

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 84

Survival Kit The Neighbour

Key words & expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

to get on well with your neighbours

llevarse bien con los vecinos · tener buena relación con quien vive cerca**DEF**

to have a friendly, polite, and harmonious relationship with the people who live nearby

Getting on well with your neighbours is both practical (they can take in parcels, alert you to problems) and social. In British culture, being a good neighbour involves respecting quiet hours, minimal confrontation, and polite small talk.

ES

Tener una relación amistosa, educada y armoniosa con las personas que viven cerca.

Es tanto práctico como social. En la cultura británica, ser un buen vecino implica respetar las horas de silencio y charlas amistosas.

Getting on well with your neighbours in English starts with a simple 'Good morning' and a friendly nod.

Getting on well with your neighbours in English starts with a simple 'Good morning'. -> Llevarse bien con los vecinos en inglés comienza con un simple 'Buenos días'.

She got on so well with her neighbours that they looked after her flat when she went on holiday.

She got on so well with her neighbours that they looked after her flat when she went on holiday. -> Se llevó tan bien con los vecinos que cuidaron su piso cuando se fue de vacaciones.

2

to raise a concern

plantear una preocupación · mencionar un problema de forma constructiva**DEF**

to bring up a problem or worry in a calm, formal, and constructive way — usually to someone in authority or a neighbour

Raise a concern is the diplomatic, adult way to deal with problems without confrontation. It signals professionalism and respect. For English learners, using this phrase instead of 'complain about you' completely changes the tone of a difficult conversation.

ES

Plantear un problema o preocupación de manera tranquila, formal y constructiva.

Es la manera diplomática y adulta de tratar los problemas sin confrontación.

I'd like to raise a concern about the noise levels late at night — would you be willing to discuss it?

I'd like to raise a concern about the noise levels late at night — would you be willing to discuss it? -> Me gustaría plantear una preocupación sobre los niveles de ruido tarde por la noche — ¿estarías dispuesto a discutirlo?

She raised her concern politely and the neighbour was grateful — no argument, just a conversation.

She raised her concern politely and the neighbour was grateful — no argument, just a conversation. -> Mencionó su problema de forma constructiva con educación y el vecino le agradeció — sin discusión, solo una conversación.

a neighbour

3

un vecino · una persona que vive al lado o cerca — en la casa piso o zona inmediatamente adyacente a la tuya

DEF

a person who lives next door or nearby — in the house, flat, or area immediately adjacent to yours

Neighbour is the proximity resident noun (British spelling; American: neighbor). Good neighbour relations are valued in British community culture. Key phrases: 'my next-door neighbour', 'a good neighbour', 'a bad neighbour', 'neighbour dispute'. The neighbourly relationship ranges from exchanging greetings, accepting parcels, sharing information about local issues, to — at the other extreme — noise disputes and formal complaints.

ES

Una persona que vive al lado o cerca — en la casa, piso o zona inmediatamente adyacente a la tuya.

El sustantivo del residente próximo. Las buenas relaciones vecinales son valoradas en la cultura comunitaria británica.

A neighbourly greeting costs nothing and builds the goodwill that matters when you need a favour.

A neighbourly greeting costs nothing and builds the goodwill that matters when you need a favour. -> Un saludo vecinal no cuesta nada y construye la buena voluntad que importa cuando necesitas un favor.

She introduced herself to her neighbour on the first day and they developed a warm relationship that lasted years.

She introduced herself to her neighbour on the first day and they developed a warm relationship that lasted years. -> Se presentó a su vecino el primer día y desarrollaron una relación cálida que duró años.

to make noise

4

hacer ruido · producir sonidos que son audibles para otros — especialmente sonidos que otros podrían encontrar perturbadores

DEF

to produce sounds that are audible to others — especially sounds that others might find disturbing or disruptive

Make noise is the neighbourhood disturbance phrase. In British community life, noise from neighbours is one of the most common sources of conflict. Key phrases: 'excessive noise', 'noise complaint', 'noise pollution', 'keep the noise down'. The legal concept of 'statutory nuisance' covers noise that significantly disturbs neighbours. Knowing how to raise — and respond to — a noise concern is practical community English.

ES

Producir sonidos que son audibles para otros — especialmente sonidos que otros podrían encontrar perturbadores o disruptivos.

La frase de perturbación vecinal. El ruido de los vecinos es una de las fuentes de conflicto más comunes en la vida comunitaria británica.

Be aware of the noise you make — walls are thinner than they feel from inside your own flat.

Be aware of the noise you make — walls are thinner than they feel from inside your own flat. -> Sé consciente del ruido que haces — las paredes son más finas de lo que parecen desde dentro de tu propio piso.

She apologised to her neighbour for making noise during the late-evening renovation and agreed to finish by eight o'clock in future.

She apologised to her neighbour for making noise during the late-evening renovation and agreed to finish by eight o'clock in future. -> Se disculpó con su vecino por hacer ruido durante la renovación de última hora de la tarde y acordó terminar a las ocho en el futuro.

to keep an eye on

5 **vigilar · vigilar o monitorear algo o alguien — especialmente mientras el propietario está ausente**

DEF

to watch over or monitor something or someone — especially while the owner or responsible person is away

Keep an eye on is the casual monitoring phrase. Between neighbours, it is used for small acts of community care: 'Could you keep an eye on my flat while I'm away?', 'I'll keep an eye on your parcel', 'Can you keep an eye on the car?'. It implies a low-effort, occasional check — not constant surveillance. It is a common request in good-neighbour relationships.

ES

Vigilar o monitorear algo o alguien — especialmente mientras el propietario o la persona responsable está ausente.

La frase de monitoreo casual. Entre vecinos se usa para pequeños actos de cuidado comunitario.

Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your property while you travel — it is both practical and goodwill-building.

Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your property while you travel — it is both practical and goodwill-building. -> Pide a un vecino que vigile tu propiedad mientras viajas — es tanto práctico como constructor de buena voluntad.

She asked her neighbour to keep an eye on the flat while she was on holiday and to collect any post.

She asked her neighbour to keep an eye on the flat while she was on holiday and to collect any post. -> Le pidió a su vecino que vigilara el piso mientras estaba de vacaciones y que recogiera el correo.

6 to resolve a dispute

resolver una disputa · llevar con éxito un desacuerdo o conflicto a su fin

DEF

to successfully bring a disagreement or conflict to an end — through discussion, compromise, or a formal process

Resolve a dispute is the conflict resolution phrase. Neighbour disputes are one of the most common types of interpersonal conflict in British community life. The recommended approach is: discuss directly first, then involve the landlord or housing association if needed, then a mediation service, then formal legal action as a last resort. Knowing how to talk about resolving rather than escalating conflict is sophisticated community English.

ES

Llevar con éxito un desacuerdo o conflicto a su fin — a través de la discusión, el compromiso o un proceso formal.

La frase de resolución de conflictos. El enfoque recomendado: primero discutir directamente, luego involucrar al casero si es necesario, luego mediación.

Try to resolve a dispute directly and calmly before involving any formal process — most issues can be settled with a conversation.

Try to resolve a dispute directly and calmly before involving any formal process — most issues can be settled with a conversation. -> Intenta resolver una disputa directa y calmadamente antes de involucrar cualquier proceso formal — la mayoría de los problemas se pueden resolver con una conversación.

She managed to resolve the noise dispute with her upstairs neighbour by having a friendly conversation and agreeing on quiet hours.

She managed to resolve the noise dispute with her upstairs neighbour by having a friendly conversation and agreeing on quiet hours. -> Logró resolver la disputa de ruido con su vecino de arriba teniendo una conversación amistosa y acordando horas de silencio.

common areas

7

zonas comunes · espacios compartidos en un edificio o desarrollo residencial — como pasillos escaleras jardines y aparcamientos

DEF

shared spaces in a building or housing development — such as hallways, staircases, gardens, and car parks — that are used by all residents

Common areas is the shared space noun. In blocks of flats, responsibility for maintaining common areas is a key practical and legal concept. Key phrases: 'keep common areas clean', 'smoking in common areas is prohibited', 'report issues with common areas to...'. Understanding who is responsible for common areas — usually the landlord or managing agent — is important practical tenancy knowledge.

ES

Espacios compartidos en un edificio o desarrollo residencial — como pasillos, escaleras, jardines y aparcamientos — que todos los residentes utilizan.

El sustantivo del espacio compartido. La responsabilidad del mantenimiento de las zonas comunes es un concepto clave.

Treat common areas as carefully as your own flat — your neighbours share them and they reflect on everyone.

Treat common areas as carefully as your own flat — your neighbours share them and they reflect on everyone. -> Trata las zonas comunes tan cuidadosamente como tu propio piso — tus vecinos las comparten y reflejan a todos.

She reported a broken light in the common area stairwell to the building manager and it was fixed within a day.

She reported a broken light in the common area stairwell to the building manager and it was fixed within a day. -> Informó de una luz rota en la caja de escalera de la zona común al administrador del edificio y fue reparada en un día.

to be considerate

8

ser considerado · ser reflexivo y consciente de cómo tus acciones podrían afectar a otros — especialmente en espacios compartidos

DEF

to be thoughtful and aware of how your actions might affect others — especially in shared spaces

Be considerate is the social awareness adjective. In community living — whether in a block of flats, a shared house, or a neighbourhood — being considerate means thinking about the impact of your behaviour on those around you before acting. It is a widely used word of social approval in British culture: 'she's very considerate', 'that was considerate of you'. Its opposite is 'inconsiderate' — a strong criticism.

ES

Ser reflexivo y consciente de cómo tus acciones podrían afectar a otros — especialmente en espacios compartidos.

El adjetivo de conciencia social. En la cultura británica 'considerate' es una palabra de aprobación social ampliamente usada. Su contrario es 'inconsiderate' — una crítica fuerte.

Being considerate costs nothing and makes shared living significantly easier for everyone.

Being considerate costs nothing and makes shared living significantly easier for everyone. -> Ser considerado no cuesta nada y hace que vivir compartido sea significativamente más fácil para todos.

She tried to be considerate about music and cleaning and built the kind of reputation that makes moving somewhere new much easier.

She tried to be considerate about music and cleaning and built the kind of reputation that makes moving somewhere new much easier. -> Intentó ser considerada con la música y la limpieza y construyó el tipo de reputación que hace que mudarse a un lugar nuevo sea mucho más fácil.

to introduce yourself

9

presentarse · dar tu nombre e información relevante sobre ti mismo cuando conoces a alguien por primera vez

DEF

to give your name and relevant information about yourself when meeting someone for the first time

Introduce yourself is the first meeting phrase. In British culture, introductions tend to be relatively brief and understated — a name, perhaps a brief context, and a warm but not effusive greeting. In a neighbour context: 'Hi, I've just moved in next door — I'm [name], nice to meet you'. Knowing how to introduce yourself confidently is one of the most practical social English skills.

ES

Dar tu nombre e información relevante sobre ti mismo cuando conoces a alguien por primera vez.

La frase del primer encuentro. En la cultura británica las presentaciones tienden a ser relativamente breves y moderadas.

Introduce yourself to new neighbours quickly — the longer you wait, the more awkward it becomes.

Introduce yourself to new neighbours quickly — the longer you wait, the more awkward it becomes. -> Preséntate a los nuevos vecinos rápidamente — cuanto más esperes más incómodo se vuelve.

She knocked on the door next door on her first day and introduced herself, which immediately created a warm atmosphere.

She knocked on the door next door on her first day and introduced herself, which immediately created a warm atmosphere. -> Llamó a la puerta de al lado el primer día y se presentó, lo que creó inmediatamente un ambiente cálido.

to wave hello

10

saludar con la mano · saludar a alguien levantando la mano y moviéndola — típicamente usado para saludos breves a distancia

DEF

to greet someone by raising your hand and moving it — typically used for brief greetings across a distance, such as a neighbour

Wave hello is the casual greeting gesture phrase. With neighbours, many interactions are non-verbal or minimally verbal: a wave from across the street, a nod, a brief 'morning!' as you pass. Being able to describe and use these low-key greetings is part of community social competence. In British culture, these small acknowledgements build goodwill without requiring full conversation.

ES

Saludar a alguien levantando la mano y moviéndola — típicamente usado para saludos breves a distancia, como con un vecino.

La frase del gesto de saludo casual. En la cultura británica estos pequeños reconocimientos construyen buena voluntad sin requerir conversación completa.

A wave hello costs nothing — it acknowledges a neighbour without demanding a full conversation.

A wave hello costs nothing — it acknowledges a neighbour without demanding a full conversation. -> Saludar con la mano no cuesta nada — reconoce a un vecino sin exigir una conversación completa.

She got into the habit of waving hello whenever she saw her neighbour, and a genuine friendship eventually grew from those small gestures.

She got into the habit of waving hello whenever she saw her neighbour, and a genuine friendship eventually grew from those small gestures. -> Se acostumbró a saludar con la mano siempre que veía a su vecino, y una amistad genuina eventualmente creció a partir de esos pequeños gestos.