

Stop Saying “Interesting”: Fascinating, Thought-Provoking or Engaging?

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

fascinating

DEF

Extremely interesting because something strongly attracts your curiosity or attention.

It is stronger than “interesting” and often describes unusual, complex or surprising subjects.

The exhibition about memory was fascinating.

The documentary reveals a fascinating story about the deep ocean.

2

thought-provoking

DEF

Making you think seriously or consider an idea in a new way.

It focuses on deeper reflection, not necessarily pleasure. The compound adjective is normally written with a hyphen.

The film offers a thought-provoking view of success.

Her question was uncomfortable but thought-provoking.

3

engaging

DEF

Pleasant and effective at holding attention or encouraging involvement.

It often describes the way a speaker, lesson or book involves an audience, rather than the topic alone.

She is an engaging speaker who asks excellent questions.

The teacher turned a difficult topic into an engaging lesson.

4

hold your attention

DEF

To keep you interested and focused over a period of time.

This collocation emphasises sustained attention, not merely attracting notice for a moment.

The opening story immediately held the audience's attention.

A good explanation holds your attention without oversimplifying.

5

encourage involvement

DEF

To make people more willing to participate actively.

“Involvement” suggests active engagement rather than passive attention.

The trainer used questions to encourage involvement.

Small-group tasks encourage involvement from quieter students.



6

stay in your mind

DEF

To remain memorable or continue to occupy your thoughts.

It often describes an image, question or idea that keeps affecting you after an experience ends.

That question stayed in my mind all evening.

The final image will stay in your mind long after the film.

7

reconsider an idea

DEF

To think again about an idea, especially because new information may change your view.

"Reconsider" does not guarantee that you will change your opinion; it means examining it again.

The film made me reconsider my idea of success.

New evidence forced the team to reconsider its original plan.

8

strongly attract your curiosity

DEF

To make you intensely interested and eager to discover more.

This phrase explains why "fascinating" is stronger and more specific than the general adjective "interesting".

The mysterious object strongly attracted my curiosity.

Stories about memory strongly attract her curiosity.

