

Grammar & Expressions: 文法及用法

1. “Thanks for walking me back.” – It is common to add a gerund (verb with ‘ing’ attached) to describe an action in English. In this sentence, “walking me back” means “walking with me as I go back” (to my dormitory).
2. “It was nothing.” – This actually means, “What I did was not important.” The sense here is “What I did was so ordinary that it means nothing.”
3. “I have to go back.” – “Have to” here means “must.” Nana is saying she “must” go back home to see her mother. Another example: I have class in 15 minutes, so I must/have to eat fast.
4. “She might need an operation.” “Might” and “may”—there are many confusions between the usage of the words “might” and “may.” “Might” is used when there is a chance, but a very slight one, whereas “may” is used for something that is likely to occur. For example, here, if Nana said, “She may need an operation,” it would mean that her mother is in a much more severe predicament than if she only “might need an operation.”
5. “If anything comes up” – “Comes up” may mean “to happen unexpectedly as a surprise or shock.” For example, “Whatever comes up, don’t worry. We’ll solve the problem.”
6. “Be better than you think” – This means “Things might not be as bad as you fear.” Thus, Nana thinks perhaps her mother’s health problem may be serious, but actually the doctors may discover she is not so sick.
7. “Keep your confidence” – “keep” has many meanings, but here merely means “hold onto.” In other words: stay calm and don’t let fear control you.
8. “When they face the unknown” – “Face” here means to “meet.”
9. “There’s no sense in scaring myself to death” – “No sense in” means “it is not wise to -.” For example, there’s no sense in spending all that money on such a silly toy. “Scaring myself to death” is obviously an exaggeration, because people rarely die because of fear alone.
10. “Stay in touch” – This means “keep in contact with me by telephone, text message, e-mail or some other form of communication.”