

Unit 14 Commuter blues

Expressions with the word *blue*

Learn the expressions

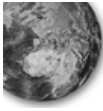
1 The title of this unit, "Commuter blues," refers to how some people feel about commuting to work or school. Let's look at some common expressions with the word *blue*. Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the box. Then check your answers in the Answer Key on this page.

a blue streak	a bolt from the blue	blue	once in a blue moon
the blues	blue collar	blueprint	till you're blue in the face
true blue	out of the blue		

- If you do something a lot but without achieving what you want, you do it _____.
- Something that happens _____ happens when you aren't expecting it.
- A complete surprise is _____.
- Someone who is _____ is completely faithful and loyal.
- We can describe someone who is sad and without hope as being _____ or having _____.
- If something happens very rarely, we say it happens _____.
- A person who speaks very quickly talks _____.
- Workers who do jobs such as repairing machines and working in factories are classified as _____.
- A plan of action or something that is already done that can be used as a guide for a future action is called a _____.

Answer Key

- till you're blue in the face
- out of the blue
- a bolt from the blue
- true blue
- blue; the blues
- once in a blue moon
- a blue streak
- blue collar
- blueprint



Use the expressions

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the expressions in the box.

a blue streak	a bolt from the blue	blue	once in a blue moon
the blues	blueprint	blue collar	till you're blue in the face
true blue	out of the blue		

- Carla has been feeling _____ since she and her boyfriend broke up. What can we do to cheer her up?
- You can talk _____, but you won't convince me. No matter what you say, I'm not going to invest in your brother's new online business.
- The Garcias don't eat out very often, but _____, they treat themselves to dinner at a fancy restaurant downtown.
- We hadn't heard from our friend Paul in ages, but today—_____—a wedding invitation arrived in the mail. He and his girlfriend Anna are finally getting married!
- How lucky I am to have a _____ friend like you! You've been with me through thick and thin! I can always count on you.
- Irene is worried about her English class. Apparently, the professor talks _____ and most of the students can't understand a word he says. Maybe someone should ask him to speak a little more slowly.
- In many fairy tales such as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* and *Sleeping Beauty*, there are princes and princesses and other _____ characters.
- Megan's fiancé has a bachelor's degree in biology but is working as a telephone repairman. He accepted this _____ job because it seemed interesting and it pays very well.
- I saw Tom a little over a week ago in a marketing meeting. That's why the news that he had left the company was _____.
- Everyone gets _____ every once in a while. The secret is to do something that will help change your mood.

Make the expressions your own

3 Answer three of these questions. Explain your answers.

- What do you usually do when you're blue?
- Has anything happened to you lately that just came out of the blue?
- Do you have a blueprint for success in your life? If so, what is it?
- Do you have any true blue friends? If so, describe one and why you feel this way about him or her.
- What's something you do once in a blue moon?