Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 242

Pass: One Word, Three Lives

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

pass an exam

DEF

To succeed in an examination by meeting the required standard.

Pass describes the result, while take describes doing the exam.

I passed my driving test.

She passed the exam on Monday.

2

take an exam

DEF

To do or sit an examination.

Taking an exam does not say whether you passed or failed.

I took the exam on Monday.

She will take her test tomorrow.

3

sit an exam

DEF

To take an examination, especially in British English.

Sit refers to doing the exam, not its result.

She sat the exam on Monday.

I will sit my driving theory test soon.

4

pass someone something

DEF

To give an object to another person, usually by hand.

Use a person followed by the object, or pass the object to the person.

Pass me the salt, please.

Could you pass Anna the bread?

5

pass on

DEF

To give information or a message to someone else.

A separable phrasal verb: pass the news on or pass on the news.

Please pass on my thanks.

She passed the news on to Lucas.

6

pass the time

DEF

To do something to make waiting feel shorter.

The activity fills time while you wait.

We read to pass the time.

They played cards to pass the time.

7

time passes

DEF

Time goes by.

Here time is the subject; no activity is required.

The hours passed slowly.

Time passes quickly with friends.

8

on the first try

DEF

Successfully on the first attempt.

Describes how many attempts were needed.

She passed on the first try.

He solved it on the first try.