

## VOCABULARY · EPISODE 35

# A Christmas Story in London

Key words &amp; expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

## to bustle

**bullir de actividad · estar lleno de ajetreo****DEF**

to move around in a busy, energetic, and sometimes noisy way; for a place to be full of lively activity

*Bustle is a favourite word for describing city life at Christmas — Oxford Street bustles, markets bustle. It captures energy without implying chaos or stress — there is joy in the bustle.*

**ES**

Moverse de manera animada, enérgica y a veces ruidosa; para que un lugar esté lleno de actividad animada.

Es una palabra favorita para describir la vida de la ciudad en Navidad.

**London's streets bustle with shoppers in the weeks before Christmas.**

London's streets bustle with shoppers in the weeks before Christmas. -> Las calles de Londres bullen de compradores en las semanas antes de Navidad.

**She loved the bustle of Covent Garden at Christmas — the music, the crowds, the lights.**

She loved the bustle of Covent Garden at Christmas. -> Le encantaba el ajetreo de Covent Garden en Navidad.

2

## to wander

**deambular · pasear sin rumbo fijo****DEF**

to walk slowly and without a fixed destination, exploring as you go

*Wander implies leisure and curiosity — you are not going somewhere specific, you are letting the journey unfold. At Christmas in London, wandering is how people discover the best lights, markets, and moments.*

**ES**

Caminar despacio y sin un destino fijo, explorando mientras se va.

Implica ocio y curiosidad — no vas a ningún lugar específico, dejas que el viaje se desarrolle.

**They wandered through the Christmas market for hours, stopping to try food and listen to the music.**

They wandered through the Christmas market for hours. -> Deambularon por el mercado navideño durante horas.

**One of the best things to do in London at Christmas is simply to wander and let the city surprise you.**

One of the best things to do in London at Christmas is to wander and let the city surprise you. -> Una de las mejores cosas que hacer en Londres en Navidad es pasear sin rumbo fijo y dejar que la ciudad te sorprenda.

3

## COSY

### acogedor · calentito y comfortable

#### DEF

warm, comfortable, and giving a feeling of safety and ease — particularly in a small, sheltered, or intimate space

*Cosy is the English word for the Danish hygge concept — the warmth you feel inside a café, a home, or a blanket on a cold winter's day. A central concept in British winter culture.*

#### ES

Cálido, cómodo y que da una sensación de seguridad y comodidad, especialmente en un espacio pequeño y protegido.

Es la palabra inglesa para el concepto danés de 'hygge'.

**The pub was wonderfully cosy — open fire, low lights, and the smell of mulled wine.**

The pub was wonderfully cosy. -> El pub era maravillosamente acogedor.

**She made herself a cosy corner with a blanket, hot chocolate, and an English audiobook.**

She made herself a cosy corner with a blanket and hot chocolate. -> Se hizo un rincón calentito y comfortable con una manta y chocolate caliente.

4

## to stroll

### pasear sin prisa · deambular tranquilamente

#### DEF

to walk in a slow, relaxed way — without any particular hurry or destination

*Stroll is more leisurely and purposeless than walk — it is the verb of enjoyment and exploration. You stroll through a Christmas market, stroll along the river, stroll in a park. Perfect for describing relaxed social activity in English.*

#### ES

Caminar de forma lenta y relajada — sin ninguna prisa especial ni destino.

Más tranquilo y sin propósito que 'caminar' — el verbo del disfrute y la exploración.

**They strolled through the Christmas market, stopping at every stall to look at the lights and handmade gifts.**

They strolled through the Christmas market, stopping at every stall to look at the lights and handmade gifts. -> Pasearon sin prisa por el mercado navideño, parándose en cada puesto para ver las luces y los regalos artesanales.

**One of the best ways to practise English is to stroll somewhere new and describe what you see out loud.**

One of the best ways to practise English is to stroll somewhere new and describe what you see out loud. -> Una de las mejores formas de practicar inglés es deambular tranquilamente por un lugar nuevo y describir lo que ves en voz alta.

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## a mulled wine

vino caliente con especias · vino caliente navideño

### DEF

a warm, spiced alcoholic drink made from red wine, typically drunk in winter and at Christmas markets

*Mulled wine is the quintessential British and European winter drink. Knowing its name and describing it is a cultural conversation starter. 'Mulled' means gently heated with spices — the verb is not obvious from its parts.*

### ES

Una bebida alcohólica caliente y especiada hecha de vino tinto, que se bebe típicamente en invierno y en los mercados navideños.

La bebida invernal por excelencia en Gran Bretaña y Europa. Su nombre es una excelente conversación cultural.

***There is nothing like a mulled wine at a Christmas market on a cold evening to make you feel festive.***

There is nothing like a mulled wine at a Christmas market on a cold evening to make you feel festive. -> No hay nada como un vino caliente con especias en un mercado navideño en una noche fría para hacerte sentir festivo.

***She tried mulled wine for the first time in London and described it in English to her family back home.***

She tried mulled wine for the first time in London and described it in English to her family back home. -> Probó el vino caliente navideño por primera vez en Londres y lo describió en inglés a su familia en casa.

6

## snug

acogedor y cálido · refugiado del frío con calidez

### DEF

warm, comfortable, and sheltered — giving a feeling of safety and cosiness, especially in cold weather

*Snug is similar to cosy but slightly more enclosed — you are snug in a blanket, in a corner booth, in a small warm room. It is a very British concept and word. Using it shows real cultural and lexical depth.*

### ES

Cálido, cómodo y resguardado — que da sensación de seguridad y calidez, especialmente en tiempo frío.

Similar a cosy pero ligeramente más cerrado. Muy británico. Usarlo demuestra profundidad léxica real.

***We found a snug little corner in the pub and stayed there for the whole evening.***

We found a snug little corner in the pub and stayed there for the whole evening. -> Encontramos un rincón acogedor y cálido en el pub y nos quedamos allí toda la noche.

***Her flat was tiny but snug — the perfect place to spend a cold December weekend.***

Her flat was tiny but snug — the perfect place to spend a cold December weekend. -> Su piso era diminuto pero refugiado del frío con calidez — el lugar perfecto para pasar un frío fin de semana de diciembre.

## 7 to browse

### curiosear · echar un vistazo sin compromiso

#### DEF

to look at goods, information, or displays in a relaxed way without necessarily intending to buy or commit

*Browse is key for market and shopping vocabulary. You browse a market stall, browse online, browse a bookshop. It is different from shopping with intent — browsing is exploratory and pressure-free.*

#### ES

Mirar productos, información o expositores de forma relajada sin necesariamente tener intención de comprar.

Clave para el vocabulario de mercados y tiendas. Se navega, se curiosear — es exploratorio y sin presión.

***We spent a happy hour just browsing the market stalls, with no plan to buy anything in particular.***

We spent a happy hour just browsing the market stalls, with no plan to buy anything in particular. -> Pasamos una feliz hora curioseando los puestos del mercado, sin plan de comprar nada en particular.

***She loves browsing second-hand bookshops and finding unexpected English books to practise with.***

She loves browsing second-hand bookshops and finding unexpected English books to practise with. -> Le encanta echar un vistazo sin compromiso en librerías de segunda mano y encontrar libros en inglés inesperados para practicar.

## 8 a stall

### un puesto de mercado · una caseta de feria

#### DEF

a small shop or booth, typically at a market, where goods are displayed and sold

*Stall is essential market vocabulary in English. Christmas markets, farmers' markets, and street fairs all have stalls. Knowing this word — and differentiating it from a 'booth' or 'kiosk' — shows practical English fluency.*

#### ES

Una pequeña tienda o stand, normalmente en un mercado, donde se muestran y venden productos. Vocabulario esencial de mercados en inglés. Los mercados navideños y de agricultores tienen puestos.

***Each stall at the market had something different — handmade jewellery, spices, wooden toys, and warm drinks.***

Each stall at the market had something different — handmade jewellery, spices, wooden toys, and warm drinks. -> Cada puesto de mercado tenía algo diferente — joyería artesanal, especias, juguetes de madera y bebidas calientes.

***She ran a stall at the local winter market, selling homemade jam and practising her English with every customer.***

She ran a stall at the local winter market, selling homemade jam and practising her English with every customer. -> Llevaba una caseta de feria en el mercado de invierno local, vendiendo mermelada casera y practicando su inglés con cada cliente.

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## to wrap up warm

abrigarse bien · ponerse ropa de abrigo

### DEF

to put on enough layers of clothing to keep yourself warm in cold weather

*Wrap up warm is a very common British English phrase — parents say it to children, friends say it to each other before going out in winter. It is the practical seasonal equivalent of 'take care of yourself'.*

### ES

Ponerse suficientes capas de ropa para mantenerse caliente en tiempo frío.

Frase muy común en inglés británico — los padres la dicen a los niños antes de salir en invierno. El equivalente práctico de 'cuídate'.

***Make sure you wrap up warm before heading out — it is below zero tonight.***

Make sure you wrap up warm before heading out — it is below zero tonight. -> Asegúrate de abrigarte bien antes de salir — esta noche hay bajo cero.

***She always told her students to wrap up warm because the market was outside and the wind was fierce.***

She always told her students to wrap up warm because the market was outside and the wind was fierce. -> Siempre decía a sus alumnos que se pusieran ropa de abrigo porque el mercado estaba al aire libre y el viento era fuerte.

10

## festive spirit

espíritu festivo · ambiente de celebración y alegría colectiva

### DEF

the collective feeling of joy, warmth, generosity, and celebration that characterises a holiday season

*Festive spirit is an atmosphere, not a thing — it is the mood that a whole community creates together. In English, it is used naturally in conversation, media, and writing to describe the holiday season's emotional character.*

### ES

El sentimiento colectivo de alegría, calidez, generosidad y celebración que caracteriza una temporada festiva.

Es un ambiente, no una cosa — el estado de ánimo que toda una comunidad crea juntos.

***Even in a small flat with no decorations, you can create a festive spirit with the right music and food.***

Even in a small flat with no decorations, you can create a festive spirit with the right music and food. -> Incluso en un piso pequeño sin decoraciones, puedes crear un espíritu festivo con la música y la comida adecuadas.

***The festive spirit was everywhere — strangers smiled at each other, the shops played carols, and the streets glowed.***

The festive spirit was everywhere — strangers smiled at each other, the shops played carols, and the streets glowed. -> El ambiente de celebración y alegría colectiva estaba en todas partes — los desconocidos se sonreían, las tiendas ponían villancicos y las calles brillaban.