Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 207

Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining: 4 Weather Idioms

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

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

1

rain cats and dogs

DEF

To rain very heavily.

Informal and colourful; use it for heavy rain rather than a light shower. 'It is pouring' is a neutral alternative.

The picnic was cancelled because it was raining cats and dogs.

Take an umbrella; it is raining cats and dogs.

2

every cloud has a silver lining

DEF

A difficult or disappointing situation can have a positive side.

A hopeful expression, but it may sound dismissive if someone needs sympathy or a chance to be heard first.

The picnic was cancelled, but cooking together was a silver lining.

Losing one opportunity led her to a better one; every cloud has a silver lining.

3

a storm in a teacup

DEF

A lot of worry or anger about a relatively unimportant issue.

Common in British English; 'a tempest in a teapot' is an American variant. It expresses the speaker's judgment that the problem is small.

Their argument over the blanket colour was a storm in a teacup.

The dispute over a tiny change to the sign became a storm in a teacup.

4

under a cloud

DEF

Regarded with suspicion or disapproval.

It indicates that suspicion exists, not that wrongdoing has been proved. It differs from 'under the weather', which means feeling unwell.

The manager left the company under a cloud after questions about missing money.

The official remained under a cloud while the allegations were investigated.