TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 192

Weekly English Recap: Rain, Luck & Clear Choices — 38 Shadowing Pairs

English learning resource · EN

Full episode script · English

101 lines

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

Welcome back to Your English Toolbox.

I am Peter, and this is your weekly English recap.

Today we will practise thirty-eight sentence pairs from episodes one hundred and eighty-five to one hundred and ninety-one.

We will revisit rain, luck, meaning in context, online habits, persuasion, prices and work.

First, listen to a useful sentence.

Then you will have four seconds to repeat it aloud.

After those four seconds, I will say the same idea in different words.

Listen for the meaning and notice what changes.

You will also have a short pause after the second sentence.

Use that pause to try the alternative phrasing yourself.

Keep your voice relaxed and take the full four seconds.

Let us begin with rain, weather and what the rain touches.

After a dry spell, the first rain brought an earthy smell to the garden.

After a long period without rain, the garden smelled like damp soil when it rained.

The smell came from tiny drops hitting the dry ground.

The scent appeared when small raindrops struck the dry soil.

The rain released small particles into the air.

The shower sent tiny bits of material up from the ground.

The pavement was damp, but the sky was beginning to clear.

The ground was wet, but the clouds were starting to disappear.

We took shelter under a tree until the shower passed.

We stood somewhere protected until the brief rain ended.

Now let us move to luck, chance and the choices we make.

Finding two tickets at the last minute was a stroke of luck.

Getting two tickets unexpectedly just before the event was good fortune.

Her first success may have been beginner's luck.

She may have done well because she was new to the activity.

I would rather be lucky than overconfident.

I prefer good fortune to believing too strongly in my own skill.

It was a lucky break, but we still had to prepare carefully.

Something fortunate happened, but we still needed to get ready properly.

Do not leave the result entirely to chance.

Do not depend only on luck for the outcome.

Next, listen for the three lives of the word fine.

Tuesday is fine with me.

Tuesday works for me.

The doctor said that my leg was fine.

The doctor said that there was nothing wrong with my leg.

He had to pay a fine for parking in the wrong place.

He had to pay money as a punishment for parking there.

The print is too fine for me to read without my glasses.

The writing is too small and detailed for me to read without glasses.

Fine can sound less enthusiastic than great.

Fine can mean acceptable without meaning wonderful.

Now we will practise language for online habits and careful reading.

I started doomscrolling after one worrying headline.

I kept scrolling through upsetting news after I saw one bad headline.

I lost track of time while I was scrolling through the news.

I did not notice how much time passed while I read news online.

That headline made a dramatic claim without enough context.

That headline sounded striking, but it did not include enough surrounding information.

I muted the account because every post made me anxious.

I stopped seeing that account because its posts kept making me worried.

Take a break before you share something upsetting.

Pause before you pass on information that makes you feel worried.

Our next sentences come from the fable about the North Wind and the Sun.

The Wind tried to force the traveller to remove his cloak.

The Wind used pressure to make the traveller take off his coat.

The traveller held on to his cloak more tightly.

The traveller gripped his coat more firmly.

The Sun persuaded him with gentle warmth.

The Sun influenced him by being warm and kind.

She gave up after trying the same argument three times.

She stopped trying after repeating the same argument three times.

Being firm is not always the same as being forceful.

You can be clear and strong without using pressure.

Now let us separate price, budget and value.

The tickets were cheap because we booked them early.

The tickets cost little because we reserved them in advance.

This flat is not affordable on my current budget.

I cannot reasonably pay for this flat with the money I have now.

The coat was good value for money because it lasted for years.

The coat was worth its price because it stayed useful for many years.

That bag looks cheap, but I am talking about its quality, not its price.

That bag looks poor quality, even though I am not describing how much it costs.

Compare what you get before you decide which option is better value.

Look at the benefits before you choose the option that gives you more for the price.

Finally, let us practise workplace language with care.

Quiet quitting does not usually mean formally leaving a job.

Quiet quitting normally does not mean handing in your resignation.

She completes the work in her job description, but she does not take on extra tasks.

She does the work required by her role, but she does not accept additional duties.

Leaving at the agreed time does not prove that someone has stopped caring.

Going home when work ends does not show exactly how a person feels about their job.

We should not guess a colleague's motivation from one action.

We should not decide why a colleague acted from one thing that we saw.

Set clear boundaries before extra work becomes an expectation.

Make your limits clear before additional work starts to feel required.

The rain finally broke the dry spell.

At last, rain ended the long period without water.

Good luck helps, but preparation matters too.

Fortune can help, but being ready is still important.

Clear boundaries protect time and energy at work.

Setting limits helps people keep enough time and energy.

You have practised thirty-eight pairs from this week's seven episodes.

Choose one expression about weather, one about price and one about work.

Make a true sentence about your own life with each of them.

If you want a second round, say the alternative sentence before I do.

The full transcript, vocabulary and practice are on Your English Toolbox.

Thank you for practising with me.

This is Peter, and I will see you next time.