Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 217

Why Is Yawning Contagious? | Curious English

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

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

1

contagious yawning

DEF

Yawning after seeing, hearing or thinking about someone else yawning.

Here contagious describes a behaviour spreading between people, not an illness.

Seeing a friend yawn can trigger contagious yawning.

Researchers are still studying why contagious yawning happens.

2

feel the urge to do something

DEF

To feel a strong desire or need to do something.

Having an urge does not necessarily mean that you act on it.

I felt the urge to laugh, but I stayed quiet.

She felt the urge to check her phone during the meeting.

3

resist the urge

DEF

To try not to do something that you strongly want to do.

Usually followed by to and an infinitive when the action is specified.

Try to resist the urge to interrupt.

He resisted the urge to check his phone.

4

be susceptible to

DEF

To be likely to be affected by something.

Often followed by a noun or an -ing form; susceptibility does not guarantee a response.

Some people are more susceptible to contagious yawning.

The plant is susceptible to cold weather.