

Never Forget a Word: Memory Champion Secrets for English Learners

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

20 learning entries

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

1

keep something in mind

DEF

To remember and continue considering a fact, idea or instruction.

A highly reusable chunk for advice and decision-making.

Keep it in mind while you listen... because today's method and those tools were made for each other.

Keep your audience in mind when you choose an example.

2

walk away with

DEF

To leave an experience having gained knowledge, a benefit or possession.

The meaning is figurative here: the learner finishes with three useful outcomes.

If you stay with us until the end, you will walk away with three things.

Everyone walked away with one technique they could use immediately.

3

turn something into

DEF

To transform one thing so that it becomes another.

The pattern is turn + object + into + result.

Two — the Memory Palace... a technique older than the Roman Empire... that turns your own home into a dictionary.

She turned a dull list into a memorable story.

4

memory palace

DEF

A mnemonic system that places vivid mental images in familiar locations.

Also called the method of loci; palace does not need to be a literal palace.

Two — the Memory Palace... a technique older than the Roman Empire... that turns your own home into a dictionary.

He stored the new expressions in an imaginary memory palace.

5

come alive

DEF

To become vivid, active, exciting or seemingly real.

It can describe people, stories, places, performances and mental images.

And suddenly... the grass comes alive... and grasps your ankle.

The vocabulary came alive when we used it in a story.



6

grasp

DEF

To seize something firmly or understand an idea clearly.

The physical and intellectual meanings make this verb especially memorable.

Take the verb... to grasp.

It took me a moment to grasp the speaker's main point.

7

spill the beans

DEF

To reveal secret information, often accidentally or prematurely.

A genuine informal idiom; it is unrelated to literal beans.

And in the kitchen... someone spilled the beans... beans on the floor, in your shoes, inside the coffee machine.

Who spilled the beans about the surprise?

8

bite the bullet

DEF

To face a difficult or unpleasant situation with courage.

A genuine idiom associated with accepting unavoidable discomfort.

Take a classic... to bite the bullet.

I bit the bullet and practised the difficult pronunciation.

9

make someone remember

DEF

To cause a person to retain or recall information.

A causative structure: make + person + base verb, without to.

The crazy one makes you remember.

A vivid image can make you remember an abstract word.

10

escape you

DEF

To remain impossible to remember, understand or notice despite effort.

Ideas, names and words can escape a person; no physical escape is involved.

Make your own movies for the verbs that always escape you.

Her name escaped me during the introduction.

11

the stranger..., the stronger...

DEF

A comparative-correlative pattern showing that one change increases with another.

The structure is the + comparative, the + comparative.

The stranger the story... the stronger the verb.

The stranger the image, the stronger the memory becomes.



12

active recall

DEF

The practice of retrieving information from memory instead of merely rereading it.

A core learning-science collocation often paired with spaced repetition.

Active recall... spaced repetition.

Close the book and use active recall to test yourself.

13

spaced repetition

DEF

Reviewing information at increasing intervals to strengthen long-term memory.

Spaced refers to the gaps between reviews, not physical distance.

Active recall... spaced repetition.

Spaced repetition brings a word back just before you forget it.

14

speed is vanity

DEF

A metaphorical warning that impressive speed can serve appearance rather than understanding.

Vanity means excessive concern with admiration or image.

Speed is vanity, friends.

When learning, speed is vanity if understanding is shallow.

15

comprehension is wealth

DEF

A metaphor presenting deep understanding as something genuinely valuable.

The contrast with vanity prioritises learning quality over performance.

Comprehension is wealth.

For a language learner, comprehension is wealth.

16

mental movie

DEF

A sequence of vivid images constructed in the mind to represent meaning or events.

A practical collocation for reading comprehension and memory.

We call it the mental movie.

I created a mental movie to remember the whole sequence.

17

chunking

DEF

Grouping separate pieces of information into larger meaningful units.

In language learning, chunks reduce processing load and improve fluency.

This is called chunking... reading in groups of words.

Chunking the number into groups made it easier to recall.



18

out of the blue

DEF

Suddenly and unexpectedly, without warning.

A genuine idiom often used for messages, events and appearances.

Collect full expressions... out of the blue... take it for granted... sooner or later.

She called me out of the blue after ten years.

19

take something for granted

DEF

To fail to appreciate something because it seems permanently available or obvious.

It can also mean assume something is true without checking.

Collect full expressions... out of the blue... take it for granted... sooner or later.

Do not take your progress for granted.

20

drop something without guilt

DEF

To stop using or pursuing something without blaming yourself.

Drop is informal and figurative here; it presents selective learning as a healthy choice.

You are not in school... there is no exam... drop it without guilt.

If a technique is not helping, drop it without guilt.

