Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 236

Short Stories with Peter: The Golden Goose

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

9 learning entries

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

1

expect much from someone

DEF

To believe that a person will achieve a lot or do something well.

Often used in negative statements to describe low expectations; it is not the same as making a demand.

Jack's family did not expect much from him.

Her teacher expected a great deal from her.

2

set off

DEF

To begin a journey.

An intransitive phrasal verb; you can set off for a place or set off on a journey.

Jack took an axe and set off for the forest.

We set off early to avoid the traffic.

3

hold something close

DEF

To keep something near your body, often to protect it.

Close describes position; the context can suggest affection, caution or possessiveness.

The brother held his bag close when the stranger asked for food.

She held her coat close as the wind grew stronger.

4

be welcome to do something

DEF

To have permission or an invitation to do something.

A warm, polite way to offer something; use be welcome to followed by the base verb.

Jack told the old man he was welcome to share the food.

You are welcome to ask questions after the talk.

5

reach out

DEF

To extend your hand or arm towards something.

Here it is a physical movement; reach out can also mean contact someone for help.

The eldest daughter reached out towards the goose.

He reached out to pick up the letter.

6

stick fast

DEF

To become firmly attached and difficult to remove.

Fast means firmly here, not quickly; the past form in this sense is stuck fast.

Her hand stuck fast to the goose.

The label stuck fast to the glass.

7

pull someone away

DEF

To use force to move a person away from a place or another person.

The object usually goes between pull and away; the movement can be literal or figurative.

One sister tried to pull the other away.

He gently pulled the child away from the road.

8

let go

DEF

To stop holding something or someone.

Use let go of when naming what is released; in the story the object is understood from context.

The people following the goose could not let go.

She let go of the handle when the door opened.

9

set someone free

DEF

To allow a person or animal to leave or move freely after being held.

The passive be set free focuses on the person released; it does not mean simply leaving a room.

The people were set free after the old man touched the goose.

The rescue team set the trapped bird free.