

The Question That Changes Everything | Small Talk in English, Episode 3

English learning resource · ES

Key words & expressions · English + Spanish

8 learning entries

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

1

What have you been up to?

¿Qué has estado haciendo últimamente?

DEF

A friendly question about someone's recent activities.

The present perfect connects recent experience to now; up to can have other meanings in other contexts.

ES

Pregunta amable sobre las actividades recientes de alguien.

El presente perfecto conecta lo reciente con el presente; up to tiene otros sentidos según el contexto.

What have you been up to since we last met?

What have you been up to since we last met? → ¿Qué has estado haciendo desde la última vez que nos vimos?

Hi, Sam, what have you been up to?

Hi, Sam, what have you been up to? → Hola, Sam, ¿qué has estado haciendo últimamente?

2

You mentioned...

Comentaste que...

DEF

A way to return to something the other person said before.

Shows attention and invites a follow-up; use a clause or noun after mentioned.

ES

Forma de retomar algo que la otra persona dijo antes.

Demuestra atención e invita a seguir hablando; mentioned admite una oración o un sustantivo detrás.

You mentioned you were moving house.

You mentioned you were moving house. → Comentaste que te mudabas.

You mentioned an exam; how did it go?

You mentioned an exam; how did it go? → Comentaste que tenías un examen; ¿qué tal fue?

3

take turns

turnarse

DEF

To alternate doing something with another person.

In conversation, both people get space to speak; take turns doing is a common pattern.

ES

Alternarse con otra persona para hacer algo.

En una conversación, ambos tienen espacio; es habitual take turns seguido de verbo en -ing.

We took turns asking questions.

We took turns asking questions. → Nos turnamos para hacer preguntas.

Please take turns speaking.

Please take turns speaking. → Por favor, hablad por turnos.



4

on paper*sobre el papel*

DEF

According to the recorded facts or plan, which may differ from lived reality.

Figurative here; it does not require actual paper.

ES

Según los datos o el plan, que pueden diferir de la experiencia real.

Sentido figurado; no hace falta que exista papel físico.

On paper, Juan had plenty of contacts.

On paper, Juan had plenty of contacts. → Sobre el papel, Juan tenía muchos contactos.

The plan looks excellent on paper.

The plan looks excellent on paper. → El plan parece excelente sobre el papel.

5

acquaintance*conocido*

DEF

Someone you know but do not know closely.

Less intimate than friend; it does not imply dislike.

ES

Persona a la que conoces, pero sin gran cercanía.

Menos íntimo que friend; no implica antipatía.

She is an acquaintance from work.

She is an acquaintance from work. → Es una conocida del trabajo.

An acquaintance can become a close friend.

An acquaintance can become a close friend. → Un conocido puede convertirse en un amigo cercano.

6

dread*temer de antemano*

DEF

To feel strong worry about something that is going to happen.

Looks forward to an unwanted event; dread doing is a useful pattern.

ES

Sentir gran preocupación por algo que va a ocurrir.

Anticipa un suceso no deseado; dread doing es una estructura útil.

I was dreading the interview.

I was dreading the interview. → Me daba mucho miedo la entrevista.

He dreaded telling them the news.

He dreaded telling them the news. → Temía tener que darles la noticia.



7

go first*dar el primer paso*

DEF

To be the first person to act or speak.

In the episode it means initiating honest sharing, not winning a race.

ES

Ser la primera persona en actuar o hablar.

Aquí significa empezar a compartir con sinceridad, no ganar una carrera.

Somebody has to go first.

Somebody has to go first. → Alguien tiene que dar el primer paso.

I was nervous, but I offered to go first.

I was nervous, but I offered to go first. → Estaba nervioso, pero me ofrecí a empezar.

8

might as well*bien podría / ya que estamos*

DEF

Used to suggest a reasonable choice when there is no strong reason against it.

Gentle encouragement here, not a statement of strong obligation.

ES

Sugiere una opción razonable cuando no hay un motivo fuerte en contra.

Aquí anima con suavidad, sin expresar una obligación firme.

Somebody has to go first; it might as well be you.

Somebody has to go first; it might as well be you. → Alguien tiene que dar el primer paso; bien puedes ser tú.

We are already here, so we might as well ask.

We are already here, so we might as well ask. → Ya estamos aquí, así que podemos aprovechar para preguntar.

