Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 221

Short Stories with Peter: The Happy Prince — Oscar Wilde

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

be covered in

DEF

To have a layer of something on the outside.

Used for a surface with material spread over it.

The statue was covered in gold.

The road was covered in snow.

2

in need

DEF

Needing help or something important.

Often describes people who need support or basic necessities.

The prince wanted to help people in need.

The community collected food for families in need.

3

despite

DEF

Even though something could have made a different result likely.

Followed by a noun or an -ing form, not by a full clause without additional wording.

The swallow felt warm despite the cold.

Despite the rain, the neighbours came outside.

4

leaf by leaf

DEF

One leaf or thin piece at a time.

The pattern noun by noun emphasises gradual action, as in step by step.

Leaf by leaf, the swallow carried the gold away.

She removed the decorations leaf by leaf.

5

make a choice

DEF

To decide between possible actions or options.

Often suggests a meaningful decision; the past form is made a choice.

The swallow made a choice to stay.

He had to make a choice between leaving and helping.

6

melt

DEF

To become liquid because of heat.

Can describe a material changing state or something causing that change.

The broken heart would not melt in the fire.

Ice melts when it gets warm enough.

7

firewood

DEF

Wood used as fuel for a fire.

An uncountable noun; do not usually say a firewood.

The writer needed food and firewood.

They brought firewood into the house before the snow.

8

precious

DEF

Very valuable or deeply important.

Value can be emotional or moral, not only financial.

The angel chose the two most precious things in the city.

Time with a friend can be precious.