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

C: Hi everyone! My name is **Catherine**.

M: What've you got Catherine for us today?

C: It's a good question, well...

M: Hehe.

C: Uh, we've got a little bit of a Seinfeld situation, so for those of you who are not familiar with this American TV show, which by the way is one of my favorites, uh, Seinfeld is a TV show, a comedy about very awkward, very common situations that are **taken to the extreme**.

M: Hm, right, so it's a very popular show. It was around for like ten years, I think.

C: Oh, yeah, yeah.

M: And, uh, but it's not **airing** anymore. Well, they're not making new episodes anymore.

C: Now you have to see them in **reruns**.

M: Reruns, right. So, um, we have a situation that's very common, and it was... and it was pretty funny on the show, it's a guy trying to **rent a car**.

C: Okay, so he's probably at the airport or traveling and he... he's had a long flight and he wants to rent a car, but of course there're some problems, so...

M: Right.

C: This is an **elementary level** lesson by the way, so keep that in mind as we listen to this dialogue one time.

DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME

M: Alright, great, so this actually happens a lot. You make a reservation and either they lose it or they run out of cars. It's such a common situation.

C: And it's not just cars. Sometimes this happens at restaurants too...

M: Uhu.

C: And it really makes me angry.

M: Yeah, that happens a lot. You show up and they like "oh, we don't have a reservation" and you just like "ugh".

C: Well, and you have to **keep yourself in check**; you can't really get angry. But this guy does, so...

M: Yeah.

C: Uh, let's take a look at the "**language takeaway**" to find out what are some of those words we're using here to describe renting a car and what kind of car we're talking about.

Voice: Language takeaway.

M: Well, as you mentioned, uh, at rental places they have different sized cars, right? Different sized vehicles.

C: Which by the way cost different prices.

M: Right, so, uh, let's take a look at the sizes that they mentioned in the dialogue, ah, starting with the cheapest one, the least expensive and the smallest. It's a **compact** vehicle.

C: Alright, compact. So compact actually means "small".

M: Small.

C: Right, so "compact car" you're gonna hear it very often even if you're buying a car.

M: Uhu.

C: Uh, let's think of an, uh... what's a... what's a compact car? The VW Golf...

M: Aha.

C: Is a compact car, very small car.

M: So usually it's two doors. Or if it's a four-door car, it's very small, not very long, right?

C: Right, exactly.

M: So maybe like a Ford Focus could be a small car.

C: Uhu, also.

M: Or compact. Now moving up in size a little bit, we would have a **mid-size** vehicle.

C: Okay, mid-size vehicle is a... well, it's a **giveaway** here, because **mid** means "middle".

M: Uhu.

C: So it's kind of in the middle between the small and the large. And this is your average four-door sedan car.

M: Okay, so as an example you would have a Ford Taurus or maybe a Toyota Camry.

C: Yeah, Toyota Camry is maybe one... the most common car.

M: Uhu.

C: Uh, yeah, definitely.

M: It's kind of expensive, but it's still mid-sized, right?

C: Exactly.

M: And, uh, now a bigger car and probably one of the most popular cars in the United States is an **SUV**.

C: Not anymore, Marco.

M: Why? No?

C: With the... the energy crisis and the...

M: Gas prices.

C: Uh, well, and the econo... the economy as well.

M: Uhu.

C: People are not driving their SUVs anymore, but, uh, **SUV** is an **acronym** that means it stands for three different words. **S** meaning...

M: **Sports**.

C: **U** meaning...

M: **Utility**.

C: **V**...

M: **Vehicle**.

C: Alright, thanks you, so **SUV** – **Sports Utility Vehicle** means it can go maybe **off-road**.

M: Right, so an example of this would be a Ford Explorer or a...

C: Jeep Cherokee.

M: A Jeep Cherokee could be an SUV as well. So right, those are three different types of cars and now obviously there're many more like **avan** or a...

C: **Limo**.

M: A limo like a limousine.

C: Hehe.

M: But, yeah, these are the most common ones that you would rent at a... a car rental place.

C: Yeah, definitely. But, uh, what we have to do here is make a **reservation**.

M: Uhu. Now interesting, you **make a reservation**.

C: Yeah, you don't **have** it, you don't **do** it, you don't...

M: You **make** it.

C: Yeah, you do make... these are... these are, uh, words that go together, so we need to keep them together. Um, I can call a restaurant, so let's say, for example, Marco works at the restaurant, I say: "Hello, I'd like to make a reservation for tonight".

M: Oh, okay, perfect. Now, if you show up at the restaurant you say...

C: Um, where's my table? I made a reservation.

M: Right.

C: And, of course, I **throw a fit**, because there's no table for me.

M: They don't have it.

C: So you **make a reservation** and in this case it was **made** before.

M: Okay, so you make a reservation. Now, why was this guy angry at the rental car place?

C: Oh, long story. Short: the company **ran out of** cars.

M: Okay.

C: Not all cars, just the car that he wanted.

M: Right.

C: The mid-size vehicle.

M: So they **ran out**, so that doesn't mean they're actually running somewhere, right?

C: No, they're not putting on their running shoes and then going for a **jog**. No, in this case **to run out**, or in this case **we ran out** means that they don't have anymore.

M: You don't have anymore, exactly.

C: Uhu.

M: I think this word is a nice word for us to take a look at some other examples now.

Voice: Example one.

A: We're going to run out of gasoline. We need to find a gas station soon.

Voice: Example two.

B: Can you buy some milk on your way home? We ran out last night.

Voice: Example three.

C: My pen ran out of ink. Can you lend me one please?

C: Uh, not a fun phrase, but an important one in case you're ever in a restaurant or in a hotel or in a place where you can purchase something or rent something and it's all gone.

M: Alright, so I think we've taken a look at a lot of great words here, so let's listen to this dialogue again. We're gonna slow it down just a little bit and then we'll come back and explain some phrases.

DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)

C: And we're back, so, Marco, we've got a couple of phrases here that deserve some attention, uh, so let's take a look at them in today's "**fluency builder**".

Voice: Fluency builder.

M: So the first phrase that we want... that I wanna take a look at is, um, when the agent says "I'm sorry **we have no** mid-size available at the moment".

C: Hm, okay, so do they or do they not have any?

M: Yeah, s... he says **we have no** mid-size.

C: Okay, so another way to say this is "we haven't got any".

M: Aha, or "we don't have any".

C: Okay, but in this case you could just simplify it and say **we have no**.

M: Uhu.

C: Why wouldn't you say **we have none**?

M: Good question, why?

C: Hehe.

M: Hehe.

C: Because we need a thing here: **we have no cars**, **we have no cake**, **we have no food**.

M: Uuh.

C: Uh, so this is a very common phrase, uh, in English and remember to put the thing at the end, so, um...

M: So, well, for example, can I say, um, **I have no money**?

C: Absolutely.

M: Right.

C: I'm so sorry, Marco, but I'm not gonna lend you.

M: I have no money seriously, lend me some money... Um, so **have no**, this is interesting, because this is not a structure that is usually, uh, learned through textbooks, right? You usually say "I don't have" or "we haven't got".

C: Exactly, this is very spoken, because you would never say **I go no**.

M: Right, exactly. Hehe.

C: Right? We... we have to talk about something that we, uh... that has an object, some thing that we have.

M: Uhu.

C: So here **I have no** is very spoken, very common. So ??? another phrase, uh, that is also not taught so much in those textbooks that we're just mentioning. So what's that phrase at the end?

M: Well... well...

C: It's a threat.

M: Hehe.

C: It's a threat. The guy is so angry, he **leans over** the counter and he points his finger in the, uh... the agent's face and what does he say?

M: He says "yeah, **you**['d] **better** give me the insurance".

C: You better.

M: You better.

C: Alright, so you better than me?

M: No, no, it's not like **better** like something is good, right? **You'd better** is like a suggestion, but a very strong one, right?

C: Okay, very strong, this is a threat.

M: Yeah, this ???

C: You'd better eat your dinner or I'm going to send you to your room all night.

M: Exactly.

C: Yeah.

M: So, as you can see, it says... he says "you better... you better give me the insurance", but the grammatically correct way would be...

C: **You had better.**

M: You had better.

C: So...

M: So you... the **contraction** would be **you'd better.**

C: Exactly, **you'd** – **you had better** do this. So this is a... it's a hypothetical situation – you had better do this. If you don't do this...

M: Uhu.

C: Bad things will happen, so...

M: Right.

C: Remember that, here we've got the grammatically correct form that you should write – **you'd better...**

M: Uhu.

C: Or the spoken form - **you better.**

M: You better.

C: Uhu.

M: Aha, I think in this one we should also listen to some other examples to get a better idea of how we can use this very strong suggestion.

Voice: Example one.

A: You['d] better go to the doctor before that cold gets any worse.

Voice: Example two.

B: You['d] better watch out; it's dangerous to go out this late.

Voice: Example three.

C: She['d] better change her attitude or her boss is going to fire her.

C: So what is the threat? You better give me insurance, because what is he gonna do?

M: He says "I'm gonna **beat the hell out of** this car".

C: Okay, so this is future – I'm **going to**.

M: Yeah.

C: I'm **gonna**.

M: Right.

C: Beat the hell out of this car.

M: Uhu.

C: So this is very strong, right?

M: Yeah, it's very strong and he's saying he's going to destroy the car.

C: So **beat the hell out of**, so that means really just do damage to something.

M: So you can use it... towards a person also. It's like I'm going to beat the hell out of you.

C: And I'll arrest you for violence.

M: Hehe. Right, so it's a very strong phrase. It shows anger, it shows that you're threatening somebody, so it's not... obviously it's not polite.

C: And it might get you a broken nose in a bar if you ever say this to someone or about someone, so be very careful.

M: Right, but you can use it to describe a situation, right? It's like "yeah, we went to a bar yesterday and Dan beat the hell out of the bartender".

C: Uh!

M: Right?

C: Dan.

M: So instead of just saying "Dan hit the bartender" or "Dan got into a fight", here we're saying "he hit him and he just..."

C: And he kept hitting him.

M: He kept...

C: And he kept hitting him.

M: Right.

C: So, yeah, he beat the hell out of him.

M: Right.

C: Alright, great, so those are the... the phrases and words that we wanted to talk about today, but, uh, I think it'd be good if we listen to this dialogue one more time just to get a good feel for it. When we come back, we'll be talking a little bit more about the process of renting a car.

DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME

M: You know, I heard that in Florida or in certain... like, uh, cities of California and Florida you can actually rent luxury cars.

C: Oh, yeah, you can do that in most places, uhu.

M: You can rent like a...

C: Porsche.

M: Like a Porsche or a... or a Lamborghini or a Ferrari.

C: Yeah.

M: Obviously it costs a lot of money, but it gives you the opportunity to maybe drive... to maybe drive one of these cars that you've... obviously wouldn't have the money to buy.

C: Yeah, especially if you're talking about those warm places like Florida or California, you wanna be in the sunshine, you get **a convertible**.

M: Hehe.

C: Right?

M: You['ve] gotta get a convertible.

C: Yeah, so, uh, I think the **insurance premiums** on those particular cars are very high though, so you're not only paying for the car...

M: Yeah.

C: But you're also paying for the insurance and possibly the **speeding tickets**.

M: Yeah, of course, I can't imagine renting one of those cars and not getting a speeding ticket.

C: Exactly, so if any of you out there have experience renting cars or you have some questions about the **specifics** that are involved in this process, let us know on our website englishpod.com.

M: Right, we're there to answer any questions or doubts and, uh, we'll see you guys there.

C: Alright, until next time everyone...

M: Bye!

C: Bye!
