

Stop Saying “Good”: Enjoyable, Rewarding or Worthwhile?

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Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

1 enjoyable

DEF

Pleasant and giving you pleasure while you experience it.

Use it for activities, events, meals, books and other experiences. A person can be enjoyable company, but say “I enjoyed it” when you mean that you had fun.

We had an enjoyable evening with our neighbours.

The book was light but enjoyable.

2 rewarding

DEF

Giving you satisfaction, a sense of achievement or personal value.

It often involves effort, challenge, progress or helping others. Something can be difficult or tiring and still be rewarding.

Helping the beginners with their cameras was rewarding.

Training for the race was exhausting but rewarding.

3 worthwhile

DEF

Worth the time, effort or money invested in it.

It expresses a judgement about value after considering the cost. It is one word and is not the same structure as “worth doing”.

The photography course was definitely worthwhile.

The trip was long, but the experience was worthwhile.

4 to have a good time

DEF

To enjoy yourself during an activity or period of time.

This phrase describes the person's experience. Contrast “I had a good time” with “the activity was enjoyable”.

We had a good time walking through the old city.

Did you have a good time at the concert?

5 a sense of achievement

DEF

A feeling of pride and satisfaction after completing something difficult or valuable.

It commonly follows “give someone” or “feel”. It explains why effortful activities can be rewarding.

Finishing the course gave me a sense of achievement.

She felt a strong sense of achievement after helping the team.



6

it is worth doing

DEF

The activity deserves the time or effort required to do it.

Use “worth” followed by an -ing form: “worth trying”, not “worth to try”. Compare “the course was worthwhile” with “the course was worth taking”.

It is worth comparing several options before you decide.

This book is worth reading twice.

7

to justify the time and effort

DEF

To produce enough value or benefit to make the time and effort reasonable.

“Justify” means that the result gives a good reason for the cost, work or decision. It is stronger than simply saying something was pleasant.

The result justified the time and effort we invested.

The small improvement did not justify the extra cost.

8

a sense of purpose

DEF

A feeling that what you are doing has meaning and a worthwhile aim.

Often used with work, volunteering or long-term goals. It describes meaningful direction, not merely pleasure.

The volunteer project gave her a strong sense of purpose.

Helping new colleagues gives him a sense of purpose.

