Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 235

Weekly English Recap: Goosebumps, Control and Charge

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

14 learning entries

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

1

goosebumps

DEF

Small raised bumps that appear on the skin when someone is cold or strongly moved.

Usually used in the plural; say have or get goosebumps, or something gives you goosebumps.

I got goosebumps when the choir started singing.

The cold water gave her goosebumps.

2

stand up

DEF

To rise into an upright position.

In this episode the subject is a hair; the phrase also describes a person rising to their feet.

The tiny muscles make the hairs stand up.

Please stand up when your name is called.

3

keep your cool

DEF

Stay calm when a situation is difficult or stressful.

An informal idiom; it does not mean ignoring a problem.

She kept her cool when the lights failed.

Try to keep your cool during the interview.

4

in the driver's seat

DEF

In the position of controlling decisions or direction.

Figurative use does not require a vehicle; it describes who is in control.

The client is in the driver's seat on this project.

You made the plan, so you're in the driver's seat.

5

get out of hand

DEF

Become difficult or impossible to control.

Often used for a situation that has grown worse; it is not the same as choosing to give someone control.

The meeting got out of hand after the argument.

We acted before the costs got out of hand.

6

stuck in traffic

DEF

Unable to move quickly because there are many vehicles on the road.

Often used to explain a delay.

The van was stuck in traffic.

I arrived late because I was stuck in traffic.

7

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.

8

tell a story

DEF

Narrate a sequence of events.

This fixed expression can appear without a person immediately after tell.

Can you tell us a story?

He told a story about his first job.

9

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.

10

charge a phone

DEF

Put electricity into a phone's battery.

Charge is a verb here; the person charges the device, not a customer.

Can I charge my phone here?

It takes about an hour to charge.

11

free of charge

DEF

Available without payment.

Means free of cost, not that a battery is empty.

Parking is free of charge.

The transcript is available free of charge.

12

be in charge of

DEF

Be responsible for managing a person, thing or task.

Follow of with a noun or an -ing form when naming the responsibility.

She is in charge of the schedule.

He is in charge of buying the tickets.

13

delulu

DEF

Informal slang for unrealistically optimistic or detached from what is likely, often used playfully.

Short for delusional, but in this use it is not a medical diagnosis; calling another person delulu can sound unkind.

I'm a little delulu, but I think my team might win.

That plan sounds delulu without a backup.

14

register

DEF

The level or style of language suited to a situation.

Delulu is informal slang, so it may be inappropriate in a formal conversation.

Consider the register before using slang at work.

A formal email calls for a different register.