
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

What English phrases really mean



Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/4qaP9TM>

1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?

2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.

- What do the presenters say the episode is about?
- What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. What is hyperbole?
 - a) understatement
 - b) exaggeration
 - c) description
2. Which word means an 'unpleasant or difficult experience'?
 - a) hare
 - b) tear
 - c) mare
3. Which adjective is similar in meaning to 'miffed'?
 - a) bored
 - b) annoyed
 - c) surprised
4. Which is an example of hyperbole?
 - a) "I laughed so much I nearly died!"
 - b) "It was less than perfect."
 - c) "It's all good."
5. Which of the following refers to a way of behaving that is not socially acceptable?
 - a) go-go
 - b) so-so
 - c) no-no
6. What is 'a barney'?
 - a) a loud argument
 - b) a common name for a dog
 - c) a haircut

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

- a. mare (short for nightmare) – unpleasant or difficult experience
- b. take yourself too seriously – consider yourself and your actions as more important than they really are
- c. no-no – thing or way of behaving that is not socially acceptable
- d. the done thing – what you are expected to do in a particular social situation
- e. miffed – slightly annoyed by someone's behaviour towards you
- f. barney – loud argument or quarrel

5. 1b, 2c, 3b, 4a, 5c, 6a

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.