call E. made your point F. get back to me G. got something off your chest

C, E, B, F

#2.

Last week I kind of _____ all my problems to my boss. Now I feel like he's _____ me because he won't _____.

A. dodging B. laying low C. checking my email D. vented
E. return my calls F. to get in touch with

D, A, E

#3.

I can't believe she's _____ right now. I couldn't _____ by phone while I was hiking in Nepal, so I _____ via email when I had an internet connection. Now she's angry at me!

A. dropped her a line B. vented C. check my messages D. get in contact
E. getting something off her chest F. giving me the silent treatment

F, D, A