

## VOCABULARY · EPISODE 79

**5 min Survival Kit The Bank**

Key words &amp; expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

**1 to open an account****abrir una cuenta bancaria · dar de alta una cuenta en el banco**

## DEF

to start a bank account by completing the required paperwork and identification process at a financial institution

*Opening an account is one of the first practical English tasks when moving to an English-speaking country — and one of the most intimidating. Knowing the vocabulary (ID, proof of address, sort code, standing order) turns it from terrifying to manageable.*

## ES

Iniciar una cuenta bancaria completando el papeleo requerido y el proceso de identificación en una entidad financiera.

Es una de las primeras tareas prácticas de inglés al mudarse a un país de habla inglesa.

***I'd like to open a current account, please — what identification do I need to bring?***

I'd like to open a current account, please — what identification do I need to bring? -> Me gustaría abrir una cuenta corriente, por favor — ¿qué identificación necesito traer?

***She prepared the vocabulary before going to the bank and the whole process took twenty minutes instead of two hours.***

She prepared the vocabulary before going to the bank and the whole process took twenty minutes. -> Preparó el vocabulario antes de ir al banco y todo el proceso llevó veinte minutos.

**2 to set up a direct debit****configurar un débito directo · poner un cargo automático en cuenta**

## DEF

to arrange for a fixed or variable amount to be automatically taken from your bank account on a regular basis to pay a bill

*Setting up a direct debit is an essential banking action in the UK and other English-speaking countries — used for rent, utilities, subscriptions. Understanding the difference between direct debit (pull) and standing order (fixed push) is practical financial literacy.*

## ES

Organizar para que se tome automáticamente de tu cuenta bancaria una cantidad fija o variable de forma regular para pagar una factura.

Es una acción bancaria esencial en el Reino Unido y otros países de habla inglesa.

***I'd like to set up a direct debit for my monthly rent payment — can you help me with that?***

I'd like to set up a direct debit for my monthly rent payment. -> Me gustaría configurar un débito directo para el pago mensual de mi alquiler.

***Setting up a direct debit means you never miss a payment — the bank takes care of it automatically.***

Setting up a direct debit means you never miss a payment. -> Poner un cargo automático en cuenta significa que nunca te pierdes un pago.

3

## to transfer funds

transferir fondos · mover dinero de una cuenta a otra

### DEF

to move money from one account to another — either within the same bank or between different banks

*Transfer funds is the banking movement phrase. In modern banking English, you 'transfer' money rather than 'send' it between accounts. Key related phrases: 'bank transfer', 'wire transfer', 'standing order', 'faster payment'. Being able to discuss and instruct bank transfers clearly is essential for anyone managing finances in an English-speaking country.*

### ES

Mover dinero de una cuenta a otra — ya sea dentro del mismo banco o entre bancos diferentes.

La frase de movimiento bancario. Se 'transfiere' dinero en lugar de 'enviarlo' entre cuentas. Frases relacionadas: 'bank transfer', 'wire transfer', 'standing order'.

**Transfer funds well before a payment deadline — processing times vary between banks.**

Transfer funds well before a payment deadline — processing times vary between banks. -> Transfiere fondos con bastante antelación a un plazo de pago — los tiempos de procesamiento varían entre bancos.

**She transferred funds to cover the deposit and was relieved to see the confirmation arrive within minutes.**

She transferred funds to cover the deposit and was relieved to see the confirmation arrive within minutes. -> Transfirió fondos para cubrir el depósito y sintió un alivio al ver llegar la confirmación en minutos.

4

## to go into debt

endeudarse · deber dinero — específicamente llegar a un estado donde las deudas superan la capacidad de reembolso

### DEF

to owe money — specifically to reach a state where your debts exceed your ability to easily repay them

*Go into debt is the financial risk phrase. Debt is not inherently bad — most people have mortgages or student loans — but going into debt implies an amount or type of debt that creates a burden. In English financial conversations, there is a clear cultural expectation of responsible borrowing. Phrases like 'manage debt', 'get into debt', and 'pay off debt' form a cluster of financial literacy vocabulary.*

### ES

Deber dinero — específicamente llegar a un estado donde tus deudas superan tu capacidad de reembolsarlas fácilmente.

La frase de riesgo financiero. La deuda no es inherentemente mala pero endeudarse implica una cantidad o tipo de deuda que crea una carga.

**Avoid going into debt for depreciating assets — the cost is usually greater than it appears.**

Avoid going into debt for depreciating assets — the cost is usually greater than it appears. -> Evita endeudarte por activos que se deprecian — el costo es generalmente mayor de lo que parece.

**She went into debt to fund her postgraduate degree and spent the next six years paying it off.**

She went into debt to fund her postgraduate degree and spent the next six years paying it off. -> Se endeudó para financiar su posgrado y pasó los siguientes seis años pagándolo.

5

## to check your balance

consultar el saldo · averiguar cuánto dinero hay actualmente en tu cuenta bancaria

### DEF

to find out how much money is currently in your bank account

*Check your balance is the account monitoring phrase. In modern banking, balance checking is done via apps, online banking, ATMs, or bank statements. Key vocabulary: 'available balance', 'current balance', 'pending transactions', 'statement'. For anyone managing money in English, being able to discuss and monitor your balance is basic financial English.*

### ES

Averiguar cuánto dinero hay actualmente en tu cuenta bancaria.

La frase de monitoreo de cuenta. En la banca moderna, consultar el saldo se hace a través de aplicaciones, banca en línea o cajeros automáticos.

**Check your balance before making a large payment — do not rely on memory for financial decisions.**

Check your balance before making a large payment — do not rely on memory for financial decisions. ->

Consulta tu saldo antes de hacer un pago grande — no confíes en la memoria para las decisiones financieras.

**She checked her balance every morning using her banking app and adjusted her spending for the day accordingly.**

She checked her balance every morning using her banking app and adjusted her spending for the day accordingly. -> Consultaba su saldo cada mañana usando su aplicación bancaria y ajustaba su gasto del día en consecuencia.

6

## an overdraft

un descubierto · un acuerdo con tu banco que te permite gastar más dinero del que tienes en tu cuenta

### DEF

an arrangement with your bank that allows you to spend more money than you have in your account — up to a pre-agreed limit

*Overdraft is the credit facility noun. In UK banking, many current accounts come with arranged overdrafts — a buffer for unexpected expenses. There is a clear distinction: an 'arranged overdraft' is pre-agreed and typically lower interest; an 'unarranged overdraft' happens without permission and attracts high fees. Understanding this distinction is important financial English.*

### ES

Un acuerdo con tu banco que te permite gastar más dinero del que tienes en tu cuenta — hasta un límite preacordado.

El sustantivo de facilidad de crédito. Distinción clave: 'arranged overdraft' (preacordado, interés más bajo) vs 'unarranged overdraft' (sin permiso, cargos altos).

**Use an arranged overdraft only as a short-term buffer — the fees add up quickly.**

Use an arranged overdraft only as a short-term buffer — the fees add up quickly. -> Usa un descubierto autorizado solo como amortiguador a corto plazo — las comisiones se acumulan rápidamente.

**She accidentally went into her unarranged overdraft and was charged a significant fee before she noticed.**

She accidentally went into her unarranged overdraft and was charged a significant fee before she noticed. -> Entró accidentalmente en su descubierto no autorizado y le cobraron una tarifa significativa antes de que lo notara.

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## to make a withdrawal

hacer un reintegro · sacar dinero de una cuenta bancaria

### DEF

to take money out of a bank account — either at an ATM, bank counter, or via electronic transfer

*Make a withdrawal is the cash access phrase. In banking English, you 'make a withdrawal' at a counter or 'withdraw cash' at an ATM. The opposite is 'make a deposit'. Both are formal banking terms that appear on forms, statements, and in teller conversations. Being comfortable with this vocabulary helps with any in-person or online banking.*

### ES

Sacar dinero de una cuenta bancaria — ya sea en un cajero automático, en el mostrador del banco o mediante transferencia electrónica.

La frase de acceso al efectivo. Se 'hace un reintegro' en el mostrador o se 'saca efectivo' en el cajero. Lo contrario es 'make a deposit'.

**Always check your balance before making a withdrawal to avoid unexpected overdraft fees.**

Always check your balance before making a withdrawal to avoid unexpected overdraft fees. -> Siempre consulta tu saldo antes de hacer un reintegro para evitar comisiones de descubierto inesperadas.

**She made a withdrawal at the counter because the ATM outside the bank was out of order.**

She made a withdrawal at the counter because the ATM outside the bank was out of order. -> Hizo un reintegro en el mostrador porque el cajero automático fuera del banco estaba averiado.

8

## to pay by card

pagar con tarjeta · usar una tarjeta de débito o crédito para completar una compra

### DEF

to use a debit or credit card to complete a purchase — rather than paying with cash

*Pay by card is the payment method phrase. In the UK and most English-speaking countries, card payment is now the dominant method. Phrases: 'Can I pay by card?', 'Do you take card?', 'Contactless or chip and PIN?'. For English learners, being comfortable handling payment situations — including when a machine malfunctions, when you need a receipt, or when there is a minimum spend — requires this core vocabulary.*

### ES

Usar una tarjeta de débito o crédito para completar una compra — en lugar de pagar en efectivo.

La frase del método de pago. En el Reino Unido el pago con tarjeta es ahora el método dominante.

Frases: 'Can I pay by card?', 'Do you take card?'

**When in doubt, ask 'Do you take card?' before you have already committed to buying.**

When in doubt, ask 'Do you take card?' before you have already committed to buying. -> Cuando tengas dudas, pregunta '¿Aceptan tarjeta?' antes de haberte comprometido ya a comprar.

**She discovered the market only accepted cash and had to find a cash machine quickly before paying by card was no longer an option.**

She discovered the market only accepted cash and had to find a cash machine quickly before paying by card was no longer an option. -> Descubrió que el mercado solo aceptaba efectivo y tuvo que encontrar un cajero rápidamente antes de que pagar con tarjeta dejara de ser una opción.

## a statement

9

### un extracto bancario · un documento producido por un banco que resume todas las transacciones de una cuenta

#### DEF

a printed or digital document produced by a bank that summarises all transactions in an account over a specific period

*Statement is the banking record noun. Bank statements are used to track spending, resolve disputes, verify income, and apply for credit. In English banking, 'bank statement', 'monthly statement', and 'year-end statement' are common phrases. For renters and borrowers, providing a recent bank statement is often required as proof of financial standing.*

#### ES

Un documento impreso o digital producido por un banco que resume todas las transacciones de una cuenta durante un período específico.

El sustantivo del registro bancario. Los extractos bancarios se usan para rastrear gastos, resolver disputas y verificar ingresos.

**Review your statement monthly — it is the easiest way to catch errors and track patterns.**

Review your statement monthly — it is the easiest way to catch errors and track patterns. -> Revisa tu extracto mensualmente — es la manera más fácil de detectar errores y rastrear patrones.

**She requested a paper statement to use as proof of address for her new utility account.**

She requested a paper statement to use as proof of address for her new utility account. -> Solicitó un extracto en papel para usarlo como prueba de domicilio para su nueva cuenta de suministros.

## to pay off

10

### saldar · reembolsar completamente una deuda un préstamo o una obligación financiera

#### DEF

to completely repay a debt, loan, or financial obligation — so that nothing remains outstanding

*Pay off is the debt completion phrase. 'Paying off' a loan or credit card means reaching a zero balance — the debt is finished. In English, the phrase signals financial achievement: 'I paid off my student loan' is a statement of completion and relief. Related: 'pay off the mortgage', 'pay off the car', 'clear the balance'. Distinct from 'pay back' which is more general and applies to returning money.*

#### ES

Reembolsar completamente una deuda, préstamo o obligación financiera — de modo que no quede nada pendiente.

La frase de finalización de deuda. 'Paying off' un préstamo o tarjeta de crédito significa llegar a saldo cero — la deuda ha terminado.

**Pay off your highest-interest debt first — it is usually the fastest route to financial freedom.**

Pay off your highest-interest debt first — it is usually the fastest route to financial freedom. -> Salda primero tu deuda de mayor interés — suele ser la ruta más rápida hacia la libertad financiera.

**She worked extra hours for two years and paid off her credit card debt entirely before her thirtieth birthday.**

She worked extra hours for two years and paid off her credit card debt entirely before her thirtieth birthday. -> Trabajó horas extra durante dos años y saldó completamente su deuda de tarjeta de crédito antes de su trigésimo cumpleaños.