

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 69

Learn English with Music

Key words & expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

to resonate

resonar emocionalmente · calar hondo en alguien

DEF

to have a strong effect on someone's emotions or feelings; to feel deeply meaningful or true to a person's own experience

Resonate is acoustic science applied to emotion — a sound that resonates is one that vibrates with the same frequency as the listener. Music resonates when it matches something you feel inside. Learning the English in songs that resonate with you is dramatically more effective than neutral texts.

ES

Tener un fuerte efecto en las emociones o sentimientos de alguien; sentirse profundamente significativo o verdadero para la experiencia propia de una persona.

Ciencia acústica aplicada a la emoción — un sonido que resuena es uno que vibra con la misma frecuencia que el oyente.

The lyrics to this song resonated with her so deeply that she had them memorised within a week.

The lyrics to this song resonated with her so deeply that she had them memorised within a week. -> Las letras de esta canción resonaron emocionalmente con ella tan profundamente que las memorizó en una semana.

Find English content that resonates with you emotionally — you will absorb it without effort.

Find English content that resonates with you emotionally — you will absorb it without effort. -> Encuentra contenido en inglés que te cale hondo — lo absorberás sin esfuerzo.

2 to pick apart

analizar a fondo · desmenuzar algo para entenderlo

DEF

to examine something in detail, breaking it into its individual pieces to understand how each part works

Pick apart is constructive analysis — not destructive criticism. When you pick apart a song lyric, you are looking at vocabulary, grammar, word order, and style simultaneously. It is one of the richest English learning activities available.

ES

Examinar algo en detalle, dividiéndolo en sus piezas individuales para entender cómo funciona cada parte.

Es análisis constructivo — no crítica destructiva.

Pick apart the lyrics line by line — notice the grammar, the vocabulary choices, the rhythm.

Pick apart the lyrics line by line — notice the grammar, the vocabulary choices, the rhythm. -> Analiza a fondo las letras línea por línea — observa la gramática, las elecciones de vocabulario, el ritmo.

She picked apart three songs a week and her reading comprehension improved faster than anything she had tried before.

She picked apart three songs a week and her reading comprehension improved faster than anything she had tried before. -> Desmenuzó tres canciones a la semana para entenderlas y su comprensión lectora mejoró más rápido que cualquier otra cosa que hubiera intentado antes.

3 to pay close attention

prestar mucha atención · escuchar u observar con plena concentración — no solo escuchar casualmente

DEF

to listen or observe with full focus — not just casually hearing but actively tracking meaning

Pay close attention is the instruction behind analytical listening. Most people listen to respond rather than to understand. Paying close attention means following the logic, tone, word choice, and structure of what is being said — not just the surface content. For English learners, it is the active habit that turns passive exposure into real acquisition.

ES

Escuchar u observar con plena concentración — no solo escuchar casualmente sino seguir activamente el significado.

La instrucción detrás de la escucha analítica. Prestar mucha atención significa seguir la lógica, el tono y la estructura.

Pay close attention to how native speakers use connectors — not just what they say but how they structure it.

Pay close attention to how native speakers use connectors — not just what they say but how they structure it. -> Presta mucha atención a cómo los hablantes nativos usan los conectores — no solo a lo que dicen sino a cómo lo estructuran.

She paid close attention to the podcast host's word choices and found herself naturally adopting them.

She paid close attention to the podcast host's word choices and found herself naturally adopting them. -> Prestó mucha atención a las elecciones de palabras del presentador del podcast y se encontró adoptándolas naturalmente.

to unpack

4

desgranar · examinar y explicar los diferentes componentes de algo — descomponiéndolo en sus partes

DEF

to examine and explain the different components or layers of something — breaking it down into its parts

Unpack is the analytical verb. When you unpack an argument, a speech, or a piece of text, you do not just summarise it — you break it apart and examine each element: the structure, the logic, the implied assumptions. For English learners, being able to unpack what they hear turns passive listening into active study.

ES

Examinar y explicar los diferentes componentes o capas de algo — descomponiéndolo en sus partes. El verbo analítico. Cuando desgranas un argumento o un discurso, no solo lo resumes — lo descompones y examinas cada elemento.

Unpack a speech you admire by analysing its structure, key phrases, and rhetorical choices.

Unpack a speech you admire by analysing its structure, key phrases, and rhetorical choices. -> Desgrana un discurso que admiras analizando su estructura, frases clave y elecciones retóricas.

She unpacked the politician's speech word by word and learned more about persuasive English than from any textbook.

She unpacked the politician's speech word by word and learned more about persuasive English than from any textbook. -> Desgranó el discurso del político palabra por palabra y aprendió más sobre inglés persuasivo que con cualquier libro de texto.

5

to take note of

tomar nota de · prestar atención deliberada a algo y registrarlo mentalmente

DEF

to deliberately pay attention to and mentally record something — marking it as significant for future reference

Take note of is the focused observation verb. It implies selecting something from the flow of language and flagging it: that was interesting, that was new, I should remember that. In language learning, taking note of interesting phrases, collocations, and expressions is what separates attentive learners from passive ones.

ES

Prestar deliberadamente atención a algo y registrarlo mentalmente — marcándolo como significativo para futura referencia.

El verbo de observación enfocada. En el aprendizaje de idiomas, tomar nota de frases interesantes es lo que separa a los estudiantes atentos de los pasivos.

Take note of interesting phrases when you listen — pause, record them, and use them within 24 hours.

Take note of interesting phrases when you listen — pause, record them, and use them within 24 hours. -> Toma nota de frases interesantes cuando escuchas — pausa, regístralas y úsalas en 24 horas.

She took note of every idiom she heard in her first month and built a personal phrase bank from them.

She took note of every idiom she heard in her first month and built a personal phrase bank from them. -> Tomó nota de cada modismo que escuchó en su primer mes y construyó un banco personal de frases a partir de ellos.

to tune in to

6

sintonizar con · prestar atención deliberada y enfocada a algo — dirigir tu escucha hacia una fuente específica

DEF

to pay deliberate, focused attention to something — to direct your listening or awareness toward a specific source

Tune in to is the focused listening verb from broadcasting. Originally it meant adjusting a radio to a frequency. In modern usage, it means directing your attention: tuning in to how people phrase requests, how speakers transition between ideas, how stress and intonation carry meaning.

ES

Prestar atención deliberada y enfocada a algo — dirigir tu escucha o conciencia hacia una fuente específica.

El verbo de escucha enfocada de la radiodifusión. Significa dirigir tu atención.

Tune in to the emotional tone of a speaker, not just their words — tone reveals what words often hide.

Tune in to the emotional tone of a speaker, not just their words — tone reveals what words often hide. -> Sintoniza con el tono emocional de un hablante, no solo sus palabras — el tono revela lo que las palabras a menudo ocultan.

She started tuning in to how native speakers disagreed politely and built a repertoire of softening phrases.

She started tuning in to how native speakers disagreed politely and built a repertoire of softening phrases. -> Empezó a sintonizar con cómo los hablantes nativos discrepaban educadamente y construyó un repertorio de frases suavizantes.

a recurring theme

7

un tema recurrente · un tema o patrón que aparece repetidamente en diferentes textos o conversaciones

DEF

a topic, idea, or pattern that appears again and again across different texts, conversations, or contexts

Recurring theme is the pattern recognition phrase. Good analytical listeners notice recurring themes in the content they consume: certain topics dominate certain speakers, certain structures appear in formal vs. informal language, certain words appear together repeatedly. Noticing recurring themes is how learners move from understanding individual sentences to understanding how English works as a system.

ES

Un tema, idea o patrón que aparece una y otra vez en diferentes textos, conversaciones o contextos.

La frase del reconocimiento de patrones. Los buenos oyentes analíticos notan temas recurrentes en el contenido que consumen.

Notice the recurring themes in your listening material — they reveal the structure and priorities of the speaker.

Notice the recurring themes in your listening material — they reveal the structure and priorities of the speaker. -> Observa los temas recurrentes en tu material de escucha — revelan la estructura y las prioridades del hablante.

She noticed a recurring theme of humility in the interviews she studied and learned to express modesty in English.

She noticed a recurring theme of humility in the interviews she studied and learned to express modesty in English. -> Notó un tema recurrente de humildad en las entrevistas que estudió y aprendió a expresar la modestia en inglés.

8

to draw conclusions

sacar conclusiones · llegar a un juicio basándose en evidencia o razonamiento

DEF

to reach a judgement or decision based on evidence or reasoning — not by guessing but by thinking it through

Draw conclusions is the analytical reasoning phrase. It is the end point of the analytical process: you have listened, you have noticed patterns, you have unpacked what was said — now you draw a conclusion. For English learners, being able to draw and express conclusions in English is a high-level academic and professional skill.

ES

Llegar a un juicio o decisión basándose en evidencia o razonamiento — no adivinando sino pensándolo.

La frase del razonamiento analítico. Es el punto final del proceso analítico. Para los estudiantes de inglés, sacar y expresar conclusiones es una habilidad avanzada.

Draw conclusions carefully from what you hear — check whether the evidence actually supports them.

Draw conclusions carefully from what you hear — check whether the evidence actually supports them. -> Saca conclusiones cuidadosamente de lo que escuchas — comprueba si la evidencia realmente las respalda.

After analysing ten interviews, she drew the conclusion that successful speakers all used pausing as a deliberate tool.

After analysing ten interviews, she drew the conclusion that successful speakers all used pausing as a deliberate tool. -> Después de analizar diez entrevistas, sacó la conclusión de que todos los hablantes exitosos usaban la pausa como herramienta deliberada.

9

to make sense of

darle sentido a · encontrar significado o claridad en algo que inicialmente parece complejo o confuso

DEF

to find meaning or clarity in something that initially seems complex or confusing

Make sense of is the comprehension verb for difficult material. When you are an English learner encountering a complex lecture, debate, or argument, not everything will be immediately clear. Making sense of it means working through the confusion — using context, background knowledge, and analytical skills to construct understanding.

ES

Encontrar significado o claridad en algo que inicialmente parece complejo o confuso.

El verbo de comprensión para el material difícil. Darle sentido significa trabajar a través de la confusión usando el contexto y el conocimiento previo.

Listen twice before trying to make sense of a complex English text — the second time is always clearer.

Listen twice before trying to make sense of a complex English text — the second time is always clearer. -> Escucha dos veces antes de intentar darle sentido a un texto inglés complejo — la segunda vez siempre es más clara.

She could not make sense of the interview at first but after repeated listening it became completely clear.

She could not make sense of the interview at first but after repeated listening it became completely clear. -> No podía darle sentido a la entrevista al principio pero después de escucharla repetidamente se volvió completamente clara.

10

to follow an argument

seguir un argumento · rastrear la progresión lógica del razonamiento de alguien

DEF

to track the logical progression of someone's reasoning — understanding each step and how it leads to the conclusion

Follow an argument is the advanced listening skill. It is different from understanding individual sentences — it means tracking the logic across a whole speech or text. Following an argument requires holding earlier points in mind as new ones arrive and evaluating whether the conclusion follows from the reasoning. This is the skill tested in academic English.

ES

Rastrear la progresión lógica del razonamiento de alguien — entendiendo cada paso y cómo conduce a la conclusión.

La habilidad de escucha avanzada. Significa rastrear la lógica a través de todo un discurso o texto.

To follow an argument in English, track three things: the claim, the evidence, and the conclusion.

To follow an argument in English, track three things: the claim, the evidence, and the conclusion. -> Para seguir un argumento en inglés, rastrea tres cosas: la afirmación, la evidencia y la conclusión.

She could now follow complex arguments in English debates without losing the thread — something she had struggled with for years.

She could now follow complex arguments in English debates without losing the thread — something she had struggled with for years. -> Ahora podía seguir argumentos complejos en debates en inglés sin perder el hilo — algo con lo que había luchado durante años.