



American Expression E0920 We're off

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"We're off" is a colloquial expression that is often used to announce or signal the beginning of a journey, an activity, or an event. It indicates that a group of people or individuals are starting their intended activity, departing from a location, or embarking on a new phase. This phrase is commonly used in casual conversations to inform others that a particular plan or action has commenced.

When someone says "We're off," they are essentially conveying that they have initiated their journey or activity and are in motion. It's a concise way to let others know that they have transitioned from a state of preparation or anticipation to actual engagement.

The expression can be used in various contexts. For example, if a family is preparing to leave for a road trip and they all get into the car, someone might say, "Alright, everyone's here, and the bags are loaded. We're off!" This signals to everyone that the journey has begun.

Similarly, in a work setting, if a team is about to start a meeting, someone might say, "Looks like we have everyone present. Let's get started. We're off." This indicates that the meeting is commencing and participants should direct their attention to the agenda.

"We're off" is not limited to physical departures; it can also refer to the start of non-physical activities. For instance, if a group of friends is about to play a game, one person might say, "Alright, the game board is set up. We're off!" This marks the beginning of the game and prompts everyone to start participating.

The expression is often used in a casual and informal manner, emphasizing the moment of transition from preparation to action. It's typically a positive and enthusiastic announcement, signaling a sense of excitement and anticipation for the activity ahead.

It's worth noting that "We're off" can also carry a sense of spontaneity or informality, making it more suitable for casual situations. In more formal contexts, such as business or official events, alternative phrases like "Let's begin" or "We can start now" might be preferred.

In conclusion, "We're off" is a straightforward expression used to indicate the initiation of a journey, activity, or event. It serves as a concise and enthusiastic way to inform others that a particular plan or action is in progress. While often used casually, it effectively captures the moment of transition from preparation to engagement, fostering a sense of excitement and anticipation for the upcoming experience.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. How does the expression "We're off" convey the sense of transition from preparation to action? Can you recall a situation where this phrase was used to mark the beginning of an activity or event, and how did it impact the atmosphere or participants' engagement?
  2. In what types of situations do you find yourself using or hearing the phrase "We're off"? Is it more commonly used in personal, social, or professional contexts, and how does its informality influence its usage?
  3. How does the phrase "We're off" contribute to setting the tone and energy for the activity or event that follows? Can you think of instances where this expression added to the anticipation and enthusiasm of the participants?
  4. Are there cultural or regional variations in how the expression "We're off" is used? Do different cultures have equivalent phrases or gestures to indicate the start of an activity or journey?
  5. While "We're off" is generally used in a positive context, can you envision situations where the expression might be used to mark the beginning of more challenging or demanding activities? How might the tone and delivery of the phrase influence its interpretation in such cases?
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