

Calling 6: taking it to me MP

Overview: Lizzy calls Carol and complains that Leeds City Council are not going to repair her bath until the following week. This telephone call has abusive language.

Language level: Entry 3 or higher

Web address: All answers to the activities in this workbook can be found at:
www.esoluk.co.uk/calling/calling6.html

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(1) Read and listen (transcript)

No.	speaker	conversation
	Narrator:	Lizzy calls Carol and complains that Leeds City Council are not going to repair her bath until the following week. This telephone call has abusive language.
1.	Carol:	Hello.
2.	Lizzy:	Ya will never guess what?
3.	Carol:	What?
4.	Lizzy:	Did I tell ya about me bath?
5.	Carol:	Yes.
6.	Lizzy:	Erm, they're not coming out till next Monday.
7.	Carol:	Ya joking?
8.	Lizzy:	No ... Not an emergency. I said I'm taking it further. I'm taking it to me MP. Don't know what me fucking MP's gonna do.
9.	Carol:	(laughs)
10.	Lizzy:	I'm fucking fuming. Can't believe it.
11.	Carol:	That's stupid, cos each time ya have a bath it's gonna leak, init?
12.	Lizzy:	Yes ... Oh ... He suggests if we don't use the bath, just use a flannel.
13.	Carol:	Alright ... Tell him to use a bloody flannel.
14.	Lizzy:	Can't believe that though. I don't know what to do now. I just tried ringing that ... that fucking Paul Trusswell MP.
15.	Carol:	Oh yes.
16.	Lizzy:	And see what happens. See if he can help me. Know what I mean?
17.	Carol:	Stupid aren't they?
18.	Lizzy:	I'm getting it done before Monday. There's no way am I doing without a bath till Monday. No way. Use a flannel. Okay. (Coughs) I don't fucking believe that.

(2) Audio gapfill

Narrator: Lizzy calls Carol and complains that Leeds City Council are not going to repair her bath until the following week. This telephone call has abusive language.

Carol: Hello.

Lizzy: Ya will never guess what?

Carol: What?

Lizzy: Did I tell ya about me bath?

Carol: Yes.

Lizzy: Erm, they're not coming out till next Monday.

Carol: Ya joking?

Lizzy: No ... Not [1] _____. I said I'm [2] _____. I'm taking it to me MP. Don't know what me fucking MP's gonna do.

Carol: (laughs)

Lizzy: I'm fucking [3] _____. Can't believe it.

Carol: That's Stupid, cos each time ya have a bath it's gonna leak, init?

Lizzy: Yes ... Oh ... He suggests if we don't use the bath, [4] _____.

Carol: Alright ... Tell him to use a bloody flannel.

Lizzy: [5] _____ though. I don't know what to do now. I [6] _____ that ... that fucking Paul Trusswell MP.

Carol: Oh yes.

Lizzy: And [7] _____. See if he can help me. [8] _____?

Carol: Stupid aren't they?

Lizzy: [9] _____ before Monday. There's no way am I [10] _____ till Monday. No way. Use a flannel. Okay. (Coughs) I don't fucking believe that.

(3) Informal / formal

Read the informal sentence. Write a formal sentence.

1 "Ya will never guess what?" I have some surprising information.

1 _____

2 "they're not coming out" The repairmen are not coming to my house.

2 _____

3 "Ya joking?" Really? I am surprised.

3 _____

4 "Don't know what me fucking MP's gonna do" I don't know if my MP can help me.

4 _____

5 "I'm fucking fuming." I am very angry.

5 _____

6 "Know what I mean?" Do you understand me?

6 _____

7 "Stupid aren't they?" They don't understand, do they?

7 _____

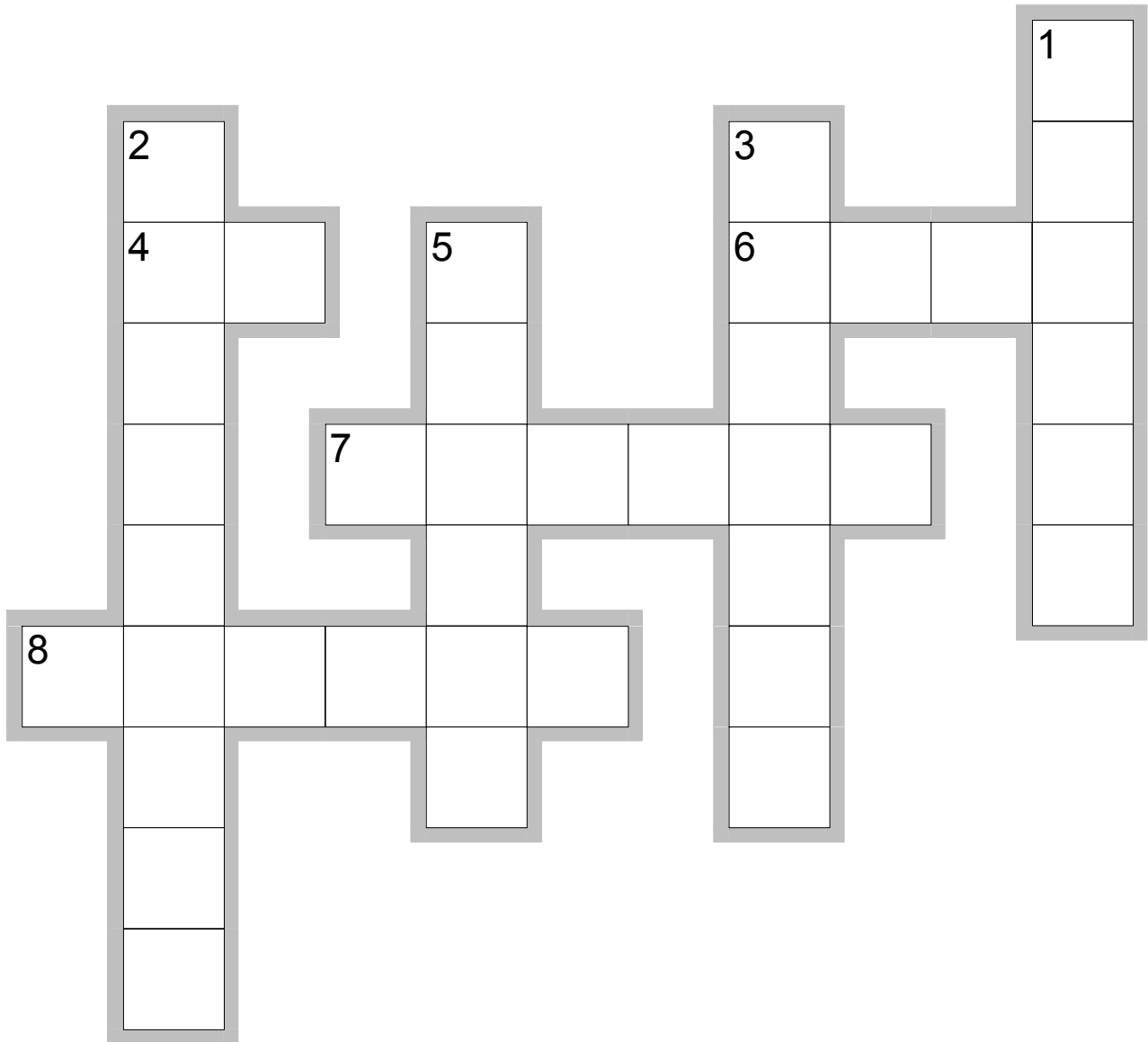
(4) Spellings

Practise spelling the words correctly.

Use LOOK SAY COVER WRITE CHECK

	word	syllables	1 st try	2 nd try	3 rd try	4 th try
1	repair	re 1 pair 2				
2	further					
3	emergency					
4	telephone					
5	language					
6	abusive					
7	stupid					
8	flannel					
9	believe					
10	fuming					

(5) Crossword



Across

4. Member of Parliament
6. when water escapes from the pipes
7. someone who is very, very angry
8. a verb to fix something when broken

Down

1. trying to be funny
2. when something is really bad
3. a cloth for washing the face
5. not a nice word to call someone who is not intelligent

(7) Word wall

19. Work in pairs using a pencil. Take turns to guess a word from today. Use a rubber to start again.

20. Choose a word from today and write the number of letters in the box, e.g. _____.

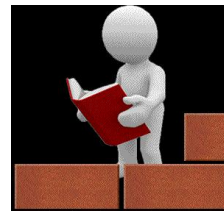
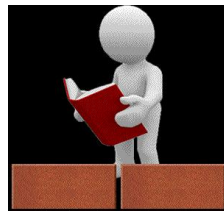
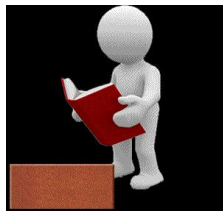
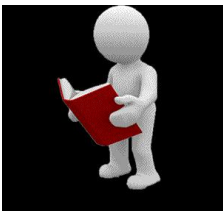


21. Write correct letters in pencil:

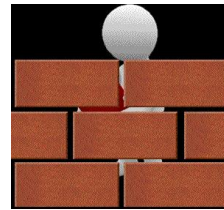
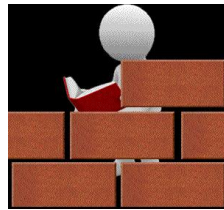
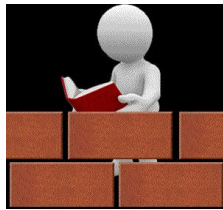
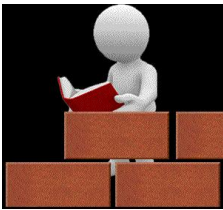
22. Letters used for each guess: _____

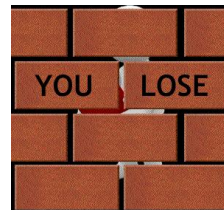
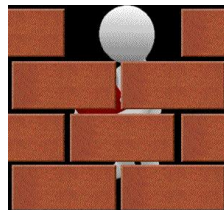
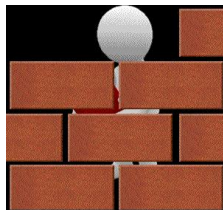
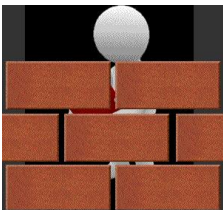
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

23. Every time the guesser is wrong give them a cross. Use a pencil.



Start here →





(8) Write formal sentences (LSCWC)

Look at each sentence. Read it aloud. Cover it. Write the sentence using a pencil. Check.

1 "I have some surprising information."

1 _____

2 "The repairmen are not coming to my house."

2 _____

3 "Really? I am surprised."

3 _____

4 "I don't know if my MP can help me."

4 _____

5 "I am very angry."

5 _____

6 "Do you understand me?"

6 _____

7 " They don't understand, do they?"

7 _____

(9) Write informal phrases (LSCWC)

Look at each phrase. Read it aloud. Cover it. Write the sentence using a pencil. Check.

Try to think of sentences and instances when you might use each phrase.

1 "ya will never guess what"

1 _____

2 "they're not coming out"

2 _____

3 "ya joking"

3 _____

4 "don't know what me MP's gonna do"

4 _____

5 "I'm fuming"

5 _____

6 "know what I mean"

6 _____

7 "stupid aren't they"

7 _____

Tutor transcript (with notes)

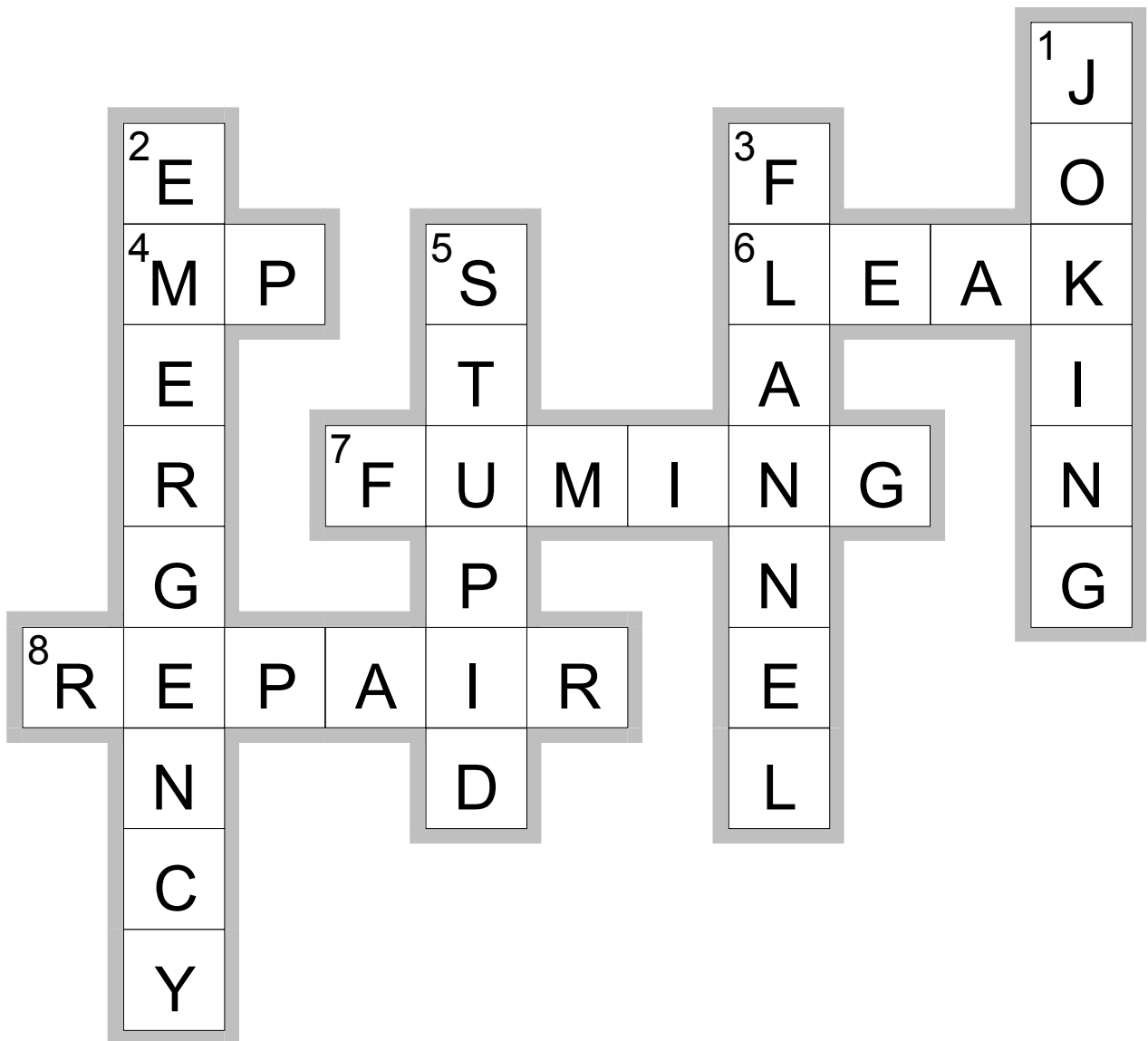
- **Emboldened** words and chunks indicate *colloquial* language use.
- Underlined words and chunks indicate shortened words.
- Words and chunks as ^{superscript} indicate *standard* language which is absent.
- For the sake of readability, not all words have been spelled to mimic the accent; for example, dropped 'h' and abbreviated words. Draw attention to these features for the learners.
- [bracket used to show where there is overlap between speakers

No.	speaker	conversation	notes
	Narrator:	Lizzy calls Carol and complains that Leeds City Council are not going to repair her bath until the following week. This telephone call has abusive language.	
24.	Carol:	Hello.	
25.	Lizzy:	<u>Ya</u> ¹ will never guess what? ²	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'ya' – a shortening of 'you will' to 'you' and pronounced as 'ya' 2. An abrupt opening line which lacks the normal ritual of polite greeting; Carol's 'hello' is not reciprocated and in some instances this may cause offence. Is this lack of conformity to the stock phrases of greeting part of her idiosyncratic nature or because she is angry? <p>'Guess what' and 'know what' are colloquial, lexical chunks which are difficult to explain for some second language learners. Try practise with your learners. 'Guess what' seems to be operating here as an imperative. There is only one way to respond to a 'guess what' / 'know what' sentence, which is to reply with a question: 'what?' as Carol does in line 3</p>
26.	Carol:	What?	
27.	Lizzy:	Did I tell ya about me ³ bath?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. 'me' – my
28.	Carol:	Yes.	
29.	Lizzy:	Erm, they're not coming out ⁴ till next Monday.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 'not coming out' – that is, the plumbers won't be calling to her house to fix her bath till next Monday. 'Coming out' is often used to refer to 'repairs' people in general calling to your own home. 'Coming out' is an informal lexical chunk also used when asking when someone is leaving their home; e.g. children: "What time are you coming out?" It is also used as a verb phrase to explain the process of when gay people admit publicly that they are gay. <p>Can the learners identify from the phrase/context that her bath is broken and that 'they' refers to plumbers?</p>
30.	Carol:	Ya joking? ⁵	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. An idiom used to show surprise, often in reply to something that is perceived to be absurd. The standard reply is usually

			'no' or 'not at all'.
31.	Lizzy:	[No ... Not an emergency. ⁶ I said I'm taking it further . ⁷ I'm taking it ⁸ to me MP. Don't know what me fucking MP's gonna ⁹ do.	6. Note the flatness of her tone, and the very concise utterances, to emphasise she is not joking; she is very serious. 7. 'taking it further – that is, refusing to accept the decision about her bath and taking that decision to a higher authority (her MP identified on the next line) 8. 'it' – can the learners identify that the pronoun 'it' is referencing backwards anaphorically to the topic about her bath. 9. 'gonna' – going to
32.	Carol:	(laughs)	
33.	Lizzy:	I'm fucking fuming. ¹⁰ Can't believe it.	10. 'fuming' – an adjective to express how angry she is
34.	Carol:	[That's Stupid, cos ¹¹ each time ya have a bath it's gonna ¹² leak, init ? ¹³	11. 'cos' – because 12. 'gonna' – going to 13. 'init' – a question tag ('isn't it' from 'is it not')
35.	Lizzy:	[Yes ... Oh ... He suggests if we don't use the bath, just use a flannel. ¹⁴	14. 'flannel' - a towelling cloth used to wash the face
36.	Carol:	Alright ... Tell him to use a bloody flannel. ¹⁵	15. Note how the tone shifts from one of humour to scorn as Carol responds in what she thinks is appropriate to Lizzy's news. There is coercive persuasion from Lizzy (albeit unconscious) because of her tone and abusive language which is eventually mirrored by Carol
37.	Lizzy:	Can't believe that ¹⁶ though. I don't know what to do now. I just tried ringing that ... that fucking Paul Trusswell MP. ¹⁷	16. 'that' – can the learners identify that the pronoun 'that' is referencing backwards anaphorically as Lizzy continues about her bath; presumably she has only just received this news and has not yet calmed down. 17. 'Paul' - Labour Candidate for Pudsey, Horsforth and Aireborough; yet the abusive 'fucking' to describe him suggests that she does not expect anything positive to arise from her contacting him.
38.	Carol:	Oh yes.	
39.	Lizzy:	And see what happens. ¹⁸ See if he can help me. Know what I mean? ¹⁹	18. 'see what happens' – that is, wait for news from Paul Trusswell to see if he can help her 19. 'know what I mean?' – an invitation to empathise with her predicament rather than questioning if Carol understands
40.	Carol:	[Stupid aren't they? ²⁰	20. Again, the general tone is one of scorn and abuse, such is the 'mirroring' effect of language as started here by Lizzy.
41.	Lizzy:	I'm getting it done	

	<p>before Monday. There's no way²¹ am I doing without²² a bath till Monday. No way. Use a flannel. Okay. (Coughs) I don't fucking believe that.²³</p>	<p>21. 'no way' – notice the stress on 'no way' and her continuing refusal to accept the decision 22. 'doing without' – not having 23. Notice how the conversation spirals into a sequence of concise intonation units as she repeats the topic and answers her own disbelief. Carol is left in silence to let Lizzy rant.</p>
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Crossword (answer key)



Audio gapfill (answer key)

1. an emergency
2. taking it further
3. fuming
4. just use a flannel
5. Can't believe that
6. just tried ringing
7. see what happens
8. Know what I mean
9. I'm getting it done
10. doing without a bath