

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 73

A Second Date with a Lithuanian Woman

Key words & expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

to read between the lines

leer entre líneas · entender lo que no se dice directamente

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.

ES

Entender lo que realmente se está comunicando en un mensaje más allá de las palabras literales — percibir el significado oculto o implícito.

Es el arte de la inferencia — entender no solo lo que se dice sino lo que se quiere decir.

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. -> No dijo que estaba molesta — tienes que leer entre líneas lo que realmente escribió.

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 — it is how you understand culture, not just words. -> Entender lo que no se dice directamente es una habilidad lingüística avanzada — es cómo entiendes la cultura, no solo las palabras.

2

to be on the same wavelength

estar en la misma onda · pensar de la misma manera

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.

ES

Pensar de la misma manera que alguien más; tener las mismas ideas, valores o forma de entender el mundo.

Metáfora de radio/física aplicada a la conexión humana.

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. -> Estaban en la misma onda en todo — humor, valores y lo que querían de la vida.

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. -> Pensar de la misma manera que tu profesor de inglés hace las clases tres veces más efectivas.

3

subtext

el subtexto · el significado implícito debajo de la superficie de lo que se dice

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'.

ES

El significado implícito o no declarado debajo de la superficie de lo que se dice — lo que se comunica sin decirse.

El concepto literario y de comunicación. 'That's interesting' a menudo significa 'no estoy de acuerdo'. 'We'll see' a menudo significa 'no'.

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. -> Presta atención al subtexto en las conversaciones profesionales en inglés — lo que no se dice es a menudo tan importante como lo que se dice.

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. -> Se perdió el subtexto de su respuesta educada durante meses antes de que un colega le explicara lo que realmente quería decir.

4 to get your point across

4

hacer llegar tu mensaje · comunicar una idea con éxito — asegurándote de que el otro ha entendido lo que querías decir

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.

ES

Comunicar una idea con éxito — asegurándote de que la otra persona ha entendido lo que pretendías decir.

La frase del éxito de comunicación. Muchos estudiantes saben lo que quieren decir pero luchan para asegurarse de que ha sido recibido como se pretendía.

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. -> Hacer llegar tu mensaje importa más que decirlo perfectamente — la claridad supera a la elocuencia.

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. -> Le resultaba difícil hacer llegar su mensaje en las reuniones hasta que empezó a usar ejemplos concretos en lugar de explicaciones abstractas.

5

5 to spell something out

explicar con detalle · explicar algo con claridad y detalle — sin dejar nada implícito

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.

ES

Explicar algo con claridad y detalle — sin dejar nada implícito o asumido, para que no haya margen para malentendidos.

El verbo de la comunicación explícita. En algunos contextos, explicar todo con detalle es directez y claridad; en otros puede parecer brusco.

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. -> Explica tus expectativas con detalle al inicio de un proyecto — las suposiciones causan más malentendidos que los desacuerdos.

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. -> Tuvo que explicar con detalle exactamente lo que necesitaba porque las solicitudes vagas siempre llevaban al resultado incorrecto.

to bridge a gap

6

tender un puente · reducir o eliminar una diferencia — en comprensión, conocimiento o comunicación

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.

ES

Reducir o eliminar una diferencia — en comprensión, conocimiento, cultura o comunicación.

La frase de construcción de conexiones. En el aprendizaje de idiomas, la brecha más relevante es la de comunicación: la distancia entre lo que pretende decir y lo que se entiende.

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. -> Tender un puente sobre la brecha de comunicación requiere paciencia y disposición a reformular — no solo repetición más alta.

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. -> Usó ayudas visuales para tender un puente cuando las palabras solas no transmitían el concepto con claridad.

to mean well

7

tener buenas intenciones · tener buenas intenciones — aunque el resultado no sea perfecto

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.

ES

Tener buenas intenciones — aunque el resultado o la expresión de esas intenciones no sea perfecta.

La frase de interpretación caritativa. 'She means well' es a la vez una defensa y una crítica leve: sí, la intención es buena, pero hay un 'pero' implícito.

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. -> Tiene buenas intenciones — su formulación fue torpe pero su intención era genuinamente útil.

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. -> Sabía que su madre tenía buenas intenciones pero los consejos constantes se sentían más como crítica que como apoyo.

to put it differently

8

decirlo de otra manera · reformular lo que has dicho con palabras diferentes para mejorar la comprensión

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.

ES

Reformular lo que has dicho de una manera nueva — usando diferentes palabras o una analogía para mejorar la comprensión.

La frase de aclaración. Cuando tu explicación no ha llegado, decirlo de otra manera significa intentar otro ángulo.

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. -> Si alguien parece confundido, dílo de otra manera en lugar de repetir las mismas palabras más despacio.

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. -> Lo dijo de otra manera cada vez hasta que encontró la analogía que hizo que el concepto hiciera clic para el grupo.

to talk at cross purposes

9

hablar sin entenderse · estar en una conversación donde ambas partes se malentienden

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.'

ES

Estar en una conversación donde ambas partes se malentienden — a menudo porque están discutiendo cosas diferentes creyendo que discuten lo mismo.

Una de las frases más precisas del fracaso de comunicación en inglés. Describe la situación donde ambos hablantes creen que están en el mismo tema pero realmente discuten aspectos o definiciones diferentes.

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. -> Si una conversación se siente frustrante, puede que estéis hablando sin entenderos — parad y definid vuestros términos.

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. -> Hablaron sin entenderse durante veinte minutos antes de darse cuenta de que tenían diferentes definiciones del plazo.

to come to an understanding

10

llegar a un entendimiento · alcanzar un acuerdo compartido o comprensión mutua tras una comunicación

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.

ES

Alcanzar un acuerdo compartido o comprensión mutua después de un proceso de comunicación o negociación.

La frase de resolución. Es más suave que 'llegar a un acuerdo' — sugiere que el proceso fue colaborativo.

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. -> Después de una larga discusión, llegaron a un entendimiento que funcionó para ambas partes.

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. -> Llegó a un entendimiento con su jefe sobre las horas flexibles que no creía posible.