Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 206

Why Do Leaves Change Colour in Autumn? | Curious English

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

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

1

fade

DEF

To become less bright or less strong over time.

Often used for colours, photographs and memories; it can describe a gradual change.

The green fades as chlorophyll breaks down.

The colour of my favourite shirt faded in the sun.

2

break down

DEF

When a substance breaks down, it changes into simpler substances.

In a different context, a machine can break down when it stops working; choose the meaning from context.

Chlorophyll breaks down as autumn arrives.

Some materials break down slowly in water.

3

pigment

DEF

A substance that gives something its colour.

A leaf can contain several pigments, even when one colour is easier to see.

Chlorophyll is a green pigment in leaves.

Different pigments give paint its colour.

4

deciduous

DEF

Describing a tree that loses its leaves during part of the year.

Used especially for trees that shed leaves in autumn; the opposite is often evergreen.

Many deciduous trees lose their leaves in autumn.

The park has both deciduous and evergreen trees.