



Episode 27: Things That Don't Make Sense

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations.

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss their opinions on some traditions, habits, and other occurrences that just don't make sense to them.

Here are a few related words and phrases that you may find useful:

<p>Talking about things that don't make sense</p>	<p>It's...ridiculous, illogical, absurd, nonsensical, ludicrous, crazy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a ridiculous rule. The plan is ludicrous. It was an absurd excuse. <p>it doesn't add up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His story doesn't add up. <p>it makes no sense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It makes no sense to drive and wait in line if we can do it online. <p>it makes zero sense (for emphasis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It makes zero sense to pay when there are so many free options.
<p>Talking about confusing things / things you don't understand</p>	<p>I have no clue [why, how, what...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have no clue what he's talking about. <p>scratching [one's] head</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her odd response left us all scratching our heads. <p>I can't wrap my head around it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program is too complicated; I can't wrap my head around it. <p>I'm at a loss [as to why, how, what...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm at a loss as to how I can resolve this problem. <p>I don't get [how, why, what...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't get how this works. <p>It's a mystery to me / Why....is a mystery to me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why so many people believe his lies is a mystery to me. <p>Why.....is beyond me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why so many people believe his lies is a mystery to me.

You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

eclipse	when the sun disappears from view, either completely or partly, while the moon is moving between it and the earth, or when the moon becomes darker while the shadow of the earth moves over it
It's been a minute	slang. Used to say that it's been a long time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>It's been a minute</u> since the last full eclipse.
goofy	silly, especially in an amusing way.
right off the bat	instantly, immediately <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Right off the bat</u>, I can give you an example that happened today.
be expecting	idiom: when this phrase is used intransitively (meaning without using a direct object), it means that someone is pregnant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to superstition, if <u>you're expecting</u> during a solar eclipse,..."
throw [someone or something] off	disrupt, confuse, or cause a problem with the process of something. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time change is difficult for kids because it <u>throws off</u> their routine.
a running joke	An ongoing joke, one that is regularly repeated or continued (in this case, every 6 months when the time changes we make the joke that I can't get it straight.)
get it together	To be well-prepared and organized for something, especially mentally.
correlation	a mutual relationship or connection between two or more things.
crack the case	to solve a mystery or figure something out
heal	cause an injury to return to a healthy condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fracture will <u>heal</u> without surgery.
That's a shame.	It's disappointing; that's too bad
[to have] no clue	to have no knowledge of something, or be unable to remember <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though I just looked at my watch, I <u>have no clue</u> what time it is.
have to do with	be related to or connected to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This example <u>has to do with</u> pronunciation.
to "feel" someone	slang: you understand or agree with what someone is saying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: That exam was way too hard. B: <u>I feel you</u>; I don't think I passed.
a whole different ball game	a completely different situation, often one that is difficult or that you know little about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you're coming from a language that spells words the way they are pronounced and then you start learning English, <u>it's a whole different ball game</u>.
a jerk	a selfish or rude person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't want to look like a <u>jerk</u> by not leaving a tip.

Fun with English

Try reading the following sentences aloud. Each one contains what appears to be one word that is used twice, but they are actually pronounced differently. This is because they are different word forms, or they are homographs (words spelled the same, but with different meanings.)

- A **bass** was painted on the **bass** drum.
- We were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
- At the farm, we **produce produce**.
- I need to **polish** the **Polish** furniture
- It's time to **present** the **present**.
- They won't **desert** the soldiers in the **desert**.
- I shed a **tear** when I saw the **tear** in my favorite shirt.
- The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
- The **dove dove** into the bushes.
- The actress with the **bow** took a **bow**.
- The **wind** made it hard to **wind** the yarn.
- I'd like to **read** another book because I **read** that one already.
- The game will be aired **live**, but we **live** in the U.S. so it will be too late to watch it.
- Next week I'll **graduate** from **graduate** school.
- I'm going to **contest** the **contest** results.
- He **moped** because he lost his **moped**.
- Call this **number** if your arm feels **number** tomorrow.

Join the Conversation

- Which of the sentences above had the most surprising or interesting pronunciation differences? If you're **scratching your head** about what the difference in pronunciation is, look the word up in the dictionary and use context to discover how each word is pronounced.
- What are some other things about English that you think don't make sense?
- What examples from the episode about things the hosts said don't make sense could you relate to?
- Think about habits, routines, or other occurrences in your everyday life and social or cultural norms – are there any things that you think don't make sense?
- What are the pros and cons of having the time change (Daylight Savings)?
- What is the tipping culture in your home country? What do you think of the U.S. tipping culture as described in the episode?
- In your culture, is it common to **haggle** over the price of something you want to buy? What do you think of this practice? Are you good at negotiating better deals?

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



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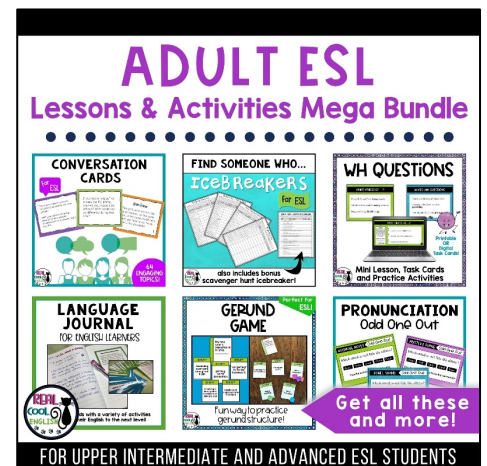
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