

Short Stories with Peter: The Fire on the Hill

English learning resource · ES

Key words & expressions · English + Spanish

8 learning entries

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

1

no time to lose

no hay tiempo que perder

DEF

A need to act immediately because delay matters.

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

ES

Necesidad de actuar de inmediato porque un retraso importa.

Suele aparecer tras there is y expresa urgencia, no la pérdida literal de un objeto.

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

There is no time to lose; the last train leaves soon. → No hay tiempo que perder; el último tren sale pronto.

We had no time to lose when the alarm sounded.

We had no time to lose when the alarm sounded. → No teníamos tiempo que perder cuando sonó la alarma.

2

catch fire

prender fuego

DEF

To begin burning.

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

ES

Empezar a arder.

Se centra en lo que empieza a arder; el pasado es caught fire.

The dry grass caught fire.

The dry grass caught fire. → La hierba seca prendió fuego.

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

Keep the paper away from the candle so it does not catch fire. → Aleja el papel de la vela para que no prenda fuego.

3

set fire to

prender fuego a

DEF

To cause something to burn.

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

ES

Hacer que algo arda.

Nombra la acción que inicia el fuego, a diferencia de catch fire; lleva to antes del objeto.

Gohei set fire to his rice.

Gohei set fire to his rice. → Gohei prendió fuego a su arroz.

A spark set fire to the dry leaves.

A spark set fire to the dry leaves. → Una chispa prendió fuego a las hojas secas.



4

on purpose*a propósito*

DEF

Intentionally, rather than by accident.

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

ES

De manera intencionada, no por accidente.

*Indica intención, sin juzgar si la acción fue sensata o amable.**I left the door open on purpose.**I left the door open on purpose. → Dejó la puerta abierta a propósito.**She spoke slowly on purpose so everyone could follow.**She spoke slowly on purpose so everyone could follow. → Habló despacio a propósito para que todos pudieran seguirla.*

5

draw back*retroceder*

DEF

To move away or retreat.

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

ES

Alejarse o retirarse.

*En el cuento retrocede el mar; drew back es el pasado.**The sea drew back from the shore.**The sea drew back from the shore. → El mar se retiró de la orilla.**He drew back when he saw the broken glass.**He drew back when he saw the broken glass. → Retrocedió al ver los cristales rotos.*

6

keep back*mantenerse alejado*

DEF

To remain at a safe distance.

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

ES

Permanecer a una distancia segura.

*Frecuente en advertencias; from introduce el peligro o el límite.**Keep back from the edge.**Keep back from the edge. → Mantente alejado del borde.**The guide asked us to keep back from the fire.**The guide asked us to keep back from the fire. → El guía nos pidió que nos mantuviéramos alejados del fuego.*

7

sweep through*arrasar*

DEF

To move quickly and powerfully through an area.

Here it describes floodwater, not cleaning with a broom.

ES

Atravesar una zona con rapidez y fuerza.

Aquí describe el agua de una inundación, no barrer con una escoba.

Water swept through the narrow streets.

Water swept through the narrow streets. → El agua arrasó las calles estrechas.

A strong wind swept through the valley.

A strong wind swept through the valley. → Un viento fuerte recorrió el valle.

8

still standing*seguir en pie*

DEF

Remaining upright or intact after damage or difficulty.

Still emphasizes survival despite what happened around something.

ES

Permanecer erguido o intacto después de daños o dificultades.

Still destaca que algo ha resistido pese a lo ocurrido a su alrededor.

His house was still standing after the flood.

His house was still standing after the flood. → Su casa seguía en pie tras la inundación.

Only the old wall was still standing.

Only the old wall was still standing. → Solo la pared vieja seguía en pie.

