

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're bringing you another great lesson about appointments.

E: That's right. We've got an elementary lesson about canceling an appointment.

M: It's a really common situation...

E: Uhu.

M: Sometimes you have an appointment at the doctor's or something.

E: Or at work.

M: And you have to cancel it.

E: Yes, so we're gonna learn some great language to help you cancel appointments today. Let's go straight to the dialogue then. We're going to be listening as Samantha and Angela have a phone conversation and Angela is trying to cancel an appointment.

M: And it's gonna be a little bit fast in the beginning, but when we come back, we will explain all the great vocabulary.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, we have some really interesting words that you've probably listened to in this dialogue, so...

E: Uhu.

M: Let's start with "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Today on language takeaway we're bringing you three words. Ah, Erica, what's the first one?

E: The first word is **reschedule**.

M: Reschedule.

E: Reschedule.

M: Reschedule.

E: When you reschedule an appointment, you...

M: Change it for another day or time.

E: Exactly.

M: Great, the second word that we have is **inconvenience**.

E: Inconvenience.

M: Inconvenience.

E: Inconvenience.

M: So, **to inconvenience** someone is to...

E: To make things not convenient for that person.

M: Hehe. Alright. So, to make things a little bit difficult...

E: Yeah.

M: Or to make things a little bit, uh...

E: Uncomfortable.

M: Uncomfortable.

E: Uhu.

M: Inconvenience.

E: And our third word is...

M: **Postpone**.

E: Postpone.

M: Postpone.

E: Postpone. We have some examples of the word postpone that will help you to understand its meaning a little bit better. Let's listen.

Voice: Example one.

A: Since Robert is late again, we have to postpone the meeting.

Voice: Example two.

B: I'm sorry Simon, but your vacation has been postponed until next month.

Voice: Example three.

C: Unfortunately, the flight will be postponed.

M: Okay, so, basically, postpone is to delay.

E: That's right. Make it at a latter time.

M: At a latter time.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, some great words there and, ah, we can listen to our dialogue a second time at a slower speed.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

E: Alright, so, in this dialogue we had some really great phrases that we should look at in "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

E: We have three phrases for you today in fluency builder and the first one is so common, it's a great phrase – **what's up?**

M: What's up?

E: What's up!

M: Hehe. So, this is a very common way of saying "hi".

E: Yeah.

M: What's up?

E: How's it going? What's going on?

M: Right, and now the interesting thing is it... th... many people don't know how to answer this phrase.

E: Yes, I see this all the time with my students.

M: So, if you say "what's up", you should say...

E: Not much.

M: Not much.

E: Nothing.

M: Nothing. So, what's up?

E: Not much. Hehe.

M: Not much. Hehe. Alright, so the next time someone's tell you "what's up", now you know what to answer.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, our second phrase is **can't make it**.

E: Can't make it.

M: I can't make it.

E: We use this phrase when we want to say "I cannot attend", I...

M: I cannot make it.

E: Yeah, I can't come.

M: Right, so, if you're having a party today, I say "oh, I'm sorry, I can't make it".

E: Uhu.

M: Ah, it means I can't go.

E: Exactly. Maybe one more example: so, Marco, we've got a meeting today at three o'clock.

M: I can't make it, I'm recording today.

E: Oh, okay.

M: Hehe. So, can't make it.

E: Uhu.

M: Our last word for fluency builder – **this thing came up**.

E: This thing came up.

M: This thing came up.

E: This is a great way of giving an excuse for why you can't make it...

M: Right.

E: ???.

M: So...

E: Uhu.

M: I can't make today, because this thing came up. Like something...

E: Something happened.

M: Something happened.

E: Yeah. Let's listen to a few examples of this phrase, so we can see how it's used in the wild.

Voice: Example one.

A: I'm sorry that I'm late, this thing came up at work and I had to stay to take care of it.

Voice: Example two.

B: I can't talk right now, something came up.

Voice: Example three.

C: Sorry I missed the meeting, something came up.

M: Okay, great examples and I guess it's perfectly clear now.

E: Yes.

M: So, let's listen to our dialogue a third time and now we're ready to understand everything.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: So, Erica, have you ever canceled an appointment like this, uh, **under false pretenses**?
[NOTE: or **by false pretenses**; doing something under/by false pretences means making sort of an **intentional misrepresentation** in order to obtain anything]

E: So, for... for fake reasons?

M: For a fake reason... to shopping.

E: Um, well, I may not have... you know, told my boss "oh, I can't make it to a meeting, because this thing came up" and then I really was going shopping...

M: Uhu.

E: I... I've never done that.

M: Hm.

E: But how about you, Marco?

M: Well, you know in Ecuador soccer's a really big thing.

E: Right.

M: So, um, when we were playing in the World Cup... Ecuador was playing and...

E: Not you, but...

M: Well, no like...

E: Yeah.

M: The... the Ecuadorian soccer team.

E: Aha.

M: I canceled an appointment, because I was gonna go watch the game.

E: Really...

M: Yeah

E: A business appointment?

M: A business appointment.

E: Well, I guess that's okay.

M: Yeah, I mean it was like the first time we were ever in the World Cup and, you know, my boss didn't really put up much of a fight, because I guess he also wanted to go watch the game.

E: So, very similar to the... events in this dialogue.

M: Very similar.

E: Uhu.

M: I guess that's kind of the inspiration behind it.

E: Alright, guys, I hope you found some these phrases helpful and useful. And remember if you have any questions about anything you heard in today's lesson, please visit our website at englishpod.com.

M: Right, there you'll be able to find more resources and also a large community to interact with.

E: Yes, including me and Marco.

M: Right.

E: Uhu.

M: So, we'll see you there, until then it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to another great lesson with **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're bringing you another great lesson about being at the bank.

E: That's right! We've got an **Intermediate** lesson for you today, um, with lots of great language to help you open a bank account.

M: Okay, so, let's look at our "**vocabulary preview**" today.

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

E: Two words today. The first one is **checking account**. [NOTE: Canadian spelling - **chequing account**]

M: A checking account.

E: Checking account.

M: So, what is a checking account?

E: Well, it's a type of bank account that lets you do your day-to-day or daily banking.

M: So, it's the normal bank account that you use to go shopping, that you...

E: Yep.

M: That you use to pay your bills.

E: Yeah, exactly.

M: The opposite, and our second word, is...

E: **Savings account**.

M: Savings account.

E: Savings account.

M: So, a savings account is to...

E: It's a bank account where you save your money.

M: To save money, right?

E: Aha.

M: So, usually, you don't touch the money at this account.

E: Yeah, usually, it stays in there.

M: Right, so, usually, banks will have these two types of accounts.

E: Yes.

M: Checking and savings.

E: Aha.

M: Okay, great! Let's listen to our dialogue a first time now.

E: Alright, well, today we're at a bank and we're going to listen as a man is opening a bank account.

M: The dialogue is gonna be spoken at a normal speed, so it might be a little bit fast.

E: Yeah.

M: But don't worry about it, because we'll come back and explain everything.

E: Yes.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Alright, one billion dollars.

E: That's a lot of money!

M: That's a weird laugh.

E: Hehe.

M: Hehe. Okay, let's look at "**language takeaway**" today.

Voice: Language takeaway.

E: Today we've got four words for you in language takeaway all about money and banking.

M: Money and banking.

E: Aha.

M: The first one that we have today is **transaction**.

E: Transaction.

M: Transaction.

E: A transaction.

M: So, we have some great examples that will help you understand what a transaction is, so, let's listen.

Voice: Example one.

A: I need a record of my most recent paying transactions.

Voice: Example two.

B: There's no fee for bank transactions done online.

Voice: Example three.

C: Okay, we've deposited your money. Would you like to make another transaction today?

E: So, basically, I can understand that a transaction is moving money around in your bank accounts.

M: Right, it's taking your money from... right, it's taking money from your bank account and putting it in other account or just **taking in** it to spend... whatever.

E: Yes.

M: That's a transaction.

E: Or even putting money in to your bank account...

M: That's also a transaction.

E: Aha.

M: Great! Our second word – **balance**.

E: Balance.

M: Balance.

E: Balance.

M: Your account balance...

E: Aha.

M: Is how much money you have.

E: Exactly.

M: Right?

E: An account balance.

M: My account balance is two dollars right now, I think.

E: That's a bit of a problem.

M: Yes.

E: Good thing **payday** is three days away.

M: Yeah! Oh, my God! Okay, our third word – **overdraft**.

E: Overdraft.

M: Overdraft.

E: Overdraft.

M: So, this really **comes in handy**, right?

E: Uhu.

M: To overdraft... can you tell us a little bit about it?

E: Let's say in my bank account I have five hundred dollars.

M: Uhu.

E: But I spend six hundred dollars.

M: Right.

E: So, I have an overdraft in my account, meaning I owe the bank a hundred dollars.

M: Right, it's also commonly refer to... as a **negative balance**.

E: That's right!

M: Right? Negative balance.

E: Uhu.

M: Like me. Very soon I will have a negative balance.

E: Okay, I think this one is a little bit **tricky** to understand, so let's listen to a couple of examples of how we use this word.

Voice: Example one.

A: The maximum overdraft of my account is only five thousand dollars.

Voice: Example two.

B: I'm sorry, sir, but you've exceeded your maximum overdraft limit. I cannot give you any more money.

Voice: Example three.

C: Oh, no! I have to pay fifteen hundred dollars in overdraft fees.

M: Okay, great examples! Now, we can take a look at our last word – **debit card**.

E: Debit card.

M: Debit card.

E: D-E-B-I-T card, debit card.

M: So, debit card is **issued** by the bank.

E: Yes.

M: And used to...

E: Take money out of a... **ATM**.

M: From an ATM-machine, right?

E: Uhu.

M: Right, a debit card. Not to be confuse with a credit card.

E: Not the same thing.

M: Alright. Okay, great! So, now we could listen to our dialogue a second time at a slower speed, so, now we can...

E: We can hear all of the great language we just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: We heard some interesting phrases of how to tell somebody to do something in a polite way.

E: Yes.

M: So, let's start with "**fluency builder**" and explain these words.

Voice: Fluency builder.

E: The **bank teller** asked this man to do a number of things in order to open his bank account and she used some great expressions.

M: Right, let's listen to how she asked the man to do some things in a polite way.

E: Yes.

Phrase 1: I'll get you to fill out this paperwork. I'll get you to fill out this paperwork.

Phrase 2: I'll need your social insurance number. I'll need your social insurance number.

Phrase 3: If you could just sign here. If you could just sign here.

M: So, the first thing she said is "**I'll get you to** fill out this paperwork".

E: I'll get you to.

M: Right? Right, I'll get you to.

E: Uhu.

M: So, it's just a way of saying "can you please fill this out?"

E: Yeah, do this.

M: Do this.

E: Yeah.

M: But in a different way, right?

E: Aha, more polite.

M: It's pretty polite.

E: Uhu.

M: Then she also said "**I'll need your** social insurance number".

E: I'll need your.

M: I'll need your. Again, a polite way of saying...

E: Give me...

M: Give me.

E: Your social insurance number.

M: Hehe. Give me your social insurance...

E: Yeah.

M: And the last thing she said, and this is really polite, "**if you could just** sign here".

E: Yes.

M: If you could just sign here.

E: If you could just...

M: If you could just wait a moment...

E: Uhu.

M: I'll be with you.

E: If you could just send an e-mail with your bank account number.

M: Right.

E: Uhu.

M: Very polite way of asking for something.

E: Yep. Well, some great language in today's 'cast...

M: Yeah.

E: Let's listen to the dialogue one last time and we'll catch all of this wonderful language.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Okay, so, an interesting thing here: not many countries use checks.

E: That's right.

M: Right? The **checkbook** or a check.

E: Yeah, it tends to be more of an American thing. Don't you think?

M: It is, it is, I think, it is. For those of you who aren't sure what a check is, it's basically a piece of paper that you just sign your name and...

E: Yeah, you write the amount of money and then you sign your name, right?

M: Right, and then you give that to the person that... that person can take it to the bank and get money **in exchange for** it.

E: Yes.

M: It's not very common in other countries.

E: No, but from what I know, every single American has a checkbook and uses it...

M: Right...

E: Pretty regularly.

M: Yeah, yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: For example, you'd pay your, uh, phone bill...

E: Yeah.

M: Or your electric bill use... put a check in the mailbox and... it's paid.

E: And it's done.

M: It's an interesting thing. Also sometimes in other countries people salaries are paid through checks.

E: Yes.

M: **Paycheck.**

E: Oh, yes!

M: Hehe.

E: I see where that word comes from.

M: Paycheck.

E: Aha.

M: But, for example, here in China it's not very common, right?

E: U-u.

M: I've never seen a check here.

E: **Me neither.**

M: What about in your countries? We'd like to know how the banking system works.

E: Yes, come to our website at englishpod.com and tell us all about it.

M: Yes, and you can also leave your questions and comments on our website and we'll be there to answer it.

E: Yeah, Marco and I love answering your questions, so, please visit us.

M: Right, but until then it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we have another great **elementary** lesson for you all.

E: That's right. We've got a lesson for all you sports fans out there.

M: Right, we're doing a podcast on sports today. Uh, we're starting off with **basketball**.

E: Aha. So, we've got lots of language about basketball and sports in this lesson today.

M: Great, so, let's take a look at our "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

E: Two words for you today. The first one is **foul**.

M: Foul.

E: Foul.

M: A foul.

E: Basically, it's an action in a game that is not allowed.

M: Right, so, if you're playing basketball and you kick the other player...

E: That's a foul.

M: That's a foul. That's a pretty big foul.

E: Yeah, if you're playing soccer and you pick up the ball...

M: That's also a foul.

E: Aha.

M: Our second word is **ref**.

E: Ref, R-E-F.

M: Also known as a referee.

E: Uhu.

M: Right? So, a referee is...

E: Basically, like the judge of a game.

M: The judge of the game.

E: Yeah.

M: So, he is the one that will...

E: Say "that was a foul!"

M: That was a foul.

E: Yeah.

M: Exactly.

E: Yeah.

M: Ref. Also known as referee.

E: Okay, so, two great words; we're gonna hear them in our dialogue and we're going to be listening to two guys, who are watching a basketball game on TV.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Alright, a really common situation whenever you're watching games with the friends, right?

E: You need to get a beer.

M: Hehe. We'll talk about that in a little while. Um, let's take a look at "language takeaway".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Okay, let's take a look at our first word on language takeaway - **free throw**.

E: Free throw.

M: Free throw.

E: Free throw. This one is a bit hard to say, isn't it?

M: It's a little bit hard to explain, but if you're playing basketball...

E: Uhu.

M: And if someone fouls you, you get a free throw.

E: So, that's when all the players line up around you and you can throw the ball.

M: To the basket without anyone blocking you or anything.

E: Right.

M: A little bit complicated, but I'm sure the basketball fans understand what a free throw is.

E: Alright, our next word is...

M: **Make the shot.**

E: Make the shot.

M: Make the shot.

E: Let's listen to some examples and we'll understand the meaning of **make the shot**.

Voice: Example one.

A: I can't believe it. He made the shot from the other side of the court.

Voice: Example two.

B: There's no way he's going to make that shot. He's way too far away from the net.

Voice: Example three.

C: If Gretzky makes the shot, they're gonna win the Stanley Cup.

M: So, it's clear now. To make the shot is to successfully...

E: Th...

M: Put the ball in the basket.

E: You can use this expression in other sports as well, right?

M: Yeah, you could use it in hockey.

E: Uhu.

M: To make the shot. You could also use it in golf, when... in a lot of different sports they use the term **to shoot**.

E: Yes.

M: Shoot the ball.

E: So, uh, anytime you shoot the ball, you can make the shot.

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, our next word today – **three pointer**.

E: Three pointer.

M: Three pointer.

E: A three pointer.

M: It's a shot in basketball when you get three points.

E: Yes.

M: Usually this shot is taken from further out.

E: Yeah, a farther distance.

M: Yeah. So it's a little bit more difficult to make this shot.

E: Yeah. You know, sometimes people might say "a three point shot" or something like that.

M: Yeah.

E: But our **EnglishPod** learners, they know...

M: It's a three pointer.

E: Yeah, you'll sound really knowledgeable, really cool, u...

M: Hehe.

E: Using that one.

M: Three pointer.

E: Aha.

M: And, uh, our last word today – **travel**.

E: Travel.

M: To travel.

E: Travel. When you walk with the basket ball.

M: Well, technically you're allowed to take two steps in basketball.

E: Okay.

M: So, when you take more than two steps, then it's...

E: Alright, alright, alright.

M: Traveling.

E: I understand.

M: Hehe. So, yeah, traveling means to take more than two steps with the ball.

E: Let's listen to the dialogue a second time. This time it'll be a bit slower, so that we can understand some of these great phrases we just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Alright, sports fans, so now let's take a look at "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: Okay, today on fluency builder we have two really common words that you would listen to while you're watching a game.

E: Yeah, these are sort of **slangy words**, hey?

M: Yeah, they're kind of, uh, common...

E: Like informal.

M: Informal.

E: Uhu.

M: The first one that we have is **screw up**.

E: Screw up.

M: Screw up.

E: Screw up.

M: To screw up.

E: Yeah, so, this is a good way of saying...

M: To make a mistake.

E: Uhu.

M: Let's listen to some examples of how this word is used.

Voice: Example one.

A: Jill, you really screwed up this time, you're fired.

Voice: Example two.

B: This game is important. If you screw it up, we're out of the finals.

Voice: Example three.

C: I'm sorry, I know I screwed up. Will you forgive me?

M: Okay, so, **screw up** is **mess up**.

E: Yeah, make a mistake.

M: Make a mistake.

E: Aha.

M: Great! And our last word on fluency builder today – **a beer run**.

E: A beer run.

M: Beer run.

E: So, what is this beer run?

M: You run to get beer. Hehe.

E: Hehe.

M: You go to the store and get beer.

E: Okay.

M: Get more beer.

E: So, it's just an expression to... meaning to go and get more beer.

M: Yeah, usually you're watching a game...

E: Uhu.

M: Or you're at home with your friends, you **run out of** beer, so, somebody has to make...

[NOTE: another one useful phrase – "to **run low on** something"]

E: Go get some beer.

M: Go get some beer.

E: Yeah.

M: Make a beer run.

E: Yeah.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Okay, guys, I hope you enjoyed our lesson today. We'll be bringing you more sports lessons in the future.

E: Yes.

M: So, if you have a particular sport that you wanna learn about, you can tell us.

E: Uhu.

M: And we'll...

E: Come to our website englishpod.com.

M: Yeah, and, uh, leave us your comments or your suggestions or any doubts that you have.

E: Uhu.

M: And we're always there to answer it, so, we'll see you there.

E: Yes, until next time...

M: Bye!

E: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to another great lesson here with **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're bringing you an **upper intermediate** lesson.

E: A special lesson about the new president.

M: Right, it's been a hot topic in the US.

E: Uhu.

M: The new **president-elect**, president Obama.

E: Yes.

M: So, today we're bringing you something that you might see at his **inaugural address**.

E: That's true. So, Marco, can you explain this word – inaugural address?

M: The inaugural address is the first speech the president gives at the ceremony when he is officially president.

E: Okay, alright, so...

M: Right.

E: So, it's his first presidential speech.

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: Great, so, let's take a look at some other words that we're gonna find in the dialogue today in "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

M: Alright, on vocabulary preview today we have two words. The first one is **swear in**.

E: Swear in.

M: Swear in.

E: Swear in. We'll see this word in its **past tense** in the dialogue, right?

M: Right.

E: Sworn in.

M: Sworn in.

E: So, it means...

M: So, to swear someone in is to officially give that person a very important position...

E: Right.

M: Usually in government.

E: Yeah-yeah.

M: And our second word is **oath**.

E: Oath.

M: Oath.

E: O-A-T-H, oath.

M: And oath goes **hand in hand with** swear in, right?

E: That's right. When you **swear** someone **in**, they make an **oath** - a promise, right?

M: A promise.

E: An official promise to carry out the duties of that job.

M: Right, so, they promise that they will do their job. Okay, great, so now let's listen to our dialog for a first time. Where are we?

E: Well, we're actually watching a news reporter on TV. She's in Washington and she's gonna tell us all about what's happening.

M: Great, so, let's listen.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, some technical problems at the inaugural address.

E: Yeah, I certainly hope this doesn't happen.

M: No... well, if it does, you heard it first at **EnglishPod**.

E: Predictors of the future here.

M: Hehe. Okay, let's take a look at "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: On language takeaway today we're bringing you four words.

E: The first word is **deliver**.

M: Deliver.

E: Deliver.

M: Like deliver a pizza.

E: No.

M: Hehe.

E: Let's listen. We've got three examples that will show the meaning of this word.

Voice: Example one.

A: Who's going to deliver the welcome speech?

Voice: Example two.

B: I've been asked to deliver a presentation on the findings of our research project.

Voice: Example three.

C: Dr. Rosen is delivering a lecture on macroeconomics.

M: Okay, so, deliver a speech.

E: Say a speech.

M: To say a speech.

E: Yeah.

M: So, you wouldn't say "say a speech", you would say "deliver a speech".

E: Exactly.

M: Okay. Okay, our second word for language takeaway – **the who's who**.

E: The who's who.

M: The who's who.

E: So, this is a funny expression, hey?

M: It's kind of weird.

E: The who's who is the important people in a particular field, right?

M: Right, so, for example, there was a party last night and the who's who of the film industry was there.

E: Wow, so, all the important stars and...

M: And directors...

E: Yeah.

M: And all that stuff.

E: Okay. You could also say "the funeral was like a who's who of the political world".

M: Okay, so, all the important political figures were at this funeral.

E: Exactly. Let's move to our third word.

M: **Dignitaries**.

E: Dignitaries.

M: Dignitaries.

E: Dignitaries.

M: Okay, we have some great examples, so you can understand what this word means. So, let's listen.

Voice: Example one.

A: Several important dignitaries were presented at the opening ceremony, including the President of Brazil, the King of Spain and the Pope.

Voice: Example two.

B: There're going to be a lot of foreign dignitaries at the dinner.

E: So, basically, we can understand that dignitaries are really important people, right?

M: Right, important political or religious figures.

E: I see.

M: Alright, now our last word for language takeaway – **palpable**.

E: Palpable.

M: Palpable.

E: Palpable. When something is palpable, it's so strong you can feel it.

M: Okay, so, it's a very strong feeling. You can almost touch it.

E: Yeah, like the excitement was palpable or the fear was palpable.

M: Okay.

E: Uhu.

M: Interesting word **palpable**. Let's listen to our dialogue again and now let's try and listen to all these words we just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME

M: Okay, so, if you noticed in our dialogue we have some really interesting phrases there.

E: Yes.

M: So, I think it's time for us to take a look at "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: On fluency builder today we're gonna be looking at three phrases that are very interesting, because we can change them a little bit...

E: Uhu.

M: And form different patterns.

E: Yeah. So, the first phrase we have is **in a word**.

M: In a word.

E: In a word.

M: In a word.

E: We use this expression when we want to describe something in one word.

M: Right.

E: Pretty simple, hey?

M: It's really simple.

E: Let's look at the pattern. We've got examples of how you could use this phrase.

Voice: Example one.

A: In a word the situation is serious.

Voice: Example two.

B: What's it like there?

C: In a word, it's amazing.

M: Okay, so, in a word this podcast is...

E: Awesome.

M: Amazing.

E: Aha.

M: Okay. Okay, let's look at our second phrase today – **go down in history**.

E: Go down in history.

M: Go down in history.

E: So, this is a really common phrase. I'm sure you guys have heard it.

M: Yeah, basically, something that is really important that everyone will remember for a very long time.

E: Let's look at this pattern with a few examples.

Voice: Example one.

A: This is going to go down in history as the worst disaster the world has ever seen.

Voice: Example two.

B: He'll go down in history as the best president we've ever had.

Voice: Example three.

C: This day will go down in history.

M: Okay, so, as you can see the pattern is we're using a **superlative**.

E: That's right. The most. The best.

M: The biggest.

E: The worst.

M: The worst, right.

E: Aha. And our final phrase in putting it together is... [NOTE: in "fluency builder", in fact]

M: **My fellow Americans.**

E: My fellow Americans.

M: My fellow Americans.

E: So, obviously, you can change this one up a little bit, hey?

M: Right, you can say "my fellow coworkers".

E: Aha, my fellow citizens.

M: My fellow family members.

E: Yes. Hehe.

M: Hehe. So, basically, fellow just means like... dear.

E: Yeah.

M: **In some way.**

E: Some... sim... well, similar.

M: Similar.

E: Yeah.

M: So, we looked at some great vocabulary and phrases and now let's talk a little bit about these American traditions, when electing a new president.

E: Yes.

M: Today in the studio we have **JP**, who joining us.

JP: Hi everyone!

E: Hey JP!

M: And he's gonna be talking to us about these, uh, traditions.

E: Oh, I am, okay.

M: Hehe, yeah.

JP: What are we gonna talk about?

M: Twenty one gun salute. What's that all about?

JP: The twenty one gun salute is the military salute, where they say "and now we will have the twenty one gun salute". So, twenty one soldiers with the rifles, they go hu-hu-hu... puh. And they all **shoot them off** at the same time... and I don't know why.

M: Hehe.

E: I think it's a sign of respect, hey?

M: Kind of...

JP: Yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: Weird respect, though. Shooting guns.

JP: Well, I think in Europe they would do a cannon or something.

E: Oh.

M: Oh, that's right.

E: Twenty one cannon salute?

JP: No, well, just cannon.

E: Hehe.

M: Hehe.

JP: Maybe, well, just one cannon.

E: Maybe our European listeners know the answer to this.

JP: Maybe, Hehe.

M: Yeah. Okay, and what about this song "Hail to the Chief"? Do you know anything about that?

JP: I do not know anything about.

E: Hehe.

M: Hehe.

JP: Except that it's a march and...

E: Aha.

JP: I think it's Sousa. I think **John Phillip Sousa** wrote it. And whenever the president walks into a room, they play that song.

E: Really?

JP: Yes...

M: Ah.

JP: And I've played it once for President Bush, the first one. I was a drummer and...

E: You did?

JP: And my marching band had to play that song for him.

E: Oh my god...

M: Wow.

E: JP like famous.

JP: Yeah. This was back in like 1986 or something. Was that even an election year? 88? I don't know.

E: Yeah.

M: Well, you did play for the president, so, you know...

E: That's pretty cool.

M: Yeah-yeah.

E: Uhu. So, JP, do you have any other sort of traditional things that happen when the president becomes the president.

JP: Well, um, I can tell you that Jimmy Carter...

E: Aha.

JP: You know, when... when he was elected president, this **motorcade** was going down Pennsylvania Avenue and he stopped the car and got out.

E: Really?

M: To do what?

JP: To... Yeah. To walk, he wanted to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue, he wanted to walk down ah... um, you know, down the street. Down...

E: To like... to be with the people.

JP: Yeah, I think so. And I think it made the... I think it made the Secret Service insane.

E: Aha.

M: Maybe... maybe the car smelled bad or something.

JP: Hehe. Maybe so. I think, that is my memory of that. I might be confusing with the **West Wing**, but I'm not...

E: Hehe.

M: Hehe.

JP: Ah, I'm not sure.

M: Too much TV.

JP: Yeah, maybe. Wh... when the president walks, it's a big deal, you know.

E: So, JP, do you do anything special, uh, for the inauguration ceremony?

M: You know...

JP: I was take the day off to watch.

E: You do.

JP: I love watching... I love, you know, the, uh, I love the... the swearing-in ceremony...

E: Aha.

JP: The ??? the... the... the speech...

M: Alright, everyone, we're out of time. I hope you enjoyed this, uh, political lesson.

E: And I hope you have a happy inauguration day.

JP: Happy Inauguration everyone!

E: Yeah.

M: Okay.

JP: [voice]

M: Hehe. Alright, great. We're definitely gonna take the day off to watch it with JP and, uh, hopefully you guys can too.

E: Well, thanks for listening everyone and until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome to **EnglishPod**! I'm joined here today with...

E: **Erica**.

M: And my name is **Marco**. And we're gonna be looking at an office lesson today.

E: That's right. We've got a lesson about describing somebody, who's not such a good employee.

M: Right, so, we're gonna be talking about how to describe this type of situation.

E: Uhu.

M: And language for **making your point**.

E: Yes.

M: So, let's look at some vocabulary from the dialogue in "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

E: So, two words today. The first one is **a good fit**.

M: A good fit.

E: A good fit.

M: A good fit. So, when we're talking about an employee and he's a good fit, it means he's suitable for the job.

E: Yes, he's suitable for the job or for the company.

M: Or for the company, right?

E: Uhu.

M: So, the opposite would be **not a good fit**.

E: Exactly, the title of today's lesson.

M: Right. And our last word for vocabulary preview – **performance**.

E: Performance.

M: Performance.

E: Performance.

M: Your performance is...

E: How good or bad you do your job.

M: Right, so, you can have good performance or bad performance.

E: Uhu, just how well you do your job.

M: Perfect. So now we're ready to listen to our dialogue for the first time and as always it's gonna be at a normal speed, but you don't have to worry about it.

E: Cause we'll come back and explain all the key language. Now we're going to listen as two managers discuss the performance of one employee.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: So, apparently Lauren hired her cousin.

E: Yes.

M: That's always a complicated situation – working with family members.

E: Yeah, makes it really difficult for Geoff, doesn't it?

M: Yeah, and apparently Geoff isn't very happy. Hehe.

E: Well, let's look at the language he used to tell us that he's unhappy about this.

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Okay, the first word on language takeaway today – **unreliable**.

E: Unreliable.

M: Unreliable.

E: Unreliable.

M: So, let's listen to some examples of **unreliable**, so then you can understand what it means.

Voice: Example one.

A: The trains here are so unreliable; they never arrive on time.

Voice: Example two.

B: Thomas is pretty unreliable; he never finishes his projects on time.

Voice: Example three.

C: You promised you would pick me up from work today; you're so unreliable.

E: We can understand that if someone is unreliable, we can't trust them to do their job, right?

M: Right. So, you don't want to be unreliable. The opposite would be...

E: Reliable.

M: Reliable.

E: You can trust them.

M: Okay. Our second word today – **productive**.

E: Productive.

M: Productive.

E: Productive.

M: When you're productive it means that you accomplish your job, right?

E: You do a lot of work in a short amount of time.

M: Productive.

E: Uhu.

M: You want to be a productive employee.

E: Yes.

M: Our third word – **work ethic**.

E: Work ethic.

M: Work ethic.

E: Work ethic.

M: So, a person's work ethic is that person's attitude towards work.

E: Yes, if someone has a good work ethic, then they are always hard working and they come to work early and they finish their jobs on time and they stay and do lots of overtime. So, that's a good work ethic.

M: Uhu. Okay, great, and our last word – **coach**.

E: Coach.

M: Coach.

E: Coach. When you coach an employee, you train them, right?

M: Yeah, you help that employee out by showing him or her how to do certain tasks.

E: How to do their job better.

M: Right.

E: Uhu. So, we've got some great language to describe work performance, let's listen to our dialogue a second time. This time it'll be a little bit slower, so you can understand these words and phrases a little bit more clearly.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Alright, so, if you noticed, a lot of useful phrases have come up, so let's take a look at "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: On Fluency builder today we have three phrases.

E: That's right, three phrases that will help us make our point better.

M: The first one is **bottom line**.

E: The bottom line.

M: The bottom line. Let's listen to how this was used in the dialogue.

Example: And the bottom line is I don't think he's a good fit for our company. And the bottom line is I don't think he's a good fit for our company.

M: So, basically, it means...

E: Like the most important point.

M: The most important point.

E: Uhu.

M: Perfect. The bottom line. Our second word – **overall**.

E: Overall.

M: Overall.

E: Overall. So, this is the same as saying “on the whole”.

M: Right, the **big picture**, how you would say.

E: Yeah, in general.

M: In general.

E: Uhu.

M: So, his overall performance is good. It means in general...

E: His performance is good.

M: Perfect. And our last phrase is very interesting, because we can mix it up a little bit.

E: Yep.

M: **Perfectly good**.

E: Perfectly good.

M: Perfectly good.

E: Perfectly good.

M: So, this is an interesting phrase, because you can describe different objects in this way.

E: Yeah. A perfectly good reason.

M: A perfectly good car.

E: A perfectly good computer.

M: So, by the sounds of it, it's kind like justifying.

E: Yeah, it's... it's saying there's no problem with it.

M: There's no problem with it.

E: Uhu.

M: Why are you...

E: Yeah.

M: Would you throw it away if it's a perfectly good computer?

E: Exactly.

M: Okay, perfectly good. Okay, so now we can listen to our dialogue a third time at a normal speed and now we're ready to understand everything.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Okay, I hope everyone enjoyed our lesson today.

E: Uhu.

M: We've found some really useful vocabulary for a business situation.

E: Yes.

M: So, go to our website at [englishpod.com](https://www.englishpod.com) where you can leave all your questions and comments and also find a lot of other resources.

E: That's right, Marco and I are always on the site and we are happy to answer your questions.

M: Right, so, until then it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're bringing you the **Third Part** of this series that we've created, called **I'm Sorry, I Love You**.

E: That's right, the third part in our story about our **EnglishPod** couple.

M: Yeah, it's a romantic series, but today we're bringing you an **argument**.

E: That's right.

M: Like in every relationship you have fights, you have discussions. So, we're gonna teach you how to do that in English.

E: That's right, in today's lesson you'll learn some great language that people use when they get into an argument with their boyfriend or girlfriend.

M: Right, so, why don't we take a look at "**vocabulary preview**"?

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

E: We have one phrase today – **get a hold**.

M: Get a hold.

E: Get a hold.

M: To get a hold.

E: To get a hold of someone means...

M: To try and communicate with that person.

E: Exactly. So, to try and call that person.

M: For example, I can say "I've been calling his phone all day, but I can't get a hold of him".

E: Or I could say "finally, Marco, I got a hold of you; where have you been all day?"

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: Now, we're gonna listen to our dialogue and as always it's gonna be at a normal pace, but you don't have to worry about it.

E: We'll come back and teach you all of the important words.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, so, a little bit of trouble in the relationship.

E: Yeah, that's too bad.

M: Yeah, well, I think, um, she's **overreacting**.

E: You do?

M: Hehe. We'll talk about that later on. But we saw some great words and phrases here, so it's time for "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Today on language takeaway we're bringing you three words.

E: The first word is **stood me up**.

M: Stood me up.

E: Stood me up.

M: Stood me up.

E: The phrase **stand someone up**, when do we use this?

M: If, for example, you have a date and you don't go.

E: Okay, so, let's say you and I were supposed to have dinner together.

M: Right.

E: And you just didn't come.

M: Right, and didn't...

E: And didn't call.

M: Right, so, I stood you up.

E: Yeah, okay.

M: Stand someone up.

E: Our next word – **priorities**.

M: Priorities.

E: Priorities.

M: So, priorities are something that's really important in your life.

E: That's right like family or maybe work or making a lot of money.

M: Hehe.

E: Or whatever it is.

M: Wh... What are your priorities in life? Right?

E: Right, yeah.

M: Okay. And our last word for language takeaway – **heading**.

E: Heading.

M: Heading.

E: Heading. This is a bit of a funny **verb**, so let's listen to a couple of examples of how it's used, so we can understand its meaning.

Voice: Example one.

A: I don't know where our relationship is heading.

Voice: Example two.

B: Where's this bus heading?

Voice: Example three.

C: Where's this project heading?

M: So, basically heading means going.

E: Exactly.

M: **A heading** is where you're going.

E: Yep.

M: Okay, easy word and interesting.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, so now it's time for us to listen to the dialogue a second time. It's gonna be slower, so now we can understand the words that we just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, now, we saw some interesting phrases in the dialogue.

E: Yeah, we saw some great phrases, uh, that people use when they're getting in a fight.

M: Right. Why don't we take a look at some of them in "**fluency builder**"?

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: The first phrase that I wanna take a look at today is **do you have any idea**.

E: Do you have any idea.

M: Do you have any idea.

E: This is a great way to **set up** an argument.

M: So, let's listen to some examples of how you would set up an argument using this phrase.

Voice: Example one.

A: You forgot my birthday. Do you have any idea how angry I am?

Voice: Example two.

B: Julie kissed my boyfriend. Does she have any idea how mean that was?

Voice: Example three.

C: I just broke up with my boyfriend. Don't you have any idea how sad I am?

M: So, it's a great phrase to make that person understand that you're really worried or...

E: Really angry.

M: Really angry.

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: Okay. Another second phrase that you can take a look at is **I've heard it all before.**

E: I heard it all before.

M: I've heard it all before.

E: I've heard it all before.

M: So, this is a great phrase of just saying "you don't have to give me an excuse; I know what you're gonna say".

E: Exactly.

M: And our last phrase today – **take a break.**

E: Take a break.

M: Take a break.

E: So, when a couple takes a break, they sort of... stop their relationship, right?

M: Right, they're breaking up.

E: Yeah, but it's... is it really like forever? Like, uh, a break up that lasts forever?

M: Not, well... maybe. It could be forever, but they're saying let's just take some time away from each other...

E: Yeah.

M: For a couple of days or weeks...

E: Yeah-yeah.

M: And see what happens.

E: Yes, take a break.

M: Take a break. Okay, so, our happy couple is going to take a break.

E: Well, I guess they're not that happy then, hey?

M: Yeah. Hehe. Okay, so, let's listen to our dialogue again and then we'll come back and talk some more.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: So, Marco, this phrase **to take a break** really reminds me of a **Friends** episode.

M: Yeah, that really famous Friends episode, when Ross and Rachel were on a break...

E: And...

M: And...

E: And Ross like went with another girl, right?

M: Yeah-yeah-yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: And then they definitely broke up after that.

E: Yeah.

M: So, that's one of the key issues, right?

E: Right.

M: If you're taking a break, can you start to date someone else?

E: I've got to agree with Rachel.

M: Hehe. Really?

E: Yeah. No, you can't. You can't.

M: You can't?

E: Cause...

M: So, what's the point of taking a break?

E: Just... you need some time away; you need some time to think.

M: But you're not really broken up.

E: Exactly.

M: Hm, that's convenient.

E: Hehe.

M: I don't know. They were on a break, I agree with Ross.

E: Well...

M: Hehe.

E: You would, wouldn't you?

M: Alright guys, we're out of time today. I hope you enjoyed our lesson and be sure to listen next time, because we will definitely have a part four of this.

E: Yes.

M: Coming out soon.

E: Yep.

M: And also come to our website at englishpod.com and leave all your questions and comments.

E: Yeah, Marco and I are always happy to hear from you and we love answering your questions.

M: Right, and maybe you can tell us what you think happens in the fourth part.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, well, until then it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we have a very special guest in our studio – **Daini**.

D: Hi everyone, I'm Daini.

M: Daini is part of our **EnglishPod** team and today she's gonna help us with this **Chinese New Year's** lesson. It's an **intermediate** lesson, but it has a lot of cultural aspects about Chinese New Year. So, that's what Daini's gonna help us out with today.

E: Yes, today we're going to learn a little bit about Chinese New Year in English. And we're also going to learn some language for describing things that we're excited about.

D: Okay, yeah! I'm excited to hear this show.

M: Okay, so, let's listen to the dialogue now and then when we come back, we'll explain everything.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, so, Chinese New Year; a lot of exciting vocabulary here.

E: Uhu.

D: Right.

M: Before we get into describing it, let's look at the vocabulary that we saw... in "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: The first word on language takeaway – **dumplings**.

E: Dumplings.

M: Dumplings.

E: Dumplings.

D: Well, in Chinese we call it **Shuijiao**...

E: Uhu.

D: Um, and it's a very traditional Chinese food. And it's getting very famous now.

E: Yes, so, it's basically small pieces of **dough** with...

D: Uhu.

E: Maybe some meat or some vegetables inside.

M: And then they are boiled.

E: Usually in a soup.

M: In a soup.

E: Uhu.

M: But you can also have fried dumplings.

E: Yeah-yeah, that's right.

M: Which are really good.

E: Yeah.

D: Yeah.

E: So, if you know Italian food, they're really similar to a **tortellini**.

M: Uh, exactly.

E: Uhu.

D: Ah.

M: Or in Latin America it's very similar to maybe an **empanada**.

E: Alright.

M: It's like a small, little empanada.

E: Okay. Marco, what's our next word?

M: Alright, our next word – **firecrackers**.

E: Firecrackers.

M: Firecrackers.

E: Firecrackers.

M: This is a firecracker.

Sound of a firecracker.

D: Firecrackers are so common in China. We use it all the time in all occasions.

E: Yep.

D: And especially on the New Year's Eve, um...

E: Uhu.

D: Traditionally people use it to **scare off** the... evil...

M: Evil spirits.

D: The evil spirits.

M: So, they...

E: Yeah.

M: Oh-okay.

D: Yeah.

E: So, on Chinese New Year, there are millions of firecrackers.

M: Millions of firecrackers.

E: Yeah.

D: Uhu.

M: Now, there're also a lot of **fireworks**.

E: Fireworks.

M: Fireworks.

E: Fireworks.

M: So, fireworks are similar to firecrackers.

E: But they have lots of light.

M: Light.

E: Yeah.

M: They... they go up in the air and explode and you see lots of nice colors.

E: Beautiful colors.

M: Yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: Very popular in Fourth of July in the United States.

E: Or New Year's Eve.

M: New Year's Eve.

E: Uhu.

D: Uhu.

M: Fireworks. Okay, now let's look at our last word.

D: **Set off.**

M: Set off.

E: Set off.

M: Set off.

E: Set off.

M: So, this is the **verb** you would use with firecrackers.

E: Yeah, it means like explode the firecracker.

M: Right, set off the firecracker.

E: Set off the bomb.

M: Set off fireworks.

E: Well, let's listen to our dialogue a second time and this time it'll be a little bit slower, so that you can understand the language a bit better.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, so, we saw some really great phrases of describing excitement.

E: Uhu.

M: Right? So, let's start with "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

E: We have four phrases for you today. And the first one is **I'm so excited about.**

M: I'm so excited about.

E: I'm so excited about.

M: So, when you say "I'm so excited", it means that you are...

E: Like really happy...

M: That something is gonna happen.

E: Yeah, so happy you can't relax.

M: Hehe. Right, so, you could say "I'm so excited about our vacation next month".

E: I'm so excited about opening all my presents.

M: Exactly, so, excited. Now, we also saw another really great word, very similar to **I'm so excited.**

E: Yeah.

M: **I'm really looking forward to.**

E: I'm really looking forward to.

M: I'm really looking forward to.

E: I'm really looking forward to.

M: So, this is a little bit less than excited, right?

E: A bit less strong.

M: Right.

E: Yeah.

M: So, you would say “oh, I’m really looking forward to meeting your new girlfriend”.

E: Or you can say “I’m really looking forward to seeing that movie”.

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: So, it means you’re a little bit excited, but not SO excited.

E: Yeah, you’re happy about something that’s going to happen in the future.

M: Now, let’s look at our next phrase and it’s very similar to excited – **I can’t wait.**

E: I can’t wait.

M: I can’t wait.

E: I can’t wait.

M: So, this is very, very similar to **I’m so excited.**

E: Yes, when you’re so excited for something, you can’t wait for it.

M: Right, let’s listen to some more examples of **I can’t wait.**

Voice: Example one.

A: I’m so excited I can’t wait to see you.

Voice: Example two.

B: Hm, smells delicious, I can’t wait for dinner.

Voice: Example three.

C: I can’t wait to open my presents.

M: So, we can use it again the same way: I can’t wait to go on vacation next month.

E: I can’t wait to open all my presents.

M: Exactly. Now, our last phrase – **I bet.**

E: I bet.

M: I bet.

E: I bet. B-E-T. Bet.

M: Bet. So, when you say I bet it means that you're pretty sure about something.

E: Uhu. You predict it will happen.

M: Right, so, let's listen to some more examples of **I bet**.

Voice: Example one.

A: I bet I'm going to get so much money for Chinese New Year.

Voice: Example two.

B: Robert's late, where do you think he is?

C: I bet he's stuck in traffic.

Voice: Example three.

D: I bet the boss is gonna give us a big bonus this year.

E: Well, I guess we're ready to listen to our dialogue for the third time and then when we come back, Daini's gonna tell us all about Chinese New Year.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: So, Daini, what are these red packets of money about?

D: So, in Chinese we call it **Hong Bao**...

E: Yeah.

D: And it's basically a bag full of money.

E: Wow!

M: Why do you get money?

D: As a gift.

M: As a gift.

D: Yeah.

M: Wow. The children get it, though?

D: Only children get it.

M: Wow.

D: Or if you're a university student and you haven't got a job yet, then you can still ask for Hong Bao from your parents.

M: Really?

D: Or your relatives.

E: So, is there some meaning to this gift of money?

D: Well, it is believed that children have to put these red envelopes under their pillow...

E: Yep.

D: On New Year's Eve.

M: Yep.

D: To scare away the evil spirits.

M: Okay.

E: Again like the firecrackers.

M: Again evil spirits... a lot of evil spirits in China.

D: Hehe.

M: Hehe.

E: So, Daini, how much money would a kid get for Chinese New Year?

D: Well, when I was little...

E: Yeah.

D: The best year I got was three thousand RMB.

E: Which is like... almost...

M: Five hundred dollars.

E: Wow.

D: Yeah.

M: Almost five hundred.

D: Yeah, I was so rich at that time.

M: Wow, amazing.

D: Aha.

M: What about this game **Mahjong**?

D: Mahjong?

M: Mahjong.

D: Have you played that?

M: No.

D: No, um, **at the end** again it's a very traditional Chinese game and...

E: Uhu.

D: Uh, you will see senior people s... always gathering along the table...

E: So, old people.

D: Old people.

E: Yeah.

M: So, it's like a board game, kind of like chess?

D: It's kind of like chess, but they have like special... specially made chess.

M: Oh.

D: It's very different.

M: Okay.

E: So, I wanna know more about these, uh, the fireworks and firecrackers on Chinese New Year.

D: Okay, usually we buy firecrackers.

E: Yep.

D: I believe firework... fireworks are more expensive.

E: Uhu.

M: Uhu.

D: So, we play firecrackers **Bao Jung**, uh, and then usually we do it, uh, right after the midnight.

E: Uhu.

M: Uhu.

D: So, twelve o'clock.

E: Yep.

D: This's very loud and...

E: Yeah.

D: Um, say for example, I personally don't even dare to stay close when they set off the firecrackers, because...

E: Yeah.

D: It's just way too loud.

E: Yeah.

M: Hehe. It's... and everyone starts to light them...

E: Yeah.

M: So, it's like...

E: No, it's amazing.

M: The city...

E: I... um, I've... I've seen Chinese New Year three times in China...

D: Uhu.

E: And each time I've just been amazed like... it's so, so cool and so noisy and so awesome. I mean, you've got to visit China to see this.

M: Yeah, yeah, it's a really cool festival.

E: Yeah.

M: And definitely playing with firecrackers is always fun, so...

D: Yeah.

E: Maybe a little bit dangerous.

M: Yeah.

E: Well ,everyone, uh, we've just learned about how New Year's is celebrated in China. And we wanna know how do you celebrate New Year's in your country?

M: Exactly, how do you welcome the New Year? How do you scare away evil spirits?

E: Yeah.

M: Right?

E: Yeah. So, come to our website at englihpod.com and leave us your comments.

M: That's right, Daini, Erica and I will be there to answer all you questions. So, be sure to send us some comments.

E: Well, everyone, thanks for listening and until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

D: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're bringing you another great lesson for all of you, who are interested in shopping.

E: Especially those of you, who are interested in shopping for a car.

M: A car.

E: Uhu.

M: Exactly. So, we're gonna give you some great language about describing a car or characteristics of a car.

E: Yeah.

M: And also some really interesting language for shopping.

E: Yes, especially buying something really big and expensive.

M: Yeah, like a car.

E: Yeah.

M: So, before we listen to our dialogue let's take a look at "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

M: On vocabulary preview today we're bringing two words. The first one is **vehicle**.

E: Vehicle.

M: Vehicle.

E: Vehicle.

M: So, again a vehicle is a machine, right?

E: Right, a machine that carries people from one place to another.

M: So, it's important to say that a vehicle could be an airplane...

E: A car.

M: A car.

E: A boat.

M: Boat.

E: Even a bicycle.

M: Right.

E: Yeah.

M: That's a vehicle. Our second word is **sedan**.

E: Sedan.

M: Sedan.

E: Sedan.

M: So, a sedan is a type of car.

E: Exactly. It... it's a type of car with four doors that can fit five people inside.

M: So, to make it more clear, most taxis are sedans.

E: Exactly.

M: Right?

E: Yeah.

M: They have four doors.

E: Yeah.

M: Five people can fit in there...

E: Yeah.

M: Including the driver. Except taxis in Mexico.

E: They're not sedans?

M: They're little Beetles.

E: Oh.

M: The Volkswagen Beetles.

E: Okay.

M: So, those are not sedans. But, yeah, most, uh, countries have sedans as taxis.

E: Yeah.

M: To give you some examples, like a Toyota Corolla or a Toyota Camry is a sedan.

E: Yeah, yeah. Maybe like, uh, a Volkswagen Jetta is that a....

M: A Jetta, yeah...

E: Yeah.

M: A Jetta is the sedan.

E: Yeah.

M: Now, we could listen to our dialogue and it's gonna be at a normal speed, the first time, but you don't have to worry about it.

E: We'll come back and teach you some of the important words from the dialogue.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: I think she's really lucky. She's...

E: Really?

M: She's getting a tank to go to school. How awesome is that?

E: Uh, I would be so embarrassed **if I had to** drive to school on a tank.

M: That's like the coolest car.

E: Oh, you're such a boy.

M: Hehe. Alright, a surprising ending to, uh, relatively easy shopping day.

E: Yeah.

M: Uh, let's take a look at some... language that we saw in our dialogue on "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

E: We have four words for you today. The first one is **gas mileage**.

M: Gas mileage.

E: Gas mileage.

M: Gas mileage. So, gas mileage is how many miles you can travel on a gallon or liter of gasoline.

E: Well, you know, it's interesting in some English speaking countries like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, we use kilometers...

M: Right.

E: To measure distance. But we still talk about gas mileage.

M: Uh.

E: Yeah.

M: I guess you can't say **gas kilomiliage**.

E: No.

M: Or... or some like that. But, yeah, it's... yeah, basically, how many kilometers or how many miles you can travel on a **tank** or on a liter or gallon of gas.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay.

E: The next word is **airbags**.

M: Airbags.

E: Airbags.

M: Airbags.

E: These are like big bags of air that fill up and come out of the car when there's a crash.

M: Right, so, that way you don't hit your head against...

E: Yeah.

M: The steering wheel or...

E: Yeah.

M: Something like that.

E: So, they protect you.

M: Right, I've heard that Volvo has like eighteen airbags now in their cars.

E: They are very safe cars, you know.

M: Hehe. Like a big balloon.

E: Aha.

M: Okay, our third word today is **brakes**.

E: Brakes.

M: Brakes.

E: Brakes. So, what are brakes?

M: Brakes are little... What are breaks? Breaks are what make your car stop.

E: Okay, so, **that the** little machines maybe that stop your car.

M: Yeah, they're on the wheels.

E: Yeah.

M: They make your car stop.

E: Aha.

M: You have brakes on your bike.

E: Yes.

M: On your car, etcetera.

E: Uhu.

M: Our last word today on language takeaway – **reinforced**.

E: Reinforced.

M: Reinforced.

E: Reinforced.

M: So, we have some examples of how we use reinforced, because it's a little bit weird.

E: Yeah, these will help you understand the meaning.

Voice: Example one.

A: So, I reinforced all the walls; there's no way they're gonna fall down.

Voice: Example two.

B: This plastic is reinforced with the glass, so it's both light and strong.

M: So, basically, anything that's reinforced is made stronger.

E: Perfect.

M: Reinforced steel...

E: Yep.

M: Reinforced table.

E: Aha.

M: Anything. Okay. Great, so now we could listen to our dialogue again. You can practice all these words that we just talked about and we'll come back shortly.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

E: So, we have a couple of interesting phrases to talk about shopping.

M: Right.

E: Let's look at these in "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: The first one is **I'm just browsing**.

E: I'm just browsing.

M: I'm just browsing.

E: I'm just browsing.

M: This is a really useful phrase, because usually salespeople will come up to you and ask you "can I help you?" or...

E: Yeah.

M: "Are you interested in something?"

E: Yeah.

M: And you're just looking, so...

E: Yeah, you maybe... you don't really wanna buy today.

M: Right.

E: Yeah.

M: So, you're just "uh, I'm just browsing".

E: Uhu.

M: So, then they'll just leave you alone and...

E: Yeah, they won't bother you **as much**.

M: Yeah, it's a good, good phrase.

E: Another good phrase.

M: **Sleep on it.**

E: Sleep on it.

M: Sleep on it.

E: Sleep on it.

M: So, we have some examples of how we use **sleep on it**.

Voice: Example one.

A: I don't know if we should buy that house. It's perfect for us, but it's so expensive.

B: Let's sleep on it.

Voice: Example two.

C: Why don't you sleep on it and tell me tomorrow?

Voice: Example three.

D: This is a bit more than what I can afford; let me sleep on it.

M: To sleep on it means to...

E: Like to think about it overnight.

M: To think about it, right?

E: Yeah.

M: So, maybe you wanna buy this really expensive car.

E: But you need to think about it.

M: Right.

E: So, you'll sleep on it.

M: So... yeah. You go home, sleep on it, think about it twice and then make a decision.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay, great words and great dialogue, so...

E: Yeah, I love this dialogue.

M: Yeah, it was... it's kind of funny. So, we could listen to it again and then we'll come back and talk a little bit about it.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: So, Marco, have you ever driven a tank?

M: Hehe. Well...

E: I... I mean know you were in the army, so...

M: Yeah, yeah. Um, yeah, actually I did... I did drive, uh, a tank before.

E: Really?

M: A really... yeah, a really old one...

E: Really?

M: Kind of like a World War Two type tank. But, yeah, they're really fun and interesting. You have... it's not like driving a normal car. You have pedals and you have...

E: So, there's no steering wheel?

M: No, no, no. You have, um, levers...

E: Yeah.

M: And, uh... what many people don't know is that actually tanks are... manual transmission, so you have to change gears.

E: Oh, really?

M: And it's really hard to change gears on those **things**.

E: And what's the gas mileage like on a tank?

M: Hehe. I don't know, maybe like five miles per gallon, well...

E: Okay.

M: They run on diesel...

E: Aha.

M: Witch is a different type of fuel, right?

E: Yep. Okay, well, very cool. I never knew that my podcast partner had driven a tank. That's pretty awesome.

M: Yeah, well, it was... it was fun, definitely and... I hope I get to do it again some day.

E: Alright. Well, uh, guys, have you ever driven a tank?

M: Or a submarine or any type of, uh, armor vehicle.

E: Yeah, tell us about it at our website englishpod.com.

M: Right, we'll be there to answer all your questions. I'll also be there to maybe post some more crazy stories.

E: Or some pictures of the tank or something.

M: Yeah, maybe.

E: Yeah.

M: Alright guys, we'll see you there... until then it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello everyone! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And we're bringing you another great **elementary** lesson for all those elementary learners.

E: In today's lesson we've got some excellent language that will help you to describe someone's appearance.

M: It's something that everyone has learned before in school.

E: Yeah.

M: Describing people. So, we're gonna review that and give you some better phrases.

E: Some real English phrases.

M: Real English phrases.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, great, so, let's listen to our dialogue for the first time and then we'll come back and talk about it.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Alright, so, interesting dialogue. **Small world**.

E: It is a small world. I don't know how I would feel about dating my friend's brother.

M: Really?

E: Uh... No, I wouldn't feel good about it.

M: Why?

E: Well, because if you break up with the brother, then like... that means you'll have to end the friendship with your best friend.

M: Hehe. Maybe. I guess...

E: Dangerous.

M: Girls are more complicated with that. We... guys, we... we're not that complicated. Yeah.

E: Well, um, you know what? Let's look at the language before, uh, this gets too far.

M: Hehe. Alright, let's take a look at "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: On language takeaway today we're bring you three words.

E: The first one is **heard**.

M: Heard.

E: Heard.

M: Heard.

E: So, you guys know this word. **Past tense** of **hear**, right?

M: Right.

E: But the way it's used is quite interesting.

M: Uhu.

E: Let's listen to a couple of examples of how it's used.

Voice: Example one.

A: I heard you're dating a new guy.

Voice: Example two.

B: Julie told me she heard that you're pregnant.

Voice: Example three.

C: What? You got fired? I heard that you quit.

M: So, when you say, for example, "oh, I heard that you're pregnant".

E: Oh... this is like telling someone that you found some information about them, but you're not sure if it's true...

M: Exactly.

E: Or if it's false.

M: Okay. Our next word – **fill me in**.

E: Fill me in.

M: Fill me in.

E: Fill me in.

M: So, when you tell someone to fill you in...

E: You're saying "tell me about it".

M: Tell me the details.

E: Aha.

M: I could say "I'm sorry I was late for th... meeting, can you fill me in on what happened?"

E: Exactly. Or I could say "I missed the first five minutes of the movie, fill me in".

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, great word. And our last phrase today – **career path**.

E: Career path.

M: Career path.

E: Career path.

M: So, what's a career path?

E: I guess this is the plan for your job over several... like ten or twenty years.

M: Right, all the different jobs and things you do during your career.

E: Yeah.

M: That's your career path.

E: So, in this case, um, David has a really good career path, because he's going to be a really rich and powerful investment banker.

M: Yes.

E: Uhu.

M: So, career path. Very good. So, now let's listen to our dialogue again and pay special attention to the language used to describe David, because when we come back, we're gonna talk about this.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: So, we found some really great words and phrases used to describe someone.

E: Exactly, there's a lot of language in here, uh, talking about the way someone looks. So, let's listen again as Irene describes David.

Irene: He's really good looking; he's quite tall, around six one; he's in his early thirties and he's got the most beautiful dark brown eyes. He's really good looking; he's quite tall, around six one; he's in his early thirties and he's got the most beautiful dark brown eyes.

M: Okay, so, let's break this down.

E: Uhu.

M: The first thing she says is "he's really **good looking**".

E: Good looking.

M: Good looking.

E: Good looking.

M: So, good looking is the equivalent of **handsome**.

E: Or **pretty**. [NOTE: **pretty** is an **adjective** in here; not an **adverb** like in "pretty much"]

M: Pretty.

E: Yeah.

M: Good looking.

E: But I think good looking sounds re... a lot more natural than handsome.

M: Yeah, you wouldn't really use handsome.

E: I'd like... I wouldn't never say that.

M: Yeah.

E: Even though it's correct, it's just good looking sounds much more natural.

M: I guess for me, uh, whenever someone says handsome it sounds like... an older person's saying that.

E: Yeah, it sounds **old-fashioned**.

M: Like my grandma would say...

E: Exactly, yeah.

M: "Oh, he's a handsome young man".

E: Yeah, exactly.

M: Okay. Now, let's look at the next thing she said: "he's **quite tall**".

E: Quite tall.

M: Quite tall.

E: Quite tall.

M: So, we know quite means v... very.

E: Yeah. And tall we know.

M: Right. So, you can describe a person in different ways.

E: Yeah.

M: He's quite tall.

E: He's kind of tall.

M: He's sort of tall.

E: He's a bit short.

M: He's, uh... he's not that short.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay.

E: So, these are great words we can use to describe someone's height.

M: Okay, then she talked about his exact height.

E: Yes. Sh...

M: Right?

E: She said he was six one (6'1").

M: Six one.

E: Uhu.

M: Oh, whoa... around six one.

E: Yeah.

M: This is interesting, because in the United States and Canada you give a person's height using feet and inches.

E: That's right.

M: Right, so...

E: So, we don't... we don't talk about meters and centimeters.

M: Right, so, six one would be six feet one inch.

E: Exactly.

M: But in other countries you would talk about centimeters or meters. So, six one is like... six one is about one eighty?

E: Yeah, about that.

M: So, this is an interesting difference between...

E: Like English speaking countries and European countries.

M: Right. Okay, so, the next time you give your, uh... your height to someone, make sure you do it in feet more or less.

E: It sounds a lot more natural and... and actually if you say to somebody in Canada, for example, "I'm a hundred and seventy five...

M: Right.

E: Centimeters", they wouldn't... they wouldn't know really how tall that is.

M: How... how tall that is, yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay. Now, the next part is really, really useful. She said “he’s **in his early thirties**”.

E: In his early thirties.

M: His early thirties.

E: Early thirties.

M: So, this is a way of describing someone’s age without actually giving the exact number.

E: Exactly.

M: So, for example, early thirties...

E: So, like thirty two, thirty three...

M: Mid thirties...

E: Like thirty four, thirty five... thirty six?

M: Oh, thirty six.

E: Yeah.

M: And then late thirties would be...

E: Thirty eight, thirty nine.

M: And you could do the same thing for...

E: Like forties.

M: Forties, fifties, sixties.

E: Twenties, yeah.

M: Twenties, right?

E: Yeah.

M: Starting at twenties. You wouldn’t do that... you wouldn’t do this before your twenties.

E: I don’t think it’s really common to talk about your teens...

M: Right.

E: This way.

M: You wouldn't say like...

E: Yeah.

M: His mid teens or...

E: Yeah.

M: Early teens.

E: Yeah, sounds a bit weird.

M: Uhu. Okay, great language used to describe people.

E: But one more word.

M: Right.

E: **He's hot.**

M: He's hot or he sounds hot.

E: Yeah.

M: He's hot, yeah.

E: So... this is another sort of informal way of describing someone, who's really good looking.

M: Good looking.

E: Really sexy.

M: Right, it could be a girl or a boy.

E: Uhu.

M: She's hot.

E: Yeah, but...

M: He's hot.

E: But it is informal.

M: It is really informal. Maybe even a little bit offensive. You wouldn't go up to a girl and say "Wow! You're hot!"

E: No, it's a little bit in... too impolite.

M: Right.

E: Yeah.

M: You would say "Wow! You're really pretty..."

E: Yeah-yeah-yeah.

M: Or you're gorgeous".

E: Yeah.

M: But you wouldn't say "Wow! You're hot!"

E: No, you would never say that to somebody.

M: Right.

E: Yeah.

M: That's something you would comment with your friends.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, so, we've looked at some really good language for describing people. Now, we could listen to our dialogue a third time and I'm sure you will understand everything.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Okay, so, we looked at really useful language for describing people.

E: Yep.

M: And we want you to describe your girlfriend, boyfriend...

E: Or even yourself.

M: Or even yourself. What do you look like? How tall are you? How...

E: How old are you?

M: How old are you?

E: Yeah. And try and use the language from today's lesson.

M: Right, so, come to [englishpod.com](https://www.englishpod.com) and leave your questions and comments on our website.

E: And your descriptions.

M: And your descriptions.

E: Yeah.

M: And, uh, we'll definitely be there to answer any doubts as well.

E: Yes. Well, guys thanks for listening today and until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And we're bringing you another great **elementary** lesson today. One that takes place at the office.

E: Yes, today we're gonna teach you some great phrases, so that you can ask people to help you.

M: Right. And I think this dialogue is with a new person at the office.

E: Uhu.

M: So, when you're new, you always need to ask people for favors.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay.

E: Yeah.

M: So, we're gonna be asking for a favor.

E: So, Marco, what exactly is a favor?

M: Something that a person does for you.

E: Like a small helpful thing.

M: Ah, Yeah, a small helpful thing, so...

E: Uh.

M: You know, like "can you pass me that pencil". Maybe that's even a favor.

E: Yeah, or...

M: Or...

E: Maybe, uh, can you pick me up **on your way to work**.

M: Yeah, that's a favor.

E: Uhu.

M: Or even **lending money**...

E: Yep.

M: To your friend.

E: Yeah.

M: That's a favor.

E: Yeah.

M: So, that's what we're gonna be talking about – favors and how to ask for one.

E: Cause you always have to do this at work.

M: At work, with your friends.

E: Uhu.

M: With your family. So, let's listen to the dialogue and then we'll come back and explain all the vocabulary.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: So, a pretty busy office.

E: Pretty unhelpful colleagues.

M: Hehe. I know everyone so busy...

E: I know.

M: They didn't help this poor girl.

E: Yeah, I hope she found the bathroom.

M: Hehe. Now, let's take a look at the language from the dialogue. So, let's start with language takeaway.

Voice: Language takeaway.

E: There's some great language in this dialogue, wasn't there?

M: Yeah, a lot of, uh, interesting phrases and words. Um, the first one that... that I saw that was really interesting is **on board**.

E: On board.

M: Welcome on board.

E: Well, we've got some examples of how this phrase is used. So, let's listen to them to help us understand the meaning.

Voice: Example one.

A: Welcome on board, Sarah; if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Voice: Example two.

B: We need to get a new office assistant on board as soon as possible.

Voice: Example three.

C: We decided to bring Melissa on board to join the marketing team.

M: So, basically it means...

E: Welcome to the company.

M: Welcome to the company.

E: Or.

M: The team.

E: Yeah.

M: Welcome on board.

E: So, "on board" is the same as "to the company".

M: I guess also when you get on a ship, they tell you "welcome on board".

E: Yes. That's where it comes from.

M: Or an airplane.

E: Yeah-yeah, yeah.

M: Welcome on board. Okay, let's take a look at our next word – **about to**.

E: About to.

M: I'm about to.

E: I'm about to.

M: So, this a great phrase to explain that you're about to do something.

E: I'm going to do this thing really soon.

M: Okay, so... so, for example, you can say "I'm about to go out for lunch".

E: Uhu. Or I could say "hey, Marco, let's go record a show".

M: I'm about to going to a meeting.

E: Uhu, exactly.

M: Right?

E: Yeah.

M: About to.

E: Going to do something really soon.

M: Okay. The next word we have is **instead**.

E: Instead.

M: Instead.

E: Instead. It means in the place of.

M: In the place of.

E: Yeah.

M: So, for example, if for a dinner I could say "I'll have the chicken instead of the fish".

E: Uhu.

M: Right?

E: Or I can say "I wanted to buy a red sweater, but they didn't have one, so I bought a blue one instead".

M: Instead.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay. So, in the place of.

E: Yeah.

M: And our last word for... language takeaway – **interrupt**.

E: Interrupt.

M: Interrupt.

E: Interrupt.

M: So, when somebody interrupts you, they're coming and...

E: The talk to you while you're doing something or maybe while you're speaking.

M: Or maybe you're busy...

E: Aha.

M: And people come and... and...

E: Bother you.

M: And bother you.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay.

E: So, interrupt.

M: Interrupt. Okay, some great words here in our dialogue and now we can listen to it again. This time it's gonna be a little bit slower...

E: And you'll be able to understand the language a little bit better.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, so, there're some great ways that you can ask someone for a favor, right?

E: Yeah, we wanna show you some really useful phrases for asking for help.

M: So, let's start with "**putting it together**".

Voice: Putting it together.

E: Let's listen to some different ways of how you can ask someone for a favor.

Voice: Example one.

A: May I get you to do me a favor? Can you carry this package and that suitcase for me?

Voice: Example two.

B: Can I ask you a favor? Can you just finish this report for me?

Voice: Example three.

C: Could you do me a favor and pass me that file.

M: Okay, so, those were great examples of asking for a favor.

E: Yeah.

M: In our dialogue we heard "Can I ask you a favor".

E: Uhu. But we could also say "Can I get you to do me a favor".

M: Right, can I get you to do me a favor.

E: Uhu.

M: Also I could say "Will you do me a favor".

E: Will you do me a favor.

M: Right. So, those are different ways of asking for a favor.

E: Let's say you want to ask someone for a favor, right?

M: Uhu.

E: But they're busy.

M: Right.

E: So, you'll need some phrases to help you do this.

M: Exactly, you need some phrases to interrupt somebody.

E: Aha.

M: Right? So, let's listen to some examples of what phrases you can use to begin to talk to someone.

E: Yeah, to interrupt them.

M: Okay.

Example 1: I hate to bother you, but... I hate to bother you, but...

Example 2: I'm sorry to bother you, but... I'm sorry to bother you, but...

Example 3: I don't mean to bother you, but... I don't mean to bother you, but...

M: Okay, so, those are really nice and polite ways of beginning to talk to someone.

E: Exactly, they're really useful at the office.

M: So, maybe you wanna talk to your boss, you knock on his door, kind of open it a little bit and say "I'm sorry to bother you, but I was wondering if you have time for meeting today".

E: Uhu. Or you could say "I hate to bother you, but do you have time for a meeting today".

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: So, those are great ways of starting up a conversation.

E: Yep.

M: And maybe **setting it up** to ask for a favor.

E: Uhu.

M: Right?

E: Uhu.

M: So, we can combine them. I could say "I hate to bother you, but can you do me a favor".

E: Perfect.

M: Right?

E: Yeah, really useful.

M: So, then... then you can ask someone for a favor.

E: Yep.

M: Okay, great stuff. So, I guess we can listen to our dialogue again.

E: Yeah, let's listen to our dialogue for the third time and this time I'm sure you'll understand it a lot better.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Alright, so, now you have all the vocabulary necessary the next time you need to ask someone for a favor.

E: Yes.

M: At the office, with your friends, with your family, anyone.

E: Well, everyone, we are out of time for today, but remember to visit our website at **englishpod.com**.

M: Exactly, at our website you'll find the script of the dialogue...

E: Uhu.

M: And also you'll find **intermediate lessons**, **upper intermediate** and even **advanced**.

E: Yeah, exactly, our website is a great resource for learning. Uh, Marco and I are always there to answer you questions and we also have lots of helpful users, who answer your questions.

M: Exactly, so, don't **miss out** come to our website at englishpod.com and we'll see you there. [NOTE: to **miss out** = to lose an opportunity]

E: Until next time...

M: Bye-Bye.

E: Bye.

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're going back to the movies.

E: That's right, we've got a great lesson today and I'm really excited about this dialogue. I think it's fantastic.

M: Hehe. We have an original **EnglishPod** production of a **movie trailer**.

E: So, what is a **movie trailer**?

M: Well, whenever you go to the cinema...

E: Uhu.

M: Um, before the movie starts you have previews of upcoming movies.

E: So, like almost an advertisement for a future movie.

M: Exactly.

E: Okay.

M: So, that's a movie trailer and that's what we're bringing you today.

E: A lot of great language you'll commonly hear in **action movies**.

M: Right, so, let's start with "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

E: We have one word today – **possess**.

M: Possess.

E: Possess.

M: Possess.

E: So, when you possess something, you...

M: Have it.

E: Aha.

M: It's in your possession. You...

E: Simple.

M: You have it, right?

E: Yep.

M: So, in this dialogue our actors possess something very important.

E: Uhu.

M: So, let's listen to the dialogue for the first time and it's going to be a little bit fast and a little bit difficult to understand.

E: But don't worry, we'll come back and explain all of the key language later.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Wow, so, it sounds like a really good movie.

E: I know. When is it coming out?

M: Uh, I think in two thousand fifteen (2015).

E: Okay, I'll put that in my calendar.

M: Hehe. Okay, let's take a look at the vocabulary we saw in this dialogue in language takeaway.

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: In language takeaway today we have three words. What's our first one?

E: **Survival.**

M: Survival.

E: Survival.

M: Survival.

E: Well, survival is continuing to live even in really hard times.

M: It comes from the **verb** to **survive**.

E: Aha.

M: Right? So, survival is the **noun form**.

E: Right, so... so maybe you are lost in... in...

M: The jungle.

E: The jungle and you have to fight for survival.

M: Right, you have to try to survive.

E: Aha.

M: Okay, our next word – **defend**.

E: Defend.

M: Defend.

E: Defend.

M: So, let's listen to some examples of defend, so you can understand the meaning.

Voice: Example one.

A: We have to defend the castle. The army is trying to kill the king!

Voice: Example two.

B: The soldiers defended the base in the difficult battle.

Voice: Example three.

C: These new machine guns will defend us.

M: So, basically, it's to protect, right?

E: Right, to protect from something that is really harmful.

M: Okay, so, you would defend your children.

E: Aha.

M: You would defend your...

E: Your house.

M: Your house.

E: Or your castle.

M: Your dog, your cat.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay. And our last word on language takeaway – **rough**.

E: Rough.

M: Rough.

E: R-O-U-G-H. Rough.

M: Right, it's got that "ugh"...

E: Yep.

M: Sound.

E: Aha.

M: So, it basically means... so when something is rough, it's a little bit violent...

E: And hard...

M: Hard.

E: Yeah.

M: For example, boxing is a rough sport.

E: Or hockey is also a rough sport.

M: Exactly, so, you have rough sports or maybe even a person can be a little bit rough.

E: Yes. Or that person can **play rough**.

M: Play rough, exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: So, rough. Okay, so, we're ready to listen to our dialogue again.

E: And this time it'll be a little bit slower, so, you can understand the language a little bit more clearly.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: So, we saw some interesting phrases in this dialogue. Let's take a look at them in **"fluency builder"**.

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: The first phrase that we saw – **at all costs**.

E: At all costs.

M: At all costs.

E: At all costs.

M: So, let's listen to some examples before we explain "at all costs".

Voice: Example one.

A: I'll protect my kids at all costs.

Voice: Example two.

B: We have to get this project done at all costs.

Voice: Example three.

C: You find those criminals at all costs.

E: Well, if you're going to protect your kids at all costs, you're going to protect them even if it's a really hard.

M: Right, it doesn't matter how hard it is or what you have to do.

E: Exactly.

M: You'll do it.

E: Uhu.

M: At all costs. Now we have, um... now let's take a look at our second phrase for fluency builder and it's very similar to **at all costs**.

E: Yeah, really similar.

M: **No matter what.**

E: No matter what.

M: No matter what.

E: No matter what.

M: For example, I'm going to go on vacation no matter what my boss says.

E: Nothing's gonna stop you.

M: Right, if he says no, I'm still going on my vacation.

E: And I'm gonna protect my kids no matter what.

M: Exactly, no matter what.

E: I don't have kids, though.

M: Hehe. But you will protect them no matter what.

E: If I had them.

M: Hehe. Okay. Uh, and our last phrase – **stand in their way.**

E: Stand in their way.

M: Stand in their way.

E: Stand in their way.

M: So, let's listen to some examples of "stand in someone's way".

E: Uhu.

M: And then we'll come back and explain it.

Voice: Example one.

A: Don't let anything stand in the way of your goals.

Voice: Example two.

B: I'm going to find that guy and nothing is going to stand in my way.

Voice: Example three.

C: I don't care what happens. I'm gonna get that money and you'd better not stand in my way.

M: So, when something stands in your way, it's...

E: It's preventing you from reaching your goal.

M: From reaching your goal, right? Or we can also have somebody standing in your way physically.

E: Like really you're standing close to me and I can't **pass through** the door.

M: Right, right.

E: Yeah.

M: So, maybe that person is at the door and... is standing in my way. I can't go in.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay.

E: But here we're not really talking about a real thing, right? That you can touch.

M: Right, it's more of some obstacle that's preventing you from reaching your goals or from doing what you want to do.

E: Yep.

M: So, now we can listen to our dialogue again and now you can understand these words that we've just talked about.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: I know that you're a big movie fan, right?

M: Yeah, I'm a big movie fan I usually watch maybe three or five movies a week.

E: Really?

M: Yeah-yeah.

E: Wow! Many students of English like to watch movies as a way to improve their English.

M: That's one of the best ways to learn English...

E: Uhu.

M: As through songs and movies.

E: What do you think of some useful movies that people can watch to practice English?

M: Well, I would recommend children's movies.

E: Really?

M: Yeah, they have simple vocabulary, but they have very common language.

E: Uhu.

M: And also what's happening in the movie is very easy to understand and to follow.

E: So. You can see the action and then hear the word.

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: So, if you like to watch movies, rent a DVD or go buy a DVD, watch it in the original language...

E: Yeah.

M: With English **subtitles**.

E: So, you should watch it in English.

M: With English subtitles.

E: Yeah, and what is subtitles?

M: Subtitles are the words that you see at the bottom of the screen that translate...

E: Okay.

M: What the people are saying.

E: Okay.

M: Yeah, that's the best thing to do. Try that exercise. If you have a pen and paper with you, it's much better. You can pause the movie, write down the word you don't understand and then maybe review it later.

E: That's a really good tip. I always tell my students that they should watch movies, listen to music, read the newspaper and write down at least five new words or phrases a week.

M: Yeah, yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: It's a really good exercising, you'll improve a lot.

E: Yes. So, everyone, we want you to go and watch a movie in English. Turn on the subtitles and write down some new vocabulary.

M: Exactly. And if you have any comments or questions or maybe even suggestions, you can come to our website at englishpod.com and leave them in our community page.

E: Yeah, Marco and I are always around to help you and we love to hear about what you're learning and what movies you're watching.

M: Exactly. So, we're out of time today. We'll see you guys next time. Until then it's...

E: Good bye.

M: Bye.

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today with Erica we're bringing you a great lesson about time.

E: We need more of it.

M: We need more time, right?

E: Yeah.

M: So, we're gonna be teaching you how you can ask for more time.

E: If you're working on a project at work and you can't finish it on time, you have to ask your boss for more time.

M: Right, so, today in our dialogue Casey needs more time to put together a **press kit**.

E: What's a press kit?

M: Good question. A press kit is something the marketing department will put together, basically, pictures, logos, um, all... information about the company.

E: Uhu.

M: So, when a newspaper or a magazine wants to write an article about them, so, they have something already prepared that they could give the newspaper or magazine.

E: Okay.

M: Okay, so, let's listen to our dialogue for the first time and as always it's gonna be at a normal speed, so, it might be a little bit difficult to understand.

E: We'll come back in one minute and tell you about some of the key language.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Alright, so, Casey is in trouble, I think.

E: Yeah, I think her boss is pretty upset.

M: Yeah, well, let's take a look at some of the language that we saw in this dialogue in "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: First word today is **deadline**.

E: Deadline.

M: Deadline.

E: Deadline.

M: So, Erica, what's a deadline?

E: It is the last possible date to do something.

M: So, for example, when we were in school...

E: Uhu.

M: Our teacher would send us homework and say it was for Friday.

E: So, the deadline was Friday.

M: Was Friday.

E: Uhu.

M: Right? Or when you're at work you have projects that you have to finish by a certain date. That's your deadline.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay, let's look at our next word – **extension**.

E: Extension.

M: Extension.

E: Extension.

M: So, extension and deadline go together, right?

E: Exactly, if you can't **reach your deadline** or you can't **make your deadline**, you must ask for an extension.

M: An extension. So, you ask for more time.

E: Yeah, an extension is moving the deadline in the future.

M: Alright, interesting. Let's look at our next word – **ran into**.

E: Ran into.

M: Ran into.

E: Ran into some problems.

M: So, we ran into some problems in this dialogue. Let's listen to some more examples of **run into**, so we can understand the meaning.

Voice: Example one.

A: We've ran into a storm on our way home.

Voice: Example two.

B: If you're not careful now, you're going to run into a lot of problems later.

Voice: Example three.

C: I ran into some trouble with my computer.

M: Okay, good examples, so, it's clear now, right?

E: Right, if you run into problems, you meet some problems.

M: Right. Many students say it in that way "I met some problems".

E: Yeah, but that's wrong.

M: Right. So, you would say "I ran into some problems".

E: Right, "**I met some problems**" is **wrong, wrong, wrong**.

M: Okay, don't say "met some problems".

E: I ran into some problems.

M: I ran into, okay. And our last word for language takeaway – **delayed**.

E: Delayed.

M: Delayed.

E: Delayed.

M: So, when something is delayed, it's...

E: Late.

M: Late.

E: And the opposite is...

M: **On time.**

E: Yeah, so, your flight was delayed.

M: Or your flight was on time.

E: The project was delayed.

M: Or your project was on time.

E: Clear.

M: Alright. So, now let's go back to the dialogue. Let's listen to it again.

E: And this time it'll be a little bit slower, so you can understand some of these phrases we just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, so, there were some really useful phrases that we saw in this dialogue.

E: Yeah, some wonderful phrases that you can use when you want to ask for more time.

M: Okay, so, let's look at these phrases in "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: Alright, what's our first phrase?

E: **I've been meaning to talk to you.**

M: I've been meaning to.

E: I've been meaning to.

M: Okay, we have some really great examples of how you can combine **I've been meaning to** with different **verbs**.

E: Yeah, let's listen.

Voice: Example one.

A: I'm sorry I haven't called you yet; I've been meaning to, but I've been busy.

Voice: Example two.

B: I've been meaning to tell you, but John quit yesterday.

Voice: Example three.

C: I've been meaning to see that film for a while.

M: I've been meaning to go to that restaurant, but I haven't had time.

E: So, you've been wanting to for a long time.

M: Right. I've been thinking about it.

E: Yeah.

M: I've been planning to do it.

E: But you just haven't done it.

M: I haven't done it.

E: Yeah.

M: Maybe because I haven't had time or money.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay. Good phrase.

E: Our next phrase is... **beyond my control.**

M: Beyond my control.

E: It's beyond my control.

M: So, it means that I can't control it.

E: You can't do anything about it.

M: Can't do anything about it. The weather is beyond my control.

E: Right. Or relate with this project: because Jane was sick for one month, it was beyond my control.

M: Okay.

E: Uhu.

M: It wasn't you fault.

E: No.

M: Okay. And our last phrase for fluency builder – **put this off**.

E: Put this off.

M: Put this off.

E: Put this off.

M: So, let's listen to some more examples of **put this off** before we explain the meaning.

Voice: Example one.

A: I've been putting off this project for a week and it's due tomorrow!

Voice: Example two.

B: Can we put off our meeting to next week; I'm too busy right now.

Voice: Example three.

C: I've been putting off my e-mail all day and now I have fifty messages to respond to!

E: So, Marco, when you put something off, you...

M: Leave it for later.

E: Okay.

M: Right? So, maybe I have to write a report today...

E: Uhu.

M: But I'm gonna put it off till tomorrow.

E: So, you're gonna do it tomorrow.

M: I'll do it tomorrow. Okay, so we've seen some great words and some really good phrases, so, now let's listen to our dialogue for the last time and then we'll come back and talk some more.

E: Uhu.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: Well, Marco, do you think that Casey's reasons for being late are good?

M: I think so, because it wasn't really her fault, the whole situation with, uh, photographer and then one of her coworkers was sick for three weeks.

E: Yeah.

M: It's not really her fault, right?

E: Right, but maybe the boss thinks that she's **making excuses**.

M: Yeah, maybe she's making excuses. That's really common like, for example, when we were kids, you would say "oh, you know, my dog ate my homework".

E: Right, but... that... really happened to me once.

M: Hehe. Your dog ate your homework?

E: My cat ate my homework.

M: Your cat ate your homework.

E: Yeah.

M: And what did your teacher say?

E: Well, actually I was a really good student, so, my teacher believed me.

M: Hehe. Well, my teacher wouldn't have believed me.

E: Really?

M: No, no, she would've... she would've called my parents most likely.

E: Yeah, well, my... my cat really did eat my homework. And... I just left it on the table and it chewed it at all.

M: That's weird. Why would your cat do that?

E: I don't know.

M: A lot weir excuses out there.

E: Yeah.

M: I was **abducted** by aliens.

E: Aha.

M: My mom accidentally mailed my homework to Africa.

E: Really?

M: Yeah, that was...

E: Was it happen to you?

M: Creative...

E: Aha.

M: Writing.

E: Oh, Okay.

M: Creative excuses.

E: Well, I wanna hear from our listeners. I wanna know what excuses they've used for being late with something.

M: So, send us your excuses, send us your comments and questions. Go to our website at englishpod.com, where Erica and I are always there to answer you questions.

E: That's right, Marco, and this is an **elementary** lesson, right?

M: Exactly.

E: But we also have **intermediate** and **upper-intermediate** and **advanced** lessons for you more fluent English speakers.

M: Exactly, so, if you're listening to us on **iTunes**, be sure to visit our website and **come see** what else we have to offer.

E: Well, I think we're out of time, but until next time... it's... Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're gonna be talking about a very special topic.

E: That's right. This topic was actually suggested by one of our listeners.

M: Exactly, so, keep those comments coming, because we want to create lessons that you need, that you want.

E: Exactly.

M: So, what are we talking about today?

E: Today's lesson is about applying for a visa.

M: Very, very important topic.

E: Yes, and specifically it's about, uh, visa interview.

M: Exactly, as you all probably know when you apply for a visa, especially for the US...

E: Uhu.

M: You have an interview.

E: Yes.

M: Where you have to answer some questions.

E: Yes.

M: And that's what we're gonna be talking about today. So, before we jump into the dialogue, let's take a look at "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

M: Okay, so, let's talk about visa.

E: Right, a visa, it's not a credit card.

M: No, not Visa or MasterCard.

E: No, so, a visa is an official document that you get in your passport that allows you to travel legally to a country.

M: Exactly, so, with this document you can go into a country.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, so, we have different types of visas. Today, we're gonna be talking about a **B2 visa**.

E: Right, a B2 visa is a tourist visa.

M: A tourist visa.

E: Yeah.

M: This is only for the United States; other countries may have different classifications for their visas, but B2 is for the United States.

E: Right. So, Marco, we use a tourist visa when we want to be a tourist and just travel in the US. What about a resident visa?

M: Well, you can have a temporary resident visa.

E: Uhu.

M: Like, for example, an **F1**.

E: Yep.

M: An F1 is for foreign exchange students.

E: Yeah.

M: Who go and live in the States maybe for a year or do, uh, MBA for two years or three years.

E: Uhu.

M: So, that's an F1 visa. You can also get a **J1 visa**.

E: Yeah.

M: Which is a temporary exchange visitor.

E: Okay.

M: So, it could be to maybe do some temporary work for two or three months and then go back to your country.

E: So, basically a resident visa allows you to live in that country.

M: Yeah, you can live in that country legally for a determine time. Okay, so, let's listen to our dialogue. Where are we gonna be exactly?

E: In this dialogue we're gonna hear two people: a visa officer and a person, who's applying for the visa. Now, the person, who's applying for the visa, has an accent, right?

M: Yes.

E: But this is really good practice for helping you to understand people with different accents.

M: Exactly. So, let's listen to the dialogue and then we'll come back and explain all the great vocabulary.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Alright, what a lucky guy? He applied for a tourist visa and now he is getting a resident visa.

E: Yeah, that's... that's great, but, uh... does this really happen, Marco?

M: No... No, no that would never happen in, ah... at a **consulate**.

E: Okay, well, we can... we can dream that this might happen for us.

M: Yeah, exactly. Alright, let's take a look at the words in "**language takeaway**" today.

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Alright, on language takeaway we have **sponsoring**.

E: Sponsoring.

M: Sponsoring.

E: Sponsoring.

M: So, Erica, what does it mean to sponsor somebody?

E: When you sponsor somebody for a visa, you take care of them and make sure they have enough money.

M: Okay.

E: So, you're... you're the one, who's responsible for all of their expenses and making sure they just have enough money.

M: Okay, so, for example, when I was sixteen I made a trip to another country...

E: Yep.

M: And my parents were my sponsors.

E: So, they took responsibility for your money.

M: Exactly. Okay, let's look at our next word – **invitation letter**.

E: Invitation letter.

M: Invitation letter.

E: Invitation letter.

M: Now, this is a really important part for a visa application.

E: Yes, very important.

M: What is an invitation letter?

E: Well, an invitation letter is a formal letter that a friend or a relative or maybe a business writes to ask you to come to their country.

M: Exactly, so, you're being invited for a specific purpose to the United States.

E: Yeah, and you have to give this letter to the visa officer.

M: Okay, invitation letter. Our next word – **ties**.

E: Ties.

M: Ties.

E: Ties.

M: Looks exactly like **tie**, like the one you wear on your suit.

E: No, not quite the same, though.

M: Hehe. Alright, what are ties?

E: The ties you have to your country are the things that keep you attached to your country.

M: Okay, s...

E: Tha... that make sure you will return to your country.

M: Okay, so, what are some examples of ties?

E: Like, maybe a house or a wife or a child or maybe some money in your bank account.

M: Okay.

E: Or a job even.

M: Okay. Okay, perfect.

E: Yeah, a good way to think of this is imagine like a rope that's attached to you and tying you to your country, to your house, to your job, to your kids.

M: Oaky, so, you can't run away.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay. Okay, that was clear, but let's listen to some more examples of how we would use ties.

Voice: Example one.

A: I sold my house and closed my bank account. I don't have any more ties to my home country.

Voice: Example two.

B: Alvin enjoyed being single. He wasn't ready for the ties of family life.

Voice: Example three.

C: Diplomatic relations have improved and the ties between the two countries are stronger.

M: Alright, it's clear now.

E: Uhu.

M: Let's look at our next word – **financially independent**.

E: Financially independent.

M: Financially independent.

E: Financially independent.

M: So, that means that you don't need anyone.

E: That you have enough money.

M: You have enough money for yourself.

E: Right, so, you don't have to ask your parents to pay for your ticket or pay for your food or whatever.

M: Okay, and our last word for today – **assets**.

E: Assets.

M: Assets.

E: Assets.

M: Okay, so, your assets are kind of like your ties.

E: Right, they're things or value that you own, things that are expensive that you own in your home country.

M: So, it would be a house.

E: Yep.

M: A car.

E: Yeah, maybe stocks.

M: Stocks.

E: Or investments.

M: Okay, so, all of those things are your assets.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, so, we've seen a lot of great words and I think it's time for us to listen to our dialogue again. We're gonna slow it down for you.

E: Yeah, this will help you understand it a little bit better.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, today we're not gonna do, uh, a regular toolkit like 'fluency builder' or 'putting it together'.

E: No, we're gonna do something a little bit different today.

M: We're gonna talk about the questions you will probably be asked at an interview for, uh, US visa.

E: Yes.

M: And the useful language that you can use to answer these questions...

E: Uhu.

M: In a good way.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, so, let's take a look at our first question.

Question 1: Where is your final destination and what is the purpose of your trip to the United States? Where is your final destination and what is the purpose of your trip to the United States?

M: So, this is probably gonna be the first question the interviewer's gonna ask you.

E: Yeah, so, Marco, I know you have a lot of experience with US visas. How should we answer this question?

M: Well, it depends on what you're doing, right?

E: Right.

M: So, if you are a tourist, you would say "I'm going on vacation...

E: Uhu.

M: To New York" or anywhere. Also if you're visiting a family member, like in our dialogue, you would say "oh, I'm gonna visit my sister or my brother or

E: Yeah.

M: Or my cousin". If you're applying for a business visa, then you would say "oh, I'm gonna visit a company or..." etcetera.

E: Right.

M: So, you just have to say why you're going to the States.

E: Now, is it important to be really specific?

M: Yeah, the more specific you are, it's probably better. So, if you can name the state and the city where you're going...

E: Yeah.

M: It's much better.

E: Okay. Alright, well, let's listen to our next question.

Question 2: How long do you plan to remain in the United States? How long do you plan to remain in the United States?

M: Okay, so, this is a really important question also, because in your application you have to put how long you plan to stay in the US.

E: Right.

M: It's a pretty straightforward answer, you know, two months, one month, three weeks.

E: Right, but you just have to make sure that your answer matches...

M: What's written in your application form.

E: Yeah.

M: Exactly. Okay, now let's take a look at our last question.

Question 3: Tell me about the ties you have to your home country? Tell me about the ties you have to your home country?

E: Well, I think this is maybe the most important question that they'll ask you, right?

M: Yeah, this is the most important question. This is what the interviewer is most interested in.

E: Okay, so, why is he interested in this?

M: Because he... he has to be sure that you will not become an illegal immigrant to the United States.

E: So, that you will return to your home country.

M: Exactly. He or she has to be convinced that you're gonna return to your home country.

E: So, how can you convince him?

M: Basically by demonstrating your ties.

E: So, showing the things that will pull you back...

M: Exactly.

E: To your home country.

M: So, if you take documents to support this: bank statements, uh, maybe a copy of your mortgage...

E: Yeah, like maybe your wedding certificate.

M: Wedding certificate, I don't now, even a letter from your office, from your job.

E: So, it... that shows that you have to return to your work.

M: The more things you bring the better. Even though, the interviewer might not ask you for... for the documents.

E: Okay, just be... it's better to be safe, right?

M: Exactly.

E: So, come with a huge file full of things.

M: Exactly.

E: Yeah.

M: I've had friends, who've, uh, arrived to the embassy with a huge file of documents and weren't asked to... to show any of the documents.

E: Right.

M: But other interviewers will maybe ask for it. Okay, so, now let's listen to the dialogue again.

E: And you'll hear how our traveler answers these questions.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Well, I hope this was a useful lesson for all our listeners, because I'm sure that on one point or another, ah, in the future you're going to apply for a visa.

E: Uhu.

M: So, now you know all the language that you need to more or less answer all these questions that you're gonna be asked.

E: Yes, and, Marco, I'm sure that people have already applied for visas for the US, right?

M: Probably, yeah.

E: And I wanna hear from our users any stories that they have about applying for a visa.

M: Yeah, that would be great. I know that I have some stories to share on the comments board.

E: Uhu.

M: And, uh, we want to hear your questions and comments and any suggestions.

E: So, visit our website at englishpod.com and Marco and I will be there to respond to you and answer your questions. Well, everyone, thanks for listening and until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And we're bringing you another great **elementary** lesson for all our elementary learners.

E: You know what, Marco, I think this lesson is so useful. This is language that you can actually use every single day.

M: Exactly, everyday. Exactly, because today we're gonna be teaching you **small talk**.

E: So, what is small talk?

M: Well, small talk is small conversation that you would have with people that you don't know very well, but you still wanna be polite...

E: Yes!

M: Right? And you want to maybe... just... chat a little bit. Okay, so, let's listen to our dialogue and as always it's gonna be a little bit fast, but don't worry about it.

E: Cause we'll come back in a minute and help you with some of the difficult language.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, I think this guy was a little bit annoying.

E: Yeah, Mr. Anderson really didn't wanna talk to him, did he?

M: Yeah, I think that was pretty obvious, he left the elevator **in a hurry**. Okay, let's take a look at our language today in "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Alright, what do we have today in language takeaway?

E: Well, we've got four words and phrases and our first one is **barely even**.

M: Barely even.

E: Barely even.

M: So, how do we use barely even? It's a little bit difficult.

E: It's really similar to like **almost couldn't** or **almost nothing** or **almost can't**. So, we use it usually in a negative sense. For example, I could say "I was so busy today I could barely even eat my lunch".

M: Okay, so, I can maybe say "it was so dark I could barely even see".

E: Yeah!

M: Okay.

E: Yeah, or "I'm so poor I can barely even pay my rent".

M: Okay, good. Barely even.

E: Uhu.

M: Alright, let's take a look at our next one - **catch**.

E: Catch.

M: Catch.

E: Did you catch the news?

M: So, by **did you catch the news** you mean **did you hear the news**.

E: Exactly. So, how else can we use this, **did you catch**?

M: A really common one is "I didn't **catch** your name".

E: Yeah, I didn't hear you name.

M: I didn't hear you name.

E: Yeah. Yeah, and we can also say "I didn't catch what he said".

M: I didn't catch what he said, yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: So, I didn't hear.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay. Let's look at our next word - **by the way**.

E: By the way.

M: By the way.

E: By the way.

M: Okay, so, let's listen to some examples first of how we can **by the way** and then we'll come back and talk more about it.

Voice: Example one.

A: Are you going to be at the meeting today?

B: Yeah, I'll be there. Oh, by the way, did you hear what happened today?

Voice: Example two.

C: By the way, I almost forgot to tell you, Maggie called.

E: Okay, so, I see that when we say **by the way**, um, we're introducing a point after we've already talked about something.

M: Exactly. And maybe it's not even related to the topic we were talking about.

E: No, it's a different topic.

M: Different topic, right?

E: It's like saying "oh, I almost forgot to tell you".

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: So, it's like "oh, Erica, don't forget we have a meeting today, oh, and by the way, I like your new haircut".

E: Thanks, Marco.

M: Alright, see?

E: Yeah.

M: That's the way you would use **by the way**. Okay and our last word on language takeaway - **take the stairs**.

E: Take the stairs.

M: Take the stairs.

E: Take the stairs.

M: So, does it mean you're gonna take them somewhere ???

E: No, no, you... No, you're not taking them home with you.

M: Hehe. It means you're gonna go up the stairs.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, so, take the stairs.

E: Yes, and a lot of people might say **use the stairs** or **go up the stairs**, but our **EnglishPod** learners, they know, right?

M: To use **take the stairs**.

E: Yep.

M: Take the stairs. Okay, so now we're ready to listen to our dialogue again. We're gonna slow it down a little bit.

E: And this will help you to catch these phrases a little bit better.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, so, now let's take a look at ways to start up some small talk in "**putting it together**".

Voice: Putting it together.

E: So, Marco, today we've got some great **patterns** or **structures** that you can use, uh, in s... in your small talk.

M: Yeah, exactly, we saw some great patterns. Let's start with the first one. **It sure is cold** this morning.

E: It sure is cold.

M: It sure is cold.

E: It sure is cold.

M: Okay, so, we can change it up a little bit and say **it sure is hot**.

E: Uhu, or **it sure is late**.

M: Okay, **this sure is interesting**.

E: Uhu, or you could say **he sure is smart**.

M: So, basically, you can change the **adjective**.

E: Yes.

M: Cold, hot, smart, hard...

E: Yeah.

M: ...difficult.

E: And when you say **sure is**, uh, this is a great way of emphasizing that you believe this **adjective** to be true.

M: Okay, **sure is**. Now, what would be the answer to this?

E: Well, in the dialogue, uh, Mr. Anderson said **yeah, it's pretty cold, alright**.

M: It's pretty cold, alright.

E: It's pretty cold, alright.

M: So, again, using the examples we used before we can say **oh, it's pretty hot, alright**.

E: Uhu, or **it's pretty late, alright**.

M: Or **he's pretty smart, alright**.

E: Uhu, or **this is pretty interesting, alright**.

M: So, it means you're agreeing with that person.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay, great.

E: So, Marco, these things **it sure is blank** and **yeah, it's blank, alright**. These can go together really well, can't they?

M: Yeah, as a question and answer format.

E: Uhu.

M: They go well.

E: So, why don't we listen to some examples of how these two phrases work together?

Voice: Example one.

A: It sure is a nice day today.

B: Yeah. It's nice, alright.

Voice: Example two.

C: The bus is sure late today.

D: Yeah. It's late, alright.

Voice: Example three.

E: This class is really hard.

F: Yeah. It's hard, alright.

M: Okay, so, now let's take a look at our next word in putting it together. **Did you happen to?**

E: Did you happen to?

M: Did you happen to?

E: Did you happen to?

M: Did you happen to see Bob this morning?

E: I didn't happen to see Bob.

M: Hehe. So, it means like...

E: Like did you **by chance**.

M: By chance. Did you by chance see Bob...

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: ...or something.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, another example would be "did you happen to go to that restaurant I recommended?"

E: Mm, or maybe "do you happen to have a pen?"

M: "Do you happen to know where the bathroom is?"

E: Yeah, that's a really useful one.

M: That's a v... useful one. That's basically how you would use this structure. **Did you happen to. Do you happen to.** So, now let's listen to our dialogue for the third time and I'm sure that you'll be able to understand everything.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: Alright, Marco, that was a really useful dialogue for daily life, wasn't it?

M: Yeah, I think you can find a lot of useful language there...

E: Uhu.

M: And that you can apply tomorrow.

E: Yeah. Well, **speaking of** useful things, let's talk a little bit about our website.

M: Yeah, **be sure to** go to our website at [englishpod.com](https://www.englishpod.com) where you can find other lessons as well. Maybe you're an **intermediate** student or **advanced**.

E: Yes! So, we've got **intermediate, advanced, upper-intermediate** lessons on our website.

M: And a lot of other resources that you can explore. So, be sure to come to our website and leave all your comments, because Erica and I are always there and we're really happy to answer all of your questions.

E: Okay, everyone! Well, we're out of time, but until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're bringing you **part four** of our romantic series called **I'm Sorry, I Love You**.

E: Yeah, and today we've got some drama, don't we?

M: We got a lot of drama and we got a lot of useful language.

E: Yeah, we're gonna learn, um, some phrases we can use to describe a mistake.

M: Uhu.

E: And, uh, we're also going to learn how we can **comfort someone**, we can make them feel better.

M: Okay, exactly, so, in our dialogue today Veronica and her boyfriend are **on a break**.

E: Right.

M: So, what does it mean to be on a break?

E: Well, it means you stop having a romantic relationship for a short time.

M: So, you can say "We are on a break".

E: So, we're not dating.

M: We're not dating.

E: But...

M: Oh...

E: We don't date.

M: Oh... Hehe. Or we could say "Let's take a break".

E: Right, so, we've got this state **on a break** and the action **take a break**.

M: Take a break.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, let's take a break. Okay, so, let's listen to our dialogue and it's gonna be a little bit fast and the girl, I think, she's crying, so, it'll be a little bit difficult to understand.

E: But Marco and I will come back in a minute and we'll talk about some of the difficult language here.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Wow, that's a romantic boyfriend singing in the street.

E: Yeah, yeah, that's amazing. Have you... Have you ever done that for a girl?

M: Uh... no. Hehe.

E: Hehe. Well, have you... have you ever sung to a girl on **KTV**.

M: I've sung to a girl on KTV.

E: And karaoke.

M: Karaoke, yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: So, but not so much as on... on the street with all the neighbors coming out to see me.

E: Well, okay, well, I don't blame you.

M: Hehe. Alright, let's take a look at the language that we saw in our dialogue on "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Alright, so, let's take a look at our first word – **seeing** someone.

E: Seeing someone.

M: Seeing someone.

E: Seeing someone.

M: So, if I'm seeing someone...

E: You're dating them.

M: I'm dating them.

E: Yeah.

M: I'm frequently **going out** with that person.

E: Right.

M: So, but it's not very serious.

E: N... No... it is serious.

M: But not really, it's more of a casual thing. It's not very exclusive.

E: So... So, if you're seeing someone, then you can also s... see another person.

M: Maybe.

E: Hm.

M: Hehe.

E: Well, I think sometimes seeing someone can mean actually they're your boyfriend or girlfriend. Like, I'm seeing John, he is my boyfriend.

M: Okay, yeah, see, this is the difficult thing about seeing someone is that for some people it means it's really serious, while for other people it means it's more casual.

E: I guess it's important that you and your boyfriend or girlfriend share the same view on the meaning of this word.

M: Alright. Have to agree on what seeing someone means.

E: Okay, well, what's our next word, Marco?

M: **Cheating on.**

E: Cheating on someone.

M: Cheating on me.

E: Cheating on someone.

M: Okay, so, if you're cheating on someone...

E: Then you are like kissing or even having sex with someone, who's not your boyfriend or your husband, or your girlfriend or your wife.

M: Exactly, so...

E: Yeah.

M: If I say "She **cheated on** me"...

E: Uhu.

M: That means that my girlfriend kissed or had sex with another guy.

E: Right.

M: But if I say "She **cheated** me"...

E: Yeah, that's different.

M: That's different, right?

E: It's different. Maybe she sold you something for a really high price.

M: She cheated me.

E: Yeah.

M: Or maybe she sold me something that was fake.

E: Or, yeah... or broken or something.

M: Or broken.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, so...

E: So, **cheated on** is really different from **cheated**.

M: Okay, let's take a look at our next word – **messed this up**.

E: Messed this up.

M: Messed this up.

E: Messed this up. So, Marco, this is a **phrasal verb**, um, and that means we can sort of switch it around a little bit, right?

M: Exactly, why don't we listen to some examples and then we can come back and talk some more.

Voice: Example one.

A: I messed up on *the examen and now I passed* my class.

Voice: Example two.

B: When I'm cooking I always mess up and burn the rice.

M: Okay, so, messed up, it's pretty clear I think.

E: Yeah.

M: Alright, let's take a look at our next word – **amateur**.

E: Amateur.

M: Amateur.

E: Amateur.

M: So, when someone is amateur...

E: They're acting really young.

M: Really young, right?

E: Yeah.

M: But it's not a very good thing to be amateur.

E: No, it's... it has a negative meaning.

M: Right, it's normal for children to be amateur.

E: Cause they're children.

M: Right, but not an adult.

E: Yes.

M: Okay.

E: So, we've got some examples that will help you to understand this word a little bit better.

Voice: Example one.

A: Your toilet jokes are not funny. Stop being so amateur.

Voice: Example two.

B: Jenny acts like she's sixteen. She's so amateur.

Voice: Example three.

C: God, you and your friends always act so amateur.

M: Alright, so, amateur. Now, let's take a look at our next word – **selfish**.

E: Selfish.

M: Selfish.

E: Selfish.

M: So, a selfish person...

E: Is a person, who only thinks about themselves.

M: Okay, so, I only think about me.

E: Uhu.

M: No one else.

E: Yeah, you don't care about other people's feelings.

M: Okay. So, it's not a good thing to be amateur or selfish.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay, so, I think it's time for us to listen to our dialogue again. We're gonna slow it down a little bit.

E: And this will help you to understand these phrases a little bit more clearly.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, so, we saw Veronica's friend trying to **calm her down**, right?

E: Yeah, trying to comfort her.

M: Okay, to make her feel better.

E: Uhu.

M: Let's take a look at some of the phrases she used in "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: Okay, so, what was the first phrase that she said?

E: **Everything is going to work out just fine.**

M: Everything is going to work out just fine.

E: Everything is gonna work out just fine.

M: What does that mean?

E: It's going to be okay.

M: It's going to be okay, right?

E: Yeah, the problem will be solved.

M: Okay, so, if somebody's worried or somebody is crying, you...

E: Yeah.

M: You can say "Oh, don't worry, everything is going to work out just fine".

E: Uhu.

M: Okay. Okay, let's look at the next one - **pull yourself together.**

E: Pull yourself together.

M: Pull yourself together.

E: Pull yourself together.

M: So, what does that mean, exactly? It sounds kind of weird.

E: I know, I guess it... it just means stop crying, relax and, you know, take a deep breath.

M: Okay. Just like calm down.

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: Get organized.

E: Yeah-yeah-yeah.

M: With your ideas and your thoughts.

E: Yeah. So, you can think of maybe somebody, who's got tears down their face and everything is sort of **in a mess**.

M: Uhu.

E: If you pull it together, they clean up and they...

M: Okay.

E: They sort of relax, right?

M: Okay. Pull yourself together.

E: Uhu.

M: Alright, and the last phrase that we saw – **it's going to be alright**.

E: It's going to be alright.

M: It's going to be alright.

E: It's going to be alright.

M: So, it's going to be alright means everything is going to be okay.

E: Yeah, it's going to be fine.

M: It's going to be fine.

E: The problem will go away.

M: You...

E: You'll feel better.

M: Maybe you can even say "It'll be alright".

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: It'll be alright.

E: Yeah. These are three really helpful phrases that you can use when you wanna say something nice to a friend or a colleague, who... who has a problem.

M: Okay, exactly, very useful language. So, let's listen to some more examples.

Voice: Example one.

A: Don't worry, everything is going to work out just fine. I'm sure he still loves you.

Voice: Example two.

B: Everything is gonna be alright. We'll find your puppy. Don't worry!

M: Okay, great examples and I think it's clear now.

E: Uhu.

M: So, let's listen to our dialogue again and then we'll come back and talk some more.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Okay, I really like this dialogue. It's so romantic.

E: Yeah.

M: It's drama, but at the same time romantic.

E: Uhu.

M: So, we want to know what you think will happen next?

E: Yeah, will they get back together?

M: Will they get married?

E: Will they have a baby?

M: Maybe they'll break up for ever.

E: Maybe she'll **move halfway across the world**.

M: Hehe. Anything can happen, so, let us know what you think will happen.

E: Uhu, come to our website at englishpod.com and leave your comments on the lesson page.

M: Exactly, and maybe you'll be right.

E: Yeah, you never know.

M: Okay. So, we're out of time for today. I hope you guys had fun and we'll see you next time. Until then it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello everyone! Welcome to another great lesson with us here at **EnglishPod**. My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're gonna be talking about an **ER**, an **emergency room**.

E: Exactly, we're bringing you our very own ER drama here at **EnglishPod**.

M: Yeah, doctor shows are very popular with people. Medical terms and **all that stuff**.

E: Yeah, so, we're gonna teach you some words that you might hear commonly in, uh, medical shows on TV or in movies. Um, this is really common language in television.

M: Or even in at a hospital, right?

E: Well, yeah! But... But let's hope our listeners don't have to face this.

M: Okay, so, let's preview some words in "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary Preview.

M: Alright, so, what's our first word?

E: Okay, the first word is **CPR**.

M: CPR.

E: CPR.

M: So, that's pretty easy. What does that mean?

E: Um, well, it... It's **short** for **Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation**.

M: Okay.

E: Uh, that means anything to you?

M: Hehe. Well, **cardio** is related to the heart.

E: Aha

M: **Pulmonary** refers to the lungs.

E: Yep!

M: **Resuscitation** means to come back to life.

E: Yes! So, basically, CPS is... Um, you know, when someone stops breathing...

M: Uhu.

E: You put your mouth on their mouth and you breathe inside their lungs.

M: Okay, to give them air.

E: Ex... Yeah.

M: Okay.

E: So, CPR.

M: That's CPR, okay. So, let's take a look at our next word - **BP**.

E: BP.

M: So, BP is **short** for...

E: **Blood Pressure**.

M: Blood pressure.

E: Yeah.

M: That's just the way that doctors use it in the emergency room.

E: Exactly, pretty simple.

M: Okay, so blood pressure. And our last word - **Acute Respiratory Failure**.

E: Acute Respiratory Failure.

M: So, what is that exactly? It sounds complicated.

E: Um, basically, it's really serious... that you stop breathing.

M: You stop breathing.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay. So, if you going to Acute Respiratory Failure then the doctor or somebody has to perform **CPR**.

E: Right!

M: Alright, cool. Okay, so, we've... So, we've previewed these three great words, now let's listen to our dialogue for the first time. It's gonna be really fast and you gonna have a lot of drama in it, so, uh, don't worry if you don't understand everything.

E: Yeah, we're gonna come back and teach you some of the important language.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Wow! So much drama over a little **hamster**.

E: Yeah, a little pet, hey?

M: A little pet, the little hamster.

E: Well, um, you know what, **I can relate to** this owner and, um, I'm gonna tell you a little bit more about that later.

M: Yeah, I know you have a really good story about this.

E: Yeah, but in **the mean time**, let's look at some great language in "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Alright, so, let's take a look at our first word - **intubate**.

E: Intubate.

M: Intubate.

E: Intubate.

M: So, this is a medical procedure.

E: Exactly! Um, when a patient can't breathe properly sometimes the doctor takes a log tube...

M: Uhu.

E: And puts it in to their mouth, um, and down their pipes, I guess, down their breathing tube...

M: Right.

E: So that they can breathe better.

M: Okay, so, that's to intubate.

E: Yes.

M: Okay, so, once they've intubated the patient, they start to **bag him**.

E: Yeah, bag him.

M: Bag him.

E: Bag him.

M: Does that mean they like put a bag over that person's head or something?

E: No, no, no, no, no... So, there is a bag attached to this intubation tube and you squeeze it to put air into the lungs.

M: Okay, so, you squeeze this bag and it puts air...

E: Yeah.

M: Through the tube.

E: I think this is just medical slang.

M: Yeah, I guess, bag him...???

E: Yeah, but you hear it all the time on TV, so...

M: Right.

E: It's important our listeners know it.

M: Okay. Let's look at our next word - **critical condition**.

E: Critical condition.

M: Critical condition.

E: The patient's in critical condition.

M: This condition means it's serious.

E: Right, if a patient is in critical condition, um, they're either really really hurt, um, or really really sick and they could die pretty soon.

M: Okay. So, you don't want to be in critical condition.

E: No.

M: Let's take a look at our next word - **stabilize**.

E: Stabilize.

M: Stabilize.

E: Stabilize.

M: So, when the doctors stabilize a patient they take that patient out of danger.

E: Exactly! When a patient is stabilized, um, they probably won't die in five minutes.

M: Okay.

E: But they could still be really sick. They could be in critical condition, right?

M: But it's under control.

E: Exactly!

M: Okay.

E: Yeah.

M: Stabilize.

E: Uhu.

M: Let's look at our last word - **ICU**.

E: ICU.

M: ICU.

E: **Intensive Care Unit**.

M: Okay, that's what it means.

E: Uhu.

M: Intensive care unit.

E: Yep.

M: So, that's a place where patients who are in critical condition are taken.

E: Right.

M: So, what's the difference between ICU and a regular room?

E: Well, I don't know I've never been in one.

M: Hehe.

E: Um, but I think like patients are monitored, ah, regularly and I think there's, you know, maybe more... maybe there're... uh, more nurses and fewer patients, so, there's just a higher level of care.

M: A higher level of care.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay. Okay, so, it's time for us to listen to our dialogue again. Now try to catch all of these medical terms that we've just talked about and then we'll come back and explain a few phrases.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME

M: Okay, so, there're some really good **phrasal verbs** in this dialogue.

E: Yeah, a couple of good phrasal verbs.

M: Okay, so, let's take a look at these phrasal verbs in "**putting it together**".

Voice: Putting it together.

M: Alright, so, what's our first phrasal verb today?

E: **Hook up.**

M: Hook up.

E: Hook up.

M: So, to hook up.

E: So, when we... When we talk about hooking something up, um, we are usually talking about electronics. Right, Marco?

M: Yeah, you usually hook up your TV...

E: Yeah.

M: Or your computer.

E: Yeah.

M: So, why don't we listen to some examples of how we would use **hook up**?

Voice: Example one.

A: I finally got a Nintendo V. Come on, help me hook it up to the TV.

Voice: Example two.

B: I don't know how to hook up this new DVD-player. Can you help me?

Voice: Example three.

C: I just hooked up my new HDTV. Wanna come over and watch a movie?

E: Great, so, you can see that there're few different, um, variations of this **pattern** here with the word **hook up**, because it's a **phrasal verb**.

M: Exactly.

E: And I think the same patterns could apply to our next phrasal verb.

M: **Hold still**.

E: Hold still.

M: Hold still.

E: Hold still.

M: So the doctor needed the patient to hold still.

E: Right, to stop moving.

M: Stop moving, exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, let's listen to some more examples of **hold still** because again it's a really great phrasal verb that you can change up a little bit.

Voice: Example one.

A: If you don't hold still, I can't see if you have something in your eye.

Voice: Example two.

B: Hold still while she cuts your hair or else she might make a mistake.

Voice: Example three.

C: Hold still! You have a bee on your back!

M: Okay, hold still. Great word.

E: Yep.

M: Hehe.

E: Alright, one final phrase for you - **out of the woods**.

M: Out of the woods.

E: Outta the woods.

M: Out of the woods.

E: So, when someone's out of the woods, they're...

M: Free from danger.

E: Aha, safe.

M: Okay, safe.

E: Yeah.

M: I guess it's kind of a **saying**.

E: Yeah.

M: Like "I'm out of the woods".

E: Yeah.

M: I'm...

E: Yeah.

M: I'm free. I'm... I'm safe.

E: I guess there're two variance of this phrase. We can say "I'm out of the woods" or "we're out of the woods" OR "I guess we're not out of the woods yet".

M: Aha.

E: Yep.

M: So, okay. Out of the woods.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, so, now it's time for us to listen to our dialogue again and when we come back Erica's gonna tell us about her ER story.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Okay, Erica, so, what happened? What emergency did you have?

E: Well, it was with my cat.

M: Your cat.

E: Yes! I had some people over for diner and, uh, it was maybe 1.30 in the morning.

M: Uhu.

M: And I went downstairs to let them out, um, and show them where the taxies were. And then I came up and I saw that the cat was gone, um, and it turned out that the cat fell out of the window.

M: Fell out of the window.

E: Yeah!

M: Alright, but our listeners have to know what story... what floor do you live on.

E: Uh, the twentieth floor.

M: The twentieth.

E: Yeah! So, this is really dangerous, right?

M: That's really **high up**.

E: Yeah, um... So, I went outside and I was calling for my cat and it was like "Mr. Thin, where are you?"

M: How did you know he fell out?

E: I just knew.

M: Yeah?

E: Yeah.

M: Mother's instinct.

E: I guess so. And...

M: Uhm.

E: So, he was... he was calling back to me and I saw and picked him up and brought him into the house and... **then we did** bring him to the Vet and it was, you know, 2:30 – 3:00 in the morning at this time and the Vet was like not very happy that he... we woke 'em up out of bed.

M: Hehe. But that was a really good emergency though.

E: Yeah, so anyway, um, we brought him to the Vet. He was in critical condition for a couple of days.

M: Uhu.

E: Um, and then we had to keep him in the Vet.. uh, the Vet's ICU for about a week.

M: Oh.

E: Uh, he broke his back. He broke his... two of his legs, um...

M: Wow!

E: Yeah, and, so, he was in the hospital for three weeks and then at home, um, **on bed rest** for another three weeks, but...

M: Wow!

E: Now he's **good as new**.

M: Good as new.

E: Yeah.

M: He **used up** one of his, uh, seven lives.

E: Yes.

M: Nine lives.

E: Nine? Nine, yeah.

M: I don't know.

E: Um, I think maybe eight of his nine lives.

M: Eight? He's only one... got one left.

E: Yeah.

M: Wow! That's an interesting story. I guess that's the inspiration under this dialogue.

E: Exactly.

M: Hehe.

E: Sometimes, uh, we **anglos** really treats our cats and our hamsters and our dogs like they are children.

M: Yeah, yeah. No, that's good.

E: Yeah.

M: Well, I'm glad Mr. Thin is okay and he is walking and good as new.

E: Yep, good as new.

M: So, maybe our users have some stories about, uh, their pets...

E: Yes.

M: Being taken to the hospital.

E: I wanna hear.

M: Yeah, that should be interesting. I've never had a pet actually break a leg or anything, so... don't have any pet stories this time. But, we wanna hear what you think, so, come to englishpod.com, leave all your questions and comments and your stories.

E: Yes.

M: And we'll be there to answer them.

E: Well, guys, thanks for listening and until next time...

M: Good bye!

E: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And we're bringing you a very **advanced** lesson today.

E: That's right. Um, we're talking about another business topic, aren't we?

M: It's a topic that's kind of popular these days all about efficiency and reducing costs. So, we're gonna be talking about the **just-in-time** philosophy.

E: Um, I don't know much about this philosophy, uh, so **good thing** we've got Marco here.

M: Hehe. Well, what we're gonna be looking at is not really **in-depth**. We're just gonna be looking at some basic points of what a just-in-time philosophy would be like in a company.

E: Uhu, but what we're really gonna be looking at is the language to do with this philosophy, right?

M: Exactly. We're gonna be looking at some, uh, technical terms, some, uh... and some other useful phrases that you can use when you're talking in a **business setting**.

E: Okay, well, why don't we get started with the language then?

M: Okay, let's take a look at "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

M: On vocabulary preview today we have the word **lead time**.

E: Lead time.

M: Lead time.

E: L-E-A-D. Lead. Lead time.

M: Right, like lead. This is something that factories usually would use.

E: Yep, yeah. I guess lead time is the time in between point A and point B in a production schedule, right?

M: Right, so, you could have, for example, **production lead time**.

E: So, that's the time between when you make an order, um, and when the... the product is finished.

M: Exactly. And you could also have **delivery lead time**.

E: So, the time between when you place an order and when, uh, the product gets delivered to you.

M: So, depending on the companies you have differently time. **Some are** three days, **other are** five days...

E: Yeah.

M: **Other are** forty five days.

E: Hm, and we at **EnglishPod** have a two-week lead-time for our... our podcast, right?

M: But our delivery lead time is every other day.

E: That's true.

M: Nice. Okay, that's all we're gonna be previewing today. So, why don't we just listen to the dialogue and then we'll come back and explain some of these, uh, tricky vocabulary words that we'll see.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, so, they're gonna implement **just-in-time** in their company.

E: Yes! Yeah, I guess they're putting in some... some cost control measures. So... so, Marco, there's some great language **in here**, um, why don't we look at it now in "**language takeaway**"?

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Okay, the first word today - **redundancies**.

E: Redundancies.

M: Redundancies.

E: Redundancies.

M: So, this is kind of a strange word, because usually a redundancy is when you're speaking, right?

E: Um, yeah, maybe when you... you say something that's already been said.

M: Exactly, you say something that has already been said, but we also use it in the business world.

E: Right, and it comes from the base word **redundant**, right?

M: Okay.

E: Um, meaning "extra", more than what's needed.

M: Okay.

E: So, when a person or position is made redundant, um, basically it means they get **laid off**, right?

M: Right, so, redundancies are a **synonym** of... of layoffs.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay.

E: Yep.

M: Alright, let's take a look at our next word - **workstations**.

E: Workstations.

M: Workstations.

E: Workstations.

M: So, workstation could be anything from your desk...

E: Yeah, or maybe a **workbench**.

M: A workbench.

E: Or even a place on a production line.

M: Right, so, your, uh... uh, certain machine or something like that.

E: Yeah, so, basically, a workstation is the area where you work.

M: Okay. Okay, so, you can say "can we get a new **workstation** for the new team member?"

E: Uhu. Or I could say, um, "I wanna move my **workstation** closer to my employees".

M: Alright, so, workstation.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, let's take a look at our next word - **at a given machine**.

E: At a given machine.

M: At a given.

E: At a given.

M: This is an interesting way to say "at **any** machine"?

E: Exactly, um...

M: Okay.

E: Yeah, given here is operating exactly the same as... here the word **given** is operating exactly the same way as **any**.

M: As any.

E: Yep.

M: Okay, so, let's listen to some examples of... of how we can change it up a little bit and we can use this **given** word.

Voice: Example one.

A: In this factory how many cars are in production at any given time?

Voice: Example two.

B: On any given day about forty million people use the Internet.

Voice: Example three.

C: Firefighters have to be ready to attend an emergency at any given moment.

M: Alright, so, any given time, at any given moment.

E: Yep. Um, any given day.

M: Okay, now let's take a look at our last word today - **defective**.

E: Defective.

M: Defective.

E: Defective.

M: So, if something is defective...

E: It has a problem with it.

M: It has a problem.

E: Yeah.

M: We can say **defective** is an **adjective**.

E: Right, and the **noun** is **defect**.

M: Defect.

E: Yep.

M: So, if something has a defect it is defective.

E: Right, so, for example, maybe you produce chairs and... and you... you make one and this chair is missing a wheel.

M: Okay, so, it's defective.

E: Yes! The defect is the missing wheel.

M: The defect is the mi... Okay.

E: Uhu.

M: So, before we listen to our dialogue again, I wanna take a look at this phrase **I'm with you on this one**.

E: I'm with you on this one.

M: I'm with you on this one.

E: I'm with you on this one.

M: So, what does that... what does that mean exactly? I'm with you on this one.

E: I... I agree with you.

M: I agree with you on this point.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay. So if you agree with somebody on s... on a certain point you would say "oh, I'm with you on this one", I agree with you.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay. So, now let's listen to our dialogue again and, uh, we'll come back and talk a little bit more about the history of this **just-in-time**.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME

E: Alright, so, Marco, I mentioned at the beginning of the lesson that I don't know much about **just-in-time**.

M: Uhu.

E: Um, but luckily you do, right?

M: Hehe. Yeah. I... I know a little bit about it.

E: So... So, tell me a little bit about where this philosophy came from. What are the origins of this idea?

M: It actually became really popular with Toyota and it was called the Toyota Production System.

E: Uhu.

M: So, many people think it's Japanese but in reality the Japanese got it from the United States. It's a philosophy that was **thought up** by Ford Motor Company...

E: Yep.

M: In order to improve their production line, but when the Japanese visited Ford Motor Company it wasn't fully implemented yet.

E: Uhu.

M: And, **oddly enough**, they found this philosophy working already in a Piggly Wiggly.

E: What's a Piggly Wiggly?

M: Piggly Wiggly was a chain of, uh... of grocery stores in the United States.

E: Okay.

M: Uh, I'm not sure if they're still around, but, um... but, yeah, they were really big and basically Piggly Wiggly was using this to improve their whole system of **shipping** and of **stocking** and everything.

E: Okay, so, how does it work?

M: So, basically, what you try to do is make your processes more efficient, reduce the amount of space you're using, etcetera.

E: Yep.

M: And this was really important for Japanese because, of course, they don't have that much space in Japan to have these huge **warehouses** like in other countries.

E: So, what you're saying is they're producing goods, um, just for the time they need it, right?

M: Exactly, so, trying to not be **overstocked**.

E: Yeah.

M: Or...

E: Or have like a long lead time or something.

M: Long lead times when you have to keep something... in a warehouse.

E: Like in a warehouse, yeah.

M: Exactly.

E: Yeah

M: So, that's why it's so efficient and also it's about improving the efficiency between processes, so, uh, what sometimes called a **bottleneck**. You can have really good processes in the beginning...

E: Hm.

M: But in the end maybe you have only one workstation that's taking all these orders and everything gets **bottled up** and... and it causes delay.

E: It's slow, yeah. So, in the dialogue they want to implement the just-in-time strategy, um, as a way of avoiding redundancies, but it sounds to me like actually this might cause redundancies sometimes.

M: Hehe. Well, yeah, sometimes it does. Sometimes, um... sometimes when you make workstations more efficient or when you make all your processes work more **fluidly**, sometimes **inevitably** you will have to layoff some people that are... that are redundant.

E: Okay. Have you ever worked in a company where they've implemented, uh, just-in-time?

M: No, actually, I've never really worked at a place where this philosophy was working but... uh, I did used to work at a place where we had [six-sigma](#) which is, uh, kind of... which is a little bit similar.

E: Hm.

M: Yeah.

E: Well, I guess we'll need a lesson on six-sigma in the future.

M: Hehe. Yeah, we'll see if we come up with, uh, six-sigma and what it means and it's kind of interesting, but, uh, we wanna hear what you think.

E: Yes! Have you guys worked in a place where, um, they... where they used just-in-time?

M: Exactly. Or if you have any quality control measures or how does your company avoid having defective items or defective services?

E: So, visit our website, uh, [englishpod.com](#) and Marco and I are always around to respond your comments and answer your questions.

M: Exactly, so, until then it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're at a party.

E: Yeah! This is a great, exciting, fun, uh... energetic lesson

M: We're at the biggest party in the world - **carnival in Rio**.

E: Okay, so, Rio, um, this is... this is the name of a city, right?

M: Yeah, this is a city in Brazil called **Rio de Janeiro** (Spanish pronunciation). [NOTE: Rio de Janeiro = River of January]

E: So, **Rio de Janeiro** (English pronunciation).

M: Yeah. Different pronunciations...

E: Yeah...

M: Right?

E: Your sounds a lot more... I don't know... authentic than mine.

M: Hehe. So, for... we sometimes refer to it as **Rio** just to make it shorter.

E: Yeah, I think it's actually the most common way it's referring to in English.

M: Yeah, Rio.

E: Yeah.

M: It's just like if you would say Los Angeles, you would say LA.

E: Yeah, or... yeah, if you're talking about Kuala Lumpur, you might say KL.

M: Yeah.

E: Same idea.

M: Okay, so, we have some words that we're gonna preview before we listen to our dialogue, so let's start with "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

M: Okay, in vocabulary preview we have one word - **Sambadrome**.

E: Sambadrome.

M: Sambadrome.

E: Sambadrome.

M: This is, actually, a building.

E: So, it's... it's a **proper noun**, not... not an... **common noun**.

M: No, it's not really a **common noun**.

E: Yeah.

M: It's a **proper noun**, but it is a bulging.

E: Aha. And... and what happens in this building?

M: Basically, it's very similar to a stadium.

E: Aha.

M: But each end isn't **closed off**. So, you have stands on one side...

E: Yep.

M: And stands on the other and you have like a little street in the middle.

E: Okay.

M: So, you can sit down and you can watch people parade or **walk by** and you can see the dancers and everything.

E: And, so, what is it used for?

M: The Sambadrome is used so, that samba schools can present their... their dances and their dancers and their costumes to judges and all the people that wanna watch them dance samba.

E: Okay. So, you've been using this word a lot.

M: Samba!

E: Samba.

M: Hehe.

E: What... what is this?

M: Samba is a type of dance that Brazil is famous for.

E: Okay.

M: It's, um... it's very fast dance. A lot of, uh, hip movements, a lot of, uh... it's very fast, but it's very very nice and the music is based, uh, with many different type of tropical instruments, so, it's really really fun.

E: Can you samba?

M: I can samba a little bit. Hehe.

E: Alright.

M: It's kind of hard. **It's trickier than what it seems.**

E: Okay, well, we're actually gonna hear some samba music in the dialogue, right?

M: Exactly, we're gonna hear some samba that is actually used during carnivals, so...

E: Okay, so, let's go to Rio now and, uh, listen to some samba.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Alright, what a lucky guy, he got **asked out to** dance by a beautiful Brazilian samba dancer.

E: I know.

M: Hehe. I don't think his wife is very happy though.

E: Well, we've got some language about carnival in Rio, right?

M: Exactly.

E: So, let's look at that now with "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Alright, our first word on language takeaway today - **ticket scalper**.

E: Ticket scalper.

M: Ticket scalper.

E: Ticket scalper.

M: This is actually a job title, I think. Hehe.

E: Hehe. Maybe not a totally legal job title, but...

M: Exactly.

E: So, what does a ticket scalper do?

M: Uh, basically, this person will sell tickets at a higher price to people who don't have tickets.

E: Okay, so, he buys like hundred tickets...

M: Right.

E: And goes and stands outside of the Sambadrome or... or the...

M: Stadium.

E: And he... and he sells them for like twice the price, right?

M: Yeah, exactly. Yeah, that's a ticket scalper. Actually, they... they **come in handy** sometimes, because you wanna go to a concert or something and you don't have tickets. You gotta turn to them, right?

E: Right.

M: Okay, uh... our next word - **prestigious**.

E: Prestigious.

M: Prestigious.

E: Prestigious.

M: This is a very nice word - prestigious.

E: Uhu.

M: Before we explain anything, let's listen to some examples.

Voice: Example one.

A: Harvard University is one of the most prestigious schools in North America.

Voice: Example two.

B: The Academy award is the most prestigious prize an actor can get in the film industry.

Voice: Example three.

C: He worked really hard and now he is a very prestigious heart surgeon.

E: I can see that when... when something is prestigious, it's really **well-respected**, right?

M: It's well-known.

E: Yeah.

M: Well-respected.

E: And you can...

M: Exactly.

E: And... and if you're part of this thing, you can feel a **sense of pride**.

M: Right. **Prestige**.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, now let's take a look at our last word - **float**.

E: Float.

M: Float.

E: Float.

M: Now, and this doesn't mean like to float in water, right?

E: No, this is a **noun**, not a **verb**.

M: It's kind of hard to describe actually.

E: Yeah, it is hard to describe. A f... a float is something that you commonly see in parades.

M: Right. So, it would be like a car...

E: Uhu.

M: But you can't really see the car.

E: No, cause it's covered with decoration.

M: With big decorations and it's made to look like, uh, artificial island.

E: Yeah, or a tree maybe.

M: So, you have people standing on there and dancing or... or waving.

E: Yep.

M: Okay. We'll definitely post a picture of a float, uh, on our comment section, so you could see what a float looks like.

E: Right.

M: Okay, so, now let's listen to our dialogue again. We're gonna slow it down a little bit, so you can understand all of these words we've just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Alright, we're back. So, now, I think we should take a look at some of the phrases.

E: Yeah. Let's go to "**fluency builder**".

M: Alright.

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: So, we have this phrase **once in a lifetime**.

E: Once in a lifetime.

M: Once in a lifetime.

E: Once in a lifetime.

M: So, this is an expression you would use to say that it doesn't happen very often.

E: Yeah, it's a really special event.

M: So, like **a once in a lifetime opportunity**.

E: Or **a once in a lifetime chance**.

M: Okay.

E: Yep.

M: Once in a lifetime. Let's look at our next phrase - **good thing**.

E: Good thing.

M: Good thing.

E: Good thing.

M: So, we have some examples for **good thing**. Why don't we listen to them and then we'll come back.

Voice: Example one.

A: Good thing I studied for my exam. It was really hard.

Voice: Example two.

B: It's a good thing I brought my umbrella. It rained the whole day.

Voice: Example three.

C: It's a good thing that I bought my house before the prices went up.

M: Good think I had money in my wallet.

E: You're happy you had money in your wallet.

M: Okay. And you could also maybe... use it as a negative, right, like... good thing I didn't go.

E: Right. Um, I'm happy I didn't go, because it was terrible.

M: Okay. Good thing.

E: Yep.

M: Alright, now let's take a look at our last word - **no kidding**.

E: No kidding.

M: No kidding.

E: No kidding.

M: Okay, so, many of you probably already know this word **kidding**, right?

E: Yeah, it means joking.

M: Yeah, I'm joking. **Just kidding.**

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, but if I would say no kidding...

E: Um... you're saying like "yeah, I totally agree with you".

M: Right, I agree with you; I know you are...

E: I know you're being serious.

M: I know you're being serious.

E: Yep.

M: I know it's true.

E: Yeah.

M: So, I could say "Wow! This restaurant is really expensive".

E: No kidding.

M: Yeah. So, you would agree as like "yeah, for real".

E: Yep.

M: Alright.

E: So, this term **no kidding** is... is slang, right?

M: It's a little bit informal, yeah.

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: Okay. So, why don't we listen to our dialogue again for the third time and then we'll come back and talk about Brazil!

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: Alright, Marco, so, um... Carnival, it's a Brazilian celebration, right?

M: It's, um... it's very popular in all Latin America.

E: Oh, really?

M: Yeah, but Brazilian carnival is very very special.

E: Okay, so, what are they celebrating?

M: So, basically, it's the beginning of Lent...

E: Uhu.

M: Which is, uh... this period of time in the Catholic religion right before Easter.

E: Right.

M: But carnival in Brazil is very special because of all the dancing and all of this, uh... and costumes and everything.

E: Yeah, well, um... from the dialogue it sounds really wild and crazy, so... so, what happens?

M: Well, it definitely is really amazing and it's just basically a lot of samba music and partying and... and it's really nice and especially to be able to see something so spectacular like hundreds and thousands of dancers in the Sambadrome and... and they're parading down and their costumes and... and in floats... so, it's a very very, uh... it's a very special event.

E: Alright, so, uh... it sounds like a lot of fun, um...

M: Yeah.

E: I wanna hear from our listeners.

M: Yeah, for sure, we have a lot of listeners from Brazil and carnival is not only celebrated in Rio. It's also in São Paulo, in Pernambuco, in Bahia and it's a little bit different in each place, so... so, **it's not just a thing of** Rio. It's just more popular there.

E: Is there a Sambadrome in each city?

M: Yeah, there is a Sambadrome...

E: Really?

M: In São Paulo. Yeah, yeah.

E: Oh, cool.

M: Yeah. Let us know if you've ever been to carnival or how you celebrate it in your home town or in your city.

E: Yeah, come to our website [englishpod.com](https://www.englishpod.com) and leave us your comments all about carnival.

M: Exactly, and everyone be sure to come, because we're gonna post some videos of what samba is like and some photos, so, you can get an idea of this really interesting Brazilian celebration.

E: Okay, everyone. Thanks for listening and until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we're gonna be talking about a really common situation with parents.

E: Yeah, when you're teenager you always need to ask your parents for money, um, ask your parents for the car or ask your parents if you can do something.

M: Exactly and that's what we're gonna be looking at is how you can ask for permission for the car, for money.

E: Right! And these phrases are not only for your parents, right?

M: No, you could use them in your office...

E: Uhu.

M: With your boss or for any situation where you need to ask politely.

E: Yes.

M: Okay. So let's take a look at "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

E: We have one word for you today - **concert**.

M: Concert.

E: Concert.

M: A concert.

E: A concert is an event, right?

M: Yeah.

E: Where people play music.

M: Right. So, you have different types of concerts like a rock concert.

E: They play rock music.

M: Or a pop concert.

E: Yeah, a pop music. Or even a classical music concert.

M: Exactly, where you have people playing violins and pianos.

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: Okay, concert.

E: So, concerts are always for music.

M: Yeah, exactly. They're always for music.

E: Well, with that let's go into our dialogue. Marco, what happens here?

M: Well, basically, we have a teenage girl who needs to go to a concert and is asking her dad for something.

E: Alright, let's listen.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Teenagers, ha?

E: Yeah. They're always asking for something.

M: Yeah, this **brings back memories**, but I'll tell you about that later. Uh, why don't we take a look at the vocabulary in "language takeaway"?

Voice: Language takeaway.

E: Alright, we've got a few interesting words here. Um, the first one - **hottest**.

M: Hottest.

E: Hottest.

M: So, this is the **superlative** of **hot**.

E: Right. So, the hottest guy in school is...

M: The most handsome...

E: Yeah, the most sexy guy in school.

M: Exactly. So, if somebody is hot, they are really attractive.

E: Really **good-looking**.

M: Really good-looking.

E: Um, and...

M: Okay.

E: So, Marco, is this a word that is only used for men?

M: No, it's... you can also use it for women.

E: Um, and what about things?

M: You know, recently with Parris Hilton...

E: Hehe.

M: It's more popular with things like "Wow! I got a new car!", "Wow! That's hot!"

E: Right.

M: Yeah, yeah. Hehe.

E: Um, but I guess we maybe should tell our listeners to be careful with this word.

M: Yeah. You don't really wanna tell somebody "you're hot".

E: No, you...

M: It's not very polite. Hehe.

E: But you... with your friends you can use this word.

M: Exactly, if I'm talking with my friends and I see a girl like... **"Wow! She's hot!"** Okay, that's...

E: But just don't tell her.

M: Yeah, don't go up to her and say "Wow! You're hot!"

E: Okay. Our next word - **most popular**.

M: Most popular.

E: Most popular.

M: Most popular.

E: Another **superlative**.

M: Exactly, and **popular** means...

E: Means having a lot of friends.

M: Exactly, having a lot of friends or being **well-known**.

E: Or **well-liked**.

M: Well-liked.

E: Yep.

M: So... in every school there's always like the most popular guy in school, the most popular girl.

E: Yeah. Were you the most popular guy?

M: Um, not really. Hehe. No, I wasn't the most popular guy, but I wasn't **unpopular**, so...

E: Okay, so, that's the opposite.

M: Yeah. So I was... I was okay.

E: Alright. Our last phrase - **fine then**.

M: Fine then.

E: Fine then.

M: Fine then.

E: The... well, this is a phrase **made up of** two simple words. Why don't we listen to some examples, so we can understand the meaning of these two words together?

Voice: Example one.

A: Fine then! If you won't go with me I'll go by myself.

Voice: Example two.

*B: Fine then! If you want to **break up** I don't care.*

Voice: Example three.

*C: You want to **go out** with your friends? Fine then! Go!*

M: So, you would use this when you agree with somebody, but you're not really happy about it.

E: Yeah. It's like saying "I agree, but I'm really angry".

M: Right. Maybe sometimes because you don't have a choice.

E: Yeah.

M: Right.

E: Yeah.

M: Like a girl. Fine then, uhh. Right?

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: So, even though we have the word fine in there, it's not really a nice thing to say to someone.

E: No... No, this is definitely not one to use with your boss.

M: Right.

E: Yep.

M: Exactly, okay. Okay, let's listen to our dialogue again and then we'll talk about some more phrases.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

E: There's a lot of phrases in this dialogue, um, that we can use to ask for something, right?

M: Exactly, and in a very polite way.

E: Okay. So, we're going to look at three ways of asking for something and the first way is **I was wondering**.

M: I was wondering.

E: I was wondering

M: So, I could say "I was wondering can I borrow your car?"

E: Yep, or "I was wondering can I stay at your house?"

M: Okay. It's a very nice way to ask something.

E: Yeah, it's like to begin a question.

M: To begin, yeah.

E: Uhu.

M: Alright, let's take a look at the next one. And it's basically the same thing. **Do you think I could...**

E: Do you think I could...

M: Do you think I could...

E: Do you think I could...

M: Borrow the car.

E: Yeah.

M: Right.

E: Or, um, do you think I could use your computer?

M: I can say "**I was wondering** can I use your computer"; "**do you think I could** use your computer?"

E: Yep, they mean the same.

M: Right. Now let's look at the last one. **Would you mind?**

E: Would you mind?

M: Would you mind?

E: Would you mind?

M: So, I could say "would you mind holding this for me?"

E: Yep, or "would you mind finishing this report for me?"

M: Now, there's an interesting thing here that you have the **verb** in the **gerund** form, right?

E: Right, the "**-ing** form".

M: Exactly. **Giving, holding.**

E: Yeah.

M: **Finishing.**

E: So, we've got **I was wondering can I do something.**

M: Right.

E: And **would you mind doing something.**

M: Doing something, yeah.

E: Uhu.

M: So, you have the "-ing".

E: Uhu.

M: Be very, very careful... be sure to not say **would you mind to give me.**

E: Right, that's wrong.

M: Right, that's wrong.

E: **Wrong, wrong, wrong.**

M: Wrong, wrong, wrong. So, you would say **would you mind giving me.**

E: Yep.

M: Okay. Let's listen to some more examples of these three phrases.

Voice: Example one.

A: Would you mind cooking dinner tonight? I'll be home late.

Voice: Example two.

B: We were wondering if you could buy the tickets for us.

Voice: Example three.

C: Do you think he can have those reports finished by today?

M: Alright, so, I think it's really clear now.

E: Yep.

M: And it's a very useful way of asking for things. Okay, so let's listen to our dialogue for the third time and then we'll come back and talk a little bit more.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: So, Marco, you said that this dialogue really **brought back some memories** for you.

M: Yeah, my dad was exactly the same way. I would just say "dad?" and he would be like "no".

E: Wow.

M: So, I... He would always **cut me off** before I asked anything.

E: Uh, sounds like a pretty strict guy.

M: Hehe. No, but it was a lot of fun. Sometimes he would just say it just to make me angry or something like that.

E: Like just as a joke.

M: Yeah, exactly.

E: Yeah.

M: But it was difficult to get him to lend me the car, for example.

E: Really?

M: Oh, yeah... I mean he wouldn't just lend me the car and sometimes if he did lend me the car then the next day he would be like "Hey, you need to wash the car" or something like that.

E: Uh, okay, so there's... so you had to **pay him back**.

M: I had to pay him back with something.

E: Yeah. In my family, um, I was always allowed to borrow the car, because we lived really, really far away from the city, so...

M: Ah.

E: There were no buses or subway, but... um, I always had got to borrow the... th... the worst car, you know, the most terrible car.

M: Oh, really?

E: Yeah. Um, which led to so many problems like my car stopping working in the middle of the street, which was never good.

M: Hehe. We did used to live a little bit further away from downtown, but we had a good bus system.

E: Yep.

M: So, it was just be like "take the bus is cheaper", uh... stuff like that, so... So I didn't really get the car that often until I bought my own or... or until I had a motorcycle of my own and then... problem's solved.

E: Alright, well, I wanna know from our listeners, um, what did they ask for from their parents?

M: Exactly. Did you ask for the car? Did you ask for money?

E: Or did you ask for a pony?

M: Did you ask for a pony? I had a friend who had a summer home.

E: Really?

M: So, he would ask for the keys of the summer home.

E: Okay, well, um, come to our website englishpod.com.

M: Exactly, leave your questions and comments. We wanna hear from you. We want to know what you think. And Erica and I are definitely there to answer any doubts.

E: Alright, well, guys, thanks for listening and until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

M: Hello everyone! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And we're bringing you the **third part** of our suspense series of **New guy in town**.

E: That's right. What's gonna happen today?

M: Well, I don't know, there're still so many things that could happen. This guy is kind of weird.

E: I know. Is he a vampire? Or like what's going on?

M: Yeah, and I would like to thank all our listeners for contributing and sending out their ideas of what they think happens in this third part.

E: Yeah, I especially like the story about the rabbit.

M: Yeah, the rabbit. That was a good one.

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: As promised we took the idea of one of our listeners and created the dialogue around it.

E: Yes.

M: And this time it was the contribution of Babardwan.

E: Yeah, he gave us a great idea for this dialogue.

M: Exactly, he gave us a really good idea, so thank you Babar and, um, this one is for you. In this dialogue we're gonna be looking at some hospitality vocabulary.

E: Yeah. Some... some phrases you can use, um, when you welcome someone to your house. Alright, well, um, we've got some language to preview, so, let's turn now to "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

M: On vocabulary preview we have the word **appetite**.

E: Appetite.

M: Appetite.

E: Appetite.

M: So, Erica, tell us about appetite.

E: When you have an appetite, you... you're... you're hungry or you... you have a desire to eat food, right?

M: Alright, so you can have a big appetite, a small appetite.

E: Ugu. Really hungry, a little bit hungry.

M: Okay. Let's look at our next word - **poison**.

E: Poison.

M: Poison.

E: Poison.

M: So, poison could be a noun or a verb.

E: Exactly. So, when you poison someone, um, you put something in their food or maybe in their drink, um, that makes them really sick and maybe even makes them die.

M: Okay, so, **to poison** somebody.

E: Yep, and the noun is actually the thing that you put inside the food or drink.

M: So, usually poison is some sort of chemical substance.

E: Yes.

M: Snakes, for example, have poison.

E: Yeah, in their teeth.

M: Right, so, if you **get bitten by** a snake...

E: You'll get poisoned.

M: You'll get poisoned. Alright, so, let's take a look at our dialogue for the first time and see why we're talking about poison. Then we'll come back and explain some great words.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, so that was unexpected.

E: I know, **Lois**, can you believe it? [NOTE: in the first part her name was Doris]

M: Apparently Lois is helping Armand.

E: I know.

M: Maybe she's a vampire.

E: Alright, well, I really wonder what's going to happen next.

M: Well, see what happens next, but now let's take a look at some of the language in **"language takeaway"**.

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Alright, so we have a couple of words in language takeaway today, let's start off with **pointers**.

E: Pointers.

M: Pointers.

E: Pointers.

M: So, to give somebody pointers...

E: You give them some suggestions.

M: Suggestions or tips.

E: Exactly.

M: Alright. So, suggestions or tips. Let's listen to some examples of how you would use it.

Voice: Example one.

A: I want to dance salsa better. Can you give me a few pointers?

Voice: Example two.

B: I need some pointers on how to be a better manager.

Voice: Example three.

C: Let me give you a few pointers, so you can pass your exam.

M: Alright, so pointers. It's clear now. Let's take a look at our next word - **aroma**.

E: Aroma.

M: Aroma.

E: Aroma. This is a nice, round word, isn't it?

M: Yeah, aroma.

E: Yeah.

M: Well, this word makes you sound really educated.

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: Basically, it means...

E: Smell.

M: Smell.

E: Yep.

M: So, you could say, for example, "this coffee has a great aroma".

E: Or maybe "this perfume has, uh, the aroma of roses and lavender".

M: Nice, okay. Let's take a look at our next word - **bitter**.

E: Bitter.

M: Bitter.

E: B-I-T-T-E-R. Bitter.

M: Okay, bitter. So, bitter is the opposite of...

E: Sweet.

M: Of sweet.

E: So, it's always hard to describe tastes, isn't it?

M: Yeah.

E: But maybe we can... we can say a few foods that are bitter.

M: Okay.

E: So, chocolate, when it has no sugar is bitter.

M: Okay. Or, for example, coffee without any sugar is also bitter.

E: Yeah, and... sometimes red wine can be quite bitter.

M: Uhu.

E: Uhu.

M: So, bitter. Okay, now let's take a look at our last word - **pass out**.

E: Pass out.

M: Pass out.

E: Pass out.

M: It seems kind of easy. Pass...

E: Uhu.

M: And out.

E: Yep.

M: But it means something different.

E: Yeah, when you put them together.

M: What does it mean?

E: Um, it means **faint** or **become unconscious**.

M: Okay.

E: So, imagine someone... when, you know, they're... they're standing up and then suddenly they start to move around and then **fall over** to the ground.

M: Okay, pass out.

E: Yes.

M: This usually happens when you get really really drunk.

E: Maybe... sometimes also when... maybe you're pregnant you might pass out.

M: Right. Okay, to lose **consciousness**.

E: Yes. Marco and I have a couple of examples of this word for you.

Voice: Example one.

A: I drank so much last night that I passed out at my friend's house.

Voice: Example two.

B: She was standing in the sun too long, so she passed out right in front of me.

Voice: Example three.

C: My sister passes out whenever she sees blood.

M: Alright, so, let's listen to our dialogue again. Now we're gonna slow it down a little bit.

E: And you'll be able to hear these words that we just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Alright, so, interesting story.

E: Yes.

M: We have some great phrases that we've used here, so, let's take a look at them in "**fluency builder**".

Voice: fluency builder.

E: We've got four phrases for you that are great to use when you want to welcome someone into your house or into your office or anywhere, really.

M: Exactly. So, why don't we take a look at the first one?

E: **Please make yourselves at home.**

M: Please make yourselves at home.

E: Please make yourselves at home.

M: So, this is a very common phrase when you invite somebody to your house.

E: Yeah.

M: You... you always use this phrase.

E: Yeah, it's... it's like make yourself comfortable, relax, sit down.

M: Yeah, don't worry about it, like **my house is your house**.

E: Exactly. Please make yourself at home.

M: Okay, good one. Usually people arrive to a party or to a dinner with jackets, coats, scarves.

E: Yeah, uhu.

M: **All that stuff**. So, this next phrase is really handy.

E: **Let me take your coats**.

M: Let me take your coats.

E: Let me take your coats.

M: So that means "give me your coats and I'll put them in the closet".

E: Right.

M: Let me take your coats.

E: And then a good host would always offer a drink, right?

M: Exactly, water... or in this case wine.

E: So, they would say **can I offer you a glass of wine?**

M: Uhu. Or sometimes you could say "can I offer you a glass... can I offer you something to drink?"

E: Yeah. So, can I offer you a glass of wine?

M: Can I offer you a glass of wine?

E: Uhu.

M: You offer me a glass of wine. I say "yeah, sure, I'll take a... glass of wine".

E: Alright, and then I would use our next phrase - **here you are**.

M: Here you are.

E: Here you are.

M: Exactly, it doesn't mean that "you are here".

E: No.

M: Hehe. It's saying to someone "here it is", "take it".

E: Yes, yes.

M: Right.

E: You know what, this is a really really great phrase. A lot of people who are learning English don't say this.

M: Uhu.

E: But it's really common, really natural and all... if you use it, you'll sound really great.

M: Uhu. Here you are. Exactly.

E: Here you are. And...

M: Here you are.

E: You can use this anytime you give someone something.

M: Right, so if you give somebody a pen or a pencil or a notebook. Here you are. Here it is.

E: Uhu. Yeah.

M: Okay. Great words, so, let's listen to our dialogue one more time and then we'll come back.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: Okay, so, Armand is a pretty good host he offered them a [Merlot](#).

E: Yeah, which is a type of wine.

M: A type of wine.

E: Yeah.

M: And this is really interesting because there're many types of wines.

E: Yes.

M: Do you know any?

E: I know a lot!

M: Alright, so...

E: Yeah.

M: Give us some **pointers** here.

E: Alright, merlot is probably like the most common red wine, right?

M: Uhu.

E: Um, and Merlot is actually the grape... variety... var...

M: The **grape variety**.

E: Varietal as it's called in wine-speak.

M: Wow! Varietal.

E: Yeah. Well, right now, um, **I'm really liking to** drink Tempranillo, which is a Spanish wine.

M: Tempranillo.

E: Yep.

M: Really?

E: Yeah.

M: And, that... Is that also the type of grape?

E: Yes.

M: Oh, nice.

E: Yeah.

M: Usually we would say red wine or white wine, right?

E: Yeah.

M: But the varieties depending on the grapes is what gives them their names.

E: Uhu.

M: So, we also have a couple of other like maybe you have a Chardonnay.

E: Uhu, white wine.

M: White wine. You have a Cabernet Sauvignon.

E: Red wine.

M: Red wine again.

E: Yeah.

M: And my personal favorite is a Carménère.

E: Oh, yeah, that's a nice wine.

M: That's a nice wine.

E: Yeah.

M: And it's not very common anymore.

E: Yeah.

M: Apparently, the grape isn't growing very well in France anymore...

E: Yeah.

M: Or in Spain.

E: Yeah.

M: So, **from what I understand** it's only in Chili and Argentina.

E: Uhu.

M: It's a really good one.

E: Actually, Argentina makes really good Carménère.

M: Yeah.

E: But, you know who else makes god wine?

M: Who?

E: Canadians.

M: Really?

E: Yes.

M: Canadian wine.

E: Yeah, um, you almost never find it outside of Canada, but there is one region in the western part of the country that makes really really good wines, especially some nice, uh, [Pinot Noir](#)...

M: Nice.

E: And some good white wines.

M: Wow.

E: Um, [Okanagan Valley](#), check it out.

M: Nice!

E: Yeah.

M: Alright, well, what about in your countries? Do you produce any wine or maybe any other type of drink?

E: Yes.

M: Right? Many countries have their own types of drinks, so, we wanna about it.

E: Yes.

M: Tell us.

E: And many countries have different traditions to be hospitable...

M: Exactly.

E: To be welcoming.

M: Yeah, that's a good one.

E: Yeah. So, visit our website englishpod.com, leave all your comments, tell us about how you welcome people into your house.

M: Alright, and we'll be there to answer them, but we gotta go now, so...

E: Until next time... Bye!

M: Good bye!