

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

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

M: And today with Erica we have an **upper intermediate** lesson.

E: That's right, an upper intermediate lesson that's a little bit strange.

M: It's a little bit strange, but it's a real English lesson, because that's what we give you here at **EnglishPod**.

E: So, in today's lesson we've got a lot of really great language for you, we've got language to help you to **gossip** better.

M: Gossip! Why don't you, ah, explain it a little bit **just in case**?

E: Okay, so, if I gossip, I maybe share news or information about other people with my friends. Like I might say something like "Marco, did you see what happened in **ChinesePod** today? You'll never guess what I saw!"

M: Exactly, that's gossip and we also have language today to describe things.

E: To describe strange things.

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

*Voice: Vocabulary preview.*

E: So, on our vocabulary preview we'll look at a few important words that will help you to understand the dialogue a little bit better.

M: Exactly, and the first word is **weird**.

E: Weird.

M: Weird.

E: Weird.

M: Now, this is a common word you probably hear all the time in a lot of different situations, so, we wanna to explain it today.

E: Yeah, uh, this word just means strange.

M: It's strange.

E: Yeah.

M: Weird person is a strange person.

E: Exactly, but the thing about this word is if you are a young person, **let's say** under the age of thirty five (35), you'll probably use it about a hundred times a day.

M: Hehe. Weird.

E: Yeah.

M: It's just such a good sounding word – weird.

E: It is.

M: Okay, but **the thing is** that even though that it's probably more commonly used in **American English**, it's still widely used for **British English** as well.

E: Yeah, that's true.

M: So, but maybe in British English you would say something like...

E: **Odd**.

M: It's odd.

E: Yeah.

M: That's more common. Okay, let's look at our second word – **housewarming gift**.

E: Housewarming gift.

M: Housewarming gift.

E: Housewarming gift.

M: Now, this is a cultural thing, it's really common in North America to give a housewarming gift to someone.

E: Yeah, if I move into a new house, maybe some of my friends or a family will bring a gift over to make my house a little bit more beautiful.

M: So, something like a photo frame or...

E: Or maybe a plant or sometimes even like maybe a basket of **pastries** or something.

M: Okay, well...

E: Yeah.

M: I've never gotten one of those...

E: Really?

M: Cause I don't have a home.

E: Oh...

M: Hehe.

E: Where do you live? On a street?

M: Well, I don't have a... uh, my own home, so, I have never gotten one of those.

E: Okay.

M: Okay, so, we're ready now to listen to our dialogue.

E: So, we've got two housewives who are gossiping about what's going on in a neighborhood and let's listen to what happens.

### **DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME**

E: Ooh, that guy seems kind of weird.

M: Hehe. You can hear his voice is like a weird guy, right?

E: Yeah.

M: Hehe. Alright, let's take a look at our "**language takeaway**" and look at some of these great words.

*Voice: Language takeaway.*

E: So, our language takeaway focuses on several words from the dialogue that we feel are really important for you to know.

M: Exactly and we have four of them for you today. Why don't we look at the first one?

E: Okay, so, the first word is a **bad feeling**.

M: Bad feeling.

E: A bad feeling.

M: A bad feeling.

E: So, we've got a few examples that will help you to understand how this phrase works.

**Voice: Example one.**

*A: I don't like Kelly's new boyfriend. I've got a bad feeling about him.*

**Voice: Example two.**

*B: It's so dark. We shouldn't be up here. I've got a bad feeling about this.*

**Voice: Example three.**

*C: I've got a bad feeling about this trip. I feel like something is going to happen. Maybe we shouldn't go.*

M: Okay, so, basically you think something bad is gonna happen.

E: Yeah, you have a... soft of uncomfortable feeling.

M: Okay, **that makes sense**. I have a bad feeling about something.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay, let's look at our second word now – **kicked me out**.

E: Kicked me out.

M: Kicked m out.

E: Kicked me out.

M: So, when someone kicks you out, it's they force you to leave. You don't want to leave, but they force you to leave.

E: Yeah, Marco, have you ever kicked someone out of your class?

M: Um, yes, I have, I've kicked...

E: Really?

M: Yeah, if you **misbehave** in my class, you're kicked out.

E: It's you're pretty strict, ha?

M: Hehe. Sometimes I am.

E: Okay.

M: Um, okay also maybe you've kicked your husband out of bed.

E: **Mm, I might** have done that... once or twice or more.

M: We'll have to ask **him**, I'm sure **he has**. Alright, so, that's what it means, you force someone to leave the house, leave the class, leave the bed.

E: So, kicked out of a class, kicked out of the house, kicked out of bed.

M: Exactly, great! Let's look at our third word now – **creeped me out**.

E: Creeped me out.

M: Creeped me out.

E: Creeped me out.

M: Now, this is a really common phrase.

E: I like this phrase a lot and we've got some examples for you to listen to, to help you understand this word a little bit better.

***Voice: Example one.***

*A: Schhh, did you hear that? I think I saw something.*

*B: Stop it! You are really creeping me out!*

***Voice: Example two.***

*C: This place really creeps me out. Let's get out of here!*

M: Alright, well, I have a confession to make – I'm kind of creeped out by clowns.

E: You are?

M: Yes! I don't know, they're just creepy, they're... they scare me, I don't know.

E: Really?

M: Yeah, so...

E: What is it about clowns that scare you so much?

M: I don't know there're just... white faces and weird paint... I don't know it's just creepy... And the way the laugh, oh, I don't know, no...

E: Maybe, you had a bad experience with clowns as a child.

M: Probably, I watched a scary movie about clowns or something.

E: Yeah.

M: Alright.

E: So, **creeped me out** basically means "made me feel uncomfortable".

M: Yes, it scares you.

E: Yeah, well, speaking of being scared, we have our final word for language takeaway and it is **scared the heck out of me**.

M: You scared the heck out of me.

E: Scared the heck out of me.

M: You got really scared.

E: Yeah, I think this is a quite common way of saying "You really, really scared me!"

M: Yeah, okay, we're ready to listen to our dialogue again. Now, try and see if you can catch all these phrases that we just talked about.

### **DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)**

E: You know, one of the things I really like about this dialogue is there's a lot of great phrases that will help you to gossip.

M: That's a good observation, so, I think it's time for "**fluency builder**".

*Voice: Fluency builder.*

E: In fluency builder we take a simple phrase or a simple word you already know and show you how to express the same idea a little bit more naturally.

M: Okay, great, so, let's take a look at our first item for fluency builder.

E: So, when you gossip with somebody, you often tell them news or information that they don't know already. And you might start by saying "Did you know that".

M: Or you can say "Did you hear".

E: Yeah, both of those phrases are perfectly fine, but if you wanna sound a little bit more native-like when you're gossiping, you might **try out** this phrase from the dialogue...

*Phrase 1: I don't know if you've heard... I don't know if you've heard...*

M: Yeah, that's a really good phrase. You're saying exactly the same thing, but in a really natural way.

E: It's a great one for gossiping, so, Marco, I **don't know if you've heard**, but **ChinesePod** is up to some pretty crazy things.

M: Hehe. See, that's exactly how you would use that phrase. So, now let's take a look at our second item. Now, when you're gossiping, you want information.

E: That's right, so, you might say "Oh, tell me about it".

M: Or something like "Give me the details".

E: Yeah, and again both of these examples are perfectly fine, but when you're gossiping, you might wanna try something like this...

*Phrase 2: You have to fill me in. You have to fill me in.*

M: **Fill me in**, yeah, that's... that's what I would say "Fill me in", you know, give me the details. Fill me in.

E: Fill me in on today's gossip.

M: Okay, so, let's take a look at our third item. Now, if you have some **juicy** gossiping news...

E: And you wanna start up a conversation, you might use this phrase here...

*Phrase 2: Well, you'll never guess what I saw this morning. Well, you'll never guess what I saw this morning.*

M: That's a really good phrase. You can change it a little bit. You can say **you'll never guess who I saw**.

E: Or **you'll never guess what I heard**.

M: Exactly, and...

E: Very excellent gossip phrases.

M: Hehe. We're teaching you how to gossip, because that's real English.

E: People really do it. **See, you got** another langue for it.

M: Hehe.

E: Alright, so, **enough of** our gossip. I think it's time for us to listen to the dialogue one last time.

### DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: Okay, Marco, I have a true story for you.

M: Is it kind like a creepy story?

E: It is a creepy story indeed.

M: Is it a true story?

E: No, it's really true.

M: Okay.

E: So, when I was young I used to live in a country.

M: Uhu.

E: And, you know, in a country all of the neighbors know each other. It's a small community, so, everyone knows what's happening all the time.

M: Okay.

E: And there was some gossip going on in our community about a guy who lived at the end of the road.

M: Uhu.

E: And he was the owner of a **car wrecking yard**, so, a place where you take old broken-down cars and **take the parts apart** to sell.

M: Right...

E: And anyway...

M: A **scrap yard**.



E: Yeah, a scrap yard.

M: Alright.

E: Okay, so, you know, he had a wife and a couple of kids, um, and suddenly his wife disappeared.

M: Wow.

E: Yeah.

M: Hehe.

E: And no one knew what happened or anything and, so, several passed and suddenly the police start coming in and start **investigating** this guy and start digging up all of the land around his property. And I guess... I don't know what they're doing, but I think they were looking for the wife's body.

M: Wow, and did they find it?

E: I don't know, I moved away.

M: Hehe. Oh, such a great story, but we don't know how it ends.

E: Yeah, well, um...

M: **But we could** leave it up to the imagination of our listeners.

E: Exactly.

M: Maybe they were looking for an old car.

E: An old car very underground. I don't think so.

M: Hehe. Alright, that's a true story, real English, real stories ???

E: You heard it first here on **EnglishPod**.

M: Here. Alright, so, we wanna hear your comments and suggestions about this topic. **I bet** a lot of our listeners also have creepy stories, maybe **go** stories, maybe... I don't know, different types of, uh, weird stories, so, you guys should definitely log on to **EnglishPod** and share them with us.

E: That's right, go to [englishpod.com](http://englishpod.com) and in the comment section of the website tell us your creepy stories.

M: And we're gonna pick out the best story as the story of the week.

E: We'll announce it in our [This Just In](#) podcast.

M: Yes, so, we wanna hear all your juicy stories and gossip maybe as well

E: Yes.

M: Hehe.

E: Hehe.

M: Alright, well, it's time for us to go, so, be sure to listen to us next time, but until then it's...

E: Bye-bye!

M: Bye!