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# Reader's Club

- Today's Idioms
- Vocabulary & Pronunciation
- Reader's Club
- Question & Answer Period
- Questions
  - After class [steve@doeducation.net](mailto:steve@doeducation.net)
  - During class Please raise your hand during

# Today's Idioms

## backseat

### a backseat driver

- 1 a passenger in a car who continuously tells the driver how they should drive  
• *Mike's a real backseat driver and I find it so irritating.*
- 2 *mainly American* someone who expects to control things although it is not their responsibility to do this • *Tell her you're in charge now. It's time she stopped being a backseat driver.*

## bacon

### bring home the bacon *informal*

- 1 to earn money to live on • *If Jo's going to be at home looking after the kids, someone needs to bring home the bacon.*
- 2 to do something successfully, especially to win a game or race • *Racegoers crowded the stand to see him bring home the bacon. (= win the race)*

# Vocabulary & Pronunciation

( while I'm reading, please repeat after me loudly. It will help you pronounce the words properly)

awkward	- hard to deal with.
gulp	- to swallow eagerly.
boundary	- Something that indicates a border or limit.
feign	- pretend.
subsequent	- occurring or coming later or after .
presence	- of a person the fact of being in a particular place.
oblige	- to force sb to do sth, by law, because it is a duty, etc.
obligation	- responsibility.
prudent	- sensible and careful.
collegial	- Characterized by or having power and authority vested equally among colleagues.
predicament	- a difficult or unpleasant situation.
hang out with	- spend time socially.
adept at	- good at.

# Reader's Club

**Keeping co-workers, bosses away  
from your Face book page a  
delicate matter**

# Reader's Club

WINNIPEG - It is one of the most socially awkward situations at the office. You're talking to your boss or co-worker, when they casually ask to be your friend on Facebook.

You quickly think of the juicy comments posted on your wall, or that photo of you gulping margaritas in a bathing suit. Within seconds, you have to decide between saying yes or finding a way to decline the offer without hurting anyone's feelings (or your chance at a promotion).

It has happened regularly to a 28-year-old public relations worker in Winnipeg we'll call Nathalie. She doesn't want her real name used for obvious reasons.

"Your boss doesn't need to see what you're doing on the weekend," she said. "There are lines and there are boundaries. The only co-workers that are my Facebook friends are people that . . . would be hanging out with me, having a margarita on a beach."

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Nathalie has become rather adept at sidestepping workplace requests for Facebook friendship. She tells some co-workers she rarely uses Facebook. She has told others she would add them as friends, knowing she would not follow through, and has feigned ignorance in subsequent conversations.

"I just kind of said 'I might not have gotten the request, maybe you should try again,'" she said. "It's a nice way of rejecting them."

Nathalie has also set her privacy settings so that she is hidden from people searching for her on Facebook. Her photos, writings and other material can only be viewed by her friends.

# Reader's Club

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The workplace is gaining more of a presence on Facebook, MySpace and other social networking sites. Companies are starting to see value in having a presence on Web 2.0. Many have set up corporate Facebook pages and have let employees know that they can become fans - an action that can make your Facebook page more visible to co-workers.

But should you feel obliged to open your social network page to co-workers? Not necessarily, says one expert.

"You have the same obligation as you would have if they wanted to be invited to your home for cocktails or for a dinner party," said Arthur Schafer, a professor at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics.

"It might be prudent to promote collegial relations or to curry favour with the boss by socializing with them ... but you certainly have no obligation to."

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Facebook has added new privacy options recently, allowing users to hide individual posts or pictures from specific friends. Of course, even if no one at work can see your Facebook page, they can still find out what's on it. It happened earlier this year to a twenty-something woman we'll call Susan, who also doesn't want her name used. Susan was upset with what she felt was a lack of security and cleanliness at a community event in Winnipeg. She complained about it on her Facebook page, which is only visible to her 500-odd friends. As it turns out, one of those friends was an employee of the event's organizers, who are clients of Susan's employer. Word got around and Susan found herself facing a tongue-lashing from her boss.

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"I got in such trouble at work," she said. "What I've learned is, if you want something to stay private, don't voice it publicly anywhere." Susan's predicament is not unique. If you complain about a client, a friend or a boss on Facebook, there's nothing to stop one of your selected friends from copying and pasting it into an email and sending it around the world.

# Reader's Club

Please answer the question in a minute.

Q1. Do you use a social networking site? If so, do you share the personal website with your colleague?

Q2. In your opinion, what is the most popular social networking site in the world? Why do you think it is so popular?