Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 224

Weekly English Recap: Say It Another Way

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

13 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

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.

4

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.

5

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.

6

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.

7

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.

8

Are you still open?

DEF

A question asking whether a place continues to serve customers now.

Still focuses on the present; it is especially useful near closing time.

Excuse me, are you still open?

The café was open earlier, but is it still open now?

9

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.

10

look forward to

DEF

To feel pleased or excited about something expected in the future.

The expression is followed by a noun or an -ing form, not a base verb.

I look forward to our meeting.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

11

borrow something from someone

DEF

To receive something temporarily from another person, intending to return it.

Borrow focuses on the receiver; use from before the person providing the item.

I borrowed a book from Julia.

Could I borrow your pen until tomorrow?

12

lend something to someone

DEF

To give something temporarily to another person, expecting it back.

Lend focuses on the giver; lend someone something is another common pattern.

Julia lent a book to Martin.

Could you lend me your umbrella?

13

lend a hand

DEF

To help someone with a task.

A figurative expression; it does not mean lending an actual hand.

Can you lend me a hand with these boxes?

She lent a hand when we moved the table.