



## American Expression E2041 Bump into

IOTS Publishing Team  
International Online Teachers Society  
Since 2011

"Bump into" is a phrasal verb used in everyday language to describe an unexpected or chance encounter with someone or something. It conveys the idea of accidentally meeting someone, often without prior planning or intention. This expression is versatile and can be applied to various situations and contexts.

In its most common usage, "bump into" describes the act of running into someone you know while you're both in a place or situation where you didn't expect to see each other. This unplanned encounter can happen anywhere, from a grocery store to a park, a café, or even while walking down the street. For example, you might say, "I bumped into an old friend at the mall today," indicating that you encountered them unexpectedly during your shopping trip.

"Bump into" can also refer to a chance meeting with a stranger. In this case, the emphasis is on the randomness and unpredictability of the encounter. For instance, you could say, "I bumped into a tourist who was lost and asked for directions," highlighting the serendipitous nature of the interaction.

This phrasal verb is not limited to people; it can also apply to accidental encounters with objects or obstacles. For example, if you're walking in a dimly lit room and unexpectedly hit your knee against a piece of furniture, you might say, "I bumped into the coffee table." In this context, "bump into" signifies an unintended collision with an inanimate object.

The phrase "bump into" is often used in storytelling and conversations to add an element of surprise or spontaneity to the narrative. It underscores the unpredictability of life and the chance encounters that can lead to memorable moments or unexpected connections.

In some cases, "bump into" can also be used metaphorically to describe unexpected or unplanned situations, not necessarily involving physical encounters. For example, you might say, "I bumped into some difficulties while working on the project," indicating that you encountered unexpected challenges or obstacles in the course of your work.

Additionally, "bump into" can have a figurative meaning when used to describe the rediscovery of something forgotten or overlooked. For instance, if you stumble upon an old diary while cleaning your attic, you could say, "I bumped into my childhood diary," implying that you unexpectedly found something from your past.

In conclusion, "bump into" is a versatile phrasal verb that conveys the idea of a chance or unplanned encounter with someone or something. It is used to describe both physical meetings with people and accidental collisions with objects, as well as metaphorical or figurative situations involving unexpected discoveries or challenges. This expression adds a sense of unpredictability and spontaneity to language and storytelling, reflecting the serendipitous nature of life's encounters and experiences.

### Questions for Discussion

1. Can you share a memorable experience of when you unexpectedly "bumped into" someone you know while in an unexpected or unusual place, and how did that encounter unfold?
  2. In what ways do chance meetings and serendipitous "bump into" moments enrich our lives and connections with others? Are there instances where such encounters have had a significant impact on your life or perspective?
  3. How does the concept of "bumping into" an old hobby, interest, or passion resonate with you? Have you ever rediscovered a long-lost passion or interest, and how did it influence your life or activities?
  4. Can you think of situations in which unplanned encounters or "bumping into" unexpected challenges have led to personal growth or valuable lessons? How did you navigate these unforeseen circumstances?
  5. In storytelling and literature, "bump into" moments often play a pivotal role in advancing the plot or character development. Can you think of examples from books, movies, or TV shows where chance encounters significantly influenced the narrative or characters' trajectories?
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