Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 204

Who Are You in English?

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

12 learning entries

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

1

performance review

DEF

A formal discussion or assessment of how someone is doing at work.

Usually refers to a workplace evaluation by a manager; review is a noun in this phrase.

Camila was asked to contribute more in her performance review.

My manager scheduled my performance review for next week.

2

frame

DEF

A way of understanding or interpreting a situation.

Here frame is figurative: it is not a physical border around a picture.

A different setting may bring a different frame to mind.

Her experience gave her a new frame for understanding the problem.

3

bring something to mind

DEF

To make someone think of something.

The thing recalled follows bring; the expression does not necessarily mean remembering deliberately.

Changing language might bring a different frame to mind.

That song brings my first trip to mind.

4

join in

DEF

To take part in an activity or conversation with other people.

Often used without an object; use join in with when naming an activity.

Joining in can be hard even when you know the words.

She joined in with the game after lunch.

5

contribute

DEF

To take part by offering an idea, effort or something useful.

Use contribute to before the activity or result; contribute to a meeting can mean sharing ideas.

Camila's review says she should contribute more in meetings.

Everyone contributed to the discussion.

6

be about to

DEF

To be going to do something very soon.

Use be about to followed by the base form of a verb; it describes an imminent action.

A group may be about to change the subject.

I was about to leave when the phone rang.

7

psychological distance

DEF

A feeling that something is less immediate or personally close.

In the episode it is a possible explanation, not a proven rule for every person.

Researchers discuss psychological distance as one possible explanation.

Writing about a problem later can give someone psychological distance.

8

carry weight

DEF

To have importance or emotional force.

A figurative expression; words can carry different weight for different people.

Words might not carry the same weight in both languages.

Her apology carried more weight because it was sincere.

9

buy time

DEF

To create a little extra time before doing or deciding something.

You do not buy anything literally; a short phrase can buy you time in conversation.

A useful phrase can buy you time to find your words.

He asked a question to buy time before answering.

10

find your words

DEF

To work out what you want to say and how to say it.

Often used when someone needs a moment to express a thought or feeling.

A short phrase gives you a moment to find your words.

She paused to find her words before replying.

11

come out wrong

DEF

To be expressed in a way that does not match what someone intended.

Often used about speech; say 'That came out wrong' before clarifying your meaning.

Sometimes things come out wrong in a conversation.

My joke came out wrong, so I explained what I meant.

12

give it time

DEF

To allow something more time to develop or improve.

A reassuring suggestion; it does not promise a specific result or deadline.

Give your English voice time to grow.

The new routine feels strange now, but give it time.