Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 203

Short Stories with Peter: The Hats in the Snow

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

set off

DEF

To start a journey.

Often followed by for and a destination, or by on and a journey. Set is unchanged in the past tense.

The man set off along the snowy road.

We set off early for the airport.

2

brush something away

DEF

To remove something with a light movement of your hand or a brush.

A separable phrasal verb: brush the snow away or brush it away.

He brushed the snow away from the statues.

She brushed the crumbs away from the table.

3

keep something off

DEF

To prevent something from touching or covering a surface.

Put the unwanted thing after keep; use off before the surface it should not reach.

The hats helped keep the snow off the statues.

A cover keeps dust off the furniture.

4

set something down

DEF

To put something you are carrying onto a surface.

A separable phrasal verb; set it down is natural with a pronoun.

Someone set down a gift outside the door.

Please set your bag down by the chair.

5

wrap something around

DEF

To put a flexible material around an object or person.

Use around before the person or object being covered.

He wrapped the cloth around the sixth statue.

She wrapped a scarf around her neck.

6

in the distance

DEF

Far away from where someone is looking or listening.

Used for something visible or audible far away; it does not state an exact distance.

In the distance, they saw figures in the snow.

We could hear music in the distance.

7

give thanks

DEF

To express gratitude for something.

Somewhat formal or reflective; give thanks for introduces what one appreciates.

They gave thanks for the unexpected gift.

We gave thanks for the help we received.

8

unexpected

DEF

Not expected or predicted.

It can describe pleasant or unpleasant surprises; the context supplies the feeling.

The food was an unexpected gift.

An unexpected delay changed our plans.