

Sorry, I Didn't Catch That | Small Talk in English, Episode 4

English learning resource · ES

Key words & expressions · English + Spanish

13 learning entries

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

1

Sorry, I didn't catch that.

Lo siento, no lo entendí.

DEF

A polite way to say that you did not hear or understand what someone said.

It sounds softer than "What?" and focuses on the message, not your English level.

ES

Una forma educada de decir que no has escuchado o entendido lo que alguien ha dicho.

Suena más suave que "¿Qué?" y se centra en el mensaje, no en tu nivel de inglés.

Sorry, I didn't catch that. Could you repeat the name?

Sorry, I didn't catch that. Could you repeat the name? → Lo siento, no lo he entendido. ¿Podría repetir el nombre?

I didn't catch that over the music.

I didn't catch that over the music. → No lo capté por la música.

2

the last bit

la última parte

DEF

The final small part of what someone said.

Informal and useful when you heard most of a sentence but missed its ending.

ES

La última pequeña parte de lo que alguien dijo.

Informal y útil cuando escuchaste la mayor parte de una oración pero no entendiste su final.

I got the meeting time, but I missed the last bit.

I got the meeting time, but I missed the last bit. → Entendí la hora de la reunión, pero me perdí la última parte.

Sorry, what was the last bit you said?

Sorry, what was the last bit you said? → Perdona, ¿qué fue lo último que dijiste?

3

give someone something to work with

darle a alguien una pista concreta

DEF

To provide enough specific information for someone to respond or help.

In this episode, a precise repair request tells the other person what to repeat.

ES

Dar información suficiente y específica para que otra persona pueda responder o ayudar.

En este episodio, una solicitud de reparación precisa le dice a la otra persona qué repetir.

Tell me which word you missed; that gives me something to work with.

Tell me which word you missed; that gives me something to work with. → Dime qué palabra no entendiste; así me das una pista concreta para ayudarte.

A clear question gives the teacher something to work with.

A clear question gives the teacher something to work with. → Una pregunta clara le da al profesor una base concreta para ayudarte.



4

Would you mind ...?*¿Te importaría ...?*

DEF

A polite way to ask someone to do something.

Use it with a verb in -ing; it is courteous, not excessively formal.

ES

Una forma educada de pedirle a alguien que haga algo.

Úsalo con un verbo en -ing; es cortés, no excesivamente formal.

Would you mind saying that again, a bit slower?

Would you mind saying that again, a bit slower? → ¿Te importaría decir eso de nuevo, un poco más despacio?

Would you mind moving a little closer?

Would you mind moving a little closer? → ¿Te importaría acercarte un poco?

5

fill in the gaps*completar los huecos*

DEF

To guess missing information from what you already know.

It can describe how the brain understands incomplete speech in a noisy place.

ES

Adivinar la información que falta de lo que ya sabes.

Puede describir cómo el cerebro entiende el habla incompleta en un lugar ruidoso.

I heard the beginning and filled in the gaps.

I heard the beginning and filled in the gaps. → Escuché el principio y llené los huecos.

Context helps you fill in the gaps when a speaker talks fast.

Context helps you fill in the gaps when a speaker talks fast. → El contexto te ayuda a llenar los huecos cuando un orador habla rápido.

6

keep up with*seguir el ritmo de*

DEF

To continue at the same speed or level as something.

With a conversation, it means following it as it moves forward.

ES

Continuar a la misma velocidad o nivel que algo.

Con una conversación, significa seguirla a medida que avanza.

I can keep up with one person, but not with a whole group.

I can keep up with one person, but not with a whole group. → Puedo mantenerme al día con una persona, pero no con todo un grupo.

Slow down a little so everyone can keep up.

Slow down a little so everyone can keep up. → Reduce la velocidad un poco para que todos puedan seguir el ritmo.



7

jump in*intervenir / sumarse a la conversación*

DEF

To join a conversation or activity that has already started.

Usually friendly when you add a relevant comment or question; it is less forceful than “butt in”.

ES

Para unirse a una conversación o actividad que ya ha comenzado.

Suele ser amistoso si añades una pregunta o comentario relevante; es menos brusco que interrumpir.

Sorry to jump in, did you say you were from Krakow?

Sorry to jump in, did you say you were from Krakow? → Perdona que me meta, ¿has dicho que eres de Cracovia?

Feel free to jump in if you have an idea.

Feel free to jump in if you have an idea. → Siéntase libre de participar si tiene una idea.

8

butt in*interrumpir de malas maneras*

DEF

To interrupt a conversation rudely or without being invited.

It often has a negative tone, especially when you speak over another person.

ES

Interrumpir una conversación de forma grosera o sin invitación.

A menudo tiene un tono negativo, especialmente cuando hablas por encima de otra persona.

He kept butting in before she could finish.

He kept butting in before she could finish. → No dejaba de interrumpirla antes de que ella terminara.

I do not want to butt in, but the train is leaving.

I do not want to butt in, but the train is leaving. → No quiero interrumpir, pero el tren sale ya.

9

make room for someone*Hacer espacio para alguien*

DEF

To create physical or social space so another person can join.

It can mean moving your body or deliberately including someone in a group.

ES

Crear un espacio físico o social para que otra persona pueda unirse.

Puede significar mover tu cuerpo o incluir deliberadamente a alguien en un grupo.

She moved her chair to make room for the new student.

She moved her chair to make room for the new student. → Ella movió su silla para hacer espacio para el nuevo estudiante.

A good host makes room for quieter people.

A good host makes room for quieter people. → Un buen anfitrión hace espacio para las personas más tranquilas.



10

be left out*Queda fuera*

DEF

To be excluded from an activity, group or conversation.

It describes the feeling of not being included, often without anyone saying it directly.

ES

Ser excluido de una actividad, grupo o conversación.

Describe el sentimiento de no ser incluido, a menudo sin que nadie lo diga directamente.

Nobody wants to be left out of the conversation.

Nobody wants to be left out of the conversation. → Nadie quiere quedarse fuera de la conversación.

Invite her over so she does not feel left out.

Invite her over so she does not feel left out. → Invítala a visitarte para que no se sienta excluida.

11

I should get going.*Debería irme.*

DEF

A natural, polite sentence for starting to leave.

It signals an exit without sounding abrupt; add a positive comment after it.

ES

Una frase natural y educada para empezar a irse.

Señala una salida sin sonar abrupto; añade un comentario positivo después de él.

I should get going, but it was great to see you.

I should get going, but it was great to see you. → Debería irme, pero fue genial verte.

It is getting late, so I should get going.

It is getting late, so I should get going. → Se hace tarde, así que debería irme.

12

I should let you go.*debería dejarte seguir / no te entretengo más*

DEF

A considerate way to end a conversation by giving the other person an exit.

It suggests that you respect their time, even if they have not said they need to leave.

ES

Forma considerada de terminar una conversación y dar a la otra persona una salida.

Esto sugiere que respetes su tiempo, incluso si no han dicho que necesitan irse.

I should let you go; I know you have an early start.

I should let you go; I know you have an early start. → Debería dejarte seguir; sé que mañana empiezas temprano.

Thanks for calling. I should let you go now.

Thanks for calling. I should let you go now. → Gracias por llamar. No te entretengo más.



13

stay in the room*seguir presente en la conversación*

DEF

To remain involved in a conversation instead of withdrawing after a difficulty.

Figurative here: it means staying present and engaged, not literally remaining in one place.

ES

Seguir implicado en una conversación en vez de retirarte después de una dificultad.

Figurativo aquí: significa permanecer presente y comprometido, no literalmente permanecer en un lugar.

Ask for repetition and stay in the room.

Ask for repetition and stay in the room. → Pide que repitan y sigue presente en la conversación.

You do not need every word to stay in the room.

You do not need every word to stay in the room. → No necesitas entender cada palabra para seguir en la conversación.

