Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 218

The Tip of the Iceberg: 4 Nature Idioms

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

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

1

the tip of the iceberg

DEF

The small visible part of a much larger situation or problem.

Suggests that more is hidden; it does not imply that every hidden detail is disastrous.

The question about one table is only the tip of the iceberg.

The reported errors may be the tip of the iceberg if more are discovered.

2

go with the flow

DEF

To accept what happens and adapt instead of insisting on a fixed plan.

Describes flexibility, not necessarily ignoring a problem.

If the music starts late, we can go with the flow and begin with food.

On holiday, I prefer to go with the flow instead of planning every hour.

3

a drop in the ocean

DEF

A very small amount compared with what is needed or with the whole.

The phrase compares scale; it does not mean a small contribution has no value.

Five pounds is a drop in the ocean compared with a goal of ten thousand pounds.

One meal may be a drop in the ocean, but many contributions can add up.

4

someone's neck of the woods

DEF

An informal expression for the area where someone lives or knows well.

It does not require an actual forest; use your, my or another possessive.

What is the weather like in your neck of the woods?

I will be in your neck of the woods next week.