ENGLISH LESSON · GABRIEL IGLESIAS: I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID WHEN I WAS HUNGRY (2016) · INTERMEDIATE

Fluffy — “You Dead?” and “Hey, Dad.”

Clip: 5:34 · 13 words · 7 idioms & phrasal verbs · 2026-09-25

Watch again online



Gabriel Iglesias: I'm Sorry for What I Said When I Was Hungry (2016) — a scene from today's lesson

1 Before You Watch

The story

Gabriel Iglesias is a Mexican-American comedian. Everyone calls him Fluffy. In this 2016 show in Chicago, he tells true stories from his life: a talking hotel elevator, a fake news story that said he was dead, and his son Frankie, who is 18 and in no hurry to leave home.

Comedy tip — know these 6 things first

Stand-up is a story told with voices. Fluffy plays every person: the elevator, his friend Martin, his son Frankie. Listen to HOW each voice sounds — the voice is half the joke.

1. **The talking elevator** — In fancy hotels, the elevator (lift) says the floor number out loud, in a soft woman's voice.
2. **The fake death** — TMZ is a gossip website. Diabetes is a sugar illness. 31 October is Halloween, the night children collect bags of candy.
3. **“You dead?”** — Martin is Fluffy's old friend. He also works for Fluffy, so Fluffy pays his salary.

4. **“Welcome back.”** — Frankie is Fluffy's teenage son. Teenagers often answer in a flat, bored voice. Comedians call this deadpan.
5. **College: “Mm-mmm.”** — In the USA, many children leave home at 18 to go to college. Parents are often happy (and free!) when that happens.
6. **“Hey, Dad.”** — Fluffy is a famous comedian and Frankie's friends are his fans. But to Frankie, he is just Dad.

Key words — know these before you watch:

death hoax | go viral | publicist | diabetic | graduation | numb

Warm-up: A fake story says a famous comedian is dead. 30 million people read it. How many people phone him to check?

A. Thousands
B. About a hundred
C. Only one

Background reading (1 minute)

Stand-up comedy = one person on a stage telling funny stories to a live audience. TMZ is a famous American gossip website. A celebrity death hoax is a fake internet story that says a famous person has died. In the USA, many teenagers leave home at 18 to go to college (university).

2 Watch 1 — with subtitles

First watch — subtitles ON. Catch the main idea: What makes most of these stories funny?

A. People around Fluffy react with almost no emotion
B. Fluffy is angry with the internet
C. Frankie wants to be a comedian too

Joke by joke — after Watch 1, read who says what, then why it is funny.

1 The talking elevator (0:02)

Elevator: “Second floor.” … “Third floor.”
Fluffy: I'm like, “Man, she sounds hot.”
Elevator: “Fourth floor. Mmmm.” … “Fifth floor. Oh, yeah.”
Martin: How far you going up?
Fluffy: All the way. I gotta see how this ends.

Why is it funny? Fluffy flirts with a machine. Floor by floor, the voice sounds more excited, like a date that is going well. “All the way” has two meanings: to the top floor, and (cheeky) all the way in romance. He wants to “see how this ends”, as if the elevator is a love story.

Steal this: I'm like, “…” = I said / I thought (telling a story) You know what I'm saying? = Do you understand? (casual)

2 The fake death (0:54)

Fluffy: Someone faked my death on the Internet, and it went viral.

Fluffy: Someone wrote an amazing article ... so good, even I was like, “Oh, my God. I was so nice.”

Fluffy: The article said that I had died October 31 from complications of Type II diabetes.

Fluffy: And I'm thinking to myself, “That's a hell of a day to kill a diabetic.” That's like killing Santa on Christmas Eve.

Why is it funny? Two jokes. First: when you die, people write beautiful things about you, and Fluffy enjoys reading his own death story. Second: a diabetic dying on Halloween, the big candy day, fits too perfectly — like Santa dying on Christmas Eve, his busiest night. The fake story sounds like a bad joke.

Steal this: go viral past: it went viral a hell of a ... = a really big / surprising ... (friends only)

3 “You dead?” (1:46)

Fluffy: Thirty million people read this article. No one thought to call me. Except Martin.

Fluffy: And I think that was just to verify that he still had employment.

(the phone rings)

Fluffy: Hello?

Martin: Hey. You dead?

Fluffy: No, man. I'm good.

Martin: I figured. You would've texted me.

(Martin hangs up)

Fluffy: And I would have, 'cause that's the kind of friend I am.

Why is it funny? Thirty million readers, one phone call. And Martin calls about his job, not his friend: “verify that he still had employment” uses very formal words for a very selfish reason. Then the best part: “If you were dead, you would have texted me.” Dead people can't text! And Fluffy agrees, proudly.

Steal this: You dead? = Are you dead? (close friends only) I figured. = I thought so.

would've + past participle = something that did not happen

4 “Welcome back.” (2:27)

Fluffy: Frankie, did you hear I died?
Frankie: That's what they meant.
Fluffy: What do you mean, ‘That's what they meant’?
Frankie: My friends were asking if you were okay.
Fluffy: What'd you tell them?
Frankie: I hadn't seen you.
Fluffy: So apparently I died.
Frankie: Welcome back.

Why is it funny? Frankie's friends asked, “Is your dad OK?” Frankie did not know, because he had not seen his dad — they live in the same house! He did not check and he did not worry. “Welcome back” is what you say after a holiday, not after a death. Zero emotion: that is the joke.

Steal this: apparently = it seems; I heard (not sure) What'd you ...? = What did you ...? (fast speech)

5 College: “Mm-mmm.” (2:50)

Fluffy: My son, Frankie, is now 18 years old. And one week away from graduation.
(the audience claps)
Fluffy: You guys are clapping, but he's not leaving.
Fluffy: Frankie, what do you want to do with your life?
Frankie: Mm-mmm.
Fluffy: Have you thought about college?
Frankie: Just now.
Fluffy: I will pay for your entire college education, no matter where you want to go.
Frankie: Mm-mmm.
Fluffy: You want to go out of state, we'll make it happen.

Why is it funny? The audience claps: great, the boy will graduate. Fluffy says: don't clap — he is not leaving home! “Just now” means Frankie started thinking about college this second, only because Dad asked. Dad offers to pay for everything; the son answers with a sound. Big offer, tiny answer.

Steal this: make it happen = do what is needed no matter where ... = it doesn't matter where

6 “Hey, Dad.” (3:44)

Friend: Frankie, you're lucky, man. Your dad's trying to help you go to college. My dad wants me to get a job.

Friend: My dad doesn't even trust me to walk.

Fluffy: And I hear this, and I'm like, “I love these kids.”

Fluffy: He doesn't see Fluffy. He sees “Dad! Dad!” I'm the guy that tells him clean your room, take a shower and put on deodorant.

Frankie: Hey, Dad.

(the friends see a star: angels sing, doves fly)

Why is it funny? Parents love it when their kids' friends say what the parents say — free help! “My dad doesn't even trust me to walk” is a big exaggeration. Frankie is numb to his famous dad: Fluffy is only the man who says “take a shower”. The friends see a star from heaven, with singing and doves. Frankie sees Dad.

Steal this: bring friends over = invite them to your home on the other hand = but, the opposite side be numb to ... = feel nothing about it any more

Watch 2 — subtitles ON again. Detail questions (after transcript / vocab on class day):

1. “Martin was like, ‘Hey. You dead?’” What does “was like” do here?

- **A.** It compares Martin to someone
- **B.** It says Martin enjoyed something
- **C.** It gives Martin's exact words, in his voice

2. Martin says, “I figured.” What does he mean?

- **A.** I counted it.
- **B.** I thought so.
- **C.** I drew a picture.

3 Transcript — notice the highlighted words

yellow = vocabulary to learn · blue = idioms & phrasal verbs

8:44	They put us at a hotel right across the street.
8:47	And you know, you know when you're in a good hotel when you get inside of the elevator, and it talks.
8:55	It's one of those.
8:59	"Second floor." "Third floor." I'm like, "Man, she sounds hot." "Fourth floor. Mmmm." "Fifth floor. Oh, yeah." Martin asked me, "How far you going up?" I said, "All the way." I gotta see how this ends. You know what I'm saying?
9:30	And by the way, since the last time we were here, I've had a few things change in my life.
9:34	Some things happened that were so crazy that I couldn't even believe it was a possibility.
9:39	First thing that happened was, I had my first ever celebrity death hoax.
9:46	Meaning that someone faked my death on the Internet, and it went viral.
9:52	Someone wrote an amazing article that was read by over 30 million people that was so good, even I was like, "Oh, my God. I was so nice."
10:06	TMZ reported it for 30 minutes, until they called my publicist and confirmed that I was still alive.
10:11	The article said that I had died October 31 from complications of Type II diabetes.
10:19	And I'm thinking to myself, "That's a hell of a day to kill a diabetic." You know what I mean? That's like killing Santa on Christmas Eve.
10:30	Thirty million people read this article.
10:33	No one thought to call me.
10:36	Except Martin.
10:43	Martin was the only one that called me.
10:46	And I think that was just to verify that he still had employment.
10:52	I got that phone call. "Hello?" Martin was like, "Hey.
10:59	You dead?" "No, man. I'm good." "I figured. You would've texted me." And I would have, 'cause that's the kind of friend I am.
11:12	I even asked my son, Frankie. I said, "Frankie, did you hear I died?" "That's what they meant." "What do you mean, 'That's what they meant'?" "My friends were asking if you were okay." "What'd you tell them?" "I hadn't seen you." "So apparently I died." "Welcome back."
11:35	And that's another thing that's changed.
11:37	My son, Frankie, is now 18 years old.
11:42	And one week away from graduation.
11:51	You guys are clapping, but he's not leaving.

11:55 I asked him. “Frankie, what do you want to do with your life?” “Mm-mmm.” “Have you thought about college?” “Just now.” I’m like, “Frankie, you do realize that all you need to do is get accepted.

12:07 I tell a lot of jokes. I will pay for your entire college education, no matter where you want to go.” “As long as you get accepted. What do you think about that?” “Mm-mmm.” I say, “You want to go to school in California, we’ll make it happen.

12:26 You want to go out of state, we’ll make it happen.

14:29 I love my son very much, you guys.

14:31 It’s just that sometimes he doesn’t get the position he’s in.

14:34 He doesn’t realize it.

14:36 Which is why I love it whenever he brings his friends over.

14:39 He brings his friends over the house, and they’re constantly saying what I’m saying.

14:43 And as a parent, anytime you tell your kids something, that’s one thing.

14:47 When you can get their friends to say what you say, you can’t pay for that.

14:51 And they’re always doing it. “Frankie, you’re lucky, man.

14:54 Your dad’s trying to help you go to college.

14:56 My dad wants me to get a job.

14:57 Frankie, you’re lucky, man. Your dad’s trying to give you a car.

15:00 My dad doesn’t even trust me to walk.

15:02 You’re lucky, man.” And I hear this, and I’m like, “I love these kids.” Because my son is very numb to this situation.

15:14 He’s very numb to all of you, and he’s very numb to “Fluffy.” Okay, he doesn’t see Fluffy. He sees “Dad! Dad!” I’m Dad. I’m the guy that tells him clean your room, take a shower and put on deodorant, which he does very well now!

15:36 But you guys saw what I had to do to make that happen.

15:39 His friends, on the other hand, they still get excited when they see me.

15:43 They still geek out.

15:44 I walk into the living room. They’re all sitting there.

15:47 Frankie sees me. “Hey, Dad.” His friends see me, they see this.

16:01 With, like, doves. Can you imagine if every time you walked into a room, that happened?

16:09 “He’s here.”

4 Vocabulary — 13 words worth remembering

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning & use	In the clip
elevator	/ˈelɪveɪtə/	a machine that carries people up and down in a building (US). UK:	*when you get inside of the elevator, and it talks.*

		lift **Use:** US elevator = UK lift · get in the elevator	
celebrity	/sə'lebrəti/	a famous person, especially in films, TV or music	*I had my first ever celebrity death hoax.*
hoax	/həʊks/	a fake story made on purpose to trick many people **Use:** a death hoax / an internet hoax · on purpose, not just a rumour	*I had my first ever celebrity death hoax.*
viral	/'vaɪrəl/	spreading very quickly on the internet **Use:** go viral (past: went viral) · a viral video / post	*someone faked my death on the Internet, and it went viral.*
publicist	/'pʌblɪsɪst/	a person whose job is to talk to the news for a famous person	*until they called my publicist and confirmed that I was still alive.*
complications	/ˌkɒmplɪ'keɪʃnz/	new medical problems caused by an illness **Use:** die from complications of + illness · usually plural	*from complications of Type II diabetes.*
diabetic	/ˌdaɪə'betɪk/	a person who has diabetes **Use:** diabetes = the illness · diabetic = the person	*That's a hell of a day to kill a diabetic.*
verify	/'verɪfaɪ/	to check that something is true **Use:** verify that … / verify a fact	*And I think that was just to verify that he still had employment.*
employment	/ɪm'plɔɪmənt/	having a paid job (a formal word) **Use:** formal word for "a job" — Fluffy uses it to sound funny	*And I think that was just to verify that he still had employment.*
apparently	/ə'pærəntli/	used when you heard something but you are not sure it is true **Use:** Apparently, … = I heard / it seems	*So apparently I died.*
graduation	/ˌgrædʒu'eɪʃn/	the time when you finish high school or university	*And one week away from graduation.*
numb	/nʌm/	not feeling or reacting any more, because it happens all the time **Use:** be numb to something · also: numb fingers (no feeling)	*Because my son is very numb to this situation.*
deodorant	/di'əʊdərənt/	something you put under your arms to stop a bad smell **Use:** put on deodorant	*take a shower and put on deodorant,*

5 Idioms & Phrasal Verbs

Phrase	Type	Meaning	In the clip
went viral	idiom	(a story, video or photo) spread very fast on the internet	*someone faked my death on the Internet, and it went viral.*
a hell of a	idiom	a really big, bad or surprising … (informal — friends only)	*That's a hell of a day to kill a diabetic.*
I figured	phrase	I thought so; I guessed that (informal)	*I figured. You would've texted me.*
make it happen	phrase	do whatever is needed so a plan becomes real	*You want to go out of state, we'll make it happen.*
bring friends over	phrasal v.	invite friends to come to your home	*Which is why I love it whenever he brings his friends over.*
on the other hand	phrase	used to show the opposite side	*His friends, on the other hand, they still get excited when they see me.*
geek out	phrasal v.	get very excited about something you love, like a big fan (informal)	*They still geek out.*

6 Grammar Spotlight

Telling a story with "be like": I'm like … / he was like …

When Americans tell a funny story, they often use be like instead of said or thought. After like come the person's exact words, and the speaker copies the voice. That is why stand-up is full of it. Fluffy uses it five times in this clip. It is very common in speech, but do not use it in formal writing.

Form: I'm like / he was like / they were like + "exact words (or a sound, a face)"

• *I'm like, "Man, she sounds hot."*

• *Even I was like, "Oh, my God. I was so nice."*

• *Martin was like, "Hey. You dead?"*

• *I'm like, "I love these kids."*

Compare:

• Martin asked me, "How far you going up?" ↔ Martin was like, "Hey. You dead?" (Asked / said = neutral. Was like = act it out, with the voice.)

• I'm thinking to myself, "That's a hell of a day …" ↔ I'm like, "I love these kids." (Both can show a thought. Be like is more casual.)

Watch out: Not "He liked, 'Hey.'" and not "He was like said …". Use be + like + the words: He was like, "Hey."

Learn more: English Grammar in Use — Reported speech (then compare the spoken form be like)

7 Practice — circle / match / fill in; answers on the last page

Grammar in use

1. Which line uses “be like” to show what someone said or thought?

- **A.** Martin asked me, “How far you going up?”
- **B.** Martin was the only one that called me.
- **C.** I'm like, “Man, she sounds hot.”

2. “Even I was like, ‘Oh, my God. I was so nice.’” What does Fluffy mean?

- **A.** When I read it, I thought: wow, I was a nice man!
- **B.** I was similar to a nice man.
- **C.** I liked the man who wrote it.

3. Martin: “I figured. You would've texted me.” What does he mean?

- **A.** You texted me yesterday.
- **B.** If you were dead, you would have sent me a text.
- **C.** Please text me tomorrow.

Words & phrases

4. Which word means “a fake story made on purpose to trick many people”?

- **A.** hoax
- **B.** rumour
- **C.** joke

5. Frankie has heard his dad's jokes for 18 years. He is _____ to them.

(verified · numb · apparent)

6. “You want to go out of state? We'll make it happen.” Fluffy promises to ...

- **A.** force Frankie to leave home
- **B.** wait and see what happens
- **C.** do whatever is needed so Frankie can go

7. Frankie's friends geek out when they see Fluffy. They ...

- **A.** get very excited, like big fans
- **B.** go outside quietly
- **C.** feel bored and go home

Listening detail

8. Play this bit. What does Martin say?

- **A.** You there?
- **B.** You dead?
- **C.** You did?

9. “Have you thought about college?” Play it. What does Frankie answer?

- **A.** Just now.
- **B.** Not now.
- **C.** Just no.

Why is it funny?

10. Why is Frankie's “Welcome back.” funny?

- **A.** Frankie missed his dad during a long trip
- **B.** Frankie's friends told him to say it
- **C.** He talks about his dad's “death” like a short trip, with no emotion

8 Final listen — NO subtitles — prove what you remember

Subtitles are OFF. You know the jokes now — can you still catch the words?

Catch the line

- ☐ I'm like, “Man, she sounds hot.”
- ☐ it went viral
- ☐ That's a hell of a day to kill a diabetic.
- ☐ Hey. You dead?
- ☐ I figured. You would've texted me.
- ☐ So apparently I died. — Welcome back.
- ☐ we'll make it happen
- ☐ They still geek out.

What did they say?

1. Fluffy uses a formal word here. Which words do you hear?

- **A.** to verify that he still had a job
- **B.** to check that he still had work
- **C.** to verify that he still had employment

2. Which words do you hear?

- **A.** my son is very numb to this situation
- **B.** my son is very new to this situation
- **C.** my son is very mad at this situation

Put the lines in order

____ I hadn't seen you.

____ Did you hear I died?

____ Welcome back.

____ That's what they meant.

____ My friends were asking if you were okay.

Answer Key — check yourself after finishing

Before You Watch: C · **Gist:** A · **Detail:** 1-C, 2-B

Grammar in use: 1-C · 2-A · 3-B

Words & phrases: 4-A · 5-numb · 6-C · 7-A

Listening detail: 8-B · 9-A

Why is it funny?: 10-C

Final — said what: 1-C · 2-A

Final — order: 1 → 3 → 4 → 0 → 2

1: I'm like + the exact words = what Fluffy said or thought, acted out.

2: Was like = his reaction. The article was so kind that even Fluffy was surprised.

3: Would've + past participle = something that did not happen. The joke: dead people can't text!

4: A hoax is made on purpose. A rumour may be true or false; nobody planned it.

5: Be numb to something = it happens so often that you feel nothing.

6: Make it happen = do what is needed so the plan becomes real.

7: Geek out = get very excited about something you love.

8: Full question: Are you dead? In fast, casual speech people drop “are”. Close friends only!

9: Just now = only this second. He started thinking about college because Dad asked.

10: You say welcome back after a holiday, not after a death. Deadpan teenager.