Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 214

Short Stories with Peter: The Ox and the Hundred Carts

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

make a bet

DEF

To agree that someone will win or lose something depending on what happens.

A bet may involve money, but the phrase can also describe a friendly prediction.

The farmer made a bet about the hundred carts.

They made a small bet about which team would win.

2

boast

DEF

Talk too proudly about yourself or your achievements.

It normally has a negative tone.

The farmer boasted that his ox could pull a hundred carts.

Do not boast about a result you have not achieved yet.

3

companion

DEF

A person or animal who spends time or works with someone.

Companion suggests company or a shared journey, not ownership.

The ox had been the farmer's companion for years.

Her dog was a faithful companion on long walks.

4

admit you were wrong

DEF

To say honestly that your belief or action was mistaken.

Admit takes responsibility; it is stronger than merely saying that a problem happened.

The farmer admitted he was wrong to hurt the ox.

I admitted I was wrong about the meeting time.

5

take your time

DEF

Do something without hurrying.

This can sound reassuring; tone matters when someone is under pressure.

The farmer told the ox to take his time.

Take your time with the form; I can wait.

6

loosen your grip

DEF

To hold something less tightly.

Grip is the way you hold an object; loosen can also suggest becoming less controlling.

The farmer loosened his grip on the rope.

She loosened her grip on the handle when the door opened.

7

prove a claim

DEF

To show that a statement is true with evidence or action.

Prove is stronger than repeat or insist on a claim.

The ox moved the carts and proved the farmer's claim.

The test results helped the team prove its claim.

8

call someone names

DEF

To insult someone with hurtful words.

This phrase means using insulting labels; it does not mean speaking a person's name aloud.

The farmer called the ox names, then apologised.

Children should not call each other names.