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

C: And my name is **Catherine**, so, Marco, what are we talking about today?

M: Today we are taking a look at a guy, who is, um, a little bit too afraid of people, in general.

C: There's a good word for this in English. Someone who's almost too afraid all the time, someone who is overly cautious, we call this person **paranoid**.

M: Okay, so if you are paranoid, you think that everyone is, uh, wants to hurt you or that everyone **is out to** get you.

C: Wait... did you hear that?

M: Hehe. That's...

C: No... did you hear that?

M: No, I didn't.

C: Someone's out the door.

M: Hehe.

C: Marco, can... uh, can you check the... Okay, that's paranoid, you know, you're always hearing voices and noises and things.

M: Yeah, so, **a paranoid** – somebody that is **paranoid**. Alright, so, why don't we listen to this, uh, dialogue for the first time and see what this person is all paranoid about?

C: There it is, again.

### **DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME**

M: Alright, we're back, so, um... yeah, I think this guy is a little bit too, um... cautious.

C: I would have to agree with you and I would go **so far as** to call him paranoid. But, uh, there's a lot of great stuff in this dialogue that we can use in a lot of different situations, so let's take a look at some of these new words in today's "**language takeaway**".

*Voice: Language takeaway.*

M: Alright, the first word on language takeaway today is **sicko**.

C: Sicko is also the name of a movie that was a documentary famous in America by Michael More, actually.

M: Right.

C: But, uh, sicko, in this context means someone who is a bit weird in a bad way.

M: So if you tell somebody "you're sick", the... like in that tone, right, you're saying "you're sick", "you're a sick person".

C: You are **gross**.

M: Right, you're saying "you're gross".

C: You... or inapprop... people who have inappropriate humor, who make jokes about...

M: Make...

C: Not so nice things.

M: Hehe. Right.

C: Yeah, they're sick.

M: Aha.

C: But, uh, in this case, **sicos** are people who maybe like to hurt other people or people who are a little bit crazy.

M: Uhu.

C: Uh, people who are not normal.

M: So it's not a nice way of calling someone crazy, right? If you... if you say "oh, he's a sicko", it's not really nice.

C: Not at all. It's a way of saying that you're almost scared of this person...

M: Mm.

C: Cause they're kind of weird and almost... they have problems.

M: Alright, so sicko. Uh, moving on to our next word, we saw that the guy was afraid of...

C: **Telemarketers**.

M: Exactly, so what are these guys?

C: Well, we've got two words being put together here: **tele** and **market**. So, uh, tele...

M: Like telephone.

C: Telephone.

M: Uhu.

C: Commu... over communications, so they're not in person, that people who call you up. And market things, they try to sell you stuff over the phone.

M: So this is very common. You're... you're... you get a phone call on your cell phone and they ask you if you're... if you're happy with your long distance calling plan or if you need new TV cable or some[thing] like that.

C: And they always call during dinner or late at night.

M: Hehe.

C: Which **drive me nuts**.

M: Exactly.

C: So these are telemarketers. These are people who call you trying to sell things to you.

M: And very similar to... to these is, uh, **solicitors**.

C: Exactly, but the big difference here with **solicitors** and **telemarketers** is that solicitors actually go to your house, they knock on your door.

M: Uhu, so they're also called **door-to-door salesmen** or saleswomen.

C: That's right, so door-to-door salesmen, they go from door to door trying to sell things. But in this case a **solicitor** is someone who comes to your house to try and to you to do something, to buy something.

M: Uhu. Alright, very good. And moving on to our next word, we have a **peeping tom**.

C: That's right, we heard this a little bit earlier in the dialogue and a peeping tom is again, a negative thing to say about someone. S... a peeping tom... well, the word **peep** means to look...

M: Uhu.

C: But kind of like...

M: Quick look.

C: Yeah, it's a quick look. So peeping tom is a person who spies on other people.

M: Okay, so a **synonym** of a peeping tom would be a **voyeur**.

C: A voyeur, so someone who, um, without getting caught tries to look at other people while they're in their homes and so, it's really bad, because, uh, it's usually inappropriate.

M: Right.

C: It's usually people who are watching women get undressed or...

M: Right, right.

C: Yeah, yeah.

M: So a peeping tom is just an informal way of saying a voyeur or somebody who is spying on people. So those are the words for today in language takeaway. Let's listen to our dialogue again and then we'll be right back.

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

M: Now we're back and we had some interesting phrases in the dialogue. Uh, the first one being **you can never be too safe**.

*Voice: Fluency builder.*

C: Alright, so, this is, uh... this is a common "mom phrase". You often hear mothers say this when they're sending their kids off to school or whatever.

M: Mm.

C: They say: don't talk to strangers. And the kid says: mm, why not? You can never be too safe.

M: Alright.

C: Right, it's... it's good to **err on the side of caution**.

M: So it's okay to be extra, extra, ah, safe or extra cautious.

C: Exactly.

M: **Just in case**.

C: Exactly, you never know what's going to happen, so it's better to be cautious than not.

M: Uhu.

C: And that's what this, um... this person's saying. He's saying: well, security, it's important, you can never be too safe, you never know what might happen.

M: Uhu. Is there another way that we can combine it, like **you can never be too careful**?

C: Exactly, ...ctly, so...

M: It's basically same thing.

C: Same... same thing, yeah.

M: Alright. What's our next phrase?

C: Our next phrase is about this peeping tom, this person that they caught. Uh, they **caught him red handed**.

M: We caught you red handed.

C: Or he's been caught red handed.

M: Uhu. So what does that mean?

C: Uh, this is... it's a big colorful phrase...

M: Hehe.

C: And I don't just mean that, because we're calling him red handed. But, um, to catch red handed means to catch someone while they're doing something wrong.

M: Uhu.

C: So if I see you breaking into someone's house and I say: Marco, stop! I'm catching you, stop now!

M: Uhu.

C: I just caught you red handed.

M: You saw me doing the act.

C: Exactly, uhu.

M: Uh, and another way of saying this is you **caught him with his hand in the cookie jar**.

C: Mm, okay, and this is... this is another great phrase. You can imagine a child who sees the cookies in a... in a very special jar on the... the counter in the kitchen.

M: Uhu.

C: And, uh, mom says: don't eat the cookies. Well, the child goes into the kitchen and sees the cookies and opens the jar put this hand in the jar and then mom comes in and says: caught you.

M: Right.

C: That's... that's a boy with his hand or a child with their hand in the cookie jar.

M: So it's the same thing. I can say: I caught you with your hand in the cookie jar.

C: Or you were caught red handed.

M: Uhu. Alright, and our last phrase for today is **you are on a need to know basis**.

C: Alright, this is a great one. This is often said in spy movies I think.

M: Yeah.

C: Um, so he's saying "you are on a need to know basis", that means that if you really need to know something, then I will tell you.

M: Right.

C: But if not, I won't.

M: So you only have the information that is necessary. No more or less, right? You're on a need to know basis.

C: Right, so I say: tell me, Marco, tell me what happened, I wanna know.

M: Right, and I can say: no, no, you're on a need to know basis and you don't need to know this.

C: Ouh.

M: Hehe.

C: Hehe.

M: Alright, so a **need to know basis**. As you say, very popular among spy movies and government movies and stuff like that.

C: **Conspiracy** movies.

M: Yeah. Hehe. Alright, so let's listen to this dialogue for the very last time and we'll be right back.

### **DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME**

M: Alright, so, um, the guy is a little bit paranoid. There's another word for this as well, similar, right, a **schizo**.

C: **Schizophrenia** is a disease and, uh, a lot of people have it and it's not too uncommon, but a lot... a popular **slang word** to say someone's crazy is **schizo**, so...

M: So if you guys remember this movie A Beautiful Mind.

C: Mm.

M: It's all about, uh, this famous mathematician named John Nash and, uh... well, he was a genius, he came up with **game theory** and, uh, a lot of subsequent usage of this for economy, for many things.

C: Uhu.

M: But, um, it was proven that he was schizophrenic, right?

C: A paranoid schizophrenic, so...

M: Uhu.

C: Not only did he kind of... have... experienced reality in different ways, but he's also paranoid. So he was afraid that the government was trying to kill him...

M: Uhu.

C: And so, he... he was, um... he was **irrationally afraid** of everything going on around him and it made him very, uh, unsafe, because he could hurt himself or hurt other people.

M: Uhu. And the interesting thing about this is that there is no actual cure for it.

C: Uhu.

M: You just learn to **cope** and live with it...

C: Uhu.

M: So you never really get cured. You're just kind of live with it.

C: Learn... learn how to understand...

M: Yeah.

C: What's real and what's not.

M: So it's interesting, it's a... it's a great movie also. By the way, if you ever... if you've never seen it, you get a chance to watch it. And, uh, that's all the time we have for today, so if you have any questions, doubts or comments, please come to our website [englishpod.com](http://englishpod.com).

C: Yup.

M: And, uh, we're there to answer them.

C: Yeah, we hope to see you there and until next time, English poddies...

M: Alright, bye-bye!

C: Bye!

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