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The Best English Phrases - Learn Your English Teacher's Favorite Phrases

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The Focus of This Lesson Is the Top Five Favorite Phrases from the Hosts.

Here are our hosts' top five favorite phrases.

Number One: "I See"

This phrase means "I am listening to you" and "I understand what you are saying, but it doesn't mean I necessarily agree with you." It's a compact and useful phrase to know. For example, "I see your point, but I don't really agree with you" means that the speaker understands but doesn't necessarily agree with the other person. We can also use it as an exclamation, as in "Oh, I see!" to mean that you understand.

Number Two: "By the Way"

This phrase allows you to change the topic of the conversation. We use it to tell the listener that you are going to go off topic without being rude. It's a common phrase people often utter because it is convenient and allows the speaker to swing the conversation onto something he or she wants to talk about. The speaker usually says it in a light tone of voice.

For Example:

1. A: "Have you had coffee yet?"

B: "No, not yet. Oh by the way, do you know the results of last night's game?"

Number Three: "Give It a Go"

This phrase does not mean to give something or to go somewhere, but it means "to try something" or "to attempt to do something." If a person says this phrase to you, he or she is urging you to try something. We can also replace the word "go" with the word "shot," as in "give it a shot."

Number Four: "No Way!"

This is a strong expression. It means "definitely no!" Since it's a strong expression, it usually is accompanied by the some feeling in the speaker's voice. You can also use it to express disbelief. For example, the sentence "There's no way you're going outside without cleaning up your room!" sounds like a parent telling a child that going outside without cleaning is a definite no. Another example is "no way, the concert was postponed to next week!" In that case, the speaker is expressing disbelief.

Number Five: "Come on"

This phrase has many uses. You can say "come on" when you don't believe something, as in "Oh come on! I don't believe that!" Or you can use it in its literal sense, to tell somebody to come with you, as in "come on, let's get going." You can also use it when expressing frustration, as in "oh come on! Why won't you believe me? It wasn't me!"

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So there it is! Five phrases that are useful and common in the English language. Go ahead and try to use them next time you have a conversation.