Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 232

Short Stories with Peter: The Fisherman and His Wife

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

wish

DEF

Something someone wants very much, especially something difficult to obtain.

In a fairy tale, a wish may be granted by magic; in everyday English a wish need not be magical.

Her first wish was for a cottage.

I wish you a happy journey.

2

shore

DEF

The land along the edge of the sea or a lake.

The fisherman returns to the shore to speak to the fish.

They walked along the shore.

The boat was close to the shore.

3

grant a wish

DEF

Give someone what they have wished for.

Grant also appears in formal contexts such as granting permission; the story uses the magical sense.

The fish granted her wish.

In many tales, a fairy grants three wishes.

4

enough

DEF

As much or as many as is needed.

The word can refer to a sufficient amount or, in the story, a point where someone stops wanting more.

We have enough food for everyone.

The fisherman thought the cottage was enough.

5

under a spell

DEF

Affected or controlled by magic.

The fish says he is a prince under a spell; figuratively it can mean strongly fascinated.

The prince was under a spell.

In some tales, a whole village is under a spell.

6

let someone go

DEF

Allow someone to leave or become free.

The fisherman releases the talking fish; the phrase has other meanings in different contexts.

The fisherman let the fish go.

The guard let the visitor go.

7

ask for

DEF

Request something from someone.

Use ask for with the thing requested; ask someone for something names the person too.

She asked for a cottage.

He asked the fish for help.

8

in its place

DEF

In the position where something else was before.

Its refers back to the thing replaced; it is distinct from it's, meaning it is.

The hut was gone, and a cottage stood in its place.

The old tree fell, and flowers grew in its place.