Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 254

Short Stories with Peter: Momotaro

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

8 learning entries

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

1

float

DEF

to stay on the surface of water or another liquid

to move slowly and gently on water or in the air

Float describes staying up on a liquid instead of sinking. It is often followed by a direction word: float down the river, float away. The opposite is sink.

A small paper boat floated across the pond.

Wood floats, but a stone sinks.

2

brave

DEF

ready to do things that are dangerous or difficult, and not stopped by fear

Brave means acting in spite of fear, not having no fear. We say a brave person, a brave decision, be brave. It is a little stronger and more positive than 'not afraid'. The noun is bravery.

It was brave of her to speak in front of so many people.

The brave firefighter went back into the house.

3

journey

DEF

the act of travelling from one place to another, especially a long one

A journey focuses on the travelling itself, often long and sometimes with adventures. A trip can be short; travel is the general activity and is uncountable. Say 'a journey', not 'a travel'.

The journey from the coast to the city took six hours.

Have a safe journey and send me a message when you arrive.

4

treasure

DEF

a group of valuable things, such as gold, jewels or money

(figurative) something or someone you value very much

Treasure is uncountable when it means valuable things: 'some treasure', not 'a treasure' for a whole collection. Used for a single beloved thing, 'a treasure' is also possible. Related: treasure hunt, buried treasure.

The explorers found a box of old coins and jewels, the treasure of a ship.

Her grandmother's old photographs are a family treasure.

5

team

DEF

a group of people working together towards the same goal

a group of people who play together in a sport

Team works for work, sport and school. In British English a team can take a singular or plural verb (the team is / are ready). Useful patterns: join a team, be part of a team, work as a team.

Our team finished the project two days early.

She joined the school football team last year.

6

join

DEF

to become a member of a group or team

to go with someone or take part in what they are doing

Join takes a direct object with no preposition: join a team, join them, join us for dinner. Do not say 'join to' a group. It is also used for physical connection: join two pieces together.

Would you like to join us for lunch?

He joined the company in March.

7

defeat

DEF

(verb) to win against someone in a fight, game or competition

(noun) the experience of losing

In the story the chief's side was 'defeated', which is the adjective-like past participle. Defeat is more formal than beat. The opposite of a defeat is a victory. Common: accept defeat, a heavy defeat.

The home team defeated their rivals by two goals.

After the defeat, the players trained even harder.

8

strength

DEF

the physical power of the body

the quality of being strong, in body, mind or character

Strength is the noun from strong. We say give someone strength, have the strength to do something, a person's strengths (good qualities). It is usually uncountable for physical power, but countable for 'strengths and weaknesses'.

He did not have the strength to carry the heavy bag.

Good listening is one of her greatest strengths.