

Exploring Language of Cultural Acts

Task 2: How do I use this word?

Choose two of the following Costa Rican words, phrases, and sounds list the following:

- Meaning(s)
- Communicative acts (functions) or scenarios of use
- Example in context

What's Up? / Sup?

Meaning	Act or Scenario	Example	Pronunciation or Paralinguistic Considerations
Hello	Informal greeting between friends or peers	What's up, Mark? Sup, man! Sup? Not much. Sup with you?	Use contracted form with emphasis on the word UP Usually accompanied by a quick nod or head raise and a smile
What do you need? How can I help you?	An affirmative response to a person asking for a favor or a moment of your time	Mark, do you have a minute? Sure, what's up? Hey, can you lend me a hand? Yeah, what's up?	Eye contact, friendly tone
Expression of concern	When you want to check on the emotional status of a person who doesn't seem to be ok.	What's up with you today? Is everything ok?	Concerned tone, maybe touching the shoulder, eye contact, confused facial expression
Expression of defiance or aggression	When someone is attempting to start a fight or appear aggressive.	What's up? You want some of this?!!	Direct eye contact. Raised arms, loud confrontational tone

Fraid Not / I'm afraid not

Meaning	Act or Scenario	Example	Pronunciation or Paralinguistic Considerations
I regret that I have to give you a negative answer	When politely declining a request for confirmation or a favor	Do you know what time the bus leaves? Fraid not, I'm not from around here.	Usually spoken in a regretful tone with a facial expression of pain or regret.

		Are you coming to the meeting tomorrow? I'm afraid not. I have another commitment.	
I don't believe you. I know you are lying.	When confronting a person who is not telling the truth. Usually the person saying it is an authority figure.	I was at John's house all day. Fraid not! Sarah said she saw you with Rebeca over at the park. Officer, I swear I didn't take anything. Fraid not. We have it all on camera.	Direct eye contact. Challenging or sarcastic tone.