

M: Hello English learners! And welcome to another great podcast with **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

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

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

E: That's right and that's another lesson about money.

M: We have no money here at **EnglishPod**, we are **in debt** here.

E: In debt!

M: Yes.

E: Okay.

M: In dept.

E: In debt.

M: So, what does that mean? Why don't you tell us?

E: If I **owe** you money, I'm in debt.

M: In debt, yes.

E: In fact, I think I am in debt to you.

M: Hehe. You owe me two fifty (2,50) for a coke zero today.

E: That's true.

M: Hehe. Alright. Okay, so, let's get started; let's take a look at our "**vocabulary preview**".

Voice: Vocabulary preview.

E: We have two words today in our vocabulary preview and the first one is **recession**.

M: Recession.

E: Recession.

M: Recession.

E: So, recession. Everyone's talking about it right now and what does it mean?

M: I don't know.

E: Hehe.

M: Hehe. That's your topic. I don't know. I really don't know, why don't you tell me, Erica, cause this isn't my topic for today?

E: Okay.

M: Hehe.

E: Recession is a period of time when the economy of a country is doing badly.

M: In a recession the country is making less money.

E: That's true, so, maybe we can give a few examples of things that happen in a recession to show the meaning of this a little bit better.

M: Right, so, for example, in a recession many people lose their jobs.

E: Because, uh, companies might close or go bankrupt.

M: Exactly, and also people start spending less money.

E: That's true, and the **stock prices** of companies, um, fall pretty dra...

M: **???** fall.

E: Yeah, they... they fall a lot, hey?

M: Yeah, yeah, and that's what's going on now in the United States.

E: Very true.

M: Okay, so, let's take a look at our second word and it has to do with recession, it's **broke**.

E: Broke.

M: Broke.

E: I'm broke.

M: Broke, it means that you have no money, you're broke.

E: I'm broke.

M: Right, so, these are our two words for vocabulary preview today and you're going to hear them in the dialogue.

E: This dialogue is about a man who is in debt, he's broke. Let's find out what happens.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, so, that was a bit unexpected.

E: Yeah, that was certainly strange. He didn't go to the bank to ask for money, did he?

M: No, he went to the **mob**.

E: O...

M: And the mob is broke

E: Oh, no! You know it's a bad recession when even the mob **runs out of** money.

M: Hehe. Alright, so, why don't we start by looking at our "**language takeaway**"?

Voice: Language takeaway.

E: Alright, so, for today's language takeaway we have four words from the dialogue, which we think are really important.

M: Yes, so, why don't we start with the first one? **Loan**.

E: Loan.

M: Loan.

E: Loan.

M: So, Erica, tell us about **a loan**? What is a loan?

E: Okay, when you **borrow** money, you get a loan.

M: A loan, yes. Not to be confused with **alone**, like by myself. Hehe.

E: No, so, this is L-O-A-N.

M: Loan.

E: Right.

M: Okay, great. Let's take a look at our second word – **mortgage**.

E: Mortgage.

M: Mortgage.

E: Mortgage.

M: Now, this is very common. I'm sure many of you have mortgages. What is a mortgage?

E: A mortgage is a type of a loan. Basically, it's a loan that helps you to buy a house.

M: A house or property.

E: Yeah, so, this is a funny word. I mean there's the strange mortgage with a T.

M: Yeah, it has a T in it, but you don't pronounce it, you say mor[t]gage, mor[t]gage.

E: So, not mort... **morT**gage.

M: Not, **morT**gage.

E: Mor[t]gage.

M: Mor[t]gage, yeah. I had trouble spelling that one for this lesson, so, I learned it well now.

E: Okay. Let's move to our third word today.

M: **Hit me pretty hard.**

E: Hit me pretty hard.

M: Hit me pretty hard.

E: Hit me pretty hard. I think we have some examples that will help us understand this phrase.

Voice: Example one.

A: My divorce hit me pretty hard. I'm so depressed.

Voice: Example two.

B: This cold has hit me pretty hard. I've been in bed for a week.

Voice: Example three.

C: The news of Fluffy's death hit me pretty hard. I've been crying for days.

M: Okay, so, that's a lot clear.

E: Yeah.

M: Great. Why don't we take a look at our last word for language takeaway?

E: **Tuition.**

M: Tuition.

E: Tuition.

M: Tuition.

E: So, this is the money you have to pay to your school, so, that you can study there.

M: Right, um, usually it's in college, right, or university?

E: Yeah, but sometimes in some countries you have to pay tuition for public school.

M: Okay, great, so, it's time to listen to our dialogue again and it's gonna be slower, so we can listen to all the words that we just talked about.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

E: Okay, so, I think a lot of the key language we just talked about is a lot more clear now, but you know, I also noticed some really interesting phrases in this dialogue.

M: Yes, I did too, so, let's start with "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

E: 'Fluency builder' is a tool that we use to help you sound more native.

M: Right, so, you can sound more natural when you're speaking.

E: So, we take a really common phrase and we show you some great natural ways of expressing that same idea.

M: Exactly, and today we have three of these examples. Let's start with the first one.

E: So, this phrase we use when we want to ask somebody "Can I help you?"

Phrase 1: What can I do for you? What can I do for you?

E: Yeah, that sounds really, really polite and really natural.

M: Right, so, instead of saying "Can I help you" or... I don't know, "What do you need", we can just say **what can I do for you**.

E: Exactly.

M: Great.

E: So, let's move to our second phrase. This phrase we use when we need something, when we wanna say "I'm sorry to bother you".

M: Or "I'm sorry to interrupt".

E: Okay, let's listen.

Phrase 2: I'm really sorry to trouble you. I'm really sorry to trouble you.

E: **I'm sorry to trouble you**. This phrase might be a little bit more difficult to understand how it's used, um, but we've got some examples.

M: Yes, so, let's listen.

Voice: Example one.

A: Can I trouble you for a moment? I just need you to sign this form for me.

Voice: Example two.

B: I'm sorry to trouble you, but may I go home early today?

Voice: Example three.

C: Can I trouble you for a pen? Mine is not working anymore.

M: Okay, so, now let's take a look at our last phrase for fluency builder – **on top of all that**.

E: On top of all that.

M: On top of all that.

E: This is a really useful phrase. Marco, how would you use it?

M: Well, for example, today I lost my job...

E: Oh, no.

M: My car got stolen.

E: Oh, my God.

M: And on top of all that my girlfriend **broke up with** me.

E: That was a terrible day.

M: It was, but don't worry, you can use this phrase also in a positive way.

E: That's true, you could say "So, today was a really great day! It was my birthday and all my friends came to visit me and on top of all that I got a million presents".

M: Hehe. That is a great day, so, you can use **on top of all that** in this way.

E: It's like "and also".

M: And also, yeah.

E: Yeah, so, on top of all that.

M: So, we are ready to listen to our dialogue a third time. We can hear all the words that we just talked about and all the phrases and you'll definitely be able to understand a lot better now.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: Today's dialogue was all about **being in debt**, right?

M: Yes.

E: And... and different people have different attitudes or different **viewpoints** on being in debt.

M: Yes, that's true, for example, in North America and in Canada it's a really common thing.

E: Yeah, it's actually almost good to be in debt.

M: It's more than good, it's necessary to be in debt.

E: That's right, unless you have... a history of being in debt and regularly **paying off** your debts, you can't actually borrow money, you can't get a mortgage, you can't get a... a car loan, so you can buy a new car.

M: Right, that's called a **credit history**, so, you must have a good credit history **in order to be able to**, like you say, buy a car or buy a house.

E: Yeah, and you know the funny thing is, um, when I was in university, maybe I was eighteen years old, the first thing that happened at university was, you know, banks came to our university and started offering you credit cards, so, you can get a credit card when you're eighteen no problem.

M: And not only do they offer you credit cards, they give you like free gifts if you **sign up for** a credit card.

E: I know they really want you to have a credit card.

M: Of course they want you to spend more money, **that's the trick**.

E: Yeah, but you know what, it's totally different in Europe, for example, I used to live in Switzerland and there they're really careful with debts like it's a bad thing to be in debt.

M: Oh, yeah, I mean it's bad to be in debt, definitely.

E: For example, if I wanna have a credit card in Switzerland and **let's say** I want to have a limit of, um, five hundred (500) francs that I can spend every month, I need to put in my bank account seven hundred (700) francs before I can even spend that credit card money, so, it's totally opposite from North America.

M: Hehe. Well, yeah, I mean in North America it's crazy the way that people are in debt and it's showing now with the recession, right?

E: Yeah, that's true.

M: So, everyone, **be sure to** handle your money carefully, don't be in debt unless you really, really have to.

E: Good financial advice from **EnglishPod**.

M: **EnglishPod** – financial advising service. Hehe.

E: Okay, everyone, thanks for listening, now remember if you have any questions or comments, please, visit our website at englishpod.com.

M: Right, Erica and I are always there to answer all the questions and we really like to receive comments and suggestions from all our users, so, be sure to go and leave us your comments.

E: Okay, Marco, it's been fun.

M: Yes, it has, but sadly we have to go now, so, until next time it's...

E: Good bye!

M: Bye!