

Short Stories with Peter: The Fire on the Hill

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

no time to lose

DEF

A need to act immediately because delay matters.

Often follows there is; expresses urgency without literally losing an object.

There is no time to lose; the last train leaves soon.

We had no time to lose when the alarm sounded.

2

catch fire

DEF

To begin burning.

Focuses on the thing that starts burning; the past form is caught fire.

The dry grass caught fire.

Keep the paper away from the candle so it does not catch fire.

3

set fire to

DEF

To cause something to burn.

Names the action that starts a fire, unlike catch fire; use to before the object.

Gohei set fire to his rice.

A spark set fire to the dry leaves.

4

on purpose

DEF

Intentionally, rather than by accident.

Describes intent, not whether an action was wise or kind.

I left the door open on purpose.

She spoke slowly on purpose so everyone could follow.



5

draw back

DEF

To move away or retreat.

In the story, the sea draws back; drew back is the past form.

The sea drew back from the shore.

He drew back when he saw the broken glass.

6

keep back

DEF

To remain at a safe distance.

Often used in warnings, with from to name the danger or boundary.

Keep back from the edge.

The guide asked us to keep back from the fire.

7

sweep through

DEF

To move quickly and powerfully through an area.

Here it describes floodwater, not cleaning with a broom.

Water swept through the narrow streets.

A strong wind swept through the valley.

8

still standing

DEF

Remaining upright or intact after damage or difficulty.

Still emphasizes survival despite what happened around something.

His house was still standing after the flood.

Only the old wall was still standing.

