

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

E: I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we have a great **intermediate** lesson for you.

E: That's right, we've got some excellent real English for you all about **cleaning the house**.

M: Cleaning the house, that's a real life situation, so, we're gonna give you real English.

E: Exactly, so, on today's lesson we're gonna look at language about cleaning the house. We're also going to learn a few phrases that you can use if you wanna ask someone for help and maybe if you're a little bit lazy like me...

M: Hehe.

E: A phrase or two to avoid doing work. Okay, well, let's get started then with our "**vocabulary preview**".

*Voice: Vocabulary preview.*

M: Alright, great, we have two great words for you today. Erica, why don't tell us the first one?

E: The first word is **such a mess**.

M: Such a mess.

E: Such a mess.

M: So, when something is a mess...

E: It's dirty.

M: Yeah, or things are everywhere.

E: Disorganized.

M: Yeah, so, you know, you have your clothes on the floor and your shoes on...

E: Okay, so, that sounds a lot like my desk at work.

M: Hehe. Your shoes on your desk, yeah, I've seen that; I've been wanting to ask you about that.

E: Hehe. Okay, such a mess – really, really dirty.

M: Okay, now let's take a look at our second word – **chores**.

E: Chores.

M: Chores.

E: Chores.

M: Chores is a really common word for...

E: Things you have to do around the house.

M: Like, for example, laundry...

E: Or **making the bed**.

M: Or when you have to **take out the garbage**.

E: Those are all examples of chores.

M: Chores, yeah. I guess everyone can remember when they were kids, they had chores to do.

E: Yeah, when I was a kid, it was my chore to **chop wood**.

M: Chop wood?

E: Yeah!

M: That's a great chore. Playing with an **axe**.

E: Hehe. Maybe if you're a boy, but for a girl it was not so great.

M: Uh, that's why you're so strong and fit.

E: Yeah. Hehe.

M: Alright, so, let's listen to our dialogue for the first time. It's gonna be kind of fast.

E: But don't worry if you miss something, because we'll explain all of the important language **afterwards**.

### **DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME**

E: Oh my God, Marco, what happened there?

M: An explosion.

E: We love a good explosion here at **EnglishPod**.

M: We're gonna give you as many explosions as possible. Hehe.

E: Okay.

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

*Voice: Language takeaway.*

E: So, 'language takeaway' is the part of our lesson where we teach you what we think are some really important words that are found in the dialogue.

M: Exactly, and we have three really important words in our dialogue today, so, let's start with the first one.

E: **Tidy up**.

M: Tidy up.

E: Tidy up.

M: So, to tidy up means to...

E: Put things in their correct spot.

M: Right, so, put the shoes on the floor.

E: Yeah.

M: Take them off...

E: Get the shoes off my desk.

M: Exactly, so, tidy up – organize things a little bit.

E: Yeah, put things away.

M: Okay, let's take a look at our second word now – **spotless**.

E: Spotless.

M: Spotless.

E: Spotless.

M: So, when you want something to be spotless...

E: You want it to be really clean.

M: Really clean, not a spot of dirt on it.

E: Like your desk.

M: Exactly, my desk is spotless.

E: My desk is not spotless.

M: Hehe. Alright, great word. Now let's take a look at our last word for language takeaway – **mall**.

E: Mall.

M: Mall.

E: M-A-L-L, mall.

M: Mall, yeah. It's a strange sounding word.

E: It is a little bit funny sounding, but it basically means a large building with many shops inside, many different stores inside.

M: Right. Now, in **British English** you would say **shopping center**.

E: Yeah, I think that's a little bit more common, but in **American English** we say **mall**.

M: Mall. Great, so, now it's time in our show to look at "**putting it together**".

*Voice: Putting it together.*

E: Okay, so, in 'putting it together' we take a word from the dialogue and we show you how to use this word in real English, so, we give you a couple of examples of how this particular word can be used.

M: Exactly, so, the word that we have for today is **groceries**.

E: Groceries.

M: Groceries.

E: Groceries.

M: Erica, why don't you tell us what groceries are all about?

E: So, groceries are all of the food items that you need to buy at the supermarket, so, like your bread and milk and meat and...

M: Vegetables.

E: Exactly.

M: **All that stuff.**

E: Those are all groceries.

M: Okay, so, let's listen to some examples on how we use this phrase.

**Voice: Example one.**

A: *There's no milk. Can you go to the grocery store?*

**Voice: Example two.**

B: *Here's the grocery list. I need all of these things, so that I can cook dinner tonight. Don't forget anything.*

**Voice: Example three.**

C: *I hate grocery shopping. I can never find what I'm looking for.*

M: Okay, great examples. We heard some really interesting combinations, right?

E: Yeah, we heard **grocery store**.

M: Which is where you buy your groceries.

E: Exactly, **grocery shopping**.

M: Buying all your groceries. Hehe.

E: Hehe. And **grocery list**.

M: Um, where you have all the items that you need to buy.

E: A list of everything you need to buy.

M: Exactly.

E: You know, grocery store, I think this is quite a common word in Canada.

M: Probably in North America.

E: Yeah, do you say grocery store in America?

M: Well, if it's a small one.

E: Really, so...

M: Like a small store.

E: In Canada I say grocery store for even like a supermarket.

M: Really?

E: Yeah.

M: I guess, mm, I would say supermarket for a large one and grocery store for a little corner shop.

E: All of these little differences in American and Canadian English.

M: Hehe.

E: Okay, I think it's time for us to listen to our dialogue another time, this time it'll be a little bit slower.

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

M: Okay, great stuff. Love hearing that explosion, that vacuum just is a bomb.

E: Yeah.

M: Hehe.

E: In this dialogue there was some really interesting language that you can use if you don't wanna do any chores in a house.

M: Exactly, so, it's time now for "**fluency builder**".

**Voice: Fluency builder.**

E: You know, 'fluency builder' is a part of our show that we use to take a common phrase or a word that you already know and show you how to express that idea more fluently and more naturally.

M: Exactly, so, let's take a look at our first idea that we want to explain.

E: **Let's say** you're watching TV like the woman in this dialogue and your husband wants you to help him do the chores and you say "No, I'm busy".

M: Right, or "I'm doing something".

E: Those are two great expressions, but we heard something a little bit different in the dialogue.

*Phrase 1: I'm in the middle of something right now. I'm in the middle of something right now.*

M: Yeah, that phrase is great. It means she's busy, she's doing something.

E: Yeah, **I'm in the middle of something**.

M: Yeah.

E: And so, Marco, you can tell us about our next phrase.

M: Okay, well, now suppose that you want to say, you'll be there soon.

E: You might say "I'll be there soon" or...

M: "I'm coming".

E: Exactly.

M: But in our dialogue we heard something a little bit different, let's listen.

*Phrase 2: I'll be there in a second. I'll be there in a second.*

M: So, this is a more natural way of saying "I'll be there very soon".

E: Yeah, you know what, I think I use this phrase almost every day, **I'll be there in a second**.

M: Yeah, yeah, it's really common.

E: Yeah, it means I'll be there really fast.

M: Yes.

E: Okay, so, our final item today in fluency builder, um, is a great phrase that helps you say the idea "Could you" or "Would you".

M: Right or "Can you".

E: Yeah, so, "Can you sweep the floor", "Could you sweep the floor".

M: But in the dialogue we heard something that's a little bit different.

*Phrase 3: Why don't you clean the floors and I'll go to the supermarket? Why don't you clean the floors and I'll go to the supermarket?*

M: Great, so, this is more natural and it's giving a suggestion.

E: Yeah, it's sort of a polite way of asking someone to clean the floors.

M: Right, it's a really good and polite way of saying it, yeah, I would agree on that. This was fluency builder, now we are ready to listen to our dialogue again at its normal speed.

E: And this time you'll understand a lot better.

### **DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME**

E: Um, has... has this ever happened to you as your vacuum cleaner exploded in your house?

M: Well, not a big explosion like this one.

E: Not so dramatically.

M: Yeah, not so dramatically, but, ah, I've had this happen to me before, yeah. And dust everywhere and it's just... it's a mess. You don't wanna have...

E: You know, this word vacuum, um, is really... a very American word.

M: Yeah, vacuum. Vacuum the rug, vacuum the carpet.

E: Yeah, vacuum cleaner. In the UK what do they say?

M: **Hoover**.

E: Hoover.

M: Yeah, Hoover.

E: Hoover the rug.

M: Hoover the rug. Which is interesting, because it's actually a brand.

E: Yeah?

M: So, I guess it's kind of like American English you say "Pass me a **kleenex**".

E: Oh, that's true.

M: That would be like a **tissue**.

E: Yeah.

M: So, I guess they say "Hoover the rug" or "Hoover the house", yeah.

E: Wow.

M: Hehe.

E: You know, I really love these small differences in meaning that we have between **American English** and **British English**.

M: Yeah, it's... it's fun, okay. Well, another interesting thing about this is that the man was doing the house work.

E: I know.

M: He's a **househusband**.

E: Yeah, so, he's the one doing all the chores in the house.

M: Yeah, that's... well, that's the new trend now. Now it's more popular for men to stay home and take care of the babies and clean the house.

E: Yeah, like when I was growing up, my dad would take out the garbage and **that was it**.

M: Hehe.

E: Hehe. My mom had to do everything else, but now I think it's becoming a lot more common in... especially in North America for the household chores to be divided between the man and the wife equally.

M: Yeah, I think it's fair, it's fair.

E: Me too, yeah.

M: Yeah.

E: You'd make a good husband, Marco.

M: Hehe. That's what they say, but they haven't married me yet.

E: Hehe. Okay.

M: Alright, well, we're out of time folks, be sure to log on to our community website and you can leave all your comments and maybe all the househusbands out there can give us their feedback on what they think about this.

E: Yeah, so, check us out at [englishpod.com](http://englishpod.com) and thanks for listening today, everyone, until next time, this Marco and Erica saying...

M: Bye!

E: Good bye!