

Common English Patterns: Part 2

Difficulty Level: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Here is the second part to a collection of commonly used English patterns that will help you break away from basic English and help you sound more natural in your English speaking. Example C is a variation of the English pattern and we use it to congratulate and show support to someone.

1.) I couldn't be happier with my/the...

We use this pattern to respond to a question that asks how we feel about a situation or thing.

a.) How are you liking your new job?

"It's very challenging, and I work a lot of over-time but I couldn't be happier so far."

b.) How are you liking your new smartphone?

I couldn't be happier with my new smartphone. It takes great pictures and the video quality is excellent too!

c.) I just got a promotion at work. I'm the new district manager!

"Congratulations Tom! I couldn't be happier for you."

2.) I'm looking into ____-ing ...

We use this English pattern to tell someone we are interested in, planning, or researching something. We use the “-ing” form of the verb in our response.

a.) What's that website about?

"It's about camera's. I'm looking into buying a camera, but I'm not sure if I should get a DSLR or a mirror-less camera."

b.) Do you have any plans for the weekend?

"Actually, I've got nothing planned. I'm just going to spend the weekend looking into different college programs at the community college. I'm thinking about going back to school."

c.) Why are you always reading books about Japan as of late?

"I know this sounds crazy but I'm looking into moving there. I've always wanted to live in Japan and experience their culture. It's turns out it's difficult to get a VISA though."

3.) The last thing I...

We can use this pattern to mean we really don't want to do something as in example a and b. It can also be used as a common way of expressing the final thing we did or do on a regular basis, as found in c and d.

a.) Do you want to go hiking again this weekend?

"No, the last thing I want to do this weekend is suffer in pain and agony again. I still haven't recovered yet!"

b.) How do you feel about eating some fried chicken tonight? We can order in.

"You know I still have an upset stomach. The last thing I want to eat is something unhealthy like fried chicken."

c.) Did you study last night?

"Yeah, eventually. It was the last thing I did before I went to bed last night. I need to find more time in my schedule."

d.) I really want to visit South Korea again. How about you?

"Of course! The last thing I remember was eating Tokbokki. God, I miss their spicy foods."

4.) It's hard to believe that...

We use this expression to show that we are surprised about certain information.

a.) Are you going to the farmers festival this weekend?

"It's this weekend? It's hard to believe how fast summer has finished. Of course I'll go how about you?"

b.) Did you get Dan anything for his birthday? He turns thirty-four on Friday.

"It's hard to believe he's that old. He looks amazing for his age. I thought he was much older. I'll get him a gift."

c.) Do you know if Daniel was born in South Korea? His Korean is amazing?

"It's hard to believe but he was born in Canada. He learned to speak fluent Korean while teaching English to university students at Cheongbuk University."

Tips:

1.) Try to get into the habit of using contractions in your speech. Contractions are shortened versions of words (I cannot = I can't). It's more natural in daily conversation.

Questions:

Try to use the best-suited English pattern in your response to the questions below and remember to answer in full sentences. Use your imagination when answering the questions. They don't have to be true responses.

1.) How's your job going lately?

2.) Are you happy the next winter Olympics will be held in South Korea?

3.) Why are you always reading travel books about America?

4.) What are you reading about?

- 5.) What's the last thing you did before bed last night?
- 6.) What's the last thing you ate before arriving here?
- 7.) Do you want to eat spicy chicken for dinner tonight?
- 8.) Did you see how much weight Sung-Jin lost?
- 9.) Did you hear about Samsung Note 7 exploding?

Daily Expressions, Phrasal Verbs & Idioms:

- 1.) **"She/He's out of his/her mind"**: When someone is behaving very strangely, or making crazy choices. We can also use this expression if someone's opinion is very different.

"He must be out of his mind if he thinks Hillary Clinton will win the election." "Why is she screaming so loud? She must be out of her mind!"