

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 65

Think Fast or Think Wrong

Key words & expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

to jump to conclusions

sacar conclusiones precipitadas · juzgar antes de tiempo

DEF

to form a judgment or opinion before you have all the necessary evidence — to decide too quickly without thinking properly

Jumping to conclusions is a cognitive trap — the brain takes shortcuts to save energy. In English listening, jumping to conclusions about a word you think you heard can derail comprehension of the whole sentence.

ES

Formarse un juicio u opinión antes de tener toda la evidencia necesaria — decidir demasiado rápido sin pensar correctamente.

Es una trampa cognitiva — el cerebro toma atajos para ahorrar energía.

Don't jump to conclusions when you mishear a word — wait for the context to fill the gap.

Don't jump to conclusions when you mishear a word — wait for the context to fill the gap. -> No saques conclusiones precipitadas cuando escuches mal una palabra — espera a que el contexto llene el hueco.

He jumped to conclusions about what she meant and replied to the wrong question entirely.

He jumped to conclusions about what she meant and replied to the wrong question entirely. -> Juzgó antes de tiempo lo que ella quería decir y respondió a la pregunta equivocada por completo.

2

slow thinking

pensamiento lento · razonamiento deliberado y cuidadoso

DEF

deliberate, careful, effortful reasoning — the second of Daniel Kahneman's two thinking systems, used for complex decisions and careful analysis

Slow thinking (Kahneman's System 2) is what you use when you work through a grammar rule, write a careful email, or plan an argument. English learners benefit from practising both: fast thinking for conversation, slow thinking for writing and accuracy.

ES

Razonamiento deliberado, cuidadoso y esforzado — el segundo de los dos sistemas de pensamiento de Daniel Kahneman, usado para decisiones complejas y análisis cuidadoso.

Es lo que usas cuando trabajas una regla gramatical, escribes un correo electrónico cuidadoso o planeas un argumento.

Slow thinking is what you use to proofread an email — fast thinking is what you use in a live conversation.

Slow thinking is what you use to proofread an email — fast thinking is what you use in a live conversation. -> El pensamiento lento es lo que usas para revisar un correo electrónico — el razonamiento deliberado es para escribir, el rápido para una conversación en vivo.

The best English learners know when to use slow thinking and when to trust their fast thinking.

The best English learners know when to use slow thinking and when to trust their fast thinking. -> Los mejores estudiantes de inglés saben cuándo usar el razonamiento deliberado y cuándo confiar en su pensamiento rápido.

3

to challenge your assumptions

cuestionar tus suposiciones · cuestionar las creencias o expectativas que tienes sin haberlas examinado

DEF

to question the beliefs or expectations you hold — especially those you have not examined consciously

Challenge your assumptions is the critical thinking imperative. In English, this phrase is used in professional, academic, and personal development contexts. It means not accepting your first interpretation as automatically correct — pausing to ask: am I sure? What evidence do I have? Could I be wrong?

ES

Cuestionar las creencias o expectativas que tienes — especialmente las que no has examinado conscientemente.

El imperativo del pensamiento crítico. Se usa en contextos profesionales, académicos y de desarrollo personal.

Good communicators challenge their assumptions before acting — they ask 'what if I am wrong?'

Good communicators challenge their assumptions before acting — they ask 'what if I am wrong?' -> Los buenos comunicadores cuestionan sus suposiciones antes de actuar — se preguntan '¿y si estoy equivocado?'

She challenged her assumption that her accent was holding her back and discovered it had never been the issue.

She challenged her assumption that her accent was holding her back and discovered it had never been the issue. -> Cuestionó su suposición de que su acento la frenaba y descubrió que nunca había sido el problema.

confirmation bias

4

el sesgo de confirmación · la tendencia a buscar información que confirme lo que ya creemos

DEF

the tendency to search for, interpret, and remember information in a way that confirms what you already believe

Confirmation bias is the most well-known cognitive bias. It explains why two people can read the same article and both come away feeling it confirmed their existing view. In language learning, it manifests as learners who believe they will 'never get it' noticing only their errors, not their progress.

ES

La tendencia a buscar, interpretar y recordar información de forma que confirme lo que ya crees. El sesgo cognitivo más conocido. En el aprendizaje de idiomas se manifiesta en estudiantes que creen que nunca lo lograrán.

Confirmation bias makes us remember our mistakes more than our successes — counter it actively.

Confirmation bias makes us remember our mistakes more than our successes — counter it actively. -> El sesgo de confirmación nos hace recordar nuestros errores más que nuestros éxitos — contrárrestalo activamente.

She realised her confirmation bias had led her to believe her English was not improving when in fact it was.

She realised her confirmation bias had led her to believe her English was not improving when in fact it was. -> Se dio cuenta de que su sesgo de confirmación la había llevado a creer que su inglés no mejoraba cuando en realidad sí lo hacía.

to read between the lines

5

leer entre líneas · entender un significado implícito más allá de lo que se ha dicho literalmente

DEF

to understand an implied or unstated meaning — to perceive what someone means beyond what they have literally said

Read between the lines is the comprehension skill for indirect communication. In English-speaking contexts — particularly British English — speakers often imply rather than state directly. Learning to read between the lines means learning to understand what 'that's interesting' or 'I'll think about it' or 'not bad' really mean in context.

ES

Entender un significado implícito o no expresado — percibir lo que alguien quiere decir más allá de lo que ha dicho literalmente.

La habilidad de comprensión para la comunicación indirecta. En inglés británico los hablantes suelen implicar en lugar de decir directamente.

In English social interaction, reading between the lines is as important as understanding the literal words.

In English social interaction, reading between the lines is as important as understanding the literal words. -> En la interacción social en inglés, leer entre líneas es tan importante como entender las palabras literales.

She learned to read between the lines in British conversations — 'quite good' often means 'disappointing'.

She learned to read between the lines in British conversations — 'quite good' often means 'disappointing'. -> Aprendió a leer entre líneas en las conversaciones británicas — 'quite good' a menudo significa 'decepcionante'.

to take things at face value

6

tomar algo al pie de la letra · aceptar las cosas tal como parecen sin buscar significados ocultos

DEF

to accept things as they appear without looking for hidden meaning or questioning further

Take things at face value is the uncritical acceptance verb. Sometimes taking things at face value is appropriate — not everything has a hidden agenda. But in situations requiring critical thinking, taking things at face value means missing the subtext, the implication, or the deeper truth.

ES

Aceptar las cosas tal como aparecen sin buscar significados ocultos ni cuestionar más.

El verbo de la aceptación acrítica. En situaciones que requieren pensamiento crítico, esto significa perderse el subtexto.

Do not always take things at face value in English conversations — tone and implication carry as much meaning as words.

Do not always take things at face value in English conversations — tone and implication carry as much meaning as words. -> No tomes siempre las cosas al pie de la letra en conversaciones en inglés — el tono y la implicación llevan tanto significado como las palabras.

She used to take everything at face value until a British colleague explained that 'we should catch up' rarely means soon.

She used to take everything at face value until a British colleague explained that 'we should catch up' rarely means soon. -> Solía tomar todo al pie de la letra hasta que un colega británico le explicó que 'we should catch up' raramente significa pronto.

7

to make a snap judgement

hacer un juicio precipitado · formarse una opinión rápidamente y sin pensarlo bien

DEF

to form an opinion quickly and without careful thought — often based on limited information

Make a snap judgement is the cognitive bias behaviour. Snap judgements are fast, automatic, and often wrong — especially across cultural and linguistic lines. English learners are often the targets of snap judgements (about intelligence, education, or intention) made on the basis of accent or grammar. Recognising this is the first step to not making them yourself.

ES

Formarse una opinión rápidamente y sin cuidado — a menudo basándose en información limitada.

El comportamiento del sesgo cognitivo. Los juicios precipitados son rápidos, automáticos y a menudo erróneos.

Avoid making snap judgements about someone's intelligence based on their accent or grammar errors.

Avoid making snap judgements about someone's intelligence based on their accent or grammar errors. -> Evita hacer juicios precipitados sobre la inteligencia de alguien basándote en su acento o errores gramaticales.

She made a snap judgement about the presentation before it had even started and was completely wrong.

She made a snap judgement about the presentation before it had even started and was completely wrong. -> Hizo un juicio precipitado sobre la presentación antes de que hubiera comenzado y estaba completamente equivocada.

to keep an open mind

8

mantener la mente abierta · permanecer dispuesto a considerar nueva información o perspectivas

DEF

to remain willing to consider new information, perspectives, or ideas — not closing off possibilities prematurely

Keep an open mind is the antidote to confirmation bias and snap judgements. It does not mean having no opinions — it means holding opinions loosely, being willing to update them. In language learning, keeping an open mind about method, accent, and self-assessment is what separates those who plateau from those who keep growing.

ES

Permanecer dispuesto a considerar información, perspectivas o ideas nuevas — no cerrando posibilidades prematuramente.

El antídoto al sesgo de confirmación. No significa no tener opiniones — significa mantenerlas sin rigidez.

Keep an open mind about your English level — you may be better than you think.

Keep an open mind about your English level — you may be better than you think. -> Mantén la mente abierta sobre tu nivel de inglés — puede que seas mejor de lo que crees.

She kept an open mind about different learning methods and found that listening worked far better than drilling.

She kept an open mind about different learning methods and found that listening worked far better than drilling. -> Mantuvo la mente abierta sobre diferentes métodos de aprendizaje y descubrió que escuchar funcionaba mucho mejor que los ejercicios.

to weigh up the evidence

9

sopesar la evidencia · considerar cuidadosamente los hechos disponibles antes de sacar conclusiones

DEF

to carefully consider available facts and information before reaching a conclusion

Weigh up the evidence is the deliberate reasoning phrase. It implies taking time, looking at both sides, and not acting on impulse. In communication and decision-making, people who weigh up the evidence are seen as measured, trustworthy, and credible — the opposite of those who jump to conclusions.

ES

Considerar cuidadosamente los hechos e información disponibles antes de llegar a una conclusión.

La frase del razonamiento deliberado. Implica tomarse tiempo, ver ambos lados y no actuar por impulso.

Before giving your opinion in English, weigh up the evidence — a thoughtful pause makes your response more credible.

Before giving your opinion in English, weigh up the evidence — a thoughtful pause makes your response more credible. -> Antes de dar tu opinión en inglés, sopesa la evidencia — una pausa reflexiva hace tu respuesta más creíble.

She always weighed up the evidence carefully before making a claim, which made her arguments much stronger.

She always weighed up the evidence carefully before making a claim, which made her arguments much stronger. -> Siempre sopesaba la evidencia cuidadosamente antes de hacer una afirmación, lo que hacía sus argumentos mucho más sólidos.

10 to bear something in mind

tener en cuenta · recordar y considerar un hecho al tomar decisiones

DEF

to remember and take into account a fact or consideration when making decisions or judgements

Bear something in mind is the cognitive reminder verb. It is widely used in professional and everyday English to signal that something important should be factored into thinking. 'Bear in mind that...' is a polite, professional way of flagging a consideration without being directive.

ES

Recordar y tener en cuenta un hecho o consideración al tomar decisiones o juicios.

El verbo del recordatorio cognitivo. 'Bear in mind that...' es una forma educada y profesional de señalar una consideración.

Bear in mind that English is often more indirect than you might expect — especially in professional settings.

Bear in mind that English is often more indirect than you might expect — especially in professional settings. -> Ten en cuenta que el inglés suele ser más indirecto de lo que podrías esperar — especialmente en entornos profesionales.

She bore in mind that her audience had different cultural backgrounds and chose her examples carefully.

She bore in mind that her audience had different cultural backgrounds and chose her examples carefully. -> Tuvo en cuenta que su audiencia tenía diferentes contextos culturales y eligió sus ejemplos cuidadosamente.