

## VOCABULARY · EPISODE 81

**5 Min Survival Kit: The Landlord**

Key words &amp; expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

**to sort out a problem****arreglar un problema · solucionar el asunto**

## DEF

to deal with and resolve a problem, especially a practical or administrative one — to fix a situation that has been causing difficulty

*Sort out is quintessentially British English — it is warmer and more informal than 'resolve' or 'fix'. In landlord/tenant conversations, being able to ask your landlord to 'sort out' an issue signals competent practical English.*

## ES

Tratar y resolver un problema, especialmente uno práctico o administrativo — arreglar una situación que ha estado causando dificultades.

Es inglés británico por excelencia — más cálido e informal que 'resolver' o 'reparar'.

**Could you sort out the heating issue as soon as possible? It's been three days without hot water.**

Could you sort out the heating issue as soon as possible? It's been three days without hot water. -> ¿Podría arreglar el problema de la calefacción lo antes posible? Llevan tres días sin agua caliente.

**She sorted out every problem with her landlord calmly and in clear English — no conflict, no stress.**

She sorted out every problem with her landlord calmly and in clear English. -> Solucionó todos los problemas con su casero con calma y en inglés claro.

2

**your tenancy agreement****tu contrato de arrendamiento · el contrato de alquiler**

## DEF

a legal contract between a landlord and a tenant that sets out the terms of renting a property — including rent amount, duration, and responsibilities of each party

*Tenancy agreement is essential practical legal English for anyone renting in an English-speaking country. Understanding the terms — deposit, notice period, break clause — can protect you from losing money and having problems.*

## ES

Un contrato legal entre un propietario y un inquilino que establece las condiciones del alquiler de una propiedad.

Inglés jurídico práctico esencial para cualquiera que alquile en un país de habla inglesa.

**According to my tenancy agreement, the landlord is responsible for maintaining the boiler.**

According to my tenancy agreement, the landlord is responsible for maintaining the boiler. -> Según mi contrato de arrendamiento, el propietario es responsable del mantenimiento de la caldera.

**Always read your tenancy agreement before you sign it — and look up any words you don't understand.**

Always read your tenancy agreement before you sign it. -> Lee siempre tu contrato de alquiler antes de firmarlo.

3

## a landlord

**el casero · una persona o empresa que posee una propiedad y la alquila a inquilinos**

### DEF

a person or company that owns a property and rents it out to tenants in exchange for regular payments

*Landlord is the rental relationship noun. In UK renting English, the landlord owns the property; the tenant lives in it. Key phrases: 'my landlord', 'contact the landlord', 'the landlord is responsible for...'. The landlord has legal obligations — maintaining the property, protecting the deposit — and tenants have rights. Understanding this relationship vocabulary is essential for anyone renting in an English-speaking country.*

### ES

Una persona o empresa que posee una propiedad y la alquila a inquilinos a cambio de pagos regulares.

El sustantivo de la relación de alquiler. El casero posee la propiedad; el inquilino vive en ella. El casero tiene obligaciones legales.

***Your landlord is legally responsible for structural repairs — document issues in writing as soon as they arise.***

Your landlord is legally responsible for structural repairs — document issues in writing as soon as they arise. -> Tu casero es legalmente responsable de las reparaciones estructurales — documenta los problemas por escrito en cuanto surjan.

***She contacted her landlord about the leaking roof and kept a written record of all communications in case of a dispute.***

She contacted her landlord about the leaking roof and kept a written record of all communications in case of a dispute. -> Contactó a su casero sobre el techo que goteaba y mantuvo un registro escrito de todas las comunicaciones en caso de disputa.

4

## a deposit

**la fianza · una suma de dinero pagada por anticipado por un inquilino antes de mudarse**

### DEF

a sum of money paid in advance by a tenant before moving in — held by the landlord or a protection scheme and returned at the end of the tenancy if the property is in good condition

*Deposit is the tenancy security noun. In the UK, tenancy deposits are legally protected — landlords must place them in a government-backed scheme. At the end of the tenancy, the deposit is returned minus any legitimate deductions for damage. Key phrases: 'pay a deposit', 'protect the deposit', 'return the deposit', 'dispute a deduction'.*

### ES

Una suma de dinero pagada por anticipado por un inquilino antes de mudarse — retenida por el casero o un plan de protección y devuelta al final del arrendamiento si la propiedad está en buen estado.

El sustantivo de seguridad de arrendamiento. En el Reino Unido las fianzas de arrendamiento están legalmente protegidas.

***Document the property's condition with photos before moving in — it protects your deposit at the end.***

Document the property's condition with photos before moving in — it protects your deposit at the end. -> Documenta el estado de la propiedad con fotos antes de mudarte — protege tu fianza al final.

***She paid a deposit of one month's rent and received confirmation that it had been placed in a government-protected scheme.***

She paid a deposit of one month's rent and received confirmation that it had been placed in a government-protected scheme. -> Pagó una fianza de un mes de alquiler y recibió confirmación de que había sido colocada en un plan protegido por el gobierno.

## to give notice

### 5 dar el preaviso · informar formalmente a tu casero de que tienes intención de dejar la propiedad

#### DEF

to formally inform your landlord that you intend to leave the property — typically in writing and within the time frame specified in your tenancy agreement

*Give notice is the tenancy departure phrase. Most tenancy agreements require a fixed notice period — typically one or two months. Failing to give notice means you may still owe rent after moving out. Giving notice 'in writing' and keeping a copy is standard practice. Key phrases: 'give one month's notice', 'serve notice', 'notice period'.*

#### ES

Informar formalmente a tu casero de que tienes intención de dejar la propiedad — típicamente por escrito y dentro del plazo especificado en tu contrato de arrendamiento.

La frase de salida del arrendamiento. La mayoría de los contratos requieren un período de preaviso fijo — típicamente uno o dos meses.

**Give notice in writing and keep a copy — verbal notice creates disputes you cannot win.**

Give notice in writing and keep a copy — verbal notice creates disputes you cannot win. -> Da el preaviso por escrito y guarda una copia — el preaviso verbal crea disputas que no puedes ganar.

**She gave one month's notice as required by her tenancy agreement and started looking for a new flat immediately.**

She gave one month's notice as required by her tenancy agreement and started looking for a new flat immediately. -> Dio un preaviso de un mes según lo exigido por su contrato de arrendamiento y empezó a buscar un nuevo piso inmediatamente.

## to be liable for

### 6 ser responsable de · ser legalmente responsable de — especialmente por daños costos u obligaciones

#### DEF

to be legally responsible for — especially for damage, costs, or obligations

*Liable for is the legal responsibility phrase. In tenancy contexts: 'you are liable for the cost of repairs', 'the tenant is liable for...', 'the landlord is liable for...'. Understanding who is liable for what — maintenance, utilities, damage — is a core part of understanding rental English and avoiding costly disputes.*

#### ES

Ser legalmente responsable de — especialmente por daños, costos u obligaciones.

La frase de responsabilidad legal. En contextos de arrendamiento: 'you are liable for the cost of repairs', 'the tenant is liable for...'

**Know what you are liable for before signing any tenancy agreement — read every clause.**

Know what you are liable for before signing any tenancy agreement — read every clause. -> Sabe de qué eres responsable antes de firmar cualquier contrato de arrendamiento — lee cada cláusula.

**She was told she was liable for the cost of replacing the broken boiler but disputed this as it was pre-existing damage.**

She was told she was liable for the cost of replacing the broken boiler but disputed this as it was pre-existing damage. -> Le dijeron que era responsable del costo de reemplazar la caldera rota pero lo disputó ya que era daño preexistente.

## to move out

### 7 mudarse · dejar una propiedad alquilada de forma permanente — llevando tus pertenencias y devolviendo las llaves

#### DEF

to leave a rented property permanently — taking your belongings and returning the keys

*Move out is the tenancy end phrase. It is paired with 'move in' — moving in marks the start, moving out marks the end of a tenancy. Key phrases in moving out: 'give notice', 'check-out inspection', 'hand back the keys', 'settle the final utilities'. For English learners planning to live abroad, knowing move-in and move-out procedures in English is essential practical life knowledge.*

#### ES

Dejar una propiedad alquilada de forma permanente — llevando tus pertenencias y devolviendo las llaves.

La frase de fin del arrendamiento. Se combina con 'move in' — mudarse marca el inicio, marcharse marca el fin de un arrendamiento.

***Before moving out, clean thoroughly and document the property's condition — it maximises your deposit return.***

Before moving out, clean thoroughly and document the property's condition — it maximises your deposit return. -> Antes de mudarte limpia a fondo y documenta el estado de la propiedad — maximiza la devolución de tu fianza.

***She moved out on the last day of the month and left the flat in better condition than she had found it.***

She moved out on the last day of the month and left the flat in better condition than she had found it. -> Se mudó el último día del mes y dejó el piso en mejor estado del que lo había encontrado.

## utility bills

### 8 las facturas de servicios · facturas regulares por servicios domésticos esenciales como gas electricidad agua e internet

#### DEF

regular invoices for essential household services — such as gas, electricity, water, and internet

*Utility bills is the household expense phrase. In British English, 'bills' or 'utility bills' covers the recurring costs of running a home: gas, electricity, water, broadband. When renting, it is important to know whether bills are included ('bills included') or not ('bills extra'). Key phrases: 'set up the bills', 'split the bills', 'bills in your name'.*

#### ES

Facturas regulares por servicios domésticos esenciales — como gas, electricidad, agua e internet.

La frase de gastos domésticos. Al alquilar es importante saber si las facturas están incluidas o no.

***Set up utility bills as soon as you move in — delays can mean missed payments and credit impacts.***

Set up utility bills as soon as you move in — delays can mean missed payments and credit impacts. -> Configura las facturas de servicios en cuanto te mudes — los retrasos pueden significar pagos perdidos e impactos en el crédito.

***She set up all the utility bills in her name within the first week of moving into the new flat.***

She set up all the utility bills in her name within the first week of moving into the new flat. -> Configuró todas las facturas de servicios a su nombre dentro de la primera semana de mudarse al nuevo piso.

## 9 to raise a complaint

**9 presentar una queja · notificar formalmente a alguien — como un casero empresa o autoridad — sobre un problema no resuelto**

### DEF

to formally notify someone — such as a landlord, company, or authority — about a problem that has not been resolved through informal means

*Raise a complaint is the formal escalation phrase. In renting contexts, tenants sometimes need to escalate issues: the landlord has not responded, the repair has not been done, the deposit has not been returned. Knowing how to raise a complaint formally — in writing, citing the relevant obligations, and referencing the next step if unresolved — is an important tenant English skill.*

### ES

Notificar formalmente a alguien — como un casero, empresa o autoridad — sobre un problema que no se ha resuelto por medios informales.

La frase de escalada formal. Los inquilinos a veces necesitan escalar problemas: el casero no ha respondido, la reparación no se ha hecho.

***Raise a complaint in writing and set a clear deadline for a response — informal complaints are easy to ignore.***

Raise a complaint in writing and set a clear deadline for a response — informal complaints are easy to ignore. -> Presenta una queja por escrito y establece un plazo claro para una respuesta — las quejas informales son fáciles de ignorar.

***She raised a formal complaint with the letting agency after her landlord ignored her repair requests for six weeks.***

She raised a formal complaint with the letting agency after her landlord ignored her repair requests for six weeks. -> Presentó una queja formal a la agencia inmobiliaria después de que su casero ignorara sus solicitudes de reparación durante seis semanas.

## 10 to sign a contract

**10 firmar un contrato · poner tu firma en un documento legalmente vinculante**

### DEF

to put your signature on a legally binding document — confirming that you agree to its terms and conditions

*Sign a contract is the legal agreement phrase. Before renting in English-speaking countries, you sign a tenancy agreement — a legally binding document. Before signing any contract, you should read every clause, understand your obligations, and if uncertain, seek advice. Phrases: 'read before you sign', 'sign and date', 'countersigned by the landlord'.*

### ES

Poner tu firma en un documento legalmente vinculante — confirmando que estás de acuerdo con sus términos y condiciones.

La frase del acuerdo legal. Antes de alquilar se firma un contrato de arrendamiento. Frases: 'read before you sign', 'sign and date'.

***Never sign a contract you have not read fully — not understanding it is not a legal defence.***

Never sign a contract you have not read fully — not understanding it is not a legal defence. -> Nunca firmes un contrato que no hayas leído completamente — no entenderlo no es una defensa legal.

***She read her tenancy agreement carefully before signing the contract and asked the agent to clarify two clauses she did not understand.***

She read her tenancy agreement carefully before signing the contract and asked the agent to clarify two clauses she did not understand. -> Leyó su contrato de arrendamiento cuidadosamente antes de firmarlo y le pidió al agente que aclarara dos cláusulas que no entendía.