

## VOCABULARY · EPISODE 73

## A Second Date with a Lithuanian Woman

Key words &amp; expressions · English + Deutsch

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

## to read between the lines

zwischen den Zeilen lesen · das Ungesagte verstehen

## DEF

to understand what is really being communicated in a message beyond the literal words — to perceive hidden or implied meaning

*Read between the lines is the art of inference — understanding not just what is said but what is meant. Critical for advanced English, where much is implied rather than stated. Particularly important in British English, which relies heavily on indirectness.*

## DE

Verstehen, was in einer Nachricht wirklich kommuniziert wird, über die wörtlichen Worte hinaus. Die Kunst der Schlussfolgerung — nicht nur verstehen, was gesagt wird, sondern was gemeint ist.

***She didn't say she was upset — you have to read between the lines of what she actually wrote.***

She didn't say she was upset — you have to read between the lines of what she actually wrote. -> Sie sagte nicht, dass sie verärgert war — du musst zwischen den Zeilen lesen, was sie wirklich geschrieben hat.

***Reading between the lines is an advanced language skill — it is how you understand culture, not just words.***

Reading between the lines is an advanced language skill. -> Das Ungesagte zu verstehen ist eine fortgeschrittene Sprachfähigkeit.

2

## to be on the same wavelength

auf derselben Wellenlänge liegen · gleich denken und fühlen

## DEF

to think in the same way as someone else; to have the same ideas, values, or way of understanding the world

*On the same wavelength is radio/physics metaphor applied to human connection — two minds tuned to the same frequency. Feeling on the same wavelength with someone is one of the most comfortable feelings in any language.*

## DE

Auf die gleiche Weise wie jemand anderes denken; die gleichen Ideen, Werte oder Weltanschauung haben.

Radio/Physik-Metapher auf menschliche Verbindung angewendet.

***They were on the same wavelength about everything — humour, values, and what they wanted from life.***

They were on the same wavelength about everything — humour, values, and what they wanted from life. -> Sie lagen in allem auf derselben Wellenlänge — Humor, Werte und was sie vom Leben wollten.

***Being on the same wavelength with your English teacher makes the lessons three times as effective.***

Being on the same wavelength with your English teacher makes the lessons three times as effective. -> Mit deinem Englischlehrer gleich zu denken und zu fühlen macht die Stunden dreimal so effektiv.

3

## subtext

### der Subtext · die implizite Bedeutung unter der Oberfläche des Gesagten

#### DEF

the implied or unstated meaning beneath the surface of what is being said — what is communicated without being spoken

*Subtext is the literary and communication concept. It is what makes sophisticated communication rich — the meaning that exists between the stated words. Being able to detect subtext in English requires both linguistic competence and cultural knowledge. 'That's interesting' often means 'I disagree'. 'We'll see' often means 'no'.*

#### DE

Die implizite oder unausgesprochene Bedeutung unter der Oberfläche des Gesagten — was ohne Worte kommuniziert wird.

Das literarische und kommunikative Konzept.

**Pay attention to the subtext in professional English conversations — what is not said is often as important as what is.**

Pay attention to the subtext in professional English conversations — what is not said is often as important as what is. -> Achte auf den Subtext in professionellen englischen Gesprächen — was nicht gesagt wird ist oft genauso wichtig wie was gesagt wird.

**She missed the subtext of his polite response for months before a colleague explained what he had actually meant.**

She missed the subtext of his polite response for months before a colleague explained what he had actually meant. -> Sie verstand den Subtext seiner höflichen Antwort monatelang nicht bevor ein Kollege erklärte was er eigentlich gemeint hatte.

4

## to get your point across

### seinen Standpunkt vermitteln · eine Idee erfolgreich kommunizieren

#### DEF

to communicate an idea successfully — making sure the other person has understood what you intended to say

*Get your point across is the communication success phrase. Many English learners know what they want to say but struggle to make sure it has been received as intended. Getting your point across means not just speaking but checking for understanding, reformulating if needed, and adapting to the listener.*

#### DE

Eine Idee erfolgreich zu kommunizieren — sicherzustellen dass die andere Person verstanden hat was man sagen wollte.

Der Kommunikationserfolgsausdruck.

**Getting your point across matters more than saying it perfectly — clarity beats eloquence.**

Getting your point across matters more than saying it perfectly — clarity beats eloquence. -> Seinen Standpunkt zu vermitteln ist wichtiger als es perfekt zu sagen — Klarheit schlägt Beredsamkeit.

**She found it hard to get her point across in meetings until she started using concrete examples instead of abstract explanations.**

She found it hard to get her point across in meetings until she started using concrete examples instead of abstract explanations. -> Sie fand es schwer ihren Standpunkt in Besprechungen zu vermitteln bis sie anfang konkrete Beispiele statt abstrakte Erklärungen zu verwenden.

5

## to spell something out

etwas buchstabieren · etwas klar und detailliert erklären

### DEF

to explain something clearly and in detail — leaving nothing implied or assumed, so there is no room for misunderstanding

*Spell something out is the explicit communication verb. In some cultures and contexts, people prefer to spell everything out — be direct, be clear, leave nothing to inference. In others, spelling everything out is considered blunt or condescending. For English learners, knowing when to spell things out versus when to trust the listener is a cultural and communicative skill.*

### DE

Etwas klar und detailliert zu erklären — nichts impliziert oder angenommen zu lassen sodass kein Raum für Missverständnisse bleibt.

Das explizite Kommunikationsverb.

***Spell out your expectations clearly at the start of a project — assumptions cause more misunderstandings than disagreements.***

Spell out your expectations clearly at the start of a project — assumptions cause more misunderstandings than disagreements. -> Buchstabiere deine Erwartungen klar zu Beginn eines Projekts — Annahmen verursachen mehr Missverständnisse als Meinungsverschiedenheiten.

***She had to spell out exactly what she needed because vague requests always led to the wrong result.***

She had to spell out exactly what she needed because vague requests always led to the wrong result. -> Sie musste genau buchstabieren was sie brauchte weil vage Anfragen immer zum falschen Ergebnis führten.

6

## to bridge a gap

eine Lücke überbrücken · einen Unterschied verringern oder beseitigen

### DEF

to reduce or eliminate a difference — in understanding, knowledge, culture, or communication

*Bridge a gap is the connection-building phrase. In language learning, the most relevant gap is the communication gap: the distance between what you intend to say and what is actually understood. Bridging that gap requires vocabulary, clarity, cultural awareness, and the willingness to check and rephrase.*

### DE

Einen Unterschied zu verringern oder zu beseitigen — in Verständnis, Wissen, Kultur oder Kommunikation.

Der Verbindungsaufbauausdruck.

***Bridging a communication gap requires patience and willingness to rephrase — not just louder repetition.***

Bridging a communication gap requires patience and willingness to rephrase — not just louder repetition. -> Eine Kommunikationslücke zu überbrücken erfordert Geduld und die Bereitschaft umzuformulieren — nicht nur lautere Wiederholung.

***She used visual aids to bridge the gap when words alone were not conveying the concept clearly.***

She used visual aids to bridge the gap when words alone were not conveying the concept clearly. -> Sie nutzte visuelle Hilfsmittel um die Lücke zu überbrücken wenn Worte allein das Konzept nicht klar vermittelten.

7

## to mean well

es gut meinen · gute Absichten haben

### DEF

to have good intentions — even if the result or the expression of those intentions is not perfect

*Mean well is the charitable interpretation phrase. It is used to give someone the benefit of the doubt — to say that their intention was good even if the outcome was clumsy or unhelpful. 'She means well' is both a defence and a mild criticism: yes, the intention is good, but there is an implied 'but'. Understanding this nuance is advanced English.*

### DE

Gute Absichten zu haben — auch wenn das Ergebnis oder der Ausdruck dieser Absichten nicht perfekt ist.

Der wohltätige Interpretationsausdruck.

***He means well — his phrasing was awkward but his intention was genuinely helpful.***

He means well — his phrasing was awkward but his intention was genuinely helpful. -> Er meint es gut — seine Formulierung war ungeschickt aber seine Absicht war wirklich hilfreich.

***She knew her mother meant well but the constant advice felt more like criticism than support.***

She knew her mother meant well but the constant advice felt more like criticism than support. -> Sie wusste dass ihre Mutter es gut meinte aber der ständige Rat fühlte sich mehr wie Kritik als wie Unterstützung an.

8

## to put it differently

es anders ausdrücken · das Gesagte auf neue Weise neu formulieren

### DEF

to restate what you have said in a new way — using different words or an analogy to improve understanding

*Put it differently is the clarification phrase. When you realise your explanation has not landed — the listener looks confused, or simply says 'I'm not sure I follow' — putting it differently means trying another angle: a simpler word, a concrete example, an analogy. It is an essential communication repair strategy.*

### DE

Das Gesagte auf neue Weise zu formulieren — andere Worte oder eine Analogie zu verwenden um das Verständnis zu verbessern.

Der Klärungsausdruck.

***If someone looks confused, put it differently instead of repeating the same words more slowly.***

If someone looks confused, put it differently instead of repeating the same words more slowly. -> Wenn jemand verwirrt aussieht, drücke es anders aus statt dieselben Worte langsamer zu wiederholen.

***She put it differently each time until she found the analogy that made the concept click for the group.***

She put it differently each time until she found the analogy that made the concept click for the group. -> Sie drückte es jedes Mal anders aus bis sie die Analogie fand die das Konzept für die Gruppe verständlich machte.

## to talk at cross purposes

9

### aneinander vorbeizureden · in einem Gespräch zu sein wo beide Parteien sich missverstehen

#### DEF

to be in a conversation where both parties are misunderstanding each other — often because they are discussing different things while thinking they are discussing the same

*Talk at cross purposes is one of the most precise communication failure phrases in English. It describes the specific situation where both speakers believe they are on the same topic but are actually discussing different aspects, assumptions, or definitions. Recognising this is the first step to resolving it — by naming it: 'I think we may be talking at cross purposes.'*

#### DE

In einem Gespräch zu sein wo beide Parteien sich missverstehen — oft weil sie verschiedene Dinge besprechen während sie glauben dasselbe zu besprechen.

Eine der präzisesten Kommunikationsfehlerphrasen auf Englisch.

***If a conversation feels frustrating, you may be talking at cross purposes — stop and define your terms.***

If a conversation feels frustrating, you may be talking at cross purposes — stop and define your terms. -> Wenn sich ein Gespräch frustrierend anfühlt, redest du möglicherweise aneinander vorbei — hör auf und definiere deine Begriffe.

***They talked at cross purposes for twenty minutes before realising they had different definitions of the deadline.***

They talked at cross purposes for twenty minutes before realising they had different definitions of the deadline. -> Sie redeten zwanzig Minuten aneinander vorbei bevor sie erkannten dass sie unterschiedliche Definitionen der Frist hatten.

## to come to an understanding

10

### zu einem Verständnis kommen · nach einem Kommunikationsprozess zu einer gemeinsamen Einigung kommen

#### DEF

to reach a shared agreement or mutual comprehension after a process of communication or negotiation

*Come to an understanding is the resolution phrase. After disagreement, miscommunication, or a difficult negotiation, coming to an understanding means both parties have found enough common ground to proceed. It is softer than 'reaching an agreement' — it suggests the process was collaborative rather than adversarial.*

#### DE

Nach einem Prozess der Kommunikation oder Verhandlung zu einer gemeinsamen Einigung oder gegenseitigem Verständnis zu kommen.

Der Lösungsausdruck. Weicher als 'eine Einigung erzielen' — es legt nahe dass der Prozess kooperativ war.

***After a long discussion, they came to an understanding that worked for both sides.***

After a long discussion, they came to an understanding that worked for both sides. -> Nach einer langen Diskussion kamen sie zu einem Verständnis das für beide Seiten funktionierte.

***She came to an understanding with her manager about flexible hours that she had not thought was possible.***

She came to an understanding with her manager about flexible hours that she had not thought was possible. -> Sie kam mit ihrem Vorgesetzten zu einem Verständnis über flexible Stunden das sie nicht für möglich gehalten hatte.