

Short Stories with Peter: How Much Land Does a Man Need? — Leo Tolstoy

English learning resource · ES

Key words & expressions · English + Spanish

8 learning entries

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

1

be content with

estar satisfecho con / conformarse con

DEF

Feel satisfied with what you have, without needing more.

Content is an adjective here, with stress on the second syllable. It expresses satisfaction, not a rule against ambition. Use with before the thing you accept.

ES

Sentirse satisfecho con lo que se tiene, sin necesitar más.

Content es aquí un adjetivo, con acento en la segunda sílaba. Expresa satisfacción, no una prohibición de tener ambiciones; with introduce aquello que basta.

I am content with a quiet weekend at home.

I am content with a quiet weekend at home. → Me basta con un fin de semana tranquilo en casa.

She was content with her small flat.

She was content with her small flat. → Estaba satisfecha con su pequeño piso.

2

set off at dawn

ponerse en marcha al amanecer

DEF

Begin a journey when the first daylight appears.

Set off describes departure; at dawn gives the time. Dawn is the beginning of daylight, not sunset; set stays set in the past.

ES

Iniciar un viaje cuando aparece la primera luz del día.

Set off indica la salida y at dawn la hora. Dawn es el comienzo de la luz, no la puesta del sol; set no cambia en pasado.

We set off at dawn to avoid the heat.

We set off at dawn to avoid the heat. → Salimos al amanecer para evitar el calor.

They set off at dawn and reached the village before lunch.

They set off at dawn and reached the village before lunch. → Salieron al amanecer y llegaron al pueblo antes de comer.



3

run out of time*quedarse sin tiempo / acabarse el tiempo*

DEF

Have no time left, or approach the point when it will be too late.

Be running out of time often means some time remains but the deadline is close. Run is figurative here, not physical movement.

ES

No tener tiempo restante o acercarse al momento en que será demasiado tarde.

Be running out of time suele indicar que aún queda algo de tiempo, pero el límite se acerca. Run es figurado, no correr físicamente.

We are running out of time, so let us finish the meeting.

We are running out of time, so let us finish the meeting. → Se nos está acabando el tiempo, así que terminemos la reunión.

I ran out of time before I answered the last question.

I ran out of time before I answered the last question. → Me quedé sin tiempo antes de responder la última pregunta.

4

belong to*pertenecer a*

DEF

Be owned by a particular person or group.

In the story this describes ownership, not simply location. This use usually takes a simple tense: the fields belong to him, not are belonging.

ES

Ser propiedad de una persona o grupo concreto.

En el cuento indica propiedad, no solo ubicación. Este uso suele llevar tiempo simple: the fields belong to him, no are belonging.

These fields belong to my family.

These fields belong to my family. → Estos campos pertenecen a mi familia.

The blue bag belongs to someone on the train.

The blue bag belongs to someone on the train. → La bolsa azul pertenece a alguien del tren.

5

starting point*punto de partida*

DEF

The place or moment where something begins.

In the story it is a physical place you must return to. It can also describe the beginning of a discussion, plan or learning process.

ES

El lugar o momento en que algo comienza.

En el cuento es un lugar físico al que se debe volver. También puede ser el comienzo de una conversación, un plan o un aprendizaje.

We returned to our starting point before sunset.

We returned to our starting point before sunset. → Volvimos al punto de partida antes de la puesta del sol.

This question is a useful starting point for our discussion.

This question is a useful starting point for our discussion. → Esta pregunta es un punto de partida útil para nuestra conversación.



6

make a detour*dar un rodeo / desviarse*

DEF

Take a longer or different route instead of going directly.

A detour may avoid an obstacle or allow an extra visit. It need not be an accidental wrong turn; made is the past of make.

ES

Tomar una ruta más larga o diferente en vez de ir directamente.

Puede evitar un obstáculo o permitir una visita adicional. No tiene por qué ser un giro equivocado accidental; made es el pasado de make.

We made a detour to see the river.

We made a detour to see the river. → Dimos un rodeo para ver el río.

The closed road forced us to make a detour.

The closed road forced us to make a detour. → La carretera cortada nos obligó a desviarnos.

7

out of breath*sin aliento / jadeando*

DEF

Breathing quickly or with difficulty after effort.

Common after running or climbing. Be or get out of breath describes a temporary state; it is not the same as holding your breath deliberately.

ES

Respirar deprisa o con dificultad después de un esfuerzo.

Habitual tras correr o subir escaleras. Be or get out of breath describe un estado pasajero, no aguantar voluntariamente la respiración.

I was out of breath after climbing the stairs.

I was out of breath after climbing the stairs. → Estaba sin aliento después de subir las escaleras.

She arrived out of breath but still smiling.

She arrived out of breath but still smiling. → Llegó sin aliento, pero aún sonriendo.

8

press on*seguir adelante pese a las dificultades*

DEF

Continue with an activity or journey despite difficulty.

The particle on suggests continuing. This can show determination, but the story warns that continuing is not always wise. Use press on with something for a task.

ES

Continuar una actividad o un viaje a pesar de las dificultades.

On sugiere continuidad. Puede expresar determinación, pero el cuento advierte que seguir no siempre es sensato. Para una tarea: press on with something.

They were tired, but they pressed on towards the hill.

They were tired, but they pressed on towards the hill. → Estaban cansados, pero siguieron hacia la colina.

We pressed on with the work despite the interruptions.

We pressed on with the work despite the interruptions. → Seguimos con el trabajo a pesar de las interrupciones.

