VOCABULARY · EPISODE 219

What Does That Even Mean? Pants or Trousers? A British English Surprise

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

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

1

pants

DEF

In American English, trousers; in British English, commonly underwear.

Meaning varies by variety and speaker; context helps avoid misunderstandings.

In an American shop, pants may mean trousers.

In a British shop, asking for pants may lead you to the underwear section.

2

a pair of trousers

DEF

One garment covering the body from the waist down, with a separate part for each leg.

Trousers takes plural agreement; a pair of trousers refers to one item.

I need a pair of trousers for work.

Those trousers look comfortable.

3

try clothes on

DEF

To put clothes on briefly to see how they fit or look.

A pronoun goes between try and on: try them on.

Where can I try these trousers on?

She tried the jacket on before buying it.

4

fit well

DEF

To be the right size or shape for someone.

Fit concerns size and shape; it is different from whether a colour suits someone.

These trousers fit well.

The jacket fits well, but the sleeves are too long.