TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 224

Weekly English Recap: Say It Another Way

English learning resource · EN

Full episode script · English

107 lines

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

Juan walks into a British clothes shop and asks for pants.

Why does the assistant show him underwear?

Today, we will use that surprise and six other moments from this week to practise saying the same idea in different words.

Welcome back to Your English Toolbox.

I am Peter, and this is your weekly English recap.

You will hear forty-two sentence pairs from our seven episodes.

After each original sentence, use four seconds to repeat it.

Then I will say the same idea using different vocabulary.

Use the next three seconds to try that version.

If a line is difficult, repeat only the part you can.

Let us begin in Juan’s shop, where British and American English can point to different clothes.

I have heard it in American films, and I am looking for a pair to wear to work.

I know the American word, and I need an item of clothing for the office.

The assistant may understand the word in its British sense and show you the underwear section.

The shop worker might hear the British meaning and direct you to the wrong clothes.

The misunderstanding comes from a word that can mean different things in different varieties of English.

The confusion happens because British and American speakers may use the same word differently.

I need a pair of trousers.

I am looking for one item of clothing that covers my legs.

Could I try these trousers in a larger size?

May I see whether a bigger size of these trousers fits me?

If I am unsure, I can ask what the person means.

When I do not understand, I can check their meaning instead of guessing.

Now, can you hear the word yawn without feeling the urge yourself?

For the next few seconds, try not to yawn.

See if you can avoid yawning for a moment.

Have you ever seen someone yawn and then wanted to yawn yourself?

Has another person's yawn ever made you feel like yawning?

Even thinking or reading about yawning can make some people want to yawn.

For some people, the idea of a yawn is enough to bring on the urge.

You may have heard that a yawn simply means your brain needs more oxygen.

Some people say that yawning is only a sign that the brain needs extra oxygen.

That is not an established explanation for why yawns happen.

Researchers have not confirmed that simple explanation for yawning.

You can feel the urge to interrupt someone and decide to wait.

You may want to speak over someone but choose to let them finish.

Next, a street party gives us four expressions from nature.

Yes, but that is only the tip of the iceberg.

Yes, but that is just the small part of a much bigger problem.

We could stop trying to control every minute and go with the flow.

We could be flexible and adapt as the day unfolds.

That is kind, but compared with the total cost, it is a drop in the ocean.

That is generous, although it covers only a tiny part of what we need.

I tell her it is in our neck of the woods.

I tell her it is in the area where we live.

But if many neighbours bring something, those small contributions can add up.

When lots of neighbours help, the little contributions become significant together.

We are staying flexible.

We are ready to adjust our plans when things change.

You are halfway through; at the café, try to change each useful question before I do.

Are you still open?

Can I come in and be served right now?

Yes, but we close in ten minutes.

Yes, although there are only ten minutes left before we shut.

Are you open on Sundays?

Do you usually serve customers on Sundays?

If you mean one particular Sunday, you could ask, are you open this Sunday?

To check a specific date, ask whether they are open this Sunday.

Sometimes a café is open, but its kitchen stops serving food earlier.

A café may still welcome customers after its food service has ended.

If the time matters, you can repeat it back.

When the hour is important, say it again to check you heard correctly.

Now a short journey through The Happy Prince, where each choice changes what happens next.

Tired, he rested beneath the statue.

He was exhausted, so he stopped under the statue.

But the prince looked so sad that the bird agreed to stay for one night.

Seeing the prince's sorrow, the bird decided to remain until morning.

The swallow carried the sapphire to the writer, who found it beside his papers.

The bird delivered the blue stone, and the writer discovered it next to his work.

Now the prince was blind, and the swallow made a choice.

The prince could no longer see, so the bird had to decide what to do.

He saw people with plenty to eat and others with almost nothing.

Some people had more than enough food, while others had very little.

The statue grew grey, but children found bread and smiled.

As the statue lost its gold, hungry children received food.

Then we will make an email sound natural and clear.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

I am pleased that we will meet next week.

The small word to is part of the expression look forward to.

In this phrase, to belongs with look forward rather than with the next verb.

I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope to receive your reply.

With a friend, see you soon may sound warmer and simpler.

In a message to a friend, see you soon can feel more natural.

In this expression, it is followed by a noun or an ing form.

After look forward to, use a thing or a verb ending in ing.

I look forward to hearing your news.

I am eager to learn what has happened in your life.

Finally, an umbrella helps us see both sides of the same exchange.

Can I borrow your umbrella?

May I use your umbrella for a short time and then return it?

If the answer is no, you can say, no problem, I will ask someone else.

If they refuse, you can politely accept the answer and ask another person.

I borrowed a book from Julia.

Julia let me use her book for a while.

Julia lent a book to me.

Julia gave me her book to use temporarily.

For example, can you lend me a hand with these boxes?

For example, could you help me carry these boxes?

You can also say, thanks for letting me borrow it.

Another way to thank them is, I appreciate being allowed to use it.

You have practised forty-two pairs from our seven episodes this week.

Choose one phrase you could use tomorrow and say it in a sentence about your own life.

Then listen again and try to say my alternative before I do.

The transcript and vocabulary guide are on the episode page.

Thank you for practising with me.

This is Peter, and I will see you next time.