A Guide to American Conversation:

- The telephone is never engaged, it is always busy
- You don't disconnect a phone, you simply hang up
- You don't stop at signals, you halt at the lights
- You don't pass out from a university, you graduate
- You don't accelerate, you step on the gas
- If your tire is punctured, it means you have a flat.
- There are no petrol bunks or petrol pumps, there are gas stations
- You never post a letter, you always mail it
- You don't stand in a queue, you are in a line
- You no longer like something, you appreciate it.
- # is not a hash, it is a pound sign.
- There is no full stop at the end of a statement, instead you find a period.

Currency:

- Penny = 1 cent
- Nickel = 5 cents
- Dime = 10 cents
- Quarter = 25 cents
- Half Dollar = 50 cents
- Silver Dollar = 100 cents

American Terms and Their Indian Equivalence:

- Apartment = flat
- Battery = cell
- Beat up = worn out, shabby (said of a thing)
- Beat around the bush = avoid an issue
- Been had = to have been taken advantage of
- Big shot = a supposedly important person or someone who thinks he/she is
- Big deal = anything important, exciting
- Bike = cycle
- Break the ice = make a beginning
- Buck = dollar bill
• Bombed = see "high"
• Boot = trunk
• Booze = alcoholic beverage
• Bummer = a term to designate that something undesirable has happened
• Cab = taxi
• Cash = paying someone with currency rather than a check
• Check = cheque
• Check out = look over a situation
• Cilantro = coriander
• Collect Call = a telephone call where the recipient of the call pays
• Cookie = biscuit
• Cool or neat = slang term denoting approval for something or someone
• Cool it = calm down
• Cop = slang for policeman
• Cut it out = stop it
• Crack up = to lose emotional control in laughter
• Date = to go out with someone; also the person with whom you go
• Down = to feel depressed, sad
• Downtown = Central Business District of any American city
• Down to earth = practical, straightforward, (person)
• Drive one up the wall = drive one nuts; to make one very nervous, or upset
• Drop = to withdraw from a course on or before the set date
• Drugstore = Pharmacy/Chemist
• Eggplant = Brinjal
• Electricity = current
• Elevator = lift
• Eraser = rubber
• Fall for = take a strong liking for
• Fed up = disgusted with, or tired of
• Fender = bumper
• Flammable = inflammable
• Flashlight = torch
• Freak out = to lose control of oneself, go crazy
• Gas = petrol
• Give a ring = to call on the telephone
• Go to pot = to deteriorate
• Grass = slang term for marijuana
• Gripe = to complain
• Hang up = in reference to the telephone it means do not hang up the receiver
• Hang in there = keep trying; do not be discouraged
• Hassled = troubled by
• Have a lot on the ball = to be capable, talented, or efficient
• High = intoxicated ("loaded") from liquor or drugs
• Hit the sack = go to bed
• Hood = bonnet
• Hung up = to be in conflict over a problem
• I.D. = identification
• In a nutshell = very briefly and concisely
• Jock = an athlete
• Keep your shirt on = be clam, be patient
• Know the ropes = be familiar with the details of an undertaking
• Lemon = bad buy or purchase
• Loaded = to get intoxicated
• Long Distance Call = STD/Trunk call
• Make ends meet = budget within one's income
• Make up = (1) to apologize after a fight or disagreement
  • (2) To do an assignment after it was due
  • (3) Cosmetics a woman uses
• Mailbox = post box
• Mid term = test given during the middle of the quarter
• Motel = inexpensive hotel
• Motorbike = motorcycle
• Muffler = silencer of a car
• Okra = ladyfinger
• On the house = free, no cost
• Old man = slang term for father
• Once in a blue moon = seldom, infrequently
• Out of it = (1) somebody whose mind is far away or preoccupied
  • (2) Somebody not fitting into a certain group
• Out of the question = unthinkable, impossible
• Over my dead body = not if I can stop it!
• Out of sight = term of approval denoting something exciting or very good
• Panhandler = beggar
• Payphone = public telephone
• Pedestrian Crossing = zebra crossing
• Peanuts = groundnuts
• Phony = someone who is insincere, also fake
• Play it by ear = to respond to circumstances as they arise
• Play second fiddle = be second in importance
• Pop-Quiz = a test given with no prior warning
• Pop/Soda = aerated drink/soft drink
• Pot = a term used for marijuana
• Psyched up = to mentally prepare yourself for something; excited about something
• Pull one's leg = to tease someone
• Pull strings = use influence
• Pull the wool over someone's eyes = deceive or mislead someone
• Put someone on = to tease or try to fool. "Are you putting me on?"
• Put your foot in your mouth = say something you regret having said
• Rip off = to steal; charge an exorbitant price for some item
• Redneck = hillbilly
• Restroom = toilet
• Returned Check = bounced cheque
• Run around with = be friends with
• Screwed up = confused
• Shook up = upset
• Show = movie or film, cinema
- Sidewalk = footpath/pavement
- Skip or cut = not go to class
- Stoned = to get high on grass
- Straight = one who goes along with the norms of society, conservative
- Subway = underground railway system
- Take a rain check = to postpone an invitation, accepting it for a later date
- Take for granted = to assume
- Through the grapevine = through gossip
- To Go = carry out (especially referring to food)
- To the max = to the maximum or greatest degree
- Traffic Light = traffic signal
- Trash Can = dustbin
- Uptight = worried, tense
- Under the weather = sick, not feeling well
- Windbreaker = windcheater
- With flying colors = with victory or success
- Wasted = an extreme lack of energy. Also can mean "high"
- Ya'll = you all
- Zee = the letter "Z"
- ZIP Code = postal code
- Zero in on = focus or concentrate on