



Episode 14: Pet Peeves

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. For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#).

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss everyday annoying things and our personal pet peeves.

Here are a few notes about language to use to discuss things that are annoying:

<p>To talk about annoying things</p>	<p>It bothers/bugs/annoys me when...[something happens].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It bugs me when people interrupt when I'm talking. <p>I hate it when [something happens] (can be a bit strong at times)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I hate it when I see people littering. <p>get on my nerves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The constant ringing of the phone is getting on my nerves • My new co-worker gets on my nerves
<p>To say a person or behavior bothers you, but you can't quite put your finger on why</p>	<p>He/She/It rubs me the wrong way.</p> <p>Something about her voice rubs me the wrong way.</p>
<p>To say something is extremely annoying</p>	<p>It drives me crazy/nuts/up the wall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please fix the faucet, the constant dripping is driving me up the wall.
<p>To say you really, really dislike something so much that you cannot tolerate it</p>	<p>I hate [something or doing something]. This can often sound too strong depending on context, so use with caution, or try one of the following:</p> <p>I can't stand [something] [doing something]</p> <p>I can't stand it when [someone does something]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can't stand eggplant. • I can't stand going to baseball games. • I can't stand it when people litter.
<p>pet peeve</p>	<p>a situation or often a habit or behavior of others that a person finds particularly irritating. It may be a behavior that others find annoying, but you have a much more intense dislike for it than most people do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of my biggest pet peeves is when people litter. • It's one of my biggest pet peeves / It's a pet peeve of mine.

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



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

rub it in	<p>Make someone feel worse about an already bad situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is generally used in a joking way. They are usually making light of something not very serious (See episode 1 for a discussion about this)
slurp	<p>eat or drink something with a loud sucking noise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It really bugs me when I hear people <u>slurping</u> their soda.
convulsions	<p>a sudden experience of something (such as laughter) that shakes or moves your body — usually plural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just hearing the phrase “like nails on a chalkboard” makes my body go into <u>convulsions</u>.
utensil	<p>a tool you use with your hand – often to refer to kitchen items: fork, spoon, knife, spatula, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't use sharp <u>utensils</u> on this cookware because it can damage the non-stick coating.
shivers	<p>a series of small shaking movements caused by cold or strong emotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That scraping noise gives me [the] <u>shivers</u>.
cut in line [also: cut the line]	<p>(Am.) to unfairly go in front of others who are waiting in a line rather so you can be served before your turn. [British: jump the queue]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That woman is yelling at the man because he tried to <u>cut in line</u>. <p>Related phrases to talk about standing in a line to wait for something: Get in line/be in line/wait in line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I was in line to check out/We waited in line for an hour, etc.
I suppose OR I guess	<p>Informal: Used in casual speech to indicate that you think that something is likely to be true</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's not surprising, <u>I suppose</u>.
leisurely	not hurried; slow and relaxed
stroll	<p>(V) walk slowly in a pleasant and relaxed way (N) a slow and relaxed walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The people ahead of us were taking a <u>leisurely stroll</u>, and I couldn't get around them.
tailgate	<p>drive too closely behind another vehicle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He's <u>tailgating</u> me even though I'm driving 10 miles over the speed limit.
entitled (adj.)	<p>having a right to something</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're <u>entitled</u> to a full refund because it was the company's mistake.
entitlement (n.)	<p>the feeling or belief that you deserve to be given something (often with a disapproving connotation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people feel a sense of <u>entitlement</u> to interrupt because they think they have something more important to say.

Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

one-up [someone]	try to get an advantage over someone by doing something better, more extreme, etc. than them, or by saying that you did
one-upping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were trying to <u>one-up</u> each other over who had had the worst year. • Each candidate is <u>one-upping</u> the other on how tough they are on crime.
vent	<p>informal: let out a strong and sometimes angry emotion and just say what you think just for the purpose of letting the emotion out, without expecting anyone to act on it or solve the problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When someone is driving badly, I don't honk at them, but I yell at them in my car. No one can hear me, but I'm just <u>venting</u>.
pile [something]	<p>put a large number of things inside or on top of something in a quick and careless or excessive way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a buffet, people tend to <u>pile</u> food on their plates.
litter	<p>throw or leave trash on the ground in a public place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can't stand it when people <u>litter</u>.
neat freak	<p>Informal: a person who always wants things to be very orderly and clean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm definitely not a <u>neat freak</u>, but I can't stand littering.
tops	<p>Informal: at the most/at the maximum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're only in the restroom 2-3 minutes, <u>tops</u>.
Debbie Downer	<p>Derived from a character in an SNL (Saturday Night Live) skit, a Debbie Downer is a negative or pessimistic person; a person who speaks only of the bad or depressing aspects of something and lessens the enthusiasm or pleasure of others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I hate to be a <u>Debbie Downer</u>, but I think it's going to rain during the festival tomorrow
cart corral	The area of a parking lot where shopping carts (UK: trolleys; Southern US: buggies) are stored after use.
give someone a pass / get a pass	<p>Informal: To accept one's improper actions without anger or criticism / not receive anger or criticism for one's actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These grammar pet peeves only apply to native speakers; people who are learning English <u>get a pass</u> on this.

Join the Conversation

- Take a look at [this article](#) about common pet peeves and watch this [parody video](#) that shows many examples of rude or annoying behavior that many people can't stand. Which ones do you agree with most? Are there any examples in the article or video that you think are strange that people find annoying?
- What technology-related annoyances are there? Which would you consider to be pet peeves of yours?
- What driving or transportation-related annoyances are there? Which would you consider to be pet peeves of yours?
- What habits or behaviors of others do you find annoying?
- Make a list of 10 things that you consider your biggest pet peeves – use inspiration from the episode, article, video, or add your own ideas. Optional: Compare your list with another student and discuss similarities and differences. Would you change anything on your list based on your discussion?
- See the following examples and then complete the sentences with your own ideas (use your answers from the previous questions for inspiration).

One of my biggest pet peeves* is when **people talk loudly on their cell phones**.

Littering is one of my pet peeves.

It really bugs me when **people chew with their mouth open**.

I can't stand **tailgaters**. (can't stand + noun)

I can't stand **waiting in long lines** (can't stand + gerund)

The sound of **a fork scraping on a plate** drives me nuts/crazy/up the wall.

- One of my biggest pet peeves is when _____.
- _____ is one of my biggest pet peeves.
- It really bugs me when _____.
- I can't stand _____ (+ noun)
- I can't stand _____ (+ gerund)
- The sound of _____ drives me nuts/crazy/up the wall.

Vocabulary Building

- Reading blog posts is a great way to learn lots of new vocabulary, especially words and phrases that are used conversationally and in everyday speech. Look back at the above article and watch the video about pet peeves – what are some examples of vocabulary found there that you also heard in the episode? Then make a list of additional words and phrases that are new to you and that you would like to remember.
- Choose 5-10 of the above words and phrases and create your own sentences using them. Optional: Share your list of words and example sentences with another student and discuss.

*NOTE: When you use phrases starting with: *one of, some of, most of, none of, etc.* the noun that follows is always plural.
Ex: One of my co-workerss (you have several or many co-workers, and out of this group of people, you are referring to one in particular.)

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

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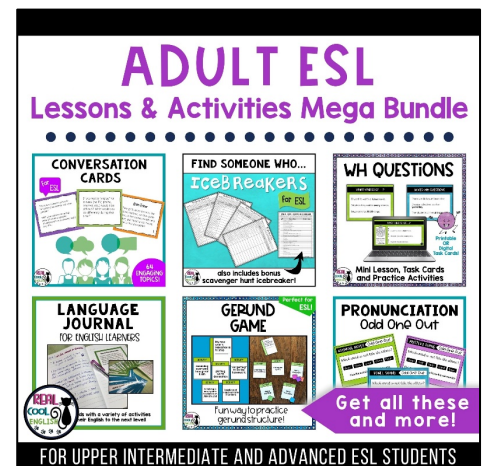
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