VOCABULARY · EPISODE 230

What Does That Even Mean? “I’ll Think About It”: Did They Mean Yes?

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

I'll think about it

DEF

I will consider the idea before giving an answer.

Depending on tone and context, it may signal genuine consideration or reluctance; it is not automatically yes or no.

I'll think about it and let you know tomorrow.

She said she'd think about joining us.

2

get back to someone

DEF

Reply to someone later, often after considering a question.

Often used with let me or I will; an exact reply time is not guaranteed unless stated.

Let me get back to you this afternoon.

I'll get back to you after I check the dates.

3

I'm not sure yet

DEF

I have not decided or do not know at this point.

Yet keeps open the possibility of deciding later; it is not a definite refusal.

I'm not sure yet, but I'll check my calendar.

She's not sure yet whether she can come.

4

a direct refusal

DEF

A clear statement that you will not accept a request or invitation.

A hesitant response may avoid a direct refusal, but is not proof of one.

A direct refusal would be a clear no.

She found it difficult to give a direct refusal.

5

follow up

DEF

Ask or act again after an earlier conversation or request.

A follow-up can be polite and low-pressure; it need not demand an immediate answer.

I'll follow up next week if I haven't heard back.

She followed up with a short message.

6

let someone know

DEF

Tell someone information or a decision.

Can be used in a polite follow-up with a deadline.

Could you let me know by Thursday?

Please let me know when you decide.

7

make a promise

DEF

Give a commitment to do something.

Considering an invitation does not by itself make a promise to accept.

She asked for time without making a promise.

Do not make a promise you cannot keep.

8

context

DEF

The surrounding circumstances that help explain a word or action.

Context includes situation, relationship and tone, not only the words themselves.

The context can change how the answer sounds.

Listen to the whole conversation for context.