

M: Hello English learners! Welcome back to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

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

M: And we're bringing you another great **elementary** lesson for all our elementary learners.

E: You know what, Marco, I think this lesson is so useful. This is language that you can actually use every single day.

M: Exactly, everyday. Exactly, because today we're gonna be teaching you **small talk**.

E: So, what is small talk?

M: Well, small talk is small conversation that you would have with people that you don't know very well, but you still wanna be polite...

E: Yes!

M: Right? And you want to maybe... just... chat a little bit. Okay, so, let's listen to our dialogue and as always it's gonna be a little bit fast, but don't worry about it.

E: Cause we'll come back in a minute and help you with some of the difficult language.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Okay, I think this guy was a little bit annoying.

E: Yeah, Mr. Anderson really didn't wanna talk to him, did he?

M: Yeah, I think that was pretty obvious, he left the elevator **in a hurry**. Okay, let's take a look at our language today in "**language takeaway**".

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Alright, what do we have today in language takeaway?

E: Well, we've got four words and phrases and our first one is **barely even**.

M: Barely even.

E: Barely even.

M: So, how do we use barely even? It's a little bit difficult.

E: It's really similar to like **almost couldn't** or **almost nothing** or **almost can't**. So, we use it usually in a negative sense. For example, I could say "I was so busy today I could barely even eat my lunch".

M: Okay, so, I can maybe say "it was so dark I could barely even see".

E: Yeah!

M: Okay.

E: Yeah, or "I'm so poor I can barely even pay my rent".

M: Okay, good. Barely even.

E: Uhu.

M: Alright, let's take a look at our next one - **catch**.

E: Catch.

M: Catch.

E: Did you catch the news?

M: So, by **did you catch the news** you mean **did you hear the news**.

E: Exactly. So, how else can we use this, **did you catch**?

M: A really common one is "I didn't **catch** your name".

E: Yeah, I didn't hear you name.

M: I didn't hear you name.

E: Yeah. Yeah, and we can also say "I didn't catch what he said".

M: I didn't catch what he said, yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: So, I didn't hear.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay. Let's look at our next word - **by the way**.

E: By the way.

M: By the way.

E: By the way.

M: Okay, so, let's listen to some examples first of how we can **by the way** and then we'll come back and talk more about it.

Voice: Example one.

A: Are you going to be at the meeting today?

B: Yeah, I'll be there. Oh, by the way, did you hear what happened today?

Voice: Example two.

C: By the way, I almost forgot to tell you, Maggie called.

E: Okay, so, I see that when we say **by the way**, um, we're introducing a point after we've already talked about something.

M: Exactly. And maybe it's not even related to the topic we were talking about.

E: No, it's a different topic.

M: Different topic, right?

E: It's like saying "oh, I almost forgot to tell you".

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: So, it's like "oh, Erica, don't forget we have a meeting today, oh, and by the way, I like your new haircut".

E: Thanks, Marco.

M: Alright, see?

E: Yeah.

M: That's the way you would use **by the way**. Okay and our last word on language takeaway - **take the stairs**.

E: Take the stairs.

M: Take the stairs.

E: Take the stairs.

M: So, does it mean you're gonna take them somewhere ???

E: No, no, you... No, you're not taking them home with you.

M: Hehe. It means you're gonna go up the stairs.

E: Uhu.

M: Okay, so, take the stairs.

E: Yes, and a lot of people might say **use the stairs** or **go up the stairs**, but our **EnglishPod** learners, they know, right?

M: To use **take the stairs**.

E: Yep.

M: Take the stairs. Okay, so now we're ready to listen to our dialogue again. We're gonna slow it down a little bit.

E: And this will help you to catch these phrases a little bit better.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

M: Okay, so, now let's take a look at ways to start up some small talk in "**putting it together**".

Voice: Putting it together.

E: So, Marco, today we've got some great **patterns** or **structures** that you can use, uh, in s... in your small talk.

M: Yeah, exactly, we saw some great patterns. Let's start with the first one. **It sure is cold** this morning.

E: It sure is cold.

M: It sure is cold.

E: It sure is cold.

M: Okay, so, we can change it up a little bit and say **it sure is hot**.

E: Uhu, or **it sure is late**.

M: Okay, **this sure is interesting**.

E: Uhu, or you could say **he sure is smart**.

M: So, basically, you can change the **adjective**.

E: Yes.

M: Cold, hot, smart, hard...

E: Yeah.

M: ...difficult.

E: And when you say **sure is**, uh, this is a great way of emphasizing that you believe this **adjective** to be true.

M: Okay, **sure is**. Now, what would be the answer to this?

E: Well, in the dialogue, uh, Mr. Anderson said **yeah, it's pretty cold, alright**.

M: It's pretty cold, alright.

E: It's pretty cold, alright.

M: So, again, using the examples we used before we can say **oh, it's pretty hot, alright**.

E: Uhu, or **it's pretty late, alright**.

M: Or **he's pretty smart, alright**.

E: Uhu, or **this is pretty interesting, alright**.

M: So, it means you're agreeing with that person.

E: Exactly.

M: Okay, great.

E: So, Marco, these things **it sure is blank** and **yeah, it's blank, alright**. These can go together really well, can't they?

M: Yeah, as a question and answer format.

E: Uhu.

M: They go well.

E: So, why don't we listen to some examples of how these two phrases work together?

Voice: Example one.

A: It sure is a nice day today.

B: Yeah. It's nice, alright.

Voice: Example two.

C: The bus is sure late today.

D: Yeah. It's late, alright.

Voice: Example three.

E: This class is really hard.

F: Yeah. It's hard, alright.

M: Okay, so, now let's take a look at our next word in putting it together. **Did you happen to?**

E: Did you happen to?

M: Did you happen to?

E: Did you happen to?

M: Did you happen to see Bob this morning?

E: I didn't happen to see Bob.

M: Hehe. So, it means like...

E: Like did you **by chance**.

M: By chance. Did you by chance see Bob...

E: Yeah, yeah.

M: ...or something.

E: Yeah.

M: Okay, another example would be "did you happen to go to that restaurant I recommended?"

E: Mm, or maybe "do you happen to have a pen?"

M: "Do you happen to know where the bathroom is?"

E: Yeah, that's a really useful one.

M: That's a v... useful one. That's basically how you would use this structure. **Did you happen to. Do you happen to.** So, now let's listen to our dialogue for the third time and I'm sure that you'll be able to understand everything.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

E: Alright, Marco, that was a really useful dialogue for daily life, wasn't it?

M: Yeah, I think you can find a lot of useful language there...

E: Uhu.

M: And that you can apply tomorrow.

E: Yeah. Well, **speaking of** useful things, let's talk a little bit about our website.

M: Yeah, **be sure to** go to our website at [englishpod.com](https://www.englishpod.com) where you can find other lessons as well. Maybe you're an **intermediate** student or **advanced**.

E: Yes! So, we've got **intermediate, advanced, upper-intermediate** lessons on our website.

M: And a lot of other resources that you can explore. So, be sure to come to our website and leave all your comments, because Erica and I are always there and we're really happy to answer all of your questions.

E: Okay, everyone! Well, we're out of time, but until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!